



Parramatta Artists Studios

PAS RYDALMERE 2025–27

 | PARRAMATTA
ARTISTS STUDIOS

Studio Application Guidelines



Wadyiman Barramada gŭlbaŋga naadyi Barramadaŋal Dharuŋ Ngurrayin, badu, burra barramadaŋal dharuŋ yurayin.

We recognise the Dharuŋ People as First Australians, peoples of the oldest continuous living culture in the world. For more than 60,000 years, Parramatta has been home to the Barramadaŋal and other Dharuŋ peoples, the Traditional Owners of the land we call the City of Parramatta today.

First Nations People play a vital role in the ecological, economic, social and cultural life of Parramatta, while maintaining a distinct culture built on the principles of Caring for Country, the primacy of family, and the dignity and governance of Elders.

City of Parramatta is proud to acknowledge the ongoing stewardship of Country by Dharuŋ and other First Nations People and to celebrate their enduring wisdom, strength, and resilience.

Always Was, Always Will Be, Aboriginal Land.



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KEY DATES

General Information Session (Online)	Tuesday 29 April
Disability-led Information Session (Online)	Wednesday 30 April
General Information Session (In-person)	Wednesday 7 May
First-Nations-led Information Session (In-person)	Tuesday 13 May
Studio Applications Close	Wednesday 21 May
Application Outcome Notification	Mid to late June
PAS Rydalmere Tenancy Commences	Monday 18 August
PAS Granville Tenancy Commences	Monday 11 August

KEY CONTACTS

PAS Granville Enquiries

JD Reforma, Curator and Artist Development	jreforma@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au
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PAS Rydalmere Enquiries

Nithya Nagarajan, Curator and Artist Development	nnagarajan@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au
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We acknowledge that online forms and application systems are not accessible for everyone. Parramatta Artists Studios is able to offer alternative application pathways, including audio/video recordings, or via a print-out of the Application Form.

If you would like to utilise this support, please email
Nithya Nagarajan nnagarajan@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au



1 ABOUT PAS RYDALMERE



ABOUT

Parramatta Artists Studios is offering five two-year subsidised studios at our facility in Rydalmere. Situated in a converted warehouse in an industrial estate, the PAS Rydalmere Program is designed for professional artists seeking long-term, flexible space in which to realise experimental and ambitious projects.

Applications are open to mid-career and established artists working in any discipline who seek to develop their practice in a collegiate, collaborative and rigorous environment in Western Sydney.

Established in 2006, Parramatta Artists Studios is one of a kind in its remit and approach. In addition to space, Studio Artists are supported through creative and professional mentorship, curatorial engagement and commissioning projects, and community and youth engagement opportunities.

With peer networks across Australia and internationally, Studio Artists gain access to a wide variety of opportunities during and beyond their tenancies.

LOCATION

PAS Rydalmere is located at
22 Mary Parade, Rydalmere NSW

COST

Studio Artists pay between \$26 and \$48 per week, depending on the size of their allocated studio.

This is calculated weekly and billed monthly.

This cost is fully subsidised for First Nations applicants who are selected for the Studio Program, thanks to the support of the City of Parramatta.

DURATION

The PAS Rydalmere Program is a two-year tenancy.

Artists selected for the PAS Rydalmere Program will enter into a Studio Licence Agreement for the period Monday 18 August 2025 – Sunday 15 August 2027 (104 weeks).

STUDIO FEATURES

PAS Rydalmere features 5 individual studios.

Four studios are located on the Ground Level; one studio is located on Level 1.



PAS Rydalmere, 2025. Photo: Jacquie Manning

STUDIO FEATURES

While artists working in all artforms are invited to apply for a studio, it is important to consider if the features of the studios are suited to your primary practice.

What the studios have:

- The studios are a combination of repurposed and refurbished office spaces, and subdivided warehouse space
- Ground Level studios have concrete floors and raw and painted plywood/ pine stud walls
- Level 1 studio is carpeted has a mix of wood veneer and plasterboard walls
- Studio sizes range from 25 to 45 square metres
- All studios are accessible 24-hours a day, seven days a week
- All studios are non-residential
- All studios have overhead LED lights and direct natural light
- Level 1 studio is air-conditioned
- All studios are individually lockable

Each studio is equipped with:

- One trestle table
- One chair
- Additional furniture items may be loaned and distributed equitably among Studio Artists

PAS Rydalmere is not a climate-controlled environment, and temperatures can fluctuate significantly across Ground Level studios. Each is additionally equipped with:

- One heater
- One pedestal fan



PAS Rydalmere, 2025. Photo: Jacquie Manning

What the studios don't have:

- No studios are acoustically treated
- No studios are equipped with sprung floors
- No studio windows open internally or to the exterior; all studio windows are sealed
- No studios have extraction fans
- No Ground Level studios are air-conditioned
- No wheelchair accessible toilets

LOCATION FEATURES

Parking and Transport

- PAS Rydalmere features three covered car spots and one uncovered car spot for use by Studio Artists, as well as a common driveway for overflow parking
- There is public street parking on Mary Parade
- Yallamundi light rail station is located 5 minutes walk from PAS Rydalmere
- The closest train station to PAS Rydalmere is Parramatta Station
- Buses service Rydalmere from Stand A3 at Parramatta Interchange, Parramatta Station; PAS Rydalmere is a 5-minute walk from the closest bus stop
- There is a large steel, manual gate on a rail at the entry to the facility; it is lockable
- There is a front entrance to the building with a large, manual roller door for loading in larger items
- There is no rear entrance to PAS Rydalmere

Shared Facilities

- One paint/chemical sink for communal use on Ground Level
- Communal kitchen on Ground Level
- Communal gathering area on Ground Level
- All-Gender bathroom on both levels
- There is no accessible bathroom at PAS Rydalmere
- Free and secure Wi-Fi
- Breakout Space on Ground Level at the rear of the building, accessible through a manual roller door; this space is available for all Studio Artists to use equitably for large-scale, short-term projects



Studio of Billy Bain, PAS Rydalmere. Photo: Garry Trinh

ACCESSIBILITY

Site Accessibility

- PAS Rydalmere is not wheelchair-accessible
- There are four studios located on Ground Level
- The Ground Level studios do not have stairs
- The Ground Level studios each have double doors
- There is one studio located on Level 1
- The studio on Level 1 is only accessible by stairs
- There is a large steel, manual gate on a rail at the entry to the facility
- The front entrance does not have ramp access; it is situated on level surface
- The front entrance roller door for loading in larger items is manual
- There is no accessible toilet at PAS Rydalmere
- There is no designated accessible car spot on site
- There are tactiles at the stair landings
- There are no tactiles at the entry ways
- There are no braille markings or signs
- There is no captioning and/or hearing loop technology

Staff Support

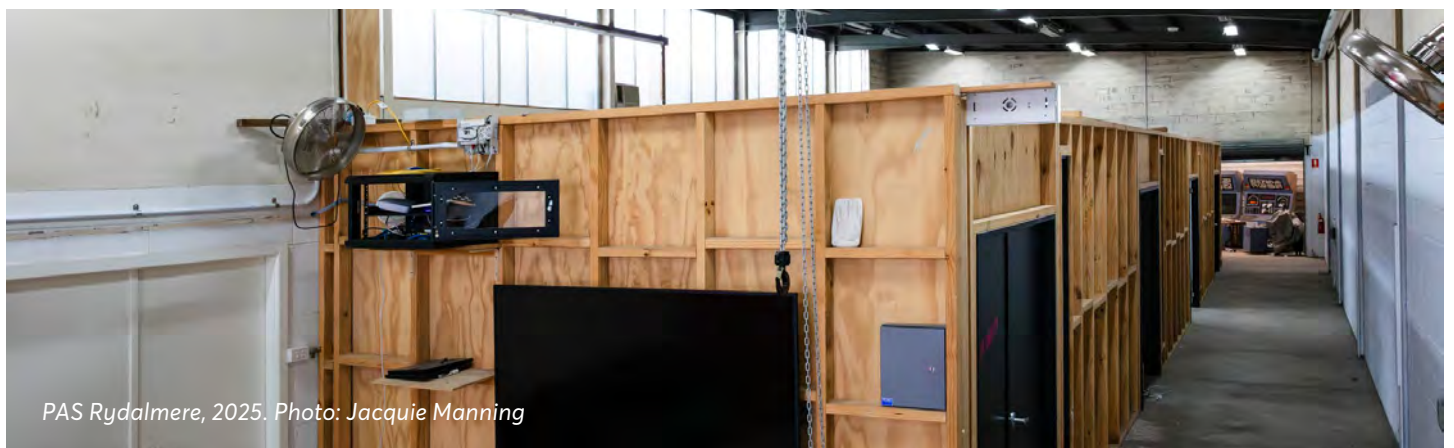
The Parramatta Artists Studios team is regularly trained in the provision of the following programs:

- Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program
- First Aid
- Mental Health First Aid

Visual Stories

PAS has worked with Morwenna Collett Consulting to develop Visual Stories – a resource that helps you explore our studios through easy to understand and accessible language and images.

- [PAS Rydalmere Visual Story](#)



2 ABOUT PARRAMATTA ARTISTS STUDIOS



Studio of Kirtika Kain, PAS Granville. Photo: Garry Trinh

ABOUT PAS

Parramatta Artists Studios is an initiative of the City of Parramatta Council.

Through our supported studio facilities in Granville and Rydalmere, we offer studio spaces, residencies, career development opportunities and community-connected programs. These programs connect artists with Parramatta's wider communities and contribute to its vibrant culture.

Parramatta Artists Studios has supported hundreds of artists to build and grow their practices in Western Sydney, many of whom are at the forefront of contemporary artistic practice in Australia and internationally.

OUR TEAM

The Parramatta Artists Studio team encompasses a range of artists, curators, writers, and administrators with a breadth of experience across the NSW and Western Sydney arts sector.

The PAS team is committed to creating opportunities for Studio Artists to develop and present new work, and have a defined remit to support artists of the Parramatta Artists Studios Program during and beyond their tenancies.

HOW WE WORK WITH ARTISTS

Studio Artists may be invited to work on a wide range of opportunities with the PAS team, including commissions, exhibitions, publications, community programs and public workshops.

Examples of projects and programs developed annually by PAS include:

- A major annual exhibition developed in partnership with a presenting institution.
- A major annual new artwork commission presented in partnership with Parramatta Lanes
- Two annual new artwork commissions presented in partnership with Artspace, Sydney
- An itinerary of studio visits and presentations from leading national and international curators, arts organisations and peers
- PAS Together, a professional development seminar held every two months featuring discussions and presentations from arts industry leaders
- Regular artwork commissions developed for Parramatta Artists Studios sites and other council facilities and initiatives
- Year-round and school holiday programs
- A dynamic range of community-led events and engagement opportunities, including PAS Open Day and Bare Skills



PAS team, from left: Sidney McMahon, Director; JD Reforma and Nithya Nagarajan, Curators and Artist Development; Claire Finneran and Madika Penrith, Programs Officers. Photos: Anna Kucera

3 ELIGIBILITY, SELECTION CRITERIA, & ASSESSMENT

Studio of Jodie Whalen, PAS Rydalmere. Photo: Garry Trinh

ELIGIBILITY

Applications are open to:

- Artists working in all disciplines as well as hybrid and cross-form practices
- Artists 18 years of age and over
- Artists working collaboratively as part of a collective (you will need to nominate one person to submit the application on behalf of the collective)

You cannot apply if:

- You have an outstanding grant acquittal to the City of Parramatta
- You are a full-time student currently undertaking your **first** undergraduate degree or other tertiary course (e.g. TAFE)
- You are unable to reside in Sydney, Australia for the majority of the studio tenancy

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Selection Criteria have been developed to ensure that studio selection is aligned to the strategic and organisational priorities of Parramatta Artists Studios.

Your application will be reviewed against each of the Selection Criteria, which are individually weighted and combined to provide an overall assessment that informs selection for the Studio Program.

1. Artistic Rigour: 40%
 - Demonstrated quality and depth of research
 - Evidence of formal or material breadth and experimentation
 - Prior exhibition or presentation experience
2. Career Impact: 40%
 - Meaningful stage of practice and professional development, connected to upcoming opportunities
 - Potential to benefit from and engage with Parramatta Artists Studios curatorial and programming initiatives
3. Local Sector Development: 20%
 - Capacity to meaningfully engage with or contribute to the development of creative communities in Western Sydney
 - Capacity to benefit from and enhance the Parramatta Artists Studios community and program



Studio of Owen Leong, PAS Rydalmere. Photo: Garry Trinh

ASSESSMENT AND ALLOCATION

Selection Committee

Applications for the PAS Granville and PAS Rydalmere programs are assessed by two separate Selection Committees, convened by Parramatta Artists Studios.

Each committee consists of a current or previous PAS Artist, a PAS staff member, a First Nations representative, and an external arts industry peer or internal Council subject matter expert.

The Selection Committees utilise the Selection Criteria to ensure that studio selection is aligned to the strategic and organisational priorities of Parramatta Artists Studios.

The purpose of the Selection Committees is to consider these criteria on balance, and catalyse a studio community that represents a plurality of practices, and a richness of perspectives and experience.

Studio Allocation

Once the Studio Artists are selected, the allocation of specific studios is determined by the Parramatta Artists Studios team.



PAS Granville. Artwork: Billy Bain, *Everyone's A Winner, Baby*, 2024. Commissioned by Parramatta Artists Studios. Photo: Katherine Liu.

4 HOW TO APPLY



Celine Cheung, PAS Granville Artist. Photo: Garry Trinh

HOW DO I APPLY?

Parramatta Artists Studios uses an online system called SmartyGrants to collect applications for the Studio Program. You can create a free account if you do not already have one.

As well as answers to the Key Questions, applicants will be required to provide Support Material – in the form of images, audio/visual, or written examples of works completed or in progress.

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TIPS BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- Review the Selection Criteria to understand how to write your application and how it will be assessed.
- Preview the SmartyGrants Form and prepare all your answers and Support Material prior to commencing the form.
- Word limits are provided for each question.
- Answers don't have to be provided as paragraphs. You can use subheadings and bullet points to help you structure your responses.
- Ask a friend or peer to review your application before you submit.
- We strongly encourage applicants to attend an Information Session and prepare questions for the presenters.

KEY QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to gain an overview of your practice and your vision for how a studio would benefit you at this time.

Applicants should carefully review the Selection Criteria and take these into consideration when preparing their responses.



1. Describe your practice (you could include materials, methodologies and/or research areas), and highlight your key artistic achievements to date.
(300 Words)
2. Describe your creative and professional goals during this studio tenancy – for example, developing new skills and work, expanding professional networks, and outline any upcoming projects.
(300 words)
3. Outline how you can contribute to and/or benefit from the creative communities of Parramatta Artists Studios and Western Sydney – e.g. by identifying specific collaborators, organisations, communities, and PAS programs with which you intend to engage.
(200 words)
4. **If you are a current or past Studio Artist:**
Outline how or why returning to the PAS program and community is important to your practice now.
(100 words)

SUPPORT MATERIAL

How to prepare your Support Material:

Applicants should carefully consider what to include in their Support Material. It should represent the strongest examples of your work to date, or work in progress.

It is also recommended that applicants provide contextualising information, such as titles of works, years of production, materials, exhibition/publication/presentation details etc.

PDF Support Material can be created using a variety of applications such as Microsoft PowerPoint and Word, Google Docs or Slides, or even Adobe Indesign.

The Application Form contains fields for applicants to upload their Support Material as a PDF, as links to audio/visual files, or a mixture of both.

Downloadable Support Material template:

PAS has provided applicants with a downloadable PowerPoint Template example of how they might present their Support Material, including examples of how to provide contextualising information.

- Applicants providing audio/visual or written examples of previous work may also utilise this template.
- The template contains slides outlining how audio/visual or written examples of works can be formatted within a document.
- The use of this template is not compulsory, but it may help inform how you format and design your Support Material. You can preview this template as a PDF document on our website.

- **Visual and/or Written Support Material not exceeding 10 A4 pages** in length can feature different examples of your work, such as photographs of your work in an exhibition; sketches, designs or photographs of work in progress; or samples/scans of previous written and published works.
- **Audio/Visual Support Material not exceeding 10 minutes** in length can be uploaded/hosted on your own website or a third party website such as Vimeo, SoundCloud or YouTube. These should be prepared and included in your application as either:
 - One link to a single “showreel” featuring examples of multiple works
 - OR
 - Multiple links to excerpts of individual works – as long as the **total** listening/viewing time does not exceed 10 minutes.



INFORMATION SESSIONS

General Information Session (Online)	Tuesday 29 April
Disability-led Information Session (Online)	Wednesday 30 April
General Information Session (In-person)	Wednesday 7 May
First-Nations-led Information Session (In-person)	Tuesday 13 May

We provide a range of **free in-person and online Information Sessions**.

During these Information Sessions, we will guide prospective applicants step-by-step through the Application Process for both Studio Programs.

Registration details can be found on our website.

- **Online General Information Session**

12–1pm AEST Tuesday 29 April
Guest speaker: Morgan Hogg,
Studio Artist

Auslan Interpretation and Closed
Captioning provided.

Online, meeting link
provided upon registration

- **Disability-led Information Session**

6–7pm AEST Wednesday 30 April
Led by Morwenna Collett,
Accessibility Consultant; Guest speaker:
M. Sunflower (Dharug), Studio Artist

Auslan Interpretation and Closed
Captioning provided.

Online, meeting link
provided upon registration

- **In-person General Information Session**

6–7pm AEST Wednesday 7 May
Guest speaker: HOSSEI, Studio Artist

Auslan Interpretation available upon
request.

In-Person, PAS Granville
4 Bridge Street, Granville NSW

- **First Nations-led Information Session**

6–7pm AEST Tuesday 13 May
Led by Billy Bain (Dharug), Studio Artist

This is a closed session for First Nations
participants only. Auslan Interpretation
available upon request.

In-Person, First Nations Collaboration
Space, PAS Granville, 4 Bridge Street,
Granville NSW.



PAS Granville. Photo: Katherine Liu