



Artist/ Maker Brief

October 2020

Banyule City Council, Nillumbik Shire Council & Yarra Plenty Regional Libraries are commissioning an artist to design and create a series of eight Seed Libraries. These Seed Libraries will allow community members to swap and share seeds in order to grow local food.

Introduction

Banyule City Council, Nillumbik Shire Council and Yarra Plenty Regional Libraries are teaming up to commission **one local artist or maker** for a design and the creation of **eight seed sharing systems** based on this design, to be housed at;

1. Edendale Community Farm
2. Hurstbridge Hub
3. Shop48, Heidelberg West
4. Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub
5. Rosanna Library
6. Watsonia Library
7. Diamond Valley Library
8. Eltham Library

These Seed Libraries will give the community an opportunity to share seeds and the experience of home growing. This will support the production of local food & grow the gardening community.

Proposals should be creative, original and appropriate for the location and local community (please see information below for details).

This is an excellent opportunity for a talented, professional artist or maker to create an original, practical and long-lasting work which will be used by the community ongoing.

Selection of the final artwork will take place in a two-stage process. After this open call out two shortlisted artists will be invited to submit a more developed proposal and will be paid a design fee. From these two designs the final artwork will be chosen.



Context

This project forms part of the annual Home Harvest program. Home Harvest is a partnership between Nillumbik Shire Council and Banyule City Council which encourages local food production and grows the community around home and community growing.

This year, due to the COVID19 restrictions, our annual picnic event will not be taking place and instead we are investing in the production of these seed libraries which will support more of our community to grow their own.

Seed Library

A seed library is a vessel to store seeds saved by the community, which is open and free for gardeners to use to grow local food.

The steps to use a seed library are as follows;

- A gardener will be able take seed from the library.
- They will use the seed to grow the vegetable they have chosen.
- Once the vegetable goes to seed they will save that seed and bring it back to the library to share.

The seed library vessel would need to have around 20 sections to separate different vegetable types. People will then be able to look in the section they are after, i.e. the brassica section, and find the vegetable they are after, i.e. broccoli. There needs to be space for multiple packets of seed in each section. The way this is displayed is at the maker's discretion, but could be, for example, drawers, hooks or compartments.

The seed packets are used by community members to take seed from the library and to deposit any seed saved from their garden to the library. The packets need to have a space for the community member to indicate the name of the vegetable, the genus, the date of seed collection and any notes i.e. growing conditions, taste of vegetable.

NOTE: As part of this commission, there is an option for the seed packets to also be designed by the artist, but this is not a requirement. If the artist does design the seed packets, they should take into consideration the ease of reproduction for staff and community at the seed library locations. i.e. printed folded paper or stamp with instructions.

Considerations;

- Each seed Library should be free standing.
- Each Seed Library should be light enough for staff to move.
- Each Seed Library should be safe for children (stable, no pinch points, no rough timber etc)
- Each Seed Library should be high enough so small children cannot reach the contents.
- Recycled or sustainable materials should be used where possible
- Each Seed Library should be made with natural materials
- Each Seed Library should include approximately 20 spaces for different packets of seed types to be stored.
- Each Seed Library should include a spot for empty packets for people to take
- Each Seed Library should include somewhere to display postcards to promote related events
- Each Seed Library should include somewhere to display the instructions for the seed library in A4

Requirements

It is expected that the artist will

- work in collaboration with relevant stakeholders

- be in regular consultation over the period of development, design and installation phases
- participate in an evaluation discussion/questionnaire after the installation
- create the Seed Libraries with appropriate materials and true to detailed designs
- install/deliver the artwork onsite
- be responsible for sourcing and purchasing all materials required for the installation
- use materials in the installation of the artwork that are durable, and sustainable and/or recycled where available.
- be required to familiarise themselves with the locations which will house the Seed Libraries.
- understand that their design proposal remains their intellectual property and can be used in another project if unsuccessful in this project
- agree that if successfully selected, they will enter a contract whereby Banyule City Council & Nillumbik Shire Council will be the owner of the final artwork (however the intellectual property will rest with the artist). The artist and Councils are to discuss and agree on the future of the artwork at the time of commissioning and subject to review.
- abide and implement Australian OHS and Safe Work Practices
- operate in an environmentally responsible manner in the planning and delivery of the project
- understand that any images of the work taken by Council may be used in perpetuity to promote Council's work, public artworks and to provide evidence of the project.

What funds are available?

Two artists will be selected for the final shortlisting phase. Selected artists will be allocated \$500 to develop concept designs for the selection panel.

Up to \$8,000 (plus GST for GST-registered artists) is then available to the successful artist for the design, production and installation inclusive of:

- artist fees
- materials
- production costs

Project Selection Panel

The selection panel will comprise officers from Yarra Plenty Regional Libraries and Nillumbik and Banyule Councils.

Proposals will be assessed on:

- Quality and innovation of the design approach to the needs of the Seed Library function
- Ability to develop concepts and communicate ideas, aligned to the brief
- Appropriateness to the local community and local context
- Compatibility with the locations of the Seed Libraries
- Artist experience and demonstrated capacity to deliver

Interested?

Expressions of interest should be in the format of 1 pdf document and should include:

- a written response to the brief (no more than half a page)
- an artist's statement and CV (no more than two pages in total)

- digital images of previous relevant work included within the pdf. Please include dates, materials, dimensions, locations and if relevant commissioner, collaborative partners (no more than two pages)
- Early concept sketches – please note that these are only expected to be very rough initial sketches –to give a visual representation of the written proposal (no more than 1 page)

Concept Design (will be requested from shortlisted artists only)

Note: Developed concept designs are not being called for at this stage and will only be required for the two shortlisted artists

Concept design proposals will include:

- a statement of artistic intent
- annotated concept drawings of the proposed work as required to convey the concept, scaled and presented in a professional and artistic manner
- a detailed outline of fabrication and materials - including why these have been chosen and why they are appropriate
- confirmation of ability to comply with the proposed time schedule and completion date
- confirmation of public liability insurance of \$10 million
- an indication of any known ongoing maintenance requirements associated with the proposal
- a statement of artistic intent
- confirmation of willingness to comply with relevant legislation and complete a Job Safety and Environment Analysis

Concept designs will be assessed against the following criteria

Criteria 1 – Score out of 10

- Artistic Merit - artistic merit of the concept design and likely merit of the finished piece as it will appear in situ

Criteria 2 – Score out of 10

- Alignment to Brief and to Context - how well the completed artwork, based on the concept design and artistic intent, aligns to the original Brief. The functionality, practicality and durability of the seed libraries, and the appropriateness for the location and community context

Criteria 3 – Score out of 5

- Capacity to Deliver - the extent to which the artist has the capacity to deliver the artwork as outlined

Timeframes

- Call out closes' midnight November 29, 2020
- Two shortlisted artists contacted by December 9, 2020
- Detailed design from shortlisted artists January 10, 2021
- Notification of successful artist January 15, 2021
- Installation of seed libraries by February 28, 2021

Submission

Please submit your proposals in the form of a single pdf document by email to arts@banyule.vic.gov.au and CC: in environment@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Initial proposals due by midnight November 29 2020

Further Information

1. Locations.

- Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub (ILCH), 255 Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe
- Rosanna Library, 72 Turnham Road, Rosanna
- Watsonia Library, 4/6 Ibbottson Street, Watsonia
- Diamond Valley Library, Civic Drive, Greensborough
- Eltham Library, Panther Place, Eltham
- Edendale Community Environment Farm, Eltham.
- Hurstbridge Hub, 50 Graysharps Road, Hurstbridge
- Shop 48, The Mall Bell Street, Heidelberg West

2. Examples

