



Creative
Engine

CREATIVE ENGINE LAUNCHPAD 2.0.



GUIDING ORIGINAL WORKS
FROM EARLY DEVELOPMENT
TO PRESENTATION

LAUNCHPAD 2.0.



Traitor by Christine Davy
2025 Launchpad development
Image credit: Credit Cameron Grant, Parenthesy

THE OFFER

GUIDING ORIGINAL WORKS FROM EARLY DEVELOPMENT TO PRESENTATION

Applications are now open for our industry-leading Creative Engine program, Launchpad 2.0.

Building on years of artist support, Launchpad 2.0 is a year-round artist development program for up to eight performance-based artists, bringing together funding, mentorship and professional support to help turn creative ideas into reality.

Throughout the year, successful recipients will develop a new work across three stages of creative development, alongside mentorship and a tailored series of workshops, culminating in a work-in-progress presentation to Geelong audiences and beyond.

From theatre, scriptwriting to dance, music, digital and community-based practices, artists across all live performance mediums from Geelong or with a connection to the region are encouraged to apply.

Launchpad 2.0 applications open once annually, closing at 9am on Monday 12 October.

LAUNCHPAD 2.0.



THE OFFER

Throughout the year, successful recipients will develop a new work across three stages of creative development, alongside mentorship and a tailored series of workshops, culminating in a work-in-progress presentation to Geelong audiences and beyond.

Launchpad 2.0. includes:

\$8,000 in cash per project, provided over three development periods over 12 months:

Development #1 (Jan - Apr) \$2,000

Development #2 (Apr - Jul) \$2,000

Development #3 (Aug - Oct) \$4,000 including the public development showing

- Studio access during all three development periods (up to 6 days per development period), in-kind value of \$18,750.
- Access to The Open House Theatre for the final development showing for industry and public, including basic house rig lighting and sound technical support
- Four professional and creative skills workshops across the program covering such areas as: devising, producing, design, script writing and dramaturgy
- 3 x 1hr mentorship sessions with mentors such as Associate Artists, Jolyon James and Emilie Collyer
- Artist development support and guidance from the Geelong Arts Centre programming team
- Access to co-working and meeting spaces
- Monthly cohort check-in meetings
- Networking opportunities with the wider Creative Engine community of creatives
- Complimentary tickets to select Rewire and main season shows



WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

Independent artists with an original concept they wish to develop over 12 months, culminating in a public showing:

- Artists can be performers or creatives with a primarily live performance practice or art form (i.e. playwright, sound/lighting/set/costume designer, composer, actor, dancer, choreographer, director, creative producer)
- Artists will be expected to have detailed project plans and to engage collaborators to develop the work
- Artists must commit to the full duration of the program and attend all workshops and meetings
- First Nations artists and artists from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply, and additional supports are available
- Applications will be assessed via a panel of assessors including representatives from the Geelong Arts Centre and independent industry peers



EXPECTATIONS & REQUIREMENTS

- Participation in planning meetings with Geelong Arts Centre's Programming team
- Clear planning for the three phases of the project development
- Completion of all studio rehearsal periods during allotted eligible times (agreed upon at time of program acceptance)
- A public showing of approximately 30 minutes in The Open House, following the third development phase
- Creative teams will be built if not already existing
- Public Liability Insurance cover of \$20 million (Geelong Arts Centre can support artists in ways to find PLI cover)
- Attend monthly cohort check-in meetings with fellow program participants and networking sessions with the wider Creative Engine community of creatives
- Compulsory attendance at all provided professional and creative skills workshops
- Attend all mentor sessions – times to be mutually agreed with artists
- Attend a photo opportunity with fellow program participants (date TBC)
- Completion of an acquittal at the conclusion of the program
- Completion of an annual artists survey for 4 years following the program

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STUDIO DEVELOPMENT & PUBLIC SHOWING

Applicants must be available for at least one week of each of the below development phases and public showing periods (access to the studios will be between 8am – 4pm, extended hours are dependent on availability and can be discussed).

DEVELOPMENT #1 JAN - APR 2027

- Jan: Wed 20 - Sat 23
- Jan: Mon 25 - Sat 30
- Feb: Mon 1 - Sat 6
- Feb: Mon 8 - 13 Feb
- Feb: Mon 15 - Sat 20
- Feb: Mon 22 - Sat 27
- Mar: Mon 1 - Sat 6
- Mar: Tues 9 - Sat 13
- Mar: Mon 15 - 20 Mar
- Mar: Mon 22 - Thur 25
- Mar: Tue 30 Mar - Fri 2 Apr

DEVELOPMENT #2 APR - JUL 2027

- Apr: Mon 5 - Sat 10
- Apr: Mon 12 - Sat 17
- Apr: Mon 19 - Sat 24
- Apr: Mon 26 - Sat 1 May
- May: Mon 3 - Sat 8 May
- May: Mon 10 - Sat 15 May
- May: Mon 17 - Sat 22 May
- May: Mon 24 - Sat 29 May
- May: Mon 31 - Sat 5 Jun
- Jun: Mon 7 - Sat 12
- Jun: Tues 15 - Sat 19
- Jun: Mon 21 - Sat 26
- Jun: Mon 28 - Sat 3 Jul

DEVELOPMENT #3 AUG - OCT 2027

- Aug: Mon 16 - Sat 21
- Aug: Mon 23 - Sat 28
- Aug: Mon 30 - Sat 4 Sep
- Sep: Mon 6 - Sat 11
- Sep: Mon 27 - Sat 2 Oct
- Oct: Mon 4 - Sat 9 Oct

PUBLIC SHOWING OCT 2027

- Group 1: Mon 4 - Sun 9 Oct
- Group 2: Mon 10 - Sun 16 Oct

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SELECTION CRITERIA

Connection

To Geelong and the G21 region in terms of audiences, place and artists.

Artistic Merit and Innovation

Clear and innovative artistic visions and collaborations will be highly regarded.

Need

Artists must demonstrate the need for participation in the program in relation to the development of the work and their/their collaborators artistic practice and career development.

Planning

Strong applications will have articulately outlined plans and milestones to reach their creative ambitions for their project, and will have provided detailed budgets.

We strongly encourage applications from First Nations people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people from Disabled and d/Deaf communities, people from low-income communities and people from LGBTQIA+ communities.

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KEY DATES

Applications Open	9am, Friday 18 September 2026
Applications Close	5pm, Monday 12 October 2026
Applicants Notified By	23 October 2026

DEVELOPMENT & PRESENTATION DATES

Development Phase #1	January - April 2027
Development Phase #2	April - July 2027
Development Phase #3	July - October 2027
Public Development Showings	October 2026

HOW TO APPLY

Applications are open now via [this online form.](#)

Applicants that require a different application method are invited to contact Geelong Arts Centre to discuss this – we are committed to making application processes as accessible as possible and will work with interested applicants to facilitate this, please get in touch via creativeengine@geelongartscentre.org.au

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you require more information, don't hesitate to reach out to creativeengine@geelongartscentre.org.au



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