Geelong Arts Centre's
Creative Engine

GEELONG ARTS CENTRE DELIVERS BOOST TO LOCAL CREATIVES THROUGH $16,000 IN GRANT FUNDING

Today, Geelong Arts Centre has announced a package of grants through its Creative Engine program to benefit artists and creatives working in the G21 region.

Totalling $16,000 in financial grants and in-kind occupancies within the centre's landmark Ryrie Street building, the eight available grant packages will directly benefit individuals and organisation who demonstrate the desire and ability to drive bold and exciting contemporary arts practice and performance.

Available packages include:

- 2 x Ignition: $5,000 plus occupancy, marketing and professional development support
- 2 x Live and Local: $2,000 plus occupancy, broadcast infrastructure and marketing support
- 2 x Jump Start: $1,000 plus occupancy support
- 2 x Place to Make: In-kind occupancy support

Grant applications will open from 9am Monday 17 August and will close at 5pm, Sunday 30 August. Applications must demonstrate the ability to meet the program's three selection criteria - connection, innovation and thoughtfulness – to be successful. The selected successful projects will be notified on Friday 11 September.

Geelong Arts Centre's Creative Engine, a co-working space and eponymous arts development program, was announced in October 2019 with a primary directive to support individuals and artistic collectives and build sustainable arts practices within regional Victoria.

In addition to value-in-kind occupancies and grants funding, Creative Engine provides access to workshops, masterclasses, industry networking and creative bootcamps for the creative community of Geelong

Creative Engine will offer two grant and support opportunity rounds per year to invest in emerging works. The initiative supports Geelong Arts Centre's strategic vision to become 'The Creative Heart of Geelong: an artery between creative industries and community to global thinking and extraordinary experiences.'

The program has already supported a number of new works by local producers including contemporary dance company Blink Dance Theatre, playwright Ross Mueller and theatre makers Essential Theatre.

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To learn more about the Creative Engine program and current opportunities, visit geelongartscentre.org.au/creative-engine

- ENDS -

"Local creatives are the heart-beat of our arts centre. Our aim for these grants is to assist a diverse range of artists and creatives to build sustainable and thriving practice right here in regional Victoria."

"We're looking to the future and for works that demonstrate a connection to the region, are innovative by design and thoughtfully participate in the national arts conversation."

Quote attributable to Geelong Arts Centre CEO Joel McGuinness

"We're excited, not only to be able to announce new funding opportunities for our arts community, but also to celebrate some incredible works that are currently in development"

"The calibre of these works has been outstanding, as has been our collaborators' ability to adapt their practice within the current climate and forge new pathways in times of uncertainty."

Quote attributable to Geelong Arts Centre Senior Producer, Penny McCabe

"While the future of the arts remains in a state of limbo, Geelong Arts Centre's encouragement and support has played a pivotal role in ensuring we stay positive and remain active in our creative endeavours."

Quote attributable to Essential Theatre Artistic Director, Amanda LaBonte

"We are incredibly grateful to have this support. In practical terms, it has enabled access to world class rehearsal and performance spaces and specialist equipment, however the real highlight has been the full commitment of the Geelong Arts Centre team, to work with us as partners, to support and nurture artistic conversations and ideas. To value the contribution of local artists and how important they are in enriching the creative ecology."

Quote attributable to Blink Dance Theatre Artistic Director, Lyndel Quick

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DETAILED GRANT INFORMATION:

KEY DATES:
APPLICATIONS OPEN: Monday 17 August
APPLICATIONS CLOSE: 5pm, Sunday 30 August
SELECTED PROJECTS NOTIFIED: Friday 11 September

IGNITION
Ignition grants are designed for projects that are in the early stages of creation and need support in transitioning from creative development to preparation for presentation.

Successful applicants will receive:

- Cash contribution up to $5,000
- Access to co-working, rehearsal and performance spaces
- Mentoring sessions with leading practitioners

LIVE AND LOCAL
In recognition of the extraordinary contribution of community arts practice to the economy, liveability and general well-being of the region, the Live and Local initiative supports community groups to present live-streamed content to new audiences.

Successful applicants will receive:

- Cash contribution up to $2,000
- Access to co-working, rehearsal and performance spaces
- Access to broadcast infrastructure

JUMP START
Jump Start grants create a safe environment for artists to germinate ideas and creative concepts by providing physical to space and time to explore.

Successful applicants will receive:

- Cash contribution up to $1,000
- Access to co-working, rehearsal and performance spaces

PLACE TO MAKE
Some ideas just need the space to develop. The Place to Make grant provides physical space for workshops, concept development and networking as a testing ground to sample and refine ideas.

Successful applicants will receive:

- Access to co-working, rehearsal and performance spaces

CURRENT WORKS SUPPORTED BY CREATIVE ENGINE:

BIRTHDAY CAKE
Developed by Ross Mueller and Louise Siversen, Birthday Cake is a work of contemporary theatre that challenges our notions of privilege and confronts our complicity in our own destruction. Equal parts hilarity and devastation, Birthday Cake embraces the outrage just beneath the skin.

CREATIVE TEAM
Concept: Ross Mueller & Louise Siversen
Writer: Ross Mueller
Performer: Louise Siversen
Director: Peter Houghton

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT BY:
Critical Stages Touring, The City of Melbourne and Auspicious Arts.

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MEMORY HOUSE

Memory House is a short dance theatre film in production by Blink Dance Theatre that explores the physicality of memory, the body as home and the Jungian archetype of the house as a metaphor for self. The body becomes a site for both sanctuary and confinement in repeating patterns of human behaviour.

CREATIVE TEAM

Producers: Elise Wilkinson & Jessica Lesosky
Concept/Movement Direction: Lyndel Quick
Filmmakers: Glass Kingdom Films
Composer: Josh Mitchell
Set: Louis Cervera
Costume: Ana Fernanda Covarrubias
Production Assistant: Jane Acopian

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT BY:

City of Greater Geelong and Geelong Connected Communities

MOUNTAIN

Mountain is a new solo performance work created by Kit Brookman and André Jewson. This new work explores the story of a man in pieces, an attempt to find hope amidst utter devastation.

Mountain will be developed in long-distance collaboration with Kit based in London, England and André in Geelong.

CREATIVE TEAM

Co-creator/writer/director: Kit Brookman
Co-creator/actor: Andre Jewson

THE DREAM LABORATORY

Essential Theatre's latest work The Dream Laboratory (working title) is a re-imagination of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream that imagines new ways of delivering immersive theatre experiences to audiences of reduced sizes.

CREATIVE TEAM

Co-artistic Director: Amanda LaBonte
Co-artistic Director: Sophie Lampel
Creative Collaborator: Mark Wilson
Creative Collaborator: Alexandra Aldrich

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT BY:

Regional Arts Victoria and Creative Victoria's Sustaining Creative Workers Initiative.

Updates regarding development of works supported by Geelong Arts Centre's Creative Engine will be released through the Geelong Arts Centre website and social media.

Company bios and imagery are available, here.

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