

Next Wave,

2025 Winter Windows series application guide

Next Wave is calling for artists who live, work or study in Merri-bek to apply for our inaugural Winter Windows series!

Artists are invited to submit a two-channel video work to display across Brunswick Mechanic Institute's street-facing screens, responding to the theme: **Possible Worlds: Imagined Futures.**

At the heart of Next Wave's Winter Windows series is an idea central to our vision: artists don't just reflect the world—they shape it. Art is a way of holding space for complex truths, of listening deeply and dreaming together. In this spirit, we are calling for works that are attentive to peoples, places and possibilities—transforming Brunswick Mechanics Institute's windows into portals that invite passersby to pause, reflect and reimagine our collective futures.

In a world shaped by artists, what would our imagined futures look like?

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About the opportunity

Through an open call out, two artists will be selected to present a two-channel video work on Next Wave's street-facing screens at Brunswick Mechanics Institute. The works will be screened dusk-to-dawn for six weeks across July-August 2025.

Each artist will receive:

- An artist fee of \$750 + 12% superannuation
- A community-focused launch supported by Next Wave
- Installation and technical support for testing and presentation
- Optional: ALL School public program offering in August 2025, such as an artist talk, workshop or digital extension

Support is available for access services to the selected artists.

Eligibility

- Selected artists must live, work or study in Merri-bek.
- Early-career artists will be prioritised. Next Wave does not define early-career by age, and recognises that you can come to your career later in life.
- Video works should be experimental in nature and respond to the theme of *Possible Worlds: Imagined Futures*.
- Artists must have availability in July for the installation and launch of their works.

Technical specifications

- Artists to supply a video work or works to be displayed across two portrait-oriented screens.
- The screens unfortunately do not sync (they're supposed to but are notoriously unreliable), so we encourage you to consider each screen as a separate but interconnected artwork.
- There is no audio capacity, so visual content is encouraged.
- The screens are 1920px x 1080px (full HD).
- The final artwork must be delivered in MP4 on a USB or via digital file transfer (such as Google Drive).

Key dates

- Applications close Wednesday 21 May
- Artists will be notified by Thursday 29 May

- Launch event: Friday 4 July
- Screenings: 5 July – 16 August (6 weeks)

FAQs

What is expected if I am selected?

- Use the artist fee to develop, present or remount a 2-channel video work for two portrait-orientated screens in the windows of Brunswick Mechanics Institute.
- Attend a site visit early June (we will find a suitable time and date that works for all).
- Install your digital artwork at least 3 days before launch, to allow enough time to troubleshoot any tech issues that may arise
- Attend a launch of the Winter Windows program, and invite your friends! Next Wave will open the bar and provide staffing.
- Promote the Winter Windows series to your networks.

Can artist collectives apply?

Yes, however the fee remains the same.

Is this opportunity for early career or established artists?

We welcome applications from artists with a connection to Merri-bek (i.e. live, work or study in the municipality). However, early-career artists will be prioritised in the selection process.

Can I present a different digital work across each of the four screens?

Yes, you can, however the screens unfortunately do not sync (they're supposed to but are notoriously unreliable), so we encourage you to consider each window/screen as a separate but interconnected artwork.

Can I use sound in my work?

No, the digital works should be visual only. You may choose to include text.

Can Next Wave provide technical support?

Next Wave staff can support you with setting up the correct specifications for your artwork, and support with testing and troubleshooting ahead of your launch, however cannot provide technical support for the development of the works.

How should I supply my work?

The final file must be delivered in MP4 on a USB or via digital file transfer (such as Google Drive). The works will play through 4 independent Lupa media players onto portrait orientated screens on a loop.

How will I get paid?

Next Wave will prepare a short form agreement with you, and payments will be made via invoice: 50% on signing and 50% after the video is launched

Can I apply if I am an interstate artist or based in another local government area of Victoria?

This opportunity is only open to artists who live, work or study in Merri-bek.

Can I apply if I am not an Australian citizen or don't have an ABN?

Yes, you are eligible to apply so long as you live, work or study in Merri-bek.

Do I need to submit a report or acquittal?

No

Who selects the artists?

A panel made up of Next Wave staff, local artists and peers from the Merri-bek community.

Will Next Wave document the Winter Windows program?

Next Wave will take some event photographs, but full documentation is the artists responsibility

What if I need some extra support?

Next Wave is committed to access and inclusion. We prioritise listening, taking responsibility and adapting to make sure everyone can participate in Next Wave's activities.

Next Wave has allocated budget to provide access services as required.

We encourage you to chat with us if you have access requirements and how we can best support you to present your work if selected.

I still have questions...

Please email nextwave@nextwave.org.au if you have any other questions

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