

**BRISBANE**

**2025  
COMMUNITIES  
PROGRAM**

**FESTIVAL**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE  
INFORMATION PACK**

## Your City: Your Festival 2025 (Brisbane Festival Communities Program)

### Overview

Under the leadership of Artistic Director Louise Bezzina, Brisbane Festival has become an international leader in the creation of high-quality arts experiences that are deeply connected and embedded in community. Since 2021 the festival has worked in close partnership with the Department of Communities to deliver bespoke, co-designed programs in Neighbourhood and Community Centres (NC's) that are accessible and inclusive. These programs have broadened the reach and impact of Brisbane Festival for the greater community.

In 2021 Brisbane Festival delivered our Street Serenades program across 190 suburbs which included a deeper engagement with the community through partnering with community hosts and with 8 NCs through the Street Serenades - At Our Place program. 64 workshops and 8 community events were delivered across the city.

In 2022 the program focussed on bringing people together, building community connections, and the development and enhancement of new creative skills. Dance Halls welcomed local community stars, from dance enthusiasts to singers and musicians to hone their skills with renowned Brisbane Artists and interstate artists Finnucane and Smith to put together the community performances of the year.

In 2023 due to popular demand, the program expanded the reach of Neridah Waters and her Common People Dance Eisteddford project to deliver 7 Common People Dance Parties in NC venues across the city, as well as an extraordinary community led concert Meanjin Recovered, written and performed by First Nations elders from West End Community House.

The year of 2024 welcomed the extraordinary success of the bespoke Artist in Residence workshop series, which was delivered in collaboration with local artists Jungaji, Sue Loveday, Bring A Plate, Fashion Collab and Yani Mills. The 8-week series welcomed the participation of over 700 workshop participants across 8 Neighbourhood Centres and 6 community events.

Each year our evaluations have demonstrated significant impact on participant's experiences of social isolation and loneliness – building a stronger sense of community connection with each workshop and performance. Now going into its fifth year, the Brisbane Festival team are planning to roll out a similar program again in 2025 with a focus to deliver a program of workshops that will creatively engage community members through six (6) Neighbourhood Centres (NC), creating pop up creative hubs across Brisbane.

This program of engagement not only raises awareness of the Neighbourhood and Community Centres and their pivotal role in Queensland's social infrastructure, but it also contributes to a stronger sense of place within local communities.

This year, Brisbane Festival is seeking expressions of interest from Neighbourhood Centres based in the Brisbane City Council area to get involved and become a local host to host a series of arts workshops designed to deeply connect with your local artists and community members.

NCs will be selected as hosts based on:

- Ability to promote the workshops and events to the local community.
- Provide appropriate workshop spaces as outlined below in the Neighbourhood Centres' role section.
- Capacity to work within the key timeframes outlined below and work with the Festival team to create the best outcome for each community.

Centres will also be selected to reflect the geographic spread and diversity of our city. The six NCs selected to participate will be promoted as part of Brisbane Festival's program launch in June 2025.

## Program details

The program will work in partnership with each NC to foster innovative artistic and cultural expression through the following approach:

- **Work with each NC to identify the appropriate artist and artform for your community from our list of highly skilled artists.**
- **Deliver 6 Creative arts workshops by leading Brisbane artists (JULY – SEPTEMBER 2025)**  
One workshop per week will be held in each NCC over a 8-week period. Each workshop may have a capacity of between 20 – 30 participants (depending on the artform) with no minimum number of participants to proceed. These workshops can be tailored to specific artforms including, but not limited to, music, dance, visual arts and circus, and focus on a diverse range of community participants. (totaling 48 workshops across the 6 NCCs).
- **Workshop Outcome:** The Brisbane Festival team will work with each NC to determine appropriate performance/ exhibition or community outcome for each workshop series. Where appropriate they will be aligned with other Brisbane Festival outcomes.
- **Provide new connections** to artists and open a new world of connection and opportunity. Community Participants will be invited to attend the festival series of artists talks and other professional opportunities.
- **Part of something bigger** Each participant in the creative arts workshops will be invited to be part of our Community Champions program and receive ticket deals to key Festival shows as well as opportunities to connect with other artists and communities.

- **Provide opportunities** for community participants to also engage with the Festival through volunteer opportunities.
- **Tailored for your cohort:** If it suits your centre, these arts workshops can be designed to meet the needs of your community, for example, a dance program designed for disabled participants, or a creative fashion project for neurodiverse participants, or a circus program for the elderly.

## Neighbourhood Centres' role:

- The most important role of NCs is to support local community members to get involved in the event.
- Brisbane Festival will provide the marketing material (which can be in print or digital as you require) but we need your support to distribute this to your local community i.e., as part of your e-news / putting posters up etc.
- Engage with Brisbane Festival to plan the workshops and share your local community intel to achieve the best program 'fit' for your community.
- Provide access to an appropriate space for the workshops. The workshop might take place in your centre, the park next door, or a local hall nearby – we can work through the details once the workshops have been confirmed. Note: space for workshops is required 1-2 times a week over a 4–8-week period in July-September and spaces need to accommodate a minimum number of 20-30 participants.
- Participate in an evaluation process (Brisbane Festival will provide the evaluator) – this will involve surveys of participants and audiences and participation in an interview with the evaluator.

## Brisbane Festival's role:

- We will cover all the costs associated with the artists and arts workshops.
- We provide all production/technical equipment for the workshops and any potential outcome.
- We will work with you to develop the marketing materials you require i.e., posters/letters/ social media posts. Any costs associated with printing will be covered by Brisbane Festival.
- We will have an experienced team including a Producer and Technical Manager to guide each NC through the program.
- We work with an Independent Evaluator who will capture the key outcomes of the program.
- We will have a professional photographer and/or videographer capturing the workshops and events for use by each NC.
- We will manage all the details and approvals required for the events including Brisbane City Council approvals for locations/ venues and provide a Covid-safe event plan approved

by the Chief Health Officer. Brisbane Festival will operate under the current restrictions and will manage any requirements i.e. providing hand-sanitiser, ensuring audiences check-in if required.

- We can provide translating and interpreting services for NCs as required.
- Workshop Participants will be invited to participate in our Community Champions program

## Key Dates:

Date	Key actions
28 Feb 2025	EOI Applications open – 3-week application period
21 March 2025	EOI Applications close
24 March 2025	EOI Assessments begins
2 April 2025	EOI Assessments finalised
4 April 2025	Successful Applicants are notified
7 April 2025	Program consultation with NC's - 2 week consultation period with NC's and artists
14 April 2025	Artist meetings with the successful NCs. Further consultation with the community as required – 2 week consultation period
28 April 2025	Program finalised. Confirmation of workshop facilitators, workshop and performance schedules. Promotion of community workshops in partnership with each NC.
June 2025	Broader marketing and promotion of <i>Communities</i> - as part of the Brisbane Festival launch
July - Sept 2025	Community workshops delivered
Fri 5 September – Sat 27 Sept 2025	<i>Final Workshop Sharing or Community Performance</i> outcomes (during the Festival period)
Oct – Nov 2025	Evaluation and debriefs for each project with partners and participants

## More information and how to apply:

- If you have any questions, please email [mayella@brisbanefestival.com.au](mailto:mayella@brisbanefestival.com.au) or call 3833 5400.
- If you are interested, please fill in the online application form [Here](#) which opens on 28<sup>th</sup> February and closes on 21 March.
- Brisbane Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government and Brisbane City Council. For more information, visit <https://www.brisbanefestival.com.au/>.