



Artist's Brief

Sorell School

Redevelopment Project

Commission	Outdoor artwork
Eligibility	Tasmanian artists who meet our general eligibility criteria: www.arts.tas.gov.au/grants_and_funding/general_eligibility
Selection process	Expressions of Interest Up to three applications shortlisted
Location &	43 Gordon St Sorell
Audience	Students, school community, general public
Fee	\$72,000 (ex. GST) Shortlist fee \$1,000 (ex. GST)
Key dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expressions of Interest close: 11 May 2026, 11.59pm• Shortlist presentation due: 15 June 2026• DDP presentation by: 27 July 2026• Artwork installed by: November 2026
Contact	Tobias Hengeveld – Public Art and Industry Development Coordinator, Arts Tasmania Ph 03 6165 5556 tobias.hengeveld@arts.tas.gov.au
Apply	www.arts.tas.gov.au/public_art

The commission

Arts Tasmania and the Department for Education, Children and Young People invite expressions of interest from Tasmanian artists to create an outdoor artwork at the Sorell School.

Applicants can apply for the commission as an individual artist or in a creative collaboration.

Tasmanian Aboriginal artists and cross-cultural collaborations are encouraged to apply.

Shortlisted artists will have the opportunity to visit the school site and meet the project team to inform the development of their concepts.

Background

Sorell School is an important hub for the fast-growing communities in Sorell and Southern Beaches area, and is a key centre for education and training in Tasmania's south-east region. The school is the oldest continually operating public school in Australia, having provided education and care on the same site for children and families of the Sorell community since the school opened in 1821.

The school acknowledges and pays respect to the traditional and original owners of the land, the Mumirimina people.

The school motto is "**Respecting the past, creating the future**", and its emblem is the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo.

The Department for Education, Children and Young People opened the redeveloped Sorell School in May 2025. Previously split across two campuses, the school is now a cohesive learning environment for students from Kindergarten through to Year 12, featuring larger classrooms and indoor-outdoor connectivity. The new development has grouped all learning areas along a meandering central spine, stretching from the new Child and Family Learning Centre at one end, to the school farm, pioneer village and Aboriginal cultural space at the other. The Administration building is at the centre of this complex and the main entry point from Gordon Street.

Sorell sits in the middle of the South-East Region of Tasmania, at the gateway to the Tasman Peninsula and East Coast (from Hobart), combining both coastal and rural communities.

For more information about Sorell School visit: <https://sorell.education.tas.edu.au>

Objectives

The Department for Education, Children and Young People seeks to commission an artwork that reflects key themes of the Sorell School's unique location, community and heritage.

The project team has identified several potential locations in school's main entryway zone for a wall-based or stand-alone artwork.

These locations are:

- The wall of the Administration building (see **Project Document 1**)
- The circular garden / lawn area (see **Project Document 2**)

- The wall area on nina mina krakani building (from the palawa language, meaning “you me sit together”), designed to host community events, School Association meetings, staff professional learning and student gatherings, (see **Project Document 3**).
- The circular planting areas in front of nina mina krakani, (see **Project Document 3**).
- The wall of the science building (see **Project Document 4**).

Please see the site plan in **Project Document 5** for the site locations.

The artwork may be one or more works, in one or multiple locations within this entryway zone. Shortlisted artists may also be able to consider other locations within the school grounds that are more appropriate to their specific concept. This would be subject to negotiation with the school and project team.

Artwork responses can include:

- two-dimensional or low-relief wall treatments
- stand-alone sculpture or
- paving or landscaping elements.

Artwork concepts also have the potential to be engaging and interactive and might offer points of intrigue, rest or reflection for students and the wider community.

Some suggested conceptual approaches include:

- themes or materials that are culturally and environmentally meaningful and relevant to the site, and community
- themes that explore the history of the school; its place and the passage of time.

The finished artwork should:

- be suitable for the site and not create hot spots with material that are too reflective
- be robust and suitable for an outdoor setting (artists should consider any potential risks of vandalism)
- require minimal maintenance or intervention from school staff
- be designed to last a minimum of 15 years.

Apply

Please provide a CV, examples of relevant artwork and some information about how you would approach the commission via [our website](#).

How it works

Project team

The project team is a resource to help you realise your design and meet the project objectives:

- Jason Followes – Capital Project Manager, Department for Education, Children and Young People
- Kelly Dyer – Principal, Sorell School
- Tobias Hengeveld – Public Art & Industry Development Coordinator, Arts Tasmania
- Nathan Reynolds – Chairman of the Sorell School Association

Selection

Expressions of interest will be assessed against two criteria:

- **Quality**
 - *Are the key people experienced, or do they demonstrate the potential to develop and grow?*
 - *Do they have a strong artistic practice?*
- **Benefit**
 - *How will receiving this commission potentially benefit the artist, building users and the Tasmanian community?*

Up to three artists will be shortlisted to further develop proposals.

The shortlist proposals will be presented to the project team and assessed against the criteria of quality and benefit, as well as two additional criteria:

- **Planning**
 - *How feasible is the project given the commission budget, constraints, and timelines?*
 - *To what extent does the artist demonstrate the necessary skills and experience to deliver the proposed artwork?*
- **Vision**
 - *How well does the proposed artwork demonstrate a creative or innovative vision in terms of concept, media, construction methods, materials and/or collaborations?*

Please note that members of the project team may nominate a colleague to participate in the selection process on their behalf.

Commissioning process

Commission agreement

If you are selected to work on the commission, you will be asked to:

- meet with Arts Tasmania to discuss arrangements for the commission, such as payment instalments, roles and responsibilities and insurance
- sign a commissioning agreement to confirm this information in writing.

Detailed design development

Once you have signed the commission agreement you will be asked to:

- produce a detailed design plan to realise your concept, including artwork specifications such as drawings
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- make sure that the artwork design meets all relevant building standards
- report regularly to the selection committee as the commission progresses
- manage all aspects of design through to handover of the completed artwork.

Fabrication and installation

Once your detailed design has been approved by the project team, you will be asked to:

- fabricate your artwork according to the detailed design plan
- undertake the installation in consultation with the Department and its Contractor
- meet all work health and safety and other requirements while on site
- keep Arts Tasmania updated on your progress and let us know as soon as possible if you need to vary the approved design or timeframe.

Handover your artwork

Let Arts Tasmania know as soon as possible when you are ready to complete your artwork so we can:

- make sure it meets the approved detailed design plan
- provide you with a handover certificate
- document it for our records
- promote it.

General information

The Tasmanian Government Art Site Scheme

This commission is supported through the Tasmanian Government Art Site Scheme. For information about the scheme please visit [the Arts Tasmania website](#).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island content

If your activity involves Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander content, your application must provide evidence of how you are working with the Aboriginal community. Please refer to the [Australia Council for the Arts' Protocols for using First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property in the Arts](#).

The Tasmanian Government's [Office of Aboriginal Affairs](#) can provide advice on working with Tasmanian Aboriginal people and organisations.

Code of practice

We encourage artists and arts organisations to comply with the National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA)'s [Code of Practice for Visual Arts, Craft and Design](#).

Workplace health and safety

Siting artworks in the public domain can result in safety risks for the public and for artists. The Department of State Growth requires that commissioned artists comply with Tasmania's [Work Health and Safety laws](#) and the [State Growth Work Health and Safety Contractor Standards](#).

If selected for the commission, you will need to have public liability insurance cover of at least \$10 million.

Working with vulnerable people

The *Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013* aims to protect vulnerable persons, including children and young people, from the risk of harm. It requires those working with children and young people to have a current registration and [Working with Vulnerable People \(WWVP\) card](#).

Please visit our website to see Arts Tasmania's [policy on working with children and young people](#)

Project Documents

Project Document 1: wall of Administration building



wall of Administration building (extended)



Project Document 2: Circular Garden / lawn area (looking toward Gordon St)



Circular Garden / lawn area (looking toward the Administration building)



Project Document 3: mina nina krikani (you me sit together) building wall



Circular planting areas in front of mina nina krikani entrance way



Project Document 4: Science building wall



Project Document 5: Site plan with potential artwork sites

