Baw Baw Shire Council Public Art Project

Artist Expressions of Interest:

WGAC Coffee Table Art Boxes

Purpose

Council is seeking local artists to paint artwork on pre-existing wooden boxes. These painted boxes will then function as coffee tables for the patrons of West Gippsland Arts Centre (WGAC) for up to 2 years.

Project Summary

Commission	Painting.
Prerequisite	Artists must live in the Baw Baw Shire area.
Selection Process	Successful artists will be chosen based on their Expression of Interest (EOI) submission. Some artists may be chosen before the EOI due date, so early submissions are encouraged.
Location (Finished Works)	West Gippsland Arts Centre, 1 Civic Place, Warragul VIC 3820.
Lifespan	Temporary. Finished works are expected to be on display at WGAC for 12 – 24 months. After this time, they may be deaccessioned.
Artist Fee	$250 (includes GST) per box.
EOI Due	Please submit all EOIs by 5:00pm AEST Thursday 29 October 2026.

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Final Due Date (Delivery of Painted Box to WGAC)	By 4:00pm AEST Tuesday 15 December 2026.

Background

Baw Baw Shire

Baw Baw Shire is approximately 100 kilometres east of Melbourne in the heart of West Gippsland.

It has an area of 4,034 square kilometres and was formed in 1994 from the amalgamation of the former Buln Buln and Narracan Shires, the Rural City of Warragul (previously the Shire of Warragul), and parts of the Shire of Upper Yarra.

The northern half of the shire is heavily forested and lies in the Great Dividing Range and its foothills, including Mt Baw Baw National Park, while the shire is bounded by the Strzelecki Range and its foothills to the south. The 'middle' part of the shire is more densely populated, particularly in areas close to the Princes Highway and the Gippsland railway line, but still retains its rural environment.

Baw Baw Shire is one of the municipalities experiencing rapid residential growth. The current population sits at more than 62,000 and is expected to increase to 87,281 by 2041; a growth rate of 40.68%.

Baw Baw Shire has a strong and vibrant arts scene. We have over 180 public artworks on display throughout the Shire, plus a large civic art collection comprised of both local, national, and international artists. Our extensive and diverse collections reflect our various communities, history, and pride of place.

Baw Baw Shire Council is committed to ensuring the arts are a key part of the fabric of our community.

West Gippsland Arts Centre (WGAC)

Located in the centre of Warragul, the West Gippsland Arts Centre is proud to showcase a variety of local talent, and attracts some of Australia's biggest touring artists, productions, comedians and other performers.

WGAC is a busy multi-use venue. It is open from 9:00 am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday, and on weekends and evenings prior to theatre performances and functions. A variety of visual artwork is also exhibited throughout the Arts Centre foyers via its annual exhibition program.

The WGAC will celebrate its 45th anniversary in 2027. It is operated by the Baw Baw Shire Council with funding assistance from Creative Victoria's Regional Partnerships Funding Program.

Timeframe

This project's timeframe is relatively short, to have the Coffee Table Art Boxes ready for public use before Christmas. Please refer to the Project Summary for specific due dates.

Site

The Coffee Table Art Boxes will be located throughout the foyers of the WGAC. While they may be moved by patrons or staff as required, they will not be removed from the venue.

The Boxes

The boxes are made of plywood and are approximately 50 cm x 50 cm on each side.

Selected artists will be expected to paint 5 sides of their box.

Council will prime the boxes before they are given to artists and will seal the boxes once artists have painted and delivered them. After the boxes are sealed, they will be added to the WGAC foyers for patrons to appreciate and use.

As the boxes will function as coffee tables as well as pieces of art, artists may wish to paint the top of their box a solid colour or otherwise consider that the top of the box is expected to undergo more 'wear and tear' than its other sides.

The boxes may be painted in any colour, in any style, and with almost any theme/subject of the artist's choosing. However, artists must ensure that their artwork:

- Is suitable for a general audience (including small children).
- does not glorify anti-social behaviour (such as gambling, smoking or violence).
- does not promote a political party or specific religion.

Council expects to select 20 artists to each paint one box. However, this is subject to change at Council's discretion.



Above: an unpainted box (before priming).

Submitting an Expression of Interest

To submit an EOI, please send the information below to creativearts@wgac.com.au by **5:00pm Thursday 29 October 2026**.

Required information:

- Your legal name, street address, phone number, and email address.
- Your Australian Business Number (ABN) if you have one.
- Your artist CV (**OR** a paragraph describing your artistic experience/practice).
- 2 to 5 images of your previous artwork.
- One or two sentences describing what you would paint on your Coffee Table Art Box if selected.

Successful artists will be expected to sign a commission agreement before receiving their primed Coffee Table Art Box for painting.

Contact

Any questions may be directed to:

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