

# Call for Expressions of Interest

## University of Sydney Library Indigenous Placemaking Work

### Service Unit and Team:

University of Sydney Library, Indigenous Strategy Implementation Working Group

### Contact:

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### Submission Deadline for Expressions of Interest and Proposals:

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

### Executive Summary

The University of Sydney Library is committed to promoting, centering, and celebrating First Nations cultural knowledges and practices, and to creating an environment that supports cultural wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, students, and community members. As a part of this, the Library is seeking expressions of interest and proposals from established or emerging Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander creatives, designers, and artists with a connection to the greater Sydney area (Eora, Dharug, and surrounding nations) in response to the following brief.

### Introduction

The University of Sydney Library is seeking to commission an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander placemaking work that will feature in and connect our digital and physical spaces. This creative work will facilitate visual storytelling to support an environment where all staff, students, and community members feel safe, seen, respected, and valued.

As a place that collects and protects knowledge and storytelling, celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledges, and supports truth telling, the Library envisions that the piece will embody a sense of place and connection to Gadigal Country, recognising that all Library locations are on unceded Aboriginal land.

We acknowledge that the Library is not a neutral space, and that its historical collections contain content that reflects discriminatory and exclusionary practices against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The commissioning of this work and the close collaboration with the artist or designer affirms the Library's commitment to raising awareness of the First Nations cultural and historical context of Sydney, and to improving the cultural wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander visitors to the Library. We encourage creatives to produce a piece

that advocates for greater understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, stories, cultures, and experiences among the Library's students, staff, and extended community.

The Library is excited to support the creative vision and talent of an artist and/or designer and the interpretation of this brief in their personal and cultural style. The Library hopes that the piece will reference themes such as place, cultural heritage and history, the creation and preservation of knowledge, education and research, and the importance of community, while also capturing the Library's connection to Gadigal Country and to the complex and rich histories of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities who also call this area home.

To connect the Library's digital and physical spaces to Country, we are seeking both digital and physical versions of the work; for example, the work could be born digital and then printed, or created as a physical work that is also provided as high-resolution digital scans or photographs. Elements of the work will be used as collateral on the Library's website and digital assets, and in physical spaces such as on the screens of Library self-checkout machines. These may be a combination of close-up detail and specific cultural symbols that may be used as icons to signify certain themes or content on the website. The physical work will also be prominently displayed in Fisher Library. The successful applicant's cultural symbols will be respected and not adapted or altered when the design is translated across Library digital and physical spaces, and guidelines will be established in consultation with the artist about how and where the artwork will be used.

### Requirements for the Work

**Digital Format:** The work will be displayed throughout the Library website and may be used on other digital mediums: e.g. digital screens throughout the Library. Elements of the work may be displayed close-up or used as iconography as appropriate. A still image is preferred, however specific requirements will depend on the nature of the work and how it has been produced. These will be confirmed with the successful applicant at the time of award.

**Dimensions and Resolution:** TBA—depending on the format and scale of the proposed physical work.

**Physical Medium and Format:** The work will be displayed in a high-traffic area in Fisher Library. Ideally it will be produced in a medium that is relatively durable and not sensitive to light (i.e. a work on paper may not be suitable). A two-dimensional piece is envisaged, although other formats will be considered if a strong rationale is provided in the proposal. A variety of physical media could be appropriate depending on the concept being proposed.

**Dimensions:** As the work is being commissioned with the intent of resulting in high visual impact, a larger piece is encouraged. The Library recommends works in the range of 800 mm wide x 800 mm tall to 2000 mm wide x 2000 mm tall.

## Timeline

### **Stage 1: Call for Expressions of Interest**

Deadline for submission of proposals: Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023

### **Stage 2: Review Expressions of Interest by Selection Committee**

Notification to applicants: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023

### **Stage 3: Production of the Work**

Meeting to agree concept and production milestones: Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Progress meetings: fortnightly—every 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday over three months (by agreement with successful applicant).

### **Stage 4: Final Reviews and Approvals**

Final approval of finished work by Library Executive and key stakeholders: Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

### **Stage 5: Installation**

Installation of the work: January 2024

## Objectives, Themes, and Key Considerations

The key objectives of the work are to:

- Make visible and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities, and cultures
- Raise awareness among visitors that the Library is on Gadigal Country, highlight the associated rich cultural and political heritage, and enable truth telling
- Enhance the Library as a space that is welcoming and protects the cultural wellbeing of and Torres Strait Islander staff, students, and community members when visiting the University Libraries
- Connect the Library's digital and physical spaces to Country

The Library would like the successful applicant to consider including elements that reflect the Library values of:

- Collaboration
- Curiosity
- Inspiration
- Integrity
- Respect

Given the nature of the sites in which the work will be displayed, the Library would like the successful applicant to consider including some of the following themes:

- Knowledge sharing and storytelling beyond “academic tradition”

- History and truth telling
- Learning through a decolonised perspective
- Community and coming together

## Library Scale and Scope

The University of Sydney Library's physical sites received 2 million visitors in 2022, including University staff, students, and the public. The Library website received 3.4 million visitors in 2022. It is the largest academic library operation in the southern hemisphere, with a collection incorporating more than 3 million physical items, and many more electronic titles.

Library operations span multiple sites including:

- Fisher Library
- Herbert Smith Freehills Law Library
- SciTech Library
- Susan Wakil Health Building Library
- Conservatorium of Music Library
- Wingara Mura Resource Centre
- The Quarter
- Camden Commons
- Peter Nichol Russel Learning Hub
- Abercrombie Learning Hub
- Carslaw Learning Hub East
- Brennan McCallum Learning Hub

## Budget

The total budget available for this project is \$20,000 inclusive of all fees, materials, fabrication, framing, and digitisation. This will be paid in three installments:

- The successful applicant will submit their first invoice upon signing the commission agreement
- The second invoice can be submitted upon review of the final draft
- The third invoice will be submitted on installation of the work

## Payment

For the applicant whose EOI and proposal is selected as a result of the competitive assessment process, the Library will raise a purchase order for the agreed amount prior to the commencement of artistic production. The successful applicant will be paid the agreed sum upon delivery of the final work and after submitting an invoice to the Library for this amount. It is therefore a requirement that the successful applicant has an ABN, as they will not be placed on the University's payroll as an employee and will charge the University for the work as an independent contractor.

## Criteria for Assessment of the EOI

Expressions of interest will be assessed by a panel using the following criteria:

- All expressions of interest must be submitted by no later than 11:59pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023
- *EOIs submitted after this date will not be included in the selection process*
- All EOI's must be submitted via the [online form](#) on the Library website
- To be considered, submissions should include the following:
  - A written expression of interest must be attached to the submission and should include:
    - Contact details
    - Interest in the project
    - Related experience in public art projects, or exhibitions (emerging artists are also encouraged to apply)
    - The applicant's connection to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, and connection to the greater Sydney area (Eora, Dharug, and surrounding nations)
  - A proposal that:
    - Outlines the intended artistic concept at a high level
    - Addresses the briefed objectives, themes, and key considerations
    - Includes concept drawings or sketches (optional)
    - Outlines production milestones and deliverables in line with the briefed timelines
    - Confirms the formats and specifications of the files that will be delivered
  - A CV or resumé
  - Examples of other works by the applicant (for example, a web-based portfolio, a PDF folio or Instagram site)
  - Where it is proposed that more than one applicant is to be involved, the submission will include the above details for each person involved in the project in the EOI letter, as well as providing their CV and portfolio

## Terms and Conditions

### Application Eligibility and Project Conditions

This project is open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander creatives. The selected applicant(s) will work closely with the Library's Indigenous Strategy Implementation Group to produce a work that meets the objectives of the brief.

### Process

Submissions that do not meet all the requirements of this EOI may be excluded from further consideration. Submissions that do meet the EOI criteria will be reviewed by a panel of

University staff, and assessed on a competitive basis against the requirements of the brief and for their conceptual and artistic merit. The panel's decision will be final, and applicants will be notified of it by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

The successful applicant must promptly enter into a formal agreement with the University for creation and delivery of the work on terms consistent with and to give effect to the terms of this EOI. As the successful applicant will be engaged by the University as a contractor, they must possess a registered ABN and will be required to complete a contractor assessment questionnaire.

### **Production**

The applicant must own or have access to the production tools and hardware required to produce the work.

### **Expenses**

No payment will be made for any expenses or losses which may be incurred by the responding party in connection with the preparation of the EOI.

### **Confidentiality**

Information provided or imparted to any respondent as part of the EOI is confidential to the University and shall not be used by the respondent for any other purpose. Information supplied by a respondent shall not be treated as commercially confidential unless specifically requested by the respondent. Information received by the University of Sydney Library may be subject to public disclosure under Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 unless it is provided or relates to commercially sensitive information and meets the criteria for exemption from disclosure under the Act.

### **Disclaimer**

The University is not committed contractually in any way to a company or individual who makes a submission in response to this call for expressions of interest. The issue of this call for expressions of interest does not commit the University to proceed with any part of this project.

### **Investigations and Warranties**

Applicants are responsible for making their own investigations and determinations and for preparation of their responses. Applicants should examine the terms and conditions of this EOI in framing their responses. Parties are advised that the University of Sydney Library, its employees, agents, and contractors make no representations or warranties as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the information and do not have any liability arising from that information.

### **Ownership of Artwork**

For avoidance of doubt, the ownership of the artwork and all intellectual property rights in and to the publication/ creative work and any other materials created by the applicant pursuant to the works will remain with the Applicant. The Applicant will grant to the University a royalty-free licence to reproduce, publish, and communicate to the public, the work for the University's purposes in perpetuity on terms set out in the substantive agreement. The Library will

collaborate with the applicant to develop agreed guidelines for where and how the work will be used.

By submitting an expression of interest for this project, the Applicant acknowledges that if they are the successful applicant, the licence rights granted to the University will also permit their works to be adapted for use on other University of Sydney Library platforms and other formats to promote cultural competence at the Library, and that preservation copies of the works will be stored in the Library's systems used for managing and preserving digital content.

The Applicant will be required to provide an appropriate moral rights consent to the University to facilitate use and adaptation of the work by the University within the scope of the above license, subject at all times to reasonable attribution.