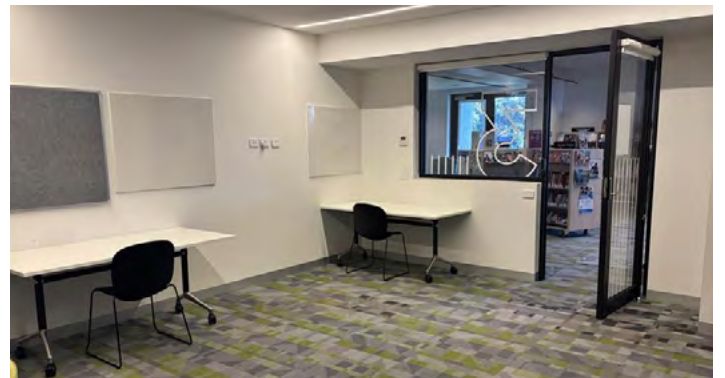


# Magnify Writers in Residence

2026 - 2027 program guidelines

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# Magnify: Writers in Residence

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Kingston is dedicated to supporting our local creative community by providing spaces for both emerging talents and established artists across multiple art forms. We aim to nurture artistic growth, inspire creativity and promote cultural engagement across Kingston.

The **Magnify: Writers in Residence Pilot** was a new initiative for 2026, developed as a partnership between Kingston Arts, Kingston Libraries and Dingley Village Neighbourhood Centre, to grow and expand on the Artist in Residence offering currently available at Kingston Arts Centre. The success of the pilot has brought the initiative back with two residency periods supporting six writers planned for across 2027.

The **Writers in Residence program** provides an opportunity for writers and literary artists to have access to a studio space where they can immerse themselves in their writing practice during their 10-week tenure. The program also encourages opportunities to collaborate, build networks with fellow writers and engage with the wider Kingston community.

Writers whose practices are appropriate for the space include (but are not limited to) novelists, poets, short story writers, playwrights, screenwriters, bloggers, journalists and non-fiction authors.

This opportunity is suitable for writers and literary artists who are looking for a dedicated writing space and are interested in engaging with other writers and the community as part of their process.

Applicants must be over 18 years of age and hold (or be willing to obtain) a valid Working With Children Check.

## **Magnify: Writers in Residence program offers:**

- A fully-funded shared writing studio space at Dingley Village Library and Neighbourhood Centre.
- Access to the facilities available at Dingley Village Library (during library opening hours) and Dingley Village Neighbourhood centre, including a kitchenette and wifi.
- Financial support. Writers can choose one of the following:
  - \$1,500 stipend
  - Writers Victoria membership and mentorship, or support tailored to the writers' needs and interest (valued at \$1,765).
- Opportunities to connect, collaborate and build networks with other writers, creatives and the community.
- Professional development guidance for career progression.
- Opportunities to develop community engagement initiatives including a paid (\$500) community engagement activity in collaboration with Kingston Libraries.

## **Expectations of resident writers:**

- Maintain a studio presence for approximately 80 hours per month.
- Consideration of and respect for others in the shared studio space.
- Consideration of and respect for facilities.
- Writers are encouraged to deliver one paid community engagement activity in collaboration with Kingston Libraries.

# The Writers' Studio

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Nestled behind the Dingley Village shopping precinct, the writers' studio, located within a shared space between the Library and Neighbourhood Centre, provides modern facilities alongside peaceful outdoor spaces. The studio is a medium-sized room divided equally into individual workspaces. This set-up provides areas for focussed work while fostering collaboration within the shared environment.

Resident writers are expected to maintain an active presence, dedicating a minimum of 80 hours per month to their practice in the space.

Basic furniture will be provided, with the option to discuss additional arrangements tailored to individual needs.

Access hours are 8am – 8.30pm, with expectations for responsible use and consideration of others.

Please note that access hours are beyond the Library and Neighbourhood Centre standard opening hours, so resident writers will have their own security card to access the building when it is not open to the public.

Please be aware that other activities occur in the building, and there may sometimes be noise bleed from adjacent rooms and the Library.

## Transport

The main car park at Dingley Village Library and Neighbourhood Centre is accessed from Marcus Rd and has 7 all-day parking spaces. These spaces are available every day except market days (the 3rd Saturday of the month).

Street parking is also available on Marcus Road and along the football club driveway on the southern side of the Library.

You can travel to Dingley Village Library and Neighbourhood Centre by bus:

🚌 811/812: Dandenong – Brighton via Heatherton Road & Springvale

🚌 828: Hampton – Berwick Station via Southland Shopping Centre and Dandenong

# Key Dates

|                               |                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Applications open             | Monday 14 September 2026   9:00am                                                         |
| Applications close            | Wednesday 14 October 2026   11:59pm                                                       |
| Resident Artists notified     | From Wednesday 25 November 2026                                                           |
| Magnify 2027 program duration | Thursday 28 January - Thursday 25 March 2027<br>Monday 12 July - Friday 17 September 2027 |

# Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed by a panel including professional writers and Kingston staff and will be based on the following:

| Criteria                            | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Value |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Quality of work                     | The excellence and creativity demonstrated in the applicant's work. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Clearly articulates vision</li><li>Evidence of innovation</li><li>Demonstrates history of high-quality creative output</li></ul>                                                                    | 25%   |
| Community impact and benefit        | How the residency can positively impact the local community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Demonstrates a meaningful connection with and/or benefit for the Kingston Community</li><li>Strengthen social and cultural connections</li><li>Reflects the diversity of our community</li></ul>           | 25%   |
| Demonstrated need                   | How the residency will support the applicant's practice and career. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Clearly articulates why this residency is needed at this stage of their practice</li><li>Demonstrates how the residency will contribute to their long-term creative or professional goals</li></ul> | 25%   |
| Viability                           | Demonstrating appropriate skills and realistic goals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Display an appropriate level of skills and experience to deliver the outlined project</li></ul>                                                                                                                   | 15%   |
| Overall strength of the application | Demonstrate realistic and achievable planning and resource use. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>An original project suited to the space and within the residency duration</li></ul>                                                                                                                     | 10%   |

# Desired outcomes

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The objectives of Magnify: Artists in Residence is aligned with City of Kingston's **Council & Wellbeing Plan** and its core pillars to generate positive economic, cultural and social impact within the city.

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## **Objective 1: Healthy and Connected**

We are a healthy, inclusive and accessible community, where social connections thrive and everyone feels supported and safe

## **Objective 2: Vibrant and Prosperous**

We are a welcoming, lively and creative city that celebrates our well-utilised community spaces and thriving local businesses

## **Objective 3: Liveable and Sustainable**

We live in a sustainable, well-planned and maintained city that preserves neighbourhood character, protects the environment and is future-focused

## **Objective 4: Responsibly Governed**

We are a transparent and efficient organisation that is accountable, responsive and cost-effective

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# How to apply

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- Attend the information session on the 15th of September 2026 at Dingley Village Library
- Contact the Kingston Arts team with any queries at **[artsprograms@kingston.vic.gov.au](mailto:artsprograms@kingston.vic.gov.au)**
- Allow ample time to plan, gather support material and to draft your application (save as you go).
- Complete and submit an online application through our **EOI form** by the closing date. Late applications will not be accepted.

To learn more about Kingston Arts and to join our mailing list, visit **[kingstonarts.com.au](http://kingstonarts.com.au)**

# About Kingston Arts

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kingston**arts**

City of Kingston boasts a vibrant arts and culture scene, hosting a variety of arts spaces, arts and cultural organisations and services, professional and emerging artists, creative industries and arts workers.

Kingston Arts aims to build on these strengths, through increasing the profile and support of creative industries within the community and fostering more opportunities for creative engagement and cultural tourism.

Kingston Arts achieves this through the delivery of a comprehensive and diverse calendar of performing, visual and community arts events and activities across three primary arts spaces: Kingston Arts Centre, Kingston City Hall and Shirley Burke Theatre.

City of Kingston also provides support through an annual Community Grants program and the provision of artist-in-residence spaces.

These initiatives enhance, strengthen and act on the community's aspirations to position Kingston as a liveable and creative city.

# About Kingston Libraries

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 **KINGSTON**  
LIBRARIES

Kingston Libraries is a cornerstone of community life offering welcoming spaces, rich collections, and inclusive programs that support learning, creativity, and connection across every stage of life.

With eight branches located throughout the City of Kingston, the library service provides access to books, digital resources, technology, and programs that reflect and celebrate the diversity of the local community. From early years literacy to lifelong learning, digital inclusion to cultural enrichment, Kingston Libraries is a service that offers contemporary collections, services and spaces for learning, connection and creativity.

Through targeted partnerships, local collaborations and an ongoing commitment to accessibility and inclusion, Kingston Libraries plays a vital role in shaping a more connected, informed and resilient community. Our libraries are places to read, connect, grow and just be.

# About Dingley Village Neighbourhood Centre

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The Centre is a part of the Neighbourhood House movement, which began to evolve in Victoria in the early 1970s. The main aim of the movement being to offer people supportive, non-threatening environments where they could share their skills and achieve social interaction in their local communities.



## **Purpose**

To establish, maintain, develop, promote, encourage and coordinate the provision of facilities, activities or services that provide residents of Dingley Village with the opportunity to participate in education programs, community engagement, community development and community strengthening.

We will achieve this through:

- A balanced range of services and activities based upon social, educational, skills development, support, leisure and other related community building activities.
- The management and development of the Neighbourhood centre for the benefit of the community it serves.