



23/04/2024

# Public Art Mentorship EOI

# Greening the Pipeline, Zone 5

## Public Art Mentorship

We are excited to offer a unique paid mentorship program designed for an emerging Bunurong/Boonwurrung or other First Nations artist located in Victoria interested in developing their creative practice in public spaces beyond the gallery walls. The mentorship is an opportunity, offered by Wyndham City and Deakin University's Public Art Commission, to contribute to the production of a significant public artwork led by Kait James, that celebrates First Nations culture and country in Naarm's west, and responds to the historical infrastructure of the Main Sewage Outfall and the associated renewal project, Greening the Pipeline.

This paid opportunity will help the mentee to gain experience and knowledge from renowned Wadawurrung artist Kait James, while working with a diverse and supportive team of curators, landscape designers, production coordinators and crew. This program is aimed at providing hands-on experience and knowledge in the complexities of making a major public artwork

### **Concept for *Sheoak***

This commissioned public artwork pays homage to the deep cultural significance of the Drooping Sheoak (Ngarri or Ngarrrai) to the Wadawurrung people, while also respecting its potential connections with Bunurong/Boonwurrung Country where the site is located. This public artwork is conceptualised as a fusion of natural history, cultural reverence, and contemporary art, serving as a bridge between past and present, and between different mobs.

The Drooping Sheoak, or Ngarri, holds profound importance for the Wadawurrung people as the "hair tree," whose branches and foliage produce a whistling sound. While the specific Bunurong/Boonwurrung connections to the Sheoak are being explored, the artwork intends to honour the shared values, traditions, language and links between the Kulin mobs, especially in light of recent socio-political events and the need for respectful cultural representation. An ancient Sheoak forest once grew throughout the western Kulin nations, serving as the original green spine that connected these communities. Within its leafy canopy, the wind whispered news and stories, carrying songs from one mob to another, fostering a profound sense of shared heritage and dialogue among the Kulin peoples.

The artwork focuses on the ethereal qualities of the Sheoak leaves. Imagined as an elongated wind chime, this installation will consist of metal leaves suspended on either side of the pipeline walkway near Skeleton Creek Aqueduct, creating an immersive environment for visitors. The leaves, designed in three segments to capture the delicate structure of natural Sheoak foliage, will be crafted from thin, cast metal or metal tubes, allowing them to interlock, move and make sound with the wind.

## Coordinated Activities

<b>Introduction and Orientation</b>  (1hr)	Introduce the project where the mentee meets the mentors and key members of the team. Understand the scope, objectives, and significance of the public artwork.
<b>Site Visits</b>  (3 hrs)	Conduct multiple site visits with mentors and stakeholders to understand the landscape, the cultural significance of the location, and how it impacts the design and production of the artwork.
<b>Stakeholder Interviews</b>  (2hrs)	Informal Q and A conversations with different stakeholders, including production coordinators from Greening the Pipeline and council, to gather diverse perspectives and understand their roles in engaging community and celebrating the history of the site through public art.
<b>Documentation</b>  (3 hrs)	Regularly document the process, including sketches, notes from discussions, studio production, and changes in the project. This will be crucial for reflection and for contributing to a Public Art Commission case study of the artwork's development for future projects.
<b>Practical Learning</b>  (5 hrs)	Give the mentee a perspective on studio production techniques and the installation of the artwork and offer them an overview of the complex logistical aspects of public art projects.
<b>Reflection and Feedback</b>  (1 hr)	Provide opportunities for the mentee to present their thoughts on the project and to receive feedback from the mentor, and the team.

These activities will amount to approximately 15 hours and be led by Kait James (the commissioned artist) and managed by Cameron Bishop (curator and producer, Public Art Commission, Deakin University). Site visits will primarily be in Sunshine and Truganina. The schedule above will also be flexible to the nature of the project and the capacity of the mentee.





## Key information

**Mentee Fee:** \$1500 (includes travel expenses)

**To apply:** Please submit a short response, no longer than 200 words, to this opportunity. You should describe the kind of work you make and how you envisage this opportunity would benefit your creative practice. Three images or links to your practice should also be included in your response.

**Submission period:** 23 April – 7 May

**Send questions and responses to:**

[Cameron.Bishop@deakin.edu.au](mailto:Cameron.Bishop@deakin.edu.au)

## Selection Process

- EOIs will be collated and assessed by a panel including the artist and representatives from the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation.
- A shortlist of three people will be contacted to have a conversation with the commissioned artist, Kait James, and Cameron Bishop (Public Art Commission, Deakin University).
- Shortlisted emerging creatives will be notified of the outcome thereafter.

### Key Links

[About Greening the Pipeline](#)

[About Kait James](#)

[About Public Art Commission](#)

This opportunity is presented by Deakin University's Public Art Commission in partnership with Wyndham City Council and Greening the Pipeline as part of the renewal of the Federation Trail.