

Open Call for Proposals - CoCA Sessions 2026/2027

- Applications open:** Wednesday 1 July 2026
- Proposal workshop:** 5.30 - 7.30pm, Tuesday 14 July 2026
On via [Zoom](#). Meeting ID: 943 6458 6411
and passcode: 506203
- Applications close:** 11.59pm, Friday 31 July 2026

CoCA Toi Moroki Centre of Contemporary Art is proud to announce our inaugural Open Call for Proposals for CoCA Sessions

This Open Call is for a performing arts session between September 2026 and February 2027 in our downstairs Ō Papa Gallery, Ōtautahi Christchurch.

CoCA Sessions is a new initiative which will expand our artistic programming, showcase diverse performance artists, and engage our Ōtautahi community.

This pilot project is made possible with support from Christchurch City Council's Creative Communities Scheme. We will be able to offer 3-4 opportunities as part of this project.

CoCA's aim

At CoCA we're all about empowering artists to create and share work with Waitaha communities that deepen connections to our place and our stories.

Our vision is to create a thriving home for art and culture in Waitaha, igniting connections between artists and community. CoCA is committed to upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Te ao Māori values, and supporting a diverse range of art practices and stories.

Open call for proposals

This is an Open Call specifically for Waitaha-based performing artists. Whether you're working solo, in collaboration, or as part of a community-led initiative, we invite proposals from individual artists, groups and collectives.

We encourage responses from performing artists who are tauiwi, Māori or Pacific people working in all kinds of different performance mediums, including dance, music, spoken-word, and performance art.

We also welcome proposals from community organisations who support artists facing barriers to exhibiting.

Proposals should include:

Project

- **One pdf** document outlining your project either in writing (400 - 750 words maximum) **OR** as an audio/audiovisual file (maximum five minutes long). This could include: a concept, art form or additional context around the piece.
- Where appropriate, include one visual representation of the concept within the pdf document and/ or links to videos or sound recordings
- Any specific technical requirements
- A project timeline

[Specifications](#) and [photos](#) for the Ō Papa Gallery.

Creative CV

- Examples of previous work (maximum 10 images)
- Artist/s biography or CV (maximum of 2-pages)

Engagement

- An indication of the communities your performance may appeal to, and how this community could be reached/ engaged
- How you will promote the performance to your networks and community

Budget

CoCA Toi Moroki has a small budget for CoCA Sessions. A final budget will be agreed with successful applicants.

Proposals could also include:

- An indication of any self funding you are able to contribute.

Please label all files and images clearly: with your name and project title, for example: 'A.Smith Poetry Performance'

Please send proposals to: proposals@coca.org.nz with the subject line 'CoCA Sessions - Call for Proposals'.

Proposals close: 11.59pm, Friday 31 July 2026.

Notification

We will aim to notify the outcome of your proposal within six weeks of the closing date and can provide feedback if requested. All proposals received will be kept confidential.

CoCA proposal support

Proposals are accepted in different formats. It's important to us that this process is accessible. Please contact the gallery if you have difficulty with accessibility for this process: proposals@coca.org.nz

CoCA's programming contribution

We can offer guidance, technical assistance, promotional and logistical support, a contribution towards production costs, and artist fees in alignment with [Arts Makers Aotearoa](#) guidelines.

About CoCA

CoCA Toi Moroki Centre of Contemporary Art is a leading art gallery in Ōtautahi Christchurch, governed by the Canterbury Society of Arts Charitable Trust.

The gallery has a rich history of supporting the development of arts practitioners and serving the community since it was established almost 150 years ago.

CoCA is committed to cultivating a programme of free contemporary exhibitions and events that deepen community connections.

About CoCA's programming

CoCA's programming is artist-led via an Open Call model. A voluntary group of Waitaha-based artists programme our downstairs Ō Papa Gallery and review all proposals.

To ensure equity of representation, our Programming Group changes on a regular basis. Any conflicts of interest are managed by members stepping off open call assessments. <https://coca.org.nz/about-us/>