

Open Call for Proposals 2027/2028 Ō Papa Gallery

- Applications open:** Tuesday 1 September 2026
- Proposal workshop:** 5.30 - 7.30pm, Tuesday 15 September 2026
Via [Zoom](#) meeting ID: 987 2175 5012 and
passcode: 783771
- Applications close:** 11.59pm, Wednesday 30 September 2026

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

This Open Call is for an exhibition programme beginning July 2027 for our downstairs Ō Papa Gallery, Ōtautahi Christchurch.

CoCA's aim

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.

We support a diverse range of art practices and empower artists to create and share work with our Waitaha community, deepening connections to our place and our stories.

Open call for proposals

Whether you're working solo, in collaboration, or as part of a community-led initiative, we invite proposals from individual artists, groups and art collectives from all disciplines including visual art, crafts and Ngā Toi for our 2027/2028 exhibition programme.

While we prioritise support for artists who are from, or have a connection to Waitaha Canterbury, we are open to proposals from outside our area.

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, curatorial intention, or some discussion around the exhibition's context.
- Where appropriate, include one visual representation of the concept within the pdf document
- Public programme ideas that could complement the exhibition and enable engagement (eg: panel discussion, hands on workshop, performance etc)
- 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 exhibition may appeal to, and how this community could be reached/ engaged
- How you will promote the exhibition to your networks and community

Budget

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

- Please use the budget template provided:
([2026 version available](#))

Proposals could also include:

- An indication of any funding contribution you are able to make. CoCA may also be able to help support funding applications towards an exhibition.

Please label all files and images clearly: with your name and project title, for example: 'A.Smith O Papa Gallery Show'

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

Proposals close: 11.59pm, Wednesday 30 September 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 need support with this process: proposals@coca.org.nz

CoCA's programming contribution

For exhibiting artists, we can offer curatorial guidance, technical assistance, promotional and logistical support, exhibition-led public programming, 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 more than 140 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 annual Open Call (rather than a curatorial model). A voluntary group of Waitaha-based artists from a range of disciplines select exhibitions for our downstairs Ō Papa Gallery.

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/>