

2026 CoCA Emerging Curator Opportunity

26 February 2026

CoCA empowers artists to create and share work with Waitaha communities that deepen connections to our place and our stories.

We are seeking expressions of interest from emerging curators with connections to Ōtautahi, and a commitment to supporting diverse approaches to contemporary visual arts practice.

This is a professional development opportunity to develop a group exhibition, and public programming that activates engagement and dialogue around the show.

CoCA is interested in innovative approaches to curatorial practice and will support the successful candidate in the development and delivery of the exhibition.

This opportunity is open to artists, curators, writers and other creative practitioners who are interested in gaining curatorial experience in a public gallery. We welcome bold and ambitious programming that aligns with one of CoCA's goals to support under-represented artists, practices, and communities.

The exhibition is scheduled to open on 3 October and will run until 8 November 2026. The role is a part time fixed term contract starting mid-May 2026. Applicants must be based in Ōtautahi while carrying out the emerging curator role.

If you are interested, please email the following to proposals@coca.org.nz by 26 March 2026:

- A CV including any relevant artistic and/or curatorial experience (2 pages maximum)
- A short proposal introducing your curatorial practice and how you would approach this opportunity. Include key ideas, proposed artists, and initial ideas for public programming (500 – 750 words)

The proposal will be the starting point for a conversation with the CoCA team. Support will be given to further develop and realise the exhibition and public programming.



Emerging Curator Brief

Develop and deliver a group exhibition, including concept development, research, and writing for CoCA's Ō Papa Gallery from 3 October to 8 November 2026.

We encourage emerging curators to propose the artists they intend to include. If needed, there may be an option to draw from the proposals submitted to CoCA's 2025 Open Call for Proposals.

Emerging Curator Responsibilities

- Liaise with all artists involved in the exhibition programme
- Help develop exhibition public programming and events
- Help CoCA's Exhibitions Delivery Manager and Operations Manager to deliver the exhibition and public programmes within the agreed budget
- Assist with install and deinstall of the exhibition
- Assist with public programme delivery, including attending the opening event
- Contribute to communications and media as required

Email applications as a single PDF document to proposals@coca.org.nz by 26 March 2026.

Please name your file using the following format:
YourName_CuratorProposal2026

We are here to help applicants. If you have any questions, or require support to complete this application, please email proposals@coca.org.nz in advance of the deadline. We aim to notify the successful applicant by mid-April, and appoint by the end of May.