

Artistic Director – Shepparton Festival

Position Description

Employment Type: Part-time averaging two days per week (0.4 FTE)

Location: Shepparton, Victoria (Hybrid work arrangements may be considered)

Reports To: General Manager

About the Shepparton Festival

The Shepparton Festival is a dynamic, multi-disciplinary arts festival that brings together artists, audiences, and communities to celebrate creativity and culture in the Greater Shepparton region. The festival showcases diverse artistic expressions, fosters local talent, and provides a platform for storytelling and community engagement.

Position Summary

The Artistic Director (AD) is responsible for the creative leadership and artistic vision of the Shepparton Festival. Working closely with the General Manager, Board, and key stakeholders, the AD curates the festival program, commissions new work, and nurtures artistic partnerships. This role ensures that the festival remains artistically ambitious, inclusive, and relevant to the Shepparton community and beyond.

Key Responsibilities

1. Artistic Vision and Curation

- Develop and implement a compelling artistic vision for the Shepparton Festival that will grow engagement in the arts and the Festival in the Greater Shepparton region.
- Curate a diverse and innovative program that engages local, national, and international artists.
- Ensure the Festival reflects and nurtures the cultural and artistic identity of Shepparton and its communities.

2. Artistic Stakeholder Management

- Build and maintain strong relationships with artists, arts organisations, cultural institutions, and community groups.
- Engage with Indigenous and diverse communities to ensure representation and inclusivity in programming.
- Act as an ambassador for the Festival within the arts sector and wider community.

3. Programming and Commissioning

- Oversee the selection and development of festival events, performances, and exhibitions.
- Commission new artistic works and projects that align with the festival's vision.

- Ensure a balance of emerging and established artists across disciplines.
- Collaborate with partners to deliver co-presentations and touring opportunities.

4. Collaboration and Delivery

- Work closely with the General Manager to align artistic programming with logistical and financial considerations.
- Support funding applications by providing artistic rationale and program details.
- Provide input into marketing and audience engagement strategies.
- Oversee the artistic aspects of festival production to ensure high-quality delivery.

5. Event management

- Oversee delivery of Festival events, working within the allocated budget
- Plan and implement roles for volunteers to help deliver events
- Ensure risks are managed appropriately
- Capture data to demonstrate impact of Festival
- Logistics communication
- Venue Booking and Liaison
- Artist Support

Selection Criteria

Essential:

- Proven experience in artistic programming, curation, or arts leadership.
- Clear understanding of events and experiences that will engage a broad range of stakeholders in the Greater Shepparton community
- Strong knowledge of contemporary arts practice across multiple disciplines.
- Excellent relationships within the arts and cultural sectors, including with artists, presenters, and funding bodies.
- Demonstrated commitment to diversity, accessibility, and community engagement.
- Ability to develop and deliver a compelling artistic vision.
- Strong communication and collaboration skills.

Desirable:

- Experience in commissioning new work and supporting artist development.
- Previous experience in event programming.
- Understanding of funding and sponsorship processes in the arts sector.

Employment Conditions

- This is a part-time position (0.4 FTE – averaging 2 days per week).
- Flexible working arrangements may be negotiated, including hybrid work.
- Some evening and weekend work will be required, particularly in the lead-up to and during the Festival period.
- Salary \$80,000 pro rata

How to Apply

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter of no more than 2 A4 pages addressing the selection criteria, along with a resume, to tim@rocketshop.com.au by 9 May 2025.

For further information, please contact Tim Winkler via email on tim@rocketshop.com.au or phone on 0409 551 743.