Open House Melbourne Weekend festival 2027
Expression of Interest Submission

Open House Melbourne Weekend festival
Friday 23 July—Sunday 25 July 2027

Submission deadline:
11.59pm Sunday 21 February 2027

Theme: The City We Share

Across nineteen festivals, Open House Melbourne has shared the city, opening thousands of doors and inviting people to gain a deeper understanding of the buildings, places and spaces that make our city so unique.

In 2027 our theme, *The City We Share*, celebrates the ways Melbourne comes together.

From our parks, pools, libraries and community gardens to sporting arenas, creative spaces, ceremonial sites and all the spaces in between, our city brings us together in countless ways. These are the places where our paths cross, ideas connect and experiences overlap. By chance or design, our lives come together in the spaces we share.

The City We Share considers how these points of connection inform our collective sense of community. The festival will explore the places we hold in common and the shared moments that bring place to life, reminding us of our past, celebrating our present and looking to the future.

We look forward to sharing our city with you to celebrate the 20th Open House Melbourne Weekend festival, our community and all the things that make our city unlike any other.

Who can apply?

Open House Melbourne invites submissions from organisations or individuals including building owners or custodians, architecture and design practices including urban and landscape designers and community groups who wish to engage directly with public audiences to communicate the importance of good design.

We encourage EOIs from locations across the city and from Melbourne's suburbs and beyond. Take a look at last year's program archive to get a better sense of the breadth of programming types and locations.

Whether an individual or organisation, successful applicants become our 'Collaborators'.

How to Apply?

Please make your submission via the online form. If you're unable to access the form or would like to request an alternative version, please contact us via info@ohm.org.au or +61 3 8648 8612.

Please be prepared to complete the form in one session. The form will not be saved should you close your browser. We recommend reviewing the form or PDF summary and keeping a separate record of your responses as a reference so you can complete the form in one go.

Ensure you have reviewed the EOI Submission Summary, Key Selection Criteria, Collaborator Commitment, key dates timeline and FAQs before making your submission. All submissions need to meet minimum requirements and will be assessed against the Key Selection Criteria by the Open House Melbourne Building Council and curatorial team.

Submission deadline: 11.59pm Sunday 21 February 2027

Key Dates Timeline

November—December: In-person EOI Information Sessions, see details below.

Sunday 21 February 2027: EOI closes—Submit via the online form by 11.59pm. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Friday 12 March 2027: Successful applicants notified via email

Sunday 11 April 2027: Final event details confirmed + registration fee paid

Wednesday 23 June 2027: Open House Melbourne Weekend festival Launch—Celebrate with us!

Friday 23 July—Sunday 25 July 2027: Open House Melbourne Weekend festival

What's the program format?

The Weekend festival takes places across 23—25 July 2027.

Submissions may take the form of open access buildings or building tours, walking or site tours, workshops, panel discussions or talks, films or exhibitions across Melbourne.

Most programs operate either as **Open Access** while some require **Pre-bookings** for limited capacity or timed tours. Some have elements of both and programs typically operate between the hours of 9am and 6pm (see more below).

Participating on Friday must be **in addition to your offering on Saturday and/or Sunday rather than in place of. Panel discussions or talks and any events that may have a great industry appeal are well-placed on Friday.*

Open Access

Open Access buildings and spaces are drop-in style, open for guided or self-guided tours which are free and *do not require pre-booking.*

Visitors can simply turn up and take part either by popping in to have a look around and engage with knowledgeable representatives on site—see last year's offering at Artbank Collection Store—or by joining one of many guided tours offered frequently on a rolling basis, or as required—see Hawthorn Tram Depot or Orica House for a great examples of Open Access programming. *A minimum open time of 6 hours is required.* If you normally charge an entrance fee, you are required to waive it for festival participants for the Weekend festival.

Open Access and Pre-bookings include an open, drop-in style offering *plus* pre-bookings for limited capacity tour or event components—see last year's offerings at Abbotsford Convent and Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) for excellent examples of this format.

Pre-booked or ticketed programs

Pre-bookings are required for some programs with limited capacity or security considerations like residential homes, construction sites or limited capacity tours—see last year's offering at Fed Square: Behind-the-scenes. A minimum capacity allowance of *at least* 60 people across the Weekend is required e.g. 6 x tours of 12 pax each.

Open House Melbourne will work with you to assess the structure of your program and decide if your program requires pre-bookings.

All ticketing for pre-booked programs will be managed by Open House Melbourne. A small booking fee of $10 (passed on to visitors) will apply to tickets to contribute to the ticketing administration costs and ensure visitor commitment. Bookings fees are non-refundable.

Collaborators are welcome to cover the booking fee costs in advance if they wish to have no charge for the audience.

Collaborator Commitment

For successful participation on the Open House Melbourne Weekend festival we expect all Collaborators to:

- Agree to Collaborator Terms + Conditions;
- Hold necessary permissions and insurances to undertake the proposed program;
- Open their building space for a minimum of six hours across the weekend **and/or** accommodate a minimum capacity of 60 people for events/tours;
- Have a knowledgeable, responsible person/s onsite to oversee the delivery of the program/event;
- Submit all required content to meet Open House Melbourne deadlines for print and digital program and logistical planning;
- Pay applicable registration fee as per the fee structure below by the deadline;
- Display Open House Melbourne signage onsite during the event;
- Be prepared to deliver their event in inclement weather, unless the safety of Collaborators, Volunteers and visitors is deemed at risk in consultation with Open House Melbourne;
- Promote their participation in the Weekend via their marketing channels.

Collaborator Registration Fees

It's free to submit an Expression of Interest to participate in the Weekend. Successful program submissions, upon acceptance into the Weekend festival will incur a registration fee.

Collaborator registration fees ensure we can continue to deliver the much-loved Open House Melbourne Weekend into the future. Registration fees contribute to administration costs, insurance, accessibility services, event management, volunteer recruitment and signage. Fees are payable upon acceptance into the program.

The fee structure, per program, is as follows:

$65 excl. GST (individual)

$120 excl. GST (not-for-profit, community group)

$260 excl. GST (school, for-profit, local government)

$440 excl. GST (higher education, State government, developers, property investment and funds management groups)

To discuss a payment plan or any other aspect relating to fees, please contact us via info@ohm.org.au or +61 3 8648 8612.

Key Selection Criteria

These key selection criteria will guide the curatorial process to determine programs accepted into the Weekend 2027 program.

All submissions need to meet minimum requirements and will be assessed against the Key Selection Criteria by the Open House Melbourne Building Council and curatorial team.

1. Represents design excellence

Is it award-winning or has it been recognised by professional design peers?

Is it innovative, pushing boundaries and/or a great addition to the city?

Will it inspire the next generation of design professionals/future urbanists/active citizens?

How does it respond to the 2027 theme The City We Share?

2. Seeks to improve our collective futures

Does it include First Nations Peoples' knowledges?

Is this an exemplar in the space of Ecologically Sustainable Development?

Does it contribute to a more equitable, inclusive and safe city?

Does it speak to Melbourne as a multicultural city?

Does it represent an innovative approach?

Does it provide better-designed public or social housing or address housing affordability?

3. Represents significant built heritage

Does it tell an important story about Melbourne's past, present or future?

Is it a rare example of an architectural style or type?

Is it important to Victoria's cultural history?

Does it demonstrate creative or technical achievement during a particular period in our history?

Does it have a special historical association with a person or group of persons important to Victoria's history or a present-day community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

4. Provides a unique visitor experience

Does it offer insights into how the city operates?

Does it offer a once-in-a-lifetime or special opportunity?

How will it provide a great experience for visitors of all ages?

Does it provide free access to a space or place that might otherwise cost to visit?

Accessibility

We encourage all participating sites to consider how visitors of all abilities can experience and enjoy their spaces during the Open House Melbourne Weekend. In your submission, please provide clear and accurate information so we can ensure the Weekend is inclusive and welcoming for everyone.

In 2025, Open House Melbourne introduced the Access Map—a purpose-built digital tool designed to make the Weekend more inclusive and accessible. The map highlights mobility-friendly and neurodiverse-considerate sites and helps visitors plan their journeys with confidence, including identifying nearby amenities and supports.

If you would like to be considered for the 2027 iteration of the Open House Melbourne Access Map, please indicate this in your submission. Both sites with excellent existing accessibility and sites interested to work with us to improve their accessibility will be considered.

Why apply?

"So many new faces through the door, and so many happy smiling faces on the way out. Open House Melbourne has been such a fabulous way for us to reach the broader community."

"The sheer number of locals attending walking away with a deeper understanding and appreciation of our operations and history."

"Interested, enthusiastic and curious participants that made the program a delight to run and share."

We are the largest and longest-running Open House program in Australasia with an engaged and passionate audience.

The Weekend provides you the opportunity to:

- take an active role in advocating for the value of good design in our built environment
- provide an accessible and unique experience for audiences
- contribute to broad public discussion around the role of design in creating better futures
- reach a broad cross-section of the community and gain access to new audiences

Open House Melbourne is committed to supporting your involvement in the Weekend so you can focus on engaging with visitors. **Learn more in our 2026 Event Report here.**

Open House Melbourne's Commitment

In the lead up to and during the Weekend, Open House Melbourne will:

- Coordinate and oversee the delivery and marketing of the print and digital program to our audience including providing a marketing and promotional toolkit for your use;
- Promote the Weekend through our channels;
- Offer logistics and on-the-day event support including administration of pre-bookings, where required;
- Open House Melbourne has a stock of signage for Collaborators to collect;
- Allocate and oversee Open House Melbourne volunteers to support with queue management, general building enquiries, way-finding, ticketing, assembling signage

Marketing Benefits

Open House Melbourne undertakes comprehensive marketing and PR activities in the lead up to and during the Weekend. We have an established database of 55k+ email subscribers, 1.2m+ annual website visits and an audience of 63k+ across social media channels.

For tailored benefits and services, please enquire about partner and sponsorship packages with Katie Evans, Partnerships + Communications Manager via katie.evans@ohm.org.au or +61 3 8648 8612.

Volunteers

Open House Melbourne recruits around 500 volunteers each year to support the delivery of the Weekend, brightening up the city with their hot pink vests. They can assist you during your program with greeting visitors, queue and group management, assembling signage, checking attendee lists, way-finding and directions and sharing building information.

Volunteers are rostered for 4 hour shifts and will be allocated on an as needs basis.

While we endeavour to meet all volunteer requests, the support of Open House Melbourne volunteers is not guaranteed. As such, we expect you can run your program or event without the support of a volunteer.

Once accepted into the program, we will work with you to understand your need for volunteers.

Signage

Open House Melbourne signage ensures visitors can find you and your program! A stock of A-frames and flags is allocated to Collaborators to use over the Weekend for wayfinding.

Collaborators are required to display some form of Open House Melbourne signage at their site. It is the responsibility of the Collaborator to collect and return signage within the scheduled timeframes *or* Open House Melbourne can arrange a courier service for an additional fee.

More information about volunteers + signage will be provided once your submission has been accepted into the program.

Chat to us!

Have an idea but not sure if it's suitable?

We love to talk with returning and prospective Collaborators, to help you better understand how the Weekend works and how you can maximise your participation. You're invited to join our online information session on Thursday 19 November at 12pm OR contact us via info@ohm.org.au or +61 3 8648 8612 at any time to discuss your submission idea. *Please do so well in advance to the submission deadline so we can best assist you.*

Prefer to review the Submission Summary + Form online?

You can view and apply online here.

Open House Melbourne 2027—Expression of Interest Submission Form

Primary Contact Details

Name*

First/Last. This should be the primary contact for your program/event through the duration of your involvement in the Weekend

Email address*

Please only submit one email address in this box—a secondary address can be added below.

Phone*

Mobile preferred.

Secondary contact email*

This email MUST be different from the email above. Duplicate emails cannot receive communications. Please only submit one email address in this box—any additional contacts can be added in the 'Further info' section at the bottom of the form.

Organisation Details

Name of organisation, company or practice*

Entity Type*

Individual / Not-for-profit or community group / For-profit or local government / Higher education, developer or state government / Other/unsure

If other/unsure, please provide more information*

Are you a returning or new Collaborator? *

Returning Collaborator with returning project/building/program / Returning Collaborator with new project/building/program / New Collaborator

Years participated*

2026/ 2025 / 2024 / 2023 / 2022 / 2021 / 2020 / 2019 / 2018 / 2017 / 2016 and/or before

Program/Site Details

Program title—building/site event or name*

This will be the title of your program listing

Location/event full address*

Format: e.g. 113 Swanston St, Melbourne VIC 3000

Local Government Area*

City of Melbourne / City of Hobsons Bay / City of Maribyrnong / City of Port Phillip / City of Moonee Valley / City of Yarra / City of Stonnington / City of Merri-bek / City of Darebin / City of Kingston / City of Monash / City of Whitehorse / City of Banyule / North / South / East / West

Architect or project design team + year

Please include all project collaborators where relevant including architect, landscape, engineers etc. Where there are multiple designers/years, separate with a comma: e.g. Marion Mahoney Griffin & Walter Burley Griffin 1924, Six Degrees Architects 2019

Building Type*

Heritage / Landscape / Transport / Workplace / Commercial / Residential / Government / Industrial / Education / Place of Worship / Cultural / Sports Facility / Mixed-use/Performing or visual arts

Is your building listed on the Victorian Heritage Register? * Yes / No / Unsure

Program type*

Open Building / Building tour / Online event / Virtual tour/event / Walking tour / Site tour / Audio Tour/ Transport tour / Workshop / Self-guided tour / Talk/Presentation / Film / Exhibition / Live performance / Livestream event

Program Description*

Provide general information about the building or program. Include architectural, design, historic or unique points of interest for a public audience. This will form the basis of all promotional material but you will have a chance to review this before it goes live to the public. 200 words max.

Program outline*

Describe what will take place at your location/event in 2027. What can the audience expect to do? What might they learn about? Who will be presenting? What other information or activities are available? Will there be additional programming available or special events to attend? 200 words max.

Children's activities

For open access programs/events, please detail any family orientated events or activities. We love to see programming for young people! Leave blank if none. 50 words max.

Operational Details

Day/s participating*

Please indicate your preferences at the time of submission. You are required to participate on either Saturday or Sunday and are strongly encouraged to participate on BOTH Saturday **and** Sunday. We may work with you the shuffle your program time/s to ensure a spread across the Weekend.

Things to note:

- Opening on Friday must be **in addition to your offering on Saturday and/or Sunday** rather than in place of. Panel discussions, talks and industry-related events are well-placed on Friday.
- Saturday morning is typically the busiest block of programming = the most competitive for audiences. Consider an even spread in your offering across to Weekend to reach a broad audience.
- Sunday is a great day to participate. Sunday fewer open sites, an enthusiastic audience, more opportunities for engagement.

Friday 24 July / Saturday 25 July / Sunday 26 July

Open or event times*

Please indicate the hours your building/space will be open across the Weekend. A minimum of six hours

on Saturday or Sunday is required. Select all that apply.

Friday morning / Friday afternoon / Saturday morning / Saturday afternoon / Sunday morning / Sunday afternoon

Program/Event/Tour duration + capacity*

All programs/events are required to accommodate a minimum of 50 people across the Weekend.

If you are offering tours or an event, please provide an indication of the duration and capacity, e.g.

Four tours running for 30 minutes in groups of 20 or 6 x tours running every hour between 10am and 4pm for groups of 15 or Performance starting at 12pm. Running for 60 mins with a maximum capacity of 150.

We understand this may be an indication only—you will be provided an opportunity to shift and confirm these selections.

Bookings required? *

Open House Melbourne encourages open access programs and events as part of the Weekend 2027. Some limited capacity tours and events may require pre-bookings. All ticketing for programs/events that require pre-booking will be managed by Open House and will incur a booking fee of $10.

Bookings required / No bookings required (Open Access) / Both Open Access + bookings required / I'm not sure

Will your program take place in the public realm? *

This includes walking and public site tours, or performances taking place in public spaces where you may be interacting with public.

Yes / No

Will your program take place outdoors? *

Note: The Open House Melbourne Weekend is an all weather event. Any program cancellations are made on a case-by-case in consultation with the Open House team and their risk advisor.

Yes / No

Does your program propose to move through a construction site or a site undergoing renovation?*

Are there additional safely or security considerations we need to be aware of?

Yes / No

Collaborator Event Experience/Preparedness

Please indicate your level of experience delivering public programming:

A little / A lot / Somewhere in between

Site Accessibility*

Please select all that apply.

Ramp or level (step free) entry / Lift acess to all public levels / Accessible bathrooms / All-gender bathrooms / Parent's Room / Accessible parking / Level access tram stop nearby / Auslan interpreted / Auslan interpreter available on request / Assistive listening/hearing loop / Quiet or sensory rooms / Reduced-stimulus times / Sensory maps / Social Stories / Assistance animals welcome / All ages / Not suitable for children / Other / None of the above

Additional Accessibility Information*

Please provide as much information as possible and describe any challenges visitors may experience, like stairs, tight spaces, steep walkways, construction areas, or strong visual/sound environments. Include information about where the accessible parking is, on which floors the accessible toilets and which areas cannot be accessed via a step-free path (e.g. upper floors, toilets)?

Inclusion in Access Map*

Select if you are interested in being considered for the 2027 iteration of the Open House Melbourne Access Map—see here for the 2026 version. Both sites with excellent existing accessibility and sites interested to work with us to improve their accessibility may be considered.

Additional Accessibility Information—Link

If your site has an existing website link with additional accessibility information, please provide here

Getting Here—Link

If your site has an existing website link with 'Getting Here' or similar information, please provide here

Images*

Please supply via email

Images, photographs, renders and other graphics are the best way to show off your site/event. Select

images may also be used for publicity purposes. Please ensure you follow the below image specifications: File type: JPEG or PNG. Dimensions: 3000px wide. Image quality: min 2MB - max 8MB. Quantity: up to 5 images is sufficient. Landscape is required for your hero image and preferred for additional images. Upload your best images so your building/event shines on our website! Include a mix of internal, external, details and/or archival images. Note: you must have copyright permission to share and use these images for promotional purposes.

Key Selection Criteria*

Please refer to the Key Selection Criteria provided in the EOI Submission Summary and select the most relevant response from the following criteria categories: Represents design excellence / Seeks to improve our collective futures / Represents significant built heritage / Provides a special opportunity

How does your EOI meet the Key Selection Criteria selected?* 100 words max

Further info

Anything we've missed? Please provide any additional information relevant to your submission that hasn't yet been captured.

I confirm I have read the EOI Submission Summary including the Key Selection Criteria, Registration Fee structure, Collaborator Commitment and Terms + Conditions, Key Dates Timeline and FAQs.*

Yes