

Oakleigh Art Trail

Artist Brief: Mural or Wall Activation



Commission details

ARTIST BUDGET	\$10,000
COMMISSIONER	Monash Council
APPLICATIONS CLOSE	Monday 14 September 2026, 10pm
CONTACT	Creative Industries Team, creative@monash.vic.gov.au

Background

Oakleigh will soon welcome a vibrant new art trail that will bring together existing public art and creative wayfinding with new projections, lightboxes, murals and a major landmark artwork.

The trail is a significant placemaking initiative that celebrates the business precinct's multicultural identity and rich Greek heritage.

The art trail will draw visitors to Oakleigh streets, laneways, cafés, restaurants and shops to further showcase the area as a unique visitor destination for cultural and creative experiences.

About Oakleigh

The trail sits on the lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung People and Bunurong People of the Kulin Nations.

The area has witnessed waves of migration and cultural change, initially through colonisation and the introduction of settler communities. Following World War II, Australia's assisted migration scheme brought many migrants to the area, particularly Greek, Italian and in later waves, Chinese, Vietnamese and Indian communities.

Oakleigh is now recognised as a major Greek Australian community hub and iconic food destination. Dubbed the unofficial "Little Greece" by SBS, Oakleigh is proud of its continuous Hellenic culture and growing multicultural business precinct.

(See Appendix 2: Oakleigh resources)

Scope

Monash Council is commissioning artists to produce a mural or wall activation for the Oakleigh Art Trail with a minimum lifespan of **five years**.

Artworks must address the key selection criteria:

- Respond to curatorial themes **(See Appendix 1: Curatorial Themes)**.
- Outline a plan for stakeholder engagement.
- Demonstrate required experience and portfolio.
- Demonstrate cultural awareness, safety, consent and respectful practice
- Detail capacity and availability to deliver scope on time and on budget.

EOI submissions close Monday 14 September 2026, 10pm.

Locations

Monash Council will allocate walls to successful artists within the central business district of Oakleigh.

All walls are located at ground level, do not require working at heights and are small in scale.

Council's Creative Industries Team is responsible for all site preparation and traffic management of sites during installation phase.

Artist selection process

All submissions must meet the minimum requirements set out in the EOI submission form.

Eligible submissions will be assessed by a Public Art Panel comprising industry professionals and local community representatives and will be evaluated against the key selection criteria.

Successful artists will be mailed a letter from Council's Creative Industries Team inviting them to enter into an Artist Agreement.

Key selection criteria

The Public Art Panel will use the following key selection criteria to evaluate submissions.

Evaluation Criteria	Weighting	Context
Creative proposal	40%	How well does the proposal respond to curatorial themes identified through community consultation?
Community connection	20%	How well does the proposal plan to engage key stakeholders like local traders and residents?
Portfolio	15%	Does the artist demonstrate the required level of experience to deliver a public art project and stakeholder engagement.
Cultural Awareness	15%	Does the proposal demonstrate cultural awareness, safety, consent and respectful practices?
Feasibility	10%	Does the artist demonstrate they can deliver their proposal within scope, timeline and budget provided.

Project delivery timeline

All artists notified of EOI outcome	Early October 2026
Successful artists contracted	Early October 2026
Concept development	October 2026 –December 2026
Final design	January 2027
Installation	February 2027
Project Closed	March 2027

Budget allocation

A total budget of \$10,000 will be paid to each successful emerging artist. The budget is intended to cover:

- Artists fee for time.
- Concept and detailed design development (initial \$1500 payment)
- Stakeholder engagement

- Artwork materials and consumables.
- Artwork production, installation.

Key contacts

Please email creative@monash.vic.gov.au with any questions and a contact number, one of our Creative Industry Team members will ensure to get back to you.

Appendix 1: Curatorial themes

What we heard from the community

Monash Council's Creative Industries Department facilitated a community engagement initiative for local residents and visitors to have their say about what the artworks will feature.

Responses collected showed people love Oakleigh because it combines a strong multicultural and Greek heritage, exceptional food and coffee, and a strong sense of community within a vibrant village atmosphere.

Please use the following themes to guide your proposal:

- Food as culture
- Greek Heritage and waves of migration.
- Community, gathering and village atmosphere
- Multiculturalism, Many Communities
- History, trade and local identity

Read the full community engagement report [here](#).

Theme	Frequency	Key words:
Food as culture	23 Responses – 21.30%	Outdoor dining Greek Food Fresh Produce Sunday Rotary Market Cafes
Greek Identity and migration stories.	22 Responses – 20.37%	Migration Stories Family Sacrifice Greek Philosophy
Community, gathering and village atmosphere	21 Responses – 19.44%	Eaton Mall Cafes Parks Sunday Markets

Family Gatherings		
Multiculturalism, Many Communities	15 Responses – 13.8%	Greek Italian Chinese Korean First Nations Migration
History, trade and local identity	13 Responses – 12%	Historic buildings Drummond Street Railway history Quarry and brickworks Old Oakleigh Motel Cemetery

Appendix 2: Oakleigh Resources

[Engagement Summary Report - Oakleigh Art Trail.pdf](#)

[Monash Heritage | City of Monash](#)

[Welcome to History Monash - History Monash](#)

[My Oakleigh - Neos Kosmos](#)

[Oakleigh is Our Life: Greek Settlement in Oakleigh](#), Author: Ann Nield, Secretary, History Monash Inc.

[How Oakleigh Became the Unofficial Little Greece](#), SBS, 2025