

# Expression of Interest

## City of Parramatta Lunar New Year 2026 Major Public Artwork

*17 February 2026 – 4 March 2026*

### ABOUT

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**Parramatta Council is seeking expressions of interest from individual or collective artists of diverse cultural backgrounds and diaspora communities who celebrate Lunar New Year to produce and display a large scale site-specific temporary outdoor artwork for Lunar New Year 2026. The artwork will be displayed from Tuesday 17 February 2026 – Wednesday 4 March 2026.**

**This EOI will assist in selecting an artist for the 2026 program.**

The project includes concept development, design and installation for a temporary outdoor public art installation. The installation should respond to the themes of Lunar New Year, Year of the Horse and link in with the vision for Parramatta CBD. Artworks are encouraged to be large-scale and immersive, and pitched with the location of Parramatta Square in mind.

All applications are to be submitted through the online form.

**Submission deadline: midnight, Sunday 6 July 2025**

**Enquiries:**

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## BACKGROUND

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City of Parramatta's Lunar New Year celebrations bring together the diverse cultures and traditions of the area and has grown to become the largest one-day Lunar New Year festival in Sydney. Lunar New Year is observed and celebrated in several countries around the world including China, Vietnam, South Korea, Singapore, and Tibet.

As part of the Lunar New Year offering, City of Parramatta Council seeks expressions of interests for a large-scale art installation to further engage audiences and align with the City's broader initiatives, including public space revitalisation and sustainability programs.

Celebrated by many different cultures around the world, Lunar New Year festivities are a time for food, family, rites, and honoring ancestors. In 2026, Year of the Fire Horse, City of Parramatta will celebrate with a large-scale artwork installation to be on display across the entire Lunar New Year period.

### **Lunar New Year Artwork 2026 will be displayed at Parramatta Square:**

17 February 2026 – 4 March 2026

## PROJECT SCOPE

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This EOI will assist in selecting an artist or collective for the 2026 commission. Council will fund one project with a \$25,000 artist fee + \$70,000 production costs/materials fee.

We are seeking proposals for a grand, impactful and destination art installation that will cover a sizeable footprint. This installation will be prominently displayed in the heart of Parramatta CBD, an area known for its high foot traffic and vibrant community. The artwork should be designed to captivate and engage a diverse audience, becoming a landmark during the Lunar New Year festivities that enhances the cultural and aesthetic appeal of the city centre. We encourage artists to think boldly and creatively, envisioning a piece that will leave a lasting impression on both residents and visitors who travel far and wide.

### **The installation should:**

- Occupy a significant area to ensure visibility and presence
- Incorporate elements that reflect the Year of the Fire Horse and the dynamic and multicultural essence of Parramatta
- Be durable and sustainable, suitable for long-term display in an outdoor urban environment
- Engage the public through interactive or visually striking features.

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

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- Works are temporary and they will not become permanent installations.
- Works should aim to draw visitors to Parramatta Square, be immersive and act as a point of contemplation/celebration.
- Works should consider audience engagement and interaction, as well as patron access and foot traffic.
- Works should consider power requirements for lighting/sound, specific lighting/sound needs and footprint/space requirements.
- Installation hours bridge a variety of light conditions, from daytime to dark, so the work will need to operate and be attractive in these transient light states.
- Artworks are exposed to the weather and hence works should be able to withstand a variety of weather conditions.
- The festival will appoint an installation manager who will work with the artists to develop lighting solutions for the installation.

## TIMELINE

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There will be two rounds of Expressions of Interest (EOI). The first round will be open to the public, inviting artists to submit their applications. From these submissions, a selection will be made for the second round, where shortlisted artists will be invited to provide further details or proposals. The shortlisted artists will receive a proposal fee of \$1,500 +GST.

- **9 June:** EOIs Open
- **6 July:** EOI Close
- **16 July:** Shortlisted Applicants notified
- **27 July:** Shortlisted Applicants proposals due
- **1 Aug:** Successful applicants advised and formally engaged.
- **14 Feb 2026:** Installation commences
- **17 Feb – 4 March 2026:** Artwork open to the public
- **5 March 2026:** Artwork bump-out.

## GENERAL TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

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1. Whilst not required in your original submission, shortlisted applications will be required to submit a topline budget. The budget should indicate your ability to deliver a new outdoor installation. All materials (including install materials), preparation and transport of artwork and additional

installation labour are the responsibility of the artist and should be included in the proposed budget. Some suggested line items (if applicable) for your budget are:

- Materials – Artwork materials (ex GST)
- Materials – Install equipment (fasteners, hanging & suspension equipment) & hardware (ex GST)
- Artwork creation/preparation costs (ex GST)
- Transport costs (ex GST)
- Lighting, wiring & programming costs (ex GST)
- Install & deinstall costs (ex GST)
- Artist fee (ex GST)

2. Following the first-round application assessment, shortlisted applicants will be required to submit a 10-page Project Proposal that includes detailed sketches, a detailed material cost breakdown, and additional information about the proposed work. Shortlisted artists will receive a \$1,500 + GST proposal fee for this task. The City of Parramatta can provide site renders, photographs, and specific site details upon request.

3. Artists are responsible for the install/deinstall of their own work and the associated labour; however, Council will appoint and separately finance an art installation manager who will oversee elements of the project where artists require assistance with rigging, working at heights, specific engineering, or building. The art installation manager will be responsible for working with artists to develop installation plans and methods in consultation with City of Parramatta's Major Events and Festivals team.

4. Successful artists will be contracted for the delivery of their work for Lunar New Year 2026.

5. A 50% payment of commissions will be made prior to the event date. Remaining fee will be paid post event.

6. The artists must meet all work health and safety requirements of Council.

7. Where applicable, the artist/group should provide copies of relevant certificates of currency for the insurances they have. These could include:

- Public Liability Insurance, with a minimum indemnity value of \$20,000,000.
- Professional Indemnity insurance, with a minimum indemnity value of \$2,500,000.
- Worker's Compensation/personal accident insurance as appropriate.

We look forward to receiving your EOI.

Thank you and good luck!