

20-534 | Midland Station

Expressions of Interest – Artists and Artist Teams

Overview

The Midland Junction Alliance is commissioning a series of public artworks associated with the Midland Station project (referred to as ‘the Project’).

After more than 50 years, Midland Station will have a new home bringing it closer to the heart of the Midland Town Centre. The new station location will improve connections to Midland Gate Shopping Centre and Midland Health Campus, while maintaining the railway’s central role to enhance work opportunities and community life in the area.

More information on the project can be found here: <https://www.metronet.wa.gov.au/projects/new-midland-station>

The artworks associated with this project include:

1. A soffit artwork
2. Integrated ground plane artwork
3. Functional artwork
4. 2D wall-based artwork
5. Shade canopies (community group opportunity)

The Midland Junction Alliance are seeking expressions of interest from local West Australian artists, Midland-based community groups, Noongar artists or Noongar artist-led teams to be involved in the creation of these artworks. Artists of all levels of experience are encouraged to express their interest. Artists are invited to express their interest in as many of the opportunities as they wish.

This Expression of Interest relates to artist and artist teams applying for opportunities 1-4 above. For community groups wishing to express interest in opportunity 5 Shade Canopies, please visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GXN8NPQ>

Project Context

Midland is positioned where the Swan Valley and Helena Valley converge. The topographical features of the area have influenced Midland’s evolution as an important junction, between rail, road and river.

The project site is located in the current rail reserve situated east of the current Midland Railway Station (built in 1968). The site is on Whadjuk Noongar boodja and is known by the place name ‘Mandjanup’. Helena Valley, which was named by the British government after they colonised Western Australia in 1892, is an important place in Noongar culture as part of the Waugal dreaming story. The river valleys formed ancient Moort Bidi that connects the Perth metropolitan Boorloo area through songlines and stories to places to the South West, the Kimberley, to the Wheatbelt and interior, and across the whole continent. It is along these ancient movement corridors that rail infrastructure developed from 1880.

Midland Junction’s first station was built in 1886, with a larger station being built in 1894 to accommodate the community workforce of the new Midland Railway Workshops. The growth of the workshops correlates with the growth and prosperity of Midland in the first half of the 20th Century. Much of the built fabric that forms the context of the new stations relates to that period of growth, with much of it now included on the State Register of Heritage Places, the City of Swan Local Heritage List or the equivalent heritage list prepared by Development WA.

The interrelated significance of Noongar Boodja with connections along Helena Valley and into the hills, and the post-colonial heritage sites nearby, generates a deep richness of context in which the new station will be situated.

Engagement with Traditional Owners

Incorporating the knowledge and culture of the Traditional Owners of the place into the design of infrastructure and the built environment helps create strong and culturally respectful relationships with Aboriginal communities. This in turn generates meaningful and authentic opportunities for people, businesses and communities across the life cycle of the project, and beyond.

Aboriginal consultants Aboriginal Land Services (ALS) have informed the development of the Place Plan and subsequent Public Art Plan, through a series of meetings in 2022.

Noongar artists may wish to consider incorporating the Noongar themes and motifs for the station in their artworks. Non-noongar artists must have a cultural advisor if they wish to address Noongar themes.

Any successful concept design that addresses Noongar themes and narratives will require advice from the METRONET Noongar Reference Group (MNRG) before proceeding to design development phase. Artists wishing to engage with these themes must indicate in their concept design proposal. Whilst dot painting has been made contemporary by emerging Noongar and other artists, the METRONET Noongar Reference Group advises that dot paintings are not traditionally representative of Noongar country. The MNRG has asked artists to consider a more representational artistic expression of Country for METRONET projects.

Artwork Opportunities

The artworks for Midland Station have been identified and curated with the intention of creating an immersive experience for visitors to the Station. The artworks are intended to address multiple surfaces (ground planes, soffits, canopies), each contributing to a cohesive and continuous narrative about journeys, weaving in local themes and stories. Visitors will engage with the artwork at various points, learning about the heritage and culture of the area, as they move through the Station.

The soffit artwork (detailed below) will be the central, hero piece for Midland Station. The artwork will be selected based on a curated approach, to ensure a cohesive outcome across the site. This approach may result in teams of artists working closely together to design several installations, with components from the designs used across multiple canvases to create a cohesive artwork collection.

Through consultation with the project team, a series of artworks have been identified, considered to be suitable for depicting key themes and narratives relating to culture and sense of place.

These artworks include:

1. **Soffit Artwork:** An immersive installation to the soffit of the main overpass, painted directly onto the soffit material. Artists for this work will be responsible for design and fabrication (painting). This opportunity is suited to experienced 2D artists. Applicants for this opportunity must be Aboriginal artists who can demonstrate their Noongar cultural heritage through registration on Supply Nation or similar, if required. Or in the case of artists applying as a team, the team must be creatively led by a Noongar artist..
2. **Integrated Ground Plane Artwork:** An integrated artwork in the paving or concrete to the entry plaza at key points throughout the public realm. The artwork may be etched/sand blasted, inlaid or a pattern using the existing paving detail. Artists for this work will be responsible for design only.
3. **Functional Artworks:** Functional artworks located at the main meeting point at the intersection of Helena Street and Railway Parade, adjacent to the kiosk structure. Artists are invited to design a replacement for several of the standalone seating elements designed for the public realm surrounding the station. Artists for these works will be responsible for design

and construction. This opportunity is suited to local timber workers, furniture designers or artists.

4. **Circulation Core Walls Artwork:** In situ sand blased artworks to the circulation core walls to the multi-storey car park and the main station building.
5. **Shade Canopies:** Shade canopies along the pedestrian pathway from the multi-story carpark. The canopies allow for a laser cut or perforated artwork, with the intent to create detailed shadows. These artworks will be developed through facilitated workshops with local community groups. To submit an expression of interest as on behalf of a community group, please visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GXN8NPQ>

Provisional Budget Overview

A provisional budget for each artwork opportunity is detailed below.

Artwork Opportunity	Details	Budget
Soffit Artwork	Artist fees, materials, paint, transport, lighting, installation	\$336,000.00
Integrated Ground Plane	Artist fees only, ex materials, fabrication, installation	\$20,000.00
Functional Artworks	All inclusive including artist fees, design development and documentation, fabrication, installation, engineering, transport	\$100,000.00
Circulation Core Walls	Artist fees, materials, installation, transport as required	\$57,000.00
Shade Canopies	Artist fees only, ex materials, fabrication, installation,	Up to \$24,500.00

Artwork Objectives

- Enhance architectural and landscape design
- Contribute to walkability and wayfinding
- Depict relevant site-specific stories and themes
- Balance fine grain and high impact artworks
- Contribute to the concept of journey and sense of arrival associated with the station

Selection Process

Phase 1. Expressions of Interest (this phase)

- Expressions of interest will be reviewed by the project team.
- A Selection Panel, consisting of members from the Midland Junction Alliance, Public Transport Authority (PTA), City of Swan and element (facilitator) will then assess and score the expressions of interest.
- Additional feedback and advice may be sought at this stage from representatives from METRONET, Community Reference Group, the design team, and Noongar advisors, as required.
- A shortlist of 2-3 artists per opportunity will be selected and confirmed to be invited to the next phase of Concept Design.

Phase 2. Briefing

- Shortlisted artists will be provided with a detailed artist brief and package of information.
- Submissions for concept designs will include (where relevant):
- Imagery (plans, sections, elevations or 3D visuals) of artwork design
- Detailed budget for delivery of artwork
- Written response to brief
- Details of sub-contractors
- Project program and methodology
- Demonstrated adherence to PTA specifications and project requirements including, but not limited to, installation, durability and maintainability of artworks.
- Shortlisted artists will be paid a concept design fees for submitting a compliant design on time. Concept design fees of \$4,000 + GST will be paid for opportunity 1, and \$3,000 + GST for opportunities 2-4.
- Please note, artists do not receive payment for submitting an expression of interest in Phase 1.

Phase 3. Selection and Contracting

- Submitted concept designs will be reviewed by the Selection Panel, with the opportunity for shortlisted artists to present to this group.
- The preferred artist/s will be confirmed by the Selection Panel for each artwork opportunity.
- Artworks which reference Noongar cultural themes will be required to be reviewed by the MNRG prior to contracting.
- Artists will be provided with a contract.

MJA reserve the right to shortlist fewer artists, or not to invite any artists to proceed through to stage 2 where no EOI submissions are deemed suitable.

MJA's decisions on these matters are final, and negotiations will not be entered into. Any party perceived to be influencing the panel's decisions will be immediately disqualified from the assessment process.

Selection Criteria

The EOI will be assessed on the following criteria:

Selection Criteria	Weighting	Basis for Panel's Evaluation	Evidence to be Provided in EOI Submission
Artistic Excellence	40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originality, quality and style of past work and relevance to the Midland opportunities. • Effectiveness, impact and site-specific nature of past work. • Quality and resolution of past work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A portfolio of existing works (max 10 images)

Selection Criteria	Weighting	Basis for Panel's Evaluation	Evidence to be Provided in EOI Submission
Connection to Site	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strength of relevant personal and cultural connections to Midland (if applicable). Demonstrated understanding of the nature and significance of the Midland Station site and public art themes and opportunities as detailed in the Public Art Plan. Creativity and relevance of initial approach to the opportunity as demonstrated through brief written statement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A short written Biography inclusive of any connections to site (max 200 words) Short written response demonstrating understanding of site and outlining an initial approach to the public art opportunity. (max 300 words)
Capacity to Deliver	40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrated experience of artist/team to develop and deliver public artworks similar in nature and scale. Capacity of team members, subcontractors and other resources to deliver the project within the program and budget, as demonstrated through previous project experience and references. Confirmation of other competing commitments and ability to work within project timelines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artist CV/Resume (max 2 pages for each artist on the team) Contact details for two referees who are willing and able to comment on the artist's project management abilities and capacity to deliver a quality public art project

Project Program

Item	Duration	Date
Expression of Interest released	N/A	17 November 2023
Expression of Interest due	4 weeks from release	15 December 2023
Confirmation of shortlist of artists	4 weeks from close of EOI	29 January 2024
Concept designs due	8 weeks from confirmation	22 March 2023
Confirmation of preferred artworks and presentation to MNRG	3 weeks from CDPs due	12 April 2024
Commencement of contracting of artist/s		12 April 2024

Submissions

Expressions of interest are to be made via the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/298Z5DZ>

Artists are invited to submit the following information:

- A CV or resume (max 2 pages)
- A short written Biography (max 200 words)
- A portfolio of existing works (max 10 images)
- A short written response evidencing connection to location (max 300 words)
- Contact details for two Referees for previous projects

Artists should ensure that their EOI submission contains all of the requested information and ensure that their submission directly addresses all of the selection criteria. Artists failing to include requested information, or providing more information than is requested can expect to be scored down in the selection process.

Submissions are due by 15 December 2023 5PM WST.

Note: The word Noongar is the generic term used today to define people of Aboriginal descent who occupy the south-western corner of Western Australia. The Noongar nation is made up of 14 different language groups for which the Perth region is Whadjuk. Variations in spelling occur. For this report we use the spelling Noongar, except when referencing an external agency, organisation or source that uses alternative spelling.