



## **The 2026 Balnaves Foundation Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artist Fellowship**

### **EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST GUIDELINES**

The Balnaves Foundation and Belvoir St Theatre are committed to supporting new work by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander theatre artists.

This Fellowship is open to both **playwrights** to write a new play and to **directors** or **writer/directors** that can lead the creation of an Indigenous led new stage work, whether that be a new play, an adaptation or through a devised process. It also includes an invitation to have a voice in Belvoir's artistic decision-making processes.

The Fellowship provides the Fellow the opportunity to work in at Belvoir for as a resident artist to create their work, subject to negotiation with the Fellow's availability and location over a two year period. Across this period, they will receive a full commission to develop a new original work, and wages to work in the Belvoir's Artistic and Programming team.

In addition to the financial support for the Fellow, resources will also be provided to the project being developed. Creative milestones, placement within Belvoir, resourcing and collaboration will be discussed with the selected Fellow.

The Fellowship model seeks to be deeply collaborative and to support the selected Fellow to create a work for the stage, engage the Fellow in the experience of being in a company structure, and offers the opportunity to support other Indigenous artists through Belvoir's creative development and programming processes.

As the Fellowship is appointed annually and runs for two years ensuring there is a supportive crossover between present and future Fellows, including current Fellow Hannah Belanszky.

Expressions of interest will be considered by a panel including Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists.

#### **CRITERIA**

- Applicants must be of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent;
- Applicants may submit one expression of interest only per round;
- Applicants are asked to nominate if they are applying as a playwright or as a director or writer/director;
- Previously selected Balnaves Fellowship recipients cannot apply the year after they have been selected, or while their commission is still in process.

#### **DATES AND DEADLINES**

|                            |                                                                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>26 OCTOBER 2025</b>     | Fellowship submission opens                                       |
| <b>10 NOVEMBER 2025</b>    | Fellowship submission closes                                      |
| <b>EARLY DECEMBER 2025</b> | Remote Meeting with shortlisted applicants (date to be confirmed) |
| <b>EARLY JANUARY 2026</b>  | Fellowship recipient announced (date to be confirmed)             |

## **HOW TO APPLY**

Download the expression of interest submission form from [www.belvoir.com.au](http://www.belvoir.com.au) or email [literary@belvoir.com.au](mailto:literary@belvoir.com.au) to request one be sent to you.

### **Applications must include:**

- A completed expression of interest form;
- A current resume (maximum 2 pages);
- An outline of your motivation for applying, and how the Fellowship might be of benefit, and what areas of the company's operations are of interest to participate in and experience. For example, literary/dramaturgy, play-reading, programming, rehearsal, production (maximum 1 page);
- An outline of the new work you are proposing (maximum 5 pages). *Please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions on the next page for more information on what we encourage you to include in your outline/pitch;*
- If applying as a playwright or writer/director, a sample of your writing (minimum 5 - maximum 20 pages). *Writing samples could include an excerpt from a full-length play, a short play, poetry, songs, or prose in any genre. The excerpt does not have to be from the work you are proposing;*
- If applying as a director, footage, stills and/or reviews of your work (maximum 15 minutes).

## **ASSESSMENT**

- The panel will be comprised of the current Balnaves Fellow, Indigenous artistic leaders and Belvoir Artistic & Programming staff.
- Applicants who are shortlisted will be required to attend a remote meeting with the panel
- The full panel and the Belvoir Artistic Director will decide the Fellowship recipient.

## **OUTCOMES**

A full commission of \$17,700 plus a part-time artistic salary to be designed and allocated in accordance with the Fellow's availability across the two-year residency.

The Fellowship will be undertaken in 2026/27.

A playwright Fellow is expected to create a new play.

A director/writer or director Fellow is expected to devise, create or adapt a new play.

The Fellowship will occur over the 2026/27 calendar year (equivalent of 1 day per week), depending on the Fellow's commitments and Belvoir will provide the Fellow resources to develop the work. Resources include access to working space within Belvoir, access to peers and collaborations in Belvoir staffing, and creative development sessions and support. Directed by the Fellow's interest, areas of access and contribution for the Fellow may include literary/dramaturgy, play-reading, programming, rehearsal, contributing to the development of First Nations work within Belvoir and production. Development support will also be available and provided by Belvoir's Artistic Staff and Artistic Director.

Monies will be paid in instalments with mutually agreed milestones.

Upon delivery of the final script and/or workshop presentation of a version of the Fellowship work, Belvoir will have the opportunity to accept the work and in doing so shall be granted an exclusive license to produce the work for two years.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What does an outline/pitch look like?**

Make sure your outline is a pitch not a draft of your idea.

Your pitch must include:

- What your idea is;
- Why you are passionate about your idea and how the idea developed;
- What form does the piece of theatre you want to write or devise/direct/adapt for take? (is it dance/theatre? Is it naturalism? Is it going to be a musical?)

Make sure your idea is new and available for commission by Belvoir. We cannot develop a work through the Fellowship if the work is already connected to another theatre company. We will not commission you for another draft of a work that already exists. The idea that you present to us needs to be a new idea for a new project.

### **Can I apply if I have previously accepted the Fellowship?**

You cannot apply if you have previously accepted the Fellowship in the previous year to applying, or while you are still under commission for your Balnaves commission.

### **Can I email my expression of interest in?**

We would prefer you email your expression of interest to us rather than send a hard copy.

### **I have limited access to a computer, how can I get my expression of interest to you?**

If you have limited access to a computer but live close by to Belvoir, please contact us to arrange a time to come in and use one of our computers. Otherwise, most libraries have free access to computers and the internet so check with your local council.



**Submissions must be received by  
MONDAY 10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025  
6:00pm**

Please email your complete submission to [jobs@belvoir.com.au](mailto:jobs@belvoir.com.au) with the subject line:  
2026 The Balnaves Foundation Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artist Fellowship

If you would like to discuss your application before submitting, please contact:  
[literary@belvoir.com.au](mailto:literary@belvoir.com.au)