

The 2027 Balnaves Foundation Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Fellowship

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST GUIDELINES

The Balnaves Foundation and Belvoir 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 a new Indigenous-led stage work, whether that be a new play, an adaptation or a new work developed 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 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 & Programming team.

In addition to the financial support for the Fellow, resources will also be provided for 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 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.

The Fellowship is appointed annually and runs for two years ensuring there is a supportive crossover between present and future Fellows, including current Fellow Bianca Hunt.

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.

DATES AND DEADLINES

12 OCTOBER 2026	Fellowship submission opens
9 NOVEMBER 2026	Fellowship submission closes
Mid November 2026	Remote Meeting with shortlisted applicants (date/s to be confirmed)
EARLY JANUARY 2027	Fellowship recipient announced (date to be confirmed)

HOW TO APPLY

Download the expression of interest submission form from belvoir.com.au or email literary@belvoir.com.au to request one be sent to you.

Applications must include:

- A completed expression of interest form;
- A current résumé (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 Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists and a member of Belvoir's Artistic & Programming staff.
- Applicants who are shortlisted will be required to attend a meeting in person or remotely with the panel.
- The full panel and the Belvoir Artistic Director will decide the Fellowship recipient.

OUTCOMES

The Fellow receives a part-time artistic salary, full commission, and creative resourcing to the total value of \$85,000 across two-years.

The Fellowship will be undertaken in 2027/28.

Monies will be paid in instalments with mutually agreed milestones.

Fellowship:

Once the Fellowship has been awarded, the structure of the Fellowship can be negotiated between the Fellow and Belvoir. The Fellow can undertake their residency at the company one day per week across the calendar year or over concentrated amounts of time throughout. Directed by the Fellow's interest, they will have access to literary/dramaturgy resources, play-readings, programming meetings, rehearsals, and the development of First Nations work within Belvoir. Development support will also be available and provided by Belvoir's Artistic & Programming Staff and Artistic Director.

Commission:

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.

Depending on the Fellow's commitments, Belvoir will provide the Fellow resources to develop the commission. Resources include access to working space within Belvoir, access to peers and collaborators in Belvoir staffing, and creative development sessions and support from the Artistic & Programming team.

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 email my expression of interest in?

We would prefer you to 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 9TH NOVEMBER 2026
6:00pm**

Please email your complete submission to jobs@belvoir.com.au with the subject line:
The 2027 Balnaves Foundation Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Fellowship

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