



Expression of Interest – Creative Land Trust Advisory Reference Group

The Committee for Sydney is seeking expressions of interest from philanthropic, property, legal, business or cultural leaders to join a Creative Land Trust Advisory Reference Group, to be chaired by Lisa Chung AM.

This is an exciting opportunity to help increase the supply of rehearsal, recording and artist studios, and create a strong foundation for creative culture across Greater Sydney.

People with expertise relevant to the delivery and long-term sustainability of a Creative Land Trust for Greater Sydney are encouraged to submit an EOI:

- philanthropists or philanthropic foundation leaders with a track record/interest in financially supporting creative culture
- private or public landowners or property portfolio leaders, with an interest in support creative culture
- experts in property finance, law or operations
- creative culture operational leaders, especially with business and property experience.

This diverse expertise and experience will be crucial to assessing the feasibility of a Creative Land Trust for Greater Sydney, and, if considered feasible, to supporting its establishment.

Project background – why does creative space matter, and what is a Creative Land Trust?

- The lack of affordable and available creative production space in Sydney is leading to a loss of creative workers in Sydney.
- The creative industries have specific spatial needs, and they occupy spaces that are becoming less common in urbanised global cities – spaces like warehouses, studios and rehearsal rooms, where there is space to make mess and noise.
- Our city has seen a dramatic reduction in creative workspace as much of the building stock previously occupied by light industry has been rezoned and redeveloped for housing.
- A significant strategic intervention by government and the private sector is required to address the issue at scale.
- Global capital cities have found success by implementing creative land trust models that own and manage space in perpetuity for creative and cultural use, including Austin, San Francisco, Toronto and London. The City of Sydney and the NSW Government have examined the potential of these models for Sydney.
- Put simply, it would be an asset-holding property entity, independent of government, dedicated to owning and managing affordable creative space in perpetuity.
- The purpose of establishing a Creative Land Trust would be to support a step change in the provision of affordable creative workspace across Sydney, building the foundation for a thriving creative culture. Over time, the entity would be expected to expand its scale of impact, providing an increasing amount of affordable space for creative work in Sydney.

Project description

The NSW Government and the City of Sydney have asked the Committee for Sydney to lead a study to assess the feasibility of a Creative Land Trust for Greater Sydney, and if considered feasible, to establish the new entity. If viability is demonstrated, the NSW Government and the City of Sydney are prepared to make suitable property transfers to the entity.

The aim of the feasibility study is to:

- assess whether it is feasible to establish a not-for-profit entity to own and manage land and/or property dedicated to affordable creative workspace in metropolitan Sydney and the City of Sydney local government area

- identify the resources and processes required to establish this entity, including appropriate funders, financiers, assets and operational partners
- develop a viable business model for the entity, to a stage where stakeholders can be given the confidence to opt in, having the assurance that their requirements will be satisfied (including financial modelling).

Expectations/assumptions of the Creative Land Trust entity:

- an independent not-for-profit entity with charitable trust concession that will operate independently of market and government cycles
- dedicated to securing land and/or property for creative use, with a focus on affordable creative production spaces
- delivering spaces that provide affordability and long-term/permanent security of tenure for creative practitioners
- a Sydney-wide remit, securing space in both the City of Sydney local government area and across Greater Metropolitan Sydney
- a fit-for-purpose business model with flexibility to adapt and change in the future and eventually be self-sustaining
- a scalable and/or replicable model, with potential to expand operations outside of metropolitan Sydney over time
- can be established within 2 years or less.

The opportunity

The Committee for Sydney is currently recruiting a contractor to deliver the core feasibility study for the project.

This project will be supported by an Advisory Reference Group of suitably qualified or experienced people who will form an advisory cohort available for consultation as the project develops, advocate for the project in their networks, and help build certainty around the viability of the model. People with expertise relevant to the delivery and long-term sustainability of a Creative Land Trust for Greater Sydney are encouraged to submit an EOI.

The Committee for Sydney is the city's urban policy think tank and an approved research institute. We are advocates for the whole of Sydney, researching and developing solutions to the most important problems we face. Our goal is to help Sydney be the best it can be, for all.

What the role entails

- Advisory Reference Group members will need to commit to a minimum of three in-person meetings during the feasibility study (dates subject to change pending appointment of the consultant/team):
 - Wednesday, 12 February, 9-11am
 - Wednesday, 16 April, 9-11am
 - Wednesday, 11 June, 9-11am.
- Members may occasionally be asked to attend special meetings or provide out-of-session advice.
- Members will be called on to provide expert advice, to review outcomes of the study and assure themselves of its viability, and to advocate for the project to key stakeholders.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the Advisory Reference Group, an Expression of Interest application must be submitted. All shortlisted applicants will be required to declare any potential conflicts of interest as part of the application process.

All successful members of the Advisory Reference Group will be required to sign a Terms of Reference agreement.



Expression of Interest application

Please send applications to the Committee for Sydney at committee@sydney.org.au, with a **current CV** (maximum 5 pages) and **cover letter addressing the following questions**. These questions will serve as a foundation for assessing applicants' suitability for the Advisory Reference Group:

- Please explain your interest in the Creative Land Trust (max 200 words)
- Please explain the unique value and insight you can contribute to the Advisory Reference Group (max 500 words)
- Briefly describe your expertise and track record of supporting, delivering or participating in initiatives in line with the intentions of the Creative Land Trust (max 200 words)
- List professional domains and/or sectors you represent, as well as any other advisory group, board, council or committee responsibilities you hold. If applicable, please provide a brief outline of your contributions, as a member of similar advisory groups, councils, boards, or committees to date (max 200 words)
- Any potential conflicts of interest (max 200 words).

Apply

Applications close at midnight on Sunday, 26 January, 2025.

Successful applicants will be notified by Friday, 31 January, 2025.

For further information and to submit your application, contact the Committee for Sydney at committee@sydney.org.au.

Please note, that as the Expression of Interest is not part of a standard recruitment process, we are unable to provide feedback.