

ARTIST in RESIDENCE PROGRAM Information and Application



Ignite Studios is an extension of the **Northern Rivers Community Gallery (NRCG)**, a community-engaged cultural hub in the Northern Rivers region, owned and operated by Ballina Shire Council.

Located in the heart of the Ballina CBD, adjacent to the **NRCG** and housed in the historic former Ballina Fire Station, **Ignite Studios** provides a dynamic shared access space supporting the development and participation of artistic pursuits. Facilities include artist studios, a visiting artist-in-residence (AiR) studio and access spaces for workshops, creative events, pop-up exhibitions, meetings and special projects.

OUR LOCATION

Ballina Shire is located on the east coast of Australia, in the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales, which covers the local government areas of Ballina, Byron, Clarence Valley, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Tweed. The Ballina Coast and Hinterland is characterised by lush subtropical rainforests, 32 kms of pristine, sandy beaches and crystal clear waterways, endless streams, lakes and estuaries and for its artistic and creative communities reflecting a mixture of country/farming communities, surf culture and counter-culture influences. Centred on an island at the mouth of the Richmond River, Ballina is the social and commercial hub of the region, loved for its relaxed seaside location and mixture of both river and surf beaches.

The shire has important Bundjalung cultural heritage sites and areas that contribute to our unique history as a place. Heritage sites and areas remain important to the identity and culture of the shire's Aboriginal

community today. Appreciating the importance of the historic and contemporary landscape to the shire's Aboriginal people enhances all our experience of the shire.

Nyangbul custodianship of the Ballina Shire area dates back many thousands of generations. Together with all Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, the Nyangbul people are part of the oldest and continuing culture in the world.

Our region is one characterised by great biodiversity, with a laid back lifestyle and friendly, diverse communities. The **Ignite Studios @ NRCG** Artist-in-Residence (AiR) program offers a unique location and atmosphere for visiting artists to develop and creatively explore new ideas.

Image (top): *Making Marks in the Gallery* with Imbi Davison

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

As a regional residency located in a unique, stunning, and culturally rich environment, we encourage creative practices that connect with people and/or place as part of a personal experience and artistic development. Northern Rivers Community Gallery has an intimate relationship to the local community, and places emphasis on collaboration of all kinds.

The **Ignite Studios @ NRCG (AiR)** program provides a single artist time and space to expand on their artistic practice, researching and experimenting with ideas for new work or new ways of working. AiR provides professional development opportunities and facilitates access to local community, cultural and industry networks and feeds directly into the NRCG annual public and artistic programs. As a key requirement, AiR participants are required to engage with the wider community through the NRCG public or artistic program that can include lectures, artist talks, workshops, open studios, exhibition, performance or site-specific activations.

AIMS OF THE AiR PROGRAM

- Support artists to research and develop ideas for new works or forms of expression
- Enable dedicated space for creative projects

- Networking artists with arts influencers, local communities and peers
- Encourage active engagement and collaboration to address complex social and/or environmental issues with non-arts industry and audiences

A written report outlining residency outcomes and feedback is required from participating artists within two months of residency completion with at least three high resolution images of residency activities. NRCG may use these images for promotional purposes of the AiR program.

WHO CAN APPLY

The **Ignite Studios @ NRCG (AiR)** program is open to Australian and International arts professionals from a diverse spectrum of creative disciplines, both emerging and established, from the quirky to obscure celebrating the importance of contemporary art voices with people and place. Creative disciplines include artists, designers, writers, performers, producers, directors, composers, curators and educators.



Image: AgX Art-Science Lecture / Demonstration with Dr Grayson Cooke

RESIDENCY CATEGORIES

The NRCG offers both 'Funded' and 'Open – Non-funded' AiR opportunities through the *Ignite Studios @ NRCG* (AiR) program. Residencies are between 2 – 12 weeks depending on the needs and practice of the resident and the particular nature of their proposed residency.

FUNDED AiR

The funded AiR program calls for proposals from creative practices that engage with the unique identity, history and current social, environment and economic context of the Ballina Coast and Hinterland. The funded AiR program includes accommodation and a studio space and provides between \$1,000 - \$2,000 stipend per resident towards materials and living expenses, dependant on length of time and nature of the proposed residency. Travel expenses and all associated costs must be covered by the artist. Applications for the 2018 Funded AiR program close **Sunday 11 February 2018**. The Funded AiR program seeks proposals with a focus on one of the following areas:

Environment Futures (Funded)

These residencies are designed to encourage exploration, research, collaboration, development and experimentation that engage with current environmental topics within a local and/or broader global context. This residency encourages collaboration, particularly with local non-arts industry that actively fosters dialogue on complex environmental topics.

Space and Place (Funded)

These residencies are aimed at artists where relevance of the place, space or community drive the work, and the local place and/or community should be involved in shaping the project. The residencies encourage works of spatial, site-specific explorations and/or active engagement and collaboration with the local community and public spaces of the Ballina Shire township.

OPEN (NON-FUNDED AiR)

The Open AiR program provides artists with time and space to expand on their artistic practice, researching and experimenting with ideas for new work or new ways of working. Engagement with local place and/or community is encouraged but not essential for the Open AiR program. There is no stipend or living allowance attached to these residencies. Successful artists will be charged a subsidised studio rental fee of \$50 per week (including GST). Successful applicants will be responsible for all costs associated with the residency including travel costs, insurance, materials, and equipment and will be required to pay a refundable bond of \$250 prior to occupancy to cover any costs associated with damage or extraordinary cleaning. Applicants should address their capacity to meet the financial requirements of the residency within their application. Applications for the 2018 Open AiR program are accepted all year round and assessed on a case by case basis.



Image (left): *Making Marks in the Gallery* with Susan Jacobsen - work in progress; Image (right): *Ignite Studios @ NRCG* (former Ballina Fire Station)

THE FACILITIES

The **Ignite Studios @ NRCG** (AiR) studio is located at 60 Crane Street Ballina and part of the Northern Rivers Community Gallery (NRCG) arts facilities and is adjacent to the main Gallery building (44 Cherry Street). The facilities are within walking distance to major retail shopping centres and supermarkets.

The **Ignite Studios @ NRCG** (AiR) program offers a residential bedsit and separate studio work space (if required). The bedsit includes a single bed, fully equipped kitchenette, combined lounge/dining, shower en-suite, laundry with washing machine. Basic cleaning equipment, bedding, linen and towels are provided (Gallery launders all linen at the end of the residency). The studio space is approximately 3.6m x 4m in size, accessible 24/7 and includes 2 x trestle work tables, easel and basic tool kit. Wireless internet access is available throughout the facility.

The building and studio space is wheelchair accessible however, due to the age of the building the residential space and shower en-suite is not. An overnight car space is available and street parking during business hours is available with no time limit.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply please submit a completed **AiR Application** with required support material detailed in the application form.

Completed applications and support material should be mailed to:

Ignite AiR Program
Northern Rivers Community Gallery (NRCG)
PO Box 450 Ballina NSW 2478

or **by email to:** nrcg@ballina.nsw.gov.au
Emailed applications must strictly adhere to the file size limits outlined in the AiR Application form.

Hard copy applications must not use staples, bindings, plastic folders or plastic sleeves. A digital copy of all documents must be supplied on a USB drive.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Successful applicants will be selected based on their written proposal and artistic practice assessed against the following criteria:

- Artistic standing of applicant and artistic merit of the proposal (40%)
- Benefit of the residency to the applicant's professional development or the successful realisation of the proposed project (30%)
- Relevance and response to the NRCG priorities to connect with people and/or place of Ballina Shire detailed within the respective AiR Categories (30%)

The panel will also consider:

- suitability of the artform to the studio/facility
- balance of emerging and established practitioners
- relationship to the NRCG wider public and artistic programs
- availability of dates and length of residency required
- artform and cultural diversity



Image: *Ignite Studios @ NRCG* - Locker Room Studio Space