

An invitation to help shape a landmark celebration at Salamanca Arts Centre in 2027.

As Salamanca Arts Centre prepares to celebrate its **50th Anniversary**, we warmly invite you to be part of this historic milestone. We are inviting artists and arts organisations to help shape a year of creativity, reflection and celebration in 2027 –bringing new energy to this important moment in Tasmania's cultural history.



Our History



Salamanca Arts Centre came into being in **November 1976**, when the State Government, led by the visionary Premier Bill Neilson, purchased the seven historic sandstone warehouses in Hobart's Salamanca Place to establish a community arts centre for the people of Tasmania. In November 1977, the keys were handed over to the newly established Community Arts Centre which, with the determination and efforts of many dedicated artists and their helpers—who removed rubbish, cleaned the various rooms, and did a remarkable job transforming the former warehouses—began operating as a community arts centre, albeit one still rudimentary in its facilities and appointments.

Fifty years on, Salamanca Arts Centre has come to mean many things to different people. Since its establishment in 1977, thousands of artists have made Salamanca Arts Centre their home, sometimes for many years—whether in a studio or office they occupied for a time, in one of the retail spaces where they made and sold their work, or in the theatre or one of the galleries where they returned time and again to share their creativity with audiences. There would also be thousands for whom Salamanca Arts Centre was the venue where they premiered new creative works, or performed as an actor, singer, or musician for the very first time in front of an audience.

For many others, Salamanca Arts Centre has been the place where they first encountered inspiring performances, exhibitions, and creative experiences that left a lasting impression.

In many ways, as individual artists have evolved over decades, so too has the Arts Centre changed and evolved from its initial state when it became the Community Arts Centre in the 1970s. But it is its heritage nature, and in some ways, its inherent imperfections and other idiosyncrasies that continue to define the atmosphere that Salamanca Arts Centre creates for its artists and visitors.

From late 2026 and throughout 2027, Salamanca Arts Centre hopes to deliver a comprehensive and ambitious arts and public program that focuses attention on these iconic heritage sandstone buildings and honours the people whose vision and determination have left such a profound legacy.





This is your invitation to be part of a significant story:

In 2027, we invite artists and arts groups presenting work with Salamanca Arts Centre to consider how their creativity might respond to the history of these remarkable buildings, the 50-year story of the Arts Centre, and the possibilities of its future. Participation can take many forms—from creating new work inspired by place and history, to presenting projects that acknowledge Salamanca Arts Centre’s ongoing role in supporting artists and connecting communities.

This invitation offers an opportunity to contribute to a landmark anniversary program, connect your work with the rich history and character of Salamanca Arts Centre, and share your creative voice as part of a high-profile year of exhibitions, performances and public activity. Participation offers the chance to engage new audiences, be part of a major cultural celebration, and help shape how this milestone is remembered by artists, communities and visitors alike.



Over the past fifty years Salamanca Arts Centre has forged a special place as an organisation whose clear aims continue to be to support artists, to manage the heritage buildings, and to use art and the historic presence and wonder of the buildings, to welcome and connect communities.

Salamanca Arts Centre is home to more than fifty studio artists in residence, arts organisations, and art and design makers and retailers. In addition to the daily work that these artists and arts groups undertake, Salamanca Arts Centre also supports individual artists and arts groups to showcase their creativity in our galleries, theatre and other performance and public spaces. Each year almost 300,000 people visit Salamanca Arts Centre to enjoy performances, exhibitions, festivals, events and other cultural and community activities.

We invite you to take part in this special anniversary year and help create work, experiences and moments that honour the past, celebrate the present and inspire the future of Salamanca Arts Centre. Your participation will help make this 50th Anniversary not only a commemoration of history, but a living, shared celebration of creativity and community.

Learn More:

To learn more about our history and find inspiration for how you might respond to this invitation, visit the History page on our website, or go to <https://www.sac.org.au/history/>