Melbourne Awards: Entry Guidelines

Guidelines for the following categories:

- Access and Inclusion
- Arts and Events
- Community and Multiculturalism
- City Design
- ganbu guljin
- Hospitality
- Knowledge and Innovation
- LGBTIQA+
- Sustainability

Entries will be accepted until 5 pm AEST on Friday, 12 June 2026.

Entries must be made online at https://melbourneawards26.evalato.com

1. Judging

The judging panel consists of respected industry and community leaders, external to the City of Melbourne. Judges are required to declare any association or conflict of interest regarding an entered project and step down from the judging of that entry. Panel decisions are final.

2. Eligibility

There is no cost to enter. Open to businesses, groups, projects, or individuals.

There is no restriction on the physical location of entrants however entrants should be able to demonstrate that the organisation/project has a direct impact on the City of Melbourne municipality. Refer to the City of Melbourne boundary map[1]

Previous entrants who did not receive a Melbourne Award are eligible to re-enter the awards. Past winners may not enter the same category for a period of two years after receiving a Melbourne Award.

You may not enter the same project or organisation in more than one category.

3. Entry

There are three simple steps involved in submitting your entries.

- **Create your account:** To commence your application, you must first create your account. Once you have commenced an entry, you can log in and out at any time without losing your data, but we do recommend

[1] https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/boundarymap

that you first complete the written responses in a Word document, before cutting and pasting into the online entry form.

- **Create entry submission:** Submitting an application means that you have read and agreed to all the conditions, including obtaining appropriate releases and authorities in writing from any potential clients, collaborators and photographers. You will be prompted to respond to specific selection criteria and to upload supporting materials (images, videos, etc.).
- **Video content (optional):** URL to view video content that has been uploaded to Vimeo or **written criteria (mandatory)**. Note that the word limits are maximum. Succinct responses are strongly recommended.

4. Publicity and copyright

By entering this program, the applicant confirms that they have obtained any client, partner or collaborator's written approval to enter and for any resultant publicity.

> City Design category - By entering, the applicant (if not the practice principal) confirms that they have obtained the authority of the principal to enter the program, including for any resultant publicity.

City of Melbourne does not make any claims on copyright or intellectual property of the applications entered other than the rights outlined in the following paragraph.

By entering this program, the applicant agrees to absolve the City of Melbourne from any liability relating to confidentiality or intellectual property issues that may be raised by any party. City of Melbourne reserves the right to promote or publish any or all entries. By entering the awards the applicant gives permission to City of Melbourne to promote the content of the submission (except for project address and budget unless approved by the applicant), including by sponsors of the awards, where their use of submission content is specifically related to promotion of their involvement in the awards.

All finalists must be prepared to submit further material for promotion and publication if required, such as additional photography and other information.

5. General

An entry shall be excluded from the program if:

a. received after the advertised closing date (although submissions that have been commenced but not completed by the closing date may be included at the discretion of the organiser)

b. it does not fulfil the conditions outlined here

c. it is incomplete or doesn't conform to the correct format as specified under Entry.

6. Timeline

Entries close at 5 pm (AEST) on Friday,12 June 2026.

Finalists will be publicly announced on Wednesday, 28 October 2026.

Winners will be announced at the Melbourne Awards Ceremony on Saturday, 14 November 2026

7. Entry enquiries

Email: melbourneawards@melbourne.vic.gov.au