CoLABS is a new event for the west which will fuse art and science in new ways and help shine a spotlight on the region as a place of smart skills, innovation and artistic talent.

CoLABS is a not-for-profit enterprise which combines the spirit of a community celebration with the aesthetic of a public art event and the intellect of STEM theory to create a unique landmark event for Western Sydney.

By pairing artists and creative innovators with leading practitioners in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), CoLABS will transform Bungarribee parklands into a hub of exploration, interactivity and creation through installations, artworks, experiments and science manifestations that will be on display during daylight hours. Visitors will tour the parklands and interact with art and science in new, fun ways.

CoLABS is an inclusive, community event designed to foster scientific exploration and cultural expression. We will work with artists, scientists, local schools, tertiary institutions, businesses, agencies and cultural groups to bring it to life.

Expression of Interest

CoLABS is a new event for Western Sydney held in Bungarribee parklands in May 2017. Expressions of Interest open December 13 to January 20, 2017.

About Bungarribee

Located in the northern section of the Western Sydney Parklands between Eastern Road, the M7 and the Great Western Highway the park is now an emerging hub for recreation, tourism, social and cultural activities. Its rich history starts with indigenous Australian settlement dating back over 20,000 years. The language group spoken in this area is known as Darug. After European settlement in the late 1700s, the Bungarribee Precinct formed part of the Rooty Hill Government Farm. The Bungarribee Estate and was used as a horse stud (1828 -1945) and during World War II as an RAAF dispersal area, featuring a sealed landing strip. In 1949 the Overseas Telecommunications Commission (OTC) used the land for a transmission station which was closed in the 1990s and demolished in 2001.

It now has bicycle and walking paths, a dog park and sits within the same precinct as the Eastern Creek Raceway, Blacktown Sports Centre and the new Sydney Zoo.
About your proposal

We are seeking projects that respond to the broad theme of Art meets Science. You may be from a STEM background (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) or an artist, designer, creative industry practitioner, business or educational institution.

Collaborations could cover any of the following areas:

- Food Scientist
- Robotics engineer
- Agricultural Scientist
- Vet Scientist
- Software developer
- Mathematics
- Meteorology
- Biology
- Physics
- Climate science
- Oceanographer
- Chemist
- Horticulturalist
- Fashion
- Music
- Sculptor
- Street art
- Dance
- Photography
- Videography
- Circus
- Comedy
- DJ
- Opera
- Textile design
- Weaver

You can work solo or as part of a group.

You can be an emerging artist / scientist or mid-career.

You can be a secondary or tertiary student.

You can be local, Australian or international.

You can have a collaborator in mind or we can help match you with one.

You can submit more than one idea (each different proposal must be submitted separately).

The site

Bungarribee is an open parklands area with large open spaces, sparse grasslands, picnic areas, pockets of tree-protected vistas, muddy creeks, walkways and bicycle tracks. Much of the space is open to the elements. Your idea should be effective in daylight hours in an outdoor all weather parkland setting. It may be large scale so that crowds of people can view or engage with. It may be a smaller exhibit that people discover and participate in. Interactivity is encouraged.

Projects that respond to the natural cues of an open parkland are expected. Equally, we envision bringing in temporary enclosed structures (e.g. shipping containers, tents, domes, marquees) to provide a more protected space to house some works.

Installations must be weather-proof, and able to last for the full duration of the event with minimal upkeep. If your installation is interactive, ensure the interactive elements are robust and can operate in adverse weather conditions.

Environmentally sustainable design, construction, transportation, operation and decommissioning is preferred and aligns with our values and the nature of the natural parklands we operate in.

You may propose locations as part of your submission. However, installations proposed may be relocated to different areas of the parklands at the sole discretion of the organisers.

Priority areas

We are interested in projects that represent:

- an artist/s or STEM practice based in Western Sydney
- girls and women working in STEM
- indigenous Australians
- migrant communities
- young people / students
Assessment Criteria

Proposals will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Demonstrated ability to meet one or more of the priority areas
- Suitability of project within the proposed outdoor environment (or utilising a temporary structure)
- Understanding of the CoLabs purpose and objectives
- Capacity to deliver within budget
- Capacity to meet tight deadlines
- Ability to appeal to a broad cross section of the Western Sydney community

What to submit

- CV with examples of previous works
- One page (max. 500 words) explaining your project – your approach, what materials you will use, what kind of collaborator you will or would like to work with, what visitors will experience and see
- Images/reference material supporting the proposed project
- Budget

* Drawings and plans will be required at shortlist stage

Selection Process

- The EoI closes on Friday 20 January 2017
- Applications will be assessed and short-listed for inclusion by our selection team
- Short-listed applicants will be notified by Monday 30 January
- Art Futures will meet with all short-listed applicants either via phone, skype or in person before final inclusion
- Successful collaborators will be notified by Monday 13 February
- If your project is considered successful, you will be invited to enter an Event Agreement with Art Futures Ltd
- No late entries will be accepted. The decisions of Art Futures are final and beyond initial feedback, no discussion will be entered into.

Important Details

Project funding between $5,000 and $25,000 is available for successful projects. All costs must be allocated within this, including:

- Fees
- Design and development costs
- Materials including infrastructure necessary to complete the project
- Any relevant engineer’s certificates for equipment or infrastructure (if required)
- staff to maintain the works for the duration of the event (if required)

You must complete the budget template as part of the EoI. The Organisers will supply onsite installation and de-install support.

As part of an Event Agreement you will be required to

- Ensure all elements of the installation are WHS compliant to Australian and New South Wales standards
- Provide professional quality plans for your artwork/installation (in .dwg or .pdf formats)
- Supply power requirements (power will be provided by the Organiser)
- Provide proof of AUD$20 million Public Liability insurance and Workers Compensation Insurance
- Provide Risk Management and Safety Plans

Art Futures may provide a framework for a matched crowd-funding campaign. If this is the case you will be asked to actively participate by promoting to your networks and taking a key role in fundraising for your project.
Working with Sponsors

CoLABS is a not-for-profit enterprise made possible due to the support of our partners, some of whom may want to associate their brand directly with participating works. As part of an Event Agreement you must be willing to work with our partners to mutually beneficial outcomes which may include recognition via onsite signage and on marketing materials.

How to Apply

Please complete the online application form. Any associated documentation (i.e. videos, images or other documents) can be submitted separately to: pip@colabs.org.au with “EOI 2017: Your Name” in the subject line.

If electronic file sizes are greater than 10MB (including images) please upload your document to We Transfer (wetransfer.com) and provide the file download link in your email submission.

Queries

If you have any questions, please contact us at pip@colabs.org.au “EOI 2017: Your Name” in the subject line.

About the Organiser:

Art Futures Ltd. is not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. Our objective is to promote, produce and encourage art and cultural activities and initiatives in Australia. Our strategic partner is Western Sydney Parklands.

Our advisory group and consulting partners include:

- Grant Dowling and Phillipa Sprott, Art Futures Ltd
- Joanna Sauill, Western Sydney Parklands
- Joshua French, Western Sydney Parklands
- Monir Rowshan, Blacktown Arts Centre
- Sophia Kouyoumdjian, Parramatta Artists’ Studios
- Andrew Nakhla, The Kirby Institute for Infection & Immunity
- Dr. Lisa Harvey-Smith, Astronomer CSIRO (Eureka Prize Winner)
- Dr. Ken Silburn, Science Educator (Prime Minister’s Prize for Science) – pending

Key Dates

- Tuesday 13 December – EOI opens
- Friday 20 January – EOI closes
- Monday 30 January – Short list notified; meetings with Art Futures in following week.
- Monday 13 February – Successful participants notified
- Friday 17 February – Contracts returned, confirming your participation in CoLABS
- Monday 1 May – Installation week
- Friday 5 May – Sunday 14 May – CoLABS event
- Monday 15 May – De-installation