

# PARRTJIMA

FIRST NATIONS CURATORIAL OPPORTUNITY  
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



# PARRTJIMA

## FIRST NATIONS CURATORIAL OPPORTUNITY EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

### Opportunity Overview

Tourism and Events Northern Territory (TENT) is seeking Expressions of Interest from experienced Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander curators, artists, creative practitioners and/or curatorial collectives interested in contributing to the curatorial leadership of Parrtjima 2027.

This is a unique opportunity to help shape the next chapter of Parrtjima – Illuminating the World's Oldest Living Culture, one of Australia's most significant celebrations of Aboriginal art, culture, storytelling and innovation.

Working closely with the Parrtjima Festival Reference Group, Tourism and Events Northern Territory, We Are Gather, artists and project partners, the appointed curator/s will provide cultural and creative leadership across the festival's curatorial direction, artistic vision and visitor experience.

The successful applicant/s will play an important role in ensuring Parrtjima remains culturally grounded, artistically ambitious, locally relevant and nationally significant while helping guide the festival through an important period of transition and renewal.

### About Parrtjima

Parrtjima is a nationally recognised Aboriginal cultural festival held annually in Mparntwe (Alice Springs). The festival brings together contemporary Aboriginal art, culture, storytelling and technology within the extraordinary landscape of Central Australia.

Parrtjima is owned and funded by Tourism and Events Northern Territory (TENT) and delivered by We Are Gather, TENT's appointed Event Delivery Partner. The festival celebrates the depth, diversity and continuing strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture through large-scale light installations, public art, performance, music, talks, workshops, community programs and cultural experiences.

The festival is guided by the Parrtjima Festival Reference Group, comprising representatives with cultural and community connections to Mparntwe, Antulye and Irlpme. The Reference Group plays a critical role in supporting cultural integrity, local relevance and connection to Country.

Following the remarkable contribution of Rhoda Roberts AO, who shaped the festival's curatorial direction for more than a decade, Parrtjima 2027 represents an important opportunity to contribute to the next chapter of the festival's evolution.

### Eligibility

This opportunity is open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people only.

Parrtjima is seeking First Nations cultural and creative leadership to help shape the future direction of the festival and strengthen its position as a nationally significant celebration of Aboriginal art, culture, storytelling and innovation.

Applications are welcomed from experienced First Nations curators, artists, creative practitioners, co-curators and/or curatorial collectives whose experience and practice align with the objectives of the opportunity.

# PARRTJIMA

## FIRST NATIONS CURATORIAL OPPORTUNITY EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

### The Opportunity

The appointed curator/s will provide cultural and creative leadership for Parrtjima 2027, helping to shape the festival's overarching curatorial direction, artistic vision and visitor experience.

The role will work collaboratively with the Parrtjima Festival Reference Group, TENT, We Are Gather, artists and project partners to develop a festival that is culturally grounded, artistically ambitious, locally relevant and nationally significant.

The 2027 festival is envisaged as a transition year that will provide the successful applicant/s with an opportunity to understand the festival, its stakeholders, community context, site, production framework and cultural governance processes while beginning to shape the future direction of Parrtjima.

The appointed curator/s will be responsible for guiding the creative vision of the festival while ensuring alignment with cultural protocols, project objectives, operational requirements and audience outcomes.

### Role Overview

Working collaboratively with the Parrtjima Festival Reference Group, TENT, We Are Gather, producers, artists and project partners, the Lead Curator will contribute to the development and delivery of Parrtjima 2027.

Responsibilities may include:

- Developing the overarching curatorial direction, theme or creative framework for the festival.
- Identifying key stories, cultural themes and artistic opportunities.
- Working respectfully and collaboratively with the Parrtjima Festival Reference Group to ensure programming is culturally grounded, locally relevant and connected to Country.
- Recommending artists, cultural practitioners and creative collaborators.
- Providing curatorial leadership across installations, public art, projection, performance and public programming.
- Supporting the development of installation concepts and visitor experiences in collaboration with artists, producers, fabricators and technical suppliers.
- Advising on cultural integrity, storytelling and appropriate consultation pathways.
- Contributing to artist briefs, curatorial statements and interpretive content.
- Participating in key project meetings, workshops and planning sessions.
- Supporting a cohesive visitor experience across the festival site and program.
- Working within agreed timelines, budgets, governance requirements and delivery milestones.

# PARRTJIMA

## FIRST NATIONS CURATORIAL OPPORTUNITY EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

### **Governance and Delivery Structure**

Tourism and Events Northern Territory (TENT) is the owner, funder and contracting entity for Parrtjima. TENT provides final client approvals at key project milestones.

We Are Gather is TENT's appointed Event Delivery Partner for Parrtjima 2027. We Are Gather is responsible for overseeing the planning, coordination, creative development support and delivery of the festival.

The Parrtjima Festival Reference Group provides cultural guidance and supports the cultural integrity, local relevance and connection to Country for the festival.

The appointed curator/s will work closely with the Parrtjima Reference Group and We Are Gather throughout the engagement on the development of the curatorial direction, artist recommendations, concept development, stakeholder coordination, production planning, budget alignment and approval pathways.

### **Commitment**

The engagement is expected to commence in August 2026 and continue through to the delivery of Parrtjima 2027 in April 2027.

Applicants must be available to:

- Travel to Mparntwe/Alice Springs approximately three times during the development phase for key planning meetings, workshops and site visits.
- Participate in consultation sessions with the Parrtjima Festival Reference Group.
- Attend key project meetings with TENT, We Are Gather and project partners throughout the development period.
- Attend Parrtjima 2027 during the festival delivery period. The festival dates are Friday 9 April to Sunday 18 April 2027.

The successful applicant/s will be engaged directly by Tourism and Events Northern Territory.

The scope of services, fee structure and engagement model will be negotiated with the successful applicant/s.

# PARRTJIMA

## FIRST NATIONS CURATORIAL OPPORTUNITY EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

### Selection Criteria

Applicants should demonstrate:

#### **1. First Nations Cultural Leadership**

A significant contribution to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts, culture, storytelling, creative practice or cultural leadership.

#### **2. Curatorial and Creative Leadership Experience**

Demonstrated experience developing, curating, directing or contributing to significant cultural, artistic or public-facing projects.

Experience working across festivals, public art, outdoor exhibitions, immersive experiences, site-responsive works or large-scale cultural events will be highly regarded.

Applicants should demonstrate an ability to create engaging audience experiences and develop work that responds to place, landscape, community and culture.

#### **3. National Profile and Industry Contribution**

A recognised professional profile and contribution within the Australian arts, cultural or creative sectors.

Applicants should demonstrate strong professional networks and influence within the arts and cultural sector, including the ability to engage artists, collaborators, cultural leaders and partners that can contribute to Parrtjima's continued growth as a nationally significant First Nations cultural event.

#### **4. Community Engagement and Stakeholder Collaboration**

Experience working respectfully and collaboratively with First Nations artists, communities, Elders, cultural custodians, advisory groups, producers, delivery partners and other stakeholders.

An understanding of, or demonstrated commitment to developing relationships within, the cultural and community context of Mparntwe (Alice Springs) and Central Australia will be highly regarded.

#### **5. Strategic Vision and Alignment with Parrtjima**

Ability to articulate an approach to curatorial leadership that supports cultural integrity, artistic ambition, community engagement and audience experience.

#### **6. Availability and Capacity**

Availability to undertake the role between August 2026 and April 2027, including:

- Travel to Mparntwe (Alice Springs) throughout the development phase.
- Participation in consultation sessions, planning meetings and key project milestones.
- Availability to attend Parrtjima 2027 from 9–18 April 2027.
- Capacity to develop an initial curatorial direction by early September 2026.

# PARRTJIMA

## FIRST NATIONS CURATORIAL OPPORTUNITY EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

### Submission Requirements

Applicants are requested to submit the following by **24th July 2026, 5pm (AEST)**:

#### 1. Expression of Interest

Please respond to the following questions (maximum 2 pages total):

1. Why are you interested in the opportunity to become Lead Curator for Parrtjima 2027?
2. How does your experience and practice align with Parrtjima and its future direction?
3. How would you approach working with the Parrtjima Festival Reference Group, local communities and key stakeholders to ensure the festival remains culturally grounded and connected to place?
4. What excites you most about working in Mparntwe (Alice Springs) and contributing to Parrtjima's next chapter?

For collectives or co-curatorial applicants, please also outline the proposed structure of your collaboration and the role each person would play in the curatorial process.

#### 2. Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Please provide a current CV outlining relevant experience, appointments, exhibitions, commissions, festivals, leadership positions, awards and other professional achievements.

#### 3. Relevant Project Examples

Please provide two to three examples of relevant projects you have led, curated or creatively directed.

For each project, include:

- Project title
- Organisation or client
- Your role
- Year completed
- A short project summary (maximum 150 words)

Applicants may include images, links or supporting material where relevant.

#### 4. Availability

Please confirm:

- Your availability between August 2026 and April 2027.
- Your availability to travel to Mparntwe (Alice Springs) throughout the engagement.
- Any known conflicts or commitments that may impact your participation.

Submissions should be provided as a single PDF document where possible.

# PARRTJIMA

## FIRST NATIONS CURATORIAL OPPORTUNITY EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

### Submission Details

Expressions of Interest must be submitted electronically by **24th July at 5pm (AEST)**.

Email submissions to:

**Naomi Wilson**  
**Parrtjima | We Are Gather**  
**parrtjima@wearegather.com.au**

Please ensure submissions include all materials listed under Submission Requirements.

### Assessment Process

Expressions of Interest will be assessed against the published selection criteria, the applicant's responses to the EOI questions, relevant project experience and availability.

Shortlisted applicants may be invited to participate in an interview and/or further discussion with representatives from Tourism and Events Northern Territory, the Parrtjima Festival Reference Group and the project team.

### Indicative Timelines

- **EOI Opens:** 6th July 2026
- **EOI Closes:** 24th July 2026, 5pm (AEST)
- **Announcement of Shortlisted Candidates:** 31st July 2026
- **Candidate Interviews:** w/c 3rd August 2026
- **Appointment of Lead Curator:** Mid August 2026
- **Commencement of Engagement:** Mid August 2026
- **Initial Curatorial Direction Due:** Early-Mid September 2026
- **Concept Development:** September-October 2026
- **Fabrication Production Commences:** November 2026
- **Parrtjima Festival 2027:** 9-18 April 2027

### Further Information

Please direct any enquiries about this opportunity to **parrtjima@wearegather.com.au**