

PAS International:

→ From Western Sydney to the World

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Baramadagal as the Continuing Custodians / Traditional Owners of Baramada Ngurra, since the first sunrise. We pay respect to this land now also known as the City of Parramatta, and the ongoing kinship connections of other Dharug peoples to Baramada Ngurra and Iyora.

→ For Partners

Parramatta Artists Studios (PAS) is proud to launch *PAS International: From Western Sydney to the World*, a commitment to building reciprocal, long-term relationships and partnerships across the Asia Pacific and beyond. Grounded in the distinctive cultural life of Western Sydney, this plan positions PAS not only as a site of cultural production, but as a site of hospitality, exchange and long-term relationship building.

The plan creates new opportunities to partner on work that generates genuine cultural, civic and social value for Western Sydney artists and for the communities we work with.

→ What is the PAS International plan?

***PAS International: From Western Sydney to the World* is Parramatta Artists Studios' first comprehensive articulation of how we approach international work: the values, priorities and opportunities that guide how PAS supports artists and builds partnerships across borders, with a particular focus on the Asia Pacific region.**

For PAS, international engagement goes beyond travel or outward-facing profile. It includes how artists build relationships across borders, how visiting artists and cultural workers are welcomed into Western Sydney, how opportunities are found and shaped, and how exchange is built and sustained over time. The plan understands this work as an ecology of reciprocity, visibility, responsibility, hosting and long-term relationship building.

This plan was built with artists at the centre and shaped through genuine collaboration with the Baramadagal Family Network, PAS staff, current PAS studio artists, select PAS alumni, critical friends and peers working in Parramatta, facilitated and with facilitation by curator and cultural strategist Mikala Tai.

→ Who we are

Parramatta Artists Studios is a studio-based arts organisation and is a part of the City of Parramatta. PAS has a 20-year history, working with artists across every stage of their practice, not just at the point of presentation. We support research, development, experimentation, dialogue, visibility and long-term continuity of practice, working with artists across multiple studio sites in Parramatta.

→ Where we sit

Parramatta, as the Central River City and geographic heart of Greater Sydney, plays a pivotal role in the cultural landscape. As articulated in Parramatta 2050, the city is emerging as a global centre defined by cultural leadership, creative enterprise and a commitment to equity and sustainability. It is home to major cultural infrastructure including Powerhouse Parramatta, PHIVE, Parramatta Town Hall / Ngurra Gunya and Riverside Theatres, and is positioned as the epicentre of culture and creativity in Western Sydney.

The communities we work with reflect the region's extraordinary cultural life. Western Sydney is home to more than 2.7 million people and one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse populations in Australia. More than half of its residents are born overseas or have at least one parent born overseas, and more than 180 languages are spoken across its communities.

These are not incidental demographics. They describe a lived condition of plurality, transnational belonging and cultural exchange that already shapes the artists, communities and conversations PAS works with. Western Sydney is also home to a growing number of artists, collectives and cultural organisations whose practices are reshaping contemporary Australian culture, while raising important questions about representation, authorship and who gets to speak for the region internationally.

→ What kind of partner is PAS?

For PAS, the best partnerships are reciprocal, built on shared values and designed to last. In practice, this means working together in ways that create genuine benefit for both sides – for the artists involved, and for the organisations and communities we work with. It means making sure that value, knowledge and credit flow in multiple directions, not just one.

PAS is accountable to the Baramadagal lands of the Dharug nation, to Western Sydney communities and to its local mandate. Building global connections should strengthen our local work, not distract from it. We look for partnerships that generate real shared learning and leave something meaningful in our respective contexts. We also recognise that travel and exchange have consequences for our carbon footprint, and we try to make decisions that are environmentally aware.

PAS measures the success of its partnerships not by the number of trips taken or announcements made, but by the depth of relationships built, the quality of exchange, and the value created for artists and communities over time.

→ For Domestic Partners

PAS is interested in domestic partnerships across different scales and forms. Whether that is co-commissioning, shared programming, curatorial exchange or artist introductions, we are open to what makes sense for your context and ours. We understand that international engagement is resource-heavy and we are stronger together in this work. The plan provides a structure for developing these relationships over time with consistency and shared intent.

In practice, partnership with PAS might include:

- Co-commissions and collaborative developments for artists based in the Asia Pacific
- Shared hosting models for inbound artists
- Partnerships that connect international artists to local peers, organisations and communities
- Studio exchanges and artist or curator labs
- Exhibition or presentation pathways for PAS Artists in Residence from the Asia Pacific
- Digital exchange and online connection as a complement to in-person engagement

→ Get in touch

To find out more or start a conversation about potential partnerships, contact Director Sidney McMahan at smcmahan@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au.

For general enquiries, email studios@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au.

The full version of *PAS International: From Western Sydney to the World* is available to view online on the Parramatta Artists Studios website.

→ For International Partners

PAS is interested in international partnerships with a shared commitment to reciprocal exchange. The plan seeks to both support artists to engage outwards across the Asia Pacific, and to encourage the active hosting of artists, curators and cultural workers from the region here in Western Sydney. Parramatta is a destination as much as a launchpad. We are looking for partners committed to genuine exchange, including co-investment in projects, programs and research that generate shared outcomes for both organisations and communities.

In practice, partnership with PAS might include:

- Reciprocal residencies and studio exchanges
- Fieldwork grants and scoping visits
- Co-commissions and collaborative developments with institutions across the Asia Pacific
- Strategic invitations to visiting international curators, producers, writers and artistic directors
- Hosting programs for inbound artists and cultural workers, including Indigenous-led hosting protocol, local orientation and access planning
- Multilingual public programs, interpretation and translation where they improve reciprocity and access