

# NEW MUSEUM FOR WA

## Night Sky Artwork Commissioned Artwork for the New Museum Request for Art Proposal

*The Western Australian Museum acknowledges the diversity that exists in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and that the spelling of words may also be varied.  
We aim to be inclusive of all nations and welcome feedback to ensure this is reflected in all of our work.*



WESTERN  
AUSTRALIAN  
MUSEUM

## **A COMMISSIONED ARTWORK FOR *ORIGINS* - NIGHT SKY**

The New Museum Project is seeking to commission a Nyoongar Artist to create a night sky artwork for display in a gallery within the New Museum called *Origins*. Within this gallery there is a thematic area about the formation of the Universe and a section called Star Gazing, where the Artwork will be displayed.

Responses to this Request for Art Proposal (Request) will be used to assess which Artist(s) proposal(s) is best suited for the gallery. The proposal will describe your Artwork, how it relates to the content and themes in the gallery and how it reflects a Nyoongar perspective of the night sky.

Details of the criteria the WA Museum will use to select the chosen Artist[s] are outlined in this document.

Once an Artist[s] has been selected, that Artist[s] will work with WA Museum staff on the final proposal. From this, the artist contract and fees will be negotiated between WA Museum and the Artist[s].

This document describes how to prepare and submit your proposal for consideration.

## **IN THIS DOCUMENT**

The Request includes information about:

- the New Museum Project.
- the *Origins* gallery and the Star Gazing section of the gallery where the Artwork will be displayed.
- specifications for the Artwork.
- how to prepare a proposal and how they are evaluated.
- the selection and procurement process.
- the agreement terms and conditions.
- how to lodge your proposal.
- who to speak to if you have questions.



*Artist's impression of the New Museum for Western Australia, view from James Street*  
Photo © WA Museum, courtesy Multiplex, HASSELL+OMA

## **ABOUT THE NEW MUSEUM PROJECT**

The New Museum for Western Australia is one of the most significant museum redevelopment projects in the world today — and one of which all Western Australians should be incredibly proud.

Developed in the heart of the Perth Cultural Centre, the New Museum will share the stories of our people and place, acting as a gateway for exploring all of Western Australia. It will reflect the extraordinary history, distinctiveness, creativity and diversity of our State and region.

## **PROJECT ASPIRATIONS**

The New Museum Project is underpinned by our core aspirations, which guide the development of the New Museum.

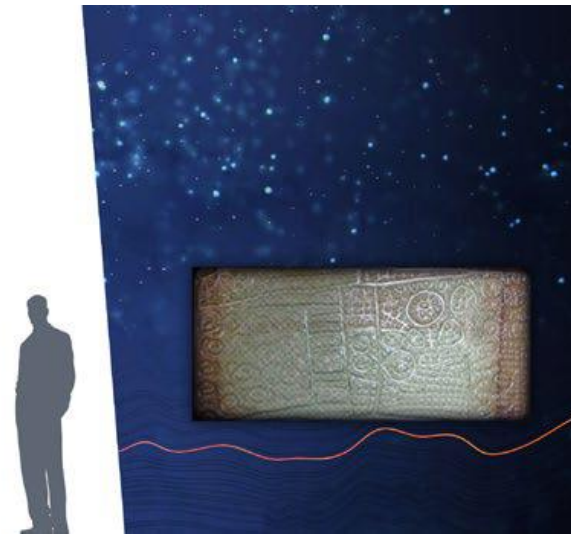
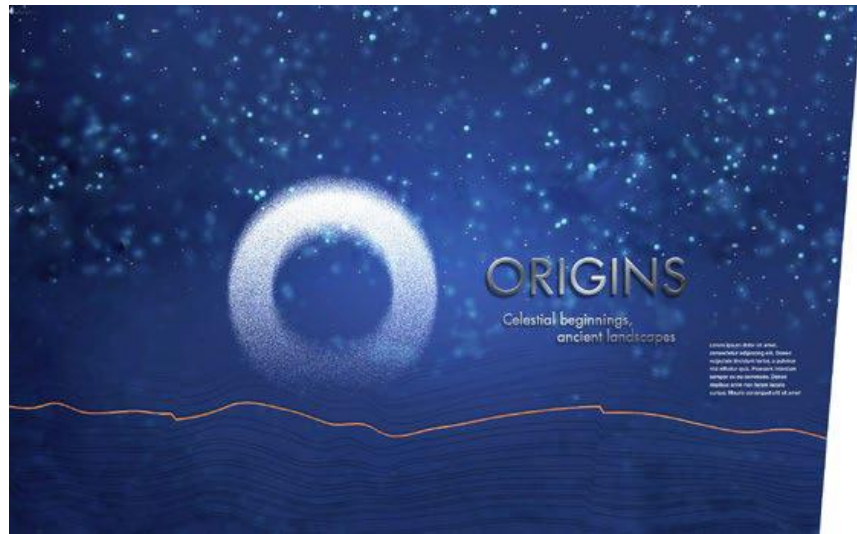
**People First** - The New Museum will be an innovative and exciting museum, appealing to new audiences and encouraging regular repeat visitation by embracing all Western Australians, and visitors to Western Australia.

**Western Australia** - The New Museum will be a landmark destination for visitors to Perth, representing the environment and people of Western Australia, and act as a gateway to the rest of the State of Western Australia.

**Design Excellence** - The New Museum will enhance the attraction of the Perth Cultural Centre and the Perth CBD by creating a civic presence reflective of Perth and the State of Western Australia and creating a landmark destination.

**Activated Museum** - The New Museum will offer an ever changing, dynamic and creative visitor experience focused on engaging with and empowering its community.

Further information about the New Museum Project can be found [here](#).



**Graphics  
Concept for  
*Origins* entryway  
to 'Cosmos'**  
Design by  
Thylacine  
©WA Museum

## ABOUT THE *ORIGINS* GALLERY

### Core Message

The Western Australian landscape can be understood in many ways, including through Aboriginal peoples' long and enduring connection to Country and the evidence landforms provide of Earth's origin, earliest known life and mineral diversity.

### Aims and Approach

- Explores the relationship between people, space, place and time by looking up at the vast skies above and the ancient landscapes of Western Australia
- Illustrates that Western Australia is home to key artefacts and specimens that provide critical evidence of the origins of the Solar System, life on Earth, and early human inhabitation of this land.
- Celebrates diverse ways of understanding and interpreting geological formations and the foundations of life in this vast and ancient land.

- Explores commonalities between Western science and Aboriginal cultural worldviews, taking into account that Aboriginal cultures in
- Western Australia have, over millennia, developed ways of knowing that are highly adapted and enduring.
- Enriches visitors' appreciation for special places in Western Australia by featuring specific significant land formations and their associated Aboriginal narratives.
- Utilises theatrical design techniques (e.g. digital projections, dramatic lighting, object theatre) and artworks to enhance visitors' experience of key objects.
- Promotes cultural tolerance by encouraging visitors to reflect on their personal cosmological worldview and humanity's place in the Universe and life on Earth.
- Fosters observational skills and an understanding that Western science and traditional Aboriginal knowledge is based on keen observation of the land, sea and sky.
- Encourages reflection and dialogue regarding the intrinsic and extrinsic value of Western Australia's mineral wealth.





**Reaching for the Milky Way / Emu in the Sky – Lake Dumbleyung**

©Trevor Dobson

## **ABOUT THE COSMOS THEMATIC AREA**

The Origins gallery has four (4) main thematic areas: Cosmos, Dawn of Life, Forming Ancient Landscapes and Riches of the Earth. The Cosmos area explores how Western Australians, in all of their diversity, have observed the night sky and tried to understand the origin of the Universe and our place in it.

Visitors entering Cosmos first encounter the a multimedia installation, which features interpretations of the night sky from both the perspectives of Western astronomy and Aboriginal cosmology. After exiting this area, visitors see the Star Gazing section, more information follows. It is here that the Nyoongar night sky Artwork is proposed for display.

Further along, visitor can enter the Observatory, a programming space shaped like an observatory. It reinforces key themes in the *Origins* gallery and includes stunning Western Australian astrophotography.

Adjacent to The Observatory is a timeline of billions of years of earth history. It uses a combination of objects, multimedia and interactive elements to show key moments in the history of the Solar System and life on Earth.

Visitors then encounter a mass display of the Museum's internationally significant meteorite collection, featured alongside interactive elements highlighting a global citizen science project, Fireballs in the Sky. Objects, paintings and images combine to present a rich interpretation of impact craters and tektites, including Wolfe Creek Crater, referred to as Kandimalal by the Djaru people.

## ABOUT THE STAR GAZING DISPLAYS

Star Gazing, is one of the displays in the Cosmos area. It is where the proposed Nyoongar night sky Artwork will be featured.

The Star Gazing section showcases the cross-cultural interpretation of the night sky and looks at the ways that Aboriginal and Western astronomers have long sought to make meaning of celestial bodies of the night sky observed from the Western Australia landscape.

Many cultures across the world have grouped and named visible star clusters called constellations. Recurring themes in the interpretation of constellations across cultures reinforce how connected, rather than disconnected, we all are.

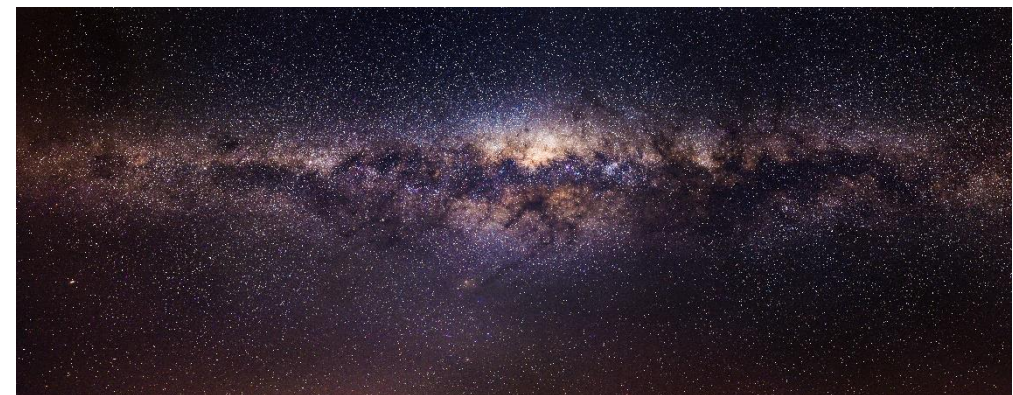


**Man viewing the sky through a telescope**  
© Mike Harrington / Alamy Stock Photo

For many Aboriginal groups across Australia, the features of the night sky are linked to people, song and ceremony, plants and animals, and changing seasons. Stories include ancestral and creation beings who once roamed the land, leaving their marks on the earth before travelling to the stars.

Astronomy is the oldest of the natural sciences, the practice of which has a long history in Western Australia. Vast and remote, Western Australia is one of the best places to observe the night sky and ponder our place in the Universe.

Star Gazing asks the question that remains one of the greatest mysteries of all time: Where do we come from? Drawing on philosophy, religion, mythology, and astronomical observations, humans have, over time, developed varied cosmological worldviews that attempt to answer this big question. With ancient knowledge and the new Square Kilometre Array (SKA) high-powered radio telescopes built in WA, our understanding of our place in the universe continues to expand.



**Milky Way / Emu in the Sky – Full 180 Degree Panorama**  
©Trevor Dobson



## CONTEXT OF ARTWORK IN THE GALLERY

The Artwork will be displayed alongside other stories featuring interpretations of the night sky, including other Aboriginal artworks.

It will be located beside Yamatji artworks:

- Carved emu eggs depicting constellations and Yamatji cosmology (to be commissioned)
- SKA Shared Sky antennae (from the WA Museum Collection)

It will be shown near two (2) large environmental graphics:

- collisions of asteroids, comets and planets that formed meteorites
- timeline of key markers in Earth's history with associated objects from WA

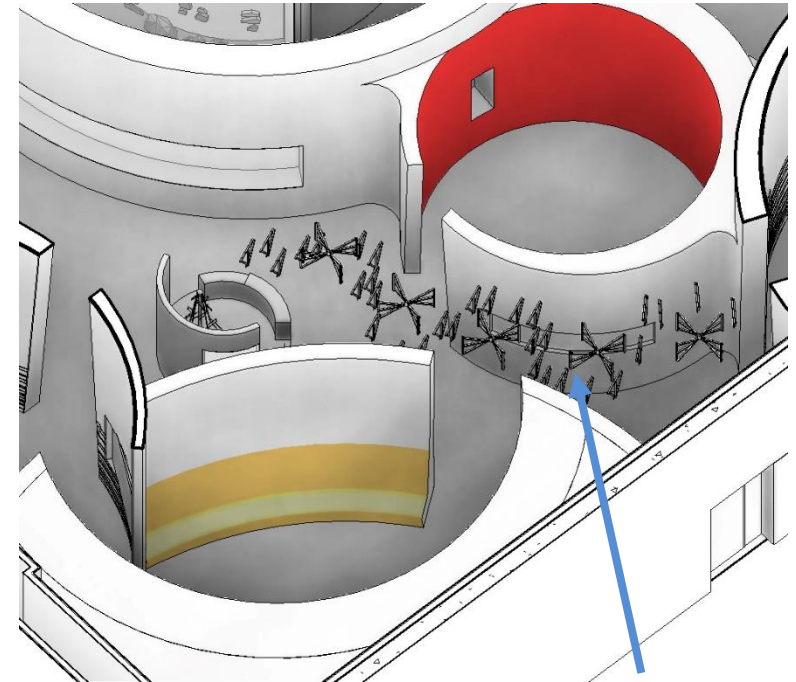
There will be information about the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), Perth Observatory and Gravity Discovery Centre nearby.

It will be located adjacent to The Observatory program space featuring WA astrophotography

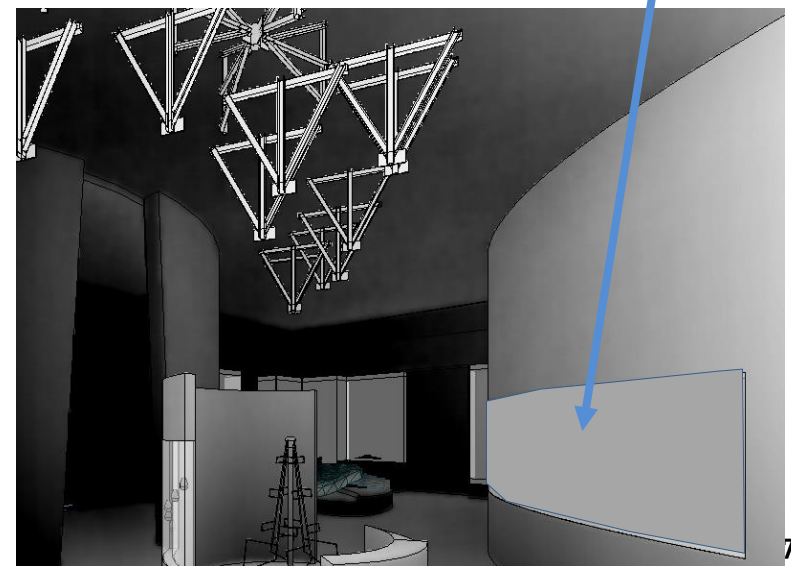
It will be opposite a projected multimedia experience about the shared night sky and the formation of the Solar System that will be narrated from a Whadjuk Nyoongar voice

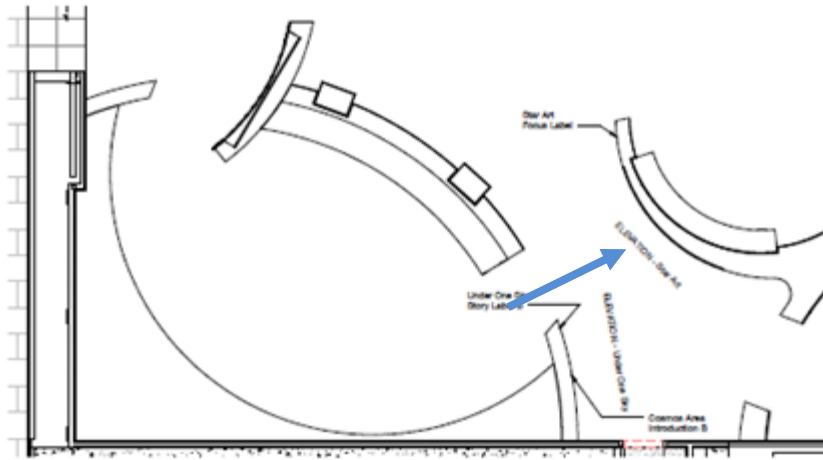
It will be displayed near an entry/exit to the gallery

The stories focus on astronomy, cosmology, 'shared' night sky, cross-cultural interpretations of constellations, Aboriginal cultural knowledge connecting star-scape and landscape, origin of the Universe, and Nyoongar interpretations of the Nyitting.



**Artwork location.**  
Design by Thylacine  
© WA Museum





The artwork will be the entrance piece in to the *Cosmos* section of the gallery, viewable on leaving an installation about the night sky.

The wall space relative to an adult's height is shown below.

AN - Under One Sky Key  
: 50

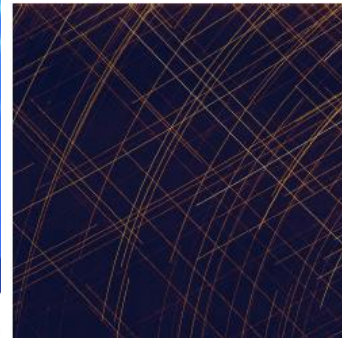
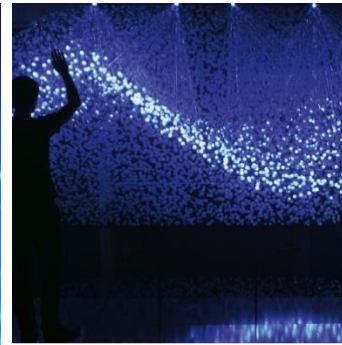


The other side of the wall holding the artwork will house images of the night sky from across Western Australia as well as landscapes and geology that are highlighted elsewhere in the Origins gallery





**LOOK MOOD AND FEEL OF THE COSMOS THEMATIC AREA**



Top Left: Joanie Lemerrier – The Unbearable Lightness of Being  
 Top Centre: Video Mappint Performance – Sila Sveta  
 Top Right: 'Fluidic' - Whitevoid  
 Bottom Right: *Origins* concept image (Thylacine)  
 Bottom Left: *Origins* concept image (Thylacine)



**Colour Palette**

The colour palette for the area is shown below. The Artwork will need to complement this palette.



**C-82 M-77 Y-46 K-44**  
 R-49 G-49 B-72  
 HEX-#313148  
 DULUX - MIDNIGHT

## **ABOUT THE ARTWORK**

The Museum is looking for creative responses in the space provided.

We are searching for an Artist(s) who will produce a piece that is inspiring to our visitors and commands attention in a space where many different stories are being shared.

The Artwork should share with Museum visitors a Nyoongar perspective of the night sky. This could be a Nyoongar understanding of astronomy, a traditional cosmology story and/or why the night sky is culturally significant.

You may choose to work on your own or submit an application with a collaborator.

We are open to different forms of artwork, providing it fits the specifications.

## **SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE ARTWORK**

There are a few requirements of the exhibition space that the Artist will need to take in to consideration:

- Preference is for an original artwork for display, rather than a digital reproduction.
- The Artwork will need to be wall-mounted to fit a space approximately 2800mm wide and 1200mm high.
- The Artwork will be displayed on a curved wall.
- The wall does not allow for artwork to be embedded or recessed in to it — aside from potential mounting systems that will be used to fix the work to the wall.

- The Artwork will be on 'open display' and, therefore, more susceptible to the environment.
- The area in front of the wall where the Artwork will be located allows some space for sculptural elements if required.
- The primary wall colour in this gallery area is dark, with key environmental graphics punctuating the space. The Artwork will need to contrast against the general colour scheme.

## **THE MUSEUM DIGITAL PLATFORM**

Through our Museum Digital Platform (MDP) we have the capacity to share the story of the Artwork with visitors, through their mobile device.

The MDP can hold text, video or audio.

## **DELIVERY**

The Artwork will need to be completed and delivered by February 2020.

## **BUDGET**

The budget for this commission is up to \$10,000 exc. GST.

## PREPARING YOUR SUBMISSION

Before beginning your proposal, ensure you have read this document thoroughly.

Your proposal should reflect the information about the gallery provided in this document.

Your proposal will be a written submission, supported by sketches, a proposed colour palette and examples of your previous work that demonstrate what you intend to deliver.

Your submission will be assessed based on the criteria outlined to the right.

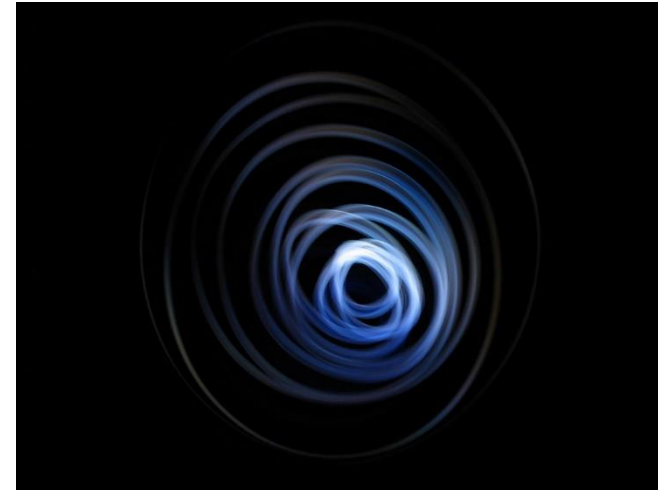
Your written proposal will be submitted using the Proposal Form. The entire written proposal should be no longer than four (4) pages, including the proposal form and costings.

In providing examples of your artwork, you may supply up to four (4) links and/or ten (10) pages.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

### Mandatory criteria

The Artist(s), or in the case of a collaboration, the key Artist must identify as Nyoongar.



**Spiral Force**  
'Cosmos'  
Thematic Image  
© Claudio  
Sepúlveda  
Geoffroy

## Assessment Criteria

Your proposal will be assessed based on the following;

Evaluation Criteria	
1	The suitability of the Artwork for the space: look, mood, feel
2	Creative response to the space: shape of the wall, context of the exhibition and nature of open display
3	Response to the concepts in Cosmos thematic area and Star Gazing displays
4	Experience in delivering a similar project

## SELECTION AND PROCUREMENT PROCESS

The following stages comprise the Procurement Process:

- (a) Request for Art Proposal (Request) Phase: The issue of this Request is the first stage of the Procurement Process. Respondents are invited to submit a Proposal in response to this Request. WA Museum may seek an interview with shortlisted respondents.
- (b) Negotiation Phase: Following detailed evaluation of Proposals, the preferred Artist will work with WA Museum staff to complete the design of the artwork and to negotiate costs and timelines.

The Procurement Process described is indicative only. The State reserves the right to change or terminate this Procurement process at any time.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- When awarded, this contract is governed by the Simple Contract Terms and Conditions which can be found [here](#).
- Payment will be made by invoice, on completion of agreed milestones to be determined at the contract stage.
- Copyright and usage rights over the final mural artwork will be negotiated with the Artist contract (e.g. non-exclusive rights in perpetuity).
- The Artist(s) must agree to and sign the relevant probity policies as relevant to the New Museum Project.
- The WA Museum reserves the right to accept late submissions at its discretion.
- The following State Supply Commission policies apply during

the Request phase of the Procurement Process:

- Value for Money
  - Probity and Accountability
  - Open and Effective Competition
  - Sustainable Procurement
- The Buy Local Policy, including the January 2016 and July 2013 Addenda, also applies to this Request.

## LODGING YOUR PROPOSAL

- The respondent must ensure that its proposal is a complete proposal.
- The Proposal is to be sufficiently detailed to enable assessment without requiring further information from the respondent.
- Ensure the examples of, or links to examples of, your artistic work are sufficient for the panel to assess the suitability of your work for the project and the exhibition space.
- Email your completed Proposal to: [newmuseum@museum.wa.gov.au](mailto:newmuseum@museum.wa.gov.au)
- Proposals must be received by **4pm on Monday 14 of October**.
- The WA Museum reserves the right to accept late applications at its discretion.



## **ENQUIRIES**

We recommend speaking with WA Museum staff about the project and its intended outcomes before you complete your proposal. You can contact the staff member below for details.

**Erika Jellis**

Senior Project Officer, Communications and Engagement  
New Museum Project

08 6552 7443

0466 445 270

[erika.jellis@museum.wa.gov.au](mailto:erika.jellis@museum.wa.gov.au)