

ALTER STATE

Arts Centre Melbourne Visual Story

Arts Centre Melbourne

VICTORIA State Government | CREATIVE VICTORIA

ARTS ACCESS VICTORIA

Australian Government | Creative Australia

Acknowledgement of Country

Wominjeka yearmann koondee biik Wurundjeri balluk.

Welcome to the land of the Wurundjeri people.

Arts Centre Melbourne and the Melbourne Arts Precinct sit on a site that has been a gathering place for song, storytelling, community and culture for First Nations people for millennia.

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we gather, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung. We also acknowledge the neighbouring Kulin Nation groups, the Boonwurrung and Bunurong people, and pay our respects to Elders, past and present.

The Alter State team would like to extend our respect and gratitude to members of the Deaf and Disabled communities, whose experiences, leadership and advocacy guide us in our work. May we celebrate and continue your legacy.

Nothing about us without us.

About This Visual Story

This Visual Story is designed to help prepare you for your visit. It includes venue information and what will happen during an Alter State event at Arts Centre Melbourne. We hope that this can help you make decisions about how these events will be accessible to you.

Feedback

Alter State aims to create a welcoming environment. We will do our best to support individual needs and provide multiple access options, knowing we won't always get it right. Our approach is to be flexible, listen to feedback, learn and continually improve.

Please let us know what we get right or wrong. We'd love your feedback about any part of your experience.

Email: tickets@artscentremelbourne.com.au

Phone: 1300 182 183

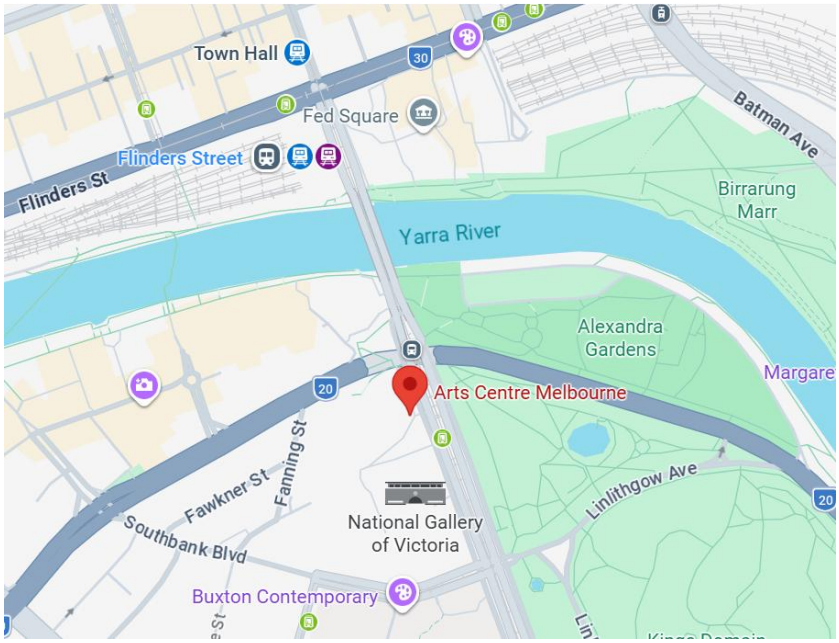
To contact us through the National Relay Service (NRS) and other relay call options, please visit the Access Hub website. Our Contact Centre is open 9.00am to 4.30pm AEDT Monday to Friday.

Before the Event

Getting to Arts Centre Melbourne

Arts Centre Melbourne is located on 100 St Kilda Road, Melbourne.

Alter State events will be on the Forecourt and on Level 8 of the Theatres Building (the one with the spire).





You can find out more about visiting Arts Centre Melbourne on our website's Accessible Travel page and in our Access Guide.

Arriving at the Theatres Building

The Forecourt, the paved outdoor space in front of the Theatres Building, will be where the Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony will take place.



You can enter the Theatres Building from the main front doors or through the car park. Both entrances are wheelchair accessible.

If you are attending an in-venue event and need assistance upon arrival, you can also contact our staff at the Welcome Desk by phoning (03) 9281 8298 or (03) 9281 8196.

Option 1: Through the main front doors



The main front doors are on St Kilda Rd, under the Arts Centre Melbourne sign.

You will enter the building from Level 6, the street level.

Option 2: Through the Arts Centre Melbourne carpark

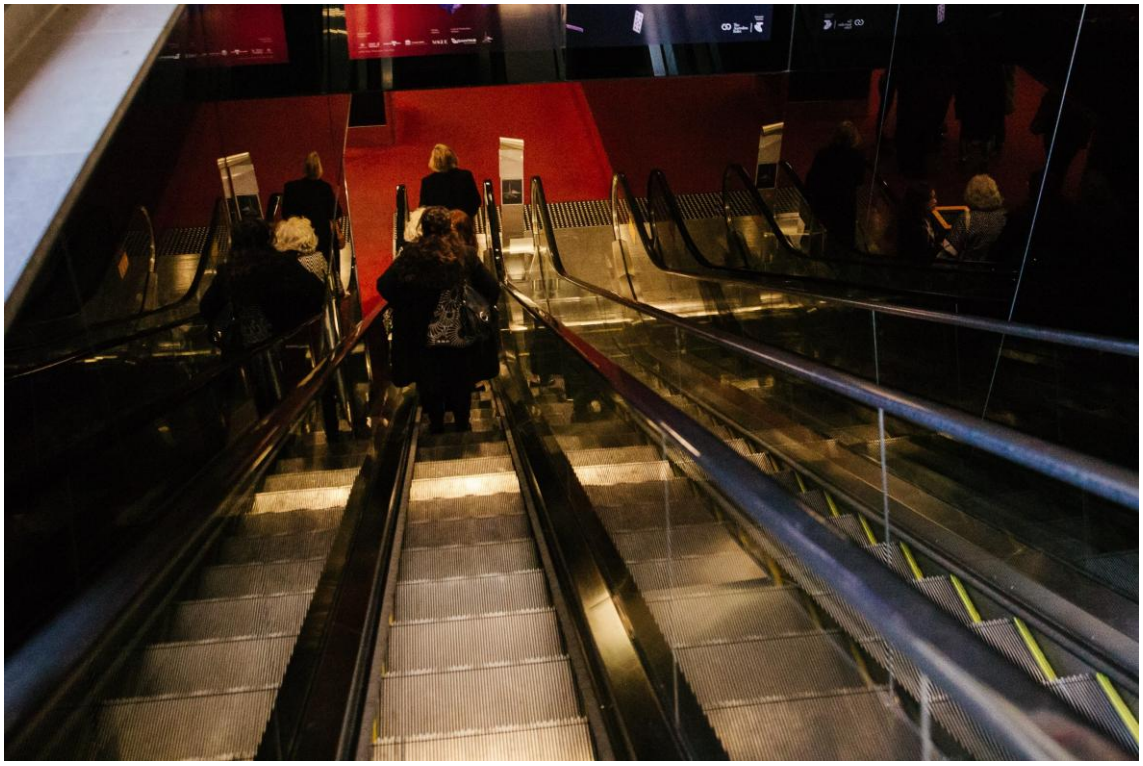




You will enter the building from Level 5.

Keep going through the Smorgon Family Plaza until you find the Lifts signage to the left. The sign will lead you to the ramp to the public lifts. The lifts on this level are hidden behind a black wall.





If you continue going through the Smorgon Family Plaza, you will find escalators connecting Level 5 and Level 6.

You can go to Level 6 (the street level) to find the Forecourt for the Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony event, or to find an Arts Centre Melbourne staff member at the Welcome Desk.

You can also take the lifts to Level 8 for the Alter State Symposium, Opening Night Party and Exhibition.

Inside the Theatres Building

Our friendly Welcome Team will be behind a golden Welcome Desk in the Level 6 foyer. They will be wearing a black uniform or an Alter State T-shirt. You can ask them for assistance, for example with directions, using the public lifts, or calling a taxi.



You can go to Level 8 by using the golden public lifts or by walking up two levels using the red carpeted staircase.





Bathrooms

There are two bathrooms with stalls and a wheelchair accessible bathroom outside The Leaper Family Pavilion. These are all-gender bathrooms. You can use whichever bathroom you like.



Quiet Space

There is a dedicated Quiet Space just outside The Leaper Family Pavilion. Due to its location, the space will not be completely quiet.



The Quiet Space will have low lighting and comfortable seating. There will be sensory items in the space that you can use. You can also bring your own items like headphones, tinted glasses, weighted soft toys, and fidget toys if you prefer.

Entering The Leaper Family Pavilion

The Alter State Symposium and Opening Night Party will take place in The Leaper Family Pavilion. To get to the venue, turn left from the lifts or the staircase. There will be a staff member checking your ticket as you enter.



The Leaper Family Pavilion is a large, open area with a dome roof and floor-to-ceiling windows.



During the Event

Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony



The Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony will take place outdoors on the Forecourt, outside the Theatres Building. It is a standing event with limited seating available. You can choose to view the ceremony from wherever works best for you.

There is minimal shade. Please check the weather on the day, wear sun protection, and dress accordingly.

The Smoking Ceremony will include smoke from the burning of organic materials such as gum leaves. There will be an invitation for attendees to come near or go through the smoke, as an extension of community and celebration. It’s okay to stay where you are if you don’t feel comfortable being closer to the smoke.

The Forecourt is a public space. There might be pedestrians walking past the Forecourt, audience members going into and out of the Theatres Building, as well as patrons queueing up and purchasing food from Protagonist or the food trucks.

Alter State Symposium: Wednesday and Thursday

During both days of the Alter State Symposium, keynote speeches and panel discussions will happen on the main stage. There will be round tables set up in the venue. There will be chairs around the round tables for audience members.

The floor of The Leaper Family Pavilion is carpeted. There will be an additional, portable dance floor installed in front of the stage. During the Symposium, we will put bean bags on this floor. You are welcome to sit on the bean bags or on the floor if you prefer. Wheelchair and mobility device users are also welcome on this floor.

On Thursday, you are invited to participate in smaller group discussions with artists and cultural leaders. Pick a table, join the conversation.



You are welcome to move around, stim, rock, leave and re-enter the venue as you need. Please bring anything that will help you feel comfortable, such as headphones, tinted glasses, or quiet fidget toys.

The Symposium may include the discussion of personal lived experience including discrimination, complex mental health such as trauma and suicide, and other sensitive themes that may be distressing to some. A list of free services providing counselling, crisis support and mental health support is available on the Symposium event pages. Support will also be available at the venue on the day.

Alter State Opening Night Party





The Alter State Opening Night Party will feature original poetry, music and dance performances. There will be live drawing responding to events of the night and a DJ to continue the celebrations into the evening. Music might get loud at times. There may be coarse language and sexual references during the performances.





The bean bags will be removed from the portable dance floor so people can dance and move around safely. Some of the tables and chairs will also be moved to the side to allow more space in the venue. There will be some chairs available if you'd like to sit down. You can leave the venue and re-enter when you're ready.

After the Event

During Alter State, the Level 8 Foyer will host the Alter State: The Collections Project. You can view the exhibition on your way out of your Alter State event. Some items will be behind glass in cabinets. Some will have bollards in front of them. There will also be a screen with visual display of some artworks.



When you’re ready, you can make your way to Level 6 to exit through the main front doors. To go back to the Car Park, take the lifts to Level 5.



Program Guide

You can find more information on Alter State events in the Program Guide or via the Alter State page on the Arts Centre Melbourne website.

Access Guide

You can find more information on accessibility for Alter State events at Arts Centre Melbourne in our Access Guide.

Image Credits

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Maps screenshot courtesy of Google Maps.