

**AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL
Discovery Projects - Expression of Interest
Application for Funding Commencing in 2026**



Project ID: DPEI260101387

First Investigator: Dr Sanné Mestrom

Admin Org: The University of Sydney

Total number of sheets contained in this Application: 31
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Part A - Administrative Summary (DPEI260101387)

A1. Application Title

(Provide a short title. (Up to 75 characters, approximately 10 words).

Note – The answer to this question will auto-populate into the full application and is a locked field.)

ART/SPORT/URBANISM: Activating Public Art for Gender-Inclusive Cities

A2. Person Participant Summary

(Add all named participants who will be participating in the application. These will include personnel who may be Chief Investigators (CIs) or Partner Investigators (PIs). Refer to the Grant Guidelines and the Instructions to Applicants for personnel eligibility requirements.

Note – The answers in this question will auto-populate into the full application as a set of locked fields.

Number	Name	Participant Type	Current Organisation(s)	Relevant Organisation
1	Dr Sanné Mestrom	Chief Investigator	The University of Sydney	The University of Sydney
2	Prof Nicole Kalms	Chief Investigator	Monash University, Monash University, Monash University	Monash University
3	Dr Indigo Willing	Chief Investigator	Winston Churchill Trust, The University of Sydney	The University of Sydney

A3. Organisation Participant Summary

(Add all organisations participating in this application. Refer to the Instructions to Applicants for further information.

Note – The answer to this question will auto-populate into the full application and is a locked field.)

Number	Name	Participant Type
1	The University of Sydney	Administering Organisation
2	Monash University	Other Eligible Organisation

A4. Application Summary

(Provide an Application Summary, focusing on the aims, significance, expected outcomes and benefits of this project. Write the Application Summary simply, clearly and in plain English. If the application is successful, the Application Summary, along with the National Interest Test, will be used to give the general community an understanding of the research. Avoid the use of acronyms, quotation marks and upper-case characters. Refer to the Instructions to Applicants for further information. (Up to 750 characters, approximately 100 words).

Note – The answer to this question will auto-populate into the full application and is a locked field.)

ART/SPORT/URBANISM aims to tackle barriers to gender diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in urban spaces by strategically intersecting the diverse knowledges and tools of contemporary public art, sociology and urban sports with urban planning. The project develops feminist-focused, women-led codesign methods to include diverse users, especially women, girls and gender-diverse people, in urban design.

Expected outcomes of this project will provide new knowledge, practical strategies and theoretical frameworks for creating transformative urban environments that promote equitable participation and build a bridge between policy and sport to achieve gender equity in urban spaces and public life.

A5. Field of Research

(Select up to 3 (6-digit) classification codes that relate to the application. Note that the percentages must total 100.

Note – The answer to this question will auto-populate into the full application and is a locked field.)

Code	Percentage
360602 - Fine arts	45
339999 - Other built environment and design not elsewhere classified	35
440505 - Intersectional studies	20

Part B - Participant Details including ROPE (Dr Sanné Mestrom)

B1. Personal Details

(To update any Personal Details, click on the 'Manage Personal Details' link below. Note this will open a new browser tab. When returning to the form ensure to 'Refresh' the page to capture the changes made to the participant's profile.

Note - The date of birth, country of birth, and Indigenous status will not appear in the PDF version of the form and will not be visible to assessors. Data may be shared with other Commonwealth Entities. All information contained in Part B is visible to the Administering Organisation on this application.

Note - The answers to questions B1 – B16 will auto-populate into the full application and will be locked fields.)

Participation Type

Chief Investigator

Title

Dr

First Name

Sanné

Middle Name

Family Name

Mestrom

B2. Qualifications

(To update any qualifications, click on the 'Manage Qualifications' link below. Note this will open a new browser tab. When returning to the form ensure to 'Refresh' the page to capture the changes made to the participant's profile.)

Conferral Date	AQF Level	Degree/Award Title	Discipline/Field	Awarding Organisation	Country of Award
01/11/2009	Masters Degree	Masters Degree	Public Art	RMIT University	Australia
01/11/2008	Doctoral Degree	Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Art	Installation Practice	RMIT University	Australia
30/11/2002	Bachelor Honours Degree, Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma	Honours	Painting	RMIT University	Australia
30/11/2000	Bachelor Degree	Bachelor of Fine Art	Painting	RMIT University	Australia

B3. Research Load (non-ARC Grants and Research)

(Provide details of research funding from non-ARC sources (in Australia and overseas). For research funding from non-ARC sources, list all projects/applications/awards/fellowships awarded or requests submitted involving that participant for funding for the years 2025 to 2031 inclusive.)

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Funding from non-ARC sources

	Same Research Area (Yes/No)	Support Status (Requested/ Current/ Past)	Application/ Project ID (for NHMRC applications only)	2023 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2026 \$'000	2027 \$'000
CI: Dr Sanné Mestrom with Aspect Studios Title: 'Sun, Disk, Deity', Docklands Sculptural Commission Source of Support: MAB Corp, City of Melbourne, Development Victoria	Y	C	N/A			\$1.4m	N/A	N/A
CI: Dr Sanné Mestrom Title: The Gift Source of Support: Green Square Council and Altis Development	Y	C	N/A		\$340,000			
CI: Dr. Sanné Mestrom Title: The Playful Exchange Source of Support: Darrebin Council and John Holland Pty Ltd	Y	P	N/A		\$200,000			
CI: Dr. Sanné Mestrom Title: The Secret Source of Support: City of Greater Geelong	Y	P	N/A	\$80,000				
CI: Dr. Sanné Mestrom Title: Lady of the Lake Source of Support: MAP MIMA Lake MacQuarrie	Y	P	N/A	\$50,000				
CI: Dr. Sanné Mestrom Title: The Centennial Source of Support: SJP Architects	Y	C			\$275,000			
CI: Dr. Sanné Mestrom Title: NGA Commission Source of Support: National Gallery of Australia	Y	C				\$45,000		
CI: Dr. Sanné Mestrom Title: Memorial to workers who have died at work commission Source of Support: City of Melbourne	Y	R				\$2.4m		
CI: Dr. Sanné Mestrom Title: The Thinker Source of Support: City of Greater Dandenong	Y	R				\$160,000		
CI: Dr. Sanné Mestrom Title: TBC Source of Support: NGA Sculpture Garden Competition	Y	R				\$62m		

B4. What will your time commitment be to research activities related to this project?

(Enter your time commitment to this project as a Full-Time Equivalent (FTE). Note that an FTE of 1.0 represents a full-time commitment (i.e. 5 days per week).)

0.4

B5. Employment Details as at grant commencement date

(Confirm your employment status at all organisations that you will be associated with as at the grant commencement date. Enter the relevant appointment type and Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) for each organisation.)

Org name	Is this an Eligible Organisation?	Please choose your appointment type for this organisation.	Please enter your FTE for this Organisation
The University of Sydney	Yes	Employee	1.0

B6. Relevant Organisation for this application as at grant commencement date for this project

(Enter the Organisation that is relevant to your participation on this application, and that you will be associated with as of 1 January 2026. The 'relevant organisation' is the primary organisation that will be supporting your involvement in this project if it is funded. Note that the Organisation must be listed in B5 for this question to validate.)

Relevant Organisation

The University of Sydney

B7. Currently held ARC Projects

(This information is automatically populated from RMS. If you have any concerns with the information recorded here, please contact your Administering Organisation's Research Office.)

Identifier	Investigators	Admin Organisation	Project Title	Funding	End Date	Final Report Due Date	Final Report Status
DE220100904	Dr Sanné Mestrom	The University of Sydney	ART, PLAY, RISK: An interdisciplinary approach to child-friendly cities.	\$386,545	01/03/2026	01/03/2027	Draft

B8. Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Current and previous appointment(s) / position(s) - during the past 10 years

(To update any details in this table, click on the 'Manage Employment Details' link in this question. Note this will open in a new browser tab. 'Refresh' the application page when returning to the form to capture changes made to the participant's profile.)

Description	Department	Contract Type	Employment Type	Start Date	End Date	Organisation
Senior Lecturer	Sydney College of the Arts	Permanent	Full Time	07/01/2019		The University of Sydney
Senior Lecturer	School of Art	Contract	Part Time	23/02/2016	31/05/2016	RMIT University
Senior Lecturer	Fine Art	Contract	Full Time	15/01/2012	21/11/2014	Monash University

B9. Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Career Interruptions

(You must read the ROPE Statement <https://www.arc.gov.au/arc-research-opportunity-and-performance-evidence-rope-statement> before filling out this section. The following fields will not be visible to assessors: From when; To when; FTE of career interruption and Interruption category. RMS will automatically calculate the total career interruption in the field 'Total Period of Career Interruptions which will be visible to assessors.)

Has the participant experienced a significant interruption that has impacted on research opportunity?

Yes

Total Period of Career Interruptions

Researcher Dr Sanné Mestrom has reported a career interruption of 8 years since 2008.

B10. Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Career Narrative

(Provide an overview of the participant's career opportunities for research, including any periods of research only employment, access to periods of research leave, and proportions of time allocated for research, teaching and administrative responsibilities. (Up to 565 characters, approximately 75 words).)

Since her appointment in 2019 Mestrom has made significant contributions to two key areas: 1. Pioneering the DE22 research methodology, integrating research with interdisciplinary codesign to create large-scale, child-friendly playable public sculptures; 2. Transforming public art infrastructure benchmarks across Australian municipalities, as evidenced by Dandenong's \$160k "Playable Sculpture Commission" (2024). Her research has attracted \$2.1M in partnerships (2020-24) and collaborations with leading engineering firms have established new standards nationwide.

B11. Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Evidence of the participant's research impact and contributions to the field, including evidence of high-quality outputs and collaboration most relevant to this application

(Provide details of the participant's research impact and contributions. This should not include information provided elsewhere in the application (up to 1,500 characters, approximately 200 words).)

Mestrom has demonstrated significant research impact and industry transformation: The ARC DECRA (2022-2025, \$417,000) "ART/PLAY/RISK" investigates how public art can create child-friendly cities through managed risk engagement. The project examines whether current play-safety standards adequately serve children's developmental needs, challenging Australia's risk-averse culture. Through 2 national symposia, 12 focus groups across 4 states, and engagement with 180 stakeholders, the research revealed that risk-managed play environments are crucial for child development. These findings, disseminated via 8 industry workshops, have resulted in 6 councils commissioning their first 'playable sculptures', establishing a new national artwork category. Research leadership as Research Director at Sydney College of the Arts (2022-present) has amplified industry impact, evidenced by selection for Aspect Studios' \$62M NGA sculpture park redevelopment team. Her community co-design methodology has delivered 5 large-scale public artworks (\$2.2M total value), demonstrating how public art can foster risk-competent, child-friendly communities.

B12. Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Mentoring and Leadership

(Provide evidence of the participant's leadership and mentoring capability, including details of their experience and achievements in research training and supervision (up to 750 characters, or approximately 100 words).)

As Research Director at Sydney College of the Arts, Mestrom demonstrates leadership in research mentorship. Her success in supporting early-career researchers is evidenced through mentoring Dr. Indigo Willing's University fellowship, leading to four successful interdisciplinary grants. As Faculty Academic Advisor, Mestrom guides early-career researchers on NTRO trajectories. Her Foundation Program coordination (2019-2022) involved managing 16 staff across eight disciplines. She serves as ARC Detailed Assessor (2014-2024+), supervises HDR candidates, coordinates national symposia, and serves on the MCA Artist Advisory Panel and NSW Public Art Council. Her NTRO frameworks have established new benchmarks for practice-based research nationally.

B13. Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Research Output Context

(Provide clear information that explains the relative importance of the participant's research outputs in disciplinary context. Explain how the participant's track record in relation to relevant discipline conventions demonstrates their capability for outstanding research in the field of this application. (Up to 1,500 characters, approximately 200 words).)

In the context of Visual Art (FoR 3606), research quality is primarily assessed through non-traditional research outputs (NTROs). As Australia's third-ever DECRA recipient in this field, Mestrom's research uniquely bridges traditional and non-trad outputs, positioning her as a national advocate for NTROs' increasing value in the Academic Excellence Framework.

In Australia's Artworld, NTROs are categorised as 'nationally significant', 'world class', or 'well above world class'. Mestrom's outputs consistently achieve top rankings through multiple indicators: curatorial calibre (prestigious exhibitions including 2022 'Know My Name' at National Gallery Australia (NGA); venue recognition (representation by top-tier Australian gallery Sullivan & Strumpf, 2018-present); significant acquisitions by world-class institutions (NGA, AGNSW, Museum of Contemporary Art); and critical reception in esteemed publications (Art Forum, The Guardian).

Her research impact extends beyond traditional metrics through high-impact publications ("The Conversation" article on urban child inclusion, 80,000+ reads), industry influence (establishing 'playable sculpture' as a new commission category nationwide), international recognition (featured in "100 Sculptors of Tomorrow", Thames&Hudson, 2019). This multifaceted approach demonstrates capability in combining academic rigour with real-world impact, significantly advancing both scholarly discourse and public engagement in contemporary art and urban design.

B14. Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) – Research Outputs Listing including 10 Career-Best Research Outputs

(Provide up to 10 career best research outputs and provide clear information regarding their research impact and excellence. Mark the research outputs that are most relevant to this project categorised under the following headings: Authored books; Edited books; Book chapters; Refereed Journal articles; Fully refereed conference proceedings; Additional research outputs (including non-traditional research outputs and preprints or comparable resources). CVs and theses should not be included in this list. Each text box allows up to 150 characters, approximately 20 words annotation per output.)

Research Outputs Listing

Generated research output document follows on the next page

Ten Career-Best Research Outputs

[1] * Mestrom, S 2022 *ART, PLAY, RISK: An interdisciplinary approach to child-friendly cities*, Australian Research Council (Canberra, AU), DECRA22 Grant URL: <https://dataportal.arc.gov.au/NCGP/Web/Grant/Grant/DE220100904>
See project website: <https://www.artplayrisk.com.au/about> (Additional Research Output)

Research Outputs Annotation DECRA22 research fellowship, pioneering the genre of 'Playable Sculpture' in Australia.

[2] * DECRA Symposium 1 *Play Beyond Playgrounds: Play Beyond Playgrounds: Rethinking the role of public art in child development*, symposium convener, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Sydney. 30th November and Friday 1st December 2023. <https://www.artplayrisk.com.au/symposium> DOI 10.25910/t1bp-1953 (Additional Research Output)

Research Outputs Annotation I developed and convened this national symposium as part of my DECRA research. Please see report <https://www.artplayrisk.com.au/symposium>

[3] * DECRA Symposium 2 *City Canvas: public art, urban play & creative Sports*, symposium convener, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Sydney. 17th-18th October 2024. <https://www.artplayrisk.com.au/symposium-2> (Additional Research Output)

Research Outputs Annotation I developed and convened this national symposium, bringing together industry experts from art, sport, sociology, urban planning from across Australia.

[4] * Mestrom, S 2022 - 2024 *Ludic Folly: Playable Sculpture Research Project*, fibreglass, brass and steel, 400cm x 350cm x 120cm. An interactive, playable sculpture built from lightweight, robust fibreglass, developed as part of DECRA research, to study the affordances of playable sculpture. This piece has had 2400 play experiences in children aged 5 - 12yo, and has undergone 3 iterations in response to observational analysis. <https://mestrom.org/ludic-folly-2/>

Later presented at the National Arboretum as part of the Canberra Art Biennial, October 2024. (Additional Research Output)

Research Outputs Annotation This project has had 2400 play experiences by children aged 5 - 12yo, and has undergone 3 iterations in response to observational analysis.

[5] * Mestrom, S 2022, *This new 'risky' playground is a work of art - and a place for kids to escape their mollycoddling parents*, The Conversation article, Published November 9, 2022. This piece received 82,508 reads and 8428 shares. (Additional Research Output)

Research Outputs Annotation This 'Conversation' article received 82,508 reads and 8428 Facebook shares, and was republished on 15 additional platforms.

[6] * Mestrom, S 2024 *Art Skate Dots* co-design case study of skateable sculptures, exhibited at the Chau Chak Wing Museum, Sydney. <https://mestrom.org/art-skate-dots/> (Additional Research Output)

Research Outputs Annotation A case study of co-designed skateable sculpture elements, activated at the Chau Chak Wing Museum, October 2024. <https://mestrom.org/art-skate-dots/>

[7] * Mestrom, S 2024 *The Playful Exchange*, Playable Sculpture commission by Darebin City Council, VIC, \$340,000 category 2 funding. <https://mestrom.org/the-playful-exchange/> (Additional Research Output)

Research Outputs Annotation 'Playable Sculpture', commissioned by Darebin City Council, VIC (\$340,000 category 2 funding)

[8] Mestrom, S 2024, *Solar Cry*, solo exhibition: bronze, concrete, steel and screen-printing, Sullivan and Strumpf Gallery, Melbourne, 01 Aug - 24 Aug 2024. Catalogue ISBN: 978-0-9922875-3-5 with essay by Dr. Emily Cormack. <https://mestrom.org/solar-cry/> (Additional Research Output)

Research Outputs Annotation Solo exhibition at top-tier gallery Sullivan + Strumpf, Melbourne.

[9] Mestrom, S 2021, *Body as Verb*, solo exhibition: bronze, concrete, steel and screen-printing, Sullivan and Strumpf Gallery, Sydney, 15th April - 8th May 2021. Catalogue ISBN: 978-0-9922875-3-5 with essay by Imogen Dixon Smith. <https://mestrom.org/body-as-verb/>. Principle sculpture was acquired by the Art Gallery New South Wales for permanent exhibition at the gallery's new Sydney Modern museum (2022). (Additional Research Output)

Research Outputs Annotation Solo exhibition at top-tier gallery Sullivan + Strumpf, Sydney. Main sculpture acquired by Art Gallery of NSW (AGNSW).

[10] Mestrom, S 2016, *Soft Kiss*, sculptural installation: urethane rubber, plastic, timber and metal, Exhibited at: Today Tomorrow Yesterday: MCA Collection, The Museum of Contemporary Art, 1 Sep 2016 - 26 Jul 2020. Note: Curated by Senior Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art Sydney, Natasha Bullock. Acquired by National Gallery of Australia, 2019. <https://mestrom.org/know-my-name/> (Additional Research Output)

Research Outputs Annotation Group exhibition at Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney. Sculpture acquired by National Gallery of Australia (NGA).

B16. Partner Investigator – upload a CV in no more than one A4 page

(Provide a CV of up to one A4 page relevant to the project noting that Partner Investigators are not required to complete Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) questions B10 to B14. The PDF should not include qualifications, current and previous appointment(s)/position(s), employment or career interruptions as this will be automatically populated from your profile at questions B2, B8 and B9.)

No PDF file uploaded.

Part B - Participant Details including ROPE (Prof Nicole Kalms)

B1. Personal Details

(To update any Personal Details, click on the 'Manage Personal Details' link below. Note this will open a new browser tab. When returning to the form ensure to 'Refresh' the page to capture the changes made to the participant's profile.

Note - The date of birth, country of birth, and Indigenous status will not appear in the PDF version of the form and will not be visible to assessors. Data may be shared with other Commonwealth Entities. All information contained in Part B is visible to the Administering Organisation on this application.

Note - The answers to questions B1 – B16 will auto-populate into the full application and will be locked fields.)

Participation Type

Chief Investigator

Title

Prof

First Name

Nicole

Middle Name

Katherine

Family Name

Kalms

B2. Qualifications

(To update any qualifications, click on the 'Manage Qualifications' link below. Note this will open a new browser tab. When returning to the form ensure to 'Refresh' the page to capture the changes made to the participant's profile.)

Conferral Date	AQF Level	Degree/Award Title	Discipline/Field	Awarding Organisation	Country of Award
25/05/2016	Doctoral Degree	Dr	Architecture	Monash University	Australia
30/04/2006	Masters Degree	Master	Landscape Architecture	RMIT	Australia
15/05/1998	Bachelor Degree	Bachelor	Architecture	RMIT	Australia

B3. Research Load (non-ARC Grants and Research)

(Provide details of research funding from non-ARC sources (in Australia and overseas). For research funding from non-ARC sources, list all projects/applications/awards/fellowships awarded or requests submitted involving that participant for funding for the years 2025 to 2031 inclusive.)

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Research load (non-ARC Grants and Research)

	Same research area (Yes/No)	Support Status (requested/ Current/ Past)	App ID (NHMRC only)	2025	2026	2027	2028
CI: Title: Source of Support:	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

B4. What will your time commitment be to research activities related to this project?

(Enter your time commitment to this project as a Full-Time Equivalent (FTE). Note that an FTE of 1.0 represents a full-time commitment (i.e. 5 days per week).)

0.3

B5. Employment Details as at grant commencement date

(Confirm your employment status at all organisations that you will be associated with as at the grant commencement date. Enter the relevant appointment type and Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) for each organisation.)

Org name	Is this an Eligible Organisation?	Please choose your appointment type for this organisation.	Please enter your FTE for this Organisation
Monash University	Yes	Employee	1.0

B6. Relevant Organisation for this application as at grant commencement date for this project

(Enter the Organisation that is relevant to your participation on this application, and that you will be associated with as of 1 January 2026. The 'relevant organisation' is the primary organisation that will be supporting your involvement in this project if it is funded. Note that the Organisation must be listed in B5 for this question to validate.)

Relevant Organisation

Monash University

B7. Currently held ARC Projects

(This information is automatically populated from RMS. If you have any concerns with the information recorded here, please contact your Administering Organisation's Research Office.)

B8. Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Current and previous appointment(s) / position(s) - during the past 10 years

(To update any details in this table, click on the 'Manage Employment Details' link in this question. Note this will open in a new browser tab. 'Refresh' the application page when returning to the form to capture changes made to the participant's profile.)

Description	Department	Contract Type	Employment Type	Start Date	End Date	Organisation
Professor & Director XYX Lab, Associate Dean [Research]	Design	Permanent	Full Time	01/07/2024		Monash University
Director Monash University XYX Lab, Associate Dean [Research]	Design	Permanent	Full Time	13/07/2023		Monash University
Associate Professor + Director XYX Lab	Design	Permanent	Full Time	01/01/2019		Monash University
Senior Lecturer + Director: XYX Lab Space-Gender-Communication	Architecture	Permanent	Full Time	12/10/2016	31/12/2018	Monash University
Senior Lecturer + Head of Program	Architecture	Permanent	Full Time	01/01/2016	11/10/2016	Monash University
Lecturer + Head of Program	Architecture	Permanent	Full Time	01/01/2015	31/12/2015	Monash University
Lecturer	Architecture	Permanent	Full Time	07/06/201	31/12/201	Monash

	e	t		2	4	University
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B9. Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Career Interruptions

(You must read the ROPE Statement <https://www.arc.gov.au/arc-research-opportunity-and-performance-evidence-robe-statement> before filling out this section. The following fields will not be visible to assessors: From when; To when; FTE of career interruption and Interruption category. RMS will automatically calculate the total career interruption in the field 'Total Period of Career Interruptions which will be visible to assessors.)

Has the participant experienced a significant interruption that has impacted on research opportunity?

No

Total Period of Career Interruptions

B10. Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Career Narrative

(Provide an overview of the participant's career opportunities for research, including any periods of research only employment, access to periods of research leave, and proportions of time allocated for research, teaching and administrative responsibilities. (Up to 565 characters, approximately 75 words).)

Kalms is a design specialist with an international reputation for leading applied and interdisciplinary research into inclusive cities. Kalms has made significant contributions to three principal fields: [1] analysis of intersectional urban spatial dynamics; [2] evidence-based approaches to inclusive co-design; and [3] award-winning design strategies for public placemaking. Kalms' research is practiced-based and draws on architecture, urbanism and advocacy. She takes design analysis, design thinking and design practice into new and innovative arenas.

B11. Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Evidence of the participant's research impact and contributions to the field, including evidence of high-quality outputs and collaboration most relevant to this application

(Provide details of the participant's research impact and contributions. This should not include information provided elsewhere in the application (up to 1,500 characters, approximately 200 words).)

Kalms' creative practice tackles complex social issues and demonstrates how design can be a tool to address urban inequality. Kalms' longitudinal research has developed cutting-edge digital strategies and feminist analysis to illuminate the urban experiences of over 30,000 women in Australia, South America, Spain, India, Uganda, and Indonesia. This foundational dataset supports an unwavering advocacy for gender-sensitive cities and the communication of this research has reached diverse public audiences resulting in significant attention and demand for Kalms' expertise.

Kalms has successfully led large-scale, multi-site projects. Her award-winning projects engage diverse stakeholders in urban placemaking. She draws on a network of more than 50 partner organisations across Australia with which she has numerous repeat collaborations and where her skills facilitate ambitious, multi-agency projects valued by communities. Kalms has received continuous funding across category 1-4 since completing her PhD studies in 2017. She has led teams securing 11x Category 2 and 3 projects (as lead CI on ten of these projects) with a success rate for competitive funding applications over 50%. Across her career, she has published two monographs, held 4 exhibitions [including two major exhibitions], produced 10 reports [3 assessed as major contributions] and 37 professional articles. With over 150 media engagements, the public dissemination of her research has attracted philanthropic funding.

B12. Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Mentoring and Leadership

(Provide evidence of the participant's leadership and mentoring capability, including details of their experience and achievements in research training and supervision (up to 750 characters, or approximately 100 words).)

Kalms founded the Monash University XYX Lab in 2017. She was motivated to provide an arena for early and mid

-careers researchers to exchange knowledge; to foster collaboration; to engage stakeholders; to provide opportunities for research training and professional development; and to connect with scholars in other universities. Kalms has grown the XYX Lab – now a world-class interdisciplinary team of researchers engaged in projects that enhance social inclusion in public spaces across inner, urban, peri-urban and regional communities internationally. Resisted a theoretical focus on inequity, the diverse team is focused on research that demonstrates the utility and importance of practicable, applied solutions with real-world impact.

B13. Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Research Output Context

(Provide clear information that explains the relative importance of the participant's research outputs in disciplinary context. Explain how the participant's track record in relation to relevant discipline conventions demonstrates their capability for outstanding research in the field of this application. (Up to 1,500 characters, approximately 200 words).)

Kalms' research has contributed new knowledge, concepts and methodologies that advance inclusive cities. Central to her applied and interdisciplinary research is the triangulation of communities with practitioners and policy makers in co-design methodologies to disseminate evidence-based research and advocacy for inclusive placemaking. A key provocation of Kalms' research is that inclusive cities need to be multi modal – working through and across a range of intervention types, including digital engagement, co-design, policy advocacy and public placemaking.

Kalms' traditional research outputs [TRO's] are with quality publishers. She has recently published her second monograph with Bloomsbury. Kalms has published book chapters with Routledge and Springer. Her non-traditional research outputs [NTROs] consist of creative works/exhibitions and are undertaken in collaboration with the XYX Lab team. This research is recognised in peer reviewed processes including the Good Design Awards; the Design Institute of Australia Awards; the Australian Graphic Design Association and the Premier's Design Awards.

B14. Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) – Research Outputs Listing including 10 Career-Best Research Outputs

(Provide up to 10 career best research outputs and provide clear information regarding their research impact and excellence. Mark the research outputs that are most relevant to this project categorised under the following headings: Authored books; Edited books; Book chapters; Refereed Journal articles; Fully refereed conference proceedings; Additional research outputs (including non-traditional research outputs and preprints or comparable resources). CVs and theses should not be included in this list. Each text box allows up to 150 characters, approximately 20 words annotation per output.)

Research Outputs Listing

Generated research output document follows on the next page

Ten Career-Best Research Outputs

[1] * Kalms, N. 2024, 'She City: Designing Out Women?s Inequity in Cities', *She City: Designing Out Women?s Inequity in Cities*, pp. 1-296 (Authored Book)

Research Outputs Annotation This monograph for practitioners, policy makers and communities - is the first to centre women experiences in gender-sensitive public placemaking.

[2] * Nicole Kalms 2017, 'Hypersexual City', Routledge, doi:10.4324/9781315556987 (Authored Book)

Research Outputs Annotation Using architectural case studies this monograph makes visible the politics of urbanism revealing the ways that heterosexist culture shapes cities.

[3] * Kalms, N, Bawden, G, Berry, J, Matthewson, G & Moore, T et al., 'HyperSext City' (Additional Research Output)

Research Outputs Annotation An award winning, multi-city exhibition designed to elicit the audiences' unique experiences of the city and build understanding of excluded voices.

[4] * Matthewson, G & Kalms, N 2024, 'YourGround NSW: Baseline Insights Report' (Additional Research Output)

Research Outputs Annotation A comprehensive analysis of safety perceptions in public spaces among women and gender diverse people in New South Wales drawn from YourGround NSW.

[5] * Matthewson, G, Kalms, N, Bawden, G & Aisenberg, A, 'YourGround: Your Sport, Your Leisure, Your Play, Your Place, Your Victoria' (Additional Research Output)

Research Outputs Annotation Insights report into how access to recreation space is restricted for women and gender-diverse In Victoria due to fear, violence and harassment.

[6] * Wickes, R, Kalms, N, Ratnam, C, Matthewson, G & Meyer, S, 'Portfolio: Safe Spaces: Understanding and enhancing safety and inclusion for diverse women' (Additional Research Output)

Research Outputs Annotation Insights, evaluation and toolkits focussed on providing government and communities with strategies to improve perceptions of safety in public places.

[7] * Kalms, N. 2018, 'Urban exposure: Feminist crowd-mapping and the new urban imaginary', *The Routledge Companion to Urban Imaginaries*, pp. 159-170 (Book Chapter)

Research Outputs Annotation A chapter focused on how digital methods have emerged as key practices in the process of equitable placemaking with the power to shape solutions.

[8] * Yang, H., Berry, J. & Kalms, N. 2022, 'PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY IN CITIES AFTER DARK', *Lighting Design in Shared Public Spaces*, pp. 83-103 (Book Chapter)

Research Outputs Annotation This chapter quantifies how specific elements of lighting and the typologies of darkness contribute to perceptions of safety in urban spaces.

[9] * Nicole Kalms & Gene Bawden 2021, '(eBook published Nov 2020) Lived experience: Participatory practices for gender-sensitive spaces and places' in Jess Berry, Timothy Moore, Nicole Kalms & Gene Bawden (eds.), *Contentious Cities*, Routledge, United Kingdom, pp. 102–114 (Book Chapter)

Research Outputs Annotation A chapter which outlines how gender-sensitive co-design is a form of equitable action and mode to redress gender inequity in cities.

[10] * Matthewson, G, Kalms, N, Berry, J & Bawden, G, 'Streets after dark: the experiences of women, girls and gender-diverse people' in Martire, A, Hausleitner, B & Clossick, J (eds.), *Everyday Streets: Inclusive approaches to understanding and designing streets.*, UCL London (Book Chapter)

Research Outputs Annotation This chapter discusses how women and gender diverse people need equitable access to the night time economy and the economic benefits to all cities.

B16. Partner Investigator – upload a CV in no more than one A4 page

(Provide a CV of up to one A4 page relevant to the project noting that Partner Investigators are not required to complete Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) questions B10 to B14. The PDF should not include qualifications, current and previous appointment(s)/position(s), employment or career interruptions as this will be automatically populated from your profile at questions B2, B8 and B9.)

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Part B - Participant Details including ROPE (Dr Indigo Willing)

B1. Personal Details

(To update any Personal Details, click on the 'Manage Personal Details' link below. Note this will open a new browser tab. When returning to the form ensure to 'Refresh' the page to capture the changes made to the participant's profile.

Note - The date of birth, country of birth, and Indigenous status will not appear in the PDF version of the form and will not be visible to assessors. Data may be shared with other Commonwealth Entities. All information contained in Part B is visible to the Administering Organisation on this application.

Note - The answers to questions B1 – B16 will auto-populate into the full application and will be locked fields.)

Participation Type

Chief Investigator

Title

Dr

First Name

Indigo

Middle Name

Family Name

Willing

B2. Qualifications

(To update any qualifications, click on the 'Manage Qualifications' link below. Note this will open a new browser tab. When returning to the form ensure to 'Refresh' the page to capture the changes made to the participant's profile.)

Conferral Date	AQF Level	Degree/Award Title	Discipline/Field	Awarding Organisation	Country of Award
15/09/2010	Doctoral Degree	PhD	Sociology	The University of Queensland	Australia
24/02/2004	Masters Degree	MA by Thesis	Sociology	The University of Technology, Sydney	Australia
30/04/1997	Bachelor Degree	BA Communication	Communication and Media Arts	The University of Technology, Sydney	Australia

B3. Research Load (non-ARC Grants and Research)

(Provide details of research funding from non-ARC sources (in Australia and overseas). For research funding from non-ARC sources, list all projects/applications/awards/fellowships awarded or requests submitted involving that participant for funding for the years 2025 to 2031 inclusive.)

Uploaded PDF file follows on next page.

Research Load (non-ARC Grants and Research)

Description (All named investigators on any application or grant/fellowship in which the participant is involved, project title, source of support, scheme, and round)	Same Research Area [Yes (Y)/No (N)]	Support Status [Requested (R)/Current (C)/Past(P)]	Application/Project ID (for NHMRC applications only)	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
CI: Indigo Willing Honorary John Oxley Library Fellowship, QLD State Library	Y	C	N/A	Honorary						
Churchill Fellowship, Winston Churchill Trust, May-June 2025 (2 months abroad with stipend of \$38,000)	Y	C	N/A	\$38,000						
UTS Creative Residency, The University of Technology, Library, January 2025 – August 2025 (8 months 1 day per week with stipend of \$10,000 and research budget of \$5000).	Y	R	N/A	\$15,000						

B4. What will your time commitment be to research activities related to this project?

(Enter your time commitment to this project as a Full-Time Equivalent (FTE). Note that an FTE of 1.0 represents a full-time commitment (i.e. 5 days per week).)

0.4

B5. Employment Details as at grant commencement date

(Confirm your employment status at all organisations that you will be associated with as at the grant commencement date. Enter the relevant appointment type and Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) for each organisation.)

Org name	Is this an Eligible Organisation?	Please choose your appointment type for this organisation.	Please enter your FTE for this Organisation
The University of Sydney	Yes	Honorary Academic Appointment	0.5

B6. Relevant Organisation for this application as at grant commencement date for this project

(Enter the Organisation that is relevant to your participation on this application, and that you will be associated with as of 1 January 2026. The 'relevant organisation' is the primary organisation that will be supporting your involvement in this project if it is funded. Note that the Organisation must be listed in B5 for this question to validate.)

Relevant Organisation

The University of Sydney

B7. Currently held ARC Projects

(This information is automatically populated from RMS. If you have any concerns with the information recorded here, please contact your Administering Organisation's Research Office.)

B8. Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Current and previous appointment(s) / position(s) - during the past 10 years

(To update any details in this table, click on the 'Manage Employment Details' link in this question. Note this will open in a new browser tab. 'Refresh' the application page when returning to the form to capture changes made to the participant's profile.)

Description	Department	Contract Type	Employment Type	Start Date	End Date	Organisation
Affiliate Research Fellow, 'Skate, Create, Educate and Regenerate (SkateCER)' project	Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences	Contract	Part Time	01/01/2024		The University of Sydney
John Oxley Library Honorary Fellow. 'Queensland Skate of Mind: Subcultural Game Changers to Olympian 'Roll' Models' project.	John Oxley Library	Self Employed	Part Time	01/01/2025	31/12/2025	QLD State Library
Churchill Fellow, 'To research gender-equity	NSW Fellows	Contract	Part Time	27/09/2024	31/12/2025	Winston Churchill Trust

programs and safe spaces for women and non-traditional skateboarders'						
Project Leader and Principal Co-Researcher, Stage 2: Asian Australian Anti-Racism Project for Australian Human Rights Commission	Griffith Centre for Social and Cultural Research	Contract	Part Time	01/06/2024	31/10/2024	Griffith University
Senior Project Officer, Her Sport, Her Way and Disability Inclusion Reporting Projects	School of Public Health	Contract	Part Time	01/04/2023	01/03/2024	The University of Sydney
Project Leader and Principal Co-Researcher, Stage 1: Asian Australian Anti-Racism Project for Australian Human Rights Commission	Griffith Centre for Social and Cultural Research	Contract	Part Time	01/09/2023	01/12/2023	Griffith University
Lecturer and Convener, Honours Program, Qualitative Research Methods (Sessional)	Criminology and Criminal Justice	Contract	Part Time	31/03/2016	01/07/2023	Griffith University
Project Leader and Principal Co-Researcher, 'Rolling Free: Leadership in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion' Project, Skate Australia	Griffith Centre for Social and Cultural Research	Contract	Part Time	01/03/2022	01/03/2023	Griffith University
Research Fellow, Cosmopolitan Encounters in Contemporary Australia ARC Discovery Project	Griffith Centre for Social and Cultural Research	Contract	Part Time	01/01/2013	01/01/2016	Griffith University

B9. Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Career Interruptions

(You must read the ROPE Statement <https://www.arc.gov.au/arc-research-opportunity-and-performance-evidence-rop-statement> before filling out this section. The following fields will not be visible to assessors: From when; To when; FTE of career interruption and Interruption category. RMS will automatically calculate the total career interruption in the field 'Total Period of Career Interruptions which will be visible to assessors.)

Has the participant experienced a significant interruption that has impacted on research opportunity?

Yes

Total Period of Career Interruptions

Researcher Dr Indigo Willing has reported a career interruption of 8 years and 3 months since 2011.

B10. Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Career Narrative

(Provide an overview of the participant's career opportunities for research, including any periods of research only employment, access to periods of research leave, and proportions of time allocated for research, teaching and administrative responsibilities. (Up to 565 characters, approximately 75 words).)

I have contributed noteworthy research and advanced my emerging field while experiencing significant career disruptions (precarity, unemployment and non-research employment estimated in B9). In my post-PhD period, while balancing academia as a new parent, refugee, and war orphan/adoptee with a complex migration story, my dedication to research and to building an academic career (e.g. grants, awards, and publications) has been supported by commercial contracts, honorary roles, part-time and short-term employment and increasingly, success in competitive grants.

B11. Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Evidence of the participant's research impact and contributions to the field, including evidence of high-quality outputs and collaboration most relevant to this application

(Provide details of the participant's research impact and contributions. This should not include information provided elsewhere in the application (up to 1,500 characters, approximately 200 words).)

I have achieved high levels of research excellence, innovation, and original contributions to knowledge across the fields of skate studies, gender equity and urban sport in multiple ways. Representative and recent examples include:

- positioning safe and inclusive spaces to skate as research and community priorities through my three fellowships for 2024-2025
- discussing skateboarding as a social good - Keynote talk for Cultural Studies Australasia Association, invited panellist Changing the Conversation, QPAC and Multicultural Australia, invited panellist Q Sport Leading for Legacy and there was also 29+ media stories on my research this year with a potential editorial reach of 66.9 million
- achieving public recognition and support for gender safety and challenging stereotypes – In 2024 I am a finalist, QLD Government Individual Achievement Award, Outdoors QLD (results announced 29 November) and Inspiration of the Year finalist, Skate Like a Girl 2023.
- community leadership and advocacy for safe and inclusive spaces and violence prevention - Team awards for Consent is Rad campaign: 1st Place Social Project Award (tie) 2023, Skate Like a Girl US, 2nd Social Project Award, Exposure Skate US, 2021
- creating new spaces for leading discussions and career opportunities for ECRs, peers and community eg. at 2 day skate symposium, professional development workshops on urban play, a panel for Festival of Urbanism and co-authoring various publications

B12. Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Mentoring and Leadership

(Provide evidence of the participant's leadership and mentoring capability, including details of their experience and achievements in research training and supervision (up to 750 characters, or approximately 100 words).)

My research leadership in building research spaces, supporting peers and empowering marginalised individuals is reflected in my (non-supervision related) mentoring of post-graduate students and early career researchers (ECR). Representative initiatives include:

- 1)2 research assistant and 10 paid speaker roles (SkateCER project)
- 2)3 ECR research roles (Australian Human Rights Commission project)
- 3)Co-authoring in journal articles (eg. Sociology, Sport in Society)
- 4)Article invitations for my co-edited special issues (forthcoming)
- 5)Chapter invitations for my co-edited books (1 published, 1 under contract)
- 6)Networking sessions with senior scholars/industry leaders at events
- 7)Funding 4 places for a professional development workshop

B13. Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) - Research Output Context

(Provide clear information that explains the relative importance of the participant's research outputs in disciplinary context. Explain how the participant's track record in relation to relevant discipline conventions demonstrates their capability for outstanding research in the field of this application. (Up to 1,500 characters, approximately 200 words).)

My track record demonstrates advanced research expertise and professional capacity for the proposed team to steer a large-scale ARC project with a national focus. I have significant research outputs in the field of skateboarding and urban sports research. Indicators include:

- 1)one internationally and two nationally competitive fellowships on skateboarding research
- 2)Recently awarded grants and commercial research contracts totaling \$80,000, notable for a precarious scholar, based on sport-related gender-equity, anti-discrimination and diversity, equity and inclusion policy writing and program evaluation
 - project lead on 3 x grants on urban play in 2024 while an affiliate research fellow at The University of Sydney (\$20,000)
 - principal co-researcher on 2 x commercial research contracts in 2022-2024 as an adjunct fellow at Griffith University (\$60,000)
- 3)publications in quality and innovative journals and an H Index of 12 (comparative to senior lecturer level):
 - 1 co-authored book on skateboarding = (lead author)
 - 1 co-edited book on multiculturalism (1 on sport under contract)
 - 13 peer-reviewed journals (7 lead author) advancing skating and/or diversity studies
 - communicating sport research in numerous book chapters and non-academic publications
- 4)media profile: positioned as a world expert on skateboarding eg. estimated reach of 66.9 million through 29 stories on my research in 2024 alone (analysis by University of Sydney media office)

B14. Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) – Research Outputs Listing including 10 Career-Best Research Outputs

(Provide up to 10 career best research outputs and provide clear information regarding their research impact and excellence. Mark the research outputs that are most relevant to this project categorised under the following headings: Authored books; Edited books; Book chapters; Refereed Journal articles; Fully refereed conference proceedings; Additional research outputs (including non-traditional research outputs and preprints or comparable resources). CVs and theses should not be included in this list. Each text box allows up to 150 characters, approximately 20 words annotation per output.)

Research Outputs Listing

Generated research output document follows on the next page

Ten Career-Best Research Outputs

[1] * Willing, Indigo & Pappalardo, Anthony 2023, 'Skateboarding, Power and Change', Springer Nature Singapore, doi:10.1007/978-981-99-1234-6 (Authored Book)

Research Outputs Annotation Citations: 10 (Google Scholar). 9 (Dimensions). A sociological study of skateboarding (277 paperback copies sold, close to 1k online downloads).

[2] * Willing, Indigo, Bennett, Andy, Piispa, Mikko & Green, Ben 2018, 'Skateboarding and the 'Tired Generation': Ageing in Youth Cultures and Lifestyle Sports', *Sociology*, vol. 53, no. 3, pp. 503–518, doi:10.1177/0038038518776886 (Refereed Journal Article)

Research Outputs Annotation Citations: 55 (Google Scholar). 29 (Dimensions). Journal Impact Factor: 2.4
5-Year Impact Factor: 3.7. Contextualises masculine skate culture.

[3] * Willing, Indigo, Green, Ben & Pavlidis, Adele 2019, 'The 'boy scouts' and 'bad boys' of skateboarding: a thematic analysis of the bones brigade', *Sport in Society*, vol. 23, no. 5, pp. 832–846, doi:10.1080/17430437.2019.1580265 (Refereed Journal Article)

Research Outputs Annotation Citations: 33 (Google Scholar). 19 (Dimensions). Journal 1.5 (2023) Impact Factor
Q2 Impact Factor Best Quartile. Contextualises gender inequity.

[4] * Indigo Willing 2020, 'The Film Kids 25 Years On: A Qualitative Study of Rape Culture and Representations of Sexual Violence in Skateboarding', *YOUNG*, vol. 30, no. 2, pp. 149–164, doi:10.1177/1103308820966457 (Refereed Journal Article)

Research Outputs Annotation Citations: 11 (Google Scholar) 6 (Dimensions). Journal Impact Factor: 2.5
5-Year Impact Factor: 2.1. Contextualises gender inequity and rape culture.

[5] * Giamarino, Christopher, O'Connor, Paul & Willing, Indigo 2023, 'The impacts of hostile designs on skateboarding as a form of active transportation and recreation: comparing perspectives from public university spaces in Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States', *Cities & Health*, vol. 7, no. 3, pp. 416–432, doi:10.1080/23748834.2022.2158769 (Refereed Journal Article)

Research Outputs Annotation Citations: 10 (Google Scholar). 6 (Dimensions). Journal 5.7 (2023) CiteScore (Scopus)
Q1 CiteScore Best Quartile. New focus on campus-based urbanism.

[6] * O'Connor, Paul, Evers, Clifton, Glenney, Brian & Willing, Indigo 2022, 'Skateboarding in the Anthropocene: Grey spaces of polluted leisure', *Leisure Studies*, vol. 42, no. 6, pp. 897–907, doi:10.1080/02614367.2022.2153906 (Refereed Journal Article)

Research Outputs Annotation Citations: 21 (Google Scholar). 14 (Dimensions). Journal 2.3 (2023) Impact Factor
Q2 Impact Factor Best Quartile. Led to our 2025 Special Issue.

[7] * Willing, I., Bennett, A., Thorpe, H., & Green, B. (2023). Ageing in DIY and alternative cultures: Exploring forms of masculinity and adult play in Jackass forever. *DIY, Alternative Cultures & Society*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/27538702231221842> (Refereed Journal Article)

Research Outputs Annotation Citations: 2 (Google Scholar). 3 (Dimensions). Established 2023, this is the first academic journal on DIY (do-it-yourself) and alternative cultures.

[8] Willing, I.A.W. 2004, 'The adopted Vietnamese community: From fairy tales to the Diaspora', *Michigan Quarterly Review*, vol. 43, no. 4, pp. 648-664 (Refereed Journal Article)

Research Outputs Annotation Citations: 42 (Google Scholar). The Michigan Quarterly Review is the flagship literary journal of the University of Michigan. Auto-ethnographic study.

[9] Willing, I. & Fronek, P. 2012, 'Constructing Identities and Issues of Race in Transnational Adoption: The Experiences of Adoptive Parents', *British Journal of Social Work*, vol. 44, no. 5, pp. 1129–1146, doi:10.1093/bjsw/bcs171 (Refereed Journal Article)

Research Outputs Annotation Citations: 37 (Google Scholar). 17 (Dimensions). Journal Impact Factor of 1.8. ranked 19/91 in Social Work (Clarivate 2024). Diversity research.

[10] * Plage, Stefanie, Willing, Indigo, Woodward, Ian & Skrbiš, Zlatko 2016, 'Cosmopolitan encounters: reflexive engagements and the ethics of sharing', *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, vol. 40, no. 1, pp. 4–23, doi:10.1080/01419870.2016.1178788 (Refereed Journal Article)

Research Outputs Annotation Citations: 36 (Google Scholar). 24 (Dimensions). Journal 2.1 (2023) Impact Factor
Q1 Impact Factor Best Quartile. Key concepts used in skate research.

B16. Partner Investigator – upload a CV in no more than one A4 page

(Provide a CV of up to one A4 page relevant to the project noting that Partner Investigators are not required to complete Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) questions B10 to B14. The PDF should not include qualifications, current and previous appointment(s)/position(s), employment or career interruptions as this will be automatically populated from your profile at questions B2, B8 and B9.)

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Part C - Project Description (DPEI260101387)

C1. Project Description

(Upload a brief Project Description as Detailed in the Instructions to Applicants and in the required format (Up to 2 A4 pages).

Note – The answer to this question will not auto-populate into the full application.)

Uploaded PDF file follows on next page.

ART/SPORT/URBANISM: Activating Public Art to Create Space for More Healthy, Physically Active and Gender-Inclusive Cities

Project Quality and Innovation: ART/SPORT/URBANISM strategically intersects the diverse knowledges of contemporary public art, sociology, urban planning and urban sports to propose innovative solutions for advancing the health, safety and social inclusion of women and gender diverse individuals in the public sphere.

Public space and park usage for adolescents is markedly gendered, with boys dominating these spaces while girls' presence wanes. From age 10, activity levels drop significantly in girls, until by 13-15, only 8% of girls are meeting activity guidelines. This is reflected in the national research priority supporting healthy and thriving communities (Playwell, 2024), which shows 41% of Australian women are insufficiently physically active (ABS 2022).

ART/SPORT/URBANISM activates the transformative potential of research-driven public art to address the critical issue of gender-inclusion in our future cities.

Significant Problem: The UN New Urban Agenda (Habitat III 2016) recognises gender equality in urban development as crucial for creating liveable, equitable, and sustainable cities, and yet Australian cities face a critical challenge in gender inclusivity within public spaces. Women and girls encounter both physical and cultural barriers that limit their full participation in urban life (Kalms 2024, Miles 2021). Urban planning and design play a pivotal role in shaping our environment, which in turn profoundly influences how we live, work, play, move, and rest. Consequently, these processes are directly linked to the structures and behaviours that define our societies, often reflecting and reinforcing existing inequities.

Excluding women and gender diversity from urban activities perpetuates gender inequality cycles, limiting growth opportunities and undermining confidence (Paetcher et al 2023, Willing and Pappalardo 2023). Significant issues include women's underrepresentation in urban planning leadership, creating a multi-generational effect on future cities (Kalms 2024). Addressing these issues is essential for fostering inclusive urban spaces that benefit all members of society and break the cycle of inequality in urban environments.

Key Research Questions

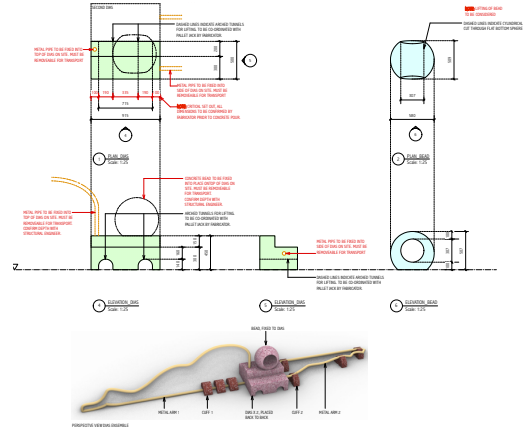
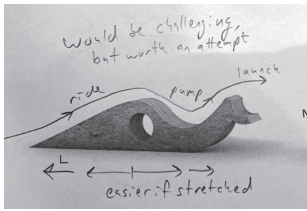
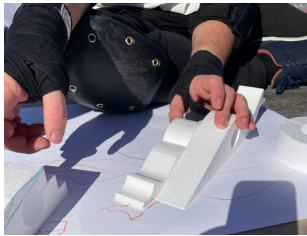
- 1. How can the intersection of public art, urban sports, and feminist co-design methodologies create transformative spaces that challenge gender-based exclusion in cities?*
- 2. How can the promotion of 'urban sport' (including roller, ball and strength based physical activities in cities) help communities understand the benefits of sport-integrated public art as an opportunity for gender inclusion and social cohesion?*
- 3. What unique methodologies can we develop to bring women and gender diversity into the centre of the urban design process, creating a critical framework and typology for gender-inclusive, sport-integrated public art?*

Methodology and Conceptual Framework: ART/SPORT/URBANISM tackles barriers to gender diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in urban spaces in two critical ways:

A) By developing and integrating an intersectional, feminist-focused, women-led codesign methods - developed with research-based design affordances that attract and include diverse user groups, in particular women and girls - into existing and emerging initiatives in urban planning.

B) By leveraging our teams' rich track record of evidence-based case studies, interdisciplinary symposia, and built works, these new interdisciplinary co-design methodologies will be observed and analysed directly in the public realm, to observe interactive, sports-integrated public art objects and urban infrastructure.

ART/SPORT/URBANISM, housed in the *Sydney Centre for Healthy Societies* (endorsed by Prof. Alex Broom) at the University of Sydney, leverages our team's highly specialised, diverse interdisciplinary expertise from sociology, sport research, public art, and urban design. Deploying feminist co-design methods (Zamenopoulos, Theodore and Alexiou, Katerina, 2018) the approach will include arts-led collaboration with women and other marginalised users of public space. The research will focus on roller sport, ball sport and strength-based sport (e.g., skating, basketball and gym-style activities) as case studies to establish a precedent for broader urban sports and leisure activities.



Co-design process case study with Mestrom, Willing, Odlum and Sydney-based skate community. 2024.

Key Activities

- * We will create an innovative methodology to produce and test a series of 6 full-scale playable artworks that can incorporate three forms of sport (e.g. roller sport, ball sport and strength-based sport). These case studies will be tested in places where there is a desire to undertake multi-use activities for mobility and movement (street train station, plaza, park). The fabrication of these elements will be funded from other sources.
- * We will develop an impact assessment and post occupancy/installation evaluation to analyse the efficacy of the interventions and co-design activities and to establish a comprehensive typology for gender-inclusive urban design.
- * Our findings will be collated to produce a national framework, policy and/or program to be adopted by councils and sport facilities, guiding them on how to include playable public art into all new urban infrastructure projects and large facilities (e.g. from new plazas to sport stadiums).
- * We will document the methodologies and co-designing process and analyse qualitative interviews to produce a 'diversity, equity and inclusion' indexing method so that future projects intending to incorporate playable public art are able to socially as well as physically transform access and usage of Australia's public spaces and cities.

Anticipated New Knowledge: ART/SPORT/URBANISM examines barriers to women and diverse gender participation in the public sphere, addressing them with new methods combining the distinctive tools of public art, urban sports, and gender-sensitive design. The research builds on the knowledge developed through Dr. Mestrom's *DE22 'ART/PLAY/RISK'*, combined with Prof. Kalms publication '*She City: Designing Out Women's Inequity in Cities*' and Dr. Willings national initiative '*Skate, Create, Educate and Regenerate*' to generate new, innovative methodologies for feminist co-design for the public realm. By reframing perceptions of urban sports and their potential for fostering social cohesion, ART/SPORT/URBANISM will provide new knowledge, practical strategies and theoretical frameworks for creating transformative urban environments that challenge gender-based exclusion and promote equitable participation in city life.

Economic, Environmental, Social and/or Cultural Benefits to Australia: 41% of Australian Women are insufficiently physically active (ABS 2022), and recent national policy means that government, councils and communities need to have community sport gender equitable access and use policies in place to be considered eligible to receive sport and recreation infrastructure funding. ART/SPORT/URBANISM will put the policies that are now mandated into action, thereby building a bridge between policy and sport -- using the socially-cohesive tools of public art and co-design - to enact this in a gender equitable way.

The assessment tools and indexes produced in this project will put these policies into action in ways that recognise the specificities of their local context. This directly addresses National Research Priority, Supporting Healthy and Thriving Communities, specifically the goal to 'understand the diverse and unique social and environment drivers of health and wellbeing in Australian communities.'

References: Bäckström and Nairn (2018), Skateboarding beyond the limits of gender? Strategic interventions in Sweden. *Leisure Studies*, 37 (4), 424--439. Broom, Tranter, Ragen, & Engelen (2013), Everyday uncertainties: reframing perceptions of risk in outdoor free play. *Journal of Adventure Education and Outdoor Learning*, 13 (3), 223--237. Habitat III (2017), New Urban Agenda, *United Nations*. Kalms (2024) *She City, Designing Out Women's Inequity in Cities*. Mestrom and Odlum (2023) *Play Beyond Playgrounds* Symposium Report, *Art/Play/Risk* University of Sydney. Miles (2021), *Gender, Safety and Public Space: From Representation to Co-Creation*. Paechter, Stoodley, Keenan, Lawton (2023) What's it like to be a girl skateboarder? Identity, participation and exclusion for young women in skateboarding spaces and communities. *Women Studies International Forum*. 96. Willing and Pappalardo (2024) *Skateboarding, Power and Change*, Palgrave Macmillan. Zamenopoulos, Theodore and Alexiou, Katerina (2018), *Co-design As Collaborative Research*. Connected Communities Foundation Series. Bristol: Bristol University.

Certification

Certification by the Deputy/Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) or their delegate or equivalent in the Administering Organisation

I certify that—

- I have read, understood, and complied with the *Discovery Program Grant Guidelines (2024 edition): Discovery Projects* (Grant Guidelines) and, to the best of my knowledge all details provided in this Expression of Interest application form and in any supporting documentation are true and complete in accordance with these Grant Guidelines.
- Proper enquiries have been made and I am satisfied that the participants and the organisations listed in this Expression of Interest application meet the requirements specified in the Grant Guidelines.
- I will notify the ARC if there are changes to any named participant or organisation after the submission of this Expression of Interest application.
- The listed participants are responsible for the authorship and intellectual content of this Expression of Interest application and have appropriately cited sources and acknowledged significant contributions to this Expression of Interest application.
- To the best of my knowledge, all material personal and financial interests and Conflicts of Interest relating to parties involved in or associated with this Expression of Interest application are disclosed to this Administering Organisation, and, if the Expression of Interest application is successful, I agree to manage all Conflicts of Interest relating to this Expression of Interest application in accordance with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2018), and the ARC Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy located on the ARC website and any relevant successor documents.
- I have ensured that any additional certification requirements, applied by the ARC as a result of findings of breaches of the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2018), are provided at the grant opportunity closing date for any named participant on an application.
- The application, including all parties involved in or associated with this Expression of Interest application, has undergone due diligence to assess risks from foreign interference in line with the Guidelines to Counter Foreign Interference in the Australian University Sector (2019) developed by the University Foreign Interference Taskforce.
- I consent, or where necessary, I have obtained the necessary consent(s) concerning all the parties, to this Expression of Interest application being referred to third parties, who will remain anonymous, for assessment purposes.
- I consent, or where necessary, I have obtained the necessary consent(s) concerning all the parties, to the ARC copying, modifying and otherwise dealing with information contained in this Expression of Interest application.
- I acknowledge, or where necessary have informed all the parties, that information from this application may be provided to other Commonwealth agencies to seek advice on national security or other matters.
- To the best of my knowledge, the Privacy Notice appearing at the top of this form was drawn to the attention of all the participants whose personal details are provided in the Participant section of the Expression of Interest application.

Note - Certification from the DVCR or Delegate will not auto-populate into the full application.