

ABOUT THE SPRINGS ART GALLERY (SAG)

The Springs Art Gallery is the only civic gallery in the City of Ekurhuleni. SAG has a wonderful 80sq-m exhibition space through which it offers two types of exhibitions: internal and external. The gallery showcases emerging artists, alongside national established artists that work in all art mediums. We especially welcome proposals from members of marginalised communities in South Africa, whose voices are often ignored in traditional arts establishments. We want to provide them with a space to share their message and help transform the City of Ekurhuleni, and Springs into a more inclusive and welcoming destination.

OPEN CALL FOR ART EXHIBITIONS IN 2026/ 2027

The Springs Art Gallery is pleased to invite proposals for our 2026-2027 EXTERNAL EXHIBITION PROGRAMME.

EXTERNAL EXHIBITION programme are those that are organised by the artists themselves. Artists book the gallery space for limited period and cover costs of running the exhibition. The Gallery accepts submissions for curatorial projects and exhibitions by emerging and established artists in all media. We're welcoming application proposals for the use of gallery space, for a minimum of 1 month and maximum of 3 months, to be held between June 2026 - May 2027 (Exhibition dates to be adjusted later).

Through this exhibitions programme, SAG aims to educate, inspire, and foster diverse ideas while embracing innovative, contemporary approaches to the visual arts.

SAG have built a reputation for giving fresh talent real opportunities, and this open call exhibition programme offers the following:

- Free space - Exhibition venue
- Technical and professional installations support
- Administrative support
- Marketing and PR strategy for the duration of the exhibition
- Networking opportunities.
- We assist artists with creative development strategy
- Artistic professional practice guidance
- Liability coverage/ insurance provision to cover artworks for the duration of the exhibition.

Tasks & Responsibilities of Successful Applicants (Artist, Curators, Artist Groups and Representative):

- Produce marketing and promotional materials (invitations, posters, catalogue, etc.)
- Provides or organises refreshments for the opening function
- Frame the artworks
- graphic processing and printing of accompanying exhibition materials (vinyl cut lettering)
- Participate in the exhibition installation and opening reception
- Transport for artwork to and from the gallery.

- All other expenses (travel, accommodation, meals, etc.) must be covered by the participants themselves
- All successful applicants must enter into an exhibition contract with SAG prior to commencing.

Who Can Apply?

- Submission is open to emerging, mid-career and established artists working in any medium.
- Art historians, curators and other visual arts experts.

What We Are Looking For?

Art that reflects and examines our community and the vast world beyond; that presents new ideas & thought-provoking concepts; celebrates, deconstructs & recontextualizes traditional art forms & subjects; all while encouraging creativity and diversity.

We encourage the proposal of good project ideas rather than finalized projects. The selection criteria are open to proposals of works that are still in development.

Sales of Work:

Artists are welcome to sell work exhibited as part of the Window Exhibition Series. SAG does not charge the artist any commission or take a commission on any works sold. Artists retain full control over pricing, and all sales arrangements will be handled by artists themselves or their representatives.

To Apply:

Email: sag@ekurhuleni.gov.za with all materials for your application contained in a single PDF file (max 5MB) titled:

Your Name: “SAG External Exhibition Proposal”

Your submission must include:

1. Uploaded/ Completed application form
2. Project Concept: Theme or curatorial statement (Max 2 pages) introducing your artistic concept related to your proposal (Finished or unrealised)
3. Artist Statement: Description of your practice and goals (Max 1 page).
4. Artist Biography (Bio): Brief history, education, and relevant accomplishments (Max 1 page).
5. Work Samples: 10 images of recent work (Title, Year, Medium, Dimensions, Price).
6. CV: An up-to-date CV (Max 1 page) of previous shows.

All submissions will be reviewed by a selection panel, and the curators' selection is final.

The submission process will open from January 5 - March 16, 2026

Applicants will be notified of the outcome by end-March 2026.

Late proposals will not be considered and be disqualified immediately.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

For general guidance please contact: Nkosinathi.Gumede@ekurhuleni.gov.za

We look forward to receiving your applications!