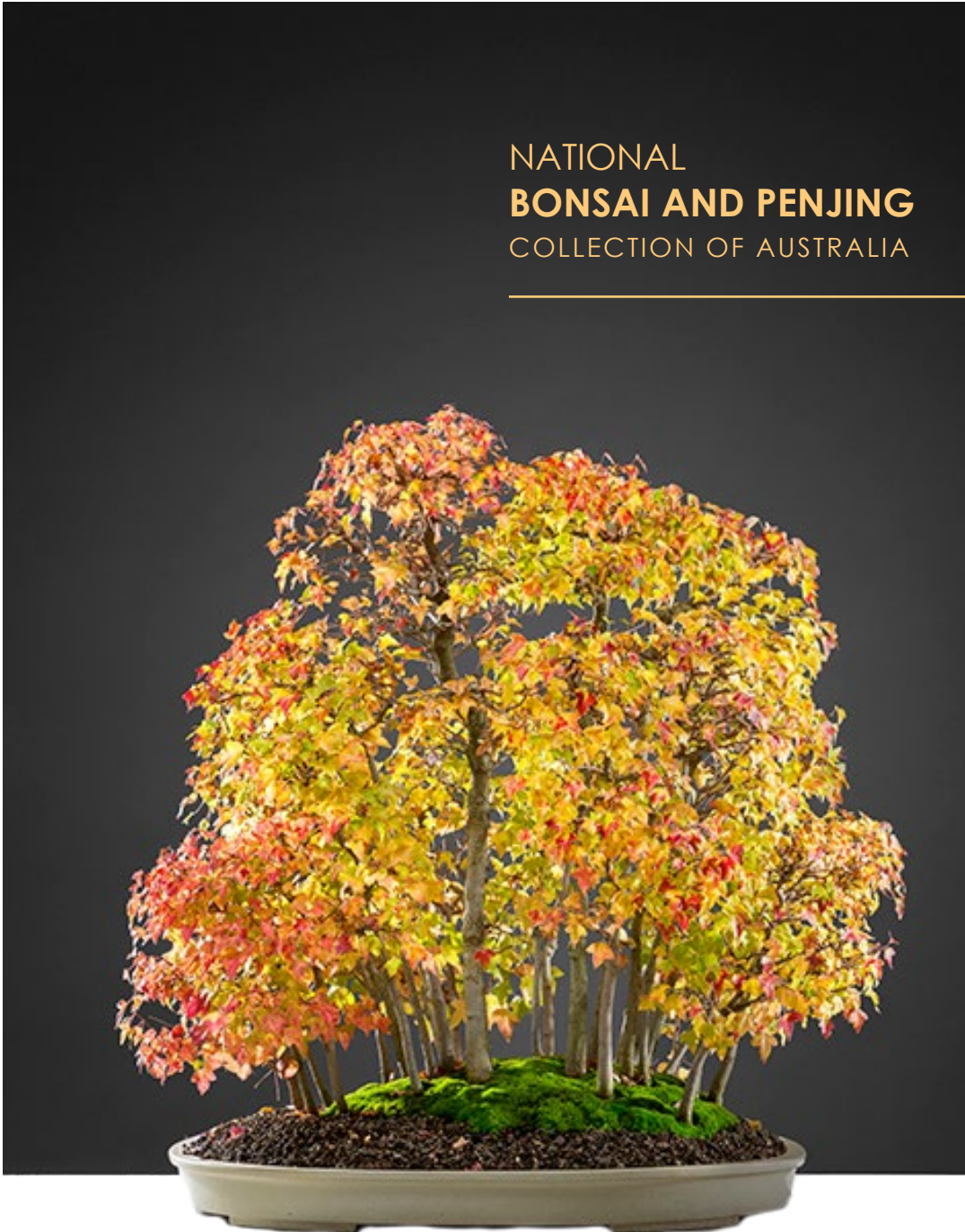


# ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM

2026 - 2028

NATIONAL  
**BONSAI AND PENJING**  
COLLECTION OF AUSTRALIA



The National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia (NBPCA), located at the National Arboretum Canberra invites the Australian bonsai community to apply for our Artist in Residence program. The NBPCA aims to engage and support Australian bonsai artists to collaborate and learn together, supported by the Bonsai Trust Fund.

## WHAT WE OFFER

This 3-5 day program offers the opportunity for Australian resident bonsai artists to be inspired by a new environment and to exchange techniques and ideas with the NBPCA curators and volunteers.

The program enables artists to establish personal connections, share their knowledge and experience through leading public workshops and/or presentations, whilst gaining exposure to the maintenance of the NBPCA.

The purpose of the Artist in Residence program is to provide a space for an exchange of ideas and mutual learning of bonsai. Other key benefits include engaging with the Australian bonsai community, increasing the opportunity to learn and share, and raising the national profile of the NBPCA and Australian artists.

This Artist in Residence program is an annual program, with a position available in spring and autumn of each year. The NBPCA is looking for expression of interest applicants to fill the program over the next few years.

## WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

Successful applicants for the program will be expected to share their bonsai knowledge in a collaborative fashion with NBPCA staff, volunteers and members of the public.

The artist will effectively demonstrate their bonsai techniques on raw material within the Collection.

The artist must be willing to conduct a public workshop/talk or presentation for the NBPCA volunteers and/or the local bonsai community. This may include delivering tutorials, demonstrations, masterclasses, discussion forums, or other events proposed for the purpose of an exchange of information.

The artist will be working in a public collection and is expected to be courteous and friendly to all public and corporate visitors.

The artist agrees to being involved in marketing and promotion of the Artist in Residence program locally, nationally and internationally. This includes undertaking media opportunities that may include mainstream media interviews, stories, photographs and social media accounts.

The intent of this program is to offer a proficient bonsai artist the opportunity to exchange knowledge and skills within a national bonsai collection and to showcase the artist's skills to the general public.

An article or artists testimonial may be developed in consultation between the NBPCA and the artist to further promote the program in future.

### Two Positions

Annually (autumn & spring) artist in residence positions will be offered space within the NBPCA maintenance area to work on raw material provided by NBPCA staff.

### Allowance

In addition to the nominal artist daily fee, a basic daily stipend will be provided to cover some of your meals and local transport within Canberra if required.

### Daily Paid Fee

A nominal artist daily paid fee is provided, (covering optional paid accommodation).

### Accommodation

As part of your nominal artist fee, accommodation is offered through a local billet, or alternatively hosted at a 3-star local hotel as arranged by the National Arboretum Canberra.

### Transport

Courtesy local transport (arrival and departure) within Canberra may be pre-organised to and from the airport, bus station or train station. Further terms & conditions on page 5.



### ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

National Bonsai & Penjing Collection of Australia

[nationalarboretum.act.gov.au](http://nationalarboretum.act.gov.au)



**ACT**  
Government



**NATIONAL  
ARBORETUM  
CANBERRA**

# APPLICATION FORM

## YOUR DETAILS

Date		Title	
Name		Surname	
Email		Mobile	
Address			

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Please share your social media accounts with us. We use social media to communicate our stories with the global bonsai community. If you do not have a social media account, this will not affect your overall application.

Facebook	
Instagram	
Website	
Other	
Business*	

\*If your business is bonsai related.

## PHOTOS

Please attach up to five low resolution photos of your bonsai and/or penjing trees.

## FINANCES

What expenses do you require covered? Please give a breakdown of expenses.




## TELL US MORE - SELECTION CRITERIA

What skills can you bring to the NBPCA and how can you contribute to the bonsai community during your residency?

What do you hope to gain from an Artist in Residence program at the NBPCA?



Tell us more about your bonsai and/or penjing journey. E.g. How did you start your bonsai journey? Who have you studied with? What inspires you?

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The artist must be a legal Australian resident and may update their entries each year.
2. The program is open to all Australian bonsai artists.
3. Artist applications will be judged by (NBPCA) Collection Advisory Committee consisting of independent national bonsai artists; in addition to National Arboretum Canberra staff.
4. Judging criteria will be assessed and weighted on:
  - Artist bonsai skills and what they can contribute to the local bonsai community,
  - Artist bonsai photos (skill and artistic vision)
  - What the artist hopes to gain from this residency
  - The artist's personal journey and what inspires them
5. By accepting the Artist in Residence role, you give permission for your bonsai photo/s to be used and your social media accounts tagged.
6. Post artist in residency the bonsai tree/s remain the physical and intellectual property of NBPCA, National Arboretum Canberra.
7. The artist must abide by ACT Government law, protocols and instructions. The artist agrees to follow all ACT Government WHS, privacy, risk, and media policy requirements
8. In alignment with the NBPCA brand the artist agrees to effectively communicate, including providing a high level of customer service to the public and with staff. This includes delivering at least one- two public workshops, talks or presentations during their residency. The artist will submit to NBPCA a written report or article post artist-in-residency for potential public distribution. The artist in resident agrees to provide an Artist in Residence testimonial.
9. The artist agrees to work 9am to 4pm daily with the NBPCA staff, including but not limited to presenting after-hour workshops, presentations, etc.
10. The Artist in Residence agrees to abide by all on site worker inductions at NBPCA.
11. The artist will sign an ACT Government legal contract with full terms and conditions before commencing the Artist in Residence program.
12. All artist in residency applications will be assessed for current and future artist in residency annual programs, with individual applications and contact details held on file for up to five years.
13. Artists are responsible for arranging, funding their travel to Canberra including travel insurance.
14. Artists will not dispute the final decision made by the judging panel.

## KEY DATES

- Expressions of interest open date: **30/03/2026**
- Expressions of interest close date: **30/06/2026**
- Artist in Residence decisions advised by: **31/07/2026**
- The program's first residency dates begin from **September 2026**.

## TO APPLY

To apply please email this completed form and any attachments (with subject heading 'Artist in Residence Program') to:

[Leigh.Taafe@act.gov.au](mailto:Leigh.Taafe@act.gov.au)

