The Performance Arcade announces its open call to artists from New Zealand and around the world for its 2015 programme of works. This annual exhibition and programme of events located on Wellington Waterfront has become recognized as an important platform for live art, with five successful presentations over the past four years. A line of shipping containers creates a series of spaces for installation, performance art, sonic art, interactive media, forums and live music. Opening onto the bustling life of the waterfront, these sites of encounter engage the public in contemporary art and performance practices outside the familiar constraints of gallery or theatre spaces.

The Performance Arcade 2015 is also proud to be affiliated with International Programme Sponsors Bolton Hotel, and supported with Creative New Zealand funding. A new development is a partnership with 30 Upstairs Gallery (Wellington) that provides an exhibition opportunity for artists in the lead-up to The Performance Arcade 2015. This includes a Performance Series exhibition for selected works in November 2014.

Proposals are invited for The Performance Arcade 2015:

(1) **The Container Series**: shipping container-situated installations / performances
(2) **The City Series**: a programme of performance events / installations occurring along the Wellington Waterfront, or extending into the nearby city.
(3) **The Stagespace**: a sheltered outdoor stage behind the Arcade, with a bar, seating, lights and sound system. Ideal for live music, culinary art, and other performances.
(4) **The Audio-Visual Series**: curated by Jacqui Wilson and Johann Nortje, this programme of moving image and sound works will be installed on screens and projection surfaces around the Arcade architecture.
(5) The Arcade also welcomes proposals for new initiatives and concepts that may not fit the above. We encourage proposals that radicalise the event or add new programmes or features.

**PROPOSALS ARE DUE ON 1 AUGUST 2014 AT 5PM.**

See the following pages for:
- Our Manifesto
- Information on making work for specific programmes
- General Specifications
- Proposal Guidelines
Manifesto For A Performance Community

**OUR PEOPLE – THE COMMUNITY**

*We are a community between* – we are artists, makers, producers, and collaborators, engaging in a series of practices located somewhere between the performing and visual arts. We are the people who do not belong in the black box of the theatre or the white cube of the gallery. The place of our work is *outside*. We are a community of *outsiders*.  

*We are active citizens of this community* – We are instigators, agitators, leaders, and facilitators. We are the makers and collaborators in the formation of new experiences and new cultural values.  

*We value ourselves, our work, and our people* – we look after and support one another, developing a professional and empowered community of Live Art practitioners.  

*We are inclusive and celebrate diversity* – we support Live Art practitioners from diverse creative, disciplinary and cultural backgrounds, with varied levels of experience, providing opportunities whereby common ground may be found for collaboration and invention.  

*We are agents of international exchange* – we are committed to developing and promoting international capacity for NZ Live Art and its practitioners through networking, international presentation, and career support.

**OUR PEOPLE – THE PUBLIC**

*We are an integral part of a wider community* – wherever a Live Art event takes place, the whole community is implicated. We aim to develop and educate audiences on Live Art practices through highly visible and well-executed events, presentations, and publications, developing co-creative and supportive audiences and communities for Live Art production.  

*We provide opportunities for audiences* – growing new audiences for Live Art and other experimental art forms by providing opportunities for art engagement that are free or at subsidised prices.  

*We communicate with our audience* – disseminating and promoting Live Art practices.

**OUR PRACTICE – A VISION FOR LIVE ART**

*Live Art is experimental* – continuously examining and promoting new modes of presentation for the performing and visual arts. Our practice develops a culture of experimentation for both audiences and artists, where new approaches can be tested and new audiences attracted to Live Art.  

*Live Art is challenging* – it embraces risk, experimentation, challenge, and failure.  

*Live Art is political* – to work with an implicated audience, or to implicate your audience and make them a ‘participant’, is a political act. Thus live art is by its very nature is activism. To be a live artist is to be political.  

*Live Art is not commercial* – its goals are not to generate profit or to mitigate financial risk. Therefore, the money must be separated from the art form: Live Art must be *supported* through funding and financial or in-kind support, but never *shaped* by it.  

*Live Art is mindful* – promoting considered practices that are spatially, temporally, and socially activating. Without becoming prescriptive, it considers its impact and its responsibility. The active nature of its practice is coupled with reflective practice, turning the gaze both outward and inward.

**OUR PLACE – THE PERFORMANCE ARCADE**

*The Performance Arcade is the place where our community gathers* – it is the heart, the home – our *marae*. It is where we tell our stories, and where we create new ones. It is where we prepare for battle, and where we seek refuge. It is a safe place, created through bonds of trust, in which we can take risks and ensure the continued vitality of our practice.  

*The Performance Arcade is an open laboratory* – a platform for the application of a radical and visionary philosophy for NZ Live Arts practice. Although the Arcade community does not claim to represent the entirety of Live Art in NZ, it presents the Arcade as an exemplar of this ever-evolving movement.  

*The Performance Arcade is like a migration* – the community treks together through valleys and over mountains, labouring through loneliness and threat of exposure, experiencing moments of wonder and triumph. The travellers must be prepared for this journey, pack the necessary items, and look out for everyone in the party. The destination is always unknown – it is the heart and vision of the party that drives it ever forward.
Container Works: specifications

HOURS: The Arcade will be open from 10am – 11pm, for five days in February 2015. It is expected that container installations must remain open or active throughout this time.

SECURITY: Containers will need to be made secure overnight. Individual works can continue to perform overnight, but this will require the artist to provide the required security and safety measures. The Arcade will have overnight security for supervision of the whole Arcade environment.

MODIFICATIONS: Proposals can specify containers with open-sides, alterations, or doors on both ends. Containers can also have holes drilled in them or modifications made. However, extra costs associated with sourcing specific containers and repairing any modifications will need to be covered by the artist. Engineering and consent costs apply if an artist plans to stack containers or put them on their end etc.

CONTAINERS: The standard dimensions of a single shipping container are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Interior Width: 2352 mm</th>
<th>Exterior Width: 2440 mm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Height:</td>
<td>2395 mm</td>
<td>2600 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length:</td>
<td>5898 mm</td>
<td>6058 mm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The City Series: specifications

This programme extends the Arcade from the shipping containers, inviting a range of submissions that do not require the space of a shipping container. This typically involves shorter performances, interventions in the waterfront or city environment, mobile performance works, networks, social sculpture, and ‘hacking’ or occupying urban systems to produce new experiences.

The STAGESPACE: specifications

The Stage Space is located behind The Arcade in a sheltered area for evening events, live music, performances and special programmes. There is a sheltered stage made from an open-sided shipping container and the surrounding landscape offers other staging / performance opportunities. This space includes facilities for sound, lighting and data-projection.

This space will host a range of events and programmes specific to various time-slots, themes, or approaches to performance. We are interested in hearing from you if you have works for one of the following series, or a ‘stand alone’ concept that might suit our programme: culinary performance, film, performance art, or live music.

The AV SERIES: specifications

This programme aims to install screen-based works in the Arcade architecture and waterfront environment to present a programme of digital media throughout the duration of the Arcade. Submissions must consider the scale, the public, and their relation to space. Please submit in terms of links to Vimeo, Youtube, or WeTransfer sites where the samples of the work can be viewed online.
General Specifications

1 PROPOSALS: Participants are welcome to propose new concepts, or the development and representation of existing works.

2 INFRASTRUCTURE: The Playground NZ provides ‘umbrella’ management and resources for the selected works. This support consists of container hire and delivery, exterior architecture, signage, security, curation, marketing, personnel, some shared materials and other site-related organisation. Creation and management of the individual works are the responsibility of each artist. This involves sourcing equipment, expertise, and labour for the realisation of each proposed work as well as maintaining and supervising it over the course of the Arcade.

3 FINANCIAL: It is expected that Artists will cover the costs of their individual projects by using their own resources, securing sponsorship, or by applying to funding bodies. If you are selected for The Performance Arcade then we are happy help you with this process by reviewing your funding applications and providing letters of support. Please note that only NZ residents may apply for Creative New Zealand funding and Wellington City Council funding, and there are certain prescriptions about who may be eligible.

4 SUPPORT: A small amount of CNZ Seed Funding is available to distribute among the selected NZ works. For artists coming from overseas, we will provide accommodation for the duration of The Performance Arcade, courtesy of our International Programme Sponsors Bolton Hotel.

5 PROCESS: A series of meetings, workshops and presentation opportunities will run from late 2014 until the week of installing and opening the Arcade. These are held to develop the curatorial vision and Arcade community, enabling support as well as engagement between Arcade artists and works.

6 EXPECTATIONS: It is a condition of inclusion in The Performance Arcade 2015 that selected artists attend all programmed workshops and meetings, are available to set-up their work from Feb 16-18, and can attend the Arcade from Feb 18-22.

7 EVENTS: We will schedule a programme of events that may involve other contributions from Arcade artists. These events help develop discussions with the public and between artists on the work being made and the implications of this presentation format.

8 INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS: With the logistics and expenses involved in bringing a work from overseas we welcome early submissions and enquiries from artists outside NZ.

9 DATES:

6 June 2014: Proposal Process Opens
1 August 2014: PROPOSALS DUE
14 August 2014: Results Announced
31 August 2014: WCC Creative Communities Grant applications due
(tbc) October: The Spring Board fund raising event at Bolton Hotel
31 October 2014: CNZ Quick Response Grant applications due
27 November - 11 December 2014: The Performance Series at 30 Upstairs Gallery
26 February – March 3 2015: The Performance Arcade 2014 in Wellington City
Proposal Guidelines

Please provide the following information in your proposal

1. Name/s
2. Name of proposed work
3. State clearly if you are applying for the Container Series, Waterfront Series, The StageSpace, or proposing a new programme
4. Would you like to be considered for Seed Funding? (Yes/No)
5. Contact Phone
6. Email address
7. Personnel Involved: Please include bios for your team
8. Synopsis of proposed work (500 words )
9. A detailed budget that specifies how you will resource the project. Provide commentary if necessary.
10. A technical inventory (all electrical devices and accessories)
11. Plan and section drawings or diagrams of the proposed inhabitation of your container, and/or other images of how the work will be realised.
12. Additional material to support your proposal, which can include video, audio, atmospheric imagery, details of kinetic elements, technical setup or other specific features.
13. A short statement on how your project and expertise might contribute to the overall success of the Performance Arcade.
14. Other notes of interest: please let us know if there is anything else you would like to contribute in addition to the proposed work.

Applications are due by 5.00pm 1 August 2014

Please email your applications to: theplaygroundnz@gmail.com
OR by post/delivery (3 copies) to: The Playground NZ, 14E, 163 The Terrace, Wellington 6011, NZ.

For any queries contact: theplaygroundnz@gmail.com / +64(0)210653992
http://theplaygroundnz.com

Selection Criteria

- Strength of concept
- The level of detail to the design/installation/performance proposal
- A clear budget with a realistic resourcing plan
- Overall feasibility of proposal
- Contribution to the philosophy of the Arcade (see Manifesto)

The Performance Arcade is curated by artistic director and designer Sam Trubridge, working with a selection panel comprised of NZ artists, producers, and curators. This panel will be announced Mid-August with the results of the selection process.