



Call for proposals for the New Platform Papers

Closes: **December 6, 2021.**

The Covid-19 pandemic has been challenging for the arts on every front. Currency House is responding to the climate of rapid change with a new flexible, publishing program that pays authors at the Australian Society of Authors recommended rate **\$14,250** (ex. GST) for an essay of 15,000 words. Two long essays will be published per year in March and July. The call for proposals for the July issue of the New Platform Papers is out now.

Platform Papers essays have been published quarterly since 2004. The final issue of the original series, *On the Lessons of History*, by our founder Katharine Brisbane, was published in March this year. **The New Platform Papers** will publish writing of different kinds in a range of formats across the year, but the long essay of 15,000 words remains at its core.

Our authors are artists and creative practitioners who write about the work they do and how it contributes to Australia's social and political life. Proposals give a brief outline of an idea for a long essay which the chosen author will have four months to write with the support of an editor from Currency House.

The long essays will each come out in two editions: an e-edition during the year, and a collected volume in hard copy in December. The e-publications will be known as the Green Papers Edition. A Green Paper is a discussion paper presented by a minister before an important debate in Parliament. This edition will give the authors of the New Platform Papers an opportunity to open up public conversation around their essays that adds to our social stock of ideas and addresses the burning questions in the arts, culture and the world beyond. At the end of the year, they may revise their essays or add a post-script to take into account the results of their discussions or changing world events before it goes into hard copy.

We will also be publishing a third, open format issue of the New Platform Papers, edited by the convenor of a new annual convention of Platform Papers authors – old, new and prospective. The convenor will be a leading practitioner in the creative arts and the convention will be held in July each year. The resulting issue will be published in the hard copy collected volume alongside the two long essays in December.

The inaugural convention was convened this year by the new Director of Currency House, Katharine Brisbane's daughter, Harriet Parsons. The first volume of the New Platform Papers, *What Future for the Arts in a post-Pandemic World?* will contain two issues: the essays from the 2021 convention, *Imagination, the Arts and Economics*, and the final issue of the original series, no. 63, *On the Lessons of History*. The volume will be in bookshops on December 1.

Guidelines for Authors

The New Platform Papers

Aims and scope

The New Platform Papers continues the aspiration of the original series of Platform Papers, to encourage the growth of Australian civil society through the publication of an industry journal that addresses current issues in the performing arts and public affairs, from the point of view of arts practitioners and in the language of the general reader.

Call for Proposals

There will be two calls for proposals per year in November and June. Papers are 14-16,000 words in length. The New Platform Papers will be published in March, July and December, with the third and last issue providing a record of an annual Authors' Convention in July. Issues will be published individually during the year in e-edition, and the three *Papers* will be published in hard copy in a single volume in December.

Payment

The pandemic of 2020 and its continuing spread has been particularly challenging, economically for arts workers and academia. In resuming our activities in 2021, the Board of Currency House has resolved to adopt the Australian Society of Authors' standard rate of 95c per word (excl. gst). Payment will take the form of a flat fee of \$14,250 for an essay of approximately 15,000 words published in The New Platform Papers.

Selection criteria

The editorial committee welcomes submissions from veterans of the performing arts, as well as newer practitioners and practitioner-researchers, that increase the reach and authority of the series and will expand the range of experience reflected in its essays. **Proposed Papers should be wholly original works, written specifically for the series, neither pre-existing nor intended for future re-publication.**

Essays are selected on the originality of the author's proposal, the urgency or critical importance of the subject to the sector, and its potential to lead to positive change.

Instructions for Proposals

Prospective authors are free to write on any subject that relates to the performing arts in practice, but the structure of the essay must address the following four areas in order:

1. define a problem or situation
2. give the background to its history
3. explore its causes and
4. show a new way forward

Proposals should be no more than two A4 pages, 1.5 line spaced, 12 pt font, and include the following information:

- A proposed title
- A description or outline, including initial thoughts for the structure of the Paper
- The problem or situation in the arts and cultural sector that the Paper seeks to address
- An assessment of how broadly or urgently the issue impacts on the arts and cultural sector and whether it is specific to Australia or a global issue.
- A description of what approaches have been taken in relation to this issue in the past and what new directions will be explored in the Paper
- The author's expectations for further development of this idea following publication and how it could expand the conversation, and create an effective point of leverage for positive change.
- A proposed timeframe.

All Paper proposals will be considered by the editorial committee at the appropriate time of year.

Enquiries and proposals should be sent to info@currencyhouse.org

Authors will be contacted after a decision has been made about their proposal.

Closing date for proposals: 6 December 2021

Publication for the next Paper: July 2022

To download another copy of this call and the guidelines, go to the website of our distributors, Currency Press, <https://www.currency.com.au/> and click on **'Currency House Call Out'** in the main menu.