



# **ARTWORK BRIEF: PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITY**

**NEIL DAVIS SEAT ARTWORK COMMISSION**



## 1. INTRODUCTION

Sorell Council invites expressions of interest from artists, designers, or craft practitioners for the creation of a public artwork dedicated to Neil Davis. The commission aims to celebrate and honour Davis's legacy through an integrated public seat artwork within the local community space. This project seeks to contribute to the public realm by offering a practical, engaging, and enduring tribute to Davis's contributions.

## 2. BACKGROUND

Neil Davis, an esteemed war correspondent and cameraman, was born in Sorell, Tasmania. His courage and dedication to capturing pivotal historical moments have left a lasting mark on the field of journalism.

NEIL DAVIS: 1934-1985

*"One crowded hour of glorious life is worth an age without a name."*

Neil, "the fox" to those who knew him, gained legendary status during his career.

Davis grew up in Sorell and went to the Sorell School.

He was recognised for his work as a photojournalist during the Vietnam War and other conflicts in the region. He was driven by a desire to get the best film he could and was well known for his neutrality.

He was the only cameraman to get the now famous footage of the North Vietnamese tank breaking down the gates of the Presidential Palace, Saigon in 1975.

Davis was severely wounded on several occasions, once almost losing his leg.

In 1978 he was briefly imprisoned in Syria accused of spying for Israel.

Neil Davis died instantly in 1985 while filming a minor coup in Bangkok Thailand. His camera fell to the ground still running.

He inspired a generation of foreign correspondents and was inducted into the media Hall of Fame in Melbourne in 1986.

This public artwork will serve as a lasting acknowledgment of his contributions, inviting the community and visitors to reflect on his work and its impact.

## 3. OBJECTIVES

- To create a visually compelling and meaningful artwork that honours Neil Davis's legacy.
- To enhance the local public space by providing an aesthetically engaging and functional seating element.
- To integrate the artwork seamlessly into the surrounding environment while ensuring its relevance to the local community.
- To encourage contemplation, reflection, and engagement with Davis's life and work.

#### **4. COMMISSION THEMATIC**

The artwork should draw inspiration from:

- The life and work of Neil Davis, including his documentation of wartime events.
- Themes of storytelling, journalism, and historical reflection.
- Connection to the Sorell community and its heritage.

#### **5. LOCATION & SCOPE**

The seating artwork will be installed in a designated public space within Sorell, ensuring visibility, accessibility, and relevance to the local context. The artist will work collaboratively with Council representatives to determine the final siting and integration of the artwork.

#### **6. BUDGET ALLOCATION**

The total budget for the commission is **\$10,000 (ex. GST)\***, which must cover all costs, including:

- Artist fees
- Materials and fabrication
- Engineering certification (if required)
- Transport and installation
- Insurance and maintenance planning

\*There is some scope for negotiation of the total budget in consultation with the successful artist.

#### **7. MATERIALS & DURABILITY**

- The artwork should be constructed using durable, weather-resistant materials suitable for long-term public display.
- Consideration should be given to maintenance, vandalism resistance, and public safety.
- The artwork should be designed to last a minimum of 15 years with minimal upkeep.

#### **8. SELECTION PROCESS & TIMELINE**

The selection process will be conducted in two stages:

- **Stage 1 – Expressions of Interest (EOI):** Artists submit a brief statement of approach, examples of past work, and qualifications. Shortlisted artists will be invited to develop a concept proposal.
- **Stage 2 – Concept Design & Commissioning:** Shortlisted artists will receive a design fee to further develop their proposal. The final selection will be based on artistic merit, feasibility, and alignment with project objectives.

**Indicative Timeline:**

- Call for EOIs close: **6 June 2025**
- Shortlisting & Concept Development: **end June 2025**
- Final Selection & Commissioning: **early July 2025**
- Fabrication & Installation: **July – September 2025**

## **9. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Interested artists are required to submit:

- A current CV (max 2 pages)
- Up to 10 images of previous relevant work
- A 250-word statement outlining their interest and initial approach to the brief
- Availability for site visits and project timeline commitments

## **10. CONTACT & ENQUIRIES**

For further details or to submit an EOI, please contact:

Stacey Gadd  
Sorell Council  
Email: [stacey.gadd@sorell.tas.gov.au](mailto:stacey.gadd@sorell.tas.gov.au)  
Phone: 6269 0000