

Castaways Sculpture Awards 2025 – Information Sheet

Structural Certification Requirements for Main Exhibition Finalists

Introduction

As part of the City of Rockingham's commitment to public safety and the continued growth of the Castaways Sculpture Awards, we are introducing a new requirement for the Main Exhibition (outdoor sculptures on the Foreshore) in 2025. This change affects all artists selected as finalists and is intended to ensure all exhibited works are structurally sound and certified accordingly.

We understand this is a significant change, and we've done our best to minimise the impact on artists while addressing a broader safety concern that carries serious public liability implications. To guide the development of this requirement, the City engaged a qualified structural engineer to assess our exhibition conditions and advise on best practice. Their recommendations on the requirements, timeline and costs have helped shape this process, and we are committed to supporting artists through the transition.

Overview of Changes

- All **selected finalists** for the Main Exhibition must now obtain a **structural certification** of their artwork from a qualified structural engineer.
- In response to this new requirement, the **entry deadline has been extended to Tuesday 27 May 2025 by 4pm.**

Step-by-Step Process

The following outlines each stage of the structural certification process—what's required, when it's needed, and who is responsible (either the artist or the City). This guide is designed to help you stay on track and ensure your artwork meets the necessary safety requirements for exhibition.

Step	Requirement	Responsibility
1	The artist submits an entry form by 4pm Tuesday 27 May 2025 , including the artwork design or concept and the sub-surface treatment plan. On the entry form, the artist will be asked to acknowledge the necessary structural engineering certifications if they are selected as finalists. Certification of artwork is not needed at this time.	Artist
2	The Selection Panel meets to select the finalists for exhibition. Once finalists have been selected, the curator will review the artworks to determine their placement—whether on sand, grass, pavement or boardwalk—based on the artists' submitted designs and the overall curation of the exhibition.	City
3	The City sends out a Letter of Notification no later than Tuesday 17 June confirming artists as finalists. The letter will also include any information about certification parameters, including the surface the artwork is to be	City

Step	Requirement	Responsibility
	installed on (sand, grass, pavement or boardwalk), to provide to the engineer.	
4	The finalist artist engages a structural engineer to obtain certification of the structural integrity of their artwork. The engineering certification at that point will be for the design phase of the artwork. The structural engineer should certify the proposed design plans, materials, any further specifications listed in the Letter of Notification, etc. to ensure that it is structurally sound and safe for public display. The curator will be available to be included in conversations with the structural engineer.	Artist
5	The certification of the artwork is sent to the City's Community Development Officer (Art Events and Programs), customer@rockingham.wa.gov.au . The initial certification is due to the City no later than Tuesday 1 July 2025 .	Artist
6	The City reviews the certification and emails the artist to confirm acceptance of the certification, no later than Tuesday 8 July .	City
7	The artist begins construction of the artwork in accordance with the certified plans. It is recommended to wait to begin construction until the City confirms the certification, but is not required.	Artist
8	After construction of the artwork is completed, the artist obtains the final 'As Constructed' certification from their Engineer, certifying that the artwork has been constructed in accordance with the first certification.	Artist
9	The 'As Constructed' certification is sent to the City's Community Development Officer (Art Events and Programs), customer@rockingham.wa.gov.au . The 'As Constructed' certification is due to the City no later than Wednesday 15 October 2025 – one week prior to installation day.	Artist
10	The City reviews the 'As Constructed' certification and emails the artist to confirm acceptance of the certification.	City
11	The artist installs the artwork on site, as per the direction of the curator. A separate email will be sent by the curator to organise this.	Artist
12	City staff or contractor signs off on the installed artwork to confirm compliance with the 'As Constructed' certification.	City

Cost and Support

The cost of obtaining structural certification will be the responsibility of the artist.

To assist artists with this additional requirement, the City will offer a **subsidy of up to \$500** to contribute towards the cost of engaging a structural engineer. This subsidy was determined through discussions with our structural engineering consultant and is designed to cover the majority of certification costs for most artworks. However, the final cost will depend on the rates of independent engineers and the level of work required for each individual artwork.

We recommend artists get quotes from engineers early to determine any additional costs not covered by the subsidy.

Subsidy Payment Process

To receive your subsidy payment, please provide the following forms and send them to the Community Development Officer (Art Events and Programs) at customer@rockingham.wa.gov.au

- **Proof of payment**, i.e. paid tax invoice or receipt
- **EFT form**, available for download on the [Castaways page on the City's website](#), on the 'Enter Castaways' page, in the Main Exhibition section, within 'Structural Engineering Requirement'

Please submit all payment documentation together as a single submission and **please be sure to sign your form**.

Subsidy payments will only be paid to finalist artists in the Castaways 2025 Main Exhibition. Payments will be processed within three weeks from the submission date of all forms.

List of Structural Engineers

Artists are welcome to choose their own certified engineer, but the following list is provided by the City for your convenience. **Please note, these engineers are not officially endorsed by the City of Rockingham.** It is the artist's responsibility to ensure they select an engineer who is the best fit for their specific needs and artwork.

Artforms

Unit 6, 40 Port Pirie Street, Bibra Lake, WA 6163

<https://artforms.com.au/>

0404 915 320

Albert De Boer

albert@artforms.com.au

Carol Stevens

carol@artforms.com.au

NRM Consultants

Dr Nicholas Mills, Structural Director

WOTSO Office, #18 22 Ormsby Terrace, Mandurah, WA 6210
<https://nrmconsultants.com.au/>
 0431 239 536
info@nrmconsultants.com.au

Tips for Working with a Structural Engineer

- **Start early** – Reach out to an engineer as soon as you receive your Letter of Notification from the City confirming you as a finalist.
- **Be prepared** – Provide drawings, dimensions, installation plans and materials info.
- **Clarify installation conditions** – Let them know your work will be displayed outdoors, the location (sand, grass, or boardwalk), if it will be suspended, etc.
- **Get the curator involved** – The curator is available to join conversations between you and the engineer, can help interpret technical language, advocate for your creative intent and ensure the process stays manageable.
- **Ask about their experience with artwork** – Make sure to ask the engineer about their previous experience with art installations. It's important that they understand the unique considerations involved in working with creative pieces.
- **Request clear documentation** – The engineer must provide formal certification or a report that meets local safety and compliance standards.

Key Dates

Wednesday 5 March	Entries open
4pm, Tuesday 27 May	Entries close
Week of 2 June	Selection panel meets to discuss artworks.
By Tuesday 17 June	Letters of notification are sent by email.
By Tuesday 1 July	Structural engineering certification due to City. It is recommended that fabrication isn't commenced until after the City confirms certification.
By Tuesday 8 July	City to confirm approval of certification. It is advised to refrain from commencing fabrication until the City has sent this confirmation.
Tuesday 5 August	High quality photo of accepted artworks is due for the catalogue to the curator.
Saturday 20 September	Final progress update and images of artwork are due to the curator.
Wednesday 15 October	'As Constructed' certification due to the City.
Tuesday 21 October	Artwork delivery for the Maquette and Small Sculpture Exhibition to the Rockingham Arts Centre.
Wednesday 22 October	Main Exhibition artwork installation at the Rockingham Foreshore.

Saturday 25 October	Awards Presentation at the Gary Holland Community Centre.
Saturday 25 October – Sunday 2 November	Castaways Sculpture Awards 2025 Exhibition.
Monday 3 November	De-installation and artwork collection.

FAQ

Why do I need structural certification for my artwork? Structural certification ensures that your artwork is safe to display in a public setting. This is a new requirement aimed at preventing any accidents or damage to artworks and meeting safety regulations. It helps ensure the integrity of your work while safeguarding the public, installers and other artworks.

I've never had an issue with my artwork—why do I need certification now?

The City acknowledges and appreciates the care artists take to ensure their work is safe and well-constructed. Many of you have years of experience without incident. However, as Castaways Sculpture Awards has grown and operates in a high-traffic public space, the City now has a legal and ethical responsibility to formally verify the structural safety of all large-scale works.

This change isn't a reflection on the quality of your work—it's about meeting public safety standards and protecting everyone involved, including you. The certification provides peace of mind and ensures that we can continue exhibiting ambitious, large-scale works in a public setting with lower risk.

In addition, if your artwork is sold, having a formal certification in place offers further assurance to the buyer. It verifies that the artwork is structurally sound and professionally assessed, which can increase confidence for buyers and support the long-term integrity of your work.

What kind of information might the engineer need to complete the certification?

Engineers may ask for specific details about your artwork and how it will be installed, such as the type of surface it will sit on (sand, grass, pavement, boardwalk), as well as how it will be secured in place. They will also need information on the materials used, the artwork's weight and dimensions, and how the structure is anchored to ensure stability. Since wind is a major consideration on the Rockingham Foreshore, the engineer may request details about the design's wind resistance, including how it will perform in high-wind conditions. Additionally, safety features, such as rounded edges or non-slip surfaces, may need to be outlined.

The City will provide some specifications, such as the exact installation site and its conditions, which will be included in the Letter of Notification to finalists, which will be sent out by Tuesday 17 June via email.

Does the certification need to account for people climbing on the artwork?

No. The certification only needs to confirm that the artwork is structurally sound as

designed and installed. The exhibition has 24/7 on-site security to help ensure members of the public don't climb on, or interact with, the artworks in unsafe ways.

Can I use the pylon footing system that's featured in a video on the City's website for my artwork? The City provides a suggested pylon footing system devised by artist Stuart Bryce, which can be viewed in a video on the [Castaways section of the City's website](#). Artists are welcome to incorporate this system into their design to present to the engineer. However, please note that the decision to use this system, and its appropriateness for your artwork, is ultimately up to the engineer and will be based on the artwork design, size, weight and installation conditions. The City is not responsible for the system's suitability or performance in relation to your specific artwork, and liability for its use lies with the artist and their engineering team.

If my work is on a plinth, do I still need certification? Yes. All works, regardless of how they are constructed, including the base or footing, require certification.

Do I have to use one of the engineers on the provided list? No, you are not required to use any of the engineers listed by the City. These are simply recommendations based on engineers familiar with art installations or to the City. You are free to select any certified engineer of your choice, provided they can fulfil the requirements for structural certification.

How much will structural certification cost? The cost will depend on the complexity of your artwork and the rates of the engineer you choose. The City offers a subsidy of up to \$500 to help cover the cost, but some additional costs may still apply depending on the engineer's fees and the work required.

How do I apply for the subsidy? Once you have paid for all of the structural engineer's fees, you can apply for the City's subsidy. The subsidy will be paid directly to you after the engineer provides the certification, final invoice and once all necessary forms have been received by the City. For more details on how to apply, please refer to the 'Subsidy Payment Process' section (above).

What happens if I don't get certification for my artwork? As the City is committed to meeting public safety standards, your artwork cannot be displayed in the Castaways Sculpture Awards if it does not have certification. If you are having difficulty obtaining certification or are concerned about costs, please reach out to the City or the curator for further assistance.

Can the curator help with the certification process? Yes, the curator is available to assist you throughout the process. The curator can help interpret any technical language from the structural engineer, ensure that your creative vision is maintained, and provide guidance if you need additional support.

How long does the certification process take? The timeline will depend on the complexity of your artwork and the availability of the engineer. It's best to begin the process as early as possible to allow time for the engineer to review the design, make any necessary adjustments and issue the certification. We recommend starting as soon as you are confirmed as a finalist.

What if I need changes to my artwork after the certification is completed? If you make significant changes to your artwork after certification, you may need to have the new design reviewed and re-certified by the structural engineer. It's important to discuss any changes with your engineer and the curator as soon as possible.

What if the engineer says my artwork can't be certified? If the structural engineer determines that your artwork cannot be certified as safe, you will need to make adjustments to the design or installation to meet safety requirements. The curator and City staff are available to assist with this process and help you find solutions.

Will the engineer need to see my completed artwork in person? In most cases, no. Most engineers can complete the 'As Constructed' certification remotely using detailed photos, drawings, description of the materials and construction methods you used. This process can usually be done via email, saving you the time and cost of an in-person visit.

However, if the structure is particularly complex or the engineer has concerns about specific elements, they may request a site visit. This is rare and typically only applies to unusually large or technically challenging works.

Does the City inspect artworks after installation? Yes, once your work is installed, the City or an appointed contractor will do a quick final review, primarily checking that the artwork has been installed according to the certified design, that it's stable and secure in its final position, and that there are no new or unanticipated safety concerns. They may also check for any trip hazards, sharp edges, or issues that could pose a risk to the public.

Does the City need to see my artwork footings before they're covered with sand? No. The reviewing City staff or appointed contractor will not need to inspect the footings before they're covered. As long as your installation follows the certified design and meets safety requirements, the final review can be completed once the work is fully installed.

What happens if the City finds an issue during the inspection? If a concern is identified, artists will be notified and given an opportunity to make adjustments to bring the work into compliance. The goal is not to reject artworks, but to ensure public safety and support artists in resolving any issues collaboratively. The curator and City staff will provide guidance and support where possible, but any changes required—including associated costs—will need to be managed by the artist. That said, most inspections will be straightforward and should not require significant changes.

When does the City inspection happen, and do I need to be there? The inspection will occur shortly after installation on the same day. While you don't need to be present, it's helpful if you're available by phone or nearby in case adjustments are needed.

Contact

For further assistance, other questions or to provide feedback, please contact:

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Castaways Curator

0421 376 114

art@artistschronicle.com.

Elizabeth Hart

City of Rockingham

Community Development Officer (Art Events and Programs)

9528 0333

customer@rockingham.wa.gov.au

For more information, visit **rockingham.wa.gov.au/castaways** or call 9528 0333.