

## Women Deliver Artist Guidance Note

### About the Opportunity

Women Deliver 2026 (WD2026) will bring together advocates, leaders, and creatives to reimagine gender equality and collective action. As part of the program, we are inviting artists to share work that sparks connection, reflection, and movement-building.

Submissions are welcomed in two streams: **Digital Art** (visuals, multimedia, photography, illustration, short video) and **Live Performance** (music, spoken word, dance, theatre, storytelling). You may apply to one or both streams.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, and notifications are issued on an ongoing schedule. Shortlisted performers may be invited to present at the Conference in Narm (Melbourne), Australia, from 27–30 April 2026.

### What we value

We prioritise work that meaningfully connects to gender equality and the WD2026 mission, demonstrates artistic quality and originality, and upholds inclusion, accessibility, and cultural safety. We especially encourage submissions from First Nations artists, artists from the Global Majority, youth, and historically marginalised communities.

Feasibility within a large conference setting is also considered; if your work requires complex technical elements, please describe these clearly so we can assess options together.

### What to prepare

When you submit, the form will guide you based on your chosen stream. If you select Digital Art, you will be asked to upload up to **three** works in PNG, JPEG, or MP4 format. You will also provide a short **Artist Biography** (up to **150 words**) and an **Artist Statement** (up to **300 words**) that explains the concept behind your work and its connection to gender equality and WD2026. You may include links to your website, social media, or previous exhibitions if you wish.

If you select **Live Performance**, the form will reveal the performance section. You will be asked to submit a **Performance Proposal** (up to **250 words**) describing your piece, its themes, its connection to WD2026, and any relevant details such as length, format, staging, or technical requirements. You will also upload a **sample** of your work (past or proposed) as a video or audio file. Multiple files are allowed; video is strongly encouraged where possible. As with Digital Art, you will provide a short **Artist Biography** (up to **150 words**) and may include links to your website, social media, or recordings.

If you plan to apply to both streams, please complete a submission for each, in the same form, so that you can tailor your materials appropriately.

## **File specifications and access**

For Digital Art, please ensure images are clear and high-resolution within the file size limit; for moving image, MP4 is preferred. For performance samples, MP4 for video and MP3/WAV for audio work well. Where possible, please include captions or subtitles for video and a transcript for audio to support accessibility; for images, include concise alt text. If your files exceed the size limit, consider compressing them and adding a streaming link in the “Link(s)” field. Clear file names (for example, YourName\_WorkTitle\_01.ext) help the review process.

## **Selection and what happens next**

Submissions are reviewed on a rolling basis by a diverse panel. We look for alignment with WD2026, artistic quality and coherence, inclusion and cultural safety, accessibility considerations, and feasibility for the conference environment.

If your work is shortlisted, we will contact you about next steps. Digital works may be displayed on screens, within installations, or featured across WD digital channels. Shortlisted live performers may be invited to present at the Conference; invitations are not guaranteed by an expression of interest. If your performance requires staging or technology, we will discuss viable options and may suggest scaled versions to suit the venue.

## **Rights, permissions, and crediting**

You retain ownership of your work. By submitting, you grant Women Deliver a non-exclusive, revocable license to use your materials for the purposes of selection and, if selected, for WD2026 programming and related promotional use with appropriate credit. If your work incorporates third-party content (such as music, images, or text) or features people, please ensure you have the necessary permissions and documented consent, especially for minors or communities requiring additional safeguards. We will credit your work using the artist or collective name you provide, so please verify all names, titles, and spellings in your submission.

## **Accessibility, safeguarding, and cultural safety**

WD2026 upholds a code of conduct, safeguarding standards, and an explicit commitment to cultural safety. We encourage respectful representation. If your work involves sensitive themes, please include a brief content note. If there are cultural protocols relevant to your work, outline them in your statement or proposal so we can respect them in curation and display.

## **Frequently asked questions**

### **1. Who can apply?**

Artists, collectives, and organisations from any country and at any career stage are

welcome to submit. Early-career and youth artists are encouraged to apply.

**2. Is there a deadline?**

Applications are rolling, and notifications are ongoing. We recommend submitting early to allow adequate time for review and planning.

**3. Can I submit to both Digital Art and Live Performance?**

Yes. You are welcome to submit entries for both categories within the same application.

**4. What if my performance is technically complex?**

Describe your needs in the proposal, including staging, sound, lighting, and length. We will assess feasibility and may discuss adaptations or scaled versions that preserve your artistic intent.

**5. Will Women Deliver cover travel, production costs, or fees?**

**Live Performers:** If your performance is selected as a finalist, Women Deliver will connect with to discuss what financial and logistical support is needed to facilitate your participation. This includes free registration for the entirety of WD2026. Women Deliver will cover basic production costs related to your performance.

**Digital Artists:** Selected digital artists will be offered a discounted registration — \$400 USD for youth artists, aged 29 and under, and \$550 USD for all other artists. You do not have to attend WD2026 in order for your work to be selected.

Selection does not guarantee a scholarship to attend the Conference or include additional forms of payment.

**6. Can I submit work in languages other than English?**

Yes. Please include a brief summary, subtitles or transcripts in English, French, or Spanish (one of the three official Conference languages) where relevant to ensure accessibility for audiences.

**7. How will my submission be used?**

If selected, your work may be displayed at WD2026 and featured in related communications with credit. We will not transfer or sell your rights; the license is non-exclusive and can be revoked.

## Contact

For questions about eligibility, access needs, file issues, or updates to your submission, please contact [wd2026@womendeliver.org](mailto:wd2026@womendeliver.org) and include your name and “Arts EOI” in the subject line.