

Arts Creation Fund

To seed and invest in the incubation of new Asian works by Singapore creators

SECTION I – OVERVIEW

(A) OBJECTIVES

The National Arts Council established the Arts Creation Fund (ACF) to support the creation of original high-quality works that explore Asian subject matter. Such funding provides artists with resources to support their artistic works in the germination phase and incentivise them to challenge artistic frontiers beyond time constraint and limited financial resources.

The Council recognises that the incubation of a new artistic works that could become significant milestones demands investments of time, space, funding and talent. As such, the ACF is geared toward supporting the phases of new works in development: conceptualisation, creation and development up to the level of a mini-showcase presentation. The objective of this initiative is to build a repository of Singapore-made works that best represents the nation's cultural legacy.

(B) SCOPE AND DURATION

The fund supports the different stages of creating new works that fall within the Performing, Visual, Literary Arts, or Multi-Disciplinary art-forms up to the level of its first scale-down showing. Successful applicants are welcome to apply for subsequent funding from the Council's grant schemes toward the full-length production of the new work.

Upon the receipt of the award, the artist or collaborative team has to complete their proposed works within a year leading up to its first mini-showcase presentation, accompanied by a feedback session.

As such, creations which have been completed at the point of application or before the award of the grant are ineligible for funding support.

(C) ELIGIBILITY

Applicants are required to

1. Be Singapore Citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents who are actively engaged in the Singapore arts industry, that is, professional and practising artists responsible for the conception of the work and direct creation process.
2. Apply for the fund individually or collectively. For collaborative projects, all co-applicants¹ must meet the eligibility criteria and one co-applicant will assume full administrative responsibility. Proposals that involve collaborations with foreigners are eligible. However, the foreign collaborators must not represent more than half of the team. The lead applicant must be a Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident.
3. Submit a proposal for an **original** work in performing or visual or multi-disciplinary or literary arts (All proposals are to be in English. Literary Arts proposals may be submitted in any one of Singapore's four official languages). The proposed work must not have been staged, published or exhibited before.

¹ Collaborative projects are defined as activities that are carried out in a context of shared ownership. Co-applicants must contribute directly to the creation process and will share equal rights and credits to the complete work.

(D) EXPECTED OUTCOME

The culmination of the creation stage must result in a **finished work** which could be in the form of a manuscript/score/notation etc.

Recipients are also expected to present a **mini-showcase presentation** (which may include limited production elements such as sound, lighting, costumes, paid personnel, etc) followed by a **post-show dialogue/discussion** with the creators where feedback is invited from the assessment panel. For example:

- **Dance:** Live presentation of excerpts or sections of the complete work followed by post-show discussion
- **Literary Arts:** Original and complete manuscript
- **Music:** Original and complete score, with computer generated recording and/or performance of excerpts followed by post-show discussion
- **Multi-Disciplinary:** Live presentation of excerpts of the complete work followed by post-show discussion
- **Musical Theatre:** Original and complete script and scores, with performance of excerpts followed by post-show discussion
- **Theatre:** Original and complete script with dramatised readings followed by post-show discussion
- **Visual Art:** Presentation/exhibition of new works followed by post show discussion

NOTE:

The Arts Creation Fund does *not* support the full-scale presentation/dissemination costs of the finished work or the publication of a book in print form. Successful recipients are encouraged to take the work further by applying for other NAC grant schemes to present the full-length version of the complete work.

(E) SELECTION PANEL AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Assessment panels for Performing, Literary and Visual Arts will be formed to evaluate the submitted proposals in the respective disciplines. Each selection panel will comprise industry advisors, experts and practitioners.

Clearly written and completed applications that reflect careful thought about the proposed works to be created and developed will be considered reflective of the potential artistic depth of the finished product.

Funding support is awarded through a highly competitive evaluation process and applicants will be evaluated against the following criteria and based on the strength of relevant supporting materials submitted:

1. Artistic Merit of Proposal

- Originality and Innovativeness of concept
- Proposal addresses gap(s) in the Singapore arts scene
- Strength and clarity of idea and description of how the proposed work will be developed, outcome of the proposed creation and detailed action plan for these outcomes to be achieved
- Relevant approach to work's stated Asian content and cultural specificity
- Evidence of the proposed work to further investigate art form practices and push artistic boundaries and/or explores issues confronting contemporary society
- Evidence of preliminary thought processes, effort and ideas to be explored in the proposed work in terms of content, form and execution demonstrated in the proposal write-up and supporting working samples and access to performing arts resources, to present a compelling proposal

2. Contribution to the Arts scene and Singapore's Artistic Legacy

- Relevance to the Asian content and cultural specificity to Singapore
- Pushes artistic boundaries and raises the artistic bar or probes contemporary issues in Asia
- Allows engagement with audience by exposing the community to a broad range of differing perspectives, or fosters increased understanding of the arts Advances the development of the art form and strengthens current artistic practices

3. Applicant's Competency and Calibre

- Ability, expertise and necessary support to undertake and complete proposed work demonstrated through clear articulation of proposal
- Past achievements demonstrate strong artistic merit and high production values, and are critically recognised in the Singapore arts scene
- Capacity and commitment to developing and advancing the art form in Singapore supported through evidence of an honest search on the part of the artist for a dialogue with the viewer, the participant, and the audience member

4. Sound Financial / Project Management and Distribution or Circulation Plan

- Detailed timeframe outlining the sequential phases (research, development, presentation and subsequent post-creation phases – eg reworked script - after the mini-showcase) of creating the proposed work.
- Sound, realistic budget and planning of the cost of the creation process,² the execution of the work at its mini-showcase.
- Effective use of resources reflected in the choice of discipline, the type of work created, content, approach, timeframe, appropriate choice of creation environment
- Evidence of a Self-evaluation Mechanism in place to draw conclusions about the new work to enable the work to be developed further after its creation or analyse whether objectives change during the course of creation
- Evidence of a marketing strategy and distribution/circulation plan

¹ The Arts Creation Fund only supports the creation process which culminates in a complete work and a mini-showcase. The Arts Creation Fund does not support the presentation/dissemination costs of a full-scale, complete work or the publication of a book in print form. Recipients are eligible to apply for other NAC grant schemes.

(F) QUANTUM AND DISBURSEMENT

The quantum will vary depending on the scale and complexity of the proposal. But the maximum grant will not exceed \$50,000. ACF only covers direct expenses of the creation and developmental process.

Eligible expenses include:

- Artists/Collaborators Professional fees
- Developmental Costs which includes Research expenses; Experimentation/Workshopping/Devising expenses, Material expenses and Travel expenses
- Mini-Showcase Cost (dramatized reading of a script or an excerpt of a dance)

Ineligible expenses include:

- Capital expenditure including refurbishment of buildings and offices
- Purchase of Equipment (eg laptop, printer, musical instruments etc)
- Academic research and conferences, workshops and development of teaching and resources specifically for academic courses
- Print and Publicity costs
- Audience, Market Development and Dissemination costs

Each successful applicant will be given a maximum of **12** months to craft, revise, refine, finalise and complete a proposed script/manuscript/score etc. Prior to the commencement of each project, NAC will discuss with the recipient to agree on a project timeline that will indicate the schedule for submission of work-in-progress drafts/scores/scripts/reports, and the amount to be disbursed at each stage.

However, generally, it is expected that the Grant will be disbursed in four instalments upon completion of key agreed milestones. This Grant will be disbursed in the following four stages:

- a. Acceptance of the Offer/Grant and Commencement of the project;
- b. Receipt/Submission of first draft, score, lyrics etc
- c. Receipt/Submission of second draft, or third draft; and
- d. Receipt of final draft and the execution of the mini-showcase.

Generally, successful applicants are required to submit at least three new drafts (including the final draft) to ACF for monitoring and record purposes. Each new draft is to be submitted with a one-page report, in English, highlighting changes made. The Grant will be subjected to review and will be withdrawn if the work is deemed to be unsatisfactory at any stage.

SECTION II – TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(G) FUNDING GUIDELINES

The National Arts Council reserves the right to review, withdraw or suspend the funding in full or in part thereof should any of the following conditions not be complied with. Successful candidates are required to:

- Complete and deliver the project as proposed.
- Submit reports on achievements, key performance outcome.
- Submit a financial report with supporting documents or receipts.
- Inform us in writing of any changes to the proposed project. These changes include changes in the proposal, artists involvement in collectives etc. Postponement and/or cancellation must be fully explained in writing.
- Acknowledge NAC on all publicity materials unless otherwise indicated.

NAC also reserves the right to recover the funds disbursed should any of the following occur:

- Proposed project undergoes significant changes in artistic direction without prior written approval from the National Arts Council.
- The funds are not used for the purpose for which it is awarded.
- Wrong and/or misleading information is provided in the application form, either intentionally or otherwise.
- Illegal or negligent acts that occur during any point of the funded project, which will adversely affect the reputation of the National Arts Council, any government bodies, public institutions, national leaders or your person / organization.

While artistic merit is a key factor in funding decisions, consideration is also given to whether the work would bring about other negative influences. NAC will prioritise financial support away from artistic proposals which:

- erode the core moral values of society, including, but not limited to the promotion of permissive lifestyles and depictions of obscenity or graphic sexual conduct;
- denigrate or debase a person, group or class of individuals on the basis of race or religion, or serve to create conflict or misunderstanding in our multicultural and multi-religious society;
- disparage or demean government bodies, public institutions or national leaders, and/or subvert the nation's security or stability.

SECTION III – APPLICATION PROCEDURE

(H) APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND OUTCOME NOTIFICATION

The Arts Creation Fund will consider applications once a year.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome by mail within three months of the closing date. For successful recipients, NAC will offer a Letter of Offer stating the terms & conditions, performance measures and expected outcomes deliverables of the ACF.

NAC reserves the right not to disclose reasons for approving or disapproving an application. The decision of NAC is final and no appeals will be entertained.

Applications must be made on prescribed forms and must be received no later than **5 pm, 31 March 2010**. Incomplete applications without the required supporting materials and late applications sent after the closing date or sent by fax or email will **not** be accepted.

Important Dates

20 November 2009	Open Call for Proposals
31 March 2010	Submission Deadline for Proposals
30 June 2010	Successful applicants will be notified

Please mail all application materials in one package to:

2010 Arts Creation Fund (*Type of Discipline*)

National Arts Council, 140 Hill Street MICA Building #03-01 Singapore 179369

You may also drop them off at the National Arts Council Reception from Monday through Friday, 9am – 12pm or 2pm – 5pm.

Proposals submitted to the Council will be treated in the strictest confidence and only be reviewed and evaluated by the assessment panel. Where relevant, specific non-disclosure agreements will be carried out.