



NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL
SINGAPORE

Open Call for Arts Spaces Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Section 1: Eligibility and Application Process

1. Can artists, arts group and arts organisations of different art forms apply for the arts spaces?

Interested applicants may refer to the Open Call Information Pack for more information on Goodman Arts Centre (GAC) and Aliwal Arts Centre (AAC). Artists and arts groups who are aligned with the Arts Centres' vision are welcome to apply.

Applicants will be assessed based on the merit of their submission in relation to the criteria as stated in the Information Pack. NAC will take into consideration the desired arts tenancy mix compatible to the Arts Centre's vision, the space requirements of the applicants and their fit with the respective positioning of the arts properties.

2. If I am a new arts group, can I apply?

Yes, new arts groups are welcome to apply for arts spaces in this Open Call exercise. Young artists, new arts companies, associations and societies, community/amateur arts groups within the first 3 years of practice or establishment will be considered under the Incubation Scheme of the Framework for Arts Spaces (FFAS) for GAC and AAC. You may refer to the Information Pack for full details of the Incubation Scheme.

3. Can current NAC tenants apply for the arts spaces under this Open Call?

Launched in 2011, the FFAS is intended to replace Arts Housing Scheme (AHS) over time. Existing NAC arts tenants receiving support under the AHS may consider applying in this Open Call exercise. For background information on the FFAS, please refer to <https://www.nac.gov.sg/media-resources/press-releases/New-Framework-for-Arts-Spaces.html>

Existing NAC arts tenants receiving support under the FFAS may also apply in this Open Call exercise. Successful applicants currently under the Scheme for Developing Artists and Arts Groups will receive an offer based on their remaining 9-year tenure. In other words, applying to a different arts centre does not reset the 9-year tenure. Thus, successful applicants will need to cease their existing lease and a new lease will be offered for the allocated arts centre. This must be done within three months from the date of signing their new tenancy agreement under this Open Call.

Current tenants who are in the final year of their 9-year FFAS tenure may also apply (hereafter referred to as "re-applicants"), and if successful, they will be offered a 3-year non-renewal lease term, and enjoy a 50% rental subvention, subjected to a cap.

4. What does Co-Tenancy mean? How does it apply to me?

Co-tenancy refers to two or more artists/groups submitting a joint application for a single space. In anticipation of a potential oversubscription of interest, NAC is encouraging applicants to team up for Co-Tenancy application. Part-time artists and arts groups, may benefit from a team up in terms of managing the overall financial affordability. Artists with different time usage patterns are also encouraged to team up to better utilise the arts studios. To offer greater support to more artists/arts groups, co-tenancy applications will be considered favourably, all else being equal.

5. Can I apply for two units or more under the Open Call?

To ensure that the infrastructural support provided by NAC benefits more artists and arts groups, applicants are limited to applying for one unit under the Open Call. However, NAC reserves the right to allocate more than one unit to arts groups who are able to justify with compelling reason(s).

If you have compelling reasons to utilise more than one unit, please provide justification for your spatial needs in the “Additional Remarks” field.

6. One of the assessment criteria is on financial needs. How will applicants be assessed?

NAC’s FFAS is inclined towards helping artists/arts groups who are in greater need for arts housing support. Hence, all else being equal, applicants with higher financial needs will be assessed favourably. Their financial needs for support will be objectively verified with supporting official documentation. Arts groups would be expected to provide audited Income and Expenditure statements to support their applications. Artists who apply as individuals will need to provide NAC with their latest IRAS notice of assessment. These financial documents are necessary for NAC to assess the artists/arts groups financial needs for support. Applications with omission of supporting financial documents will render applications as being incomplete, and will not be considered.

Note however that financial needs is only part of the assessment criteria. NAC also takes into consideration the efforts that the applicants put in to achieve long term financial sustainability.

7. Will all individual artists who are currently on the scheme need to provide financial needs documentations?

Yes. All applicants are to submit the latest IRAS notice of assessment. If applicants are not required to pay tax, they should complete the online declaration form.

The documentation is necessary as - NAC is committed to ensuring that all applications are assessed fairly and equitably, hence relevant supporting documents from all applicants will be required. This is not a new requirement, as arts groups have been submitting their financial statements to NAC in their applications. Moreover, this is also in accordance with comparable existing statutory board practices to ensure that the support can be matched to financial needs.

For example, MOE's Financial Assistance Scheme would require self-employed applicants to provide CPF transaction statement/ contribution history for the past 12 months.

8. My group is a collective and we don't have company financial statements. What documentations would NAC require?

Members of collective are to submit their individual latest IRAS notice of assessment. If applicants are unemployed or are not required to pay tax, they should complete the online declaration form. The Collective is obliged to collate all submissions from members, to support their application for the Open Call exercise.

Section 2: Property Information

9. Who appoints the Place Manager for the Arts Centres? How will having a Place Manager help me as an artist/arts group?

The Place Manager is appointed by NAC to manage the day-to-day operations and oversee the maintenance and upkeep of Goodman Arts Centre and Aliwal Arts Centre. The Place Manager aims to provide an environment which facilitates interaction and collaboration amongst artists, and allow them to develop professionally. The Place Manager will also work closely with the tenants to create suitable platforms for public outreach and community engagement, so that there can be greater appreciation of the arts by the community at large, and in the process also help promote the vibrancy of the Arts Centres.

10. What are the operating hours of the properties? Will tenants be able to work within their spaces beyond the operating hours and come and go freely?

The operating hours for GAC and AAC are as follows: -

Arts Centre	Operating Hours
GAC	7am to 1am
AAC	7am to 11pm

However, tenants will have access to the arts spaces outside of the standard operating hours. They will be subjected to the house rules of the individual properties for access outside of the operating hours.

11. Will GAC and AAC tenants get preferential rates when hiring the Shared Facilities spaces?

Yes. Tenants will receive preferential rates when hiring the shared facilities from the Place Manager within their Arts Centre.

12. Are there lifts available for the moving of material and props?

Only Block B of GAC has a passenger lift. There are no lifts available at the other blocks at GAC and at AAC.

Section 3: Financial Assistance

13. Will successful applicants be offered any rent free period, or will NAC be offering any financial assistance for fitting out their spaces and relocation from existing premises?

As the rental of the arts spaces are already heavily subsidised by NAC, there will be no additional financial assistance or rent free period provided to successful applicants. NAC hopes that all successful applicants will settle into their new spaces as soon as possible.