

## ANNEX A

### About ISPA

The International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA) is a global network connecting performing arts professionals worldwide. This international platform fosters collaboration, dialogue and exchange among artists, performing arts organisations, independent creative producers, artist managers, festivals, funders, consultants and other professionals who share the goal of strengthening the arts.

ISPA Congresses bring together international performing arts leaders to exchange knowledge and strengthen relationships. With two annual gatherings – one in New York and one in a different global city – ISPA's membership network spans over 60 countries.

The ISPA Singapore 2026 Congress marks the first time the Congress has returned to Southeast Asia in over 20 years, making Singapore's role as host for this landmark #ISPA26SG gathering particularly special.

### ISPA Singapore 2026 Congress Theme: *Creative Convergence: Same Same, And Different*

As the world navigates rapid change, division and volatility, the performing arts remain a powerful space for connection, conversation and understanding.

The theme for ISPA's 2026 Singapore Congress explores the dynamic interplay of unity and diversity, drawing inspiration from a commonly used Southeast Asian phrase "Same Same, But Different" that highlights how two things can be similar while retaining distinct qualities.

The ISPA 2026 Singapore Congress aims to unite creative minds from around the world in exploring how we converge through a plurality of approaches where the similarities and differences between our cultural practices, perspectives and sectors co-exist not in contrast, but in harmony.

We are not just Same Same, But Different.

We are also Same Same, And Different.

### Key programme highlights

#### **Networking and Professional Exchange**

- Cocktail Klatch (20 May) — Networking reception where delegates can mingle with fellow arts professionals while experiencing world-class performances at the Singapore International Festival of the Arts (SIFA).
- Pitch New Works (21 May) — Curated showcase of tour-ready performing arts projects from across the globe, offering delegates a platform to discover new works and potential collaboration opportunities.
- ProEx (21 May) — Professional networking marketplace bringing together performing arts practitioners for meaningful exchanges over lunch featuring uniquely Singapore flavours.
- Kopi Klatch (22 May) — Informal networking session spotlighting ASEAN arts industries, offering delegates the opportunity to connect with peers over coffee in a relaxed setting.

### Showcases of Singapore's Performing Arts Scene

- Open City (20 May) — Guided tours through three of Singapore's vibrant arts precincts, offering delegates an immersive look at the spaces where creative works are made. Each tour begins with a curated lunch by local culinary figures, providing an authentic encounter with Singapore's arts and culture from the inside out.
- Multicultural Performances (19 to 22 May) — Live performances held throughout the Congress celebrating the rich diversity of Singapore's arts scene, spanning genres from traditional Malay percussion to contemporary jazz, by:
  - **Flame of Forest x Shazza:** A collaborative performance between Singapore's 2<sup>nd</sup>-generation contemporary multicultural band, Flame of the Forest, and Shazza, a rising star in the music industry.
  - **Nadi Singapura:** An outdoor percussion performance by Nadi Singapura that calls audiences to gather and reflect on shared values, identity and purpose titled Janji Kita: Echoes of our Land.
  - **KRIYA:** Featuring the lyrical beauty of the Chinese and Western flute, the emotive depth of Carnatic vocals, the dynamic pulse of the tabla, and the earthy vibrance of Malay percussion, the work presents a sonic tapestry interwoven with the expressive languages of Bharatanatyam and Kathak dance.
  - **Siong Leng:** A distilled reimagining of the original work 'Longing', presented by Siong Leng. Convergence brings together the evocative vocal traditions of Nanyin and Asli in a rare and intimate collaboration.
  - **Bridges in Motion:** Conceived as a cross-cultural collaboration, Bridges in Motion is a celebration of artistic diplomacy, made possible by Singapore and Malaysia's unique friendship and creative landscape.
  - **Litmus Jazz Ensemble & Gin Lam:** Live jazz meets street dance in The Long Now, a new and original collaboration by local jazz group Litmus Jazz Ensemble and renowned street dance choreographer Gin Lam.

### International Arts Dialogue and Knowledge Exchange

- Panel Discussions (19 to 22 May) — Series of four panel sessions led by diverse practitioners and voices from around the world, covering topics such as arts across generations and cultures, engaging constantly shifting audiences, and keeping the arts relevant and future-ready.
- The Anthony Field Academy (AFA) (18 to 19 May) — An intensive two-day arts administration programme held pre-congress, the programme is centred on the theme "Re-imagining Sustainability Through Arts and Culture". Delivered through intimate, participant-led dialogues and roundtables, the AFA offers delegates the opportunity to deepen their expertise and learn directly from leading industry professionals.

The full congress programme and list of speakers can be found [here](#).