PERFORMING ARTS x TECH LAB 2023
OPEN CALL APPLICATION GUIDE

1. Introduction

The National Arts Council (NAC) is conducting an open call to select participants for the Performing Arts x Tech Lab 2023. The inaugural run of the NAC Arts x Tech Lab took place in 2021. More information about the outcomes and insights from the inaugural edition can be found in this flipbook and video series.

The 2023 edition of the Performing Arts x Tech Lab is a new partnership between the National Arts Council and Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay. The Lab seeks to support innovation and experimentation through seeding collaboration between the arts and technology fields. It aims to encourage arts practitioners to explore the possibilities of integrating technology into their practice.

2. Who is the Performing Arts x Tech Lab open to?

The Lab welcomes practitioners who work in the performing arts or with performance in general (i.e. theatre, dance, music, inter or cross-disciplinary forms, performance practice), who wish to work with technologists for the purposes of experimentation, prototyping or research and development.

Arts and culture organisations, collectives and practitioners who are interested in working across sectors and disciplines may apply. It is hoped that through the Lab, artists and technologists can collaborate to research and transform artistic creation or artistic practice.
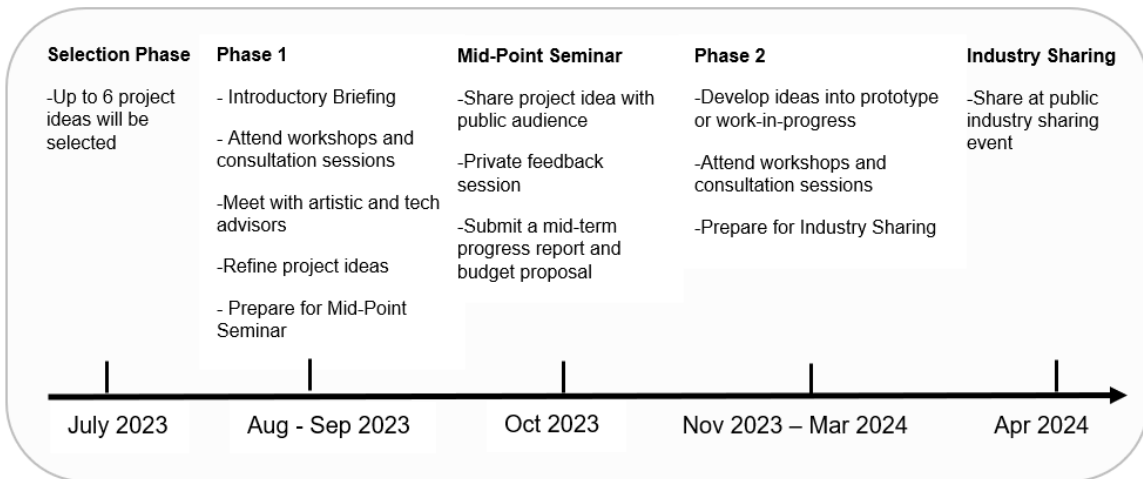
The primary applicant should be an arts organisation or arts practitioner who should form a team with collaborators (e.g. technologists, other creative practitioners) to submit a proposal. Please refer to Section 6 for more information on the eligibility criteria of the primary applicant.

Should the primary applicant not have a full team ready, we encourage you to minimally provide information about the role(s) that are critical to the project and leverage the Briefing and Sharing sessions (refer to Section 8) to connect with like-minded practitioners and potential collaborators.

3. What is the Lab's structure and time frame?

Participants will undergo a <u>nine-month</u> lab (planned to begin in August 2023 and end in April 2024), which will take place across two phases, culminating in an Industry Sharing. Each phase will be shaped according to the level of readiness and needs of the participants and customised with consideration towards the participants' proposals and ideas. Please refer to Section 5 for the expected deliverables.

Selection Phase (July 2023)	• After the Open Call closes, the NAC may reach out to applicants to seek further clarification. A selection panel comprising both arts and technology experts will review the submitted applications to select the final participants of the Lab. • Up to 6 ideas will be selected for participation in the Lab.
Notification of application outcome (August 2023)	• Confirmed participants will be notified of the outcome of their application and provided with a Letter of Offer before the Lab begins. • Applicants who did not get selected will also be notified of the outcome of their application.
Phase 1 (Estimated to start in late August 2023)	• Participants will attend an Introductory Briefing, followed by a series of workshops and consultation sessions where they will refine their ideas, source for collaborators, develop a budget for prototyping, and prepare for the Mid-Point Seminar. • Participants will meet with both the artistic and technology advisors for feedback, advice and guidance as they refine their project ideas and scope. • Throughout the Lab, participants are also expected to participate in the documentation efforts led by NAC, and this will culminate in a publicly available digital publication. For reference, the previous digital publication of the inaugural edition of the Lab can be found here: https://go.gov.sg/axtlabflipbook
Mid-Point Seminar (October 2023)	• Participants will share their refined ideas to a public audience comprising artists, technologists and parties interested in the Lab through a seminar. • Participants will attend a private feedback session where they will receive recommendations from the Advisory Panel and Technology Consultant. The feedback session is meant to help the participants before they proceed to Phase 2. • After the Seminar, participants will submit a mid-term progress report and budget proposal.
Phase 2 (Estimated to start in November 2023 and conclude in est. April 2024)	• A project fee will be provided in this phase. • Ideas will be developed into a prototype or a work-in-progress. • Participants will continue to receive guidance on their project ideas. • Participants will prepare for an Industry Sharing to share their experiences of participating in the Lab in April 2024 (final date and format to be confirmed).

Selection Phase	Phase 1	Mid-Point Seminar	Phase 2	Industry Sharing
-Up to 6 project ideas will be selected	- Introductory Briefing - Attend workshops and consultation sessions -Meet with artistic and tech advisors -Refine project ideas - Prepare for Mid-Point Seminar	-Share project idea with public audience -Private feedback session -Submit a mid-term progress report and budget proposal	-Develop ideas into prototype or work-in-progress -Attend workshops and consultation sessions -Prepare for Industry Sharing	-Share at public industry sharing event
July 2023	Aug - Sep 2023	Oct 2023	Nov 2023 – Mar 2024	Apr 2024

4. What will the Performing Arts x Tech Lab offer?

   a. Opportunities to develop a seed idea or hypothesis
   b. Consultations with and feedback from a Technology Consultant, Keio-NUS CUTE Center and an international Advisory Panel comprised of leading artists, designers and institutions who/that work at the intersection of arts, performance and technology
   c. Networking opportunities with potential collaborators
   d. Workshops by experts
   e. Peer learning opportunities to learn from like-minded artists and technologists
   f. Access to external resources
   g. Funding support (refer to Section 11 below for more details)

We are pleased to announce the following members of the **Advisory Panel**. More details about each member of the Advisory Panel here.

Toby Coffey | https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/
Toby Coffey is Head of the Immersive Storytelling Studio at the National Theatre in London, established in summer 2016.

The Studio examines how Virtual, Mixed and Augmented Reality along with other emerging technologies can enhance the NT's remit to be a pioneer of dramatic storytelling.

The Studio's portfolio of work has shown at the Venice, Sundance, Tribeca and London Film Festivals, IDFA, National Theatre, The Young Vic, MoMA and TATE Modern.

Danny Yung | https://zuniseason.org.hk/
Danny Yung is a founding member and the Co-Artistic Director of Zuni Icosahedron since 1995. Zuni is the epitome of experimental theatre in Hong Kong. After having graduated from the University of California at Berkeley and Columbia University, Yung started his creative journey in New York City, and returned to Hong Kong in the late 1970s. Since then, over the last 50 years, Yung has been deeply involved in diverse artistic fields, including cross-disciplinary and experimental arts, conceptual theatre, cartoon, film, video, visual and installation art, and new media creations.

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media | https://www.ycam.jp/en/

The Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media (YCAM), located in Yamaguchi City, is a unique fusion of art and technology. With facilities ranging from exhibition spaces to a theatre, cinema, library, and workshops, YCAM has been a hub of artistic innovation since its inception in 2003. Driven by rapid advancements in media technology, YCAM has established itself as a groundbreaking art center, encouraging creative exploration with a focus on technology acceptance, in collaboration with local citizens and experts.

Clarence Ng (Production Project Manager), Akiko Takeshita (Producer of Performing Arts) and Mitsuru Tokisato (Artist, Video Engineer) will be the key advisors supporting the Lab participants.

Ho Tzu Nyen
A plethora of historical references dramatised by musical scores and allegorical lighting make up the pillars of Ho Tzu Nyen's (b. 1976, Singapore) complex practice that primarily constitutes video and installation. Features in their own right, each work unravels unspoken layers of Southeast Asian histories whilst equally pointing to our own personal unknowns. Permeating Ho's work is a pervasive sense of ambiguity, theatricality and unease, augmented by a series of deliberate literary, art historical and musical references. Centrally, Ho charges the viewer emotionally and physically to deliver a multisensory consideration of what we know and crucially, do not.

More about Technology Consultant Keio-NUS CUTE Center

Keio-NUS CUTE Center is a multi-disciplinary research institute where some of the key areas of focus are physical embodiments and tangible devices along with Virtual Reality visualisation. CUTE Center believes in adapting a user-centric approach throughout multi-faceted disciplines to bridge the gap between the user and the technology. More details about Keio-NUS CUTE Center here.

5. What are the expected deliverables for participants?

Phase 1	If the proposal is selected for the Lab, participants will: • Attend the Introductory Briefing. • Participate in group activities designed to support the refinement of proposals in the Lab. There will be approximately 5 to 6 short workshops and expert sharing sessions of no more than two hours each conducted across Phases 1 and 2. Teams are expected to attend at least 80% of them. The topics for the 2023 Lab have yet to be determined and will be tailored to the needs and readiness of the selected teams to ensure maximum learning and development. • Attend the Mid-Point Seminar and present their ideas to a public audience which will comprise industry practitioners and the key stakeholders of the Lab. • Attend a private feedback session where they will receive recommendations from the Advisory Panel and Technology Consultant. The feedback session is meant to help the participants before they proceed to Phase 2. • Submit a mid-term progress report and budget proposal before they begin Phase 2.
Phase 2	During Phase 2 participants will: • Participate in an Industry Sharing where they will share their project. The project can take the form of a work-in-progress, a prototype or sharing of findings by way of a lecture, demonstration, or public presentation. • Share their experience of the Lab at the Industry Sharing; and • Submit a Self-Evaluation Report and certified Statement of Accounts after completing the Lab.

6. Eligibility Criteria

The Lab is open to:

a. individuals who are Singapore Citizens or Permanent Residents (PR);

b. organisations that are either registered with the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (including non-profit/ non-government/ community-based organisations/ sole proprietorship/ limited liability partnership (LLP)/ company limited by guarantee (CLG)), or a society with the Registry of Societies at the time of application;

c. informal groups or collectives of which at least half the team is made up of Singapore Citizens or PR[1];

d. Major Companies, as long as the project idea proposed is <u>not</u> already part of their programmes supported under the Major Company scheme.

Proposals that involve collaborations with foreigners <u>are eligible</u>, as long as the lead applicant (who plays a key role in the project team), and at least half the team is made up of Singaporean or PR.

NAC will <u>not</u> be able to support your application if

e. you are a group constituted for non-secular purposes;

f. your proposal is already or has been committed to receive funding under the NAC's or other government agencies' grant schemes;

g. is held at a religious venue;

h. is not intended for public consumption;

i. is presented under the auspices of a school or tertiary institution, or is part of its curriculum; or

j. you have pending or outstanding evaluation reports or debts on the use of previous grants from the NAC.

<u>A note on NAC's Funding Guidelines</u>

While we celebrate diversity of expression and open, balanced dialogue in the arts, as a statutory body disbursing public funds in line with Government policies, NAC has to prioritise funding to proposals which do not:

a. advocate or lobby for lifestyles seen as objectionable by the general public;

b. denigrate or debase a person, group, or class of individuals on the basis of race and religion, or serve to create conflict or misunderstanding in our multicultural and multi-religious society;

c. undermine the authority or legitimacy of the government and public institutions or threaten the nation's security and stability.

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[1] Informal groups of collectives must nominate either a member of the group or a legally constituted organisation to take administrative, legal and financial responsibility on behalf of the group.

7. Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed by a selection panel comprising representatives from the NAC, and the arts and technology sectors, using the following criteria:

Assessment Criteria	Weightage
<u>Quality of proposal</u> Concept • Does the project address the guiding framework and demonstrate rigour towards artistic considerations in the use of technology, and in the development of the practitioner/artist's practice? • Is the concept strong and innovative? • Does it propose meaningful collaboration between arts and technology? Contribution to the development of the scene and the growth of the artist / arts organisation • Does the project, through the creative use of technology, propose concepts, approaches, methods, or artistic work which can inspire and contribute to the development of the arts scene? • Does the project and the applicant's participation in the Lab develop the applicant's artistic practice?	70%
<u>Capacity and commitment to execute the project</u> • Does the team have the necessary vision and commitment to follow through on this project? • Does the team have a demonstrable portfolio and/or track record of skills and abilities to contribute to the arts and/or technology scene? • Does the applicant have the potential to see the project from prototype to full development and potentially a public launch?	30%

As part of the selection process, NAC may reach out to applicants to seek further clarifications.

8. Briefing and Sharing sessions

There will be **two Briefing and Sharing sessions** for this programme. We encourage you to sign up for one of the sessions to find out more about the Lab and connect with like-minded practitioners and potential collaborators.

Each session will include a short briefing about the Lab, the open call and will include a Q&A segment. Both sessions will take place in-person.

Note: These sessions are optional and not a pre-application requirement.

Briefing and Sharing session 1	Saturday, 17 June, 10.30am – 12.00pm Venue: National Arts Council's office *(limited to 50pax)* Sign up here: https://go.gov.sg/briefing1-paxtechlab
Briefing and Sharing session 2	Monday 19 June, 7.30pm – 9.00pm Venue: National Arts Council's office *(limited to 50pax)* Sign up here: https://go.gov.sg/briefing2-paxtechlab

9. Application for Performing Arts x Tech Lab 2023

Please apply for the Lab via this link: **https://go.gov.sg/apply-paxtechlab** by **23:59 (SGT), 2 July 2023**.

We are committed to ensuring that this programme is accessible to as many people as possible, and this includes persons with disabilities. Please contact Althea Giron (althea_giron_from.tp@nac.gov.sg) should you require any accessibility arrangements.

Email submissions, late and incomplete applications will not be accepted.

10. What happens after applications are assessed?

If your proposal is selected, you will receive a **Letter of Offer** with the terms & conditions and expected deliverables from participation in the Lab.

Unless otherwise stated, **all offers will be valid for 2 weeks from the date of the Letter of Offer**. After which, the offer will lapse.

11. Funding Support

Phase 1	S$1,000 will be provided to you / your team upon completion of the Mid-Point Seminar, and submission of a mid-term progress report and budget.
Phase 2	Based on the submitted budget, up to S$30,000 will be provided in Phase 2 for teams to begin prototyping. In this Phase, the quantum will be disbursed in three instalments as detailed below: {TABLE2}

Phase 2 instalment table:

1st instalment	2nd instalment	3rd instalment
50% of the quantum upon award and acceptance of the offer.	30% of the quantum upon successful completion of the project.	20% of the quantum upon submission of evaluation report and certified statement of accounts[2].

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[2] As total funding is above $20,000, the project team will need to submit a Statement of Accounts certified by an accountant registered with the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA) or an equivalent international body. Accounting fees for this statement can be included in the mid-point budget submission.

All payments will be made through GIRO to the lead applicant, or the organisation's recognised bank account.

12. Contact Details

If you have any questions, please contact:

Catherine Tan
catherine_tan@nac.gov.sg

Althea Giron
althea_giron_from.tp@nac.gov.sg