



Research for Impact
Singapore

The Arts and Health In Singapore

Growth, Gaps and Goals

Image: Annie Spratt

Dr Joanne Yoong

NAC Research Symposium 2020

Background Study

Connecting the Dots

State of Arts and Health Development in Singapore: Practice, Policy, Capability Development

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Study Team

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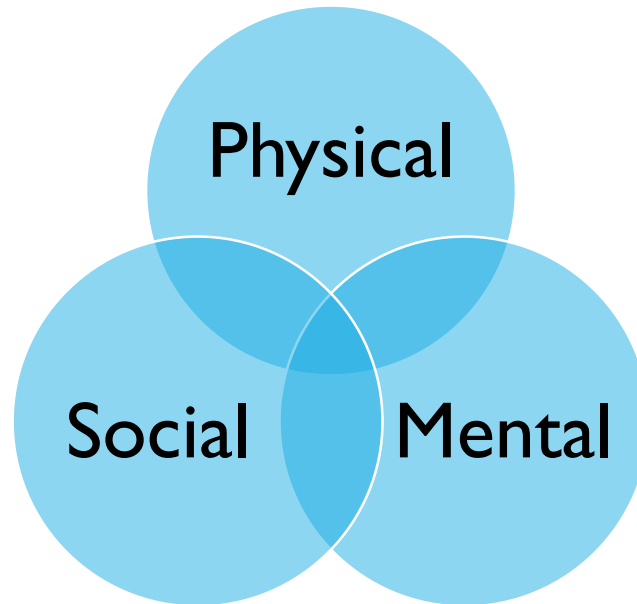


School of Art, Design
and Media
College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences



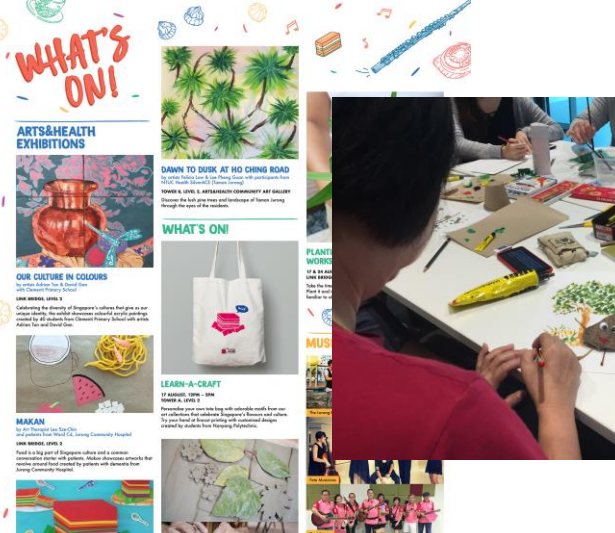
Saw Swee Hock
School of Public Health

Health
is a state of
complete



well-being

(and not merely an absence of disease or infirmity)



GRAPHIC MEDICINE WORKSHOP



Arts and health is a diverse, multidisciplinary field dedicated to transforming health and the healthcare experience through the arts, by integrating literary, performing, and visual arts and design, and other forms of creative expression into a variety of healthcare and community settings (NOAH, 2017)





Scoping exercise and
literature review



Online survey
(76 responses)

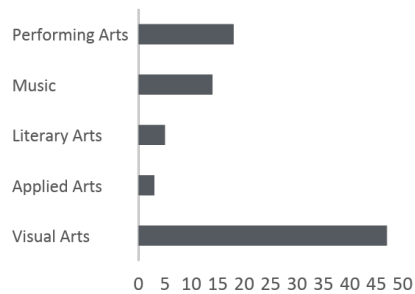


In-depth individual
interviews
(17 practitioners)

art forms // arts practice

Visual Arts

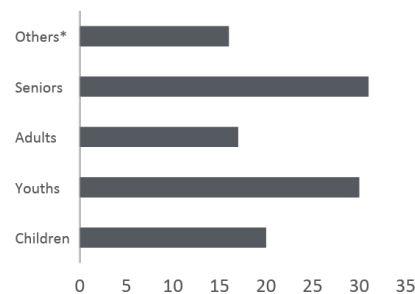
most common



target groups

Older Adults

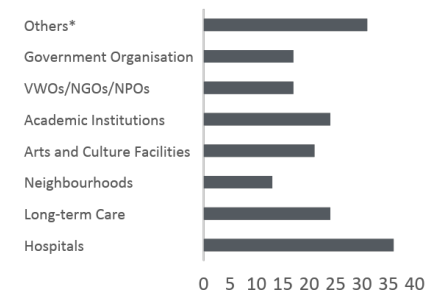
most common

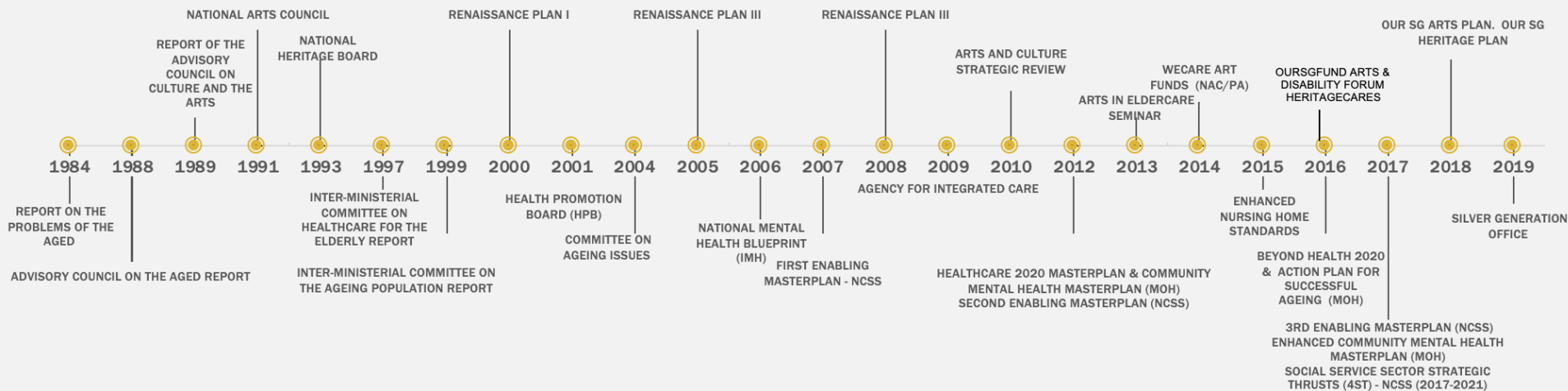


context of practice

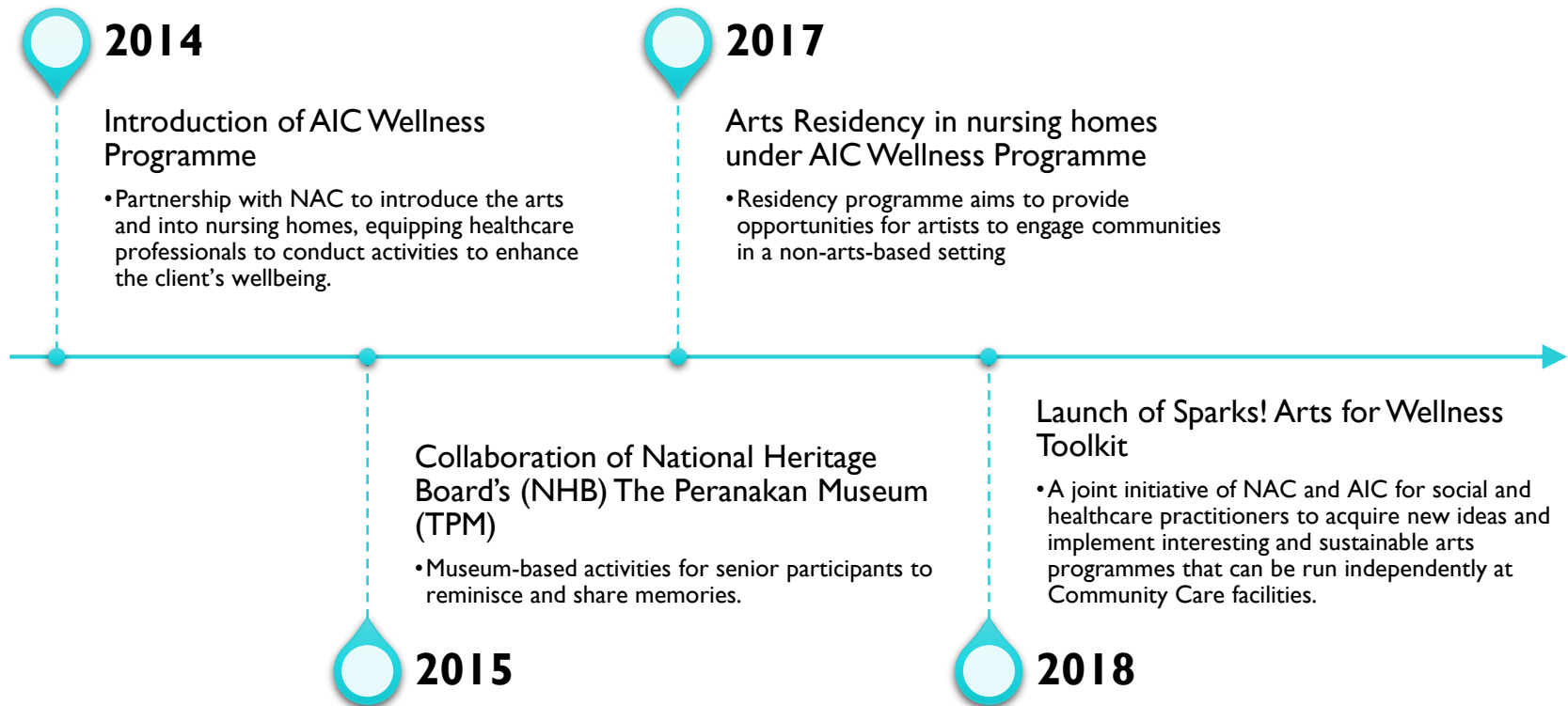
Hospitals

most common

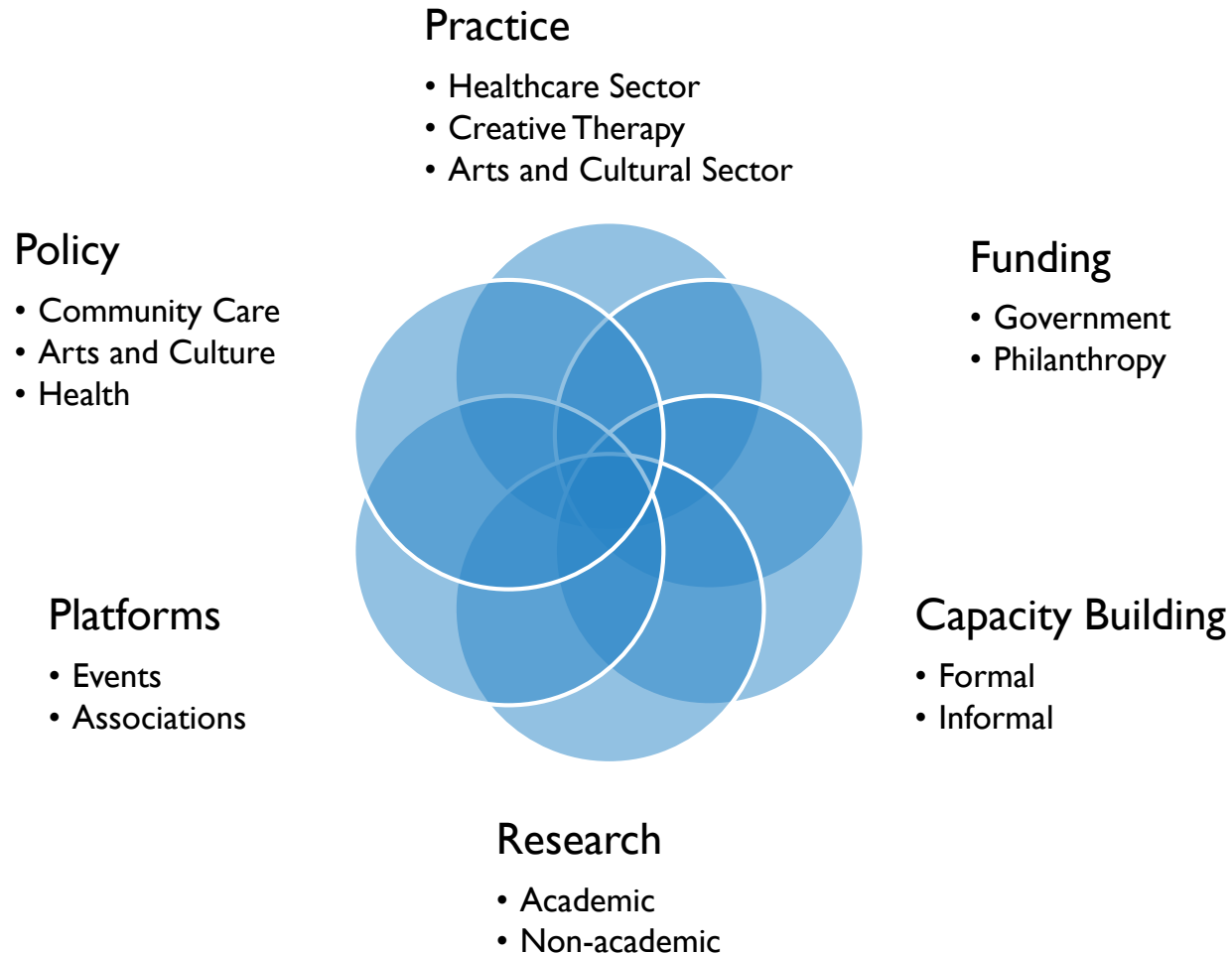




Illustrative Journey With The AIC



The Sector is Vibrant and Diverse



Understanding Remains to Be Built



Current landscape can afford more “health talk” to the arts and cultural community, and more “art talk” happening in the health and social care sector

- Growing awareness of the field
- But comprehension remains uneven
 - Example : Arts therapy vs therapeutic arts, and the relevant professional qualifications
- Chain of consequences
 - Compromises to participant safety and satisfaction
 - Unmet or unfair expectations from various sets of stakeholders
 - Barriers to project inception, planning and development

Intrasectoral Support Is Still Young

- In spite of increasing professional groups and events, stakeholders still expressed a "solitary" feeling
 - Example; Despite more arts in hospital programmes, administrators rarely interact. Similarly, ways for arts and cultural sector administrators to interact and share have been limited.
- Existing platforms provide more ad-hoc opportunities for showcasing, not growing a dedicated CoP
- Other formal resources such as directories are lacking or limited



Supply/Pipeline Needs Development

‘We definitely don't have enough practitioners to do this work. And it will seem I suspect that demand actually outstrips supply.’



“not all artists can work in community / healthcare settings”

- More courses, but existing training still largely focuses on technical and professional development of fine artists / designers
- Lack of artists with skills, training and disposition
- Many shared that they developed their skills while on-the-job but such opportunities are limited

Long-Term Sustainability ?

- Immediate funding sources for initial collaboration and pilots are adequate
- But LT sustainability is questioned
 - Projects often rely on mixed sources of funding and resourcefulness
 - Artists often asked to work pro bono or for token sum.
- Limited specific self-help tools
 - Example: NAC provides resources but not remuneration guide for artists.
 - Few support platforms for artists to share their frustration and challenges leading to isolation and burnout



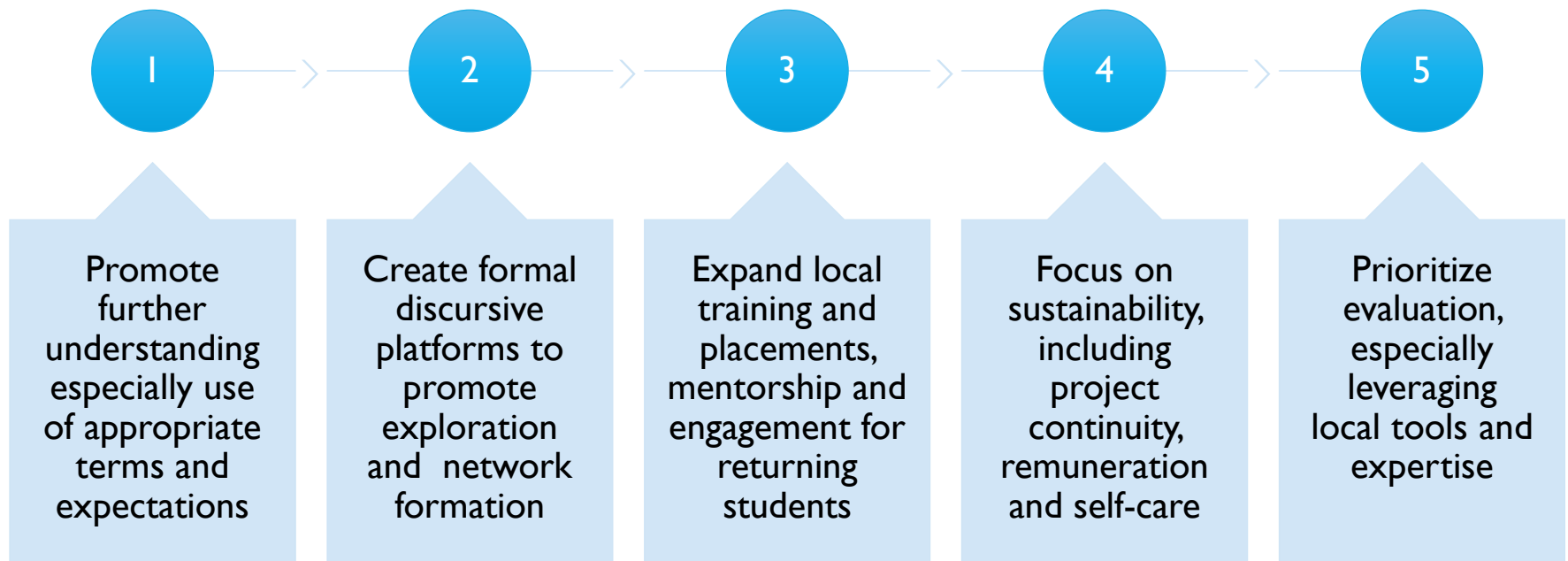
Impact Has Not Yet Been Proven

- Showing impact is critical for funders and policy but current evidence is not rigorous enough to demonstrate value and support strong buy-in



- Strong financial and non-financial barriers to evaluation culture
 - Lack of non-programmatic funding
 - Ground complexities and logistical difficulties
 - Limited capability and bandwidth as well as attitudinal resistance amongst some artists

Setting A Course For The Future



Thank you!

Arts in the Hospital Setting

