

Creation Grant

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Section 1: Overview

What is the Creation Grant?

Formerly known as the Arts Creation Fund, the Creation Grant supports the creation, adaptation and re-development of distinctive artistic content. Through a rigorous creation process, we seek to expand the range of Singapore-made works that engage audiences at home and abroad.

Recognising that the creation of an artistic work is not a solitary process, the Creation Grant goes beyond mere funding for your creative process, and provides the resources for you to attend a residency, research your work or even to engage an external party to help you test and refine your work, be it a curator, editor or dramaturge.

What does the Creation Grant support?

The grant supports your creation process of **up to 18 months** within the Performing, Visual, Literary, Digital and Multi-Disciplinary art forms. This includes supporting:

- The creation of original new works; or
- The adaptation and redevelopment of works across artistic disciplines (e.g. from book to musical), or across other media to the arts (e.g. from film to play, with priority given to the adaptation of Singapore content; or
- Translating Singapore works by authors of established literary merit (preferably Asian) into any of Singapore's official languages. Priority will be given to translating¹ Singapore works into Singapore's official languages.
- Funding is prioritised towards proposals with effective national, and preferably international, marketing and distribution plans.
- **For the 2021 cycle**, projects with strong use of digital technology as part of their creation process and/or as a platform to present its mini-showcase will be prioritised for funding under the Creation Grant.

*Please also refer to **Annex C** for additional guidelines pertaining to Literary Arts applicants only.*

For Performing and Visual Arts projects, you will also be supported to present a mini-showcase to potential producers and presenters, followed by a post-show discussion².

The creation stage should result in an original, complete script / score / recording / exhibition / live presentation of excerpts³. Digital Arts projects should result in a prototype, playable demo or trailer, online platform or website.

¹ Translations are supported only for works that are not already commissioned by a publisher or any other third party.

² For the Performing and Visual Arts, the mini-showcase also functions as a potential platform to interest producers and other intermediaries in presenting your work to a wider audience. For the Literary Arts, separate networking sessions may be organised for writers to meet publishers and other potential media producers.

³ In view of the COVID-19 situation, projects with presentations comprising digital components may be included.

What is the level of funding support under this scheme?

The grant is capped at \$50,000 per applicant for Performing, Literary and Visual Arts. The Creation Grant covers direct expenses of the creation and developmental process, including the following costs:

- Artists'/collaborators' professional fees
- Dramaturge/mentor/curator/consultant fees
- Developmental costs including research and editorial consultancy
- Experimentation/workshop/devising expenses, material expenses
- Travel expenses, residency expenses etc.
- Mini-showcase costs

Funding will vary depending on the scale and complexity of the proposal, as well as the following factors:

- Merit of your submitted proposal and its potential impact on developing the arts in Singapore and abroad;
- Your track record and demonstrated ability and commitment to realise your ideas from creation to production;
- A reasonable estimate of your budget⁴; and
- NAC's availability of funds.

Applicants are to ensure that the initial application takes into account the full range of activities and support necessary for the successful creation and development of the work, as they will not be eligible for other NAC grants for the same project or components thereof.

⁴ The first step in preparing a good budget is to identify your project's needs and understand how much they would cost. We encourage you to work out a realistic budget that demonstrates your understanding of costs and needs. An unrealistic, over-inflated budget will not necessarily guarantee more funding, and may have the counter-productive effect of casting doubt on the soundness of your overall proposal.

Section 2: Eligibility

Who is the Creation Grant for?

The Creation Grant is open to:

Individuals who are Singapore citizens or Permanent Residents (PRs), preferably residing in Singapore and actively contributing to the local arts scene (e.g. artists, collectives⁵, performers, writers, presenters, curators, producers, impresarios, dramaturges and other people working in the arts).

For collaborative projects⁶, the lead applicant must be Singapore citizen or PR, and must assume full administrative, legal and financial responsibility and must play a key role in the conceptualisation and creation process. All co-applicants should also have a strong track record. Proposals that involve collaborations with foreigners are eligible. Priority will be given to applications where at least 50% of the artistic team⁷ is Singaporean or PR.

The Creation Grant is for **artists with a strong track record** of artistic achievement and production.

Who is not eligible to apply for the Creation Grant?

NAC will not be able to support your application if you:

1) Are a group

- constituted for non-secular purposes;
- currently receiving funding under NAC's Seed Grant scheme;

2) Are proposing a project that

- has already commenced prior to the time of application;
- does not have a clearly defined arts component, including projects primarily aimed at promoting religious causes;
- is currently receiving funding under NAC's Major Company and Seed Grant schemes;
- is held at a religious venue;
- is not intended for public consumption;
- is intended for fundraising purposes;
- is presented under the auspices of a school or tertiary institution, or is part of its curriculum;
- is intended for academic purposes;
- (where relevant) is unable to obtain an Arts Entertainment Licence (see "Licence for The Provision of Arts Entertainment" at <https://www.imda.gov.sg/regulations/licensing-and-consultations/licensing/licences/licence-for-the-provision-of-arts-entertainment>).

3) Have pending / outstanding

- evaluation reports on the use of previous grants from NAC;
- debts with NAC (you are eligible to apply once you have cleared your outstanding debts).

4) If you / any of your collaborators:

- have been awarded the Creation grant⁸ 3 times within 5 financial years (FYs) of the first award.

⁵ Collectives must nominate either an individual to be the representative, or a legally constituted organisation to take legal and financial responsibility on behalf of the group.

⁶ 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.

⁷ The artistic team includes, but is not limited to the director, playwright, conductor, composer, lyricist, choreographer, writer, performer, producer, translator, illustrator, among others.

⁸ This includes instances in the past when the applicant was awarded the Creation Grant under its previous name, the Arts Creation Fund.

A Note on Funding Guidelines

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:

- Advocate or lobby for lifestyles seen as objectionable by the general public;
- 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;
- Undermine the authority or legitimacy of the government and public institutions, or threaten the nation's security or stability.

*If you are not sure as to whether you are eligible for NAC funding, please speak to one of our NAC officers listed on our website: <https://www.nac.gov.sg/pages/contactUs.html>

Section 3: Application and Assessment Process

How do you apply for the Creation Grant?

You will need to submit your application for the Creation Grant via the OurSG Grants Portal (OSG). The OSG can be accessed via the NAC website:

(<https://www.nac.gov.sg/whatwedo/support/funding/creationgrant/howandwhentoapply.html>)

or via <https://oursqgrants.gov.sg>.

The application will require you to submit the following information:

- CV of key parties involved
- Minimum 2 samples of past works
- Working samples of proposed works

Please refer to the OurSG Grants Portal for more information.

When must you apply by?

The Creation Grant is open for application **once a year**. The following table lists the key dates and windows that you will need to adhere to when you prepare your application.

Application window	Notified by	For projects taking place on or after
15 Feb to 14 May 2021	15 Sep 2021	31 Oct 2021

All applications have to be submitted by 11.59pm on the closing date. Late applications will not be accepted. In the event that you are awaiting confirmation from partners/collaborators, please submit your application before the closing date and state what is pending, then submit these documents to the relevant NAC officer(s) once they are available.

Who can you contact if you have questions?

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss your applications in detail, please contact any of our NAC officers listed on our website: <https://www.nac.gov.sg/pages/contactUs.html>

What happens after you submit an application?

All applications will be rigorously assessed by NAC. You may be contacted if we need more information. In the event NAC requires further clarification, an email will be sent to you from the OSG, and you will need to log in and access your application on the OSG to respond to the request.

Who will be assessing my application?

NAC works with an Assessment Panel comprising a representative body of specialists in their respective fields, many of whom sit on NAC's Arts Advisory Panel. The final composition of the Panel is determined after all applications have been submitted to ensure fair assessment of the applications. The assessment process includes an interview component with the Panel; applicants will be informed of the members of the Panel before the interview takes place. The Panel will make recommendations to NAC, and NAC will then make the final decision on the outcome of the application and funding allocation.

How will your application be assessed?

The Panel will base its assessment on the following:

1. Submitted application and proposal;
2. Supporting documents about the applicant's past works and CV;
3. An interview with the shortlisted applicant.

The assessment of the applications will be guided by the following criteria:

Assessment Criteria	Weightage
<p><u>Artistic merit of the proposal</u></p> <p>a. Idea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How strong and innovative is the project? Does it have the potential to push artistic boundaries? • How relevant are the ideas in the wider social context? • Will the project create an enriching and stimulating experience for audiences? <p>b. Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the proposed project develop the artist's practice? • Is the project potentially scalable for different platforms and audiences? <p>c. Contribution to the development of the scene:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the project contribute to the art form's development and contribute to the arts scene as a whole? • Does the project address a critical artistic or capability gap in the arts ecosystem? 	60%
<p><u>Ability to execute and launch project to the public</u></p> <p>a. Artistic track record:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the applicant have a strong track record of artistic achievement and production? • Has the applicant's work been critically recognised in the Singapore and/or the international arts scene? <p>b. Management skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the proposal well-planned, demonstrating deep and careful thought about the resources (financial or otherwise) needed to create the work on time and within budget? • Does the applicant have the ability and expertise to see the project through from creation to its subsequent public launch? • Is the proposed work at a stage of development where the applicant can realistically execute and launch it publicly? <p>c. Plans for the subsequent public launch of the created work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the applicant know who they are trying to reach with the eventual created work? • Does the applicant have a well-conceived plan to market the work and engage the target audiences? • Will the project be able to generate greater awareness of and/or engagement with the art form in Singapore? 	25%
<p><u>Potential of proposal in terms of applicant's artistic growth and his/her future contributions to the arts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent will the project develop the applicant(s)' potential (e.g., if successful, can this project significantly profile Singapore / the artist on an international stage? Or does the project broker a collaboration that would otherwise not be possible?) • To what extent do we expect the applicant to contribute to the future development of the Singapore arts scene? 	15%

Section 4: If you are awarded the Creation Grant

If your application is successful, you will receive a **Letter of Award via the OurSG Grants Portal** with:

- Terms and conditions of the grant
- Performance goals and deliverables⁹ as agreed upon by you and NAC.

The grant offer will be valid for two weeks from the time the letter of notification is sent out (unless NAC informs and states otherwise). If you do not accept the grant offer within this period of time, the offer will lapse.

Unsuccessful applicants will receive a **Letter of Notification** within the same period.

Appeals

We will not be able to accept appeals against artistic strength. However, cases may be reviewed on grounds of improper processing procedures. All appeals will have to be submitted in writing to NAC within two weeks of the notification of results.

How will you receive your funding?

Depending on your grant quantum, your grant will be disbursed in instalments upon completion of the key milestones and deliverables laid out in your proposed project timeline. The grant will be credited to your or your organisation's recognised bank account.

How will NAC assess your progress?

An Account Manager is assigned to awarded applicants and their projects. NAC is interested to keep in touch with you to understand your progress and, wherever possible, facilitate or support the promotion of your work.

In general, you will be required to submit at minimum of one **Creation Grant Mid-Term Status Reports** (refer to **Annex A** template), via the OSG, detailing work-in-progress status to NAC for monitoring and evaluation.

When you have completed your project, you will have to submit a final **Post-Creation Self-Evaluation Report** (refer to **Annex B** template) and **Financial Report** (i.e. the budget form submitted as part of the grant application, with actual income and expenditure reflected) within two months of project completion to help you take stock of what you have accomplished and how you wish to take your project to the next stage.

For grants of \$10,000 and above, you will also need to submit **Statement of Accounts** certified by an accountant registered with the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA) or equivalent international body.¹⁰ As part of the submission, the proof of the accountant's registration with ISCA or any equivalent international body (e.g. ISCA Membership ID) should be provided as well.

Please log onto the OurSG Grants Portal to submit these documents. To help you navigate the portal, you may refer to the user guide uploaded at <https://www.nac.gov.sg/whatwedo/support/funding/creationgrant/overview.html>.

⁹ Based on your proposal, your Account Manager will discuss with you, reasonable targets for your organisation to achieve within the funding period. You will be expected to deliver the plans articulated in your grant proposal, and account for the funding awarded to you.

¹⁰ Accounting fees for this statement can be budgeted for in your application.

Annex A: Mid-Term Status Report

Creation Process	Status	Start & End Date
<i>Briefly update on the development of your project. This includes key activities and milestones. Do also share any challenges you have encountered.</i>	<i>For each milestone, indicate if development is i. According to plan or ii. Ahead plan iii. Behind plan</i>	
Travel Research (if applicable)	Expected Outcomes	Start & End Date
<i>In this section, please update on your travel itinerary, the reasons for undertaking the travel and the outcomes (if any).</i>		
For the next Status Report (if applicable)		
Work Plan Schedule	Expected Outcomes	Proposed Start & End Date
<i>In this section, briefly update on the further development of your project in the coming months. Please indicate and explain changes to your proposed work, timeline, mini-showcase etc.</i>		

Annex B: Post-Creation Self-Evaluation Report

When you have completed your project, we would like you to share your evaluation and reflections on your project with us. You may wish to use the following questions as a guide.

Artistic Aspirations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How have you achieved the artistic goals set out in your plan?• Is the work/result as you have envisioned?• What is your assessment of the quality of the work you have created?
Artistic Process
<p>Artistic development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In what ways has the creation process contributed to your growth as an artist?• What are some discoveries and new methodologies that have emerged as a result of this process?• What challenges did you meet along the way, and how did you overcome them? <p>External consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Was the feedback given constructive and useful for improving your work? If so, how was the feedback incorporated? If not, why not?
Public Engagement
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What was your audience's feedback on your work, and did your work resonate with them? (<i>Your audience includes anyone who attended your mini-showcase and anyone with whom you shared the work during the creation process</i>)• How did you consider or incorporate the views and ideas of your audiences and the artistic community? (<i>If applicable</i>)
Post-Creation Plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How do you intend to produce, present and market your work to a larger audience?• Have you pitched your work to presenters/producers/publishers/literary agents? How was the response?
Feedback on the Grant
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are there any areas in which NAC could have done more to better to support your creation process?

Annex C: Specific Information for Literary Arts Applicants

The Creation Grant for the Literary Arts is an investment in the creation of a work of both high literary merit and readership appeal. To help writers achieve this, a residency stint and editorial consultancy, while optional, are potentially supportable as part of the Creation Grant:

1. **Editorial Consultancy** (*Strongly recommended*)

Recipients are encouraged to appoint an editor at the start of the writing process and/or after their first draft is completed. Editors are expected to play a developmental role, functioning as a sounding board throughout the writing process. You may either work with an editor identified by NAC or with your choice of an editor (subject to approval).

2. **Genres Supported**

The following genres are supported:

- Fiction
- Creative/Literary Non-Fiction¹¹ (including literary biographies, memoirs, essays on ideas, society, culture and the arts etc.)
- Young Adult Literature
- Graphic Novel
- Poetry
- Translation

¹¹ We define literary non-fiction as writing that uses literary devices to create a narrative text about real events, people or ideas. Examples in this genre include biography, food writing, literary journalism, memoirs, personal essays and travel writing. The work should be accessible to the general reading public and cannot be intended for a specialised or academic readership.