

## Call for Proposals: Host a local gathering during MCH Meeting Point on Art & Social Action 2022

### About Meeting Point

#### **From Connection to Collaboration**

*A Meeting Point on Art & Social Action in Asia*

October 20th – 29th, 2022

Online and in-person

In 2021, Mekong Cultural Hub (MCH) initiated the Meeting Point platform to create an opportunity for people working at the intersection of arts and society in Asia to connect, exchange and engage with each other around common concerns and shared visions. Following the positive response to the program, which involved 14 partner organizations, nearly 100 speakers and participants, and over 380 people joining the online sessions, MCH is organizing another Meeting Point in October 2022.

Last year, the Meeting Point took the theme of '*Revealing Contexts*' as a prompt for the talks, workshops and case studies that were programmed. Together we aimed to expose some of the daily living conditions and working practices of practitioners in our sector, and to find ways to increase awareness and empathy for the cultural and socio-political differences across our region, which are often overlooked or underestimated when it comes to cross-border collaboration.

Emerging directly from the sessions at last year's Meeting Point, this year's theme is *From Connection to Collaboration*. We regularly hear from our Fellows and our networks that they want to 'do' things together, but how do we ensure that such collaboration is meaningful, equitable and serving a community beyond those individuals directly involved? Is collaboration an outcome or a process? If we want to work collaboratively, what are the foundations that need to be put in place and what kinds of attitudes do we need to nurture, what kind of structures do we need to unlearn?

The 2022 Meeting Point on Art & Social Action in Asia will be a chance to explore these questions. It will be spread over a 10-day period, to allow space for reflection and connections to develop in between sessions. MCH will offer a selection of online programs during the opening and closing weekends. These programs are already in development, with 40 of our Fellows network engaged in preparing sessions.

Throughout the 10-days there will also be sessions hosted by partners and Fellows, wanting to meet and exchange with others working at the intersection of arts and society. These sessions will be a mix of online events and programs hosted locally or in small regional hubs.

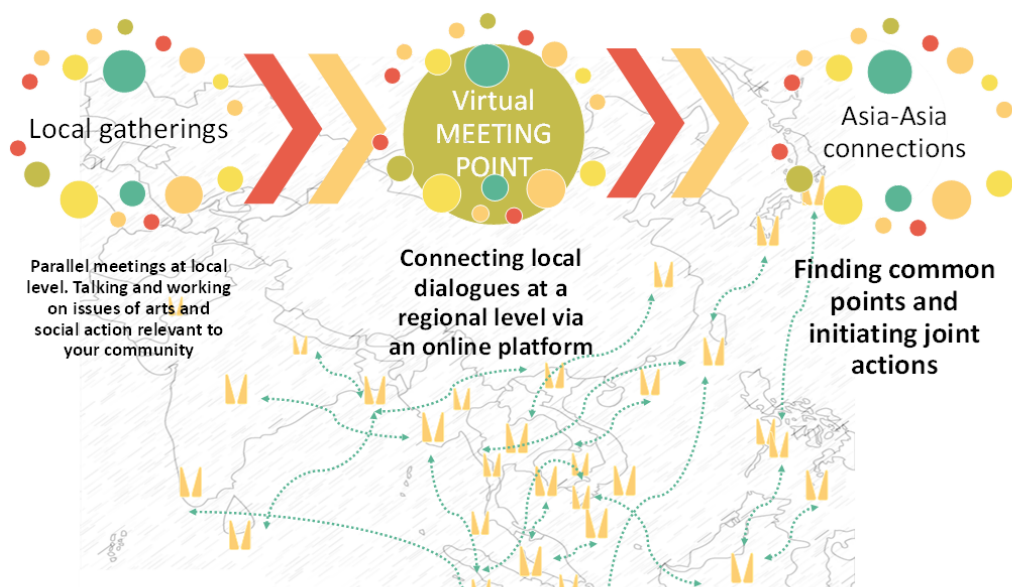
The goal is that a community working in this field across Asia can have space to exchange ideas, experiences and best practices, and get new inspiration and connections with potential partners to take their work forward. The spirit of the meeting point is one of action, and we hope that we will all leave the meeting point with fresh direction and energy for our work.

The full program for *From Connection to Collaboration: A Meeting Point on Art & Social Action in Asia* will be published on September 1st 2022.

If you are a practitioner or an organization concerned with Art & Social Action in Asia and would like to get in touch with us to discuss an idea for collaboration related to Meeting Point, please contact [info@mekongculturalhub.org](mailto:info@mekongculturalhub.org)

### **About Local Gatherings**

The Local Gathering format was developed in 2021, when we had to change the Meeting Point from a physical event to a hybrid event in response to the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was one of the most well-received aspects of the program, and we are delighted to continue the format for 2022.



At these local gatherings people can interpret the theme of the Meeting Point in a way that is relevant to their local context, and organize a gathering, talk, workshop or creative action which engages people in connection and exchange. It is up to hosts to interpret the theme and the format in a way that makes sense to them, and MCH is open to creative ideas. Below are three examples of gatherings that were hosted in 2021:

<b>Plastic in the Buddhist Rituals</b>	<b>Edge of the Citadel</b>	<b>Myth, Legend and History: Stories from our homes by GOH-Migrant</b>
Phonepath KeoKomsak, Laos	Nguyễn Thị Thanh Mai, Vietnam	Garden of Hope Foundation, Taiwan
<p>This gathering was organized in collaboration with the Master Monk at Vat Pa Fang Temple, Luang Prabang. Local people were invited to prepare a lunch set as an offering for the Monks using natural materials, for example using bamboo basket, creating banana leaf cups for food and making real flower décor offerings. The workshop was documented with photo and <a href="#">video</a> and posted on the Facebook page '<a href="#">Town of Luang Prabang We Want</a>'. A talk was organized in the club house by to engage youth in discussion.</p>	<p>The gathering spanned two days. Day 1 included a site-specific art exhibition, a tour of the artworks, a tour of the Citadel's walls visiting relics and vegetable farms cultivated by the community that lived there. Day 2 was reserved for an artist talk and a panel discussion on the residential relocation and site clearance project, with panelists from different sectors, including art and culture, architecture and urban planning, public policy, tourism, and history.</p>	<p>Students from South-East Asian countries in Taiwan were invited to gather with Garden of Hope and National Taiwan Museum and have a light discussion session about culture and history from their home countries. The main purpose was to explore the growing experiences respectively, the differences between culture and tradition, their backgrounds, and how the education system plays a critical role in developing people's way of thinking. Through this gathering the organizers hoped to reveal the context and raise awareness of cultural diversity.</p>

By creating a network of multiple local gatherings happening in parallel, MCH aims to generate collective energy to feed into the Meeting Point and to create a sense of connection and solidarity between communities. Last year, some gatherings included cross-border connections; for example [Dialogues with Mountains](#), which brought together two mountain communities, one in Taiwan and one in Indonesia who gave each other virtual tours of their local areas, shared information about culture and crafts, and then discussed sustainable travel. We would love to see more of this in 2022.

This year, MCH also wants to support more connection between the hosts and the communities involved in the local gatherings. Therefore, in addition to providing financial support for the gatherings, and promotion via the Meeting Point platform, we will also be organizing a series of short workshops for hosts in the build-up to the Meeting Point. More detail is provided below.

## **Call for hosts**

We are now looking for people, teams, collectives or organizations in Asia who are working at the intersection of art and society and would like to host a local gathering as part of the 2022 Meeting Point, *From Connection to Collaboration: Art & Social Action in Asia*.

### **Who are we looking for?**

The lead hosts should be citizens of an Asian country, and working in the field(s) of art and social action in Asia. Asian citizens who are temporarily resident in a country outside of Asia are welcomed to participate, as long as your gathering targets people affected by or engaged in art and social action in Asia. The main target audience or participants for your event should be people in your local area. Our aim is to support in-person activities.

### **What am I expected to do?**

If MCH is able to support your local gathering then we would expect you to:

- Arrange your gathering to take place between October 20th and 29th 2022, the dates of the Meeting Point
  - We don't need to know the exact date(s) of your gathering at this stage
- Participate in four sessions with the other hosts (approximately 20 people), where you will get to know each other and have the chance to share ideas and feedback and make connections as you plan for your gatherings
  - These sessions will take place on the last Thursday of the month in June, July, August and September. They will be online sessions lasting maximum 2 hours; the working language will be English and you will spend most of the time in small groups so you get a chance to know each other and talk freely
- Be responsible for all of the logistics and local outreach for your gathering
  - This will include making sure your gathering considers appropriate health and safety measures, especially with regard to COVID-19 risk/restrictions, which might include a back-up plan in case your gathering needs to move online
- Provide MCH with information about your gathering in a timely fashion so we can include it in the program, and prepare any logistics support and marketing materials required from our side
- Provide MCH with photos and other documentation of your gathering
- Write a short report after the gathering

What support is MCH offering?

- MCH will provide a budget towards the costs of organizing your local gathering, see below for more details
- MCH will organise four preparatory workshops where hosts can get to know each other and develop the details of their events; this will be a great opportunity to develop new networks and connections
- MCH will help to publicise your event and you as the organiser through our own channels and through media partnerships for the Meeting Point
- MCH can provide technical support and logistics for online events
- For events in locations where MCH has staff or Fellows, we can help to invite people to participate in your gathering

Financial support available from MCH

MCH can offer financial support to help you organize your gathering. We have three levels of financial support available, which are based on the scale and style of gathering you plan to host. We have called these Coffee Style (\$500 USD), Workshop Style (\$1,000 USD) and Conference Style (\$1,500USD). You can apply for one of these options. We don't need a precise budget from you and won't make grants based on detailed budgets.

Please note these titles and the example formats described in the table below are ideas only, to help give some inspiration as a starting point. We are totally open to your suggestions and you can go in a completely different direction if you have a creative idea that makes sense for your community and your context!

Grant amount/ budget guidelines

<b>Type</b>	<b>Budget offered</b>	<b>Approx. number of people</b>	<b>Examples of format</b>
Coffee style	\$500 USD	10-15 people	You might gather in an informal setting like a coffee shop. You might invite participants to share their work and have some internal discussion on a topic of your choice. You might invite a guest speaker, or you might go as a group to visit a project of interest.

Type	Budget offered	Approx. number of people	Examples of format
Workshop style	\$1,000 USD	15-30 people	You might curate a program that includes several structured sessions, for example some breakout groups, a training or a keynote talk. You might use the chance to conduct some informal research about concerns related to arts and social action, or to invite another sector to connect with you. You might share some art work or a performance as part of your program.
Conference style	\$1,500 USD	30+ people	You might decide you want to arrange an event with some talks, panel discussions or screenings that could be presented to an audience.

**What are the requirements that a Local Gathering has to meet to be eligible for this call?**

In general, MCH's attitude is that the format is flexible according to your concept and the local context. However, there are few key requirements from MCH that we ask you to fulfill:

- Your gathering should relate to the theme *From Connection to Collaboration: Art & Social Action in Asia*
- The main target audience / participants of your gathering should be people in your local area
- The main target audience / participants of your gathering should be people directly affected by or involved with art and social action in Asia

Some other things you may wish to consider include:

- Will your gathering be open to the public or a closed event by invitation only?
- Do you want to have any part(s) of your gathering taking place online so that people from other places can join you?
- What language will you do your gathering in? Do you need to have an interpreter?
- Might you want to integrate any of the online programs presented by MCH at the Meeting Point into your gathering? E.g. Would you want to watch a program with a few friends and then discuss it afterwards?

You don't need to know the answers to all of these questions now. If MCH is able to support your gathering you will have the opportunity to think about and discuss these with other hosts and with MCH later on.

### **How do I apply?**

If you would like to host a local gathering, please complete the proposal template [download proposal form [here](#)] and send it to [rina@mekongculturalhub.org](mailto:rina@mekongculturalhub.org) by **May 29th 2022**.

We will host a Q&A session on **May 12th 2022 at 16.00-17.00 ICT**, please register via link: <https://forms.gle/xb2og4cSU2T6ybgB6>

### **Summary of important dates**

