

Open Call for Participation

MCH Professional Exchange Program 2022

Who is the program for?

- Art and culture practitioners who work at the intersection of art and society and based in the Mekong Region and Taiwan
- Hands-on experienced art and culture practitioners in artistic/cultural projects that are aiming to transform ideas, attitudes, behaviors, stereotypes or current conditions of communities/societies
- Practitioners who are interested in exploring and expanding perspectives through a group discussion format with peers, in order to gain advanced learnings and to contribute other peers' learnings
- Practitioners willing to embrace the diversity of contexts and practices of others in the program
- Practitioners who are willing to have the learnings, including both practices and challenges, which are generated through the exchange to be shared with a wider audience

What is the MCH Professional Exchange Program?

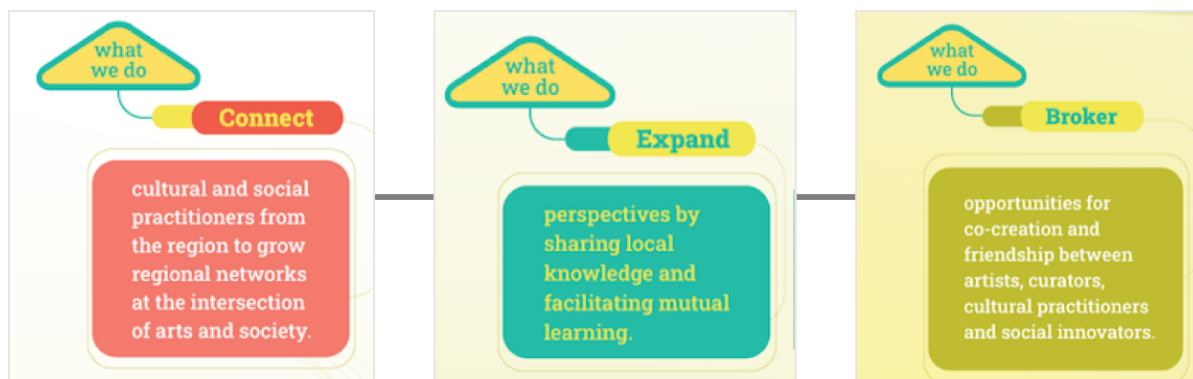
- A Peer-to-Peer Professional Exchange space for art and cultural practitioners who work at the intersection of art and society in the region.
- Through 3-5 times of peer-facilitated online gatherings, the participating experienced practitioners share their local knowledge, on-the-ground practices and real projects as case studies with each other.
- During the gatherings, they could discuss and consult with each other in a small group, they gain mutual learning and expand their perspectives through small group discussions, drawing from their hands-on experiences of real cases.

- Each group will include one Peer Facilitator and three Participants.
 - The Peer Facilitators are experienced art and culture practitioners from the Mekong Region or Taiwan, who have ample and related experiences and interests in the topics, the facilitating role, working with peers from Asian countries, and peer-to-peer learning.
 - The Participants are art and culture practitioners from MCH's priority focus countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam), with hands-on experiences directly related to the topics(see [page 4-5 of this document](#)) and interested in having consistent gatherings with a small group of peers during the period as the program timeline scheduled.
- Each group has its own topic, which is a particular skill which has been identified by the MCH network as something important and needed, and an area where people would like to learn more on how to practice and apply this skill. The three topics are:
 - Project development and management of art / cultural projects
 - Workshop design and facilitation of engaging communities into art projects & art making processes
 - Ethics in socially-engaged and community-based art projects
- The exchange between the Participants should help to serve learning and problem solving for all of the participants, including the facilitator.
- In addition, the most useful and practical learnings and best practices identified by the group are documented and made available to a wider network as a Best Practice Toolkit, specific to the context of cultural practitioners and socially-engaged arts in Mekong Region and Taiwan.
- Sharing their Exchange experiences with a wider audience on [The Meeting Point](#) platform to widen their connections, contributions and influences.

Who is Mekong Cultural Hub (MCH)?

Our mission is to empower diverse cultural practitioners to bring their visions for an inclusive, sustainable Mekong Region to life. Since 2018, we have connected more than 150 practitioners from the region for professional exchange, co-creation and collaboration.

Mekong Cultural Hub (MCH) works with people whose own work is at the intersection of arts and society. We initiate projects and work on collaborations all around Asia. Our priority focus countries are Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.



Method, Format and Topics of the Program

Method

- A peer-facilitated process to assist the Participants' gatherings and their:
 - peer to peer learning, mentoring, and consulting,
 - topic-focused discussions of the cases on what went well, what were the challenges, what was lacking or undone, what could be improved, what was uncertain or needed or insufficient or too much...what could be done differently or should be done the same and enhanced?
- Each Participant gains learning from the group and contributes to other Participants' learning.
- The Peer-Facilitator and the Participants together identify the key learning points and put them together as a guide of "practical approaches to problem solving and for better output' they had learnt from the experiences (Best Practice Toolkit).

Format *#NOTE: the gatherings will be online by ZOOM Meeting*

- There will be 3 groups of Professional Exchange in 2022
- Each group has **a focused topic** for the group discussion and learning
- Each group includes 3 Participants and 1 Peer-Facilitator
- Each group will gather 3-5 times over 2-3 months, each time is about 2 hours long
- All groups participate an online session to share the collective and individual experiences in a dialogue way on [the Meeting Point](#), a platform during Oct 20~29 2022, hosted by [Mekong Cultural Hub](#)

Topics

Three topics were selected based on the feedback of MCH fellows in the region and the observations from MCH's work with art and culture practitioners in the region. The focused discussion will be based on actual art and cultural activities that are aiming to transform ideas, attitudes, behaviors, stereotypes or current conditions of communities/societies for an inclusive and sustainable future.

TOPIC A: Project development and management of art / cultural projects

- Artistic and cultural projects that engage non-arts people / communities, or concerning social issue, or building social innovation
- Focus on how to identify the problem and develop the program with describable solution / outcome

TOPIC B: Workshop design and facilitation of engaging communities into art projects & art making process

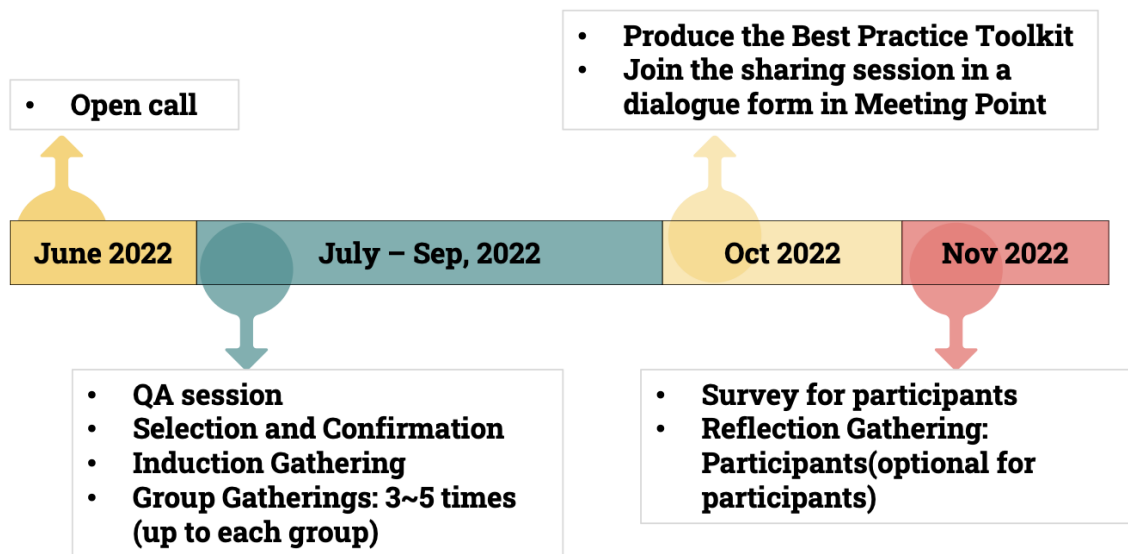
- Workshops aiming for engaging non-art people / communities in art projects and processes
- Focus on how the design and the facilitation of a workshop by considering the target participants' contexts, serve the aim and reflect on how and why to build the relationship between art and non-art community

TOPIC C: Ethics in socially-engaged and community-based art projects

- Artistic and cultural projects collaborating with non-art individuals, sectors or communities
- Focus on what ethical issues should be paid attention and addressed to in such projects, and what practical skills and tools can be effective on the ground before the project starts, during and after the project is done

the cases the Participants bring in should be primarily from the Mekong Region or Taiwan, the majority of people involved the cases are in the Mekong Region or Taiwan

Program Timeline in 2022




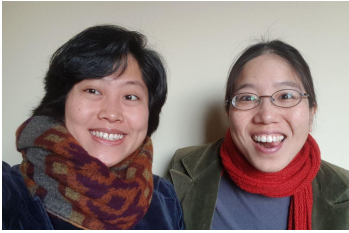

June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement of Open Call for Participants
July ~ Sep 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q&A session: Tuesday July 5 Deadline of Application and Selection: Sunday July 17 Inductive meeting: Monday Aug 1 (3 groups together) August ~ September: Group Gatherings (each group coordinate the time and date of their group gatherings)
Oct ~ Nov 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One online sharing session on the Meeting Point platform on Oct 29 2022 Reflective Gathering (optional)

About the Peer-Facilitator

In this Program, each group has a facilitator role invited by MCH and taken by an experienced practitioner from the Mekong Region or Taiwan, who has ample and related experience and interest:

- in the topic and related art projects
- in the facilitating role
- in working with peers from different Asian countries
- in peer-to-peer learning

Their role is a Peer-Facilitator working with MCH to support the gatherings and the discussions of each group. Each Peer-Facilitator will work with one group from the beginning till the end of the program. They will design a structure and a flow for the group to have discussions and exchanges between the Participants in their gatherings under the structure and aims of MCH Exchange Program 2022.

	<p>Topic A Peer-Facilitator: <u>Joanne MUN</u> / Based in Kuala Lumpur</p> <p><i>"Leadership is about inspiring others to act upon a common goal. The key to success is commitment, openness and willingness to extend ourselves to encounter and know the other."</i></p>
	<p>Topic B Peer-Facilitator: <u>Sinta WIBOWO</u> / Based in Brussels, Phnom Penh <u>Vatey TAN</u> / Based in Phnom Penh</p> <p><i>"Exchanging with communities and various ways of living, we explore 'togetherness & trust' as a practice to expand our comfort zones by learning from each other and life, while exercising consensual coexistence."</i></p>
	<p>Topic C Peer-Facilitator: <u>Yuying KUNG</u> / Based in Taipei</p> <p><i>"Ethical issues are never as easy and simple as black and white. Most of the time we keep juggling our decisions of putting which in the priority. Is it possible for us to pursue a balance and make it fair to us, to our collaborators, and to those who don't choose to collaborate but are influenced?"</i></p>

Involvement and commitment of Participant

Who is the Program looking for and

What is expected of the Participants' involvement?

- Art and culture practitioners from MCH's priority focus countries: Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam
- With hands-on experiences directly related to the topics (*see [page 4-5](#) of this document*) and interested in having consistent gatherings with a small group of peers during the period as the program timeline scheduled
- Able to bring in one or more real project (able to collect project information, images, videos or links for discussions) have had involved in as a case study for the group's exchanges and discussions
- Able to commit the time and contribution to the gatherings as a small group
 - actively together to coordinate the time to gather, prepare to share, participate the discussion, reflect with other peers, welcome feedback and willing to give suggestions or inputs or references as a group
 - aligned with the facilitated process of gathering and also embrace the flexible space for the participants to lead discussions
 - with friendly and respectful group spirit and agree to protect the confidentiality of what have been shared and discussed within the group
 - understand this program is designed for experienced professionals to learn from and to advise each other
 - ready for open and empathetic communications and exchanges
 - be part of the peer-to-peer learning model and believe their own learnings and contributions for selves and others in the group
- Join the dialogue session in the MCH Meeting Point 2022 (*see the basic info below on [page 9](#)*)

What is the Participants' commitment?

- Participate in the facilitated process and the space for the group to co-work

- Participate in all gatherings stated in this document
- Embrace and respect the diversity of the group
- Welcome receiving and giving critical feedback and suggestions while it does not mean they have to agree with and they give feedback with a helping and constructive intention
- Make the best of the online format gatherings as a group while the online experiences are mixed with the pros and cons

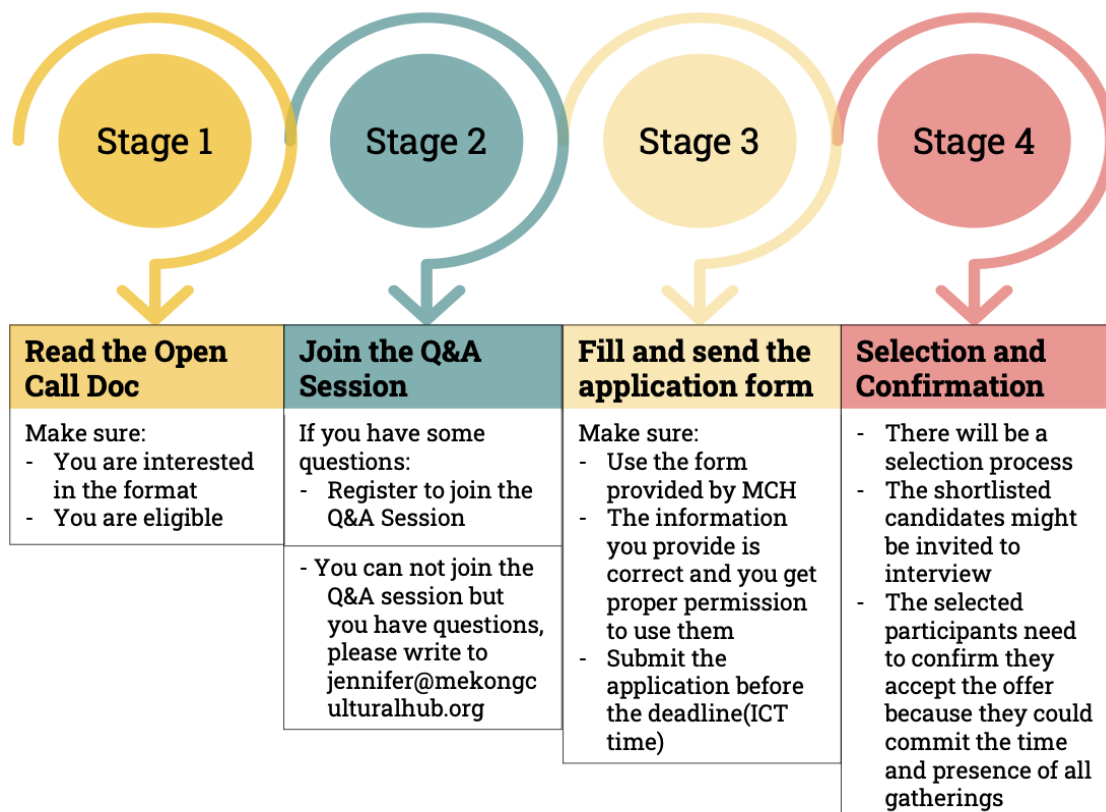
What support does MCH offer to the Participants?

- Bursary offered to the Participants: 500USD / each Participant, which will be transferred to the Participants after the whole participation is completed
- Logistic support of the online gatherings of each group
- Collect, edit and layout the content for the Best Practice Toolkit and publicize it and its co-authors /co-contributors, the Participants and the Facilitators
- Coordinate and promote the sharing and dialogue session and manage its related logistic and promotional work

Sharing and dialogue session in the Meeting Point

- A 90 mins online session on Zoom
- On Oct 29 2022
- Panelists: 3 Peer-Facilitators
- Prompt Respondents: 9 Participants

How to apply



Maybe you will find more inquiries while you fill in the application form, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer, the Program Manager of MCH at jennifer@mekongculturalhub.org. Our suggestion is to budget some time for the final review of what you have put, maybe you will find that you need more time than you expected to collect information you need, therefore, the risk of overdue the deadline of application will not happen.

Joining the Online Q&A Session (optional):

Date: 16.00pm(ICT time) of Tuesday July 5, 2022

Language: in English

FAQ Doc: We will launch the FAQ Doc after the Q&A Session

[Register for Q&A Session](#)

Submitting Your Application:

1. Please use the [Application Form](#) MCH provides
2. All information in the form is required to be filled, except the “Optional”
3. We do need you to use English to fill the form and the whole program will be conducted in English, but we do not care for excellent English, which is not needed nor considered in selection, as long as we can understand what the applicants are expressing and they are willing to listen to others and to express themselves.
4. We welcome inquiries for clarifying the program so the applicants could well consider if they are interested and want to apply.
5. Late applications will not be accepted, so please pay attention to the deadline of application: **July 17, 2022 (ICT time)**
6. When the MCH team receives an application, we will reply to your email to let you know your application is well received.

Deadline of Application: July 17, 2022 (ICT time)

Language: English

Application send to: jennifer@mekongculturalhub.org

Download the [Application Form](#)

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