

Program Overview:

Experiments in Community Collaboration

Learning program

About the program

The Experiments in Community Collaboration program aims to support existing community arts practitioners to develop their skills and practice in working with communities through arts-based processes.

A total of 8-10 people ('Fellows') will be selected to take part in the program, which will take place over six months, from June - November 2023. Each Fellow will come to the program with a specific goal for their own learning, related to something they want to improve or to try out in their community arts practice.

The program is facilitated by Janet Pillai and Wei Meng Foo.

This document provides detailed information about the following aspects of the program:

1. Goals of the program
2. Benefits of the program
3. Target participants of the program
4. Selection criteria
5. Structure and timeline of the program
6. Recap of key dates
7. Team involved in the program

For information on eligibility and how to apply, please see the [Open Call](#).

1. What are the goals of the program?

The goals of the program are to:

- Support community arts practitioners to develop a reflective practice on their work
- Build peer networks between community arts practitioners in Asia
- Introduce community arts practitioners to materials, case studies and networks that could offer guidance and problem solving related to community arts practice in Asia
- Offer community arts practitioners feedback and recommendations on their practice in relation to a particular community or project
- Offer community arts practitioners a micro-grant to support a hands-on learning experiment within the context of their community arts practice

2. What are the benefits of joining this program?

- Expand your networks and community of practice
- Develop your skills
- Have time and space to reflect on your practice and your goals
- Micro-grant to support you to implement a learning experiment
- Networking and exploring Kuala Lumpur during the in-person workshop

3. Who are the target participants of the program?

The program is designed for people who are already working as community arts practitioners. As there are limited spaces on the program, places are reserved for participants from MCH's focus countries. We welcome new people and existing Fellows to apply. You do not have to have worked with MCH before to be eligible.

The target participants are:

- Community arts practitioners from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Taiwan and Vietnam
 - Practitioner includes but is not limited to artist, producer, manager, facilitator, etc
- Must have:
 - At least 2 years experience working in community arts
 - An existing community you are engaged with locally to you, who is willing to work with you if you are selected for the program
 - Existing may mean:
 - A community you have worked with on/in a community arts project or process the past three years (2020-2022)
 - A community you are currently working with, within a community arts project/ process
 - A community you are already lined up to work with during 2023, within a community arts project/process
 - A clear objective of something you want to learn/ refine related to your practice
 - Example learning objectives might include:
 - Refining project design
 - Being more creative in how you facilitate
 - Better understanding community needs
 - Developing skills at building trust
 - Integrating art into your process to achieve better social impact
 - Must be able to commit to the key dates and hours of the program
 - Must be able to work with at least some of the stakeholders in your identified community during September-October 2023 to conduct your learning experiment
 - Please note your experiment doesn't have to directly integrate into your project or the ongoing work with the community

- It also does not need to engage the whole community, for example you could work just with local community leaders, or with staff of an NGO you rely on as a facilitator to connect with the community, or a small group of people from the community who usually would be participants in your activities
 - The stakeholders will be decided according to the experiment you will conduct
- Must have enough working English that you are comfortable to communicate with other participants, facilitators and speakers. This should include speaking and listening during talks and workshops, and email communication. You don't need to be fluent, and it doesn't matter if you don't follow traditional grammar and spelling - as long as you can clearly express yourself that's enough.

4. What criteria will be used to select the participants?

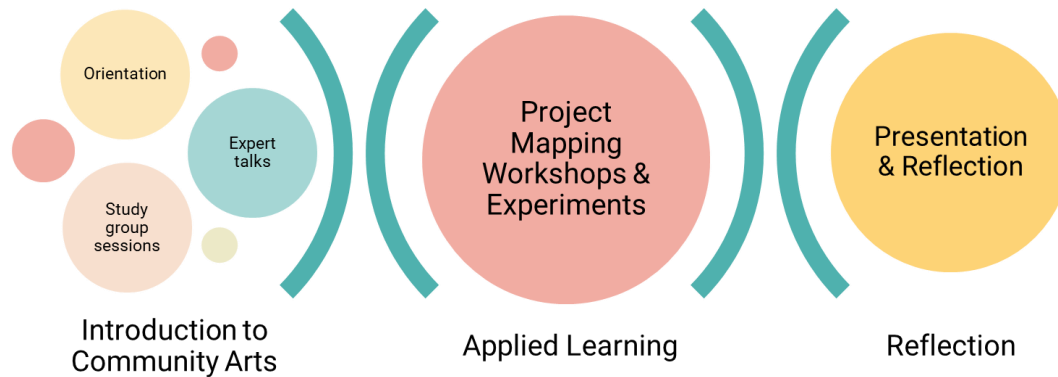
After checking to confirm that applicants meet all of the eligibility criteria, we will review the applications in detail in order to try to select the people that we think we can best support to develop their practice at this time. We will be looking for people whose applications show:

- Willingness and ability to reflect critically on their own experience
- Commitment to go deeper in their community arts work
 - How ready are they to explore and interrogate their practice?
- Degree to which they are using arts creatively to have an impact in the community
 - The program is not designed to support people to teach arts in the community or to do artistic activities that don't have a transformative impact
- An alignment between their learning goal and the community they will work with
 - Does it seem feasible to achieve their learning goal considering what they have told us about their work and relationship with the community?

The shortlist will be made based on the application forms. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an informal interview during the first week of May.

5. What is the structure and timeline of the program?

The program is delivered in the following stages:



More detail about each element of the program is below:

Orientation session

FORMAT: Online

DURATION: 3 hours

DATE: Saturday 10th June (2:30pm Myanmar/ 3:00pm Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam/ 4:00pm Taiwan)

At this virtual session you will meet all of the other participants, the Facilitators and the MCH Team. After reviewing the plans for the program, we will spend time learning about the context each participant is coming from, focusing on where and how they work, and what experiences and questions they have about community arts.

Expert talks

FORMAT: Online

DURATION: 90 mins

DATE: Saturday 8th July; Saturday 22nd July (2:30pm Myanmar/ 3:00pm Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam/ 4:00pm Taiwan)

The Facilitators will arrange 2 online talks for the whole group. Each talk will feature one experienced community arts practitioner from Asia, who will speak about their experience, share case studies and lessons learned, and offer advice and reflections on community arts practice.

Study group sessions

FORMAT: Online
DURATION: 90 mins
DATE: Sunday 11th June; Sunday 9th July; Sunday 23rd July; and a final session in late October, date to be agreed by each group (2:30pm Myanmar/ 3:00pm Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam/ 4:00pm Taiwan)

The study group sessions will happen via two or three small groups. Each one will be led by one of the Facilitators, who will work with 2-4 participants. The groups will meet after the intro session, and then following each online talk, to discuss questions and reflections based on the content and materials shared, and to relate it back to the participants' own practices. The final study group session will be for participants to present outcomes and challenges from their experiments.

Project mapping

FORMAT: In-person (Kuala Lumpur)
DURATION: 90 mins online workshop + 5 days (3 days workshop + arrival/ departure days)
DATE: Online briefing session for workshop pre-prep and briefing, Saturday 12th August
In-person workshop, August 30th - September 1st 2023

During this workshop, the facilitators will support each participant to finalise their questions and learning goals by doing an in-depth mapping of their project(s) and their community. There will also be space for peer exchange, and a program of site visits so that participants can get to know the arts ecosystem in Kuala Lumpur. By the end of the workshop the participants will have started writing up the design of the experiments they will conduct.

Learning experiments

FORMAT: In-person
DURATION: Flexible according to participant's design
DATE: Any time during September-October 2023
* Mid-term one-to-one check-in with Facilitator* online, Saturday September 30th

Following on from the Project Mapping workshop, each participant will write up a proposal for how they will approach their experiment. Once this is signed off by the Facilitators, you can start your activities. Each participant will be awarded a micro-grant of \$700 USD to support the costs of conducting their experiment. This can be used to compensate your stakeholders for time to work with you, or other associated costs such as venue rental, refreshments and materials.

The expectation is that the activities and experiments are small. They are designed for your own skill development and learning, and don't need to be on a big scale. It will probably take you a few weeks to prepare, and then the activity might be implemented over 3-4 days. They should be

conducted in connection with the existing community that you identified when you applied for the program, and so will happen in your own local context.

Participants will have an individual check-in with their Facilitator to discuss their experiment.

Presentations & Reflection

FORMAT: Online

DURATION: 90 minutes x 3 for presentations; 3 hours for final reflection

DATE: Presentations November 3rd -5th (one group per day); final reflection Saturday November 25th (2:30pm Myanmar/ 3:00pm Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam/ 4:00pm Taiwan)

In the presentation sessions, the participants will present their experiments and share what they learned. One group of 2-3 participants will present each day. All participants, Facilitators, guest speakers and the MCH team will attend for the presentations. In the final reflection workshop, the Facilitators will support the whole group to reflect on the learnings generated about community collaboration, and wrap up the program.

6. Recap of Key Dates

All virtual large group and small group sessions will start at:

- 2:30pm Myanmar time
- 3:00pm Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam
- 4:00pm Taiwan

Key Components	Date	Venue	Sessions	Grouping/ Individual
Introduction to Community Arts	10 June (Sat)	Online	Orientation	Large group
	11 June (Sun)	Online	Study Group: Get to know each other	Small group
	8 July (Sat)	Online	1st Expert Talk, Q&A	Large group
	9 July (Sun)	Online	Study Group: Post-talk discussion session	Small group
	22 July (Sat)	Online	2nd Expert Talk, Q&A	Large group
	23 July (Sun)	Online	Study Group: Post-talk discussion session	Small group

Project Mapping Workshop	12 Aug (Sat)	Online	Preparation and workshop briefing	Large group
	30 Aug - 1 Sept (Wed-Fri)	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	3 days workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Arts Mapping • Project Mapping & Finalising Experiments • Network with community arts practitioners 	Large group Small group Individual
Experiments	Sept - Oct	In-person, locally	Implementation of individual experiments <i>(Onsite with the community & stakeholders based on the proposed experiment idea)</i>	Individual
	Sept 30 (Sat)	Online	Mid-term progress meeting session with facilitator.	Individual
	End of Oct (dates to be agreed between facilitator & group)	Online	Study Group: Participants share their experiment outcomes and challenges faced in a slide format, and receive feedback on their presentations	Small group
Presentation & Reflection	Nov 3-5 (Fri-Sun)	Online	Verbal presentation with slides to all the guest speakers and facilitators - one small group per day <i>(Guest speakers and facilitators will give comments after each presentation; fellows are encouraged to attend at least 1 other session and participate in Q&A)</i>	Small group
	Nov 25 (Sat)	Online	Reflection on the program and lessons learned	Large group

7. Who is the team working on this program?

The program is facilitated by Janet Pillai and Wei Meng Foo.

Janet Pillai (Malaysia)



Janet Pillai is an independent consultant and resource person in the field of arts and culture education and cultural sustainability. Her area of specialization is in cultural mapping and community-engaged arts practice which involves multi-stakeholder partnership with communities, government agencies, artists, academics and professionals.

Her work entails programming and training, as well as research and writing about community engaged arts practices in the Asian region. She also serves as an expert resource person with organisations such as UNESCO Bangkok, APCIEU Korea, and GETTY Foundation, USA.

Related publications include Community-based Arts & Culture Education: A Resource Kit, Cultural Mapping: A Guide to Understanding Place, Community and Continuity and a regional website Interrogating Community-engaged Arts.

Wei Meng Foo (Malaysia)



Foo Wei Meng was formerly trained in graphic design and visual arts with an MFA degree in photography. Since her return to Malaysia in 2007, her quest for a better understanding of the larger meaning and purpose of arts in society through education and community work has led her to play different roles from being an educator in a local design college, to being a facilitator, programmer, coordinator, curator and/or manager in a variety of community-based projects in Malaysia, such as "Preliminary Research & Basic Documentation of Potehi Puppets in Penang", "Maju Jaya Children Playground Design Workshop", "Pudu Community Art Project", and "Contemporary Art in School".

While working in Arts-ED (a non-profit organization based in Penang, Malaysia) as the program manager from 2016-2020, she managed to further develop her skills in programming and facilitating community-based arts and culture educational programs using creative approaches for young people, and designing and delivering capacity building program for formal and non-formal educators locally and internationally.

All these experiences have widened her views and deepened her understanding of what art-making and culture-making can do in transforming positive change in the way humans perceive and engage with the world. Although she still creates personal photography works as an introspective exercise, currently, as a freelancer, she spends most of her energy and time exploring more effective and innovative approaches in managing, designing, facilitating, and evaluating community-based arts and culture initiatives.

The program is also supported by MCH Team Frances Rudgard, Director, and Jennifer Lee, Program Manager. You can read more about Frances and Jennifer [here](#).