

Program Overview:

Host an Interactive Session at Meeting Point

Meeting Point 2025

1. What is an interactive session?







An interactive session at Meeting Point is a hands-on, engaging activity where participants of meeting point actively take part in discussions, workshops, or creative activities. These sessions will last 90 minutes and accommodate 25-30 people. They should encourage people to share their ideas and work together, focusing on the theme "Building Bridges – Art and Social Action in Asia." The sessions can have formats including but not limited to artistic workshops, action research, group discussions, or training. The goal is to create an experience that involves everyone and sparks meaningful engagement with the practice of art and social action in Asia.

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

- Your session should relate to the 2025 Meeting Point theme “**Building Bridges: Art & Social Action in Asia**”
 - You can interpret this in a way that is relevant to your proposed activity, and the concept or issue you will engage through your session
- It should be able to **accommodate 25–30 people**
 - These sessions are intended for the participants of meeting points to join based on their interest or relevant to them with your topic among other parallel sessions, so your sessions should be able to accommodate minimum to that number.
- Your session should be able to run with simple, low-tech equipment.
- Since most participants may need to communicate in English, if you want to run your session in your local language, you will need to arrange for translation on your own.

Below are three examples of Interactive Sessions that have been hosted previously:

Crafting Connections : Sharing Stories and Perspectives on Local Crafts	What do we tell each other beside meal-tables	The Polyphonic Assemblage #1
Kanchalee Ngamdarnonk and Sergey Tishkin, Thailand	Thanh Mai Bui Duy and Linh Dang, Vietnam	Bunga Siagian and Ismal Muntaha, Indonesia
Hosted in a Semi Outdoor Space. This session was delivered in two parts:	Hosted in a Semi Outdoor Space. This session was designed so that participants got to know each other through a more	Host in an Indoor Space. The Polyphonic Assemblage #1 was a performative meeting that explored how we can urgently consider multiple perspectives

<p>1. Crafting Connections - Share a crafted object with personal or communal significance, gather fresh ideas and get inspired by new perspectives upon experiencing your object and others'. This segment encouraged participants to share and address common challenges within the craft community in Asia.</p> <p>Hands-on Natural Dyeing Experience - Session participants engaged in a bundle dyeing project, where they were provided materials and supported to create a dyed work. Participants were welcomed to bring their own plants or herbs to use and/or share with others, adding a touch of individual creativity to the process.</p>	<p>intimate middle ground: food! Participants were invited to share, hear and reflect on each other's stories about eating - ranging from ethnic comfort food to memorable meals over disappointment and joy. Activities included postcard drawing and telling. Discussion questions included:</p> <p>Besides filling the stomach, what do we eat for?</p> <p>And who do we eat with?</p> <p>What does this eating activity reveal about us as a person?</p>	<p>(human, more than human) as a collective articulation in the process of landscape-making and development.</p> <p>All the participants actively contributed to thinking on collective and collectivity, by inviting another non-human stakeholder from their environment as also-participants in the meeting.</p> <p>Performative approaches were used to present each other's multiple perspectives, emphasizing the importance of learning, and thinking through the senses.</p>
 	 	 

2. What is the 'Meeting Point' that the Interactive Sessions are part of?

Meeting Point is a platform where people working with arts and society in Asia can find each other to discover new friends, exchange ideas and experiences and leave with fresh inspiration to take their work forward. MCH organises the Meeting Point every 18 months. The content and format of the sessions is developed by artists and other practitioners, who work together over several months on the journey towards the Meeting Point.

The public program takes place over a three week period, including online sessions and decentralized local gatherings. It culminates with an in-person gathering which lasts 3 days. All the online sessions and the 3-day in-person program are open for public registration.

Each Meeting Point has a central theme. So far these include:

- Revealing Contexts (May and July 2021)
- From Connection to Collaboration (October 2022)
- Perspectives from the Grassroots (March 2024)
- Building Bridges (October 2025)

Please visit www.mekongculturalhub.org/meeting-points to discover more, including what other programs will involve.

3. What are the exchange sessions I am expected to take part in as part of this program?

As well as supporting you with a micro-grant to run your interactive session, MCH arranges an orientation meeting and two online networking sessions with all the selected hosts in July, August and September, 2 hours Zoom call per month. These sessions will be facilitated by MCH Program Manager, Zun Ei Phyu, and an Interactive Sessions Coordinator who will also be present with you in Laos.

Participating in these sessions is a requirement of the program, and all selected Hosts are expected to attend all sessions. The purpose of these sessions is to:

- Build networks and connections between the Hosts
- Share practices, interests and experiences that will enrich dialogues between cultural practitioners in Asia, which can also support your interactive session preparation.
- Ensure the Hosts are well briefed on Meeting Point, and have the opportunity to strengthen the connection between their session and the overall program
- Support the Hosts, MCH and the Meeting Point producer, STELLA, to be well-prepared for the smooth-running of the interactive sessions

The dates for these sessions are:

Thursday July 17th, 2025
Thursday August 21st, 2025
Thursday September 18th, 2025

All sessions will take place from 5pm - 7pm ICT (Bangkok time).

4. What do Hosts have to do during the in-person Meeting Point program in Vientiane?

Aside from running their sessions, the main expectation of the Hosts will be to fully engage with the rest of the Meeting Point program, for example by joining and enjoying the other talks, workshops and experiences on offer at the Meeting Point, and using the chance to meet and connect with the other participants.

Hosts are expected to:

- Arrive to Vientiane on 14th October 2025 (except the hosts who are from Vientiane)
 - Logistics arrangements will be made for you by MCH
- Take part in a Hosts workshop, site check and preparation for your session on October 15th 2025 (full day)

- Run your 90 minutes Interactive Session for 25-30 participants on the afternoon of either October 16th or 18th 2025
- Join the other programs of the Meeting Point 2025 on October 16th, 17th, 18th 2025
- Depart from Vientiane on 19th October 2025

5. What are the benefits of this program?

By running the Interactive Session program, the Hosts* will benefit from:

- A \$300 USD unrestricted micro-grant to support organizing your session
- Growing your networks in Asia by meeting and exchanging with the other Hosts
- Getting new insights into local contexts across Asia through exchanging with the other participants of the Meeting Point
- Being supported to attend the in-person Meeting Point program in Vientiane, with all logistics and costs* supported by MCH from 14th to 19th October 2025 (including travelling date of 14th and 19th)

** In the case of Interactive Sessions organized by a group or collective, MCH will only be able to support two representatives of the group to attend the in-person meeting point. Flight costs will be covered for travel within Asia.*

6. What resources will be made available for my session?

MCH will ensure that you are provided with a physical space in which to conduct your session, which will be either an indoor workshop room or a semi-outdoor space (with a roof cover). We will have chairs, tables and floor mats available. We will not provide sound and light equipment - and we do not expect to select hi-tech workshops.

If you need materials for your session e.g. paper and pens, fabric or food - you will be expected to purchase these with your micro-grant. If you want to buy these materials on arrival in Laos, we will have staff/ volunteers who can help you to do this.

The session should be delivered in English as this will be the common working language; if you need to arrange translation this must be budgeted within your micro-grant.

7. Who are the target participants for this program?

To be eligible for this program, you must be:

- A cultural or social practitioner, working on art and social action in Asia
- A citizen of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam
 - If applying on behalf of a collective or an organization, it is expected that the collective or organisation is based in one of these places, and at least one person who will facilitate the interactive session has citizenship of one of the above places
 - If you are applying for two people to facilitate the session, the second facilitator may have citizenship of another country in Asia
- Able to commit to all key program dates, particularly the 3 online orientation and networking sessions (2 hours per session from Zoom) and the travel

dates for the workshop and the Meeting Point in Vientiane 2025.

To be eligible, the session that you propose must be:

- Connected to the theme 'Building Bridges: Art & Social Action in Asia'
- Interactive in nature
- Suitable for a group of 25-30 people
- Designed to be 90 minutes long

8. What are the selection criteria for this program?

The criteria that we will use to select participants for this program include:

- Adherence to the eligibility criteria
- Contribution of the session to the Meeting Point theme
- Ability of the hosts to effectively deliver the session
- Evidence of interest and enthusiasm to take part, including commitment to sharing and learning with fellow hosts and participants of meeting point
- Originality and creativity

Our selection will also consider diversity of perspectives, voices and themes; and we will seek diversity among the hosts in terms of geography, identity and practice.

9. What is the selection process for this program?

- When you send your application, we will confirm that we have received it. If you have not heard from us within 3 working days of sending your application, please contact us again.
- Shortly after the closing date, we will review all applications for eligibility
- All applications meeting the eligibility criteria will then be reviewed according to the selection criteria listed above
 - A scoring system will be used so that applications can be consistently compared
- Shortlisted candidates will be invited for a short online interview on June 12th or 13th 2025
- All candidates will get the email of the selection result by June 17th 2025

10. Recap of key dates

Date	Time	Activity
Tuesday, May 6th 2025	5pm ICT (Bangkok time)	Q&A session for interested applicants
May 30th 2025	11:59 PM ICT	Deadline for applications
June 12th-13th 2025	Various	Interviews with shortlisted candidates
June 17th 2025	n/a	Results communicated to all applicants
Thursday, July 17th, 2025	5pm - 7pm ICT (Bangkok time)	Orientation session
Thursday, August	5pm - 7pm ICT	Online exchange session 1

Date	Time	Activity
21st, 2025	(Bangkok time)	
Thursday, September 18th, 2025	5pm - 7pm ICT (Bangkok time)	Online exchange session 2
October 14th 2025	n/a	Travel day
October 15th, 2025	All day	Site check and prepare for running session (in Vientiane)
Any afternoon of October 16th or 18th, 2025	5:30-6:00pm ICT (Laos time)	Host your Interactive Session (in Vientiane)
October 16th-18th 2025	All day	Building Bridges: A Meeting Point on Art & Social Action in Asia (in Vientiane)
October 19th 2025	n/a	Travel day