

Call for Proposals: Host a workshop at Safe Havens Meeting 2026

SEA Differently: An Asian Lens on Artistic Freedom

Key Information

Opportunity	Host a 90-minute workshop, seminar or other form of interactive session relevant to <i>SEA Differently: An Asian Lens on Artistic Freedom</i>
Open to	Artists, cultural practitioners, researchers and cultural rights defenders from Southeast, South and East Asia, working in art and social action
Total participants	6 workshop proposals will be selected, at least 3 of these will be from practitioners from Southeast Asia
Important dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Applicants must be available to attend the Safe Havens Meeting in full, from December 2nd-4th 2026, in Siem Reap, Cambodia→ You have to do site check and preparation for your workshop on December 2nd→ You will deliver your workshop on either December 3rd or 4th 2026.→ You have to arrive in Siem Reap on December 1st, and depart on December 5th→ You have to join 3 online orientation & networking sessions (2 hr each) with the other workshop hosts during October & November
Working language:	The main Safe Havens Meeting language will be English. Your session may be in other languages, in which case translation/ interpretation should be considered in the planning and budgeting.
Support offered:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ All travel & accommodation costs for maximum <u>two</u> facilitators per workshop to attend the Safe Havens Meeting in Siem Reap→ A \$300 USD unrestricted micro-grant per session
Deadline to apply:	1st June 2026, 23:59 (ICT)

Program outline:

Safe Havens is the annual meeting of the artistic freedom sector, organised by Swedish association, SH|FT since 2013. This year, SH|FT will join forces with Living Arts International (including Mekong Cultural Hub and Cambodian Living Arts) to convene the Safe Havens meeting in Cambodia from 2nd – 4th December 2026, aiming to strengthen the interaction between global and southeast Asian actors in the field of the Arts in Society.

Co-curated by LAI, SH|FT and ArtsEquator, and hosted by CICADA, the program will spotlight Southeast Asia – a region that is underrepresented in cultural policy dialogues globally. Together we aim to create new channels of communication and connection among artists, CSOs and INGOs, to jointly work on seeing things differently. We plan to create a space that

focuses on what can be done, and how resources that exist might be deployed in new ways to build up expression and creativity, rather than dealing with crises.

We are now calling for practitioners, collectives and organizations from Asia to propose hosting workshops during the Safe Havens Meeting which communicate regional perspectives and experiences related to artistic freedom. We are seeking workshops that are hands-on and experiential, where participants will actively engage in discussions, workshops, or creative activities. Workshops will last 90 minutes and should be able to accommodate approximately 30 people. The goal is to create an experience that involves everyone and sparks meaningful engagement with the Safe Havens 2026 theme, *SEA Differently: An Asian Lens on Artistic Freedom*.

With this open call, we plan to select 6 workshop proposals. At least 3 proposals will be selected from Southeast Asian practitioners, the rest by practitioners from other eligible countries. The workshops must meet the following criteria to be eligible for consideration:

- Be related to our theme of “*SEA Differently: An Asian Lens on Artistic Freedom*”
- Be interactive in nature
- Be suitable for approximately 30 participants
- Be able to be managed within 90 minutes

Safe Havens will support travel and accommodation costs to Siem Reap for a maximum of two people to host each workshop. We will also provide an unrestricted micro grant of \$300 USD for each workshop. The selected hosts are required to take part in three online sessions during October and November. Dates will be agreed in advance of you accepting the grant award.

Please read the [Program Overview](#) for full details.

How to apply

Please submit a proposal using the template, which can be found [here](#). Proposals should be submitted to safehavens@mekongculturalhub.org not later than **1st June 2026 (23:59 ICT)**.

Q&A Session

We will host a virtual Q&A session, where you can ask any questions you have about the proposal template and the selection process.

Date: May 13th 2026 (Wednesday)

Time: 5:00 PM (ICT)

Zoom Registration link :

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/7EfxoFMWRgORonhi2d48EA>

If you have any questions about the program or the application, you can contact us at safehavens@mekongculturalhub.org