

Briefing Session 2025

28 March 2025

National Gallery Singapore
The Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium & Foyer



Supporting Arts and Culture through the Cultural Matching Fund

Opening Remarks by
Mr Tan Xuan Rong
Trust Secretary
Cultural Matching Fund

A suite of schemes to support the arts and culture sector

Increasing raised income

- Cultural Matching Fund
- NAC's Support for the Arts (stART) Fund

Increasing earned income

- SG Culture Pass

Audience Development

- NAC's Marketing & Audience Development Grant

Capability Building

- NHB's Organisation Transformation Grant
- NAC's Capability Development Grant



Impact of CMF

Collaborations between CMF recipients



Photo credits: Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre

Wellness in the City

by **Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre** and
CMF recipients **RuanAtWorkz Musical Arts** and
SAtheCollective



Photo credits: RuanAtWorkz Musical Arts



The Dog Who Wasn't Useful
by CMF recipients **Drama Box** and
The Esplanade Company Limited

Photo credits: Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay

Expanding Outreach and Elevating Ambitions

Sing Me A Story programme by Sing'theatre



Photo credit: Sing'theatre Ltd



Photo credit: Red Dot Baroque (Gerald Lim)

Red Dot Baroque's collaboration with
Alberto Busetini and Contrarco Baroque Italy

Stewarding CMF Funds



We will prioritise applications for projects aligned to culture sector priorities

We will prioritise support for smaller arts and heritage groups

We will continue to work with applicants to ensure good governance

#1: Making CMF Priorities Clearer

- Across the CMF Website and application materials, we will more clearly set out how applications will be assessed, and what our priorities are.

Current Version	Updated Version (additions in bold)
<p>Applications will be evaluated by the CMF Trustees with the support from CMF Secretariat, MCCY, NAC, and NHB. For application of CMF grants above the first \$300,000, applicant is encouraged to discuss with the relevant agency to ensure proposed uses are in line with cultural sector priorities before submitting their applications.</p>	<p>Applications will be evaluated by the CMF Trustees with support from CMF Secretariat, MCCY, NAC, and NHB. The CMF Trustees will assess an application based on, amongst other criteria, its eligibility, completeness, and the proposed uses of the matching grant.</p> <p>Matching funds are limited. There is a need to decide on the allocation of these funds, especially during application cycles when there is a surge in the total dollar amount submitted for matching. CMF will prioritise applications that support culture sector priorities, which include but are not limited to driving artistic and cultural excellence; contributing to stronger and more cohesive communities in Singapore; and developing the local arts and culture sector.</p> <p>CMF reserves the right to reject any application. The CMF decisions in relation to the approval of applications is final and no appeals will be allowed.</p> <p>For applications above \$300,000, applicants are encouraged to discuss with the relevant agency to ensure that the proposed uses are in line with culture sector priorities (see “Funding conditions” section) before submitting their applications.</p>

#2: Streamlining Definition of ‘Culture Sector Priorities’

- Across the CMF Website and application materials, we will streamline the definition of ‘Culture Sector Priorities’ to make it easier to understand and apply.

Current Version	Updated Version
<p>For matching grants above the first S\$300,000 per application window, the funds must be used to support projects that align to culture sector priorities, including projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Have high standards of excellence; can engage audiences and are impactful in rejuvenating/transforming the cultural landscape or fill a critical gap in the arts and culture ecosystemb) Encourage sustainability in our arts and heritage scene, e.g. instill sense of ownership among locals in our arts, history and traditions; build a pool of patrons and volunteers; improve capabilities in areas like fundraising, innovation, research, etcc) Engage different segments in society including underreached communities, and contribute to development of new audiences beyond one-off attendancesd) Contribute to building a more caring and cohesive society by bridging communities, fostering intercultural understanding, and bringing Singaporeans from different walks of life togethere) Promote greater sense of shared identity and pride as Singaporeans, and deepen understanding on richness and diversity of our multicultural society	<p>For matching grants above the first S\$300,000 per application window, the funds will be prioritised to support projects that align to culture sector priorities, including projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Contribute significantly to artistic/heritage excellence in Singapore;b) Contribute to stronger and more cohesive communities in Singapore; andc) Contribute to the capability development of the wider local arts and heritage sector.

#3: Ensuring Good Governance

- **With effect from CMF2025, Trustees will exercise discretion to suspend groups with a track record of governance issues.**
- **Aim is to uphold good governance and adherence to proper grant application processes for accountability.**



Thank you