

Healing Arts ↔ Singapore



Pilot Projects Brief

Healing Arts Singapore Pilot Projects Producer:



Healing Arts Singapore Founding Partners:

Overview

Healing Arts Singapore Pilot Projects - Open Call

A national call for arts and mental health innovation

The Jameel Arts & Health Lab, Community Foundation Singapore, and Temasek Foundation, are launching this open call for pilot projects to strengthen mental wellbeing through the arts, tackle health inequalities, and inform culture and health policy in Singapore and across the Western Pacific region. The pilots are part of Healing Arts Singapore, Asia's first national-level arts and health initiative.

Running from 18 May to 18 July 2026, the open call aims to identify pilot projects with the potential to deliver scalable, long-term impact for communities and individuals in most need of mental health support. At a time of rising interest in the health benefits of the arts both in Singapore and across the world, these pilot projects will aim to identify innovative approaches while addressing gaps in evidence for arts-based mental health interventions. They will inform strategy for future scalability of arts and mental health interventions and position creativity as a catalyst for healthcare and public health system transformation.

Up to three pilot projects will be selected and accompanied by best practice evaluations guided by The THRivE Toolkit: Tools for Health Research and Evaluation in arts and heritage. Each project evaluation will be overseen by a committee represented by the Jameel Arts & Health Lab, the World Health Organization, Community Foundation Singapore, Temasek Foundation, Singapore's Institute of Mental Health, Community Jameel, the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music at the National University of Singapore, and the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts at the University of the Arts Singapore. It is hoped that evidence generated through the evaluations will help inform national, regional, and global arts and health policy.

Key Dates:

- Call Opens: 18 May 2026
- Call Closes: 18 July 2026
- Pilot Projects Announced: August 2026

Open Call Process:

All applications must be submitted via the official portal on healingartssingapore.org and will be assessed by an expert committee utilizing the criteria outlined in this document.

Application Stages:

Stage 1: Application Submission: May-June 2026

Organisations can submit a full application via Healing Arts Singapore website, an offline form can be found with full application questions at healingartssingapore.org

Stage 2: Application Assessment: June-August 2026

- Applications will be scored against the selection criteria in this document
- Shortlisted candidates will meet with the Healing Arts Singapore Pilot Project Steering Committee for further assessment

Stage 3: Notification, Contracting & Announcement: August/September 2026

- Successful applicants will be notified and contracts signed
- Pilot Projects will be announced

Healing Arts Singapore Background

As Asia's first national-level arts and health initiative, Healing Arts Singapore aims to embed the arts within systems of care, advancing the evidence-base while scaling arts in health interventions to improve health and wellbeing across Singapore and the wider Western Pacific region.

As part of the Jameel Arts & Health Lab's global Healing Arts campaign produced in collaboration with the World Health Organization, Healing Arts Singapore was co-founded by the National University of Singapore's (NUS) Centre for Music and Health at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, University of the Arts Singapore (UAS).

The initiative was launched in December 2025 with a one-week program featuring academic symposia at both NUS and UAS, policy meetings, capacity-building workshops, three artist commissions, and the appointment of Asia's first Healing Arts Centre of Excellence.

Healing Arts Singapore continued in 2026 with the announcement of four artist commissions in collaboration with ECCA Family Foundation and the launch of these Pilot Projects focused which aim to:

- Deliver innovative arts-based interventions targeting mental wellbeing.
- Generate high-quality, standardised evaluation data to inform policy.
- Strengthen collaboration across arts, health, and community sectors.
- Contribute to national priorities and the global evidence base.

Pilot Project Criteria

We will invite proposals from organisations working at the intersection of art, health, and community impact in Singapore. We will prioritise projects that demonstrate high-quality practice and scalability, all applicants will be moderated on the following criteria and weighted scoring:

C1: Relevance to Theme (Relevance) (20%)

- Aligns with Singapore's mental health and wellbeing priorities
- Demonstrate understanding of mental health sensitivities and ethical practice
- Clearly identifies the need for the program within a defined demographic, including youth and/or older adults where relevant

C2: Track Record (Experience and Competency) (20%)

- Be co-designed with a local partner from the arts and culture, health and social care or community and voluntary sectors
- Demonstrates relevant experience, strong partnership working, and clear involvement of participants or communities in shaping or delivering the project

C3. Quality of Intervention and design (Innovation) (20%)

- Demonstrate a clear, high-quality and engaging artistic approach that supports mental health and wellbeing
- Show originality, innovation, and cultural relevance within the project design and participant experience

C4. Feasibility, Sustainability and Potential to Scale (Budget & Timeline) (20%)

- Includes a realistic timeline, delivery plan, and a clear and cost-effective budget for programme delivery, evaluation and capacity-building
- Identifies opportunities for future funding or long-term development that can contribute to arts and health infrastructure within Singapore
- Project delivery costs (excluding evaluation) must be within the budget range of \$50,000 to \$100,000 Singapore Dollars for the entirety of the project, with a clear and detailed year-on-year spend

C5. Evaluation (Feasibility) (20%)

- Include clear intended outcomes and realistic evaluation methods using appropriate qualitative and/or quantitative measures
- Demonstrate understanding of arts and health evaluation frameworks

Inclusion Criteria:

1. Organisational Eligibility and Capability

- The applicant is a legally constituted organisation based in Singapore, or a formally established consortium with a nominated lead organisation with demonstrable experience delivering programmes at the intersection of arts, health, and/or community wellbeing.

2. Strategic Alignment with Public Health and Mental Health Priorities

- The proposal clearly aligns with Singapore's national health and wellbeing priorities and demonstrates an understanding of public health approaches.
- The core focus of the project is mental health and wellbeing, rather than a secondary or incidental outcome.

3. Partnership and Co-design

- The project is led by a:
 - Arts or cultural organisation
 - Health, mental health, or social care provider
 - Community or voluntary organisation
- Project details how partners are involved throughout the life cycle of the project and in a collaborative capacity.

4. Targeted Populations

- The project engages with a clearly defined population group and demonstrates how participation will support mental wellbeing, resilience, and social inclusion

5. Evaluation Generation

- The project is evidence-informed, with a clear rationale linking artistic activity to mental health outcomes and commits to using an approved evaluation approach.
- The project commits to clear coordination and demonstrates capacity for data collection and sharing.

6. Delivery & Feasibility

- The project can be delivered within the proposed timeline and funding process.
- A clear and cost-effective budget provided.

Exclusion Criteria:

1. Misalignment with Mental Health

- Projects where mental health is peripheral, implicit, or incidental.
- Projects focused on general wellbeing, entertainment, or cultural participation within a mental health rationale.

2. Lack of integration between Arts and Health

- Projects that are purely artistic, purely clinical or purely recreational
- Projects where artistic activity is decorative or included without clear artistic intent.

3. Insufficient Partnership/Co-design

- Projects without cross-sector partnerships
- Projects that are top-down, extractive, or lack meaningful community participation and engagement
- Projects where partners have only nominal or advisory roles

4. Inadequate safeguarding or ethical practice

- Projects that cannot demonstrate appropriate safeguarding or ethical protocols
- Projects that pose undue risk to participants or delivery staff
- Projects that fail to demonstrate sensitivity to mental health outcomes

5. Limited Learning, Evaluation and Long-term Impact Potential

- One-off events or showcases with no evaluation, reflection, or learning component
- Projects with no intention or capacity to contribute to evidence generation or future practice
- Academic research proposals without community-facing delivery.

6. Financial and/or Delivery Risk

- Budgets that are unclear, unrealistic, or poor value for money
- Requests primarily for capital costs or general organisational overheads
- Projects that cannot reasonably be delivered within the pilot period

Need for the Program

Mental health and mental wellbeing are growing public health priorities in Singapore, reflecting broader challenges globally. The need to strengthen mental health promotion and expanded services is clear. Evidence of arts-based interventions in supporting mental wellbeing, resilience, and social cohesion in Singapore remains limited, with few rigorously evaluated programs demonstrating scalability or potential for integration within national health systems. The Healing Arts Singapore Pilot Program is designed to address these gaps by championing evidence-informed interventions that integrate arts within health, community, and cultural systems.

Improving the Mental Health Support Ecosystem: The prevalence of mental health disorders (MHD) has been rising over the years. In 2019, MHDs were one of the top four leading causes of disease burden in Singapore. [Reference.](#)

Forge Healthy Habits from Young: The prevalence of non-communicable diseases related to mental wellbeing is on the rise among young people, contributing to increased healthcare utilisation and costs. Innovative strategies are needed to strengthen preventive mental healthcare.

Mental Health: Global Statistics

- \$16 trillion in potential cost to the world economy from MHD by 2030. [Reference.](#)
- 12 billion days of lost productivity every year due to anxiety and depression. [Reference.](#)
- 48% of Gen Z and 44% of millennials say they feel stressed all or most of the time. [Reference.](#)

Arts and health as creative solutions to complex problems

- Adults who participate in cultural activities once a month are 48% less likely to develop depression. [Reference](#)
- Engaging in the arts and cultural heritage boosts quality of life and productivity, adding £18bn in economic value to the National Health Service (UK). [Reference](#)
- Postpartum depression affects 1 in 7 women. A 10-week study protocol showcased that group singing accelerated improvement and reduced symptoms of PPD by an average of 38%. [Reference](#)
- Evaluations of the cost-saving scheme of Arts on Prescription suggest an average return on investment of £2.30 for every £1 spent. [Reference](#)
- Adults who participate in arts activities at least once a month are less likely to develop dementia. [Reference](#)