

PRESS RELEASE

18 MAY 2026 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Healing Arts

↪ Singapore Pilot Projects

Jameel Arts & Health Lab, Community Foundation of Singapore and Temasek Foundation launch open call for groundbreaking Arts and Mental Health Pilot Projects under Healing Arts Singapore



Pictured: Seeding the Floor — performing mindfulness of everyday by ARTS FISSION

SINGAPORE, 18 May 2026 –

The **Jameel Arts & Health Lab**, **Community Foundation of Singapore (CFS)**, and **Temasek Foundation**, announced today the launch of their [open call](#) for pilot projects to strengthen mental wellbeing through the arts, tackle health inequalities, and inform 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 WHO, Community Foundation of Singapore, Temasek Foundation, Institute of Mental Health Singapore, Community Jameel, the National University of Singapore through the Centre for Music and Health at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, 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.

Usha Viswanathen, Senior Director, Health & Well-being at Temasek Foundation commented, *"Healing Arts Singapore demonstrates how artistic expression can support healing, foster connections and amplify hope. At Temasek Foundation, we are catalysing and advancing the arts as a meaningful pathway to mental well-being – building partnerships, evidence and capability to enable compassionate, accessible cultural care to reach more individuals, families, and clinicians, across Singapore's diverse society."*

Paul Tan, Chief Executive at the Community Foundation Singapore commented, *"At a time when mental health challenges are more visible and multifaceted, initiatives like the Healing Arts Singapore Pilot Projects help us rethink how we support care and wellbeing, by bringing together the arts, health and community in meaningful ways. At CFS, we see how donor support makes it possible to test and refine these approaches, helping us better understand what works and how we can support people with greater care and intention."*

Uzma Sulaiman, Associate Director of Community Jameel, commented, *"Healing Arts is a critical initiative under the Jameel Arts & Health Lab that is helping to identify and scale outstanding programmes that utilise art to tackle the most critical health challenges of our time. Over the next two years, Healing Arts activations will span the United Kingdom, South Australia, Norway, the United States, Spain, Chile and Japan. Singapore is at the forefront, and these Pilot projects represent exactly the evidence-based approach that can shape arts and health policy across the Western Pacific and beyond. Community Jameel is proud to support the lab in providing a platform to scale these science-backed approaches to a global audience."*

The Healing Arts Singapore pilot projects will run from 2026-2028 as part of the Healing Arts global campaign by the Jameel Arts & Health Lab in collaboration with the WHO. Singapore joins a growing number of cities and countries embracing the healing power of the arts to support public health.

In 2025, the Jameel Arts & Health Lab, in collaboration with the WHO, designated **National Gallery Singapore** as its first **Healing Arts Centre of Excellence** in Asia. National Gallery Singapore is the first museum to receive this accreditation, joining prestigious cultural institutions Carnegie Hall and the Scottish Ballet.

Notes to Editors:

About the Jameel Arts & Health Lab

Launched in January 2023 by the World Health Organization, New York University, Community Jameel, and CULTURUNNERS, the Jameel Arts & Health Lab is a global initiative to measurably improve health and wellbeing through the arts. With a focus on overlooked and underserved communities, the Lab leverages scientific evidence, a global Healing Arts campaign, and capacity building to drive the integration of the arts into mainstream healthcare across 193 UN member states.

For more information on Jameel Arts & Health Lab, please visit jameelartshealthlab.org

About Healing Arts Singapore

Healing Arts Singapore - Asia's first national-level arts and health initiative - launched in December 2025 with a one week programme of academic symposia, policy meetings, capacity-building workshops, and the appointment of Asia's first Healing Arts Centre of Excellence. The aim of the project is to advance evidence-based arts interventions to improve wellbeing across Singapore and the wider Western Pacific region. As part of the Jameel Arts & Health Lab's global Healing Arts campaign in collaboration with the World Health Organization, Healing Arts Singapore was co-founded by the National University of Singapore through the Centre for Music and Health at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, and the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts at the University of the Arts Singapore.

For more information on Healing Arts Singapore, please visit healingartssingapore.org

About the Community Foundation of Singapore:

Established in 2008, the Community Foundation of Singapore (CFS) empowers individuals and organisations to give with purpose and impact. CFS supports structured, long-term philanthropic giving to nurture a generous society of caring, inclusive and thriving communities.

Working closely with donors, CFS addresses Singapore's diverse and evolving needs. To date, CFS has helped establish over 300 donor-advised funds and channelled support to hundreds of charities across a wide range of causes, including uplifting disadvantaged families and vulnerable children, championing the arts, and preserving the environment.

CFS upholds the highest standards of corporate governance and works in close partnership with charities to ensure donations are deployed effectively and responsibly, driving meaningful and measurable impact.

As of 31 March 2026, CFS has raised over S\$386 million in donations, including legacy gifts, and disbursed more than S\$244 million to charitable causes across Singapore.

For more information on Community Foundation of Singapore, visit cf.org.sg

About Temasek Foundation:

Temasek Foundation supports a diverse range of programmes that uplift lives and communities in Singapore and beyond. Temasek Foundation programmes are made possible through philanthropic endowments gifted by Temasek, as well as gifts and other contributions from other donors. These programmes strive towards achieving positive outcomes for individuals and communities now, and for generations to come. Collectively, Temasek Foundation's programmes strengthen social resilience, foster international exchange and regional capabilities, advance science, and protect the planet.

For more information on Temasek Foundation, please visit temasekfoundation.org.sg

Press Contacts:**Jameel Arts & Health Lab**

Rhys Boyer
Strategy & Development Manager
rhys@eo.a.art

Community Foundation of Singapore:

Ms Sow Jeng Teng
Manager, Communications and PR
jengteng@cf.org.sg

Temasek Foundation Press Contact

Joshua Wong
Director, Communications
joshuawong@Temasekfoundation.org.sg

Community Jameel

Yara Sakr
Senior GM, PR and Communications
yara@communityjameel.org