

*Spotlight on Cultural Policy Series Eleven:  
Roundtable on*

# *Art in the Time of Pandemic II: Keeping the Arts Afloat*

Wednesday, 8 July 2020  
9.30 am - 12 noon

IPS-NGS-SAM Spotlight on Cultural Policy Series Eleven:  
*Art in the Time of Pandemic II: Keeping the Arts Afloat*

Speaker

Mr Terence Tan

Founding Director  
Artsolute

**#SUPPORT  
MADE IN SG**

Supporting Our Singapore Talents

#supportMADEinSG

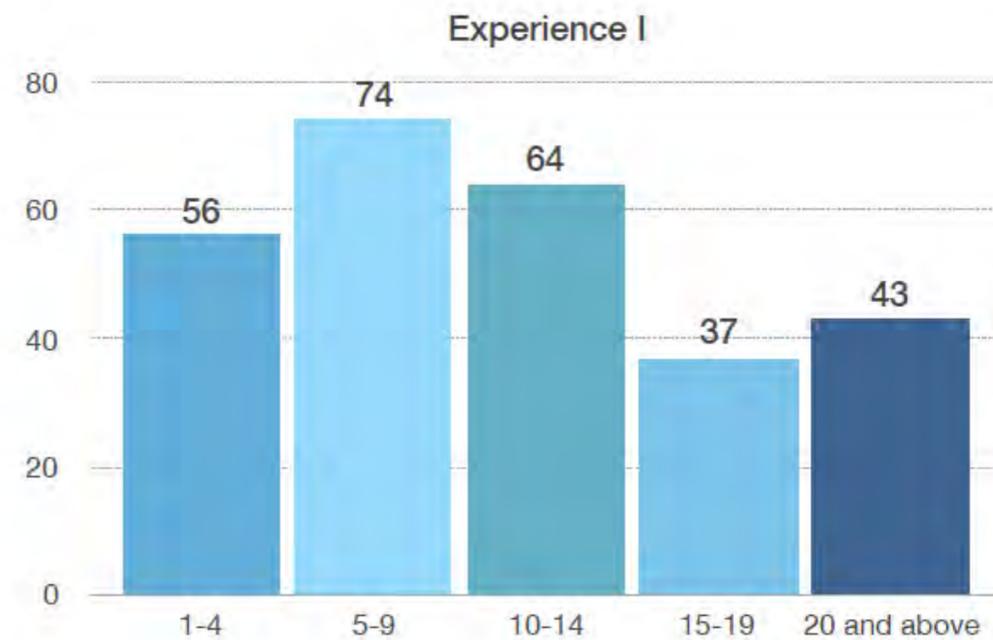
# Comparisons on Effects of COVID-19 on Singapore's arts scene

(<https://tinyurl.com/wj472om>, <https://tinyurl.com/sgartsurvey>)

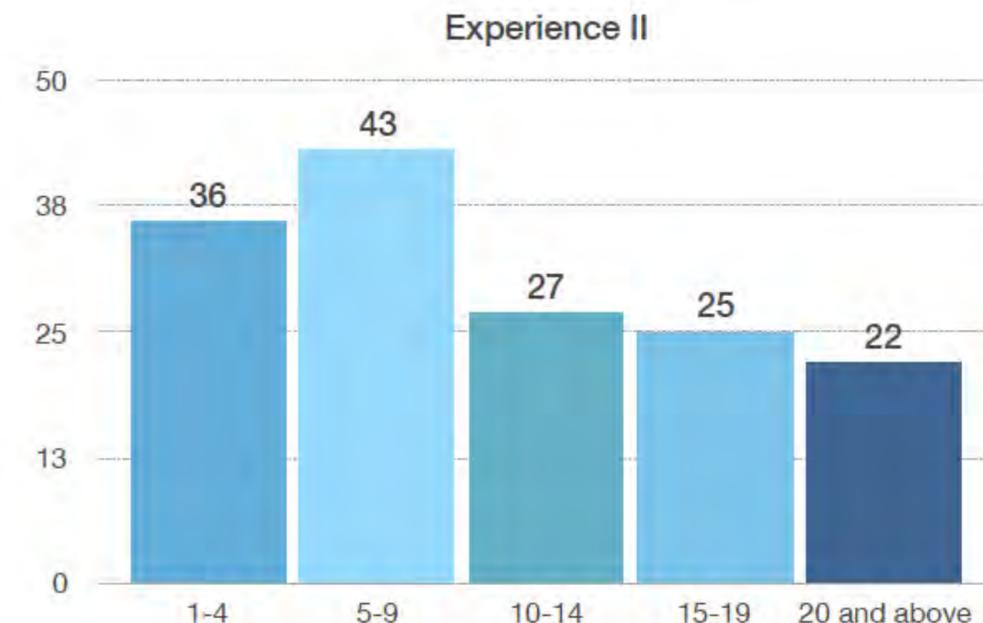
How many years have you worked in the arts and culture?

YEARS	TOTAL RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE RESPONDED
1-4	56	20.22
5-9	74	26.71
10-14	64	23.10
15-19	37	13.36
20 and above	43	15.52
No response	3	1.08
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>100.00</b>

YEARS	TOTAL RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE RESPONDED
1-4	36	23.53
5-9	43	28.10
10-14	27	17.65
15-19	25	16.34
20 and above	22	14.38
No response	0	0.00
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>100.00</b>



Feb

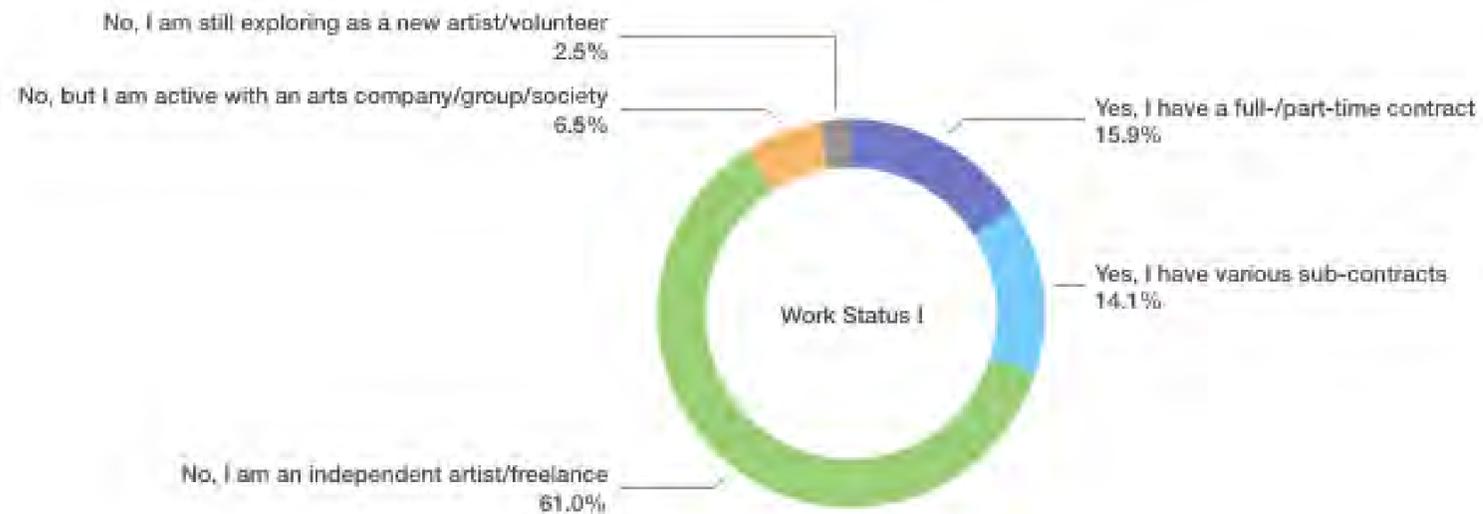


Apr

## Are you working with any arts & culture company, arts groups/societies? (Feb)

CATEGORIES	RESPONSES
Yes, I have a full-/part-time contract	<b>44</b>
Yes, I have various sub-contracts	<b>39</b>
No, I am an independent artist/freelance	<b>169</b>
No, but I am active with an arts company/group/society	<b>18</b>
No, I am still exploring as a new artist/volunteer	<b>7</b>
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>277</b>

CATEGORIES	RESPONSES
I am the owner/full-time with an arts & culture company/society/agency	<b>41</b>
I have various sub-contracts	<b>38</b>
I am an independent artist/freelance	<b>124</b>
I am an active volunteer	<b>8</b>
I am still exploring as a new artist/volunteer	<b>4</b>
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>215</b>



Feb



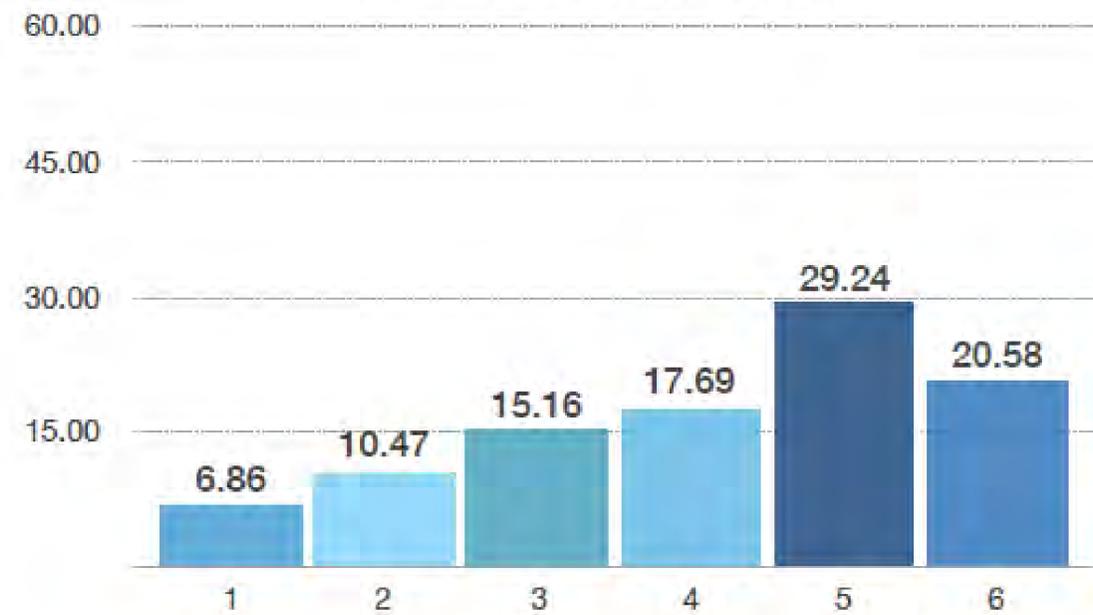
Apr

## How affected are your finances (scale of 1 to 6)?

SCALE	PERCENTAGE RESPONDED	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
1	6.86	19
2	10.47	29
3	15.16	42
4	17.69	49
5	29.24	81
6	20.58	57
Total responses	100	277

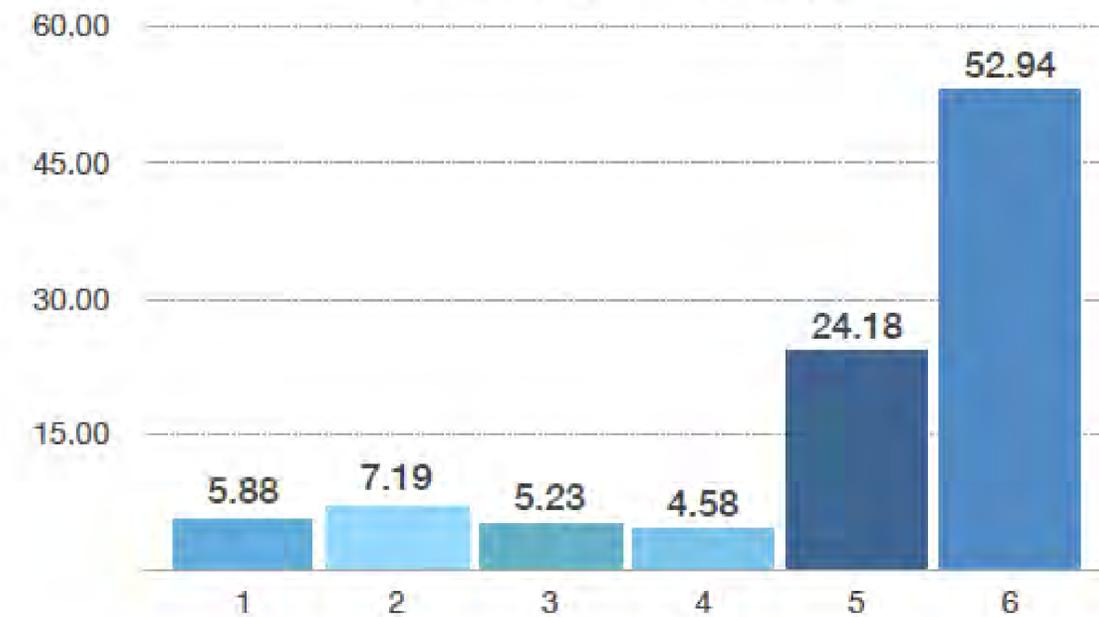
SCALE	PERCENTAGE RESPONDED	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
1	5.88	9
2	7.19	11
3	5.23	8
4	4.58	7
5	24.18	37
6	52.94	81
Total responses	100	153

Finance impact scale (Feb)



Feb

Finance impact scale (Apr)

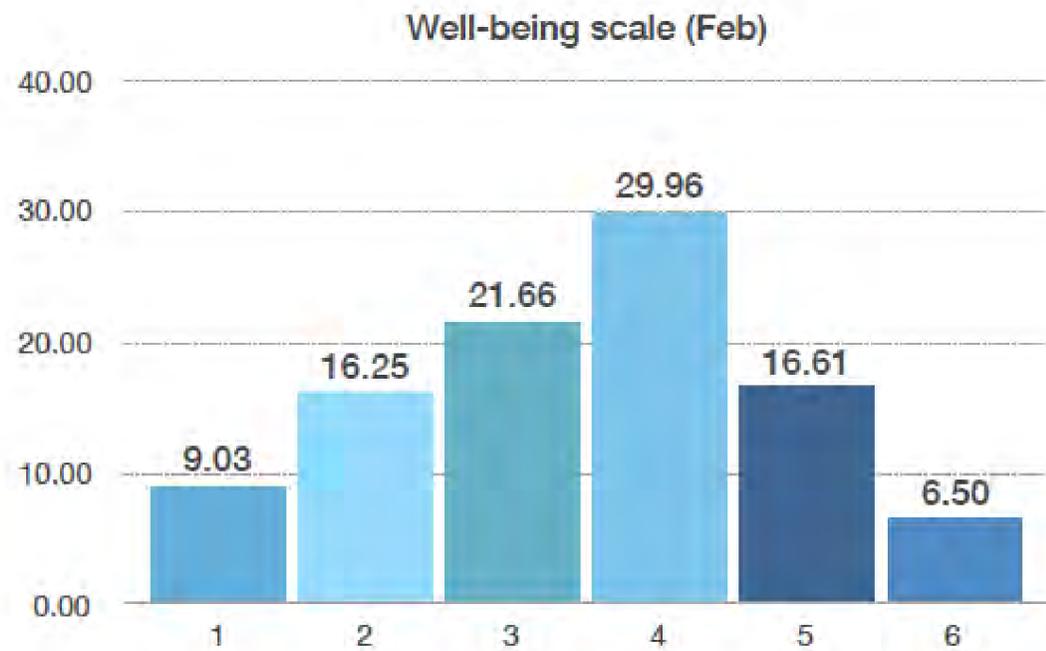


Apr

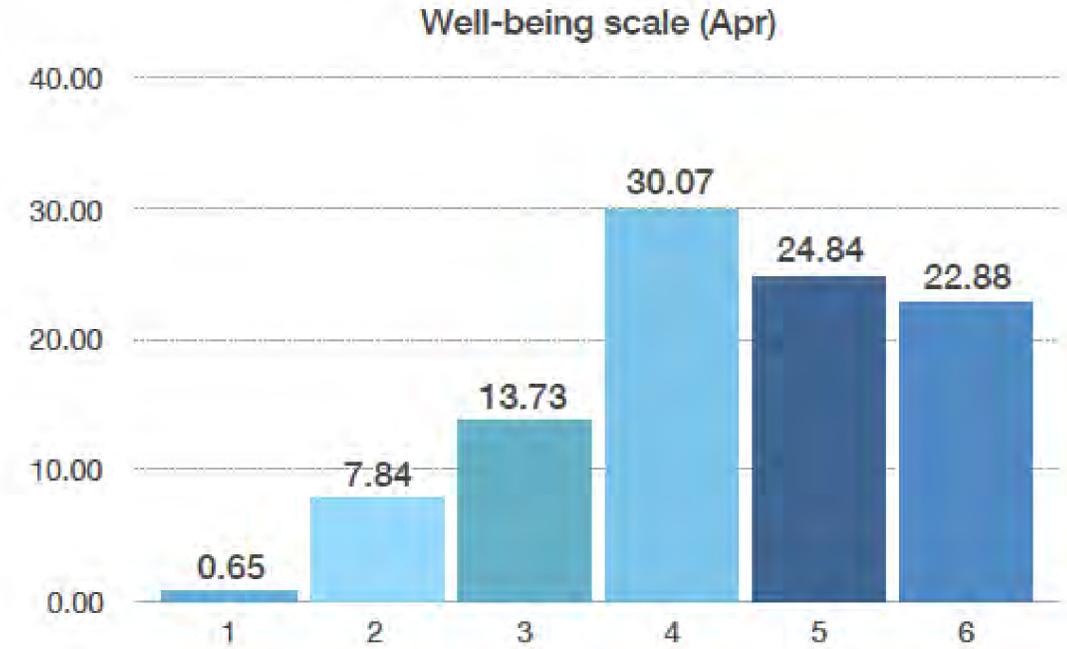
## How affected is your well-being (scale of 1 to 6)?

SCALE	PERCENTAGE RESPONDED	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
1	9.03	25
2	16.25	45
3	21.66	60
4	29.96	83
5	16.61	46
6	6.50	18
Total responses	100	277

SCALE	PERCENTAGE RESPONDED	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
1	0.65	1
2	7.84	12
3	13.73	21
4	30.07	46
5	24.84	38
6	22.88	35
Total responses	100	153



Feb



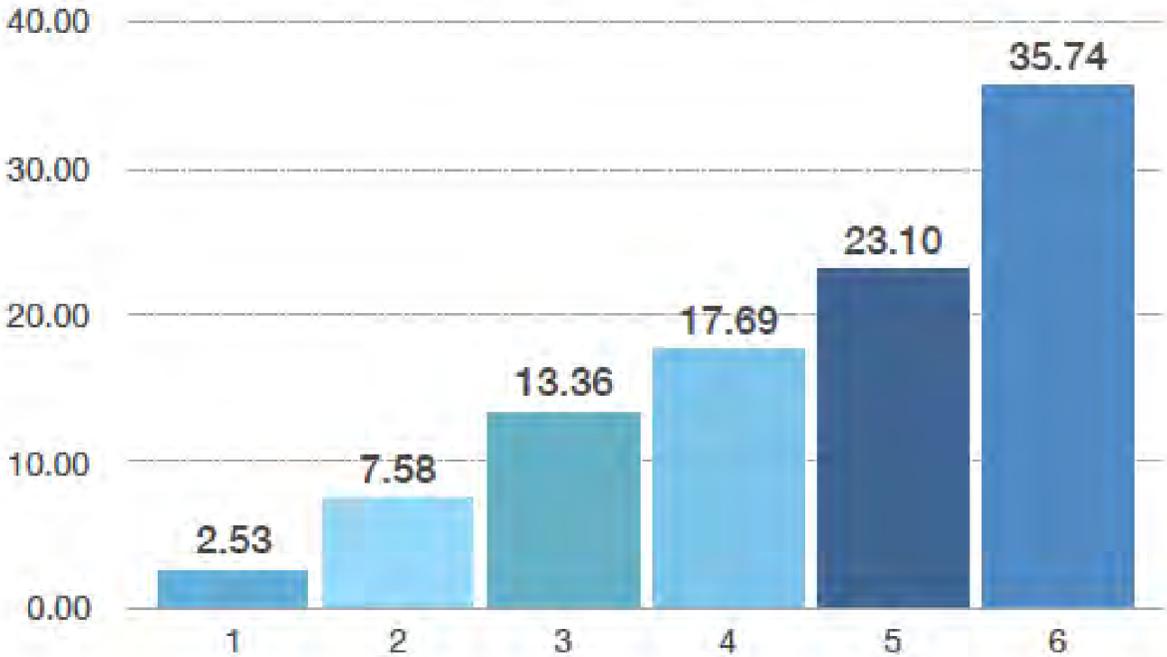
Apr

### How likely are you to continue (scale of 1 to 6)?

SCALE	PERCENTAGE RESPONDED	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
1	2.53	7
2	7.58	21
3	13.36	37
4	17.69	49
5	23.10	64
6	35.74	99
Total responses	100	277

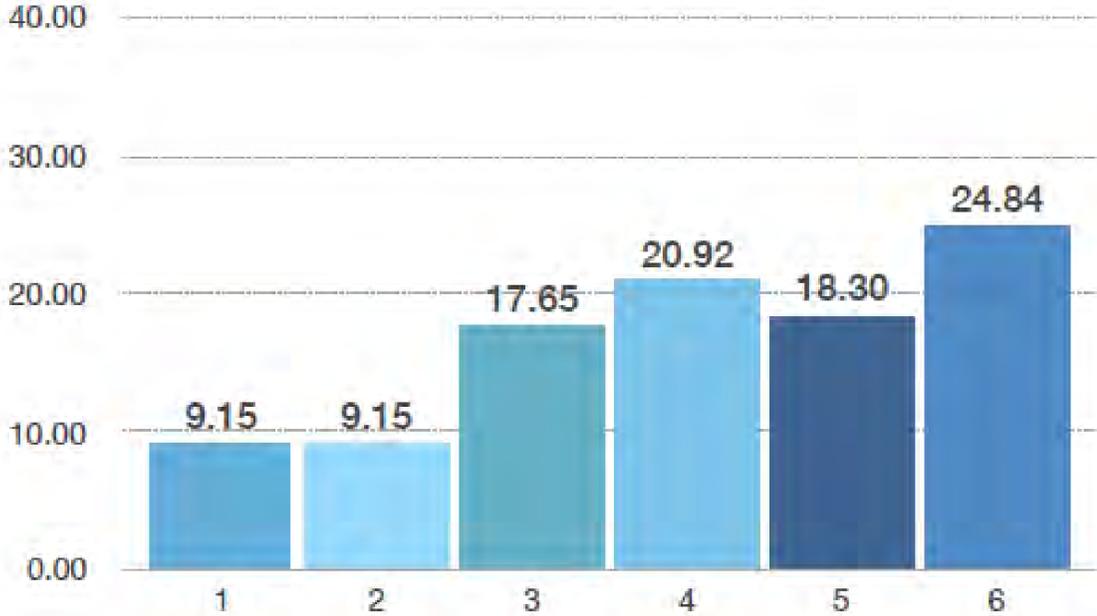
SCALE	PERCENTAGE RESPONDED	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
1	9.15	14
2	9.15	14
3	17.65	27
4	20.92	32
5	18.30	28
6	24.84	38
Total responses	100	153

Resilience scale (Feb)



Feb

Resilience scale (Apr)



Apr

# Arts and culture sector to get \$55m boost to save jobs, improve skills and go digital as part of supplementary budget



In the past few months, many arts groups have had to cancel or postpone their events due to the pandemic PHOTO: ST FILE

## Training Support

NTUC Training Fund (SEPs)

**\$10 per hour**



Training allowance from May 2020

For SkillsFuture Series and sector-specific training programmes, including online courses

NTUC union members get up to \$1 per hour top-up

For more details, visit [go.gov.sg/ntuctraining](https://go.gov.sg/ntuctraining)

.....  
Capability Development Scheme for the Arts (CDSA)

**Up to 90%**

course subsidy

**Up to \$10 per hour**

training allowance

Up to \$1,000 for training

Provides support for training courses (including online courses) beyond those supported by SkillsFuture

Apply by 30 Jun 2020 for training by 31 Dec 2020

For more details, visit NAC's website

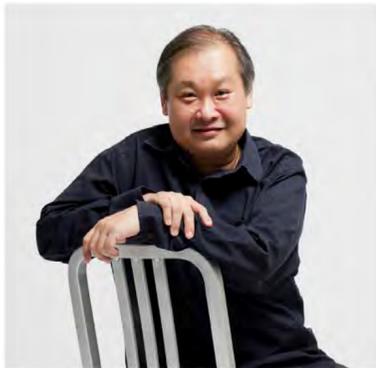


TT: What are the changes to your work and operations at the moment at TNS?

AT: Increase in Zoom meetings, to work from home, toggling with WhatsApp, emails, Facebook and Instagram.

TNS is already heavily reliant on social media so we just increased [our work] through social media.

TT: Is the "digitalised arts" a form you have or will consider adopting? Why or why not? If so, how have you done so?



Sustainability

- Convenience
- Scalability
- Solidarity

- High investment
- Loss of Multiplier Effect

Audience Development

- Convenience
- Scalability
- Accessibility (disadvantaged)

- Loss of presence and commitment
- Loss of essential spaces
- Inaccessibility of mature content
- Inaccessibility to digitally disadvantaged

Artistic Development

- International Access
- Progression

- High investment
- Loss of essential spaces
- Loss of relevance (older)
- Lack of reference

National Identity

- International Access
- Loss of Mature Dialogue

## **Sustainability:**

- + Convenience
- + Scalability
- + Solidarity

- Large investment
- Loss of economic impact

- + Scalability
- + Convenience
- + Accessibility (disadvantaged)

## **Audience Development:**

- Loss of Presence
- Loss of Essential Space
- Inaccessible mature dialogue/art
- Inaccessible for digitally disadvantaged

+ International Access  
+ Technical Progress

## **Artistic Development:**

- High Investment
- Loss of Essential Spaces
- Loss of Relevance (traditions etc)
- Lack of reference for local development

## **National Identity:**

- International Ex/Access
- Loss of Mature Dialogue

# Grants

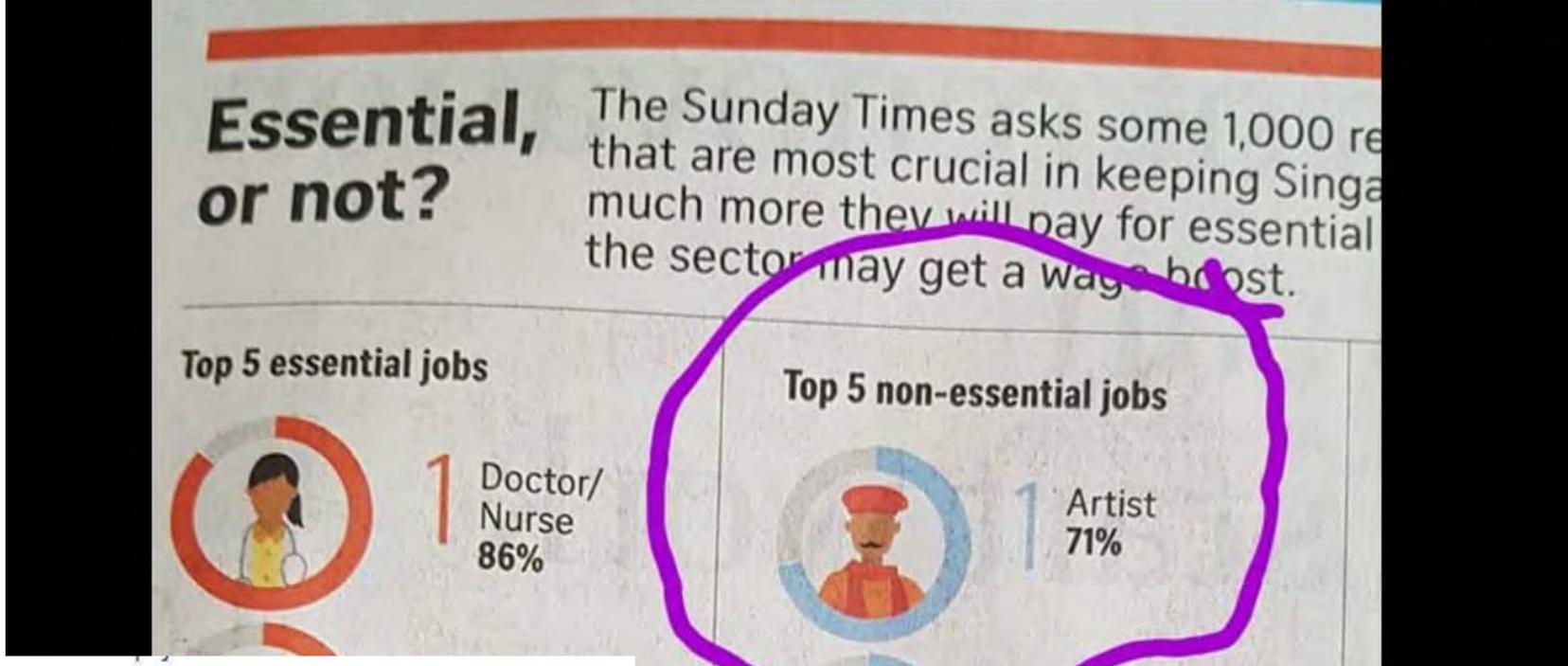
- Information/publicity
- Clarity of qualification
- Relevant qualification (e.g. SIRS)
- Artistically relevant
- Familiarity with NAC's M.O.
- Alternative income / savings

# Venue Access

- Information/publicity
- MTI/MOH's Phase 2 Ruling?
- Diverse Managerial Understanding
- Steep learning curve for artists and Council

# Relations

- Trust



**Aditee Biswas**  
15 June · 🌐

I wonder how people would have survived the lockdown without films, web series, TV shows, online workshops, listening to music, seeing performance showcases and reading books 😞 yes of course... Artists are the most non-essential entities "jobs" in any society! Brilliant!!! Thanks Padma Damodaran for sharing this!

👍👎😂 2.3K

1.2K comments  
10K shares

- Jamie Brooks** The Sunday times asked 1,000.....I can only see re of that word but I'm assuming it is rectums.  
Like · Reply · 6d
- Miguel Angel Candia Peña Sebastian Soria Vega** :s  
Like · Reply · 6d
- Sebastian Soria Vega** Jajajajajsjaja ptmrrr true that  
Like · Reply · See Translation · 6d
- Rino Daigan Caramonte** They shouldn't be ranking these jobs. EVERY JOB IS ESSENTIAL.  
Like · Reply · 6d
- Will Symons** We have centuries worth of art to reflect through during the crisis, it can be picked straight back up after too. This is a no brainer  
Like · Reply · 6d

- View previous comments 56 of 573
- Jeremiah Edagbami Codey Tse** damn  
Like · Reply · 1w
  - Mael D. Luffy** If creativity was really that unnecessary then why people waste all these money on designer clothes etc you could just simply wear the same cloth style everyday  
Like · Reply · 1w
  - Mael D. Luffy** U can judge the importance of something by thinking a life without it  
Like · Reply · 1w
  - Sharif Tousif Mustafa** The post clearly meant that of all the jobs which are "Non-Essential" right now, the job of an artist is top. Meaning of all the "non-essential" jobs, its most important. Im sorry are people really that thick headed not to understand that they are PRAISING artists?  
Like · Reply · 1w

- Francisco Consultant**  
Like · Reply
- Brenda Kr**  
Like · Reply
- Yotam Bra**  
Write a cor

- Jota Oz** Yesterday at 1:25 AM · 🌐  
Try to be without music, movies, series, etc to see if it's essential or not  
👁️ · See original · Rate this translation  
Show Attachment  
👍👎 2 2 Comments  
Like · Comment · Share
- Ronald Uzieda** Así es querido yoteida. Mantente de pieida  
Like · Reply · See Translation · 1d
- Pipoo Vernales** jhahhajh que meentira!  
Like · Reply · See Translation · 1d
- Luis Daniel Medina Tiscareño** Yesterday at 1:19 AM · 🌐  
There are still people who don't see art as a job...  
👁️ · See original · Rate this translation  
Show Attachment  
👍👎 2  
Like · Share

# What is the economic benefit of the arts?



## What is the economic benefit of the arts?

Telemarketer	29%
Artist	29%
Security guard	26%
Corporate lawyer	24%
Nurse	21%
Doctor	20%
Hawker	20%
PR specialist	20%
University professor	19%



which jobs they believe are crucial to keeping Singapore going

COVID stimulus package for The Arts | The Weekly

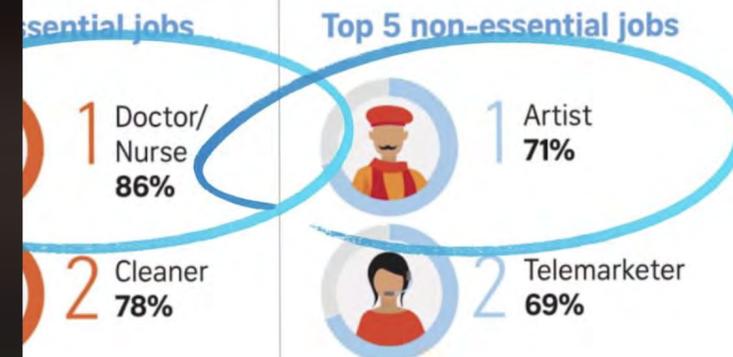


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## What is the economic benefit of the arts?



At least they employed an artist to create a graphic

COVID stimulus package for The Arts | The Weekly



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“[L]ike you, my colleagues and I read with dismay that a recent survey conducted by Milieu Insight and published in The Straits Times (ST) on 14 June had reflected sentiments of about 1,000 Singaporeans that our arts workers are not essential at this time.

NAC did not participate in this survey and it would not be appropriate for us to question the methodology or the results. We did respond to a query from ST which was published in the follow up article on 16 June. We note this article had more details on their survey and carried views from other key voices in the arts scene. Professor Tommy Koh, in capacity as the founding Chairman of NAC, strongly advocated for the value of the arts in an opinion editorial published on 18 June within a week of the ST piece on the survey. -

Shortly, NAC will release the findings from the 2019 Population Survey on the Arts. [...] When the survey is released, NAC’s practice is to actively engage the media as necessary. The findings are reassuring to NAC and we hope that you too will find that the data affirms our shared belief in the power of the arts. We recognise that there is still more work for us at the Council to build a deeper appreciation of the arts, and acknowledge that there will be significant challenges ahead in sustaining the gains that we have together achieved.[...]

NAC has been actively engaging media partners over the past few months to profile the arts positively, and to commission works that create job opportunities for our artists and arts groups. Many of you would have enjoyed some of the heart-warming pieces that our artists have been sharing in ST’s column 30 Days of Art, presented in partnership with NAC. In the coming months, we will step up on advocating for the value of the arts, and leverage opportunities with key media partners including SPH across all language mediums.

I thank you once again for raising this issue with us, and hope that we will work closely together to deepen the public’s appreciation of the vital role that the arts play in all our lives.”

- NAC CEO, Rosa Daniel, June 25th

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**"should request to have a more integrated and collaborative approach with ST (the only national news paper which unfortunately carries the weight of national image) so that efforts and objectives are aligned.**

**For instance, all the good values of the arts that NAC works so hard to build over the years was very much 'destroyed' by the 'non-essential' report - the news has even spread to other countries to be made fun of. This wouldn't be happening if collaborative effort and communication were built with ST on arts and culture."**

I thank you once again for raising this issue with us, and hope that we will work closely together to deepen the public's appreciation of the vital role that the arts play in all our lives."

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## 'The statement

NAC did not participate in this survey and it would not be appropriate for us to question the methodology or the results. We did respond to a query from ST which was published in the follow up article on 16 June. We are disappointed that the survey reflected such sentiments in the arts scene. Professor Tommy Koh, in capacity as the founding Chairman of NAC, strongly advocated for the value of the arts and it would not be appropriate for us to question the methodology of the survey."

is for me a disappointment, i find it a far too passive stand considering they are crushing one of NAC's KPIs.'

"This is like striking a hard metal wall.

What we need is a bit of "empathy" from the higher authorities. NAC

Leaders and Staff change very often.

It is not an easy life for any one of us.

None of them understand Art or

Artists. We have to fight our own war."

I thank you once again for raising this issue with us, and hope that we will work closely together to deepen the public's appreciation of the vital role that the arts play in all our lives."

- NAC CEO, Rosa Daniel, June 25th

# Finding hope in the arts in the midst of pandemic

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Goh Swee Chen For The Straits Times

🕒 PUBLISHED JUL 1, 2020, 5:00 AM SGT



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**As audiences realise how the arts can bring comfort and enjoyment in difficult times, they must now rally around artists and arts groups struggling to survive**

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I have fond childhood memories of reading avidly late into the night, huddling under the covers, torch in one hand and my newest book in the other. The stories I read transported me to worlds afar, igniting a curiosity about possibilities beyond the small Malaysian town I grew up in. When I was a little older, a friend shared a cassette tape of Evita, which seeded my love of musicals today, even though I knew little about the history of Argentina then.

When I first assumed the role of chairman of the National Arts Council (NAC) in September last year, I wanted to take time to understand the Singapore arts scene and to meet, engage with and understand the many passionate people dedicated to the arts, who together make the arts scene vibrant, diverse and bursting with creative energy.

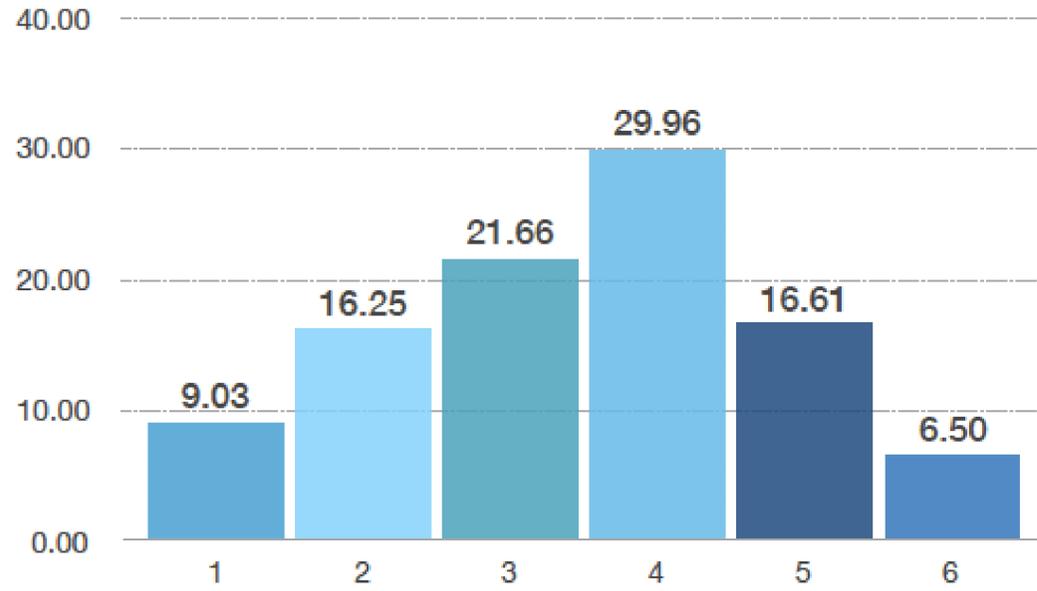
Then Covid-19 happened and with it, the lights went off in our museums, theatres and concert halls as performances were cancelled and exhibitions closed.

# Redesigning NAC

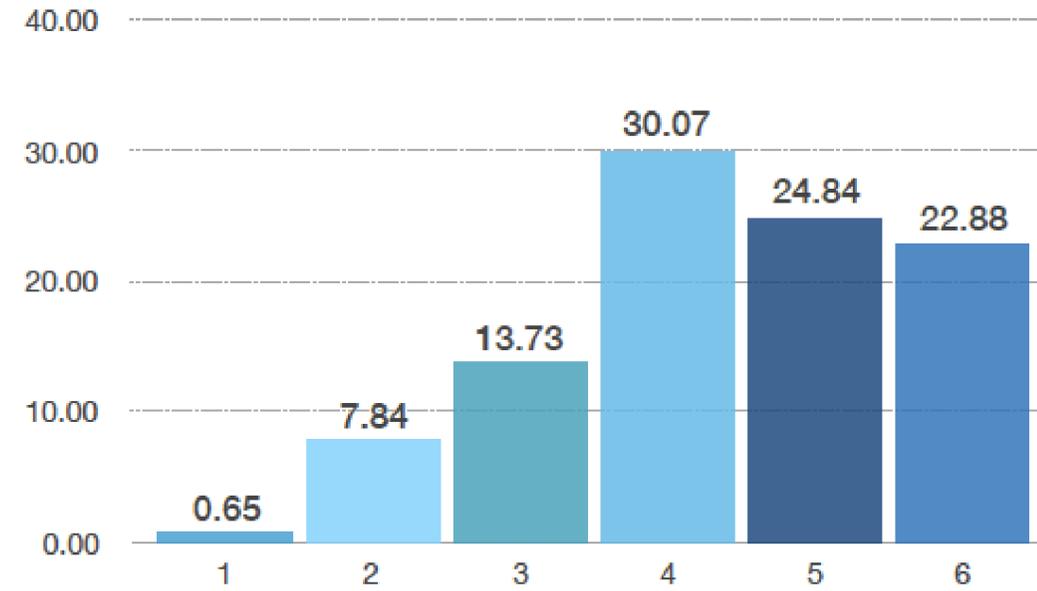
- Review and Reinvention of Support
- Public Relations with Artists and Public
- Engagement of Civil Society
- Free Personal/Company Management Counsel  
at ARH
- Publicity by and for Artists
- Multidisciplinary development
- Inter-ministerial development
- Engagement of FEC/National Jobs Council

# How affected is your well-being (scale of 1 to 6)?

### Well-being scale (Feb)



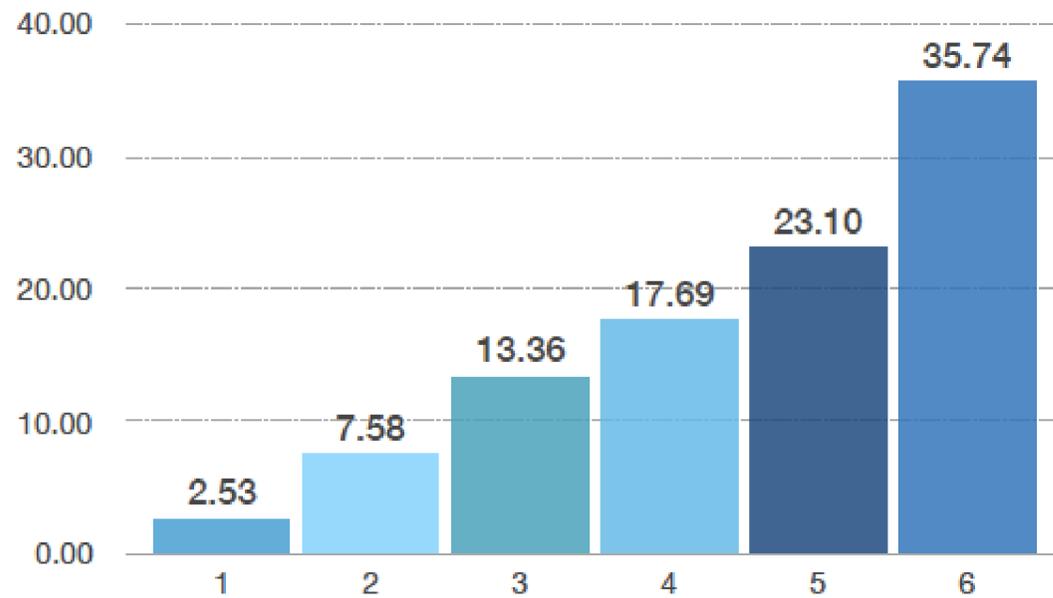
### Well-being scale (Apr)



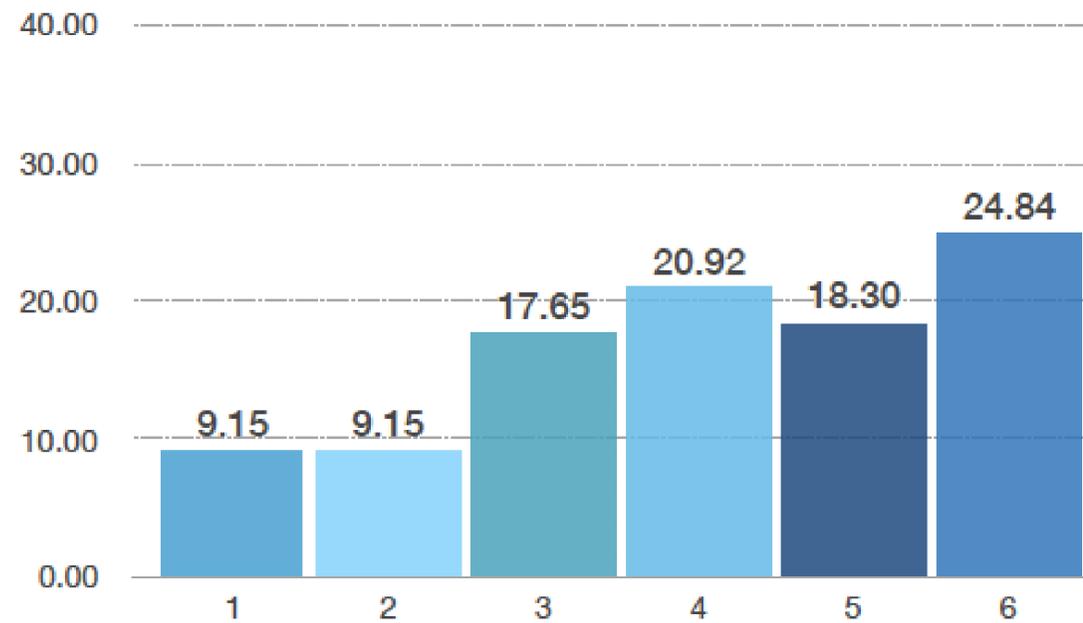
Jul?

# How likely are you to continue (scale of 1 to 6)?

### Resilience scale (Feb)



### Resilience scale (Apr)



Jul?