

*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



NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL
SINGAPORE

Navigating Changes in the Arts Together

**Mrs Rosa Daniel,
Chief Executive
National Arts Council**

Information accurate as at 8 July 2020

Disclaimer: The contents, including the information and case studies (if any) in this presentation are meant to provide general guidance on the range of support for artists and arts groups and for information and illustration purposes only. They are not indicative of the actual outcomes. The National Arts Council disclaims any and all liabilities in connection with the contents of this presentation.



DISLOCATION
DESTRUCTION
DISRUPTION

Global Impact of COVID-19 on the Arts and Culture

**By 22 April
2020**

- **Nearly 90% countries around the world** had closed or partially closed their museums to the public.
- **More than 10% of museums may never reopen.**

**By 29 May
2020**

- **Almost all museums around the world** had reduced their activities because of the consequences of the pandemic.
- Nearly **one third had reduced staff**, and **more than one tenth** may be forced to close permanently.

Source: UNESCO (18 May 2020). *COVID-19: UNESCO and ICOM concerned about the situation faced by the world's museums*. [Press release], providing key figures from two studies assessing the impact on museums and institutions; and ICOM (May 2020). *Museum, museum professionals and COVID-19*.

- Workers in the arts, entertainment and recreation, and other services in the medium-high risk category, making up **5.4% of global workforce**, contributing to **\$225b (3% of global GDP)**, and nearly **30 million jobs worldwide**

Source: UNESCO *Culture & COVID-19: Impact & Response Tracker (Issue 6 and 7)*, providing an overview of the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the culture sector worldwide and on the responses initiated at the national, local and regional level



Singapore: Impact on the Arts Self-Employed Persons and Freelancers

Q1 (JAN-MAR) 2020 – LOSS IN INCOME



54%

lost more than half their income
from arts projects
in the first quarter of 2020

Income from arts projects for
2020 is expected to decrease by



70%

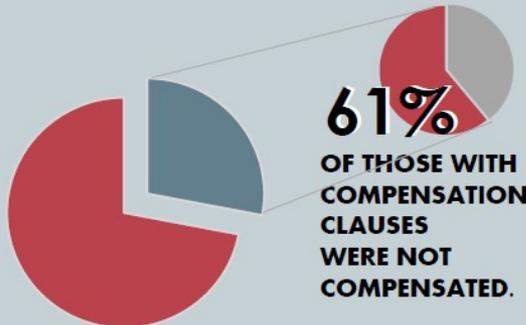
Out of 2,034 respondents from an
NAC online survey that ran from
27 March - 5 April:

Project Compensation

75%

**DID NOT RECEIVE
COMPENSATION**
FOR CANCELLATIONS & POSTPONEMENTS

72%
**DID NOT
HAVE
COMPENSATION
CLAUSES IN THEIR
CONTRACT**



Project Postponement & Cancellation

91%
had project cancellations

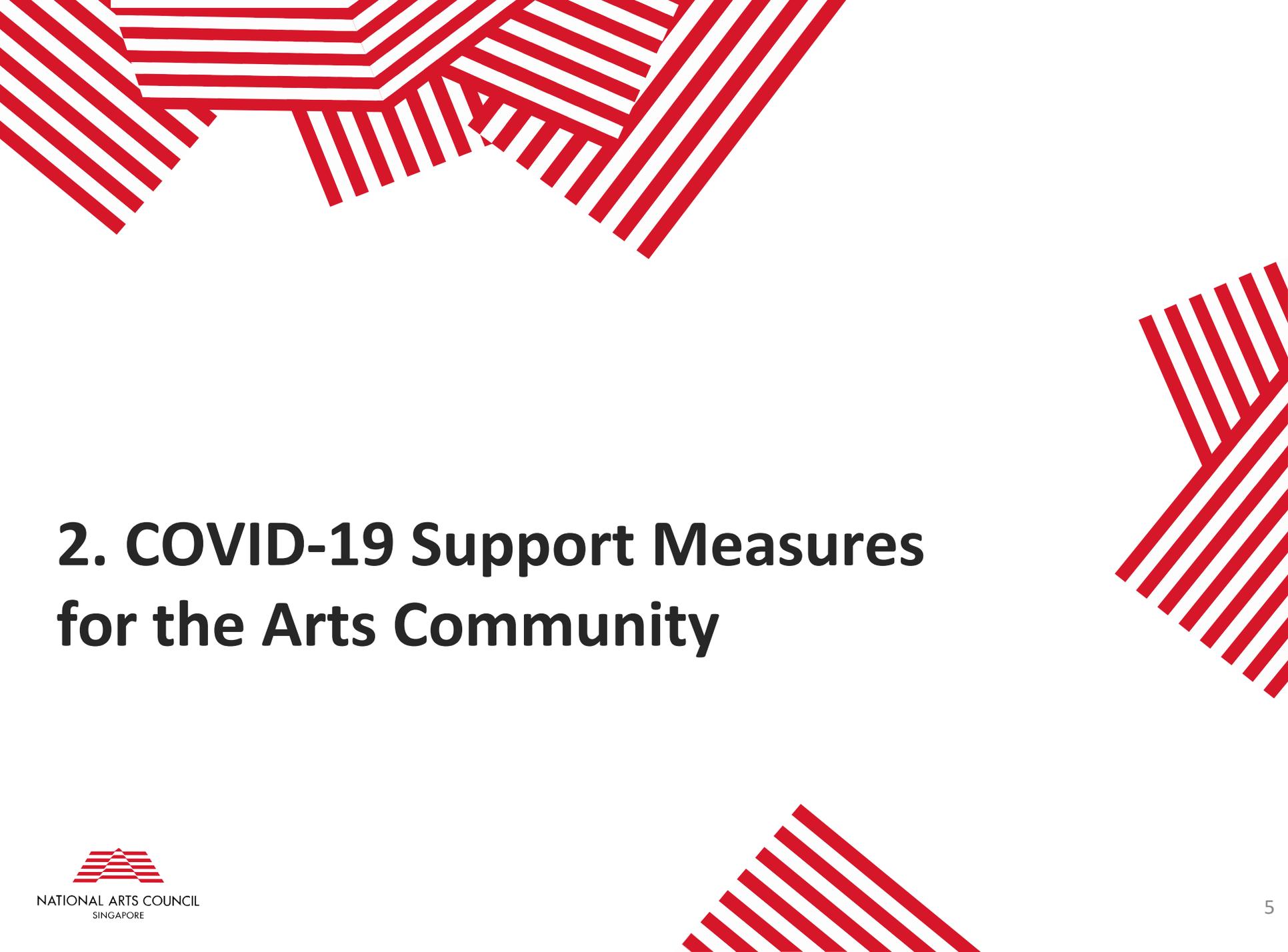
45%

had **more than half**
their projects
cancelled

85%
had project postponements

20%

had **more than half**
their projects
postponed



2. COVID-19 Support Measures for the Arts Community



Four Budgets within 100 Days: Support Measures Available to the Arts Community

Wage support (Job Support Scheme)

- 50% wage support for arts & culture organisations under Tier 2 (subject to meeting criteria).
- Extension overall JSS support by 1 month to cover wages paid up to Aug 2020.
- 75% support extended to 18 June. Most arts & culture organisations allowed to resume operations from 18 June will continue to receive either 25% or 50% JSS.

Wage support for SEPs

SEP Income Relief Scheme (SIRS)

- \$9,000 income relief for eligible SEPs in three payouts

Workfare Special Payment

- \$3,000 income relief for SEPs who received Workfare Income Supplement payments in 2019

Temporary Relief Fund

- \$500 cash payout for SC/PRs who lost their jobs or faced at least 30% income loss due to Covid-19

Rental waiver

- Arts tenants in MCCY-owned properties granted an additional 2 months under Fortitude Budget
- Artists renting short term project studios and workstations at GAC and AAC also eligible for rental waiver support

Venue Hire Subsidy (Enhanced)

- Existing 30% venue hire subsidy to be extended to 80% during Phase Two, subject to review and the prevailing national situation.
- Supported venues: Esplanade, National Gallery, NHB Museums, STPI Creative Workshop & Gallery, Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre, Singapore Conference Hall, and venues managed by AHL.
- Venues will be extended to select arts centres with shared facilities under NAC.

ACRP: Capability Development and Digitalisation

over

3,000 job/gig/training opportunities committed

Skills upgrading

Capability Development Scheme for the Arts (CDSA)

- Up to 90% course subsidy and up to \$10 per hour absentee payroll or training allowance (for SEPs)
- Up to \$20,000 for MCSGs, up to \$6,000 for non-MCSGs, and \$1,000 for SEPs
- Close to 350 training opportunities have been supported, with half going to SEPs.
- Over 140 artists and arts groups have benefitted from CDSA.

Enhanced Training Support Package (SkillsFuture Singapore)

- Up to 90% course fee subsidy and up to \$10 per hour absentee payroll for employees

NTUC Training Fund (SEPs)

- \$10 per hour training allowance

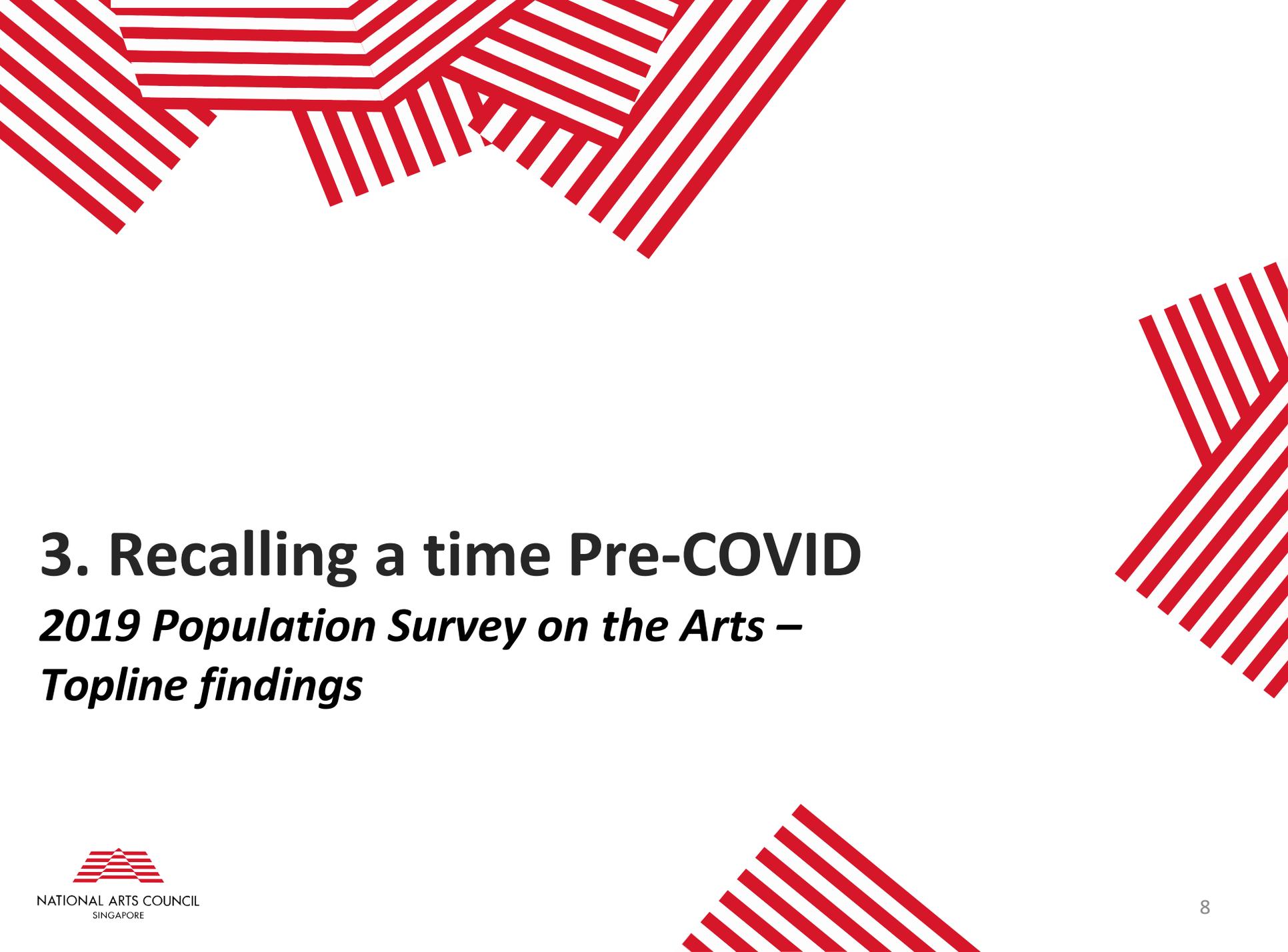
Digitalisation Fund

Digital Presentation Grant for the Arts (DPG)

- Up to \$20,000 per project to support the digitalisation of arts and culture content by Arts Education Programme (AEP) providers, MCSGs and non-MCSG organisations.
- The DPG has supported over 180 projects from over 150 artists, generating over 2,000 job opportunities for the sector.

Digitalisation Fund for Commissions and Partnerships

- NAC also actively commissioning artists and arts groups for digital projects through the Digitalisation Fund for Commissions and Partnerships. This is done through our festival platforms such as Silver Arts, Singapore Writers Festival, Arts in Your Neighbourhood, Singapore Art Week. NAC has also been working with platform partners such as Lianhe Zaobao, Hear65 and others.
- NAC hopes to create over 1,000 job opportunities through commissions and partnerships, particularly for SEPs.



3. Recalling a time Pre-COVID

2019 Population Survey on the Arts – Topline findings



Perception

Perceptions of the **value of arts and culture improved in 2019.**

- Improvements observed across multiple aspects, especially in arts' impact on improving quality of life, fostering a greater sense of belonging and identity, and being a source of pride for Singaporeans.

More Singaporeans felt that, compared to 5 years ago, there is greater appreciation of the arts as well as more opportunities for youths with talent in the arts.

- More felt Singaporeans are more appreciative of arts and its application in their lives compared to 5 years ago.
- More also agreed there were increased opportunities for nurturing talented youths.

Engagement

Physical attendance (69%) of arts events was higher compared to 2017 (54%).

- This is the second highest after the peak observed in 2015.
- The average number of events attended per person also increased from 5.4 events in 2017 to an average of 7.6 events in 2019.

Consumption of the arts (75%) via electronic/virtual media increased across several art forms

- Biggest increase in digital consumption noted for Literary Arts, followed by Music, then Theatre.

Drivers

Top **reasons for attendance** revolved around **community** as well as **self**.

- Community: Supporting friends and family, and social bonding
- Self: enjoyment of the activity

Barriers

Main **barrier** to attendance was perceived **lack of familiarity with artists**.

- Other barriers are lack of perceived relevance and companions; family commitments that make it difficult to attend arts events/activities; and being unaware of any arts and cultural events that are happening.

Challenges ahead

Four out of 10 Singaporeans were neutral with regard to interest in arts. Those who said they were **interested in arts fell to (29%)**, similar to 2008 and 2013.

While **7 out of 10 expected to maintain the frequency** of their attendance in the next 12 months, we expect that this **may not be realised given the Covid-19 situation**. Additionally, **2 out of 10 expected to reduce the frequency** of their arts attendance.



4. Looking ahead – *Challenges and Opportunities*

Key Priorities



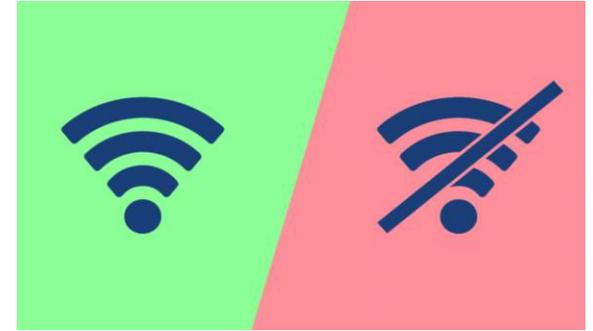
Livelihoods

Sustaining jobs,
upskilling and reskilling



Sustainability

Optimising resources and
diversifying income



Innovation

Leveraging technology to
transform operations and
programme design

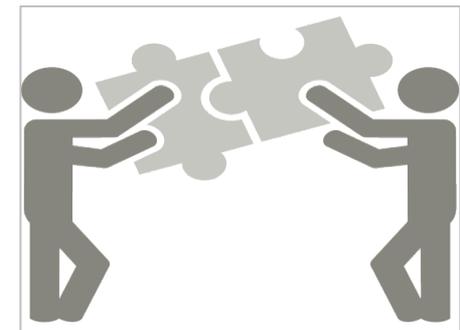
...working together to adapt and respond



Build Critical Skillsets



Be Nimble



Co-Create Solutions

Embracing Digitalisation

the LIST

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Culture carries on while our physical spaces take a brief interlude. #SGUnited #SingaporeTogether

sistic

SISTIC LIVE

ENJOY UNPARALLELED ACCESS TO LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FROM WHEREVER YOU ARE

SEASON 2020/21 • SUBSCRIPTION CONCERT

[ONLINE] SSO SEASON OPENING CONCERT

NEW SEASON, NEW BEGINNINGS

SCHEDULE Sat / 11 Jul 2020 / 7:30PM

VENUE SISTIC Live Stream

REGISTER

SINGAPORE DANCE THEATRE

Presents **#SDTTechniqueTuesday** with Janek Schergen Artistic Director

0:00 / 35:08

singaporedance theatre • Following...

#SDTTechniqueTuesday with Janek Schergen

As we begin Phase 1 measures here in Singapore, we're kick-starting our coming month's online content with something incredibly special. If you ever wondered how studio rehearsals or company classes are like at SDT, here's your chance to catch a glimpse of it and experience it for yourself! Our artistic director Janek Schergen @janekscherger will be holding today's #SDTTechniqueTuesday class! We hope that you benefit from and enjoy this class, stay safe, and dance on!

2,746 views

JUNE 2

Add a comment...

A grid of 48 small video thumbnails showing various musicians from the Singapore Chinese Orchestra performing their instruments.

Singapore Chinese Orchestra's digital series

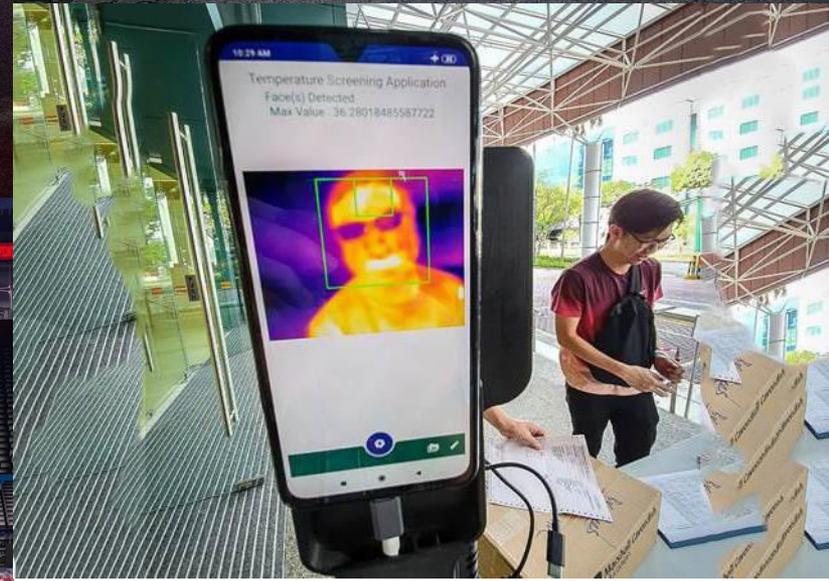
Technology and Innovation

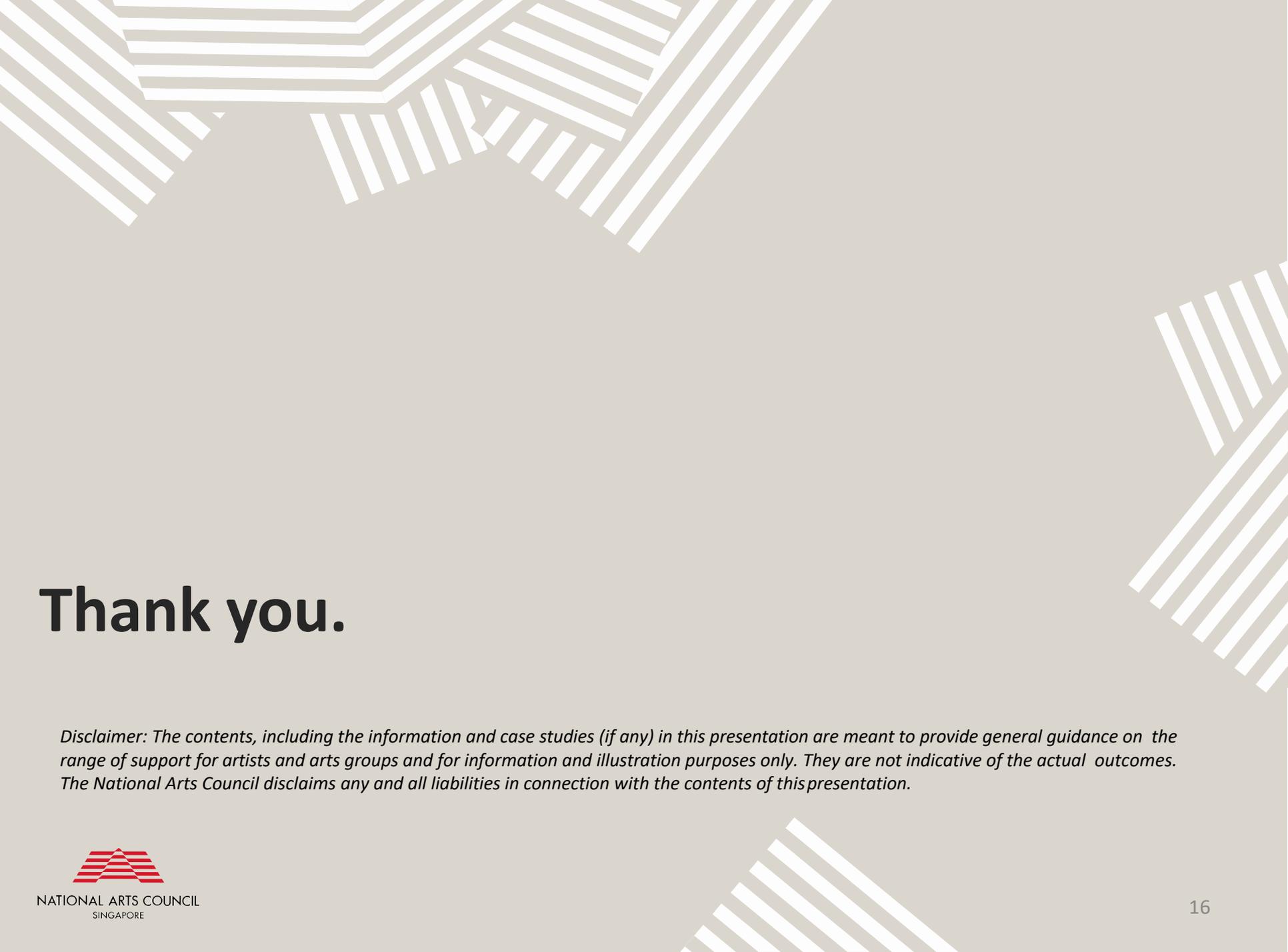


Photo: NMS Facebook; *Sonic Womb (2019)* by Randy Chan



ST Photo: Gin Tay; SPOT robot





Thank you.

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