

## **FAQs on Refinements to the Cultural Matching Fund (CMF)**

### **Refinements to the Scheme**

#### **1. What are the key refinements to the CMF?**

<b>Key Refinements</b>	<b>No Change</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Above \$300,000 category: Applications will be assessed based on culture sector priorities, which include but not limited to building long-term sustainability in the culture sector.</li><li>• Introduction of non-qualifying costs. Non-qualifying costs will apply for both first \$300,000 and above \$300,000 categories.</li><li>• Application will be streamlined to once a year.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First \$300,000 category</li><li>• Funding guidelines will continue to apply regardless of quantum</li><li>• Overhead operating costs such as salaries can still be supported by CMF</li></ul>

#### **2. When will the changes take effect?**

The changes will be implemented with effect from the next application cycle, which will take place in April 2018. From this application cycle onwards, the duration of each application window will be extended from one (1) month to two (2) months, to provide applicants with more time to prepare.

#### **3. Why are applications only accepted only once a year now?**

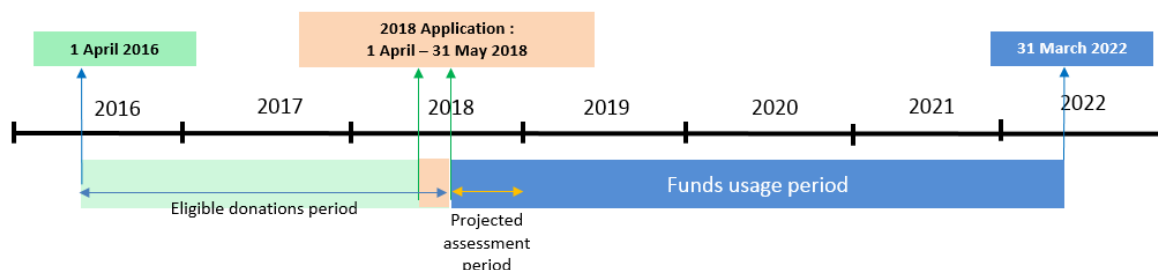
This is a streamlining measure to support applicants' forward planning, and help reduce the administrative load and cost when applying to the CMF.

#### **4. What donations are eligible for matching in the next application cycle?**

- Donations from the 2 previous financial years up to the close of the application window (1 April 2016 – 31 May 2018) will be eligible for matching.
- Eligibility for matching is also subjected to the following criteria:
  - (i) Donations must be received after the organisation has been officially registered as a charity;
  - (ii) Provision of certified statement of cash donations received;
  - (iii) No unrectified audit issues from past CMF Special Purpose Audits;
  - (iv) Donations are not from government agencies, including Statutory Boards, the Community Chest, and/or the President's Challenge;
  - (v) Donations have not been matched by other government institutions, including the Care and Share Fund, Community Silver Trust, and/or matching of donations to tertiary institutions;

(vi) Donations are not raised through activities that are deemed adverse to the culture sector and/or Singapore.

- Expenditure can start retrospectively on 1 June 2018 if CMF application for the projects are approved.
- Approved CMF funds must be used by 31 March 2022 (i.e. 3 financial years).



## 5. Why is there a 3-year deadline to using the CMF funds now?

CMF grant recipients should put the funds they receive to immediate use, so that the sector benefits from the funds sooner.

## 6. Do the changes above apply to CMF deeds that have already been signed by my organisation?

The changes will not apply retrospectively to deeds already signed to-date (i.e. May 2014 to March 2017). They are only applicable to deeds signed from the 2018 application window onwards.

## 7. Will the audit requirements change?

All CMF recipients will be audited on the use of CMF grants once a year.

## 8. Will the milestone reporting requirements change?

For deeds signed between May 2014 and March 2017, milestone reports are required to be submitted twice a year, in April and October, until all CMF funds are fully expended.

For deeds signed from the 2018 application window onwards, milestone reports only need to be submitted once a year in April.

A briefing on the application and operational details of the revised CMF scheme will be held in March 2018, prior to the opening of the 2018 application window in April. Further details of this briefing will be communicated in due course.

## 9. Does the \$15m lifetime cap still apply?

Instead of a lifetime cap, CMF applications will be assessed according to culture sector priorities, to encourage organisations to fundraise and contribute to the development of Singapore's culture sector.

One of the priorities that the CMF seeks to support is the development of diverse players in the cultural ecosystem, including smaller groups, as well as groups specialising in different art forms and interest areas.

### **Application to CMF**

#### **10. What projects would be prioritised, when assessed according to culture sector priorities?**

To enable Singapore to achieve the culture sector vision of “through arts and heritage, we see a people fulfilled, communities engaged and a nation proud of our identity and culture”, CMF will prioritise support to projects that:

- (i) Are of high standards of **excellence** that are able to engage audiences, and are impactful in rejuvenating or transforming the cultural landscape in Singapore, or fill a critical gap in the arts and culture ecosystem in Singapore;
- (ii) **Engage** different segments in Singapore society through arts and heritage, including under-reached communities, and contribute to the development of new audiences beyond once-off attendances;
- (iii) Encourage **sustainability** in our arts and heritage scene, such as; instilling a sense of ownership among Singaporeans in our arts, history and traditions; building a pool of patrons and volunteers; or improving the capabilities of the organisation/sector in areas such as fundraising, innovation, corporate governance, research, and business development;
- (iv) Contribute to the building of a more caring and **cohesive** society by bridging communities, fostering inter-cultural understanding and bringing Singaporeans from different walks of life together to engage in arts and heritage; and
- (v) Promote a greater sense of shared **identity** and pride as Singaporeans, and deepen our understanding of the richness and diversity of our multicultural society.

#### **11. Is using CMF grants for endowment funds in line with culture sector priorities?**

CMF grant recipient should put the funds they receive to immediate use, so that the sector benefits from the funds sooner, rather than to place them in endowment funds.

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#### **13. Are there conditions on the use of the first \$300,000 of matching grants received?**

Organisations can continue to use the first \$300,000 of matching grants received to cover the costs of their operations and programmes, based on what is approved in their applications. This is similar to the current approach. Please note that funding guidelines will continue to apply.

Please also note that CMF funds are not to be put to any use that may:

- (i) Discriminate against, insult, or create conflict or misunderstanding between persons or groups on the grounds of race or religion;
- (ii) Advocate for causes considered objectionable by the general public, and;
- (iii) Undermine the government's authority or threaten Singapore's security or stability.

**14. What are some examples of usage that CMF will not support (non-qualifying costs)?**

- (i) Entertainment expenses
- (ii) Staff bonuses and welfare benefits
- (iii) Overseas travel costs
- (iv) Staff local/overseas accommodation costs
- (v) Internal charges within an organisation
- (vi) Debt/loan repayment
- (vii) Government fines and taxes

**15. Do projects funded by NAC and NHB qualify for CMF grants usage?**

Projects which are partially supported by funding from NAC and NHB may still qualify for the CMF, as long as these other sources of funding are declared when applying to the CMF.

**16. Do donations raised and used for applying to other grants with matching or conditional components qualify for matching from CMF?**

Donations that have been raised and used for applying to grants with conditional or matching components administered by other government bodies, such as NAC, NHB and Tote Board, will not qualify for matching from CMF.

**17. Do CMF recipients have the flexibility to use the donations raised from the donors? Or do the uses have to be subjected to culture sector priorities?**

Organisations may use the donations collected at their discretion, or in line with donors' preferences. The use of CMF grants above \$300,000, however, is subjected to culture sector priorities.

**18. Who will evaluate applications according to culture sector priorities?**

Applications will be evaluated by the CMF Board of Trustees with support from CMF Secretariat, MCCY, NAC, and NHB.