

FACT SHEET

Supporting Our Arts, Culture and Sports Sectors to Emerge Stronger

Sports Resilience Package (SRP)

MCCY will roll out the **\$50 million Sports Resilience Package (SRP)**, which includes \$25 million for existing measures¹, as well as an additional \$25 million for new and enhanced measures. Of the new measures, \$13.5 million will go towards a new Operating Grant, while \$11.5 million will be set aside for Capability Development Initiatives.

The new measures will augment existing measures, which comprise temporary jobs and training opportunities for self-employed persons (SEPs), rental waivers at Sport Singapore (SportSG) facilities, support grants to encourage digital content creation, as well as capability-building and innovation in programming and events for businesses. Updates on existing measures include:

- Jobs & training: More than 80% of temporary positions have been filled, and over 3,000 sign ups were received for SportSG courses.
- Business continuity initiatives: SportSG has:
 - i. Supported more than 230 projects under the Active Enabler Programme;
 - ii. Awarded close to \$500,000 to 12 Events Organisers (EOs) or Events Management Companies (EMCs) who will engage up to 60,000 participants over the next six months through the Blended initiative; and
 - iii. Supported seven companies to date under the SportSG Enterprise Innovation and Capability Grant.

¹ MCCY rolled out a \$23 million package in June 2020 to support businesses and the workforce, including support for ActiveSG Circle, Active Enabler Programme, Enterprise Innovation and Capability Development Grant for enterprises, digital content initiatives, as well as the creation of temporary jobs and training opportunities for Self-Employed Persons in sports. SportSG later expanded the number of temporary job opportunities and introduced the Blended initiative for sports event companies and organisers to hold virtual / physical events. These initiatives added up to another \$2 million.

- iv. SEPs and businesses can also leverage the ActiveSG Circle for digital content delivery. Viewership stands at 30 million, with more than 350 SEPs and 60 businesses having contributed content.

Moving forward, the new measures under the SRP aim to support critical players in our sports ecosystem, to preserve core capabilities in athlete pathway and pipeline development, as well as to catalyse industry to provide innovative sports formats for Singaporeans to continue to stay active during these times.

a) [New] SRP-Operating Grant (\$13.5 million)

To provide additional support for key sports businesses while they transit to new ways of conducting their activities and business models, MCCY will provide a **grant the equivalent of about 25% of their total operating expenses, capped at \$15,000 per month, from Oct 2020 to Mar 2021.**

To be eligible for the grant, businesses must demonstrate that they have been working closely with our National Sports Associations (NSAs) to contribute to athlete pipeline development, and/or is a key player in this ecosystem. In addition, the business must show that their revenues have been and will continue to be severely affected by COVID-19. To receive the grant, the business must commit to preserving jobs and upskilling their workforce. We expect to support more than 100 eligible businesses through this grant.

b) [Enhanced] SRP-Capability Development Initiatives (\$11.5 million)

MCCY will provide additional funding to **expand the existing Blended initiative**, to cover eligible Private Academies and Clubs. This will be in addition to Event Organisers (EOs) and Event Management Companies (EMCs), which are currently eligible.

The grant will support eligible EOs, EMCs as well as Private Academies and Clubs to develop blended programmes that enable more Singaporeans to participate in sports. Through this expansion, we target to support more than

100 projects, involving around 450,000 participants, over the next six months. In doing so, the EOs, EMCs and Private Academies and Clubs will also grow their capabilities to deliver more blended programmes on a more sustained basis.

Additionally, these measures will also support **sports businesses and self-employed persons to enhance the quality of their digital productions and expand their reach through hosting their content on the ActiveSG Circle virtual platform**. This will support sports businesses in producing new content monthly, and expand the range of content to meet the community's varied needs and interests.

Support for Coaches and Sports Freelancers

Coaches are integral to the development of high performance sports and broad-based community sports participation. The new SRP measures will support **two types of training allowances for coaches:**

- 1) Coaches who are registered under the National Registry of Coaches (NROC) can receive \$10 per hour when they take up courses run by CoachSG, beyond the required Continuing Coach Education hours.
- 2) Up to 80 selected pairs of Level 2 and Level 3 NROC-registered coaches can participate in CoachSG's structured mentorship programme. Mentees and mentors can expect to receive \$400 and \$600 per month respectively under this mentorship programme.

Details for application for SRP support measures will be put up on SportSG's website on 2 November:

<https://www.sportsingapore.gov.sg/Partner-with-Us/Support-for-Sport-Businesses>



Arts and Culture Resilience Package (ACRP)

As at 5 October 2020, the \$55 million Arts and Culture Resilience Package (ACRP) has generated over **10,000 work and training opportunities** for arts and culture practitioners, of which **almost 4,000 were for freelancers**. It has also supported **close to 1,200 digitalisation projects and programmes** by local artists and arts organisations.

Announced by MCCY in April 2020, the ACRP provides additional support and opportunities for the arts and culture community, while encouraging the development of longer-term capabilities that will help the sector better adapt to the challenges brought about by COVID-19. MCCY expects to fully utilise the \$55 million set aside for this Package by the end of FY20.

[Updates]

a) ACRP Operating Grant

MCCY will provide eligible arts and culture organisations, as well as those in closely-related sectors such as media and design, with a **one-off ACRP Operating Grant of either \$50,000 or \$75,000, based on the size of their organisation**.

The Operating Grant will complement existing support schemes and grants to help organisations defray their operating costs, in order to safeguard key capabilities as well as livelihoods. NAC and the relevant agencies will directly inform and engage organisations who are eligible for the Operating Grant.

We hope the grant will enable the recipient organisations to continue generating work opportunities for the freelancers they typically engage. More information will be available on the NAC website by end-October 2020.

b) Capability Development Scheme for the Arts (CDSA)

Capability development has been and continues to be a long-standing priority for the sector.

Through the CDSA, we want to support arts and culture organisations and practitioners in upskilling, and help them prepare for a post-COVID-19 recovery.

So far, the **CDSA has supported more than 900 training opportunities, of which around 500 were for freelancers**. Those tapping on the CDSA are eligible for paid training allowance of \$10 per hour, and entitled to a 90% course subsidy. In addition to the course subsidy, trainees may further defray costs using their SkillsFuture credit. Applications for the CDSA have closed on 14 September 2020 for programmes taking place up to 31 March 2021.

Arts and culture organisations and practitioners can now apply for the enhanced Capability Development Grant, which has been open from 15 September 2020 for programmes commencing 15 April 2021.

c) Digitalisation Fund (DF)

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated our efforts to bring the arts and culture online for more Singaporeans to enjoy. Through the Digitalisation Fund (DF), the ACRP supports arts and culture organisations and practitioners' efforts to enhance the digitalisation of their work, and create new experiences for Singaporeans. **Over 9,000 work opportunities have been generated, of which approximately 3,400 were for freelancers**, through the following three components of the Digitalisation Fund.

i) *Digital Presentation Grant for the Arts (DPG)*

The DPG supports ground-up efforts by artists and arts groups to present their work in digital form. This generates work opportunities and builds industry capabilities in digital content production. The response to the DPG has been positive – it has **supported over 500 projects and provided over 7,000 work opportunities, of which approximately 2,000 were for freelancers**. Applications for the DPG have closed on 14 September 2020 for projects which are to be completed by 31 March 2021.

Arts and culture organisations and practitioners can now apply for the enhanced Presentation & Participation Grant, and Market and Audience Development Grant, which were opened from 15 September 2020 for projects commencing 15 April 2021.

ii) *Commissioned Work and Partnerships*

The DF also supports commissioned work and partnerships for large-scale projects, such as the digital presentation of key festivals and events. The DF has supported about **110 commissioned projects and partnerships, providing about 1,600 work opportunities, of which over 1,200 were for freelancers.**

iii) *Digitalisation of Museums*

The DF also provides support to make museum exhibitions and collections more accessible to all Singaporeans. **Over 200 online content and digitalisation projects have been supported.** These projects provided **close to 420 work opportunities, of which approximately 170 were for freelancers.**

d) **Rental Waivers**

As part of the Unity, Resilience, Solidarity and Fortitude Budgets, eligible tenants on government-owned properties have received up to four months of rental waiver from April to July 2020. In addition, all non-residential tenants on government-owned properties who do not qualify for the four months of waiver will be provided with two months of rental waiver. MCCY has extended these rental waivers to qualifying tenants on its properties. **About 400 tenants on MCCY's properties** have benefited from rental waivers.

e) **Venue Hire Subsidy**

At the start of Phase 2 of Singapore's re-opening, MCCY increased its venue hire subsidy from 30% to 80% for activities permitted to resume in Phase 2

at eligible venues². The subsidy was also extended to select arts centres with shared facilities under NAC.

The subsidy has supported about 100 events at these venues, including digital recordings and rehearsals with no audiences, and **will continue to be reviewed at regular intervals**.

Support for freelancers

Arts and culture freelancers are an important part of the ecosystem. In addition to support from broad-based schemes such as the Self-Employed Persons Income Relief Scheme (SIRS), COVID-19 Support Grant (CSG) and SEP Training Support Scheme (STSS), MCCY and NAC will continue to support arts and culture freelancers in the following ways:

- a) Freelancers can **continue to tap on NAC's general grants**, such as the Capability Development Grant, the Presentation and Participation Grant, and Market and Audience Development Grant, which have been **enhanced to include digital works and presentations**.
- b) MCCY has been working with our national cultural institutions, including the Esplanade and Arts House Limited, to **help workers engaged by these institutions apply for Government support schemes they are eligible for** including SIRS/CSG. We will also provide them with information on job opportunities including those under the SGUnited Jobs Initiative.
- c) The **Arts Resource Hub (ARH)** was launched by NAC in September 2019 to provide freelancers and SEPs with resources to continue their

² The Esplanade, National Gallery Singapore, NHB museums and heritage institutions, STPI Creative Workshop & Gallery, Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre, Singapore Conference Hall, as well as those managed by Arts House Limited (The Arts House, Victoria Theatre and Victoria Concert Hall, Drama Centre, Goodman Arts Centre, Aliwal Arts Centre).

practice in the arts in a sustainable way. There are **currently close to 5,000 subscribers of the ARH.**

Resources provided by the ARH include aggregation of job opportunities across the arts and culture and related sectors, talks and clinics on topics such as financial planning, legal knowledge, copyright and mental well-being, and recommendations of training programmes to better support the careers of freelancers.

With feedback from freelancers, the ARH has also curated programmes to support them in navigating the new normal. These include courses on digitalisation tools (e.g., augmented and virtual reality), as well as understanding copyright and intellectual property in the digital realm.

The ARH will ramp up its efforts to provide holistic support for freelancers across the areas of job facilitation, capability development, legal and financial knowledge, and digitalisation. For example, MCCY and NAC are reaching out to other agencies including Workforce Singapore, SkillsFuture Singapore and Infocomm Media Development Authority to **partner them in expanding support for arts and sports freelancers** in areas such as eligibility for other schemes, contractual agreements, job opportunities in adjacent sectors as well as capability development. We invite all arts and culture freelancers to approach the ARH directly with any queries.

ARH also launched **two co-working spaces in Goodman Arts Centre and Stamford Arts Centre** in January 2020 for freelancers to work. The physical space provides a platform for freelancers to collaborate and network with one other for job opportunities and art-making. The co-working spaces have reopened on 6 October 2020 for freelancers to use, in accordance with the prevailing Safe Management Measures.

- d) Our national cultural institutions have adopted the Tripartite Standard on Contracting with SEPs since 2018. **NAC is working with partners from the arts community on initiatives to boost the industry.** For example, former Nominated Member of Parliament and Artistic Director of Drama Box Kok Heng Leun is leading an initiative to look into best employment practices in the theatre sector.

Pilots of live performances

Pilots of small-scale live performances at selected arts venues³ commenced on 11 September 2020, as part of MCCY and the National Arts Council's (NAC) efforts to progressively re-open the arts and culture sector in a safe and sustainable manner. Safe Management Measures were in place at the live performance pilots, such as capping the audience size at a maximum of 50 persons and ensuring that people did not congregate within the venues.

Since then, arts groups including Bhaskar's Arts Academy, Singapore Dance Theatre, Singapore Chinese Orchestra, and Singapore Symphony Orchestra have carried out their live performance pilots safely and successfully. Audience response has also been encouraging, with many of these productions selling out quickly.

MCCY and NAC will monitor and review the outcomes of the pilots, together with the arts community, with a view to gradually scale up live performances. At the same time, we must continue to practise social responsibility and adhere to safe management and contact-tracing measures, to ensure the safe re-opening of the sector.

³ The pilot performances were organised by and took place at venues managed by NAC (through Arts House Limited), Esplanade, Singapore Chinese Orchestra, Singapore Symphony Orchestra, and Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre.