

SEA

An inspiring new program for cultural practitioners ready to take the lead on how arts and culture contribute to sustainable development in South-East Asia

Information SEA Δ 2018-19

SEA Δ (pronounced “sead” or “seed”) uses the Greek symbol delta (Δ) in place of the letter D. Δ is used today in mathematics, to indicate difference or change. It represents that SEA Δ aims to make a difference.

A delta (Δ) in geography, is the point where a river opens to join the sea.

Sea-change is an expression that means a significant change in perspective, or a major transformation.

SEA represents society, education/ environment and the arts; the key elements that will be explored through SEA Δ . How can the arts make a greater a difference in society?

SEA also stands for South East Asia, the geographical area where SEA Δ takes place.

SEA Δ is looking for cultural practitioners who want to make a difference in South East Asia.

What is SEAD?

SEAD is a program co-created by Mekong Cultural Hub and British Council which creates space for cultural practitioners **to reflect on how their work in arts and culture can contribute to sustainable development within South East Asia through their individual and collective leadership.**

Each year we will select 10 Fellows from 10 countries: Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Taiwan and the United Kingdom.

The program has 4 main gatherings spread over a one-year period where Fellows get together. Each gathering takes place in a different country and has a unique purpose: **exchange, create, share then reflect.**

The approach of SEAD is experiential learning. The program is designed to allow for co-creation, collective working and collaboration, and to give Fellows opportunities to develop confidence, resourcefulness, entrepreneurialism and other leadership skills. The program will actively grow the Fellows' networks in and understanding of South East Asia, increase mutual learning and seed collaborations between arts and other sectors.



Why SEAD?

SEAD is responding to a growing interest from cultural practitioners to see arts and culture playing a more significant role in achieving the sustainable development goals in South East Asia. It also responds to the needs of practitioners to develop stronger interregional networks & mutual understanding and to reflect on new approaches to leadership in an Asian context.

How does SEAD work?

All 10 Fellows will come to SEAD with an idea for a cultural project they would like to implement alongside a platform for sustainable development in South East Asia. During the program, the Fellows will collaborate with each other over 4 stages: to *exchange* project ideas, *create* their plans, *share* the project with the public and *reflect* on the experience. At each SEAD gathering Fellows will also build their skills and networks, through masterclasses, activities and visits integrated into the program. By the end of the year, Fellows will have visited four SEA countries, expanded their knowledge of the role arts can play in society, and developed their leadership abilities.

SEAD in detail

	SEAD Exchange	SEAD Create	SEAD Share	SEAD Reflect
	Exploring the role of arts in society in South East Asia. Personal reflection and development.	Practical project management experience and regional collaboration	Connecting with other sectors to explore regional issues. Presenting to a regional and international audience.	Personal reflection and development. Where do you want to go next?
What	Everybody comes to the session with an idea for a project they want to develop. At the end of a 5-day session the 10 Fellows select 3 projects to take forward and divide into 3 groups to prepare for SEAD Create. During the 5 days, Fellows will benefit from master classes delivered by inspiring, provocative, authentic speakers and sessions such as presentation skills, influencing, partnership working, entrepreneurial thinking and peer mentoring.	During SEAD Create, each small group meets up in a country of their choice, to prepare the project they want to present during SEAD Share. This will also be a time when the small groups can exchange knowledge and experience, and learn about the context of arts in connection to the SDG's in the country they are visiting. Each group will be given a budget to manage for their trip and their project.	SEAD Share takes place alongside a platform being organised in a sector outside of the arts connected to the SDG's. Each small group presents their project at the platform. It could be anything from an exhibition, to a panel discussion or artistic intervention. The participants will be expected to draw in an audience from outside of the arts, and develop space for the arts in other agendas. All participants will attend.	The 10 Fellows come together a final time for SEAD Reflect. During this closing event there will be facilitated reflection and sharing, with sessions run by the Fellows, facilitators and speakers. The group will reflect on their learning and develop future plans for individual development and collaborations.
Where	Taipei, Taiwan	Any one of the 10 SEAD countries*	Bangkok, Thailand	Yangon, Myanmar
When	Week of November 26 th , 2018	Between December 2018 and May 2019	Provisionally June 29 th – July 3 rd , 2019	Week of 16 th September 2019
Ongoing	-----> Peer mentoring ----->	Individual development plans ----->	Support from program staff ----->	Personal development

* Excluding UK

What kind of person is a SEAD Fellow?

SEAD is designed for all kinds of cultural practitioners (from artists to administrators, managers and policymakers) who are interested in:

- Connecting their artistic and cultural work to the challenges the SDG's (sustainable development goals) present
- Creating partnerships and collaborations with peers around and with the region
- Enlarging the space for the arts and culture in South East Asia
- Building civil society through arts and culture
- Creating new opportunities for others to grow and develop

Who is eligible for SEAD?

To be eligible to apply to SEAD you must be a citizen of one of the eligible countries, and resident in that same country for the majority of the year, and fit the profile below:

- Committed to a career in arts and culture (with at least 5-10 years existing experience in the sector)
- Are already engaging with social and development issues through your work in the arts and culture
- Are active and engaged in the arts sector in your home country
- Have led other people to realise projects or programs in your home country (this can be informal)
- Have some experience of working with regional peers/partners (whether at home or abroad)
- Be able to communicate comfortably in English (speaking and listening essential, and basic reading and writing for email communication needed) which will be the shared language of the program

Applicants from Taiwan and the UK must also:

- Have an existing connection to SEA culture sector, and a clear desire and intention to grow their collaborations with SEA
- Be culturally sensitive and able to blend into the cultural context of the program and the region

We especially want to engage people who have not had significant regional or international experience already and for whom this program would be a real opportunity to move to a new level in your work. We encourage applications from women, and people living with disabilities.

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Lead supporters and partners



Who we are

Mekong Cultural Hub (MCH) is a new organization, set up to offer personal and professional development opportunities for creative cultural practitioners in Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar and Thailand. Programs will include workshops, exchange and networking, and will involve Taiwan and other South-East Asian countries on particular programs.

MCH serves those who are working at the intersection of arts and society. It aims to support creative practitioners who are already established in their own contexts - and are ready to widen their networks and their impact by developing regional projects and collaboration. We began our work in 2018 by mapping some of the actors in the culture and arts sector around the Mekong Region, particularly looking at people's interest for collaboration and exchange and what results they want to see from more mobility within Asia.

MCH is a regional branch office of Living Arts International (LAI). LAI's other branch office in Asia is Cambodian Living Arts. The new Mekong Cultural Hub organization builds on 20 years of Living Arts International's work in Cambodia, and collaboration and exchange within greater Asia. Living Arts International has been running cultural leadership programs in Cambodia since 2013.

<https://mekongculturalhub.org/portfolio/about/>

The British Council (BC) is the UK's international organization for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We create friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and other countries. We do this by making a positive contribution to the UK and the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust.

We work with over 100 countries across the world in the fields of arts and culture, English language, education and civil society. Founded in 1934, we are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body. In East Asia we are present in 14 countries, ranging from developed markets with sophisticated infrastructures (Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, Korea, Taiwan) and developing markets with fledgling but growing infrastructure (China, Burma, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam).

Our Arts work currently focuses on developing more inclusive, prosperous and creative societies and on strengthening the creative sector through stronger connections between the UK and the regions. The British Council has been involved in cultural leadership development for over 15 years. In East Asia we have been running cultural leadership programs with local partners in Australia, Singapore and Hong Kong.

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/arts>