Enhanced Artist-in-School Scheme Briefing Session (Mainstream)

15th July 2026 (Wed)

2.30 to 3.30pm

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Programme Outline

- Overview
- Introduction to Enhanced AISS
- AISS Stories
- Project Requirements and Assessment Criteria
- Supportable Scope of Projects
- Funding
- Application Process & Timeline
- FAQs
- Useful Links

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Overview

The Artist-in-School Scheme (AISS) supports **sustained partnerships** between Singapore arts professionals and schools to **co-develop** customised arts experiences that deepen students' engagement in and through the arts.

Students from Bedok Green Secondary explore the murals of Kampung Glam as part of their AISS project with artists Eman Raharno Jeman and Nadirah Binte Abdul Razak. (AISS 2025)

Students from 9 secondary schools come together for a hands-on Ephemeral Art workshop led by artist Daniel Chong, as part of the combined-school AISS project *Curate!* (AISS 2024)

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Overview of Enhanced AISS

Importance of Traditional Arts and Multiculturalism to schools and students

Cultural Identity and Rootedness
Helps students connect with their culture and develop a stronger sense of who they are

Develop Empathy and Mutual Respect
Broadens students' perspectives and nurtures appreciation for cultures beyond their own

Keeping Traditions Alive and Relevant
Ensures that traditional art forms are preserved and are relevant to younger generations

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Objectives

	AISS	[New] Enhanced AISS
Project Types	Any Art Form	Traditional Arts/ Multicultural Arts
Objectives	Project co-designed by artist and school to: • Deepen appreciation of various art forms • Build skills in non-performative aspects of the arts • Support broader educational outcomes through the arts	Project co-designed by artist and school to: • **(Traditional Arts)** Deepen students' appreciation of the practices, techniques and cultural knowledge of the arts rooted in Singapore's major ethnic groups • **(Multicultural Arts)** Deepen students' rootedness in Singapore's multicultural identity and foster an appreciation of diverse cultural traditions through participation in the arts
Funding	Up to **70%** of qualifying costs, capped at $15,000 per school per year	Up to **100%** of qualifying costs, capped at $25,000 per school per year
Additional Support	For opt-in schools, Tote Board Arts Grant can be used to subsidise up to 50% of remaining qualifying costs that is not funded by NAC.	

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AISS Stories (Traditional Arts)

Character Building through the Arts in the GEAR-UP Programme: The Angklung and Gamelan Experience

Naval Base Secondary School with artist Shaik Khalil Bin Mohamed Yusuf (2023-2026 AISS)

Students explore Gamelan and Angklung music guided by local artist Shaik Kalil, nurturing an appreciation for Malay Traditional Arts.

As part of the GEAR-UP Programme, students worked with the artist to learn how to play **Angklung, Kulintang and Gamelan**. They learned at least 1 traditional piece and 1 contemporary piece which culminated in a performance.

The programme served to inculcate SEL competencies, boost the students' self-esteem, and deepened students' appreciation for Malay Traditional Arts.

Examples of Traditional Arts Programmes

Chinese	Malay	Indian
• Traditional Chinese Dance • Traditional Chinese Opera • Traditional Puppetry (glove puppets 布袋戏, string/rod puppets 木偶, shadow puppets) • Chinese Orchestra • Chinese Instruments • Chinese Percussion • Chinese Calligraphy (书法) • Chinese Brush Painting (水墨画) • Paper Cutting (剪纸) • Seal Carving (篆刻) • Chinese Porcelain (青花瓷)	• Traditional Malay Dance • Traditional Malay Opera (Bangsawan) • Wayang Kulit • Malay Orchestra • Angklung • Kulintang • Gamelan • Dikir Barat • Malay Percussion • Batik Painting • Tie and Dye	• Traditional Indian Dance • Traditional Tamil Drama • Classic Indian Literature • Indian Orchestra • Indian Percussion • Rangoli Painting

The list of qualifying art forms is not exhaustive.
Schools may reach out to NAC to clarify if a proposed art form qualifies under the Enhanced AISS.

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Examples of Arts Organisations with TA Programmes

- Apsaras Arts Ltd
- Bhaskar's Arts Academy Ltd
- Chinese Opera Institute
- Chinese Theatre Circle Limited
- Dance Ensemble Singapore
- Ding Yi Music Company Ltd
- Era Dance Theatre Ltd
- Ika Zahri Bin Sarkasi
- Kamal's Artshop
- Nadi Singapura Ltd
- Nam Hwa Opera Ltd
- Paper Monkey Theatre
- Rhythms Aesthetic Society
- Singa Rangoli Pte Ltd
- Singapore Chinese Arts Centre Pte Ltd
- Singapore Chinese Dance Theatre
- Sri Warisan Performing Arts Ltd
- Star Word Artistry Studio
- The Finger Players
- The TENG Company Ltd
- Traditional Arts Centre (Singapore) Ltd

Schools may reach out to these arts companies to explore co-developing learning experiences in TA for students. Do ensure that the specific artist(s) meets the assessment criteria for AISS.

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AISS Stories (Multicultural Arts)

A Dynamic Fusion of Ethnic Dance and Hip Hop (2025 AISS)

Westwood Secondary School with Converge Studios LLP

Over 14 sessions, Sec 1 students at Westwood Secondary School participated in an integrated dance programme exploring **Hip Hop, Chinese, Indian, and Malay dance** forms.

Guided by professional artists, students learned the cultural significance, collaborated in choreography, and creatively fused traditional and modern techniques. The programme culminated in a showcase performance, allowing students to demonstrate cultural awareness, teamwork, and innovative expression through choreographed routines.

Westwood Secondary students incorporate ethnic dance elements into their hip-hop choreography, deepening their appreciation of Singapore's diverse cultures through movement.
Photo Credit: Westwood Secondary School

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Other Possible Multicultural Arts Projects

- Students learn from two experienced practitioners who are seasoned in Batik painting and Chinese painting and learn to combine artistic practices across these distinct art forms.

- Theatre scriptwriting programme that guides students to craft authentic dialogue and develop compelling characters by drawing inspiration from Malay folktales. Students will gain a nuanced understanding of the rich tradition of Malay folktales and engage with the values, themes and context of Malay culture.

- Photography programme with a focus on equipping students with technical photography skills and representing Singapore's cultural identity through visual storytelling. The programme involves bringing students for guided photo walks through Singapore's heritage precincts. Students will then work on creating a digital visual narrative that reflects Singapore's multiculturalism.

Project Requirements and Assessment Criteria

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Project Requirements

1. Work with a *local artist with artform and pedagogy qualifications and experience

2. Minimum 12 interaction hours with the same group of students

3. Must not replicate programmes on the NAC-AEP Directory *Pls check with the artist if they have a similar programme on NAC-AEP directory. If so, you can purchase the programme with Tote Board Arts Grant (up to 50% of programme costs).*

*Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident OR employed by a local arts organization.

Artist Chong Tze Chien facilitates a discussion on playwriting, encouraging each student to actively share learning and contribute their ideas. (2024 AISS) Photo Credit: CHIJ Katong Convent

Artist Ahmad Abu Bakar guides students in crafting cubist masks, blending art history with hands-on making skills. (2026 AISS)

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AISS vs NAC-AEP

Refer to the following to identify the best-fit scheme to support your project's design and learning outcomes:

	AISS	NAC-AEP Directory
Customisation	Co-design a fully customised programme to meet specific learning needs of your students, e.g. nurturing communication and collaborative skills through an arts project with the community	• An assembly programme, talk, excursion, or workshop that is readily available from existing Arts Providers • Some NAC-AEPs are customisable (duration, no. of sessions, add-on components)
Approval/ Administrative Process	Requires NAC's approval of application and submission of mid-term/ post-project reporting documents	Pre-approved and listed on directory
Duration	Provide at least 12 interaction hours with the artist for the same group / cohort of students, across one to two years	Programme can be as short as one session
Teacher-training	Can be included	Not available

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Assessment Criteria

1. Suitability of Proposed Artist(s) (60%)

A) Artform Expertise:

- Artist possesses a recognised professional qualification from an arts institution (minimally a Diploma)
- Artist has trained with an established training provider in the art form
- Artist has a good track record of relevant local and / or international industry experience
- Artist has strong industry repute, e.g. is a Cultural Medallion or Young Artist Award recipient

B) Pedagogical Expertise

- Artist has pedagogical qualifications relating to the student profile involved in the project
- Artist demonstrates a good track record of relevant teaching experience relating to student profile

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Assessment Criteria

2. Artistic and Educational Merit (40%)

- Programme achieves stated AISS/ Enhanced AISS objectives
- Programme is appropriately pitched to the target student profile (age / learning needs) with student-centric strategies
- Programme has multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate evidence of learning (E.g. showcase, portfolio, meaningful sharing of reflections)
- Programme has opportunities for students to interact meaningfully with the artist (E.g. through one-to-one feedback or gaining industry insights)

Supportable Scope of Projects

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Supportable Scope of Projects

Target Student Profile	AISS projects can support students' needs for the following school programmes: • Cohort level e.g. PAL/ Sec 2 level • CCA • Curriculum e.g. music lessons • Talent Development • Youth-at-risk/ GEAR-UP
Teacher Training	• Can be included • Teacher-training hours < artist-student interaction hours

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Component	Details	Funding
Combined-Schools Projects	• Co-developed between all partner schools • 1 coordinating school to take charge of application process	• Funding of combined-schools projects is capped at combined schools' funding caps • For AISS projects involving SPED schools, projects will be funded up to 90% of qualifying AISS project costs/ 100% for Traditional Arts or Multicultural Arts Projects
Multi-Year Projects	• Multi-year projects may take place for <u>up to two years</u> • It is recommended that the school has partnered the same artist(s) under AISS previously	• Funding cap for projects across calendar years will be based on two years of funding • The funding cap will also take into consideration funding for previous Multi-Year projects that are being implemented

Funding

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Funding

	AISS	[New] Enhanced AISS	*Tote Board Arts Grant (for opt in schools)
Support	Up to 70%	Up to 100%	Up to 50% for: - NAC-AEP directory - Public Arts Programmes - remaining qualifying costs for AISS
Grant Cap	$15,000	$25,000	$15,000
Total Annual Funding	Schools may submit multiple projects across both AISS and Enhanced AISS and access up to **$40,000 (NAC) and $15,000 (Tote Board Arts Grant)**		

*Schools that have opted in for Tote Board Arts Grant in 2026 will automatically be enrolled for 2027

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Scenario

School submitted 3 AISS projects:

Project A Enhanced AISS - Batik programme for Sec 1 Art lessons

Project B Enhanced AISS - Dizi programme for Chinese Orchestra CCA Sectionals

Project C Regular AISS - Hip Hop Dance Programme for students in GEAR-UP

AISS Project	Supportable Costs	Grant Support
Project A Enhanced AISS	$20,000	$20,000 (100% of qualifying costs, up to $25K)
Project B Enhanced AISS	$10,000	$5,000 (as remaining grant funding is $5K)
Project C Regular AISS	$22,000	$15,000 (70% of qualifying costs, up to $15K)
Additional Funding from Tote Board Arts Grant (for opt-in schools)	Remaining $12,000 (from Project B and C)	$6,000 (50% of remaining qualifying costs)
Total Grant amount	$40,000 (NAC) + $6,000 (Tote Board Arts Grant) = **$46,000**	

School only pays: $6,000

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Qualifying Costs

- NAC provides funding for artist fees and *qualifying material costs only.

- The following costs are not supported under the AISS:
  - × Transportation
  - × Equipment maintenance
  - × Installation costs
  - × Venue rental
  - × Assets, e.g. equipment (such as kiln, iPad), software, purchase of licenses, instruments.

*Do note that short-term rental of instruments and equipment can be considered.

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Disbursement Schedule

Depending on the grant quantum, the grant will be disbursed in two or three instalments:

Grant Quantum	1st disbursement	2nd disbursement	3rd disbursement
Less than $20,000	80% of grant quantum upon award and acceptance of grant	20% of grant quantum upon successful completion of project and submission of post-project report	nil
Equal to or more than $20,000, and for multi-year projects	50% of grant quantum upon award and acceptance of grant	30% of grant quantum upon submission of mid-term report	20% of grant quantum upon successful completion of project and submission of post-project report

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Reporting Requirements

1. **Post-Project Report** including schools' confirmation of consent for media release of photographs for students whose faces are visible, and an expenditure report.
2. At least 3 high-resolution **photographs** of the AISS sessions in progress.

Note: For multi-year projects, and projects with grant of equal to or more than $20,000, a **mid-term report** is required.

- All templates will be available for download on the AISS webpage.
- All documents are to be submitted within three months of project completion.
- While receipts do not need to be submitted, please retain them for audit purposes.

Application Process

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Application Process

STEP 1: Complete **Annex A** with proposed artist(s) (download from the **AISS webpage**)

STEP 2: Fill in **Online Application Form** (attach completed Annex A)

[Revised] Application Window

Application window opens from 10 Aug 2026

- For projects that start from Term 1, 11 Jan 2027: apply by 12 Oct 2026
- For projects that start from Term 2, 22 Mar 2027: apply by 20 Nov 2026

- AISS projects are to begin no earlier than Monday, 11 January 2027.
- Schools will be notified of results in batches from October 2026 to February 2027.

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Application Process - ITQ

***For projects more than $6,000 and not exceeding $90,000**, an ITQ should be issued prior to applying for AISS.

An example of such an ITQ would cover:

(a) co-development of the proposal and

(b) execution of the programme, whereby execution of the programme may proceed if the AISS application is successful.

Given that the ITQ should be awarded prior to AISS application and that the process may take up to 4 weeks, schools are encouraged to begin this process early.

[TIP FOR SCHOOLS] Write clearly defined ITQ requirements and evaluation criteria that closely mirror the AISS assessment guidelines. If your preferred artist is highly qualified, setting robust criteria ensures that only artists of that standard will score well in your ITQ!

E.g. Indicate in the ITQ specs for a dance artist that has a strong track record of industry experience and is actively performing and teaching.

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Timeline

Application

1. Establish programme focus based on AISS objectives
2. Identify suitable artist(s) with reference to assessment criteria
3. (For projects more than $6,000 and not exceeding $90,000) Complete ITQ
4. Apply for AISS (with co-developed programme outline, budget and artist(s)' CV) by 12 Oct 2026

Notification of Results

1. Schools will be notified of results in batches from October 2026 to February 2027.
2. Sign and return Letter of Offer (within two weeks)

During Project

1. Capture photos of students & artist(s)
2. Submit a Change Request, if any
3. Observations by NAC

Mid-Term Report

[For multi-year projects & projects equal to or more than $20K]

Submission of **Mid-Term Report**

Post-Project

1. Submission of **Post-Project Report** within 3 months
2. [For opt-in schools] Submit claims for Tote Board Arts Grant under IFAAS

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Change Requests

- If there are any changes to the project, inform NAC in writing at least seven working days prior to the execution date

- **Example of changes:**
  - learning objectives, scope of project (teacher-training, student profile)
  - reduction in student / teacher numbers above 20%
  - materials including material costs which impacts lesson objectives
  - artist (artist hours, artist fees)
  - project completion date if project cannot be completed within the academic year

FAQ

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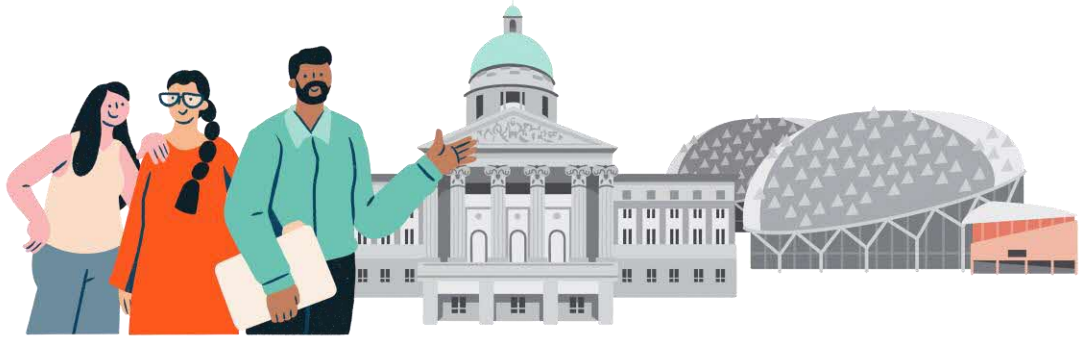
FAQ

Is there a list of recommended Arts professionals?

- NAC does not have a consolidated list of artists for schools to provide flexibility to schools.
- For Traditional Arts programmes, you may reference the list of examples of arts groups/ artists in the earlier slide.
- You may also consider working with an artist who has strong industry repute, e.g. is a Cultural Medallion or Young Artist Award recipient and can reach out directly to them.
- Do ensure that the artist meets the assessment criteria.
- If the school does not have an artist in mind to work with, suggest to purchase existing NAC-AEP programmes instead of applying for AISS.



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FAQ

Must I complete an ITQ if my project is above $6,000?

- Being awarded the AISS Grant does not exempt schools from MOE procurement procedures or from REMS2.0 registration.
- For projects more than $6,000 and not exceeding $90,000, it is advised for schools to issue the ITQ prior to applying for the AISS Grant.
- MOE Finance has shared that an example of such an ITQ would cover: (a) co-development of the proposal and (b) execution of the programme, whereby execution of the programme may proceed if the AISS application is successful.
- Do note that when the AISS application has been submitted, NAC will not be able to conduct a reassessment for a change in artist. The Grant offer may unfortunately have to be retracted in this case.
- For questions relating to MOE finance processes, do reach out to the school's finance partner.

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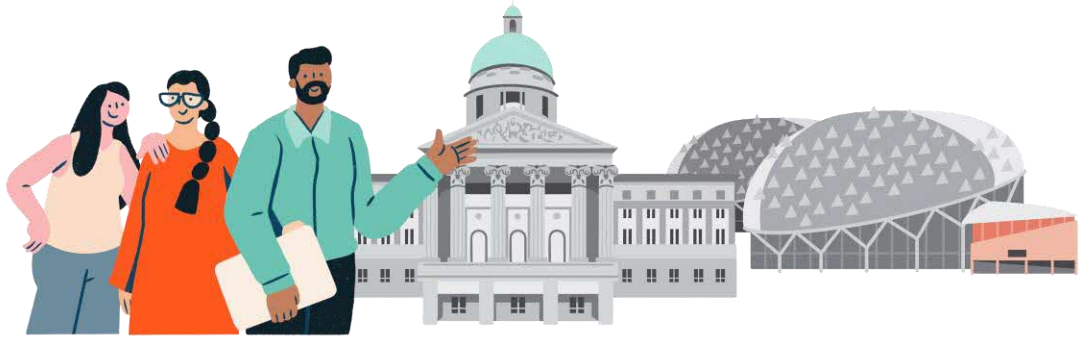
FAQ

Is it possible to engage a company rather than one specific artist? Can my project involve more than one artist?

- NAC assesses the CVs of **specific instructors** to ensure a minimum standard of proficiency; we are unable to do this if only generic company details are submitted.
- Please ensure that you share the CVs of the specific artists who will be conducting the programme.
- **Applicants may submit multiple artist CVs for evaluation** (E.g. inter-disciplinary projects involving artists across multiple art forms, instances where there is a main and relief/ assistant instructor).



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Useful Links

- Please visit the AISS webpage to reference AISS documents:
  - Grant Guidelines
  - Annex A
  - Post-Project/ Mid-Term Report Template
  - Media Release Form

- Cultural Medallion & Young Artist Award Recipients

- Should you have any questions, or wish to discuss your application in detail, please contact us at nac_aep@nac.gov.sg

Thank you!

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