

Cultural Matching Fund FAQ 2025

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CULTURAL MATCHING FUND

1.1 Review of Cultural Matching Fund

1.1.1 Assessment

Current Formulation	New Formulation (additions in bold)
Applications will be evaluated by the CMF Trustees with the support from CMF Secretariat, MCCY, NAC, and NHB.	Applications will be evaluated by the CMF Trustees with support from CMF Secretariat, MCCY, NAC, and NHB. The CMF Trustees will assess an application based on, amongst other criteria, its eligibility, completeness, and the proposed uses of the matching grant. Matching funds are limited. There is a need to decide on the allocation of these funds, especially during application cycles when there is a surge in the total dollar amount submitted for matching. CMF will prioritise applications that support culture sector priorities, which include but are not limited to driving artistic and cultural excellence; contributing to stronger and more cohesive communities in Singapore; and developing the local arts and culture sector. CMF reserves the right to reject any application. The CMF decisions in relation to the approval of applications is final and no appeals will be allowed.
For application of CMF grants above the first \$300,000, applicant is encouraged to discuss with the relevant agency to ensure proposed uses are in line with cultural sector priorities before submitting their applications.	For applications above \$300,000, applicants are encouraged to discuss with the relevant agency to ensure that the proposed uses are in line with culture sector priorities (see “Funding conditions” section) before submitting their applications.

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1.1.2 Funding Conditions

Current Formulation	New Formulation (additions in bold)
<p>For matching grants above the first S\$300,000 per application window, the funds must be used to support projects that align to culture sector priorities, including projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) 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 filling a critical gap in the arts and culture ecosystem in Singapore;b) engage different segments in the Singapore society through arts and heritage, including the under-reached communities, and contributing to the development of new audiences beyond once-off attendances;c) encourage sustainability in our arts and heritage scene such as instilling a sense of ownership among Singaporeans in our arts, history and traditions and building a pool of patrons and volunteers, or improving the capabilities of the charity/sector in areas such as fundraising, innovation, corporate governance, research, business development etc.;d) 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; ande) promote a greater sense of shared identity and pride as Singaporeans, and deepen our understanding on the richness and diversity of our multicultural society.	<p>For matching grants above the first S\$300,000 per application window, the funds will be prioritised to support projects that align to culture sector priorities, including projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Contribute significantly to artistic/heritage excellence in Singapore;b) Contribute to stronger and more cohesive communities in Singapore; andc) Contribute to the capability development of the wider local arts and heritage sector.

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1.1.3 Governance Issues

Current Formulation	New Formulation
There are no exclusions or time bars on applications from any groups, regardless of governance history.	<p>a) With effect from CMF2025, Trustees will exercise discretion to suspend groups with a track record of governance issues.</p> <p>b) Governance issues could cover possible abuse of the CMF application process or relevant findings outside of the CMF application process.</p> <p>c) Aim is to uphold good governance and adherence to proper grant application processes for accountability.</p>

1.2 CMF Top-up of \$100M

Duration: A five-year extension of the CMF matching grant scheme till end-FY29

Amount: \$100m top-up to the CMF in FY25

General Information on Cultural Matching Fund

1.3.1 Overview

Established by MCCY, the Cultural Matching Fund (CMF) provides matching grants for private cash donations to registered charities in the arts and heritage sector.

The CMF aims to encourage giving to our arts and heritage sector. This will create a more sustainable arts and heritage scene, and one in which more people in Singapore have a stake. The CMF will match monetary donations received by the eligible organisations, from individuals, foundations, and corporations. The CMF doubles the value of every cash donation for the receiving organisation which can be put to various uses, including developing capabilities for the long-term sustainability of the organisation and the cultural sector as a whole.

1.3.2 Eligibility

Only Arts and Heritage Charities and IPCs are eligible for the CMF. These principally include the Charities and IPCs classified by the Commissioner of Charities to be primarily engaged and operating in the arts and heritage sector. The CMF Secretariat may also consider other exceptional Charities and IPCs that conduct significant arts and heritage activities, such that they contribute to the benefit of the arts and heritage sector, to be eligible for the CMF on a case by case basis.

1.3.3 Application Cycle

The CMF application window 2026 will be open from 1 April to 31 May 2025. Application closes on 31 May 2025 by 23:59 (SGT). Applications should be submitted via OurSG (OSG) Grants Portal at <https://oursggrants.gov.sg/>.

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1.3.4 Application & Assessment Process

Applications will be evaluated by the CMF Trustees with the support from CMF Secretariat, MCCY, NAC, and NHB. For application of CMF grants above the first \$300,000, applicant is encouraged to discuss with the relevant agency to ensure proposed uses are in line with cultural sector priorities before submitting their applications.

1.3.5 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 2023 – 31 May 2025) will be eligible for matching.

- Eligibility for matching is also subjected to the following:
 - i. Donations are received after the organisation has been 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, the President's Challenge;
 - v. Donations have not been matched by other government institutions (e.g. Care and Share Fund, Community Silver Trust, matching of donations to tertiary institutions);
 - vi. Donations are not raised through activities that are deemed adverse to the culture sector and/or Singapore;
 - vii. Donations are not earned income and sponsorship in nature.
- Expenditure can start retrospectively on 1 June 2025 if CMF application for the projects are approved.
- Approved CMF funds must be used by 31 March 2029.

1.3.6 Do projects funded by NAC and NHB qualify for CMF grants usage?

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

1.3.7 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.

1.3.8 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 the first \$300,000, however, is subjected to culture sector priorities.

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1.3.9 Funding Conditions - First S\$300,000

For matching grant in the first S\$300,000 of matching grants received per application window, use of the funds should be in line with the stated objects as arts and heritage charities as well as governance regulations for charities. Some examples may include overhead operating costs such as salaries, staff training & development and rental costs.

1.3.10 Funding Conditions - Above the first S\$300,000

For matching grants above the first S\$300,000 per application window, the funds will be prioritised to support projects that align to culture sector priorities, including projects that:

- a. Contribute significantly to artistic/heritage excellence in Singapore;
- b. Contribute to stronger and more cohesive communities in Singapore; and
- c. Contribute to the capability development of the wider local arts and heritage sector.

1.3.11 Funding Conditions – Fundraising

All CMF Matching Grants used for fundraising events expenses are subjected to the following:

- a. The total expenditure for each supported fundraiser should not exceed 30% of the total funds raised.
- b. Matching grant quantum for a fundraising event expenses is capped at \$50,000 per event.

Applicants are required to submit income and expenditure report for each fundraiser. CMF will only disburse the grant after submission of the report.

1.3.12 Funding Conditions – Endowment Funds / Fixed Deposit

Given the current fiscal environment, we would encourage recipients to put CMF grants to immediate use, rather than to have them in endowment funds.

CMF allows FD placement as an option for prudent cash management measure especially for larger grant sums, therefore CMF allows for Fixed Deposit placement by CMF grant recipients before actual utilisation as per Approved Usage. This is subjected to the following:

- a. The Fixed Deposit placement is to be in Singapore Dollars with a Local Bank or Full Qualifying Bank listed on MAS website.
- b. The Fixed Deposit account should be for CMF grants only, and not be comingled with other sources of funds (in line with clause 2.4 in the Deed of Acceptance).
- c. The Fixed Deposit maturity instruction is for the principal and earned interest to return to CMF dedicated current bank account.
- d. Movements of the CMF grants (principal and earned interest) must be properly accounted with sufficient supporting documentation. Supporting documents are to be available for audit.
- e. Usage of the Earned interest is to be towards the same Approved Use as the principal sum.

1.3.13 Funding Conditions – GST

With effect from the CMF 2021 application, only non-GST-registered organisations are allowed to use the CMF Matching Grant for the GST component of the approved use. For GST-registered organisations, CMF Matching Grants cannot be used for GST.

1.3.14 Funding Conditions – unsupported activities

All CMF matching grants are not to be used for activities that may:

- a. advocate or lobby for lifestyles seen as objectionable by the general public;
- b. denigrate or debase a person, or a group or class of persons on the basis of race or religion, or serve to create conflict or misunderstanding in the multicultural and multi-religious society of the Republic of Singapore;
- c. undermine the authority or legitimacy of the Government and public institutions or threaten the security or stability of the Republic of Singapore; and / or
- d. in any way, be adverse to the cultural sector and / or the Republic of Singapore.

1.3.15 Funding Conditions – unsupported expenditure

All CMF Matching Grants, regardless of the quantum of amount disbursed, cannot be used for the following items:

- a. entertainment expenses;
- b. staff bonuses and welfare benefits (including overseas travel costs);
- c. internal charges within a charity;
- d. legal expenses
- e. debt/loan repayment; and
- f. government fine and taxes

1.3.16 Upon Award

Requires to sign a Deed of Acceptance of Conditions of Grant and submit Milestone Reports until the Grant are completely utilised. All CMF Recipients will be audited minimally once every 3 years.

1.3.17 Post Award - Frequency of Audit

All CMF Recipients will be audited minimally once every 3 years.

1.3.18 Post Award - Milestone Reporting

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

For deeds signed from the 2018 application window onwards, milestone reports need to be submitted once a year in April. Please refer to the presentation slides on the CMF webpage for updates on the revised CMF's application and operational details.