

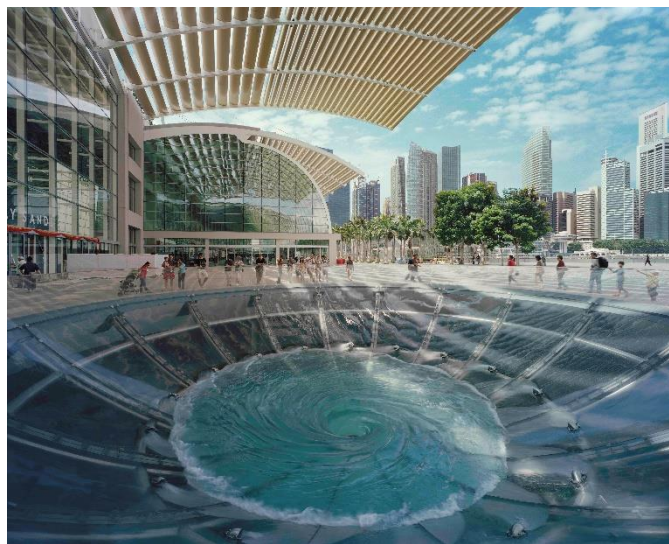
Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Marina Bay Sands donates S\$500,000 to National Arts Council's Sustain the Arts (stART) Fund to support emerging artists and innovation

The Sands Innovative Arts Fund will support impactful programmes that leverage new technologies and innovative ways of artmaking and audience engagement



Rain Oculus, which functions as both a skylight and a rain collector, is one of 11 public art works called the Art Path installed at Marina Bay Sands (Photo credit: Timothy Hursley)

SINGAPORE (22 January 2024) – Marina Bay Sands is reaffirming its commitment to the development of Singapore's arts scene through a S\$500,000 donation to invest in the future of emerging art forms and innovative creators. This contribution is part of the integrated resort's

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efforts to drive impact and inspire change through its community engagement programme, Sands Cares, under which support for the arts is a key pillar.

The donation marks the establishment of the *Sands Innovative Arts Fund* under the National Arts Council (NAC)'s Sustain the Arts Fund (stART Fund), which boosts small arts groups' efforts and to give a head start towards long-term sustainability. This move exemplifies Marina Bay Sands' dedication to nurturing emerging talent and their efforts to leverage new technologies in artmaking and audience engagement, providing opportunities for growth to the creative community.

The *Sands Innovative Arts Fund* marks one of the biggest donations Marina Bay Sands has made in support of the arts since its 2010 opening. The Fund aims to support emerging artists in their creative outreach to the community, as they explore new technologies and innovative ways of artmaking and audience engagement. This donation to stART Fund may also be eligible for dollar-for-dollar matching under the Ministry of Culture, Community & Youth's (MCCY) Cultural Matching Fund which will raise the total contributions up to S\$1 million to further the growth of emerging artists and small arts organisations in Singapore.

The donation follows the recent signing of a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Marina Bay Sands and the NAC, cementing the integrated resort's commitment to become a platform for the arts. The strategic alliance aims to transform Marina Bay Sands into a vibrant canvas, offering a unique blend of cultural experiences for event organisers and delegates.

"The arts have the power to inspire, challenge, and transform communities. Through the *Sands Innovative Arts Fund*, Marina Bay Sands is proud to play a role in shaping the future of the arts scene in Singapore. This donation reflects our commitment to fostering creativity and innovation in the arts space for future generations," said Mr Paul Town, Chief Operating Officer, Marina Bay Sands.

Ms Lynette Pang, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of NAC, said, "The generous contributions of Marina Bay Sands will support the longer-term sustainability and visibility of emerging artists. We are excited to see the creativity and diversity of arts programmes supported by the new Fund. To nurture a strong culture of giving to the arts, we look forward to seeing more likeminded partners and private sector organisations come on board to build an arts scene that collectively, we will all be proud of."

Marina Bay Sands and NAC are inviting the arts community in Singapore to apply for the *Sands Innovative Arts Fund*, under the stART Fund. Interested applicants can submit their proposals via the Open Call from today until 29 February 2024. Successful applicants will be notified by 18 June 2024. For more information, visit the [stART Fund page](#) on the NAC website.

The launch of the Sands Innovative Arts Fund coincides with the much-anticipated Singapore Art Week, taking place across Singapore from 19 – 28 January 2024. Concurrently, Marina Bay Sands is hosting the second edition of [Where Art Takes Shape](#), an immersive celebration

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designed to inspire and captivate art enthusiasts and the broader community across the entire property. Over 19-21 January, the integrated resort welcomed international art delegates to the second edition of ART SG - Southeast Asia's leading international art fair – at Sands Expo & Convention Centre.

Marina Bay Sands has been a supporter of the arts since its inception in 2010, championing the creative spirit and providing vital assistance to budding artists striving to showcase their work. One of the most visible displays of this commitment lies in its Art Path programme, a specially-commissioned site-specific installation of 11 large-scale pieces of public art, such as the *Rain Oculus* and *Wind Arbor* by Ned Kahn and *Drift* by Antony Gormley. For a comprehensive overview of Marina Bay Sands' multifaceted commitment to the arts, please refer to the Annex.

To learn more about Marina Bay Sands' community engagement activities, please visit <http://www.marinabaysands.com/company-information/corporate-social-responsibility.html>

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About Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd

Marina Bay Sands is Asia's leading business, leisure and entertainment destination. The integrated resort features Singapore's largest hotel with approximately 1,850 luxurious rooms and suites, crowned by the spectacular Sands SkyPark and iconic infinity pool. Its stunning architecture and compelling programming, including state-of-the-art convention and exhibition facilities, Asia's best luxury shopping mall, world-class dining and entertainment, as well as cutting-edge exhibitions at ArtScience Museum, have transformed the country's skyline and tourism landscape since it opened in 2010.

Marina Bay Sands is dedicated to being a good corporate citizen to serve its people, communities and environment. As one of the largest players in hospitality, it employs more than 11,500 Team Members across the property. It drives social impact through its community engagement programme, Sands Cares, and leads environmental stewardship through its global sustainability programme, Sands ECO360.

For more information, please visit www.marinabaysands.com

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For hi-res images, please click [here](#). (Credit images as indicated in the captions)

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Annex: Marina Bay Sands' Commitment to Supporting the Arts

Arts Festivalisation at Marina Bay Sands

Marina Bay Sands has reinvented its guest experience through a series of back-to-back festivals that aim to inspire and deepen engagement with visitors via thematic, immersive activities that showcase the integrated resort's multi-dimensional prowess.

This month, Marina Bay Sands welcomes back the second edition of [Where Art Takes Shape](#) from 18 to 28 January 2024, coinciding with Singapore Art Week (SAW) 2024, and ART SG, Southeast Asia's largest art fair, which welcomed more than 42,000 visitors in 2023.

Elsewhere on property, a silent art auction will be held with the proceeds going towards local artists.

After 13 years of delighting diners with its exceptional culinary experiences, db Bistro & Oyster Bar bids a heartfelt farewell as it closes its doors ahead of the opening of Maison Boulud by Daniel Boulud. In a final gesture of expressing gratitude to diners and giving back to the community, the restaurant will be donating its collection of 13 Bozo fish puppets that have adorned the walls of the restaurant towards a charitable cause.

Hand-carved from a single piece of wood and painted in bright colours, these enchanting wooden fish puppets narrate the stories of the Bozo fishing tribe, whose lives are intricately woven with the rhythms of the water. The puppets are commonly used in water rituals and ceremonies within the community and are a testament to the symbiotic relationship between the Bozo people and the Niger river.

The auction, which commenced on 15 January, will be hosted on <https://www.artoutreachsingapore.org/make-waves-for-art> with proceeds going to Art Outreach, a Singapore non-profit organisation committed to promoting access to and appreciation of art to the local community.

Sands Accelerator

Launched in 2017 by Las Vegas Sands in the United States, the Sands Accelerator is a visionary three-year capacity-building program initiated by the late Sheldon G. Adelson, founder of Marina Bay Sands' parent company, Las Vegas Sands. This programme is dedicated to fostering the growth and expansion of impactful non-profit organisations facing resource constraints.

In 2020, Marina Bay Sands welcomed its first Accelerator member in Singapore, Art Outreach Singapore, a non-profit organisation dedicated to advancing arts education, support, and accessibility.

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The Sands Accelerator not only provides substantial funding of US\$300,000 over three years but also offers holistic support, including goal-setting assistance and mentorship sessions facilitated by Marina Bay Sands' Team Members. This collaboration empowered Art Outreach to launch *HEARTH*, an innovative community art space addressing a crucial gap in Singapore's arts ecosystem. *HEARTH* provides local artists with complimentary facilities to create and showcase their works, contributing to the vibrancy of the arts community.

Arts Integration at Marina Bay Sands

Marina Bay Sands has a rich history of celebrating the arts since its inception in 2010. The integrated resort has been home to 11 large-scale public art installations, forming the Art Path programme. Visitors, both local and international, can immerse themselves in the arts through a self-guided Art Path tour. The ArtScience Museum, a cultural gem within the integrated resort, hosts regularly refreshed world-renowned exhibitions, providing guests with novel experiences with each visit.

Marina Bay Sands' support towards NAC and the arts dates back to more than a decade ago. Since 2012, Marina Bay Sands has been a recipient of multiple awards that celebrate and recognise the support of private corporations to the arts. These include:

- Patron of the Arts Award by National Arts Council, 2018 to 2019, and 2023
- Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award by the National Arts Council, 2012 to 2017
- SG50 Arts Patron Award by the National Arts Council, 2015

In 2014, Marina Bay Sands also pioneered corporate support for public art by pledging S\$750,000 to NAC, kickstarting the Public Art Trust, a forward-looking initiative aimed at elevating the profile of artworks in public spaces.

In September 2023, Marina Bay Sands and NAC signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), as a step towards transforming the integrated resort into a canvas for the arts, specially in the MICE (meetings, exhibitions, conferences & exhibitions) space.

Under the MoU, Sands Expo & Convention Centre will serve as the epicenter for arts thought leadership. The collaboration envisions the integration of arts performances into the opening acts of events, creating a dynamic arts-infused atmosphere. This arts programming will extend throughout the property, encompassing venues such as ArtScience Museum and Sands Theatre. These efforts will be facilitated by NAC's digital platform, Catch. As a result, guests at Marina Bay Sands can anticipate an enriched cultural experience, with the arts taking centre stage in both business events and daily life at the integrated resort.