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MARINA BAY SANDS SUPPORTS NINE LOCAL ARTS GROUPS THROUGH THE SANDS INNOVATIVE ARTS FUND

Now in its second year, the Fund continues its mission of supporting emerging arts organisations in their innovative artmaking and creative community outreach to reach new audiences



Marina Bay Sands has been a strong supporter of the arts since its opening in 2010, championing the creative spirit and providing a platform for artistic works to be accessible by a wider audience

Singapore (5 August 2025) — Seven Singaporean arts groups have successfully presented impactful programmes for the community through the first year of the Sands Innovative Arts Fund, a S\$500,000 donation by Marina Bay Sands established under the National Arts Council (NAC)'s Sustain the Arts (stART) Fund.

Now in its second year, the Sands Innovative Arts Fund will be supporting two new grantees, lifting to nine the number of local arts groups receiving support to date. These are **Lirica Arts**, which actively collaborates with under-represented communities to create an authentic immersive experience blending digital technology with traditional theatre, making Western vocal classic music accessible to all, and **the Singapore Indian Orchestra and Choir**, which is planning to develop a digital documentary to commemorate its 40th anniversary of promoting rich Indian musical forms infused with Singapore's multicultural identity in this SG60 year.

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Introduced in January 2024, the Sands Innovative Arts Fund invests in the future of emerging art forms and innovative creators, propelling their growth and expansion of programmes to inspire communities creatively, strengthen societal bonds between generations, and foster Singapore's unique cultural identity.

In addition to the two new grantees, the Sands Innovative Arts Fund will be providing additional support to two first-batch grantees – **inwardBOUND** to extend its outreach to both youth and seniors through sustained intergenerational storytelling, and **Pasat Merdu** to promote intercultural music practices across the region.



(first picture) *The re:ACT Festival: Intergenerational Issues in Singapore* on 21 July 2025 showed community connection between youths and seniors (credit inwardBOUND);
(second picture) Organised by Pasat Merdu, *The New Sights Fellowship Programme* on 26 July 2025 featured the works of aspiring Singaporean composers (credit Pasat Merdu)

inwardBOUND expanded re:ACT, its community theatre arm through the *re:ACT Festival: Intergenerational Issues in Singapore*. The Festival aims to foster empathy, dialogue and deeper community connection between seniors and youth by encouraging both generations to engage with social issues through theatre. As a second-year grantee, inwardBOUND will continue to expand its impact through theatre and digital media—preserving seniors' voices and contributing to Singapore's collective cultural memory. Follow [@inwardboundsg](https://www.instagram.com/inwardboundsg) for updates and stories.

Pasat Merdu premiered the works of aspiring Singaporean composers at a live performance at Stamford Arts Centre on 26 July. These composers are part of the *New Sights Fellowship Programme*—an initiative that supports them in pursuing their artistic visions by fostering relationships with cultural music traditions, communities, and diverse voices. Through mentorship, workshops, and collaborations with cultural bearers and renowned artists, the fellows contribute meaningfully to Singapore's growing canon of musical works. Looking

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ahead, Pasat Merdu aims to expand these artists' reach across the region with the second round of grants from the Sands Innovative Arts Fund. Follow [@thestraitsensemble](https://www.instagram.com/thestraitsensemble) on Instagram for updates and more information.

The Sands Innovative Arts Fund is one of the biggest donations made by the integrated resort in support of the local arts since opening in 2010, and is part of the integrated resort's efforts to drive impact and inspire change through its community engagement programme, Sands Cares, under which promoting local arts is a key pillar.

"We are proud of what these local arts groups have achieved and will continue to do, as we support the continued evolution of Singapore's thriving arts scene through initiatives like the Sands Innovative Arts Fund," said Mr. Paul Town, Chief Operating Officer of Marina Bay Sands. "As Singapore celebrates its diamond jubilee this year, we too will continue to invest in a shared future to foster a culturally rich and diverse Singapore identity for future generations to be proud of."

Low Eng Teong, Chief Executive Officer of NAC, added, "The success and impact of the arts programmes made possible by our partnership with Marina Bay Sands are truly uplifting. It is encouraging to see support benefitting more local groups as we drive positive change in our communities through the arts. The arts are the soul of Singapore, enriching our lives and reflecting who we are. We look forward to welcoming more like-minded partners to join us in supporting our local arts groups and together, build a more vibrant and inclusive Singapore through the power of giving to the arts."

Highlights from the first-year recipients



Brahmastra presented 'River of Life: An Intercultural Odyssey', a story of the timeless beauty of the world's most iconic rivers, in September 2024 (credit Brahmastra); Polarity's 'What's Your Flavour' celebrates bold ideas and styles through creating a platform to showcase a diverse line-up of local choreographers and performers (credit ACHMphotos)

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The first-year recipients spanned a wide spectrum of arts forms, from performances to foster intercultural music and showcase the vibrant diversity of musical communities in Singapore, to leveraging interactive theatre to address social issues and bridge the youth and elderly communities.

They are:

- (1) **Brahmastra**, a multi-ethnic youth ensemble passionate about music that transcends genres and generations;
- (2) **Chinese Opera Studio**, a Teochew opera troupe which focuses on promoting Singapore's traditional cultural and value through cross-training local Teochew musicians to organise a live music show;
- (3) **inwardBOUND**, a Singapore-based drama education company that empowers youth through applied theatre and creative expression;
- (4) **Orchestra of the Music Makers (OMM)**, a symphony orchestra that aims to pique young people's interest in orchestral music;
- (5) **Pasat Merdu**, a non-profit orchestral ensemble focused on fostering intercultural understanding and uncovering the essence of the Singaporean Sound through education, commissions, presentations and promotion of new works;
- (6) **Polarity**, a dance company that pushes the boundaries of Street Dance, through conversation, collaboration and platforms; and
- (7) **Reverberance**, an award-winning Chinese wind-percussion ensemble comprising youthful local musicians with a passion for developing music and connecting with diverse audiences from all walks of life, including seniors.

Members of the public are welcome to show their support for the local arts by attending and participating in the various arts offerings that will be showcased from now till the end of the year.



Reverberance presented "Journey to Singapura" at Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre Auditorium in April 2025 (credit Reverberance)

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Due to popular demand after its sold-out premiere in April, **Reverberance** will be restaging its original musical *Journey to Singapura* at Gateway Theatre this October. A creative reimagining of *Journey to the West*, the story is written and directed by Garrick Wong where it takes audiences on a meaningful journey through Singapore's history, from its humble beginnings to its emergence as a vibrant, modern nation. Presented as a special SG60 tribute, this restaging promises new songs, refined choreography, and an even more engaging narrative. At its heart, *Journey to Singapura* aims to celebrate local heritage and preserve the unique art of Chinese wind percussion. Follow their Instagram [@reverberance_sg](https://www.instagram.com/reverberance_sg) for more details.

On 29 November, **Chinese Opera Studio** will be bringing its Opera show titled "四告状" to Our Tampines Hub's Festive Arts Theatre. Typically, opera music is pre-recorded in China due to lower costs and higher standards. However, the support from the Sands Innovative Arts Fund has made it possible to organise a year-long cross-training programme for local Singapore Teochew musicians to present Teochew opera music in a digitised format. Stay tuned to their Facebook page [@chineseoperastudiogroup](https://www.facebook.com/chineseoperastudiogroup) for more details.

Meanwhile, **OMM** will be organising a workshop in August for underprivileged upper primary and lower secondary students. The workshop will introduce them to different orchestral instruments, along with a curated orchestral performance featuring a new work by Singaporean composer Gu Wei. In December, young musicians across the island will gather for a seven-day Orchestra Camp at the School of the Arts. They will explore symphonic repertoires with guidance from OMM's conductors and professional orchestral performers, culminating in a concert on 13 December. This concert also spotlights three Singaporean musicians: composer Sandra Lim, as well as soloists Joelle Hsu and Chua Jay Roon. For more information, follow OMM's Instagram [@omm.sg](https://www.instagram.com/omm.sg) or head to their website orchestra.sg.

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

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About Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd

Since its opening in 2010, Marina Bay Sands has stood as an architectural marvel and the crown jewel in Singapore's skyline. Home to the world's most spectacular rooftop infinity pool and approximately 1,850 rooms and suites, the integrated resort offers exceptional dining, shopping, meeting and entertainment choices, complete with a year-round calendar of signature events.

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Marina Bay Sands is dedicated to being a good corporate citizen to serve its people, communities and environment. 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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