

Phase Two of Re-Opening for Arts and Culture Stakeholders

On 15 June 2020, the Ministry of Health announced that Singapore would move into Phase Two of Re-opening after 18 June 2359 hours, and that further guidance would be provided by relevant agencies for their respective sectors.

There will continue to be no performances and events with audiences (“live performances”) for now, as large gatherings of people for a prolonged period of time increases the risk of transmission of the virus. All indoor and outdoor performance venues (e.g. theatres, concert halls, blackboxes) will therefore remain closed to such activities. The National Arts Council (NAC) will continue to engage arts and culture stakeholders on safe management measures that will allow live performances and events to resume in a safe manner for performers and audiences.

However, there will be a progressive resumption of other activities for arts and culture companies and practitioners in Phase Two, to support continued artmaking, cultivation of audiences, and the professional upgrading of our community. Through this advisory, NAC would like to provide further information on these activities, and the safe management measures which have to be in effect before these activities are permitted to resume.

Arts and culture organisations can log onto MTI’s [Go Business portal](#) with your CorpPass to confirm the activities you are permitted to resume, and the date of resumption.

Workplaces

Arts and culture premises, including studios for art-making, can be used as workplaces from 19 June 2020, subject to the Ministry of Manpower’s [Requirements for Safe Management Measures at the Workplace](#). Access to the premises should be restricted to employees and authorised visitors only. Arts and culture premises should remain closed as workplaces if they are unable to adhere to MOM’s requirements.

Digital Productions and Rehearsals

Currently, digital production and recording of performances, masterclasses and courses can take place at the two black box spaces at Goodman Arts Centre (GAC) and Stamford Arts Centre (SAC), both made available by NAC at subsidised rates. There will be further adjustments to what is allowed for digital productions and rehearsals in Phase Two. This will be laid out in NAC’s separate advisory to follow.

Training classes and professional workshops

Training classes and professional workshops may resume from 19 June 2020, except for singing and voice training due to the higher health risks involved. All other classes, courses and workshops must not involve any element of singing and voice training, and must adhere to the following requirements before they resume:

- Limit group size to no more than five participants (excluding one instructor).
- More than one group of five may be permitted in the same room, as long as there is:
 1. At least 1 metre spacing between all groups;
 2. No physical interaction or intermingling between different groups;
 3. No more than 50 persons in a single room, and subject to the facility and density cap in the bullet point below.
- The maximum number of persons allowed at each facility shall be limited according to its Gross Floor Area based on 10 Sqm per person or 50 persons, whichever is lower.
- Masks should be worn as a default, except for instructors who may wear face shields only if teaching, and if remaining seated or standing generally in a fixed position at least 1 metre from others;
- Sharing of all other equipment (e.g. props, musical instruments and microphones) should be avoided as far as possible. If this cannot be done, the equipment should be thoroughly cleaned and/or disinfected before handled or used by others.
- All surfaces are to be thoroughly cleaned and/or disinfected between classes and workshops.
- Venues should be as well-ventilated as possible.

In addition to the above, the following requirements apply to classes, courses and workshops which involve physical activities (e.g. dance):

- Masks can be taken off when performing strenuous activities, although it is still recommended as good practice even under such circumstances.
- Participants should maintain at least 2 metres safe distance from others, and try to minimise physical contact as much as possible;
- There should be a minimum of 3 metres spacing between each group/class, if more than one group/class is using the same venue.

Classes which involve activities with potentially high risk of virus transmission through droplet spread (such as singing, voice projection, playing of wind or brass instruments or other instruments that require intentional expulsion of air), will not be permitted to proceed until further notice.

Commercial Art Galleries and Non-Profit Exhibition/Gallery Facilities

Commercial Art Galleries can re-open to the public from 19 June 2020, similar to other retail establishments, subject to Enterprise Singapore's [safe management measures for retail establishments](#).

Non-Profit Exhibition/Gallery Facilities may also re-open to the public for exhibitions from 26 June 2020, subject to the safe management measures set out in National Heritage Board's [advisory for museum stakeholders](#). Owners/managers of such facilities are to submit their safe management plan (SMP) to NAC at least three days prior to reopening to the public. However, NAC reserves the right to suspend activities if there are gaps in the SMP submitted or inadequate implementation, until the necessary rectifications are made. If the facility wishes to deviate from the safe management measures indicated in NHB's advisory, NAC's explicit approval must first be obtained before facilities can be re-opened.

Venue Requirements

The owners/managers of all arts and culture premises which re-open for the above-mentioned activities are to also ensure the following:

- Implement visitor registration and contact tracing measures via SafeEntry. Encourage visitors to install and use TraceTogether.
- Obtain visitor health declarations and put in place temperature screening measures. Persons who are unwell should be turned away and encouraged to seek medical attention.
- Adopt SG Clean standards as new norm for sanitisation and hygiene standards:
 1. Adhere to sanitation and hygiene advisories disseminated by the National Environment Agency;
 2. Provide cleaning agents at all toilet and hand-wash stations;
 3. Provide disinfecting agents at all human traffic stoppage points within venue;
 4. Regular cleaning of common and high-touch surfaces (e.g. handrails, handles/knobs).
- Put up notices to remind visitors and employees of prevailing safe management measures, practice social responsibility and encourage the observance of social norms such as:
 1. Observe good personal hygiene (e.g. regular hand washing, refrain from touching face);
 2. Avoid handshakes and greet with a smile;
 3. Avoid speaking loudly to reduce risk of transmission through droplets.

Arts and culture premises located in tenanted spaces (e.g. commercial malls) must comply with the requirements above, as well as any other requirements that the Government may impose through landlords on tenants. Arts and culture companies and practitioners who are also landlords must ensure their tenants comply with any such requirements.

Venue Hire Subsidy

The Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth will extend its existing 30% subsidy for venue hire and in-house production costs (where applicable) to 80% during Phase Two, subject to review and the prevailing national situation. This subsidy will be for arts and culture activities permitted to resume in Phase Two at venues in the Esplanade, National Gallery Singapore, National Heritage Board museums and heritage institutions, STPI Creative Workshop & Gallery, Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre, Singapore Conference Hall, as well as those managed by Arts House Limited. It will also be extended to select arts centres with shared facilities under NAC. Participating organisations will communicate details of how arts and culture stakeholders can benefit from the extended subsidy, separately.

Details on other forms of support for the arts and culture sector can be found at <https://www.nac.gov.sg/whatwedo/support/sustaining-the-arts-during-covid-19/acrp.html>. Self-Employed Persons and freelancers can also subscribe online to NAC's [Arts Resource Hub](#) access to shared resources, services and advice.

Towards a Safe and Sustainable Re-opening

NAC will monitor the situation closely and take action against any non-compliance with required safe management measures. Arts and culture companies and practitioners who do not implement or comply with requirements may be closed down, ineligible for government grants and assistance, and subject to penalties under the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act 2020. Additional penalties may be imposed on arts and culture stakeholders whose premises are found to have been a place of transmission of COVID-19, if they have not adhered to these requirements.

A safe and sustainable re-opening requires all of us, including arts and culture stakeholders, to play our part. It is critical that we continue to exercise caution, adhere to safe management measures, and practice social responsibility. Collectively, we can progressively re-open our economy and society while remaining safe.

Queries on the above advisory can be directed to NAC_Feedback@nac.gov.sg.

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