

CAMBODIAN LIVING ARTS ANNUAL REPORT

2015-2016

CREATIVE
CONNECTIONS



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CAMBODIAN LIVING ARTS



A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

“ *After nearly twenty years of Cambodian Living Arts, our job is changing again - those once young are now masters, they're independent and have more skills. They want to use their art to have a positive change, in their lives, in their family lives, in their community, and in the world. They have their dreams.*”

Keynote address at the 7th World Summit on Arts and Culture, Malta, 2016

ARN CHORN-POND

Founder of Cambodian Living Arts



MESSAGES FROM THE DIRECTORS

Frances RUDGARD, Director of Program and Operations

“We kicked off this year hosting the 3rd conference of the Asia-Pacific Network for Cultural Education and Research (ANCER), in partnership with LASALLE College of the Arts, bringing over 100 arts managers, researchers, and policymakers from 20 countries to Phnom Penh. This was such an energetic and exciting three days, and set the tone for the rest of 2016. Seeing delegates from all over Asia react so positively to the closing presentations from our Living Arts Fellows leadership program was a great affirmation of the strength and innovation in the Cambodian arts community today.

ANCER set in motion a whole new set of regional collaborations – at policy and institutional levels, artist-to-artist collaboration, between student researchers and experienced academics. And even within the year, we see those partnerships beginning to generate concrete results, inside and outside Cambodia. It is energizing and inspiring to be connecting with our neighbors, and I look forward to the next chapter in 2017.”

Phloeun PRIM, Executive Director

“I must have flown almost five times around the world this year, between conferences, workshops, and forums all over Asia, and in North and South America, Europe, and the Middle East. So I’ve had time to reflect on some of the fundamental themes that CLA deals with; especially how culture relates to conflict and peace building. This has reminded me how important it is to share Cambodia’s story with the world; we have so much to contribute, and so much to learn. I wanted to bring the incredible people I met over the year here, and in March, we hosted the Living Arts in Post-Conflict Contexts Forum – a real milestone for Cambodia. Of the many outcomes, I am especially excited to be teaching a course next year at NYU Abu Dhabi, called ‘Arts

for Transformation: The Case of Cambodia’ and to work with Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia to bring this course here. Back on the ground, I’m looking to the next chapter of Cambodian Living Arts. We are bringing our work into public schools by developing an arts and culture curriculum that we plan to roll out nationwide. To me, this could be the most significant legacy we leave in Cambodia. We started working in arts education within communities, working with masters and students, but now we have the opportunity to take this further. We can have a lasting national impact, with future generations experiencing arts as fundamental part of everyday life. When this is true, our work will really have been a success.”

ARTS DEVELOPMENT

Our arts development program has been at the heart of CLA's work since we began in 1998. We support artists, troupes, teachers, and communities to sustain their work in the arts and to earn a living. We do this by providing training in both artistic and non-artistic skills, giving financial, administrative, and logistical support, and creating opportunities for collaboration and exchange. We award the Arn Chorn Pond Living Arts Scholarship to around 25 young people each year.

CULTURE AND ARTS EDUCATION

We are working with the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports, and with the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts and UNESCO as partners, to better integrate culture and arts education into Cambodia's education system. We will establish a pilot program in Phnom Penh in early 2017.

KNOWLEDGE, NETWORKS, AND POLICY

We support leaders in the arts community by helping them to improve teaching quality and to create and implement plans for their long-term future; and by seeking communities and institutions to support arts teaching.

MARKET CREATION

A thriving arts sector depends on an enthusiastic audience who value culture and the arts. We raise interest in performing arts both traditional and contemporary, by staging festivals, concerts, and demonstrations. We also work directly with selected troupes and create paid performing opportunities, including our regular Traditional Dance Show at the National Museum of Cambodia.



OUR PROGRAMS

We have four program areas, which together work towards our vision of a vibrant and dynamic arts sector in Cambodia by the year 2020.

Each of our programs has great individual outcomes, but together their effects are magnified;

- we support artists directly,
- we provide training and professional development to those working in the sector,
- we generate interest in and develop the market for arts, and contribute to regional and global work on culture and sustainable development.

LOOKING FORWARD



During the past year we have been developing a five-year strategy for the next phase of CLA. We will be updating our vision and our mission to reflect the changing cultural landscape in Cambodia, and our role within it. We will launch the new strategy in full next year - we are really excited about the new projects and programs coming up.

NEXT YEAR

Our program theme next year will be 'Opening Possibilities'. We have worked hard to support new talent in the Cambodian arts sector for several years now, and we see a dynamic, forward-looking, creative generation here today. This network of artists and cultural workers run their own programs and initiatives. Thanks to their actions, the Cambodian art scene is now dynamic in a way that was a distant dream when Arn first started. This year is about opening possibilities further still - providing opportunities for more and more people to create, to express, and to appreciate the arts.



Bangsokol Rehearsals

COMMISSION: BANGSOKOL

We commissioned *Bangsokol: A Requiem for Cambodia*, an extraordinary new composition fusing music, voice, movement, and visuals. It is the first major symphonic work addressing the traumas of the late 1970s in Cambodia, and the first collaboration between award-winning filmmaker Rithy PANH and renowned composer HIM Sophy.

The work, which combines traditional Khmer instrumentalists and *Smot* chanting with a Western chamber orchestra and chorus, will debut in Australia in late 2017, before coming to Taipei, Melbourne, Montreal, New York, Paris, and of course Phnom Penh in the coming years.

ARTIST DEVELOPMENT

We support artists and arts communities to build sustainable futures in the sector. Over several years, we have actively supported arts teaching in communities and helped small artistic enterprises to establish themselves. This year, we built upon that work, helping troupes and artists to become increasingly skilled, independent, and secure.

Preparing for a *Yike* opera performance in Kampot



OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

COMMUNITY ARTS TEACHING

OBJECTIVE

To help artists improve their artistic and non-artistic skills, and build sustainable careers in the arts and culture sector.



Krosaing Roleng Primary School

ACTIVITIES

We gave financial and administrative support to the classical and traditional dance class at Cambodian Volunteers for Community Development and the *Pinpeat* class at Krosaing Roleng Primary School. Both organizations are now able to support their classes independently, and have full responsibility for managing and supporting arts activities in their

communities. We provided a grant of \$1400 to the Community of Living Chapei to produce a new piece and to present their performance to a local audience at the end of the year. We supported workshops, festivals, and other gatherings in Cambodia and around Asia by helping artists financially and logistically to take part.

LIVELIHOODS THROUGH ARTS

OBJECTIVE

To help strengthen the growth of sustainable arts enterprises and to support new and existing arts projects.



Yike workshop at Krousar Thmey Foundation



ACTIVITIES

We provided sales and marketing training to artists and troupes to help them become more sustainable. We worked with Krousar Thmey Foundation and Yike Amatak troupe to coordinate a workshop that resulted in the creation of a new Yike

opera piece. We set up a masterclass for the new traditional dance troupe Yu Vek Selapak to improve their dance skills in preparation for their debut at our regular Traditional Dance Show at the National Museum of Cambodia.



HIGHLIGHT: DONDREY MONGKOL

Dondrey Mongkol troupe, who we have supported since they were formed out of a CLA music class in 2011, has established a business providing traditional music performances at weddings and ceremonies. They've used their newly-developed marketing skills to find customers, and are now a fully independent troupe.

"This year we successfully added one more art form, Chayyam, to our repertoire - we now have two Chayyam groups performing, and they are doing well. We've had more bookings for our performances than last year. Importantly, we have updated our promotional material by putting banners into tuk tuks, and we have increased our network with our events company."

— SUOR Vanna, Teacher and Leader of Dondrey Mongkol

SPOTLIGHT

*PICH Sarath,
Teacher and Troupe Leader,
Community of Living Chapei*

“This year was fruitful for the Community of Living Chapei. I am happy that we kept up the survival of Chapei Class. We did a very good job in turning our plan for workshops with Cambodian Living Arts into reality. The most exciting part has been creating our own original music, and, with the support from Cambodian Living Arts, arranging a concert to perform this on stage.

We have had more opportunities than ever before to perform our music at events;

there have been more than 20 already this year. Even better, we earned a new sponsor; we generated very big support and recognition from the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, and also received a grant of 5000\$ from Winrock International. We successfully made a DVD so that those interested in learning Chapei can learn at home.

We went across Cambodia to find Chapei players living in remote areas, so that we can know how many Chapei players there are in the country. I am happy to see many young people contribute financial support for our mission.”

PICH Sarath joined on stage by THAN Seyma
of the Khmer Magic Music Bus

NIRMITA COMPOSERS WORKSHOP



Nirmita Workshop session





In July 2016, award-winning Cambodian-American composer Chinary UNG led a two-week workshop in Siem Reap, aiming to spark new creativity in composers from Cambodia and the wider Mekong.

10 emerging composers and traditional musicians from Cambodia, 2 emerging composers from the United States, as well as mentors and emerging composers from Laos and Myanmar worked intensively with a world-class faculty of composers and performers from 8 countries around Asia and the USA.

The students' pieces were recorded at the end of the two weeks. In Chinary's words this was "the first time in living memory that traditional musicians have composed new work, as far as we know."

"To me, Cambodia has successfully preserved its traditions. What's needed now is to create new music. [Through Nirmita Workshop], we took the first step"

— **Chinary UNG**

"I envision that we can create the repertoire for the next generation to come"

— **IP Theary, Traditional musician**



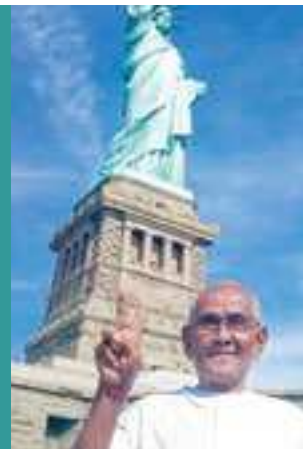
YU VEK SELAPAK, NEW DANCE TROUPE

Yu Vek Selapak (meaning 'Youth and Arts') is a newly-formed troupe from Phnom Penh's Secondary School of Fine Arts, led by teacher PHAL Saravuth, a professor of the school. We have collaborated with them to produce a new Traditional Dance Show at the National Museum of Cambodia, providing them with intensive training on eight dances with the help of AN Chhea Heng from the Department of Performing Arts. We also ran a stage make-up masterclass to help them improve the quality of their productions.

Troupe leader Professor Saravuth is extremely happy with this new opportunity; *"Whenever I see both local and international audiences come to see the show and love it, I feel very proud! I would like to express my gratitude toward Cambodian Living Arts for finding a market for our artists. With their advice and stage set-up, we can take the show to a whole new level."*

KONTOAMING ARTISTS IN NEW YORK

In September we took part in a unique art installation in New York, by Taryn SIMON. Her piece, 'An Occupation of Loss' brought together 30 "professional mourners" from around the world. For three weeks, the lamenters, chanters and musicians performed nightly inside 11 concrete towers in the drill hall of Park Avenue Armory. Master SENG Norn, the sole remaining master of *Kontoaming*, was invited to take part, alongside his two grandsons, also *Kontoaming* artists. *Kontoaming* music is a traditional but increasingly rare form of funeral music, featuring gongs, drums, and the Srolai, a kind of oboe. Master Norn has played *Kontoaming* for almost 60 years, but this experience was unlike anything he had previously done.



"I never expected that I would have the chance to perform Kontoaming and to lead my two artist grandsons to perform internationally in my lifetime. I am so excited and proud of my fortune and especially Kontoaming"

"I'm afraid of death but not the death itself - I'm afraid I will not have the time to continue Kontoaming to the next generation anymore. It is my life."

Master SENG Norn

TIMELINE

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OCT. 2015

We started a new partnership with Reek Sai youth group, aiming to extend our network and to get more young people involved in our activities.

NOV. 2015

We visited a *Pinpeat* class in Prek Eng Community, to which we had previously donated a set of instruments. We were pleased to see lots of young people taking part in their classes and performances.

DEC. 2015

We provided sales and marketing training to the Community of Living Chapei, Dondrey Mongkol, and Yike Amatak troupes

We provided training in folk and classical dance to the troupe Morodok Komar Bassac.

JAN. 2016

We brought artists to United World College of Southeast Asia in Singapore, where they gave workshops in *Sbaek Thom* (large shadow puppet), folk dance, and *Pinpeat* music to around 600 students.

Krom Monster performed at Meta House and at our National Museum stage. This band grew out of a previous CLA workshop, and fuse traditional instruments with contemporary electronics.

FEB. 2016

The artists in Krom Monster collaborated with Mezcal Jazz Unit from France to form a new fusion group, Mango Dream. They performed in both Siem Reap and Phnom Penh.

MAR. 2016

We held a workshop at Phnom Penh's Secondary School of Fine Arts to help create and develop a new dance troupe, Yu Vek Selapak.

APR. 2016

We helped musical troupe Sounds of Angkor to take part in Bonn Phum (Village Festival), an annual community event near Phnom Penh just before Khmer New Year.



MAY. 2016

Dondrey Mongkol troupe gave a *Pinpeat* workshop to CLA staff to enhance staff awareness about the art form.

JUN. 2016

Yu Vek Selapak troupe took part in a training on stage make-up to improve the artists' skills and the quality of the show.

JUL. 2016

We organized the first Nirmita Composers Workshop in Siem Reap.

AUG. 2016

Yike Amatak and Krousar Thmey foundation developed a new *Yike* piece and took it on tour to Kampot, Prey Veng and Svay Rieng provinces.

SEP. 2016

We brought *Kontoaming* musician Master SENG Norn and his two grandsons to perform in New York.

LOOKING FORWARD

Next year, we will continue to work with youth groups like Reek Sai, and build new partnerships with groups in Siem Reap. Now the troupes that we have worked with are more independent, we will reach out to more artists and arts communities. To make sure our work remains relevant and high-quality, and is developed in collaboration with artists and the arts community, we will set up an artists' advisory committee.



LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP

The Learning and Leadership program helps artists and arts professionals develop both artistic and non-artistic skills. Students and trainees build useful networks in the sector, and often increase their confidence enormously. This program overall aims to make sure that the arts sector has a supply of well-trained creative professionals in years to come.



OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

ARN CHORN-POND LIVING ARTS SCHOLARSHIP



Arn at the launch of the 2016-17 scholarship program

OBJECTIVE:

To provide greater opportunities to talented and dedicated young people, who we see becoming creative leaders in the arts sector.

ACTIVITIES:

This year we awarded 10 new scholarships and supported 23 students in total. In addition to receiving their bursaries, all students participated in our “enrichment program”, a program of trainings and activities that lets students build skills and networks which will help them in their careers. In addition, scholars used their creativity and curiosity to initiate and organize a number of events.

The Enrichment Program

In 2016, we redesigned and updated this program, developing a series of year-long

courses that complement students’ arts studies. Students in their first year focus on Personal Leadership. In their second year, the program helps them to get to know the arts community. Third-year students explore the connections between arts and society, and fourth-year students do a project of their choice. This year, all students followed the first-year Personal Leadership program. Their sessions dealt with the themes: Who am I?; Values, Vision, and Mission; Planning and Goal Setting; Living Values; Effective Communication Skills; and Teambuilding.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



OBJECTIVE:

To provide artists, administrators and technical specialists with the skills needed to secure regular, paid work in the arts.

ACTIVITIES:

Last year, we designed a series of one-day training courses in partnership with VNBK capacity development consultants. This year, we ran six different courses attracting a total of 50 participants.

The Scholarship Selection Committee

We are grateful to this year’s selection committee: H.E. VENG Sereyvuth, board of Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia; MOENG Meta, freelance arts administrator; SO Phina, then a researcher from Cambodia Development Resource Institute, currently a CLA Program Manager; and honorary member Arn CHORN-POND.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING



Professional Development in Phnom Penh

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

January 2016 Topic: "The Art of Teamwork"

March 2016 Topic: "The Professional Artists"

May 2016 Topic: "The Art of Personal Money Management"

Topic: "The Art of Selling"

July 2016 Topic: "The Importance of Having Contracts"

August 2016 Topic: "Social Media Marketing"

FROM THE TRAINEES

"I was delighted to participate in PD Training.

It was my third time taking a course, and I got a lot of ideas about sales strategy. I believe that I can apply what I learn to my future career,"

— **KET Senghuy, Painting student.**

"I was very happy. I felt that everybody was free to share ideas and those ideas then were discussed. I learnt how to manage personal finance.

It taught me how we can save money for use when we get old. It showed that financial management is very important from a young age."

— **SOU Senghong, Folk dancer.**



FORMER SCHOLAR PHEUN SREYPOV

Sreyrov is now running a successful **Smot** business in Phnom Penh, providing chanting for ceremonies. She has become our first local donor to the scholarship program:

"In 2007, this scholarship allowed me to pursue my Bachelor's degree of International Relations at Pannāsāstra University of Cambodia, while studying the artistic skill of Smot. Now, I can contribute financially to support the scholarship program. I see that it motivates the next generation of arts students to be proud of their talents. And those students will keep transferring knowledge of arts to following generations."



THE SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS

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FROM STUDENTS TO LEADERS

It has been great to see our students initiating and getting involved in some exciting projects. Some highlights include running traditional dance classes for school children in Takeo province; organizing group social activities to celebrate Khmer New Year and engage with the arts scene in Battambang; and moderating the post-show discussion as part of our Jolana Jongjam 2 contemporary dance festival.

OEM Veasna was chosen to lead the Royal University of Fine Arts' 100 Year Anniversary Celebrations. SOY Chanborey was asked to be the Artistic Director for the launch of the 2016/17 Scholarship Program in September 2016.

FROM THE STUDENTS

"When I came to study in Phnom Penh, I was just a countryside girl in the city. But one year later, I could feel I change so much thanks to the Arn Chorn-Pond Living Arts Scholarship and the enrichment program. I'm trained to use critical thinking and to be confident to speak out what I'm thinking."

— KET Senghuy, Painting student.

"Thanks to the scholarship, I can take an English course, which helps me a lot in my research to improve my drawing skills and broaden my network."

— EL Huyno, Painting student.

"During my two years as a scholarship student, the way I speak to other people has changed - I am confident to speak in official situations. I will reapply for another two years, so that I can have a chance to develop more and also improve my language skills, which are important to be successful in my future career."

— OEUN Sokunthea,
Classical dance choreography student.

TIMELINE

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Students visited the 4th Cambodian Book Fair at the National Library, the Cambodia International Film Festival at Chatomuk Theater, and a contemporary dance performance inspired by Khmer boxing at the Department of Performing Arts.



OCT. 2015

Students took part in a workshop on illustrating picture books for children, organized by NGO Room to Read.

NOV. 2015

Three scholarship students OUN Sokunthea, SANG Malen, and OEM Veasna demonstrated traditional dance to six Korean arts teachers who came to teach Korean traditional dance to Cambodian students.

Students volunteered at a concert featuring experimental fusion group, Krom Monster.

The students visited the ASEAN Puppet Show and Chaktomuk Short Film Festival.

Students volunteered to support the 3rd Concert in Memory of the King's Father at Chaktomuk Theater, organized by the Royal University of Fine Arts and the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts.

DEC. 2015

PAO Makara won Sabay News Online's short story competition.

EL Huyno won a painting competition run by Cambodian Red Cross for the prevention of drink-driving.

HOU Cheychanrith performed his own creation blending traditional, classical, and contemporary dance, called 'Recycle', at Meta House in Phnom Penh.

Students attended a comic book workshop at the Institut français du Cambodge.

JAN. 2016

SANG Malen, SNGOUN Kavei Serey Roth, and POV Reaksmeay Mony worked with student musicians and dancers from the US who were taking part in an exchange visit. They created a piece called 'Pin Panhchap' and performed at Chaktomuk Theater.

FEB. 2016

HOU Cheychanrith worked in Epic Arts' film project "Shake It Off", a parody video promoting the message that every person counts.

OEUN Sokunthea joined the 3rd World Conference on Women, organized by UN Women.

MAR. 2016

KIEN Sehas led fundraising activities to support an arts community living Southern Vietnam.

EL Huyno won an award at National Cultural Day on March 3 for his painting.

Students supported our Forum on Living Arts in Post-Conflict Contexts as volunteers.

Students took part in a print-making workshop organized by Ralph KIGGELL, a Bangkok-based artist.



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CAMBODIAN LIVING ARTS



APR. 2016

NOU Samnang performed *Chapei Dang Weng* in a Phnom Penh concert aiming to promote Cambodian traditional musical instruments to young people.

OEUN Sokunthea and PAO Makara were part of the organization team for the Khmer New Year concerts in Battambang.

OEM Veasna and OEUN Sokunthea led the organization of the Achievement and Talent events at the Royal University of Fine Arts.

Students volunteered to support our Sustainability in the Arts Conference, a part of Tini Tinou Circus Festival organized by Phare, The Cambodian Circus.

MAY. 2016

EL Huyno's painting work was selected by NGO Room to Read for the cover of the books "The Elephant with the Long Trunk" and "The Proud Chick".

Scholarship students joined CLA's staff to watch the Cambodian movie "Poppy Goes to Hollywood", which highlights issues faced by the LGBT community.

Students took part in basic video training, sponsored by USAID

JUN. 2016

NOU Samnang performed *Chapei Dang Weng* on Apsara TV's program, "Apsara Award Program"

EL Huyno and his team produced an educational animation clip on waste management in Cambodia for a Digista Teens competition. Their work was selected for an international competition in Japan in December 2016.

AUG. 2016

We selected 10 new candidates out of a shortlist of 30 to take part in the scholarship selection process.

Our scholarship students took part in organizing the event 'Mouy Moern Alay' at Chaktomuk Theater. The event was mainly hosted by Preah Soriya, a group of RUFA students, and featured 1960s and 70s films.

SEP. 2016

We launched the 2017 scholarship program with a performance and outdoor exhibition by new and existing students.

OEM Veasna, SANG Malen, and OEUN Sokunthea taught traditional and classical dance to school children in a school of Champa commune in Takeo province.

EL Huyno and his team were awarded first prize in a national TV station's competition for their 2D animation work.

**LOOKING
FORWARD**

Next year our Learning and Leadership program becomes part of our wider Arts Development program, through which we will continue to invest in the people that comprise the arts sector. We will offer young artists the opportunity to develop their skills and explore careers in the arts, with an emphasis on promoting creativity and innovation.

KNOWLEDGE, NETWORKS & POLICY

We support the long-term development of the Cambodian arts sector by:

- **Creating and sharing knowledge about culture and arts in Cambodia;**
- **Making regional connections and collaborations;**
- **Growing professional networks of leaders in Cambodia, at home and in Asia**
- **Supporting artists and cultural workers to get involved in cultural policy dialogue**

This year has been our busiest yet!

We hosted two major international conferences in Cambodia, as well as several events bringing together people in the arts sector from across Cambodia. Our team and wider arts community represented Cambodia at workshops, forums, panels, and study groups around Asia and the world.

ANCER Conference, Institut français du Cambodge



ACTIVITIES

ANCER CONFERENCE, 14-16 JANUARY



We organized the third conference of ANCER, the Asia-Pacific Network for Cultural Education and Research. ANCER was initiated by LASALLE College of the Arts in Singapore, aiming to stimulate international inquiry and research in the arts sector with a focus on arts management and cultural policy in the Asia Pacific region. Over 100 arts managers, cultural researchers, and policymakers from 20 countries joined the three-day event, hosted at the Institut français du Cambodge. The session's theme, 'Vitality and Viability: Arts Ecosystems in Asia, was developed through conversations with the arts community in Cambodia.

The conference highlights included keynote speeches given by HUOT Dara, the CEO of Phare Performing Social Enterprise and Margaret SHIU, the founder of Bamboo Curtain Studio in Taiwan; and presentations given by CLA's Living Arts Fellows, reflecting upon cultural leadership in Cambodia today. We welcomed delegates

from 20 to 70 years old, from Ministries, grassroots collectives, and NGOs; we had artists, funders, arts managers and academics, and a mix of presentations, panels and break-out sessions. Eight young researchers from across Asia-Pacific were selected to present their work, encouraging new voices in Asian arts research.

"I wanted to meet more young people working in the cultural sector in this region, have a conversation....then go back to Taiwan and get in touch with all of you"

— YU Chuchun,
Department of Cultural Exchange, Taiwan

"[I came to ANCER to] make informal connections, so I can get to know people and we can move forward – regional creative networking"

— Janet PILLAI,
Independent Cultural Researcher

FORUM ON LIVING ARTS IN POST-CONFLICT CONTEXTS, 10-12 MARCH



The Forum on Living Arts in Post-Conflict Contexts: Practices, Partnerships & Possibilities was the one of the first of its kind. We brought together 50 creative actors from around the world in the fields of cultural renewal and development, youth resilience, and social innovation. It was a unique opportunity to bring international attention to the role of the arts as a unifying and peacebuilding factor, and to the conditions under which artists live and work in conflict and post-conflict contexts.

Our peers working in Cambodia and in other countries and contexts discussed their on-the-ground experience and exchanged lessons learned. We focused on "South – South" dialogue and helping to develop a new model of partnership among countries from the global South that will improve the position of the arts sector in post-conflict societies.

We organized this flagship event in collaboration with Salzburg Global Seminar and with sponsorship by the Prince Claus

Fund for Culture and Development and with in-kind support from Forum curator Maria FERNANDEZ SABAU.

"Art is crucial for the construction of memory in society. I carry home from this forum that this is probably the case all over the world."

— Regula GATTIKER,
Association Connect, Colombia

"We bring together diversity of different places and approaches that use creativity to promote justice and freedom."

— Oussama RIFAIH,
Arab Fund for Arts and Culture, Lebanon

"It was a unique experience for me to meet the participants and to learn more about Cambodia. I am absolutely fascinated by the visionaries/practitioners I met."

— Tamar JANASHIA,
Culture and Management Lab, Georgia

STATEMENT FROM LAIPCC FORUM 2016

We, artists, educators, students, activists, managers and donors from twenty-two countries - participants of the Forum on Living Arts in Post-Conflict Contexts 2016, believe that arts and culture are an essential element of vital, open, and sustainable society.

The example of Cambodia, where the revival of arts and culture has played an essential role in the country's rebirth after the devastation of the genocide, holds important lessons for our world.

Today, the death toll from violent conflicts around the world has increased significantly, and 1.5 billion people are threatened by violence or insecurity. Even in societies considered to be at peace, there are violations of human dignity and self-worth by economic and political structures and cultural and social systems.

Arts and culture have a humanizing capacity and a unique ability to promote tolerance, diversity, and social cohesion. The arts and participating in the arts allow healing of individuals and communities.

We urge all who value peace; social justice, freedom of expression, economic opportunity and individual dignity, to:

- **Advocate for cultural vitality** as the fourth pillar of sustainable development
- **Protect artists and arts spaces**, especially in conflict and post-conflict contexts, and
- **Improve access to arts** throughout all societies, especially in conflict and post-conflict contexts.



ONGOING: YOUNG CULTURAL INNOVATORS



Since 2013, we have been partnering with Salzburg Global Seminar, based in Austria. In 2014, SGS launched a 10 year program to create a global network of 500 'Young Cultural Innovators'. They plan to grow this network through regional hubs in different continents, which help to identify potential YCIs and develop the network. We are supporting the development of a Mekong Hub, selecting and connecting dynamic young leaders in Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand.

Each year, SGS hosts a forum for 50 YCIs. It is a week-long program of networking, training, sharing and creativity. After the week, the YCIs remain part of the global network, and over time, as the network grows, will start their own programs in their region, via the hubs.

In October 2015, we sent two YCIs from Cambodia to join the Forum, SO Phina and MOENG Meta. In December 2015, they along with the YCIs from 2014, HUOT Dara and ONN Sokny, hosted an energetic session with the US Embassy's Young SE Asia Leadership Initiative network, to share about their work in arts and culture and to talk about the impact of culture in society. We continued our great partnership with the US Embassy in March 2016, when the embassy hosted a lively event for the Fellows alumni network.

In October 2016, we will send 2 YCIs from Cambodia, one from Laos and one from Vietnam. As the KNP program grows, and our network gets more active, we will start to do collaborative programs and projects in the Mekong Region.

ONGOING: LIVING ARTS FELLOWS



The Living Arts Fellows at the ANCER Conference

Our Living Arts Fellows program continues; the 2015 cohort completed the program in January, with a public presentation and panel discussion in front of an audience of over 100 people from around Asia, at the ANCER conference.

In May/June, thanks to a partnership with Bamboo Curtain Studio, we organized a two week exchange visit to Taiwan. Following an open call, 4 members of the Fellows Alumni network took part. They discussed art, culture, education, and cultural policy with people ranging from grassroots artists to organization directors. They noted how closely related

these areas are, and how one of their responsibilities as cultural leaders is to be able to bridge different disciplines, and different perspectives. It was a wonderful introduction to many new ideas and new relationships.

In June we launched the fourth year of the Living Arts Fellows program. Next year, the four fellows will take part in a series of Living Arts Labs around Cambodia as well as an exchange visit to Vietnam. They will meet cultural leaders from around the Asia-Pacific, and have the opportunity to discuss topics ranging from community engagement to the politics of arts spaces.



MEET THE 2016 FELLOWS



CHHAN Dina,
Visual Artist

Dina works in a range of media including painting and sculpture. Her recent work is largely abstract, dealing with themes of life, music and everyday activities. She teaches visual art in a number of orphanages and international schools. Dina plans to continue making dynamic and engaging works of art, and hopes to open a workshop and gallery in Phnom Penh.



HUOT Dara, CEO of
Phare Performing Social Enterprise (PPSE)

Dara leads and manages PPSE in its mission of supporting Phare Ponleu Selpak school. PPSE operates Phare, The Cambodian Circus and Phare Productions International. A student at Phare Ponleu Selpak in 2001, he became CEO of PPSE in 2013. Dara's dream is to develop a reputable and internationally recognized Cambodian brand



KOR Borin, Head of
Cultural Department,
Institut Français
du Cambodge (IFC)

Borin has been in his role at the IFC since 2006 and is responsible for their cultural programming, shows, conferences, cinema screenings, and festivals. He would like to stay working at the IFC, and to continue curating interesting and valuable cultural activities for people living in Phnom Penh.



Hélène VEAL, Founder,
SAMAY.TV

Hélène launched the first Cambodian internet TV channel, SAMAY.TV, with the mission to deliver entertaining and meaningful programs that both inspire people and broaden their knowledge. Her ambition for SAMAY.TV is to make it the first platform that promotes Cambodian video content, including culture.

INSPIRING WOMEN IN THE ARTS



We would like to see more women involved in arts. In March, we partnered with SAMAY.TV to make a series of five short videos, promoting great women from different institutions, who work with arts in very different ways. What they have in common is that their work is creative, engaging and inspiring to others. Our goal is that these videos will help to inspire more young women to get involved in arts. Thanks to all the remarkable women who gave their time to this project. You can find the videos on our YouTube channel.

CLA EVENTS



JANUARY 2016



We host the 3rd conference of ANCER, the Asia-Pacific Network for Cultural Education and Research and attract over 100 delegates from more than 20 countries to Phnom Penh.

MARCH 2016

We host the first Forum on Living Arts in Post-Conflict Contexts in Phnom Penh, bringing together over 50 creative actors working in fields related to post-conflict transformation through arts and culture from around the world.

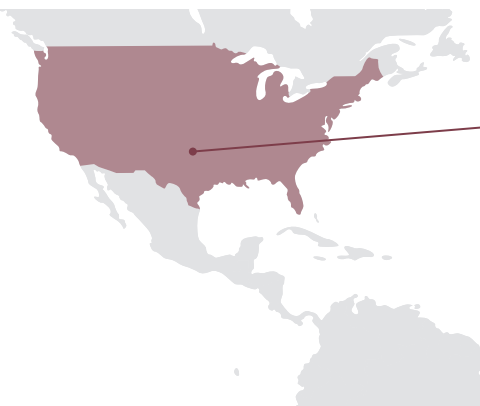
APRIL 2016



We co-organize a one-day conference in Phnom Penh on 'Sustainability in the Performing Arts' for artists, students, and other cultural workers from around Cambodia as part of Phare, The Cambodian Circus's Tini Tinou festival.



OUR ACTIVITIES AROUND THE WORLD



USA

● September 2016:

We present on 'The Role of Arts in Rebuilding Post-Conflict Nations' at Philanthropy New York's program 'Healing from and Preventing Conflict: The Unique Power of the Arts'.

POLAND

● November 2015:

We take part in the World-CP meeting in Warsaw, Poland, organized by ASEF, and discuss Cambodia's first cultural policy.

AUSTRIA

● October 2015:

Living Arts Fellows SO Phina and MOENG Meta join the Salzburg Global Seminar Young Cultural Innovators Forum in Austria, and meet 50 arts sector peers from around the world.

ITALY

● September 2016:

We join the Rockefeller Foundation's session on Culture & Resilience, presenting on the topic of Creativity & Resilience in Milan, Italy.



UAE

October 2015:

We join 'Sabab - A Creative Convening', a session run by NYU Abu Dhabi's Arts Center about audience development.

THAILAND

● May 2016:

We nominated former Arn Chorn-Pond Scholarship student PHEUN Srey Pov to join the Asian Women Social Entrepreneurs Conference organized by Association for the Promotion of the Status of Women in Bangkok.

MALAYSIA

● November 2015:

We join Destination: GOOD - ASEAN, a social entrepreneurship forum run by the AirAsia Foundation, held in Kuala Lumpur.

● August 2016:

We join the International Council for Traditional Music (ICTM) Study Group for the Performing Arts of Southeast Asia. SONG Seng presented about our work with traditional shadow puppets, Men Mao from Sounds of Angkor gave a *Smot* workshop and musical demonstration, and Van Sopheavouth of Wat Bo Puppet Troupe led a workshop. Seng was nominated to represent Cambodia as part of the ICTM.



● Peacebuilding

● Social Enterprise

● Leadership

● Performing Arts

● Intangible Cultural Heritage

● Cultural Policy

LOOKING FORWARD

We are excited to continue our Living Arts Fellows program, now in its fourth year. The alumni association from this program and our previous Creative Leaders program is now 30-strong, and we will make sure that all the incredible members of this network are able to meet, share ideas, and collaborate on shared projects. We will initiate further programs to support and encourage research in Cambodia into the arts and culture sector, and organize the more regular conferences in Cambodia. We will focus on engaging young artists and cultural workers and expanding access to cultural discourse, networks, and knowledge.

Finally, we are working towards the creation of a 'Heritage Hub' in Siem Reap – a center for artistic projects and research related to the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Cambodia, with strong regional links.



JAPAN

- **February 2016:**
We join the Tokyo Performing Arts Market organized by the Japan Foundation.

KOREA

- **October 2015:**
We join the Jeju 4.3 Peace Forum, organized by World Culture Open.
- **October 2015:**
We joined the Performing Arts Market Seoul and brought partner organizations from Cambodia to share their work too.
- **November 2015:**
Asia-Europe Foundation's (ASEF) Creative Cities Forum in Seoul - we contribute the foreword to the leadership chapter of their publication.

TAIWAN

- **October 2015:**
We are invited to join the South East Asia Advisory Committee meeting on cultural policy.

HONG KONG

- **October 2015:**
We join the Arts & Museum Summit, run by the Asia Society, for the protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage



AUSTRALIA

- **June 2016:**
We join the International Society for Performing Arts Congress in Sydney.



CAMBODIA

- **January 2016:**
We take part in the Creative Entrepreneurs & Retailers Conference organized by Leap Inspire in Cambodia.

VIETNAM

- **October 2015:**
We take part in UNESCO's series of collaborative projects in safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Southeast Asian region, based in Ho Chi Minh City.
- March 2016:**
We take part in 'Creative Hubs', a networking meeting for creative leaders hosted in Ho Chi Minh City by the British Council.



MARKET CREATION

A thriving arts sector depends upon enthusiastic audiences. Our Market Creation program aims to inspire interest in performing arts from the audience side, both locally and internationally. We also directly provide paid performance opportunities for artists through our Creative Industries projects.



Yike performance in Kampot province

OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

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CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

OBJECTIVES:

We want to create fairly-paid jobs for art professionals and increase the supply of high-quality performing arts. We also want to develop our own brand of cultural activities, and to generate income for Cambodian Living Arts through performances and workshops.

ACTIVITIES:

We staged a Traditional Dance Show at our theater at the National Museum, working with two troupes. We also set up workshops and private performances, in music, dance, and shadow puppetry, in both Phnom Penh and Siem Reap.

LOCAL AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT

OBJECTIVES:

We work to increase the demand for quality performing arts, especially among young people. We do this by staging demonstrations, one-off shows, and festivals, which give young audiences the opportunity to experience arts.

ACTIVITIES:

We worked with Reek Sai youth group to stage a series of 12 traditional arts demonstrations, which include presentations, short performances and audience discussion and are aimed at young people. We organized Jolana Jongjam 2, a youth-oriented contemporary dance festival, as well as various other traditional and contemporary performances.



OUR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

TRADITIONAL DANCE SHOW

Our Traditional Dance Show at our theater at the National Museum of Cambodia provided fairly paid work to about 100 artists and arts professionals from the troupes Morodok Komar Bassac and Yu Vek Selapak. Over 20,000 people saw the show this year, and our revenue was over \$213,000.



LIVING ARTS EXPERIENCES

These are our set of interactive arts activities aimed at tourists. We run half-day workshops, private lessons, private performances, and longer cultural tours, which give visitors the opportunity to understand Cambodian arts and culture on a deeper and more personal level. We put together almost 70 different experiences, around Cambodia and abroad.

WORKSHOPS AROUND ASIA

We worked with five artists to host a dance workshop in Singapore at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. 120 students of theater, dance, engineering, architecture and fine arts took part, as part of a project on Angkor Wat. We are hoping to welcome some of the students to Cambodia in November next year.



DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

We worked with Reek Sai, a Phnom Penh-based youth group, giving them a grant to run traditional arts demonstrations in four different forms; *Chapei*, *Yike*, *Pinpeat*, and *Mohori*. Reek Sai were really successful in using their network to attract new young Cambodian audiences, with most of the demonstrations selling out entirely. This was the first year that we sold tickets for demonstrations, instead of making them free - a really encouraging sign for the future of performing arts in Cambodia. This project not only raised interest in traditional performing arts but also increased our reach to young people, and gave Reek Sai group valuable marketing experience.

"I worked so hard then it paid off. I would love to say thank you so much for giving me a great opportunity to learn more and earn more experiences. I would like CLA to cooperate with our team again next year and I want to take part, the same as before."

From the experience of working with CLA I've got a great invitation from Peace Corps Cambodia to be one of volunteers at their festival next year."

— **TIM Sovannarong**,
Reek Sai member and leader of the demonstration project



HIGHLIGHT:

HAPPY CHANDARA SCHOOL

We ran a three-week workshop at Happy Chandara School in Phnom Penh, which provides high-quality education to more than 1,000 under-privileged girls. Students learned *Yike* opera, classical and folk dance, music, and *Sbaek Touch* (small shadow puppets). 50 people were employed through the project.

YIKE OPERA TOUR



We supported a collaboration between Yike Amatak and Krousar Thmey, an NGO that works with underprivileged children. The artists taught students *Yike* opera skills, and together they developed a new opera piece that promotes the opportunities that Krousar Thmey provides to children with disabilities. Their arts program already included music and dance, so this collaboration gave Krousar Thmey's students and artists an opportunity to learn a new art form. The artists from Yike Amatak also gained new experiences of teaching and collaborating to create an original piece, and learned about performing for advocacy. The joint performance toured three provinces and around 1,000 people learned about Krousar Thmey through *Yike* opera.

"My students and artists had a great time experiencing the transfer of their arts knowledge to the next generation. They also learnt how to lead and perform with the newly trained students at both schools."

– UY Latavan, Troupe Leader of Yike Amatak



JOLANA JONGJAM 2

Robert Bosch Stiftung

This year we hosted Jolana Jongjam 2 (Movement Memory), a festival of contemporary dance, over four nights in September, building on the success of the first Jolana Jongjam last year.

Kampong-based inclusive dance troupe Epic Encounters performed their pieces 'Come Back Brighter', and 'Krama', both of which explore questions of Cambodian history and identity. New Cambodian Artists, an all-female contemporary troupe based in Siem Reap premiered their new piece 'Dance to the Moon', about the joy and the pain it brings to be a dancer.

This year, as well as staging performances at the National Museum, we put on shows at Paññasastra University of Cambodia (PUC) and the American University of Phnom Penh. This was a great opportunity to reach more young people, and build our links with

student communities in Phnom Penh. These evenings also included lively post-show discussions, where the students were able to ask the dancers about both their performances and their work in the arts.

"I had the chance to make good connections through arts with artists from Epic Arts and NCA as well as with the audience. I was happy to see arts organizations come together to host this event. Another good memory was that I could learn more about our history, and I believed that the audience felt this too. This performance also caught the attention of international audiences, and showed them Cambodia's potential in arts,"

– PO Sakun, artist from Epic Arts.

PERFORMANCES AND FESTIVALS

"BEST EXPERIENCE IN PHNOM PENH BY FAR!"*

ARTS DEMONSTRATIONS

"A FLAWLESS EXPERIENCE OF CAMBODIAN ART AND DANCE"*

LIVING A

"AUTHENTIC AND PERFECT IN EVERY WAY"*

**20 000
GUESTS**

at our Traditional
Dance Show

“MESMERIZING, TRULY ONE OF THE THINGS YOU MUST DO IN PHNOM PENH”*

TRADITIONAL DANCE SHOW

66

Living Arts
Experiences
hosted



**Awarded TripAdvisor
Certificate of Excellence**
for third year running

* Comments from TripAdvisor.com

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

30

INCOME

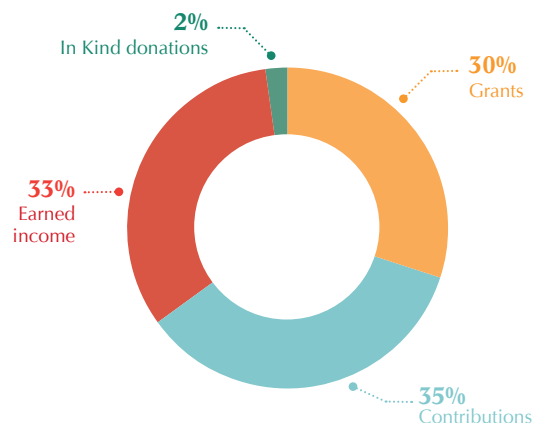
Contributions	\$428,146
Earned Income	\$406,296
In-kind Donations	\$20,681
Grants	\$374,559
Total	\$1,229,700

EXPENSES

Program	\$842,849
General Management	\$189,812
Fundraising	\$169,950
Total	\$1,202,600
Balance	\$ 27,100

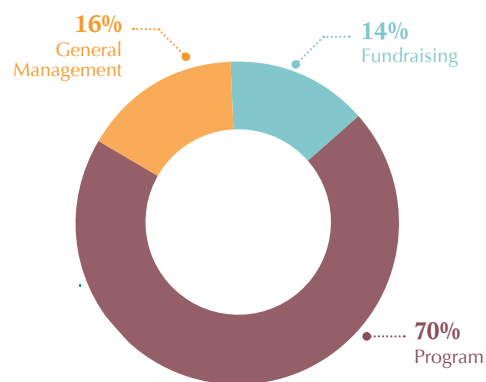
CLA INCOME SOURCES

(Oct. 1, 2015 – Sept. 30, 2016)



CLA EXPENDITURE

(Oct. 1, 2015 – Sept. 30, 2016)

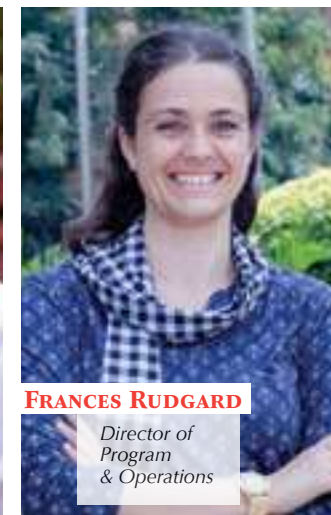


MEET THE TEAM



PHLOEUN PRIM

Executive Director
Kai T. BRENNERT
Executive Assistant
(not pictured)



FRANCES RUDGARD

Director of
Program
& Operations



ARTS D



CREATIVE INDUSTRIES TEAM

LY Vathana
Sales &
Marketing
Coordinator

CHANN Sovorn
Sales &
Marketing
Consultant
VY Lengcheng
Sales and
Marketing
Coordinator

CHHIN
Vanouen
Senior Sales
& Marketing
Coordinator
POK Sarith
Facilities
Coordinator

THY Ravuth
Sales Consultant
ROEUN Rina
Senior
Production
Coordinator

Names arranged left to right



DEVELOPMENT TEAM

EN Sormanak – Program Administrator
YON Sokhorn – Senior Program Coordinator



ARTS EDUCATION

SUON Bunrith – Program Manager
OUM Boramey – Program Coordinator
(not pictured)



KNOWLEDGE,

NETWORKS AND POLICY

SO Phina – Program Manager
James O'KEEFE – Institutional Partnerships Coordinator



HERITAGE HUB

SONG Seng – Program Manager



COMMUNICATION & EVENTS TEAM

KEAT Sokim – Communications & Events Coordinator
Hermione BROOKS – Communications Supervisor
CHOEUN Socheata – Communications & Events Coordinator



FINANCE TEAM

PHORN Sitha – Accounting Coordinator
KUON Manith – Finance Manager
MEN Channy – Finance Coordinator



ADMINISTRATION TEAM

PICH Panha – Office Assistant
LOR Veasna – Office Coordinator
SO Maly – Cleaner
LIM Chanboth – Guard



DEVELOPMENT TEAM

PHEARY Phacdey – Development Coordinator
HENG Samnang – Development Coordinator
McKay SAVAGE – Development Manager

BOARD

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD LEADERSHIP

R. Kelley BONN – Outgoing Board Chair

What a difference a year makes! I was proud to see CLA take a giant step toward the vision of transformation through the arts. During 2016, arts practitioners and leaders from around the globe convened several times in Phnom Penh to experience the dynamism of Cambodia's arts renewal. Peers from societies as diverse as South Africa, Colombia, and Palestine asked how we can work together to recover from conflict and to create more confident and resilient societies.

Richard C. HELFER – Incoming Board Chair

As incoming Board Chair, it was exciting to start the year with a rigorous discussion of CLA's new 5 year strategic plan at our annual board meeting in Phnom Penh. The next five years see us continuing our core activities in Cambodia, as well as increasing our outreach in greater Asia. Through artistic initiatives such as Bangsokol, and cultural programs on leadership, knowledge sharing and dialogue, we can share examples and experiences of Cambodia to emphasize the vital role of arts and culture in Post Conflict Societies.

Charley TODD – Board President

Looking ahead to 2017 I am awed by the exciting promise of the international tour of Bangsokol: A Requiem for Cambodia. Commissioned by CLA, with HIM Sophy as composer, Trent WALKER as librettist, and direction, design and visuals by Rithy PANH, Bangsokol seems the perfect expression of both grief and hope, bringing a message of the possibility for renewal within every society. During 2017, Bangsokol will travel to Taipei, Melbourne, Montreal, and New York, and from 2018 onwards to Paris, Phnom Penh, and many points in between. We thank you, our friends and supporters, for this momentous year, and look forward to seeing you at Bangsokol!

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*Outgoing Chair of
the Board
Retired Bank Executive
Hartford, CT, USA*

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New York, NY USA*

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Asia Society
New York, NY USA*

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ALEC WHITE

THANK YOU

Our work would not have been possible without the support of our donors, partners, supporters, and volunteers. We are truly thankful to everyone who has supported us this year.

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 Taryn SIMON
 UNG Chinary and Nirmita Team
 Vidya LO

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 School of Fine Arts
 CHREK Sopha –
 The Messenger Band
 HUN Pen – Department of
 Performing Arts, MoCFA
 KHOUTH Awatd – CLA Arts
 Learning Manager
 Sophiline CHEAM SHAPIRO –
 Sophiline Arts Ensemble

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 CHEATHA Povrotanak

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 KET Senghay
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 LY Vanna
 MEAS Samnang
 MOEUNG Chanmonyreak
 MONY Veachesa
 NGOUN Sakhen
 NITH Kimquech
 OEM Veasna
 OUK Sreyleak
 PAO Makara
 PEN Sok Sambath
 PONG Keonetra
 SEK Chanbora
 SONG Sreynich
 SRY Serey Ratana
 TE Kimhong
 TECH Sokty
 TEK Kimsouseyhakreachny
 UNG Sanprathna
 VIENG Chanbondol
 YA Chan Nary
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To make a donation, or to find out more, please contact our Development Team at development@cambodianlivingarts.org.



We endeavor to recognize all of our supporters and try to ensure the information printed is accurate. If you have any comments regarding your acknowledgement, please contact our Development Team at development@cambodianlivingarts.org.

CAMBODIA OFFICE

#128 G9, Sothearos Blvd,
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Ph. +855 (0)23 986 032
info@cambodianlivingarts.org

USA OFFICE

228 Park Ave S #49331
New York, NY 10003-1502, USA
Ph. +1 844 252 2787

www.cambodianlivingarts.org

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