

ARN CHORN-POND LIVING ARTS SCHOLARSHIP

PROGRAM REVIEW (2010-2021)



CAMBODIAN
LIVING ARTS

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Cambodian Living Arts (CLA) was founded in 1998 by genocide survivor and musician Arn Chorn-Pond, who believed that music, love, and creativity could heal Cambodia and Cambodian people from the effects of war. The first ten years of CLA's work was primarily focussed on preserving endangered performing art forms and rituals. As these art forms and artists' creative spirit became stronger over the decade, CLA turned its focus to helping talented people to build and develop careers in the arts through scholarships and fellowships, and fostering entrepreneurship through grant opportunities.

The Arn Chorn-Pond Living Arts (ACP) scholarship program was established in 2010, aiming to develop students' artistic vision, to encourage values of inclusivity, creativity and curiosity, and to encourage professionalism and the students' potential to be leaders in the sector. CLA's goal is to invest in the leadership of potential creatives and talents and enhance their ability to express and reflect critically on their relationship and society in a broader perspective. By doing so, we hope to strengthen the capacity of the valued-based human resources who will be able to sustain their career and the arts eco-system in the long-run.



“Whereas our arts, culture and traditions were destroyed so suddenly and so quickly, the work of healing and rebuilding is a process that takes generations. Today, the Scholarship Program makes it possible for young people to further their studies, to learn new skills and to stick with their dreams of building a career in the arts.

That hope is what I wanted to pass to a new generation.

I am so proud of all the students and of what this program has achieved so far!

Arn Chorn-Pond
Founder of Cambodian Living Arts



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: HOW IT WORKS

1

Open Call for Applications

2

Applications are assessed by an independent selection committee

3

10 new students are awarded scholarships each year.

The scholarship includes :

Networking opportunities including workshops and field visits

The Enrichment Program: Personal and professional development courses

\$1,200* per student per year towards training in relevant artistic and non-artistic skills

YEAR
1

Personal Development and Leadership

- Mindset
- Who am I?
- The Art of Teamwork
- Creating Personal Vision, Mission and Values
- Goal Setting and Planning
- The Art of Personal Finance
- Citizenship

YEAR
2

Knowledge about Arts Sector & Networking

- Arts and Critical Thinking
- Arts Community Building
- Arts and Appreciation
- Art History

YEAR
3

Foundations of Project Management

- Basic training followed by a small project related to social responsibility and citizenship

YEAR
4

Project Management

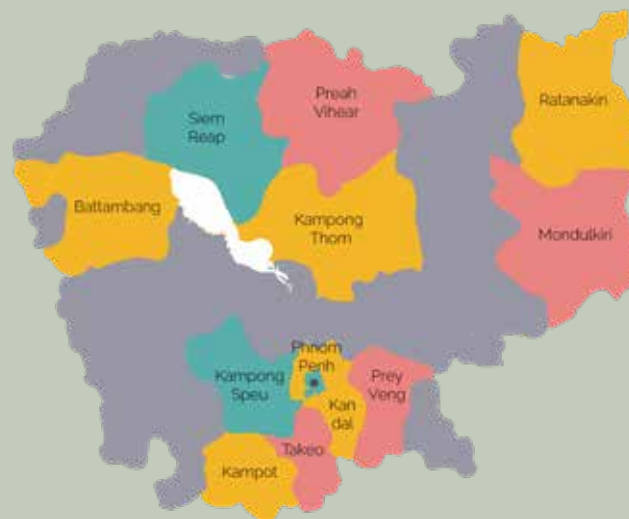
- Students are given a budget for an independently-managed project

Students develop their potential to develop their own career and to become leaders in the arts sector, guided by values of creativity, professionalism and inclusivity.

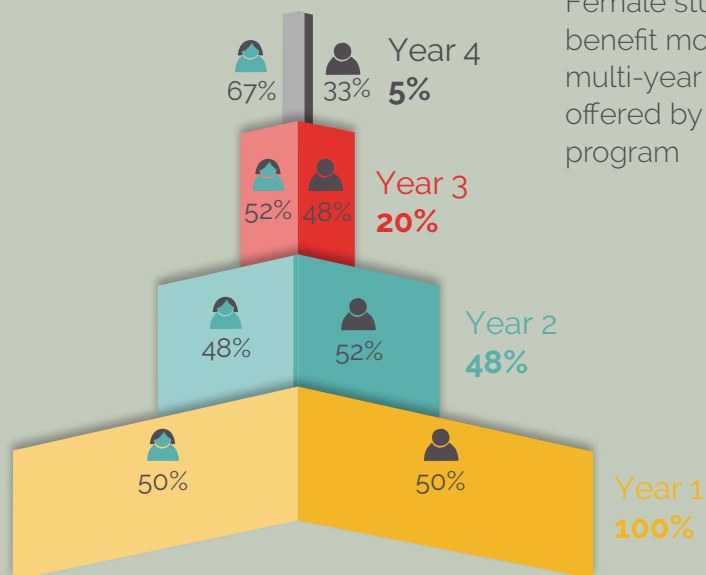
* from October 2022, the annual stipend has been increased to \$1,500 USD

THE STUDENTS

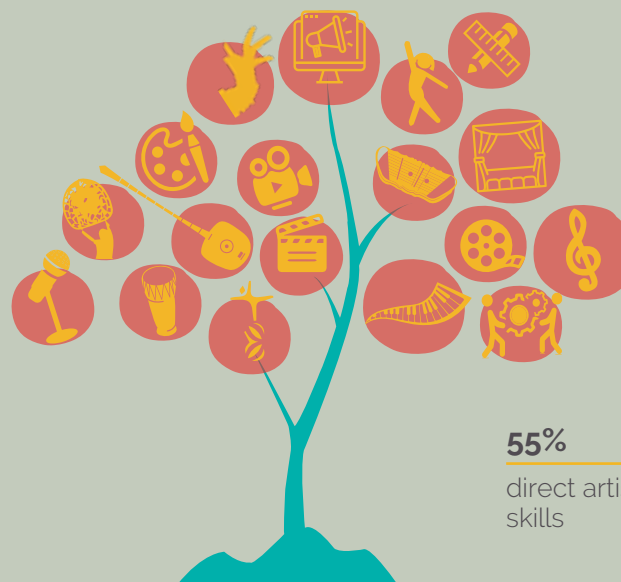
The 120 students supported through the program represent the diverse population of Cambodia



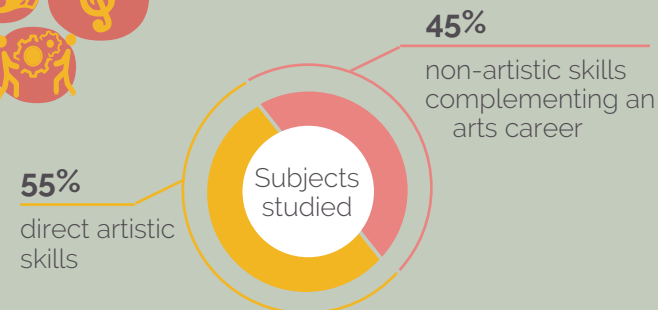
CLA actively reaches out to create opportunities for young people outside of the main cities



Female students benefit most from the multi-year support offered by the program



Students use their stipends to study subjects from contemporary dance, to media, to management



Note: Throughout this report we refer to participants in the scholarship program as "students" or "scholarship students". Please note however that this includes arts students and arts professionals ranging in age from 20 to 35 years old.

TEN YEAR REVIEW

A review in 2021 aimed to assess the impacts of the program over its first ten years, including both the benefits to the students and the impact on their peers and community.

Methodology

Independent evaluator Ms HEM Nareth asked open-ended questions during both focus group discussions and one-on-one interviews with 45 key stakeholders. These stakeholders included current and former scholars; their family members, colleagues, and members of their communities; program Trainers and Coordinators; CLA's Program Coordinator and Communications Coordinator; and the scholarship selection committee. Evaluators carried out a desk review of this data to draw out trends and conclusions.

Results

79% of scholarship students became professional artists or leaders in arts related institutions. 21% became staff or leaders in non-arts institutions, including government, civil society organizations, and private companies.

Overall the program results were consistent with the goals set by CLA, and the overall program objective that "the arts sector is fully staffed with well-trained arts professionals working at international standards and CLA's trainees are identifiable in the arts sector for their skills and professionalism":

- Scholarship students developed their artistic skills and/or professional capacity, giving them greater opportunities to build successful careers in the arts sector.
- Students developed values of creativity, open-mindedness, and inclusivity.
- Students' improved career opportunities, improving their own economic situation and that of their families.
- Students contributed to solving social problems in their communities.
- Alumni noted that the program has helped them to create internationally-recognised artwork.

Overall, the findings suggested that the ACP Living Arts Scholarship is an essential core program contributing to CLA's mission to be a catalyst in a vibrant arts sector, inspiring new generations.

Evaluators noted that the program is **inclusive**, with a **strong gender balance**, and **engages with marginalized communities** including people in remote provinces, people with disabilities, and minority and indigenous people.

In the longer term, students became part of formal and informal alumni networks, continuing to support each other's work and to share knowledge and different perspectives.



IMPACT ON THE STUDENTS

✓ They developed professional and personal skills that support their career growth and success.

✓ The Enrichment Program helped participants to develop their personal vision and values, to increase their knowledge about the arts sector; and to master the basics of project management and networking.

✓ The program broadened students' ideas and perspectives, and encouraged creativity.

✓ Students recognized the importance of soft skills to their artistic careers.



Mr. VANN Chhovorn
2020 ACP Living Arts Scholar

Subject: Painting

Chhovorn was formerly a labourer in Thailand. In 2021 he won Bronze in the international White Canvas art competition.

“

Through this scholarship, I participated in self-development workshops and value training sessions, and study visits to the Jombok Hoas (Adventure Learning Center) and art galleries. I was encouraged and guided by the program team. This gave me a broader perspective on the arts, and enabled me to see that ***creating meaningful works of art requires us to be open-minded and to feel freedom to create.*** This scholarship program inspired me to continue to develop my work by continuing my visits to art galleries and places that can feed my creativity.

“

In the past, I completed artwork but I did not know where to exhibit my work. After taking part in this program, CLA helped to guide me and to connect me with a network to exhibit my artwork. As a result, ***even during the pandemic I still had stable work*** because I received many orders for my artwork from France and the United States.



Ms. RY Monisovanya
2019 ACP Living Arts Scholar

Subject: French language, Visual & Performing Arts, Graphic Design, Film



“

If I did not receive this scholarship, I would never have thought to take part in personal development courses, and would not have known how important these are to us as artists. ***I made a lot of progress through joining personal courses such as “Mindset”. It opened my eyes - sometimes we do not realize that it is necessary for us as artists to develop ourselves like this.*** In addition, going to Jombok Hoas reminded me about teamwork and communication. It boosted my involvement in communicating and meeting with different artists.



Mr. CHEK Samnang
2010 ACP Living Arts Scholar

Subject: Traditional Music

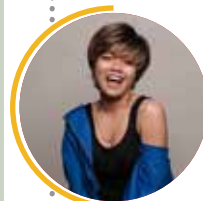
Sinath is a professor of Traditional Cambodian musical instruments and an officer in charge of arts at the Ministry of Information. He is an activist in Khmer art and culture preservation and a volunteer passing on skills to the younger generation about the conservation of arts and culture in Cambodia.

“

I do not have a degree in the arts, and people did not acknowledge me. This scholarship program strengthened my skills and connected me with different organizations, giving me the opportunity to work on projects with them, such as writing songs and making videos.

The scholarship program's courses gave me the self-confidence to manage projects in a way I couldn't do before.

I learnt so much about self-development, communication and networking, and these courses gave me confidence in public speaking. Also, I now have a great understanding of our arts history, and I share this knowledge with other artists that I know and work with. There are so many artists who do not know our arts history extensively. This program helped me a lot as a new artist.



Ms. CHIVE Chheng Heang
2019 ACP Living Arts Scholar

Subject: Vocal and Piano Coaching



Ms. CHEM Sreyny
2011 ACP Living Arts Scholar

Subject: Smot (poetry chanting)

“

I really like this scholarship because it not only helps the students to study both classical arts and other arts and to develop themselves, but also connects them with job opportunities related to their fields and offers many other kinds of support. At the time of receiving the scholarship, I was a student of Smot, but now I have a job teaching Smot in schools.



The ACP Living Arts Scholarship transformed me from an amateur artist playing music only to earn money for food to a professional. It equipped me with the skills to become a researcher exploring and restoring lost culture and arts. *This scholarship program gave me the specific professional skills to get a job as a contracted professor at the Royal University of Fine Arts.*

IMPACT ON WIDER SOCIETY



Many former students are working to preserve and develop Cambodian arts.



Students use their artwork to help solve social problems.



Students have an increased awareness of issues facing their audience and are inspired to contribute to society by, for example, promoting environmentally-friendly practices and discouraging discrimination of minority groups.

Mr. CHAN Rithy 2017 ACP Living Arts Scholar

Subject: Kse Diev (a traditional musical instrument)



I dreamed of playing Kse Diev, but my financial situation was very challenging and I could not afford to learn what I love. But fortunately, I was awarded this scholarship to study this musical instrument and to fulfill my dream. Now, I am able to play Kse Diev and I have received a lot of support from audiences. They like this classical instrument, and support me as a visually-impaired person with the ability to play it.



Mx. SOTH Peosamnang 2016 ACP Living Arts Scholar

Subject: French language

Peosamnang was a student of archeology and is currently working with a civil society organization to advocate for LGBTIQ+ rights.



I had a dream to study abroad, but I did not dare to imagine that it would be possible because I could not speak a foreign language and I felt incompetent. But after receiving this scholarship,

I gained the confidence to apply for a scholarship to study abroad.

I was awarded a scholarship to study in France for five months, which made me believe I could apply my dreams.



The Enrichment Program gave me the courage to accept who I am, and to have the great courage to come out in public. Even beyond that, ***I also dare to stand up for LGBTIQ+ rights and the LGBTIQ+ community.*** I have become an activist and do a lot of volunteer work to help this community.



“

Without this scholarship program, my family and I would have had a hard time because of our challenging financial situation. *Without CLA, I'm not sure I would have had the opportunity to study and to reach where I am today.*



Mr. Kavich NEANG
2010 ACP Living Arts Scholar

Subject: Filmmaking

Kavich is an award-winning filmmaker, whose films have been exhibited around the world, and whose film "White Building" was chosen as Cambodia's official entry for the Oscars in 2022.

Mr. CHEK Samnang
2010 ACP Living Arts Scholar

Subject: Traditional Music



“

I have continued the values that ACP Living Arts Scholarship nurtured in me to create leaders in the arts sector. *I have passed on my skills to the younger generation.*



Ms. MAN Chantha
2018 ACP Living Arts Scholar

Subject: Kreung (an indigenous group) traditional dance

Chantha is from the Kreung indigenous group, and is now a volunteer teaching indigenous musical instruments to women in this community.

“

Since I was awarded the scholarship to improve my skills, my income has increased. I upgraded my knowledge and skills, and so the artists in my village invited me to join their team to perform in ceremonies. Before, I only knew how to play a little, and they didn't invite me to perform. But now I have upgraded my skills and I know how to sing and play music well. This is because of the support of this scholarship.



Photo by: CHHEN Kimhong

Ms. BAN Van

From the Kreung indigenous group in Ratanakiri, and a student of Ms. MAN Chantha (ACP Living Arts Scholar 2018)

“

I am very happy that Sister Chantha helps teach us to play our Kreung music because I do not want to lose our culture.

“

I am still in communication with ACP alumni, and we help each other to develop our artwork.

For example, when I have a performance, I invite them to comment on my creation. Likewise, when they need my support or input, they contact me to share my comments on their artwork too. This helps me to grow my ideas.



Mr. SOY Chanborey
2013 ACP Living Arts Scholar

Subject: Artist

Ms. MI Vantha

the wife of Mr. VAN Chhovorn
(2020 ACP Living Arts Scholar)

“

In the past, my husband was a farmer, and I sold groceries from my little home to generate some income for living. It was just enough to raise our children and to send them to school. But since my husband's artworks have been exhibited and he has received a lot of orders, *my family and I have been able to save money to build a house.* Now we have a nice, solid house to live in.

POLICY IMPACTS

Impacts towards UN Sustainable Development Goals

The review noted that many program impacts complement the Sustainable Development Goals:



Gender Equality

Overall 46% of students are women. However, more women maintain the scholarship over several years, who make up 52% and 67% of third and fourth year students respectively.



Sustainable Cities and Communities



Before, I only thought about solving my family's income issues, and I believed that being a good citizen is just being a good person in the family - that is enough. But the Enrichment Program's "Citizenship" course encouraged me to help to solve problems in my community and in society as a whole. Since then,

I started to notice problems in my own village: I saw the electrical wires looked messy, so I decided to join a youth group in the village to solve community problems...

In short, this scholarship program made me understand the importance of community.

VAN Chhovorn



Climate Action



...the short training courses in this program, especially "Creating Personal Vision, Mission and Values", helped me to ask myself, "What do we, or I, want to do for society, where do we and I come from?" This reflection gave me confidence in my artistic creativity's contribution to society, and the role it can have to help educate the public. For example, in protecting the natural environment.

I will continue to creatively use my artwork to contribute to solving problems in society¹.

VAN Chhovorn

This program contributes to 5 SDGs:



The program's impacts are in line with the goals of the National Policy on Culture and the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts Strategic Action Plan:

Goals of the Cambodian National Policy on Culture

- ☒ To contribute to socio-economic development
- ☒ To securely and sustainably preserve, protect and develop national cultural heritage
- ☒ To educate and train, based upon the principle of "Education for Culture and Culture for Education"
- ☒ To produce broadly and search widely for cultural markets which will contribute to socio-economic development
- ☒ To create new cultural products, especially in the creative industry sector
- ☒ To strengthen and increase exchange of information, knowledge, know-how, experience and techniques as well as investments in cultural sectors
- ☒ To provide opportunities for the people, especially youth and children, to participate in cultural activities and to benefit equally from culture
- ☒ To raise awareness of true national cultural value, custom, tradition and diversity of cultural expressions

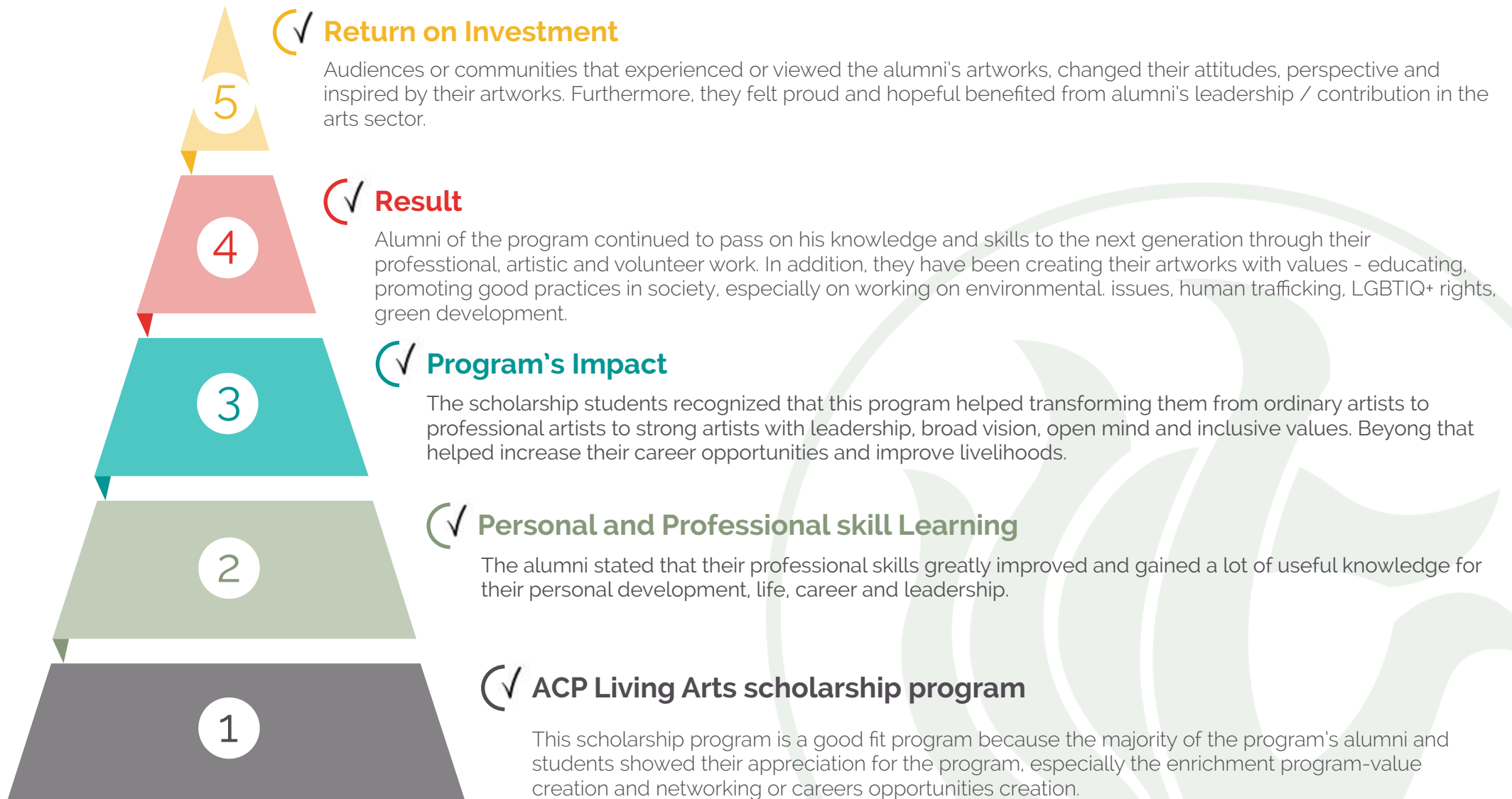
Goals of the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts' Strategic Action Plan

- ☒ Strengthen and expand cultural potential to be catalyst in national economic development
- ☒ Promote preservation and development of cultural heritages for national economic development
- ☒ Strengthen and enlarge education, promotion and creativity and establish cultural markets
- ☒ Promote principles based education and trainings (Education for cultures and cultures for education)
- ☒ Promote awareness raising on the importance of culture, tradition and diversity of cultures

¹ <https://cambodianess.com/article/an-art-exhibition-tells-the-story-of-a-cambodian-working-in-inhuman-conditions-in-thailand>

SUMMARY

of the ACP Living Art scholarship program's assessment results



FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The review suggested taking the following steps before, during, and after the program to build on the scholarship's existing strengths and to improve the outcomes for students and for the arts sector and wider society.



This may be done by engaging current and former scholarship students to promote the program in other provinces, and providing funding where necessary.

There should be more comprehensive guidelines for the committee to support them in making decisions, and to avoid conflict of interest. To promote inclusivity and diversity quotas can be set. There is an opportunity to engage alumni in the selection process.

While former students are generally satisfied with the Enrichment Program, there is space to identify new topics and issues relevant to the students' diverse backgrounds and artistic experiences. The review suggested including a session based on the students' choice of topic, decided collectively by each cohort. There should be a system to make sure that former students' inputs are integrated into the next year's program.

Scholars also wanted to expand their perspective as to how various social issues are connected with the arts sector. They would like to do this by including more diverse social issues, aligned with the current development situation, and by updating the program based on inputs from relevant stakeholders.

Increased engagement with civil society organizations could help to mobilize greater financial support for student group projects which promote positive societal change.

Overall, stakeholders were very satisfied with the program team and operation. To improve, the team could strengthen the internal monitoring, evaluation and learning with better data collection, interpretation and recordkeeping, so that this knowledge can be used to improve the program coordination and management.

Students very much appreciate the career development opportunities the scholarship offers. Extra support could be offered to students with less popular or less marketable artistic skills. CLA could create more opportunities for current and former students to showcase their work. CLA should maintain a database of alumni's career paths and contact details. The program could expand engagement with non-artistic organizations, including the private sector, that would mobilize useful resources and enhance job opportunities for the students.

Offer mentoring for students in the two years following the program, helping them to apply what they have learned to their careers. Conduct regular alumni interactions across student cohorts, including the opportunity to take part in joint projects. Alumni appreciate CLA's grant programs such as "Dam Dos". The review suggested that to scale up the program's impacts there should be centralized on-going support to the scholars' collaborative initiatives, especially those focused on establishing positive societal change.



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OUR SCHOLARSHIP GRANTEES FROM 2010-2021

2010

NEANG Kavich
CHAMROEUN Sophea
PHOEUN Sreypeou
CHEK Sinath
OUCH Savy

2011

LUN Chumnith
CHEAM Sothearoth
PET Kroem
MEANG Bunna
CHEM Sreyny
PHAN Chamroeun

2012

MEN Mao
TOB Rithy
YOUNG Yorn
MOUEN Chanthy
SANG Malen
LUN Chomnith

PHOEUN Sary
LEU Sivmeng
NEN Phearith
ENG Eynara
OUM Puthytheary
PONG Pon

Vong Rasmey
SOK Chandarorth
SOEUN Sarom
RIN Naro
KONG Gne
VA Chamnann

CHEM Sreyny
YOEUTH Sochet

2013

CHAN Sory
SANG Malen
MORM Meng
VIN Tum
NOT Samphos
LAK Ravy
LOTH Socheat
UNG Kakada
SOY Chanborey
ROEUNG Kannytha
SUN Chandeb

2014

HOU Cheychanrith
MEAS Samnang
YIN Veasna
OEM Veasna
POV Reaksmey Mony
TONG Sokhoeun
LY Vanna
SNGOUN Kaveisereyoth
PENG Samnang
SIN Sophea
NEN Phearith

YA Channary
THENG Kimsor
PAO Makara
KHEM Soksrey Mean
NOU Samnang
CHEA Dara
POY Sihong
VOEUN Savin
EL Huyno

2015

KET Senghuy
KIEN Sehas
SAANG Tip
OEUN Sokunthea

2016

SANG Sreypich
NEM Sothea
SOTH Peosamnang
NA Sidavit
SAN Mouyly
NORNG Channy Soriya
CHHUN Kimly
SVAY Limeng

2017

KIM Socheat
SAMUT Vatha
NOV Sreyleak
CHREUS Sarun
LE Thi Na Ri
HUYNH Thi Thanh Loan
POY Chhunlin
CHAN Rithy
SUOS Sokunkhemara
SOM Pisith

2018

PHE Phearom
PRAK Englean
NE Sovanneath
BO Ratha
SOY Sina
CHAN Pisey
MAN Chantha
SAMUT Vatha
NEM Rothkunthea
TANG Engpor

2019

MONI Sovanya Ry
POK Keo
CHIVE Chheng Heang
PEOU Nheata
YANG Pichmanich
CHHOEM Hay
PHY Phorn
HENG Phoun
TIV Sim
SEAK Kimkav
SRUN Rida

2020

NOV Sreyleab
MEAN Sovanna
THORN Sreynith
LONG Rathanathorng
DOY Pechtina
LIM Dara
SORN Soran
VAN Chhovorn
ROCHOM Saroeun
SOU Oudom

2021

PENG Chantrea
TROERY Yam
SO Channou
TRY Sokharaksmey
CHAN Savatey
SOR Sophay
PHLAN Sochea
KEO Kea
SEA Sophearun
YEAN Chhenghak

SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Arn CHORN-POND
CHAMROEUN Sophea
CHEA Sopheap
HANG Rithyravuth
KHOUTH Sochampawatd
KIM Pichpinun
KONG Vollak
KOURN Lyna
LOEUNG Sakona

MOENG META
SAM Satya
SAY Tola
SUN Pora
TAN Vatey
VA Chamnann
YAN Borin
YUN Theara

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Jombok Hoas Adventure Learning Center

Program Staff

EN Sormanak
SO Phina
YON Sokhorn

Text

HEM Vanarath

Editing

Hermione BROOKS

Design

CHOEUN Socheata



Learn more about us:

-  Cambodian Living Arts (CLA)
-  CambodianLivingArts
-  www.cambodianlivingarts.org
-  info@cambodianlivingarts.org
-  +855 23 986 032
-  Scan this QR Code to join our Telegram Channel:

