

OPEN CALL FOR CREATIVE WRITING

For Cultural Season 2023

“Your Kind, Our Kind”



About Cultural Season 2023 and the Theme

Since 2018, CLA has been running a regular Cultural Season. The Cultural Season is a collection of performances, workshops, exhibitions and talks, which are presented over 2-3 months. The target audience is young people, especially university students. The season will run in Phnom Penh during February 2023, and some works will be invited to go on the province tour during March, where we will present performances and workshops at 4 provinces. You can learn more about Cultural Season [HERE](#).

The new artwork produced and presented during the season is created via CLA's ongoing program of creative workshops (of script writings, directing and staged readings), residency, small-medium grants (commission) for and by young artists.

Every year, we give the Cultural Season a theme. This theme is used to give artists a starting point for creating new plays, dances and music. It is also used by the CLA team to guide us in putting together an interesting program that can showcase different angles to consider the same topic, and will inspire new perspectives and interesting discussions from the audience. We share the theme with the audience in our marketing materials, so that when they come to see the performances or to join a talk or workshop, they can connect their experience back to the big picture question. This year's Cultural Season 2023 theme is **"Your Kind, Our Kind"**. Which is chosen by the Curatorial Fellows, a team who design, and develop the program for Cultural Season 2023. This fellowship is supported by CLA and you can learn more about the program [HERE](#).

The goal of the projects, activities and performances in these programs is to encourage expression and creativity, give artists and administrators opportunities to develop new skills and experiences, and build strong human resources and audiences for arts in Cambodia.

Values of Cultural Season:

- Celebrating difference and diversity
- Inclusion
- Allow for interpretation (not educational, right or wrong...etc.)
- Connect the local and the global; make links to other global context

Your Kind, Our Kind

“តែឯង” (“you're one of a kind!") is often heard when an individual express himself or an idea that stands out or differs from others. “តែយើង” (“our kind”), on the other hand, is used when a group of people accept a person who has common interests and consider different voices. Combined together, “តែឯង តែយើង” (“Your Kind, Our Kind”) can be interpreted as an individual who is isolated from a clique of people who only accept people of their own. It can also mean that even if someone is different, they are still part of the group. Furthermore, it can reflect society's views of individuals: are they independent bodies or parts of the same body? What issues do individuals face for differing from the social norm?

Cambodian society starts to open up wider space for individual expression. Yet, conservative views and social pressure that co-exist in the system, can still lead to uniformity, lack of creativity, and even mental disorders. Furthermore, it can limit individuals' initiatives to make change in their life, in their community or in society in general. Likewise, even though there is a trend in the world today to celebrate diversity and inclusion, discrimination and bullying towards people still exist.

All in all, we want to hear stories, experiences and expressions from the voices of artists, writers, thinkers as well as youth in general:

- What would be the risks and advantages to allow more diverse expressions in Cambodia?
- How can individuals find balance between their own thinking/actions and social norms?
- How does one cope up with emotional state when facing peer or social pressure?
- How can youth find a way of expressing themselves?
- How do you see global trend to celebrate diversity and inclusion fit in Cambodia's today context?
- What future do we see for Cambodia society and how can we take part to shape it?

Under the theme "**Your Kind, Our Kind**", this year Cambodian Living Arts will be selected **FOUR** new creative writing.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible the work **MUST**:

- Be relevant to the theme of the cultural season 2023
- Those works could be a short novel, short story, or poems.

You must also:

- Be resident in Cambodia at the time of application
- Hold Cambodian citizenship or a K-Visa
- Be able to be fully attend the Cambodian Living Arts Cultural Season in February 2023 in Phnom Penh and fully attended cultural season tour in March 2023 for reading events up to 3 times.

How to apply

The application deadline is **September 19th** by 5pm.

You may submit your application materials by delivery to the CLA Office (128Gg Sothearos Boulevard, Phnom Penh) or by email to sakun@cambodianlivingarts.org

Your application must include:

- Completed application form
- Resume / CV which summarizes your works related to writing fields e.g. published or translation the book... etc. (If applicable)
- Completed work with carefully spellings checked

Beneficiary & payment

- Each selected applicant will be awarded \$500 USD
- Opportunity for writing and chances to read for diverse audience both in Phnom Penh and provinces

Applications should be completed in Khmer or English for K-Visa holders or in indigenous language. If English or indigenous language, the works need to translate into Khmer.

Application support and selection process

CLA will host a Qs and As session on August 5 from 5:30pm-6:30pm via this [ZOOM LINK \(Meeting ID: 837 4050 1488, Passcode: 047250\)](#). If you are interested, please call to register with PO Sakun at 012 432 201.

Applications will be reviewed by the Season Curation Team, an independent group who will make decision on the selection.

Selected applicants & Unselected applicants will be notified on 2nd week of October 2022

Further info, please contact: sakun@cambodianlivingarts.org OR calling 012 432 201 during our working hours: Mon-Fri, 8am-12pm, 1:30pm-5:30pm.

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APPLICATION FORM

*Please make sure that you read ALL details carefully about Cultural Season2023 and the theme.

Application details

Family name:	
Given name:	
What you like to be called:	
Gender:	
Current Residential Address:	

Phone number and Email:	
About your work	Has your work have been promoted or published yet? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	If "Yes" where did you publish it? <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Blog

Work title, type of work (e.g. poetry, short story...etc.) and a summary of the work

Please tell us how your piece relates to the theme for the 2023 season 'Your Kind, Our Kind' (200 words)

Please make sure your answer includes:

- Please refer to the theme statement and the prompts in the open call; which one(s) does your piece connect to? Please explain the connection.
- What do you find most relevant and interesting in the theme statement and the prompt questions? How will you explore that in your work?

What kind of reactions, inspirations and questions would you hope to inspire in the audiences at the season? (100 words)

- What is the meaning or the question(s) that you would like the audience to find in your work? (we understand that this might change later)
- What kind of feelings would you like the audience to have when they read or hear your work?

Anything else you would like to tell us? (200 words or less)

Checklist

Creative Writing Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
CV / Resume reg the writing fields	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

With the signature below, I hereby confirm that I have read and understood **ALL** the details about this commission open call.

Signature _____ Date _____

