



CAMBODIAN
LIVING ARTS



Arts at the heart of a vital society

*A catalyst in a
vibrant arts sector,
inspiring new
generations*

Celebrating
20
years of CLA



“

In 2019, Cambodian Living Arts celebrates a full 20 years working in Cambodia. Today, we envision the arts and cultural expression as essential to a thriving future for Cambodia.

Expression is a fundamental part of being human. It's part of interacting with the world around you, as more than an individual; playing an active role in the world in which you live.

It has always been at the core of CLA's beliefs that art is at the heart of a vital society – a society filled with dynamic, forward-looking people, who can look at the communities and systems that they are a part of, and explore the role they want to play. In today's world, we need this more than ever."

PRIM Phloeu - *Executive Director*

CAMBODIAN LIVING ARTS OPERATES UNDER THE HIGH
PATRONAGE OF HIS MAJESTY KING NORODOM SIHAMONI



In 2019, CLA celebrates twenty years working in the revival and development of Cambodian arts. Our first decade focused mainly on revival and transmission of endangered forms. In our second, we worked to ensure sustainability, and to help people build careers in arts. Now, our mission is to be a catalyst in a vibrant arts sector, inspiring new generations. Some highlights from the last twenty years are below.

20 YEARS OF CLA: TRANSMISSION

OUR FIRST DECADE

KEUT Ran: *Smot Teacher*

"In 2000, Master IENG Sithul introduced me to Arn CHORN- POND when they visited me in my village in Kompong Speu. Later I got to know CLA and became a teacher of Smot (ritual chanting). In 2016 I retired, passing the class on to my student, SUON Srey Aun. Srey Aun now teaches 300 students in our local high school.

My biggest achievement is that 10 of my students are now professional artists, and still practice this rare form.

One student, PHEUN Sreyppov, now runs a business offering services for Buddhist ceremonies, including Smot. Becoming a teacher of Smot has made me feel confident in transmitting the knowledge to the next generation. Through Smot I met people from all over the world when they visited my class. I am now paid under CLA's teachers pension scheme, and I contribute some of that towards Buddhist work."



NEANG Kavich: Filmmaker and former Arn Chorn-Pond Scholarship Student

"I first heard about CLA when I attended Master IENG Sithul's dance class in the White Building in 2002. I felt very connected with people in the class, and the class itself was very exciting.

I met my neighbors from the White Building, and could make a little money to support my studies and my family. Even though I didn't know anything about dance and music at the start, everyone felt the same way, and I felt so free and encouraged.

During the classes, everyone shared the same spirit and love for dance and music. Every time we danced together we were so passionate about it - I can't forget that moment.

I joined CLA Studio as an intern in 2008, recording music and also making short documentary films about Cambodian arts, and this is how I discovered my passion for filmmaking. I just kept making films, from short film to feature length, from documentary to fiction film.

I feel lucky and grateful to do something I love, and also to share what I feel and think, especially in Cambodia where there is not much funding and resources to support filmmaking or arts in general.

CLA played an important role in representing and rebuilding the country from this devastation, not only understanding about the past, but envisioning the future."

Kavich's filmography includes: 'Last Night I Saw You Smiling' - Special Jury Prize, Jeonju International Film Festival (Director, 2019); 'Diamond Island' - 2016 Cannes SACD Award winner, (co-producer, 2016); 'Where I Go' (Director & writer, 2013)

20 YEARS OF CLA: INVESTMENT

OUR SECOND DECADE

LEU Sivmeng: *Dance teacher*

"I first got to know CLA when I took a dance class with Master IENG Sithul's Children of Bassac troupe in 2007.

From 2014 I worked with CLA on a lot of projects including the dance show at the National Museum of Cambodia, demonstrations, and festivals.

Starting to learn dance and becoming a dancer on stage is an unforgettable memory, and being paid to do this meant I was able to help my family.

I got experience in performing arts, and knowledge of how to lead demonstrations and teach. Before I had never taught dance to anyone, but after working on the demonstrations, I became skillful. Now I am getting more and more requests to give dance classes, and I started my own troupe called Krom Robam - I can say that this is the impact of getting involved with CLA over the years. "



ONN Sokny: *Living Arts Fellow 2017, co-Director of Epic Arts*

"I applied to the Living Arts Fellows program because it is the only one of its kind in Cambodia. Is a unique experience - the program aims to fill the gaps for arts managers in Cambodia today.

You are free to express yourself, and it is intellectual and very creative. We share our experiences and challenges; learn from mentors from around Asia; discuss different social and cultural case studies; and improve critical thinking on the subject of arts, culture, and social issues.

I got practical tools and ideas that I could bring into my own work, like ways to debate and advocate for our goals. I got connected to policy makers and other influential people in the culture sector.

I feel now I have more insight into the value of arts and culture, and a deeper understanding of the roles that arts and culture play in society, in the contexts of Cambodia and Southeast Asia.

All forms - traditional, contemporary, pop - have their own roles, reasons, and voices; reflecting and telling stories about culture and the society in which we live.

Curiosity, open-mindedness, and reflectiveness are such important skills to unlock. I am still learning each day - and this is the responsibility of arts leaders, managers, and artists. Arts and culture reflects the lives lived from one generation to another, and they always keep moving and changing."

20 YEARS OF CLA: EXPRESSION

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS



TAN Vatey
Artist Fellow USA 2018

“Working and living together with so many artists at the Vermont Studio Center was an incredible experience. The program in NYC was fascinating, amazing and intense. The studio was calm with no time pressure, letting me feel more myself and make some wonderful artworks. Friendships began by visiting other studios to exchange work and life. In NYC, I met so many admirable people and visited a lot of interesting events and art spaces. I'm so grateful to experience this program.”



CHHORN Sina
Playwright and Director

“As a professor teaching spoken theater at Secondary School of Fine Arts, I'm very glad when Cambodian Living Arts organizes programs through which I can develop my skills. I have joined Storytelling and Script Development workshops, as well as a Stage Reading program. These programs have also given my students opportunities to work, get paid and develop their artistic skills. This also enables us to share our ideas about gender, relationships and society through our stories. I hope CLA continues this great work in the art and cultural sector!”



PHAN Chamroeun
Musician and Composer

“I first got to know CLA in 2003, when I studied music in Children of Bassac troupe. Later I continued to the Royal University of Fine Arts, where an Arn Chorn-Pond Scholarship helped me to study Tro. This scholarship helped me grow both my artistic skill and my leadership abilities. CLA now has many programs that give artists like me an opportunity to have new creativity in traditional music. For me, I've now been able to lead a musical troupe in festivals and performances, and I have led the troupe Yaksao, which composes and performs new traditional music.”



PICH Sopheavy
Dancer & Choreographer

“I was awarded a Dam Dos Mobility Grant in 2019, which helped me take part in the SEA Choreolab in Malaysia. Artists from around Asia were invited to share their experiences and collaborate on contemporary dance. The program gave me experience about combining different ideas to create something new. I learned that it is not only important to have the techniques to make beautiful movements, but also to understand exactly what we want to do, and what message we want the audience to take away. Overall, the Dam Dos Mobility Grant was very helpful in supporting me to build my capacity and achieve my goals.”

2018-19: INVESTING IN CHANGEMAKERS

We help dedicated, passionate artists and cultural workers to use their ideas and influence to make a difference in society, by offering opportunities for training, development and networking.

2018 Arn Chorn-Pond Scholarship Students (2018 intake)

Helping talented people to pursue careers in the arts.



BO Ratha

Circus Artist
from Siem Reap



CHAN Pisey

Graphic Designer from
Battambang



MAK Chantha

Dancer
from Ratanakiri



NE Sovanneath

Architecture Student
from Phnom Penh



PHE Phearom

Interior Designer
From Phnom Penh



PRAK Engleran

Musician
from Siem Reap



SAMUT Vatha

Sculpture Student
from Phnom Penh



SOY Sina

Writer
From Phnom Penh



TANG Eng Eang

Architect
From Phnom Penh



TIP Savry

Singer
From Phnom Penh

2018 Living Arts Fellows

Our professional development program for mid-career artists and arts managers.



NANG Yanna

Artist and
Puppet-maker,
Artsolute-Cambodia



KIM Ann Arun

Writer and Script
Supervisor, Khmer
Mekong Films

2018 Artist Fellows

One month in residence at the Vermont Studio Center, and a networking program in and around New York City.



HANG Sokharo

Independent
filmmaker



TAN Vatey

Visual artist -
drawings, paintings,
mixed media
installations.



TOR Vutha

Artist and art teacher,
Phare Ponleu Selpak



SREY Bandaul

Artist, Co-Founder of
Phare Ponleu Selpak



THORN Seyma

Artistic Production
Manager, The Khmer
Magic Music Bus



YIM Sotheary

Arts Therapist,
Clinical Psychologist

2018 Dam Dos Grantees

Grants that support artistic and research projects; and participation in workshops, conferences, and residencies in Asia.



CHAN Pisey

Digital Artist, attended International Children's Content Right Fair in Chiang Mai, Thailand



KHIEV Kanel

Photographer, attended Singapore Biennial 2019



Case Study: Arts & Environment Festival

Each year, the Living Arts Fellows undertake a group project. The 2017 Fellows developed the first Arts & Environment Festival, at Sambor Prei Kuk, Pagoda and School in Kampong Thom Province. They independently continued the festival the following year, and now plan to make it an annual event.



PICH Sopheavy

Attended SEA Choreolab 2019 in Rimbun Dahan, Malaysia



HANG Sokharo

Researching for the new film script: "Memories of the river"



NANG Yanna

Documentation and research: "The history of puppets in Cambodia"



PHAL Youphea

Creating a short animated film: "Dream"



SOUS Sinath

Staging the second Arts and Environment Festival in Kampong Thom province



SRUN Rida

Exploring the printmaking arts of Cambodia

"We see the issue nowadays about the environment, and we want to engage in sustainable development through arts and culture in Cambodia.

We strongly believe that arts and creativity can have a big impact in terms of social change. Through the festival, a lot of people from the Kampong Thom community will benefit including local artists and the younger generation.

People will both learn more about Cambodian art and culture and understand more about the importance of protecting the environment.

We want to make Sambor Prei Kuk Pagoda a model for managing a cultural tourism site with good environmental responsibility.

It is recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage site, and more and more tourists are coming. So, we want to help the community there to be ready and to know how to understand and protect their place."

- **SOUS Sinath**, Living Arts Fellow 2017 and Director of Arts & Environment Festival

Mobility First! Grants in partnership with Asia-Europe Foundation

Rayjinar Anne Marie SALCEDO (Sangam House Writers' Residency, India)
Kayleigh Chian Ching GOH (Yogya Art Lab Residency, Indonesia)
Mark SALVATUS (900mdpl site-specific art project, Indonesia)
Deepti ASTHANA (Angkor Photo Festival and Workshops, Cambodia)
Jiradej MEEMALAI (Asian Cultural Forum, India)
Cong Tung TRUONG (Practice-led research trip, France)
Drik Picture Library (Chobi Mela International Festival of Photography, Bangladesh)

■ 2018-19: CREATIVE YOUNG MINDS

Culture & Arts Education

In January 2017, we launched a five-year pilot program to develop a model for culture and arts education in Cambodia's public education system. We are working in partnership with the Ministry of Education Youth and Sports (MoEYS), the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts (MoCFA), and UNESCO. Project highlights to date include:

- Creation of **syllabi for grades 7, 8 and 9** for the subjects of Drawing & Handicraft and Music & Dance.
- 72 classes operating, totalling more than **3000 students** around the country that benefit from the project so far.
- **4 Creative education workshops** delivered to more than 40 participants.
- 26 hours of arts education at New Generation School per week, reaching more than **500 students**.
- **Successful advocacy** to expand national arts education curriculum to cover grade 9.
- Working with **8 instructors of arts education** at the Teacher Education College in Phnom Penh and 3 in Battambang.
- **Consulting the government** on the curriculum for future arts education teachers at the Teacher Education Colleges.
- Development of a **creative resource library** for teachers to use in lesson planning.
- Supporting students in **self-organized art clubs**.

With thanks to:

CHHOR Sao Leng, CHHUM Kakada, CHIM Sundalin, MAO Samnang, MON Nevy, MOUL Suy Heeng, MUTH Koh Somaly, SAM Komsan, SAMBATH Soksan, SAO Sovann, SORN Chanthea, SUM Sithoeun, TOP Samy, TOUCH Borin

Arts for Transformation Course

The first Arts for Transformation: The Case of Cambodia course in 2016 was developed for undergraduates at New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD), and taught by our Executive Director Phloeon PRIM.

The course looks at the role arts and culture can play in transforming a post-conflict society like Cambodia. As well as classroom time in Abu Dhabi, it includes a field trip to Cambodia.

The class has now been taught three times. During the field visits to Cambodia, we connected with students and faculty from Pannasastra University Cambodia (PUC). This exchange has been so successful that from 2019, thanks to the support of PUC leadership, we have made the full Arts for Transformation course available as an elective module for PUC students.

We are launching the course at the Royal University of Fine Arts, taught by artistic director and choreographer CHEY Chankethya. In August 2020, for the first time we will deliver the Arts for Transformation course as a two-week intensive, immersive study program in Cambodia. The course will be taught in English and open to students and practitioners from around the world.

Read more at artsfortransformation.cambodianlivingarts.org

“I think it is important that students are asked questions that provoke in-depth thinking and give them opportunity to debate, and to discuss the role that arts and culture play in the Cambodian context.”

- NOUN Sonny, 2017 Arts for Transformation student



■ 2018-19: SUSTAINABLE CAREERS THROUGH ARTS

Dance Troupe Incubator

Our cultural enterprise Experience Cambodian Living Arts supports 38 artists in a Dance Troupe Incubator in Phnom Penh.

This is a two-year vocational training program providing emerging artists with stable and meaningful employment, while also giving them the opportunity to work with top directors, and to benefit from regular personal and professional development training.

The artists perform in the daily show at the National Museum of Cambodia, as well as providing arts workshops and performances at events around Cambodia and abroad.

In 2019, Experience Cambodian Living Arts expanded this model to Siem Reap, working with all-female multi-instrumentalist troupe Medha, who combine original music, dance, song and storytelling.

"Since I joined the incubator program, I have improved dance skills, as well as my communication, my English language ability, and I have learned more about teamwork. The training workshops have given me better artistic skills, as well as more general professional skills I can use in daily life.

Being part of the troupe has given me the opportunity to do a job I love while learning more about it. I've joined international workshops and learned about other cultures while sharing Cambodian culture. I've developed new ideas to develop my career in the future."

- **CHHOET Sokha**, Dancer in Experience Cambodian Living Arts' Incubator Program

Career Skills Training

Our Professional Development short-courses, first launched in 2014, provide essential non-artistic skills for building careers in arts - from budgeting and marketing, to teamwork and goal setting.

In 2018, the Secondary School of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh incorporated our program into their curriculum, making it a requirement for all fourth year students.

"I learned characteristics of professional artists such as being open-minded and always ready to learn, having specific skills, a good attitude, and practising regularly."

"I learned about creating personal vision, that reflects my dream. And having a mission to help me to achieve this dream, as well as values that motivate me to do things with love."

"(The Art of Teamwork module taught me to) cooperate, give ideas, tolerate, to not be selfish, and to encourage and listen to each other."



2018-19: STORIES OF CONTEMPORARY CAMBODIA

Since 2017, CLA's strategic focus has been creativity and expression. We make small grants, run creative workshops and commission new productions. We present a selection of these works to the public each year through festivals and a performance season.

Tradition & Life: *Stories from the Kreung Community*

Tong Nong Leh Village Arts Troupe come from the Kreung community in Ratanakiri province, Northeast Cambodia.

The Kreung are one of Cambodia's many ethnic minorities, with their own language and traditions. CLA commissioned the troupe to create a new piece to be performed in the 2018 Cultural Season 'Exploring Identities'.

Historically, the arts and customs of minority groups have been appropriated and performed around Cambodia without context - so by commissioning this work, we aimed to give Tong Nong Leh Village Arts Troupe a platform to share their own stories to audiences in Phnom Penh.

Directed by former Arn Chorn-Pond Scholarship Student CHREUS Sarun, the troupe performed an offering ceremony, followed by the traditional Dong Tek Dance, which shows a long-standing Kreung tradition of getting water from the river and well. The performance concluded with a new piece combining dance and modern spoken theater developed in collaboration with CHUMVAN "Belle" Sodhachivy. Called 'Tradition and Life', this piece highlights beliefs in spiritual healing as well as in modern science.



SAO Sreymao: *Independent Visual Artist*

"In 2017, I received a small Dam Dos project grant from CLA. I focused on people living around the Mekong River, their situation before and after a hydroelectricity project was built, and the movement of community and loss of identity.

This grant supported my travel, to the province for research, and for the exhibition, and the CLA team also gave me advice.

I think this is good for artists who want to express their concepts through artistic projects, and I really encourage other artists to apply for this small grant to implement their own projects."

■ 2018-19: CONTINUITY OF HERITAGE

REPfest New Traditional Music Festival

REPfest is an international festival of New Traditional Music, bringing together artists from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and Japan.

With performances, exchanges, and interactive workshops, REPfest aims to inspire those taking part to develop their music creatively, and to share it with new audiences, through performances, exchanges, and interactive workshops.

REPfest takes its name from Siem Reap's airport code, an international hub in Cambodia's ancient former capital. CLA's 'Heritage Hub' based in Siem Reap is a center for the practice, research, and development of Cambodia's intangible cultural heritage.

"We are thrilled to host the second edition of REPfest in September 2019. It is a great chance for artists from the Mekong and Japan to meet and explore each other's cultures, and learn about our similarities and differences.

Beyond that, it is a platform through which all the participating artists can share what the arts mean to them, and the roles and values arts play in societies around Asia"

SONG Seng, *Heritage Hub Manager*

"I wish we had a festival like REPfest in Vietnam to really exchange and collaborate with our neighbouring countries like Cambodia, Laos or Thailand."

Mai Khoi, *singer from Vietnam*



The Khmer Magic Music Bus

The KMMB has been working with remote communities in Oddar Meanchey province and in Chhay Areng Valley, Koh Kong province, to preserve and develop some of Cambodia's most endangered musical forms.

'I am so excited to have a proper class and students to continue Ken (a bamboo mouth organ). I have felt concerned for many years, because I'm getting older and older, that if there are no new students coming to learn, this art form will disappear one day. I really want to see and transfer my knowledge and skills to young people and my big dream is to see my students performing for people. I am grateful to The Khmer Magic Music Bus and CLA for their great support to the new Ken class, and for helping to make this art from bloom again. I will be strongly committed to teaching my students.'

- Master MUN Hai

Ken Master, Oddar Meanchey Province

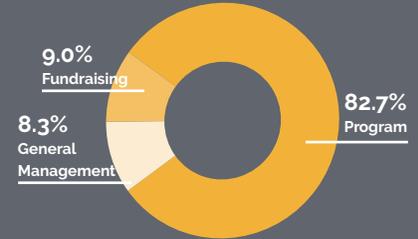
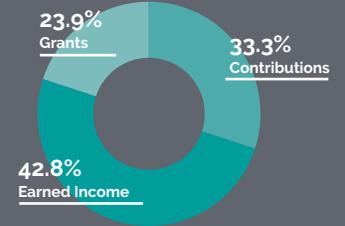


FINANCIALS

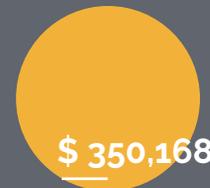
Finance Report: FY18

INCOME	
Contributions	\$ 546,250
Earned Income	\$ 702,400
Grants	\$ 392,750
Total	\$ 1,641,400

EXPENSES	
Program	\$ 1,328,350
General Management	\$ 133,550
Fundraising	\$ 144,000
Total	\$ 1,605,900
Balance	\$ 35,500



BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



Direct payment to artists including performance fees & related expenses



Workshop & trainings for artists & others working in the sector



Scholarships & grants



Costs associated with newly-commissioned pieces

Institutional Partners



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Cambodian Living Arts
operates under the
patronage of His Majesty
King Norodom Sihamoni

MEKONG CULTURAL HUB



In 2017, Living Arts International set up a sister organisation to CLA, Mekong Cultural Hub (MCH).

MCH's programs and projects are designed to facilitate connection and collaboration between creative practitioners working at the intersection of arts and society in the Mekong Region and Taiwan.

To date, MCH has worked with a network of over 50 dynamic artists and managers around the region.

For more information, please see www.mekongculturalhub.org.

THANK YOU

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Special Thanks

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Cambodian Association of Victoria
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International Federation of Arts Councils and
Culture Agencies (IFACCA)
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Communications & Outreach Coordinator
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