



PRESS RELEASE CAMBODIAN LIVING ARTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

New collaboration to strengthen culture and arts education in Cambodia

18 January, Phnom Penh

Cambodian Living Arts (CLA) in partnership with the Ministry of Education Youth and Sport (MoEYS), and with the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts (MoCFA) and UNESCO as partners, is happy to announce the launch of a new 5-year project to improve culture and arts education. This partnership will be sealed with the signing of an MOU at 3pm on Friday 27 January, 2017.

CLA, the MoEYS, MoCFA, and UNESCO are working together with a number of other NGOs working in the fields of arts, culture and education. They will carry out a pilot program at Sisowath High School in Phnom Penh, before rolling out the project in centers across Cambodia.

The project aims to develop curious and creative young people, who engage with their society with a deep understanding of their own cultural context. It follows a year-long process of research and development, building on the successes of existing culture and arts programs between arts NGOs and public schools, including Bophana Center, Krousar Thmey, Phare Ponleu Selpak and Epic Arts.

Cambodian Living Arts believes that arts are at the heart of a vital society, and that culture and arts play an essential role in the sustainable development of the country. CLA has supported arts education since its beginnings, through community-based classes and other programs that give young people access to cultural experiences and to their own cultural heritage. This 5-year collaboration will form the legacy of CLA's masters teaching program, and founder Arn CHORN-POND's vision for children throughout Cambodia to play music and to know their culture.

CLA Arts Education Manager SUON Bun Rith said,

“Today, culture and the arts is often overlooked or thought of as less important than other subjects in the Cambodian education system. CLA and our partners to this project believe that culture and arts education strengthens the overall learning capacities of students; cultivates creative thinking; and provides an opportunity to learn about the rich culture of artistry that exists in Cambodia.”

The signing of the MOU will take place at Cabinet of MoEYS, (Meeting Room A) at #80, Norodom Blvd. Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, at 3.00pm on Friday 27 January, 2017. To attend, please contact sokim@cambodianlivingarts.org or phone 070 596 076.

Notes for Editors

Cambodian Living Arts

- Cambodian Living Arts was founded by Arn Chorn-Pond in 1998.
- Cambodian Living Arts is an independent not-for profit organization, based in Phnom Penh.

- The mission of Cambodian Living Arts is to facilitate the transformation of Cambodia through the arts. We work in collaboration with others to create an environment where Cambodian arts empower and transform individuals and communities. We do this by encouraging the growth of artists and the arts community, by promoting awareness of the arts, and by advocating for the arts with cultural policymakers and major institutions. In doing so, we aim to create value and understanding of what it means to be Cambodian and to create a sense of unity and shared culture. We believe that through creativity we can each expand our potential as human beings.