



Happy 2018!

Here's 2017 thank you's from Cambodian Living Arts!

2017 has been an amazing year for Cambodian Living Arts and 2018 plans on being just as exciting! In this newsletter you can see our highlights from 2017 and also what we have planned for this year!

The Cambodian Living Arts team wishes you a special 2018 full of love and happiness and we look forward to keeping you updated on our 2018 journey and more!

Bangsokol: A Requiem for Cambodia Premieres

In October, our latest stage production "[Bangsokol: A Requiem for Cambodia](#)", the first symphonic work addressing the traumas of the late 70s in Cambodia, premiered at Melbourne Festival.

In December, the multimedia art piece was performed at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) in New York and at two sold-out shows at ArtsEmerson in Boston.

Under the thematic umbrella of "arts after conflict", we curated diverse ancillary events including film screenings by director Rithy Panh, workshops by composer Dr. Him Sophy, *bangsokol* ceremonies at community pagodas, introductions and post-show discussions about the piece and a panel discussion featuring Angelina Jolie, Loung Ung, Rithy Panh and CLA's Executive Director Phloeun Prim.

Standing ovations on three of the four nights in the U.S. and all the personal testimonies touched us deeply and reassured us that "Bangsokol: A Requiem for Cambodia" is more than just a piece of art – it is an immersive experience to honor the souls of those who have experienced violent conflict, to bridge generational gaps and to celebrate the arts as a medium for transformation.



A huge thank you to all of the staff, board members, partners and supporters for helping us to present *Bangsokol: A Requiem for Cambodia* to the world!

A special thank you to those individuals that helped to create our

contextual programs in New York and Boston!

New York: Carol BECKER, Amy CASSELLO, Chhaya CHHOUM, Rachel COOPER, Angelina JOLIE, Joseph V. MELILLO, Socheatta MENG, Khemara NHANN, Elena PARK, Shanny PEER, Kenny SENG, Loung UNG, Thida VIRAK, Darren WALKER and Chi-Hui YANG

Boston: Akiba ABAKA, Dona CADY, Susan CHINSEN, Emily HOWE, Samkhann KHOEUN, Fatimah MATEEN, Rady MOM, Nicole OLUSANYA, Sovanna POUV, Linda Sopheap SOU and Dahvy TRAN

You can see all our incredible supporters [here](#)

Arts Education



In January 2017, we launched a five-year pilot program to develop a model for culture and arts education in the public education system. We are working in partnership with the Ministry of Education Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, and UNESCO, and we will collaborate with arts and culture organizations from around Cambodia with a range of different experiences.

The project has two focus areas:

- Culture & Arts Education Policy: including national curriculum development, teacher training and advocacy
- Culture & Arts Education Practice: including after school clubs and workshops, artist talks, film screenings and arts programming including performances and exhibitions in schools.

During 2017 we launched regular clubs, talks, screenings and performances at the new Preah Sisowath Cluster Arts Center in Phnom Penh; hosted the first conference on arts education in Cambodia, which will form the basis of an ongoing advocacy network to be started in 2018, contributed to National Curriculum Development and also partnered with New Generation School in Phnom Penh to start regular grade 7 arts teaching to 100 students per week for the new academic year!

Thank you to Common Sense Fund and Rei Foundation for supporting this project to bring our Arts Education program to life!



COMMONSENSEFUND

REPfest: World Music Festival

During October 27-29, we hosted an international festival dedicated to world music, drawing artists from around Asia for three days of performances, workshops and forums.

We hosted artists and audiences at four venues in Siem Reap, including our **Heritage Hub** center.

This festival brought together artists from around Cambodia and Asia, with a focus on the Greater Mekong, allowing them to share their experiences and skills, and helping to sow the seeds for future collaboration in the region.





Special thank you to World Culture Open (WCO) and Asia Center Japan Foundation who supported this amazing project!



Dam Dos ('Plant & Grow') Small Grant Program

In August we officially announced the start of our Dam Dos ('Plant & Grow') small grant program!

These grants aim to give artists working in the arts and culture sector the opportunity to develop new and creative projects, or to improve their skills through training, workshops, and conferences. We want to create opportunities for groups and individuals to help advance the Cambodian arts and culture sector, especially for those who have not had access to similar opportunities before.

We have received a fantastic and diverse range of applications for our project and mobility grants!



We look forward to announcing the grant recipients in February!

Five Year Strategic Plan (2017-2021)



We were excited to release our five-year strategic plan in January 2017! As part of our plan we aim to promote creativity and innovation in the arts sector, and to build links with our neighbors in the Greater Mekong region and further afield in Asia. We are also working to get more arts and culture education into Cambodian public schools, and to increase performance opportunities for Cambodian artists!

2017 has shown that we are well on our way to seeing our vision and mission come to life!

We have new websites!

The main website of CLA: www.cambodianlivingarts.org

Find out about our ongoing activities, and see what is open to join now:

www.cambodianlivingarts.org/our-work/

Experience CLA: Find out about our Traditional Dance Show, book workshops, tours and private performances: www.experience.cambodianlivingarts.org

Microsite for special project Bangsokol: A Requiem for Cambodia:

www.bangsokol.cambodianlivingarts.org



**CAMBODIAN
LIVING ARTS**

Coming Up In 2018!

- A new season of performances, commissions and talks on the theme "Exploring Identities"
- Launching after school and weekend arts programs at a third Cluster Arts Center, expanding the education program further outside of Phnom Penh
- Changing our way of working with artists in the Traditional Dance Show at the National Museum to support a new dance troupe, who will have more chances for training and their own creative projects while earning a better monthly salary for performing in the show.
- We will take our commission "Bangsokol: A Requiem for Cambodia" to Paris – and continue laying the groundwork for it to come to Cambodia in 2019.

Without the hearts of each and every one of you, our vital work would not be possible!

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to all you for your ongoing support and love for Cambodian Living Arts and the work that we do.

Help us achieve our 2018 goals here!

STAY CONNECTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA

