

# EAST ASIAN OUTDOOR ARTS

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# XTRAX

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XTRAX / SIRF SHOWCASE 2019  
AS PART OF PLATFORM 4: UK



LOTTERY FUNDED



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# INTRODUCTION

XTRAX is pleased to present a panel discussion and networking opportunity for artists, promoters and producers to develop their understanding of the outdoor arts and festival scene across several East Asian countries.

Our showcase events are part of *Platform 4: UK*, an ongoing programme of work designed and delivered by XTRAX and supported by Arts Council England to promote the work of UK outdoor artists internationally. *Platform 4: UK* builds on XTRAX's extensive experience of programming, managing, delivering and evaluating festivals and events in the outdoor sector in the UK and internationally; and aims to develop strong international partnerships across targeted regions such as East Asia and create new markets for UK work. Relationships developed through our 2017 exchange project between the UK and Korea have already led to fruitful collaborations, and we hope that this event will spark the first of many new conversations and partnership opportunities.

***“Platform 4: UK has actually done something quite profound for me because before I'd always wanted to vaguely take my work elsewhere... but I hadn't conceived of myself as the kind of international performer that presented work at Seoul Street Arts Festival, and that's a big deal. It's made my aspirations grow.”***

- Lorna Rees, Gobbledegook Theatre



Focus on South Korea as part of our XTRAX/GDIF showcase 2017

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## Panel Discussion *Outdoor Arts in East Asia*

Friday 2 August 2019, The Point Theatre at ARC (Stockton Arts Centre)

This session is delivered as part of the XTRAX/SIRF showcase 2019, taking place from the 1-4 August in Stockton-on-Tees, UK.

Our speakers for this session have wide-ranging experience of working in Korea, Singapore, China, Hong Kong and Japan. Whilst the countries discussed here may be geographically close, they represent a diversity of artistic approaches, cultural backgrounds and presentation opportunities.

We would like to thank our speakers for the session:

- **Rhanhee Lee**, President of the Korea Street Arts Association and Artistic Director of Ulsan promenade festival (Korea)
- **Crystal Deng**, Artistic Director of Beijing 707 N-Theatre and Xintiandi Festival (China)
- **Cui Yin Mok**, Independent producer (Singapore)
- **Andy Lo**, producer for dancer Hugh Cho and the TS Crew Dance Company (Hong Kong)
- **Worry Kinoshita**, Artistic Director of Strange Seed Festival in Shizuoka (Japan)
- **Sean Gandini**, co-founder of London-based Gandini Juggling (UK)

We have produced this accompanying booklet with the aim of providing an initial overview of the outdoor arts scene in key East Asian countries; highlighting mobility and exchange opportunities between the UK and Asia; giving some context to the growing relations between the UK and Asian outdoor and performing arts markets; and signposting the key organisations and opportunities in each country.

Given the breadth of activity as well as the ever-evolving nature of the performing arts sector, this document is not intended to provide a comprehensive overview but rather to point its readers in the direction of potential allies and partners to facilitate exchange between the UK and East Asia.

The information shared here is a combination of XTRAX's own research and experience together with inputs from international colleagues and practitioners who have worked or visited those countries. We would like to thank artists and organisations who have contributed to the information shared here.

This event would not have been possible without the generous support of Arts Council of England, the UK Department for International Trade and the British Council Japan. We hope that this informative booklet can act as an interesting starting point, complement existing resources and support you in making connections between the UK and East Asia.

**Irene Segura, International Relations / Hannah Hartley, Project Manager**  
**Maggie Clarke, Director XTRAX**

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# THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

International demand for outdoor and site-responsive works is growing, as cultural producers seek new ways to connect audiences and communities with their environments. These artistic programmes connect with wider cultural policy, place-making and urban regeneration agendas and can create unique opportunities for engaging with non-traditional arts audiences.

Exposure to an international context influences and ultimately enriches artists' work, therefore strengthening and evolving the artform - developing creative practice, raising ambition and building confidence. In an increasingly connected world where concepts of global and local are being redefined artists should look to develop sustainable work that goes beyond regional and national borders, and the performing arts present interesting opportunities to overcome pre-existing linguistic borders.

It is also important to note that the outdoor sector is an international market and most outdoor artists rely on international touring for their survival. XTRAX's priority for the sector post-Brexit is to maintain opportunities for artists to work abroad and develop relationships with potential bookers, both in Europe and beyond.

There is a strong UK appetite for connecting with East Asia and with it an increase in mobility opportunities and opportunities for collaboration. However, information for cultural professionals and artists can feel out of reach and given the diversity of artistic approaches, cultural differences and presentation opportunities across the region, it can be difficult to identify where to begin.

The area has a rich cultural history and is a growing power on the global stage, characterised by technological innovation and rapid economic and urban development. Several governments across the region are actively seeking to improve their arts infrastructure and develop their cultural policies, with demand for art programmes that can help drive social change.

We refer to a selection of countries in the East Asian region in this booklet, which are geographically close but have specific national characteristics to take into consideration when identifying where your work might best connect.

***“We wouldn't have got to Korea if it wasn't for XTRAX. They gave us an international platform outside of Europe and gave us opportunities to see work we might not have seen in Europe.”***

- Kevin Turner, Co-Artistic Director, Company Chameleon

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# CHINA

China's rapid growth in recent years is well documented, and the country has seen an explosion in the cultural industries with some extraordinary statistics – in 2014 more than one new museum and seven new cinema screens opened *per day*. Opportunities for outdoor performance exist particularly in the urban centres, as well as within established festivals and across a series of annual events such as New Year celebrations or Spring Festivals.

**China Now** is the British Council's digital platform for organisations and artists interested in working in China and Hong Kong. It is free to register and offers feature stores, events, new, opportunities and research [www.britishcouncil.cn/en/programmes/arts/china-now](http://www.britishcouncil.cn/en/programmes/arts/china-now)

**UK-China Connections through Culture Grants** is a rolling grant scheme from the British Council. The scheme offers development grants for artists and arts organisations in the UK and China to support long term cultural collaboration between the two countries, as well as advice, support and networking opportunities [www.britishcouncil.cn/en/programmes/arts/connections-culture](http://www.britishcouncil.cn/en/programmes/arts/connections-culture)

**China Residencies** maps, researches and presents a free online directory of residency opportunities in mainland China and Hong Kong across all artforms and disciplines, as well as advising organisations on starting and running residency programmes. [www.chinaresidencies.com](http://www.chinaresidencies.com)



*Shenzhen Fringe Festival*

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Although not specifically tailored to the outdoor sector, **The Mapping China report**, commissioned by DutchCulture, provides a general overview of China's performing arts market [www.dutchculture.nl/en/mapping/mapping-china-updated](http://www.dutchculture.nl/en/mapping/mapping-china-updated)

Key events in the North:

**China (Beijing) Performing Arts Expo** organised by the China Association of Performing Arts (CAPA) is the major showcase in China for the performing arts sector [www.facebook.com/ChinaAssociationofPerformingArts/](http://www.facebook.com/ChinaAssociationofPerformingArts/)

**Xi'an International Theatre Festival for Children** organised by Ninedu Theatre Company is one of the biggest theatre festivals in China, and the first international theatre festival for children held outdoors [www.assitej-international.org/en/festival/xian-international-theatre-festival-for-children/](http://www.assitej-international.org/en/festival/xian-international-theatre-festival-for-children/)

Key events in the Central regions:

**Wuzhen Theatre Festival** is an annual theatre festival with outdoor carnival throughout the streets of Wuzhen including street theatre, music and contemporary performance art [www.wuzhenfestival.com](http://www.wuzhenfestival.com)

**China Shanghai International Arts Festival (CSIAF)** is an annual international arts festival hosted by the Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism. As a major part of the festival the **China Shanghai Performing Arts Fair (China SPAF)** is the leading annual marketplace for new work from China, connecting international creators and arts professionals [www.artsbird.com/en/](http://www.artsbird.com/en/)

**DANCESTAGES** Shanghai Dance Festival is a young festival programming some outdoor work [www.dancestages.org/en](http://www.dancestages.org/en)

**Xintiandi Festival** [www.xintiandi.com/en/arts-culture/](http://www.xintiandi.com/en/arts-culture/)

**Shengzhou Yue Opera Town** is a miniature of Wuzhen Theatre Festival, mainly presenting Chinese traditional opera [www.yuejutown.com](http://www.yuejutown.com)

Key events in the South:

**Guangzhou International Outdoor Performance Festival** - official WeChat account  
(广州国际户外艺术节, ID: GZ-IOPF, in Chinese)

**Shenzhen Fringe Festival** presents a wide-ranging programme of arts in the public realm [www.szfringe.org](http://www.szfringe.org)

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# HONG KONG

Hong Kong is one of the busiest cities in the world, driven first and foremost by trade and commerce. There is significant commitment from the government in the arts, as evidenced by the recent development of the West Kowloon Cultural District, one of the world's largest cultural quarters. Although less developed than countries such as South Korea in terms of the outdoor art sector, there is an appetite for bringing performing arts to the public realm through a growing number of curated programmes. There are many precedents for this led by the visual arts sector – for example the Harbour Arts Sculpture Park, K11 Art Mall, the vibrant street mural scene and festival (HKwalls), and the ambitious Event Horizon project and installation by UK sculptor Antony Gormley initiated by the British Council.

**Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC)** supports the development of the arts through grants, policy, advocacy and programme planning. Grant support is available if you are partnering with individual artists and non-profit arts organisations ordinarily based in / operating in Hong Kong [www.hkadc.org.hk](http://www.hkadc.org.hk)

**Hong Kong Performing Arts Directory** is a useful online directory of performing arts individuals and groups in Hong Kong [www.hkpadirectory.hk](http://www.hkpadirectory.hk)

**The Hong Kong Economic Trade Office, London (HKETO)** represents the Special Administrative Region Government in the UK and works to promote economic, trade and cultural links. Their website provides comprehensive information on government services, work, business and transportation for those looking to work in Hong Kong [www.hketolondon.gov.hk](http://www.hketolondon.gov.hk)

**Hong Kong Arts Centre** is a multi-artform venue which has produced a range of outdoor arts programmes [www.hkac.org.hk](http://www.hkac.org.hk)

The **Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre (JCCAC)** regularly organises large-scale public events, and the month-long 'JCCAC Festival' held in December each year [www.jccac.org.hk](http://www.jccac.org.hk)

**Hong Kong Arts Festival** presents local and international artists in all genres of the performing arts [www.hk.artsfestival.org](http://www.hk.artsfestival.org)

The **Tai Kwun Centre for Heritage and Arts** is a new cultural hub with a central outdoor space, presenting a contemporary circus festival and with a growing interest in outdoor performances [www.taikwun.hk](http://www.taikwun.hk)

The biannual **City Contemporary Dance Festival (CCDF)** holds its second edition in 2019 and is presenting an increasing number of outdoor works. CCDF invites international presenters to the 'DanceX' dance market, which in collaboration with SiDance (Seoul, South Korea) and Yokohama Dance Collection (Yokohama, Japan) creates a platform for East Asian Dance [www.ccdfestival.hk](http://www.ccdfestival.hk)

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**West Kowloon Cultural District** is newly developed as one of the world's largest cultural quarters with significant indoor and outdoor performance venues [www.westkowloon.hk](http://www.westkowloon.hk)

They have been organising festivals and outdoor events with music as the backbone, accompanied by a variety of outdoor performances, dance, theatre, workshops, art installations and other activities happening around the music stage.

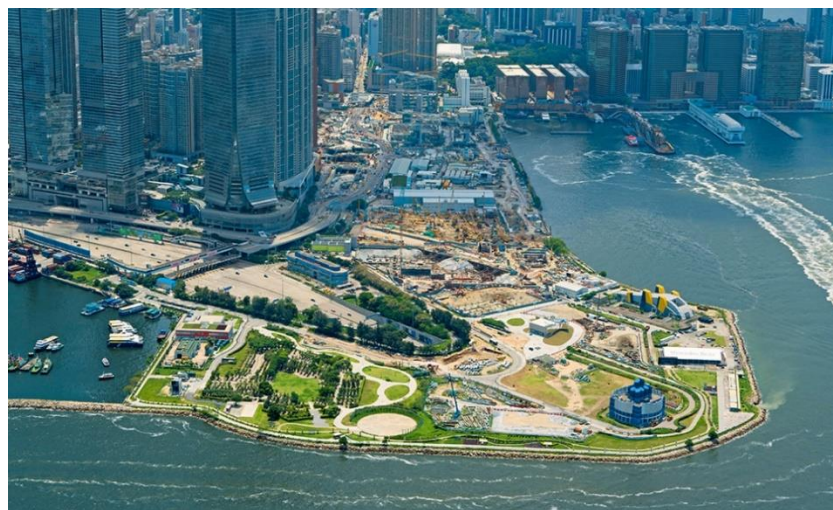
From 2012 to 2014, Freespace Fest, a two-day multidisciplinary annual festival, set off as the first outdoor cultural event within the district. It showcased the very best local and international acts across various art forms, which included Dream Engine, Osadia, Stalker, La Fura dels Baus, Forest Fringe and Gravity and Other Myths attracting audiences of around 100,000 across the 3 events.

Building on the success of the festivals, a series of free outdoor events called Freespace Happenings take place on the second weekend of each month between September to March, where families and friends can enjoy live music, dance, theatre and literary arts.

Upon the opening of Hong Kong's new Freespace centre for contemporary performance, the district will continue to provide unique indoor and outdoor arts experiences for all visitors within this dynamic, flexible and creative venue. New ventures will include a year-round series called Freespace Livehouse Outdoors, which welcome multi-disciplinary outdoor art activations and a new Freespace Jazz Fest which will happen annually in November.



*s.l.o.a.p by Branch Nebula & The Heliosphere as part of Freespace Fest*



*West Kowloon Cultural District*

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# SOUTH KOREA

The outdoor arts scene in South Korea has experienced an unprecedented growth since the 2000s and it is now one of the Asian countries with the highest number of festivals, artists and organisations dedicated to the development of the sector. Its rapid economic and social development as well as its place as one of the leaders in technological innovation has allowed for cities like Seoul to become hubs for street arts. South Korea hosts numerous festivals running from May to October, impressive creation centres, a performing arts market and a strong infrastructure to support the international export of Korean arts.

**Korea Street Arts Association** has over 200 members, including companies, artists, festivals and producers working in the outdoor arts sector in Korea

Their activities include: Research and Education Programmes (such as a street theatre academy, international relations); Street Arts Market and Networking Programmes (annual arts market for street theatres and professionals in Korea); Programming and planning for street arts events; Publications and Reviews as well as consultancy on cultural policies [www.streetarts.kr](http://www.streetarts.kr)

**Korean Arts Management Service (KAMS)** was founded in 2006 and supports international exchange as well as offering diverse research, consulting and educational programs to develop Korean arts professionals and the sector. Especially relevant is Center Stage (their yearly programme to support the international export of Korean performing arts) and the KAMS online Directory [www.eng.gokams.or.kr](http://www.eng.gokams.or.kr)

**Arts Council Korea (ARKO)** focuses on establishing infrastructure for non-profit and boundary-pushing projects across literature, visual arts, performing arts, and traditional arts, as well as supporting those sectors to flourish [www.arko.or.kr](http://www.arko.or.kr)

**Seoul Street Arts Creation Centre (SSACC)** is the only Asian creation centre solely focused on outdoor arts. This impressive space is housed in a former water tank complex, which makes it the perfect space for supporting projects of all scales. The centre aims to support professional circus and street artists, as well as to raise awareness of these (still young) artforms and provide opportunities for exchange. Their new residency spaces will allow SSACC to offer international residencies from 2019 onwards [www.ssacc.sfac.or.kr](http://www.ssacc.sfac.or.kr)

**Mapo Oil Tank Culture Park** is a grade 1 security facility which, having been strictly prohibited from public access and usage for the last 40 years, has been transformed into an environment-friendly culture space presenting festivals, exhibitions, performances and cultural events since 2017. The Seoul Metropolitan Government is operating various participatory programs created, produced and shared among citizens at the Oil Tank Culture Park [www.parks.seoul.go.kr/template/sub/culturetank.do](http://www.parks.seoul.go.kr/template/sub/culturetank.do)

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Key events:

**Ansan Street Arts Festival (ASAF)** started in 2005 and is an international festival held every May in the city of Ansan, about one-hour South West from Seoul [www.ansanfest.com](http://www.ansanfest.com)

Now in its 23rd edition, **Suwon Theatre Festival** focuses on the arts in public space and unconventional theatre and is held in the end of May. Under the slogan of “Party in the forest”, it takes place in the wooded Gyeonggi Sangsang Campus [www.swcf.or.kr/stf/english/](http://www.swcf.or.kr/stf/english/)



*Bongnjoule, Seoul Street Arts Festival*

**Seoul Street Arts Festival (SSAF)** formerly known as ‘Hi Seoul Festival’ is now the largest outdoor festival in South Korea, presenting a large programme of Korean and international companies as well as offering some professional meetings and networking opportunities. It takes place every October across outdoor/indoor venues in Seoul [www.ssaf.or.kr/html\\_eng/](http://www.ssaf.or.kr/html_eng/)

**Gwacheon Festival** was established in 1997 and although it experienced a big shift in 2015 (when the city changed the festival theme from street arts to horses), the festival is back to hosting performances in this city’s public spaces, including some international companies [www.gcfest.or.kr](http://www.gcfest.or.kr)

**Goyang Lake-park Arts Festival** is an annual international street arts festival which presents theatre, dance, mime and music [www.gylaf.kr](http://www.gylaf.kr)

Korea is seeing the proliferation of several other festivals which present outdoor arts, such as **ACC Gwangju Fringe International Festival** [www.fringeinternational.kr/](http://www.fringeinternational.kr/), **Ulsan Promenade Festival** [www.upfestival.org](http://www.upfestival.org), **Pohang Street Arts Festival** [www.phcf.or.kr](http://www.phcf.or.kr), **Sejong Festival** [www.sejongfestival.co.kr](http://www.sejongfestival.co.kr), **Busan Street Arts Festival**, and **Circus Cabaret**, which takes place at Seoul Street Arts Creation Centre.

**PAMS (Performing Arts Market in Seoul)** is the main performing arts market in Korea, presenting a curated programme of performances, presentations, networking opportunities, pitches as well as a marketplace with stands. Held every year at the beginning of October, it provides a meeting point for delegates attending other events which happen around the same dates, such as SIDance (Seoul International Dance Festival) or Seoul Street Arts Festival [www.pams.or.kr](http://www.pams.or.kr)

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# JAPAN

Whilst several Japanese venues and festivals present street arts shows created by international as well as local companies, the outdoor arts sector is still young compared to its neighbouring countries, and some feel that street arts is still seen as a lower art form, in need of some more recognition.

A growing interest in the sector is evidenced by an increase in the number of outdoor performances being presented in some key festivals, as well as by an extensive network of small-scale (often busking) festivals. There are several initiatives and upcoming opportunities with the potential to develop the sector further, such as a co-production by disabled artists from Japan, the UK and Bangladesh as part of the British Council supported **UK in JAPAN 2019-20 season**.

As the British Council states on their website, '**UK in JAPAN 2019-20** is an ambitious joint initiative by the British Council and the British Embassy Tokyo highlighting the breadth of the UK relationship with Japan, from culture to business. Starting from the Rugby World Cup in September 2019 and running through to the end of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in September 2020, UK in JAPAN 2019-20 presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to deepen the close bonds between Japan and the UK.' [www.britishcouncil.jp/en/uk-japan-2019-20](http://www.britishcouncil.jp/en/uk-japan-2019-20)

## **Japan Foundation**

Established in 1972 by the Japanese government, the Japan Foundation, based in Tokyo, has more than 20 overseas offices, with London being one of the longest serving branches. They aim to promote Japanese culture and international exchange between Japan and the rest of the world. They provide financial support for a range of international cultural exchange programmes including the area of performing arts, and organise cultural events throughout the year [www.jpff.org.uk](http://www.jpff.org.uk)

**The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation** was established to enhance mutual appreciation and understanding between the UK and Japan in terms of each other's culture, society and achievements. They have grants available for arts and culture activities [www.gbsf.org.uk](http://www.gbsf.org.uk)

**Arts Council Tokyo** supports several programmes to encourage the creation and dissemination of arts and culture and to promote Tokyo as an international city of artistic and cultural attraction. They run a grant programme supporting international projects, if your project partner is based in Tokyo. [www.artscouncil-tokyo.jp](http://www.artscouncil-tokyo.jp)

**Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre** is an initiative by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government which aims to promote art and culture by presenting quality programmes mainly in the fields of music, theatre, opera and dance. It presents original productions as well as co-producing programmes with outside organisations known for their outstanding artistic performances [www.geigeki.jp](http://www.geigeki.jp)

Key events:

**TPAM (Performing Arts Meeting in Yokohama)** is an international networking platform for performing arts, providing several professional meetings as well as a curated programme of art works [www.tpam.or.jp](http://www.tpam.or.jp)

**Seto la Piste Circus Festival** is the first Japanese circus festival organised by Setouchi Circus Factory showcasing local artists as well as collaborations with international companies [www.setouchicircusfactory.com](http://www.setouchicircusfactory.com)

**Festival Tokyo (F/T)** started in 2009 and presents international theatre and dance, including some outdoor performances [www.festival-tokyo.jp](http://www.festival-tokyo.jp)

**Roppongi Art Night Festival** is a one-night celebration of art staged in the district of Roppongi, Tokyo. It presents a diverse range of artforms including design, music, video and performance, as well as some outdoor shows [www.roppongiartnight.com](http://www.roppongiartnight.com)

**Strange Seed Festival** is part of the World Theatre Festival Shizuoka and presents an exclusively outdoor programme, taking over the streets, parks and squares of Shizuoka [www.strangeseed.info/en](http://www.strangeseed.info/en)

**Dadigoei World Cup in Shizuoka** is a well known street arts and busking competition taking place every year in November [www.daidogei.com](http://www.daidogei.com)



Short-range Man Road Missile, Strange Seed festival



Dundu at Roppongi Night Festival

***“Japan has a rich and diverse cultural heritage, whilst, at the same time, leading the world with advanced technology and innovation, which is reflected within Japanese contemporary culture”***

- East Asia Arts and the UK, British Council publication

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# TAIWAN

Although Taiwan is not represented in this particular panel, it is included here given its relevance in the East Asian performing arts landscape. Arts in Taiwan are supported by the national government, who is investing in new creative hubs and performance spaces. With a long tradition of acrobatics, circus and outdoor arts have been rapidly developing over the last decade, leading to the development of a platform for contemporary circus and the start of new street arts festivals. At the end of 2019 **On the Move** will be launching a cultural mobility funding guide focused on Taiwan, coordinated by On the Move for the **Ministry of Culture of Taiwan**, in partnership with **TASA-Taiwan Art Spaces Alliance**. **The International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA)** will hold one of their 2020 congresses in Taipei.

**Ministry of Culture, Taiwan** aims to cultivate cultural development and promote cultural participation. They support local organisations and companies, as well as cultural exchange [www.english.moc.gov.tw](http://www.english.moc.gov.tw)

**The Cultural Division of Taipei Representative Office in the UK** was set up by Taiwan's Ministry of Culture (MOC) as an overseas office to create more opportunities for Taiwanese artists and groups to showcase their works to the UK audience. The division has been dynamic in cultural events such as Edinburgh Festival Fringe and Liverpool Biennial [www.roc-taiwan.org](http://www.roc-taiwan.org)

The **National Cultural and Arts Foundation Taiwan** assists with the holding of art/cultural events, sponsors the work of arts/cultural organizations, awards grants to art/culture workers, and carries out the provisions of the Culture and Arts Reward Act [www.ncafroc.org.tw](http://www.ncafroc.org.tw)

**Hsingho Co., Ltd.** was founded by the former Cirque du Soleil performer, Hsing-Ho Chen, in 2016. They work for the development of Taiwanese circus arts through training, international cooperation and by organising several events, such as the Circus Lab, Juggling Battles and Circus Platform. They are also pushing for the recognition of street arts and organise some new small street arts festivals [www.hsingho.wordpress.com](http://www.hsingho.wordpress.com)

**The National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying)** opened in October 2018 and is now operating a year-round programme, developing and bringing local as well as international talents to southern Taiwan. With multiple spaces allowing outdoor performances (including an impressive outdoor theatre), the centre already hosts a Circus platform which includes outdoor performances [www.npac-weiwuying.org](http://www.npac-weiwuying.org)



*NKCA Weiwuying*

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Key events:

**Taiwan International Festival of Arts (TIFA)** celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2018 and takes place at the National Theatre and Concert Hall in Taipei presenting a wide-ranging programme of local, Asian and global performances [www.tifa.npac-ntch.org](http://www.tifa.npac-ntch.org)

**Taipei Fringe Festival** borrows from the concept of the ‘fringe’ festival to present a series of more experimental performing art works across various non-traditional and public spaces in Taipei [www.fringefestival.taipei](http://www.fringefestival.taipei)

**Taipei Arts Festival** is organised by the Taipei City Government and Taipei Culture foundation, presenting a series of themed performances at sites across Taipei [www.artsfestival.taipei](http://www.artsfestival.taipei)



*Formosa Circus Art, Taiwan*

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# SINGAPORE

The characteristics of Singapore as a tropical country with a very hot and wet climate year-round bring with it a set of challenges that are directly linked to presenting outdoor work. However, there is a growing interest in placing more performance work in outdoor contexts, and acknowledging its role as an audience development tool seems to be reflected in the presentation of site-responsive and community-engagement projects.

**National Arts Council Singapore's aims** are to empower Singaporeans to create, present and appreciate excellent art; to connect diverse communities in coming together and experiencing arts and to position local artists on the international map. It supports the sector by awarding grants, facilitating partnerships and working on advocacy for the artistic sector [www.nac.gov.sg](http://www.nac.gov.sg)

**Producers SG** is a community network for independent producers, arts managers, and self-producing artists in Singapore [www.producers.sg](http://www.producers.sg)

Based in Singapore, the **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)** connects artists, cultural professionals, non-profit arts organisations, networks & museums in the 51 countries that are part of the **Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)**, an intergovernmental process established in 1996 to foster dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe. ASEF provides access to information, supports face-to-face encounters and opportunities for mutual learning among artists and cultural professionals through travel grants and capacity-building workshops and facilitates conversations between the arts communities in Asia and Europe [www.asef.org](http://www.asef.org)

## Key events:

**Singapore Night Festival (SNF)** is an annual festival of interactive light installations (Night Lights) and street performances by local and international acts held over two weekends in August. The festival is presented in the heart of the Bras Basah Bugis (BBB), Singapore's arts and heritage precinct. The festival grounds are made up of five key zones in the following locales: National Museum of Singapore, Singapore Management University, Cathay Green, Armenian Street, as well as the Singapore Art Museum [www.nightfestival.sg](http://www.nightfestival.sg)

**Singapore International Festival of Arts (SIFA)** is an annual arts festival organised by Arts House Limited and is one of the most significant events in the regional arts scene. It incorporates theatre, dance, music and visual arts by local artists and international artists and presents a mix of scales, from intimate performances to large scale shows [www.sifa.sg](http://www.sifa.sg)

The **M1 Singapore Fringe Festival** is an annual festival of theatre, dance, music, visual arts and mixed media created and presented by Singaporeans and international artists. Based around a different theme each year, the Fringe aims to bring the best of contemporary, cutting-edge and socially engaged works to the Singapore audience [www.singaporefringe.com](http://www.singaporefringe.com)

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# MOBILITY

When thinking about international touring, mobility is one of the things that comes to mind first.

In the UK, the **British Council** is the main international organisation for cultural relations, and is supported by a number of regional and in-country sector specific teams that can help to broker relations and provide country-specific information – from practical advice on visas and translation, to broader cultural research and policy.

The **Theatre and Dance blog** is a good place to start looking for opportunities and reading about issues in the sector: [www.theatreanddance.britishcouncil.org/blog](http://www.theatreanddance.britishcouncil.org/blog)

## Key British Council programmes:

The British Council's **Artist Development Programme** offers bursaries for artists to travel to the Edinburgh Fringe during the British Council's Edinburgh Showcase. The programme is open to UK-based artists who identify as disabled or minority ethnic and who don't regularly travel overseas.

**The Lisa Ullmann Travel Scholarship** provides financial support to individuals who wish to travel abroad or in the UK to attend a conference, to pursue a research project or undertake a short course of study in the field of movement or dance.

**Foundation for Arts Initiatives** gives grants to organisations and individuals for project funding or research that requires travel overseas.

**The Goethe Institut's** International Cooperation Fund gives grants to support artistic collaboration internationally in performing.

[www.theatreanddance.britishcouncil.org/projects/2018/international-ops/](http://www.theatreanddance.britishcouncil.org/projects/2018/international-ops/)

## Other mobility organisations:

**The Circostrada network** works to develop the fields of circus and street arts in Europe and beyond, with more than 100 participating members from over 30 countries. It offers resources, events and seminars that create opportunities for international networking and information sharing  
[www.circostrada.org](http://www.circostrada.org)

**On the Move** is a cultural mobility information network, encouraging cross-border mobility through a wide range of free resources, including regional and national cultural mobility funding guides which can be accessed here: [www.on-the-move.org/funding/asia/](http://www.on-the-move.org/funding/asia/)

**Circostrada** and **On the Move** developed a free mobility guide between Europe and Asia: **SOYA – Stirring Opportunities with Yummy Asia**. It gives an overview and mapping of the Asian circus and street arts scene and provides information on funding mobility schemes  
[www.circostrada.org/en/ressources/circus-and-street-arts-mobility-guide-1-asia](http://www.circostrada.org/en/ressources/circus-and-street-arts-mobility-guide-1-asia)

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**International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts (IETM)** is a network of over 450 performing arts organisations and individual members working in contemporary performance worldwide. IETM hosts meetings globally and commissions publications and research, providing a forum for international exchange [www.ietm.org](http://www.ietm.org)

Developed in partnership with **On the Move**, the **IETM Fund-Finder** provides a detailed overview of public and private funding opportunities for the arts and culture in Europe and beyond: at a national, regional and local level. You can download the previous and latest versions online: [www.ietm.org/en/publications/fund-finder](http://www.ietm.org/en/publications/fund-finder)

**IETM bursaries offered in partnership with the British Council** offer UK d/Deaf, disabled, black, Asian or minority ethnic practitioners the chance to attend a major performing arts networking event in Europe.

**culture360.ASEF.org** is a digital platform offering up-to-date information on arts, culture & heritage from 51 countries in Asia & Europe. Funded by the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), culture360.ASEF.org is for artists, cultural professionals, policy makers & anyone interested in international cultural co-operation. Since 2012, the platform has supported the visibility of selected events through media partnerships.

Other opportunities through the **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)** ([www.asef.org](http://www.asef.org)) include:

*[Mobility First! - ASEF Cultural Mobility Initiative](#)*, a travel grant for artists & cultural professionals

*[ASEF Roadschool - Cultural Capacity Building](#)*, training for young cultural professionals

*[ASEF Unplugged: Conversations on the Arts in Asia & Europe](#)*, an event series that encourages open & informal discussions

*[ASEF Support to the ASEM Cultural Festival](#)*, an annual arts festival alongside ASEM Summits and ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meetings

**XTRAX** has delivered several training sessions on international touring. For resources and notes from seminars, please visit the Artist Resources section of our website:

[www.xtrax.org.uk/category/resources/artists-resources](http://www.xtrax.org.uk/category/resources/artists-resources)

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**For more information about Platform 4:UK please visit:** [www.xtrax.org.uk/project/platform-4-uk/](http://www.xtrax.org.uk/project/platform-4-uk/)



*Joli Vyann performing as part of the 2017 UK Focus at Seoul Street Arts Festival, South Korea*