PLAYlab Call for submissions

PLAYlab is a developmental platform at Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, targeting artists or collectives interested in Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) for children twelve years old and under.

PLAYlab aims to provide opportunities for research and development in the creation of new ideas for TYA productions. These ideas can come in the form of performances, workshops, or other forms of activities. We are excited about new ideas and ways to interact and engage with young audiences through the performing arts, and we hope to enable artists seeking to develop their professional practice in the field of TYA.

Selected groups or individuals will receive an honorarium to develop their ideas under the guidance of PLAYlab Artistic Associate, Ellison Tan Yuyang. These ideas will be presented as a work-in-progress showcase to a live audience during Esplanade’s March On Festival, where artists can receive feedback about their work from the audience. These ideas may also have the potential to be further developed for Esplanade’s various platforms.

Proposal submission

Artists are invited to submit a short writeup of their ideas for exploration, along with any supporting documentation (e.g., an excerpt of a script or a short video of a scene). You are encouraged to consider the following questions based off the PLAYlab Selection Criteria (Annex 1).

1. What are some important topics that can be presented to children through the arts that deeply resonate with you? What are some developmental milestones for your target audience to be considered and addressed?
2. How will your work demonstrate artistic quality? How is it original, creative or fun?
3. What makes your ideas worth exploring or developing? How does it relate to or challenge existing TYA practices? Is there something innovative that you are seeking to test?
4. How will the PLAYlab platform provide opportunities for capability development for the members of your team? What plans might you have to further develop your work beyond PLAYlab’s context and venue?

Additional considerations for your proposal:

- Does your work contribute to creating a safe and accessible space that is inclusive to a diverse range of children?
- Is your presentation sustainable with the budget provided?
- Is your work suitable for future presentations outside of PLAYlab’s context and venue?

We would like to invite artists to submit their ideas for exploration here. Applications close 26 Nov 2023, Sun, 2359hrs.

Proposals will be selected based on the criteria laid out in Annex 1.
## Annex 1: PLAYlab Selection Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Criteria</th>
<th>Strong Evidence (3 points)</th>
<th>Some Evidence (2 points)</th>
<th>Little Evidence (1 point)</th>
<th>No Evidence (0 points)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Suitability for Young Audiences</strong></td>
<td>The proposal demonstrates a keen understanding of the target age group with topics and issues that are highly suitable and significant for their developmental stage. Factors such as developmental milestones, themes, content, and language are thoughtfully considered and addressed.</td>
<td>The proposal demonstrates a thoughtful consideration of the target age range with topics and issues that are generally suitable. Factors like developmental milestones, themes, content, and language are considered.</td>
<td>The proposal demonstrates a superficial understanding of the target age range. Factors such as developmental milestones, themes, content, and language need to be further considered and addressed.</td>
<td>The proposal demonstrates a lack of understanding of the target age group. Topics and issues are inappropriate, and developmental milestones have not been considered.</td>
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<td><strong>Artistic Quality &amp; Intention</strong></td>
<td>The proposal presents a well-articulated artistic vision that is original, creative and fun. It demonstrates proof of extensive research and understanding of TYA practices both in Singapore and/or abroad. The proposal has a strong potential to challenge the existing norms of TYA.</td>
<td>The proposal presents a well-articulated and original artistic vision. It demonstrates proof of some level of research and understanding of TYA practices both in Singapore and/or abroad.</td>
<td>The artistic vision of the proposal may benefit from further elaboration and refinement. It demonstrates little research and understanding of TYA practices.</td>
<td>The proposal lacks a clear artistic vision. There is no evidence of research or understanding of current TYA practices.</td>
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<td>Capability Development</td>
<td>The proposal demonstrates a strong opportunity and clear pathway for artists to enhance their skills by deepening existing expertise and taking on new challenges. There is very strong evidence that primary artists will benefit from the project and are invested to further the work beyond PLAYlab.</td>
<td>The proposal demonstrates an opportunity for artists to enhance their skills by deepening existing expertise. There is evidence that primary artists will benefit from the project and are keen to continue exploring work in TYA.</td>
<td>The proposal demonstrates a potential for artists to enhance their skills in the process, although this may require further elaboration or specificity. There is some evidence that primary artists will benefit from the project.</td>
<td>The proposal does not demonstrate how artists may benefit from the project.</td>
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