ASEF enables cultural professionals in Asia and Europe to participate in activities integral to their professional development and that benefit the society.

**Mobility First! - ASEF Cultural Mobility Initiative**

**A TRAVEL GRANT FOR ARTISTS AND CULTURAL PROFESSIONALS**

**YEAR 2 REVIEW 2018**

- **889 APPLICATIONS from 47 ASEM COUNTRIES**
- **102 SUPPORTED PRACTITIONERS from 33 ASEM COUNTRIES**
- **48 EVENTS in 27 ASEM COUNTRIES**
- **74 ASIANS**
- **28 EUROPEANS**

**Mobility First! supports a wide variety of activity types:**
- Arts residencies
- Workshop / trainings
- Conference / forums
- Festival / biennales
- Partnership meetings
- Practice-led research trips
- “Go and see” / short-term exploration / networking

Priority is given to applicants whose applications more closely fulfil Mobility First!’s focus areas, which are:
- Knowledge exchange / skills transfer
- Local development
- Innovation in arts and culture (including the intersection of art with other sectors)
- Art and social issues: the role of art and artists in society

In the pursuit of:

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

- 4 Quality Education
- 5 Gender Equality
- 10 Reduced Inequalities

- **8 out of 102 grantees come from periphery cities**
- **37 out of 102 grantees went to periphery cities**

- **50 FEMALES**
- **52 MALES**
Key Insights from Year 2

- There remains a lack of access to information about professional growth opportunities and funding sources for cultural mobility
- Regional links and exchanges in Asia are increasingly strengthening, as indicated by the strong interest for South-South mobility in the Asian context
- High level of interest for cultural cooperation and knowledge exchange amongst artists and cultural professionals working in the capital cities and the cultural centres of countries to both physically travel to and work on topics related to the peripheral cities
- While the status of artists varies in different countries, their role is strengthened as they move and gain cultural insights, experience and knowledge from their travel
- The activities which artists and cultural professionals partake in highlight strong and complementary intersection between art and other areas, such as technology, education and the environment, raising awareness about local and global issues

Barriers to Cultural Mobility

- Complex visa application processes, prohibitive document requirements, high costs and difficulty in obtaining visa approval
- Skills gap and lack of capacity building activities in equipping applicants with the necessary skill sets to submit quality applications to available funding sources
- Political tensions and uncertainties between home and destination countries of travel
- Security concerns in desired destination country

SPECIAL OPEN CALL

Special open call launched for Southeast Asians. 18 cultural professionals supported to Borak Arts Series, Adelaide, Australia

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

#ASEFculture   #MobilityFirst   #Supportcreativity

Mobility First! – ASEF Cultural Mobility Initiative is publicly funded by 51 Asian and European countries, the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat, under the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), an intergovernmental, political dialogue process. For more information, visit: www.asef.live/mobilityfirst