



Mobility First! – ASEF Cultural Mobility Initiative 2018

Call for Applications

When thinking about mobility, people have come to “imagine that mobility is border crossing, as though borders came first, and mobility, second. The truth is more the other way around.”¹

In the area of arts & culture, we refer to cultural mobility as “the temporary cross-border movement of artists and other cultural professionals. Certain forms of mobility relate to the individual (e.g. networking, residencies etc.); others are intrinsically connected to the mobility of works or performances in another country. (...) Mobility is not only understood as occasional movements across national borders that may be useful to gain professional experience required for career advancement, as well as advance artistic endeavour, but more as an integral part of the regular work life of artists and other cultural professionals.”²

In recognising how integral mobility is for artists and cultural professionals, the [Asia-Europe Foundation \(ASEF\)](#) launches **Mobility First!** Through this initiative, ASEF supports the mobility of artists and cultural professionals for cross-border activities that include participation in events, networking, research and collaborative meetings. Mobility support is provided to selected individuals for travel from Asia to Europe, Europe to Asia & within Asia.

Mobility First! was launched in 2017 to commemorate ASEF’s 20th anniversary and builds on ASEF’s support to mobility over the last 20 years, including in particular through:

- Signing posting relevant mobility information through our [Mobility Funding Guides](#) and the [Opportunities Section](#) of our arts portal, [culture360.ASEF.org](#);
- Funding the mobility of artists (working in contemporary artistic disciplines such as filmmaking, visual arts and performing arts) through [Creative Encounters: Cultural Partnerships between Asia and Europe](#) (6 editions between 2010-2017), [ASEF Creative Networks](#) (3 editions between 2014-2016), events supported by our arts portal, [culture360.ASEF.org](#) (2012-2016) and the Asia-Europe Art Camps (2003-2010);
- Funding museum directors, curators and educators through the Asia-Europe Museum Network (ASEMUS) since 2001;
- Funding cultural policy & heritage experts, researchers through the [ASEF Cultural Policy Dialogue Series](#) (since 2011) and Connect2Culture (2008-2009); and,
- Funding and facilitating 2 meetings (2015, Greece; 2013, Czech Republic) among funding and granting organisations working on cultural mobility issues.

At the end of *Mobility First!*’s 1st year, it was recognised in UNESCO’s [Reshaping Cultural Policies Report \(2nd edition\)](#), the only global document on trends in cultural development, where limited funding for cultural mobility has yet again been recognised as a key challenge to international cultural co-operation. However, a positive trend is being observed in mobility opportunities provided through transnational cultural collaborations, with a renewed interest in South-South mobility.

¹ Ludden, David, 2003, “Maps in the Mind and the Mobility of Asia,” p.1062, <http://www.sas.upenn.edu/~dludden/davidludden62-4.pdf>

² Ericarts, 2008, “Mobility Matters,” http://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/culture/policy/cultural-creative-industries/documents/mobility-matters-report_en.pdf

In this context, ASEF's *Mobility First!* travel fund has been acknowledged as a "success story" by an a multilateral intergovernmental organisation to bridge existing gaps in support for artists' mobility. ASEF's Mobility First! is funded by 51 Asian and European countries, the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat in the framework of the Asia Europe meeting (ASEM).

Who can apply?

Individuals & organisations actively involved in the field of arts & culture who are eligible as per following guidelines:

Individuals

- Artists & cultural professionals from any artistic genre (such as visual arts, performing arts, film, heritage etc.) may apply. Applications focusing on contemporary artistic and cultural disciplines are encouraged.
- Artists are defined as those directly involved in the production of artworks in any genre of the arts.
- Cultural professionals are defined as others working in the field of arts & culture such as curators, arts writers (including critics), arts managers, researchers etc.
- Applicants should be citizens of member countries of the [Asia-Europe Meeting \(ASEM\)](#)³ and seek support for travel within the ASEM region.
- Applicants may seek travel support to participate in any of the 7 types of eligible activities listed below in the section on ***What types of activities are supported?***

Organisations

- Cultural organisations may apply to become ASEF's partners; selected organisations will co-select individuals who will receive support to attend specific events organised by the partner (e.g. arts festivals, conferences).
- Selected partner organisations are expected to organise the event as well as provide selected persons with local contacts and context. For example, an arts organisation organising a photography festival may wish to apply to ***Mobility First!*** and together with ASEF, will co-select 4 photographers who will be given ASEF's support to be present at the festival.
- Cultural organisations that operate in any artistic or cultural genre may apply. Non-profit arts organisations will be prioritised.
- Cultural organisations should be based in any of the ASEM member countries and operating in the ASEM region (nationally or bi-regionally)
- Organisations should be applying for travel support for individuals to participate in any of the 7 types of eligible activities listed below in the section on ***What types of activities are supported?***

³ The 53 ASEM partners are Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, the Lao PDR, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom, Viet Nam, the European Union, and the ASEAN Secretariat.

For more information, please visit www.ASEMinfoboard.org

What types of activities are supported?

Through this initiative, ASEF supports the mobility of artists and cultural professionals for participation in the following 7 types of activities:

1. Workshops or trainings
2. Conferences or forums
3. Festivals, biennales, or international exhibitions
4. Artists' or writers' residencies
5. Partner meeting/s to set up or maintain an existing partnership
6. Practice-led research
7. "Go and see" / short-term exploration / networking

Travel regions & grant amounts

- Currently, the selection criteria for **Mobility First!** prioritises cultural mobility from Asia to Europe; from Europe to Asia; and, within Asia. All travel must be international.
- Successful applicants will be given up to a maximum of Singapore Dollars (SGD) 2,000 for travel from Asia to Europe or Europe to Asia.
- Successful applicants will be given up to a maximum of Singapore Dollars (SGD) 1,000 for travel within Asia.
- Additional funding is available for people with disabilities and special needs.

Application & reporting processes

1. Individuals should complete the online application form at: <https://asefculture.formstack.com/forms/mobilityfirst2018>
2. Organisations should complete the online application form at: <https://asefculture.formstack.com/forms/mobilityfirst2018orgs>
3. Upon selection, ASEF will request for a scanned passport copy of each grantee.
4. For individuals receiving support, ASEF will issue a Terms of Reference (ToR) and the first 50% of the funding amount will be transferred after ASEF has received the signed ToR. Please note that the grantee may receive the 1st tranche after travel has commenced. The remaining 50% will be transferred post-travel and after ASEF receives the required post-event report.
5. In the case of organisations, ASEF will provide a Partnership Agreement with the selected organisation. The terms of funding will be agreed upon with the partner organisation & will be specified in the Partnership Agreement.
6. All artists and cultural professionals receiving mobility support are expected to complete an online post-event report no later than 4 weeks after travel has ended. The online report can be found here: <https://asefculture.formstack.com/forms/2018report>

Eligibility

- Nationality: The applicant must be a national of an Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) member country. List of the 51 member countries can be found here: <http://www.aseminfoboard.org/>
- Destination country: The applicant's destination country must be an Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) member country. Departure country need not be an ASEM country.
- Mobility route: Asia-to-Europe, Europe-to-Asia, intra-Asia; Europe-to-Europe routes are ineligible
- Occupation: Artist or Cultural Professional
- Travel dates: as per published dates for the round

Deadlines

2018 Open Calls	2018 Deadlines	Announcement of Results	Travel timeline
21 March 2018	25 April 2018	31 May 2018	01 June to 30 Sep 2018
26 April 2018	30 May 2018	31 July 2018	01 Aug to 30 Nov 2018
31 May 2018	30 June 2018	31 Aug 2018	01 Sep to 15 Dec 2018

General Criteria

- Only applications that meet the Eligibility requirements will be evaluated
- Priority will be given to applications focusing on contemporary artistic & cultural disciplines
- Early career artists & cultural professionals are encouraged to apply; applications showing relevance to the applicant's professional development will be prioritised
- Small & medium, independent, non-profit organisations are encouraged to apply
- First time visits to destination countries are encouraged
- Priority will be given to applications that show potential for:
 - Long-term impact in the arts & cultural sector
 - Benefiting other artists & cultural professionals both in the destination country & back in the applicant's home country (multiplier effect)
- Mobility First! is an equal opportunities programme. Applications from artists & cultural professionals of any ASEM nationality, ethnicity, caste, creed, gender or disability are welcome

Contact

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ASEF

CULTURAL MOBILITY INITIATIVE

ROUTE: ASIA & EUROPE

Mobility
FIRST!



Building
PROFESSIONAL
CAPACITIES



Co-Creating
THROUGH
DIALOGUE

OPEN CALL
for PROPOSALS!



Accessing
NEW MARKETS

FUNDING
PROVIDED



Increasing
YOUR
AUDIENCE



SUPPORT
Artistic
COLLABORATION

Building
PARTNERSHIPS
& NETWORKS

Promoting
CULTURAL
DIVERSITY

Arts
exchange

Building
INTERCULTURAL
COMPETENCIES

