SYFAO

The ArtsXPerience

INSPIRE • CONNECT • EMPOWER

2026 Festival Guide

Revised on 10 July 2026

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About SYF

The Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) was conceived in 1966 in post-independence Singapore and officially launched by President Yusof Ishak in 1967. Since then, it has grown and evolved and today marks a distinctive and anticipated season in the national school calendar.

Organised annually by the Arts Education Branch (AEB) of the Ministry of Education (MOE), the SYF comprises three key platforms:

- Arts Presentation
- Art Exhibition
- Celebrations

These platforms provide students with meaningful and authentic opportunities to learn and grow in and through the arts.

The festival reflects MOE's belief in the importance of a holistic education for our students and plays a key role in shaping the landscape of Arts education in Singapore.

Each year, it brings together an average of **30,000** students from schools across Singapore, who participate in a diverse range of performing and visual arts.

For six decades, the SYF has been a powerful part of the school experience and will continue to do so, creating shared memories and lasting friendships for generations of students through the unifying power of the arts.

The SYF Story

1966 Where It All Began



From “Festival of Music and Dance” to “Singapore Youth Festival” in 1967.

1970s From Classrooms to Stages



Singapore’s developing youth cultural scene begins to flourish.

1980s Growing the Community



As extra-curricular activities became a regular part of school life, the SYF grew into a key platform engaging thousands more students nationwide in the arts.

1990s National Recognition



Former Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong declares SYF a national event.

2000s Broadening the Canvas



New art forms and multidisciplinary collaborations expand the festival, reflecting a more diverse and evolving landscape of arts education.

2010s Innovation and new mediums



Digital technologies begin shaping new modes of artistic expression and participation within the festival.

2020s The Next Chapter



Exploring new frontiers in creativity – from interdisciplinary collaboration to digital artmaking – as the festival continues evolving with each generation.

Watch **this video** to find out more about our history!

Celebrating SYF60

2026 marks 60 years of Singapore's youth arts festival with the theme '**The ArtsXPerience – Inspire, Connect, Empower**'. This diamond jubilee celebrates how the arts inspire creativity, connect communities through shared experiences, and empower young people to express themselves and make a positive impact on the world around them.

WHAT'S NEW

Drama (Primary)
A new arts presentation category for primary school students to develop communication skills through drama.

Post-Show Dialogues
Pre-U drama students engaged in discussions after performances to share insights and reflected on their creative journey.

Adjudicator Sharing Sessions
Schools participating in music and dance categories attended sesisons with adjudicators to further develop their arts programmes.

Script-To-Stage Programme
Students brought local plays to life and share their creative process at SYF Celebrations.

Special SYF60 features to look out for!

ASEAN Youth Connection

XP Card Journey

Festival Concert

Click above to find out more!

SYF60 Theme Song:

Together We Write Our Story

Verse 1

I'm gazing at the canvas
Filled with dreams and visions
Like a vibrant mural
Each stroke tells a tale

The voices unite here
Creating a symphony
With hearts intertwined
Together we rise



Verse 2

I'm looking in the mirror
Finding strength within me
Like a guiding beacon
As my challenges are real

But now we stand together
With visions bright and clear
Here's the spotlight shines upon us
Our journey has begun

Chorus

Together let's write
Our story
Just you and I
We'll make history
Learning from our past
Day by day
We're better off this way

Together let's face
Our worries
With all our might
We'll conquer our fears
Through the struggles
We'll find our way
It's a brand new start
It's a brand new start today

From The Youth Station Project 2023

Composed by Lee Cheok Fung Andreas, Lum Chee Hou Rian, Chew Wen Xuan Aden, Goh Koi Luck, Aponesto Franz Graeden Dispo of Yuhua Secondary School (2022 - 2025)

The SYF60 Theme Song will be performed at the SYF60 Festival Concert on 4 July at Esplande – Theatres on the Bay.
For more information on the SYF60 Theme Song, click here.

ASEAN Youth Connections

This year, SYF extends its connections beyond our shores, bringing our students together with young artists from across the ASEAN region as part of Singapore's ASEAN Education Chairmanship (2026 - 2027).

Marywitthaya School (Thailand)

MR Band (Marching Band) at
Parade of Bands on 25 April 2026

Davao City National High School (Philippines)

Special Programme in the Arts (SPA) Centennial Choir at
Festival Concert
1.00pm | 5.00pm, 4 July 2026

Akademi Sains Pendang (Malaysia)

Caklempong Acastra at Kaleidoscope
8.00pm, 3 July 2026
7.40pm, 4 July 2026

Tran Phu Secondary School (Vietnam)

Dance at Dance Extravaganza!
3.35pm | 5.55pm, 11 July 2026

Click here to find out more about their experience!

To find out more about their performances at SYF 2026 Celebrations, click here for the Celebrations guide!

What's On

Arts Presentation

The SYF Arts Presentation brought together students from across Singapore to showcase their artistic talents. Audiences witnessed inspiring performances while students received valuable feedback from industry experts and drew inspiration from their peers' creativity.

From 30 March – 30 April

Band
Singapore Conference Hall
20 - 21 April
27 - 29 April

Chinese Orchestra
Singapore Conference Hall
8 - 10 April

Choir
School of the Arts, Singapore
13 - 23 April

Dance
Ho Bee Auditorium, NUS University Cultural Centre
7 - 28 April

Drama
Gateway Theatre
7 - 15 April*
28 - 30 April
*Due to limited seating capacity, Drama (Primary) is only open to parents of participating students.

Guzheng
Singapore Conference Hall
13 - 16 April

Instrumental Ensemble
School of the Arts, Singapore
30 March - 1 April
6 - 9 April
27 - 29 April

Marching Band & Parade of Bands
Singapore Indoor Stadium
25 April

Arts Presentation 2026 has concluded!

Congratulations to all participating schools and students. Click **here** for our AP Guide to read the well-wishes from the AP adjudicators!

Celebrations

Experience performances in the community at SYF Celebrations where students explore creative possibilities across dance, drama and music, engaging audiences in fresh and exciting ways. Students experiment with different performance styles, working alongside arts practitioners to develop their artistic vision.

From 3 – 4, 10 – 11 July

Band Jamboree
Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay
3 - 4 July

Kaleidoscope
Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay
3 - 4 July

Script-To-Stage
National Library Building
3 July

SYF60 Festival Concert
Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay
4 July

The Youth Station Project
*SCAPE, National Library Building
3, 10 July

Shall We Sing?
Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay
3 - 4 July

Sonic XPlorations
School of the Arts, Singapore
10 July
Fully Subscribed!

Dance Extravaganza!
*SCAPE
10 - 11 July

Click here for our Celebrations Guide!

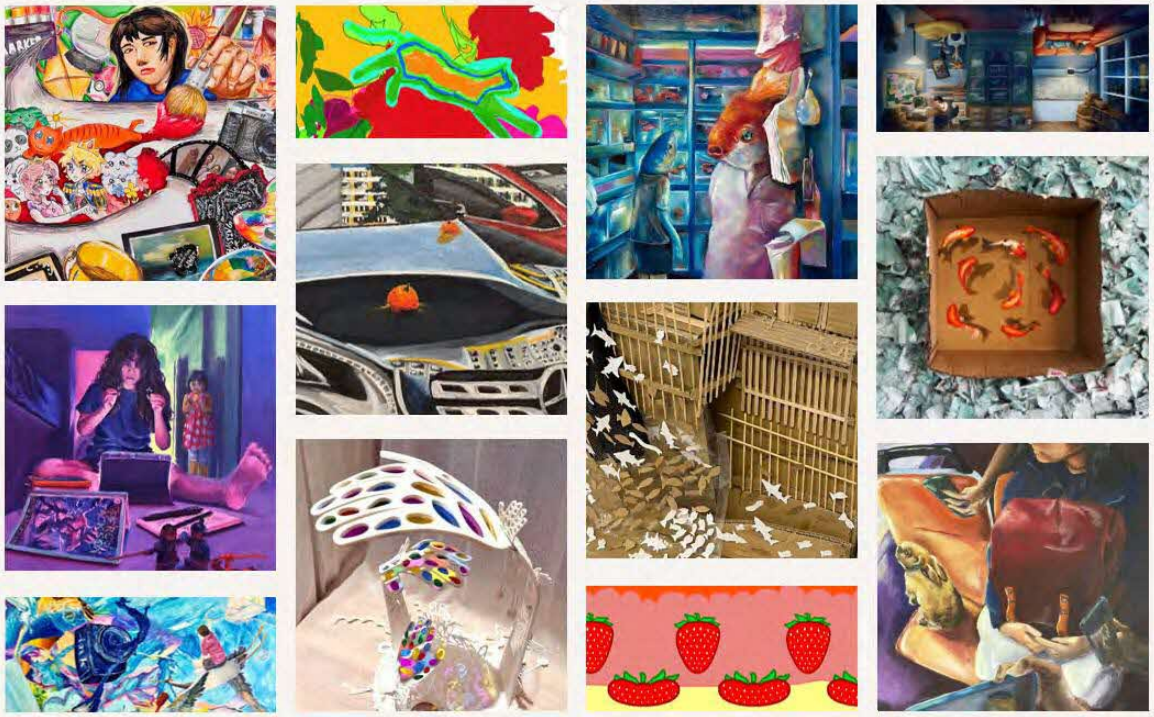
Did You Know?

At SYF Celebrations, performances extend beyond conventional arts venues, appearing in the most unexpected spaces. Our students have dazzled audiences everywhere from the halls of National Museum of Singapore to the lush landscapes of Gardens by the Bay, the chirping backdrops from Jurong Bird Park, and even turned shopping trips into surprise concerts at Parkway Parade! The whole of Singapore becomes our stage!

Art Exhibition

See the creative works of Singapore's young artists at the SYF Art Exhibition from secondary schools and pre-universities and explore this year's theme 'Artist and XPerience' through various art forms, reflecting on the discoveries, experiments, and breakthrough moments that shaped their artistic development.

The exhibition is held at the National Gallery Singapore from **4 to 19 July**. Visit to see how the next generation of artists interpret their creative journey through art.



Credits (top to bottom, left to right):

A Stroke of Persistence (Dunman High School), The Parting (National Junior College), Migration (River Valley High School), Vibrance Unveiled (APSN Delta Senior School), Reflections (St. Andrew's School (Secondary)), The Joy in Makers' Hands (Chung Cheng High School (Yishun)), Big Fish, Small Fish (School of the Arts, Singapore), From Sticks to Stones (Chua Chu Kang Secondary School), Strawberry Jam! (Hwa Chong Institution), Upside Down (St. Joseph's Institution), Swimming in a Fragile World (New Town Secondary School), On Route (Nanyang Girls' High School)

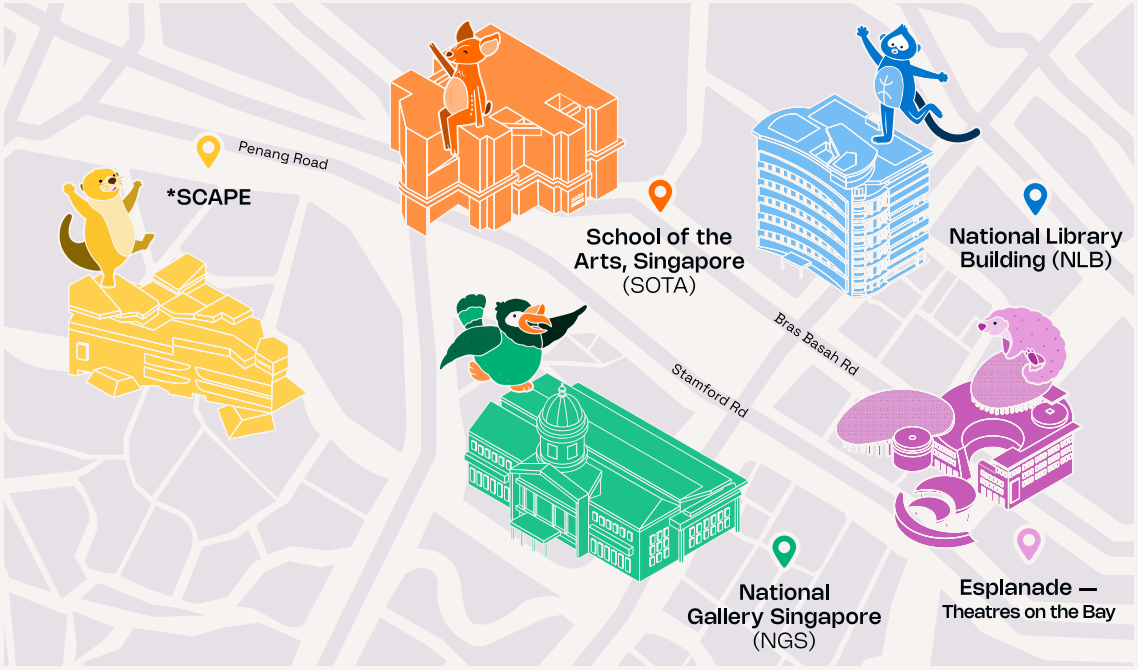
Click here to learn more!

HAVE YOU MET THE XP Pals?



Why stop at one SYF event? Collect bespoke SYF60 XP Cards across SYF Celebrations and SYF Art Exhibition venues, each featuring a unique character and interesting insights. Redeem them for exclusive SYF60 memorabilia – the more you explore, the better the rewards!

Check out the **XP Trail** to find out more about where to collect each card!



The Team Behind SYF

ARTS EDUCATION BRANCH

We are the Arts Education Branch (AEB) of the Ministry of Education, and we support arts education in Singapore schools. We focus on planning, creating policies and standards, developing skills, and forming partnerships that strengthen arts learning.

We lead arts education in four main areas – Art, Dance, Drama, and Music – by creating curriculum and co-curricular programmes, special arts initiatives, and resources for schools. Our goal is to make arts learning accessible, inspiring, and enriching for all students, no matter where they start from, so that the arts will always be a meaningful part of their lives.

We work closely with schools and teachers to enhance their teaching skills and collaborate with cultural institutions and arts organisations in Singapore's vibrant arts ecosystem.

Each year, we proudly organise the Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) to celebrate our young people's energy and artistic talents.

Special Thanks

Hosting Venues for SYF60

Arts Presentation

GATEWAY THEATRE

SCO 新加坡华乐团

THE KALLANG

sota SCHOOL OF THE ARTS SINGAPORE

NUS University Cultural Centre

Celebrations

esplanade theatres on the bay singapore

sota SCHOOL OF THE ARTS SINGAPORE

nlb

*SCAPE

Art Exhibition

NATIONAL GALLERY SINGAPORE

Special Thanks

AEB would like to express heartfelt appreciation to all our student performers, school leaders, teachers, CCA instructors/artist practitioners, mentors, parents, HQ colleagues, supporters, well-wishers and all those who have helped in one way or another in contributing to the success of SYF60.

People Behind the Scenes

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Cindy Chua
Kaleidoscope

Eugenie Pui
Student Emcees

Grace Ho
Band Jamboree

Jolene Khoo
Shall We Sing?

Lau Houw Ping
Sonic XPlorations

Lim Hui Chi
SYF Art Exhibition

Marvin Leung
The Youth Station Project

Melissa Neo
Script-to-Stage

Peter Gn
Festival Concert, Dance Extravaganza!

Ryan Goh
Audience Engagement

Wang Shi Hui
The Media Room

Winnie Chew
Festival Concert, Parade of Bands

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SYF Arts Presentation Team Members

Adrian Wong
Drama

Cindy Chua
Chinese Orchestra (Full Orchestra, Mixed Ensemble, Sectional Ensemble), Guzheng Ensemble

Eugenie Pui
Choir

Evangeline Anne Lim
Band (Brass Band, Concert Band, Percussion Ensemble, Woodwind & Brass Ensemble), Marching Band

Grace Ho
Band (Brass Band, Concert Band, Percussion Ensemble, Woodwind & Brass Ensemble), Marching Band

Hoo Cher Liek
Chinese Orchestra (Full Orchestra, Mixed Ensemble, Sectional Ensemble), Guzheng Ensemble

Joanne Ler
Drama

Jolene Khoo
Choir

Kom Mun Siong
Chinese Orchestra (Full Orchestra, Mixed Ensemble, Sectional Ensemble)

Lee Ji Heng
Instrumental Ensemble (Angklung/ Kulintang, Gamelan, Guitar Ensemble, Handbell/ Handchime, Harmonica, Strings)

Melissa Neo
Drama

Peter Gn
Dance (Chinese, Indian, International, Malay)

Rachel Ee
Instrumental Ensemble (Angklung/Kulintang, Gamelan, Guitar Ensemble, Handbell/ Handchime, Harmonica, Strings)

Winnie Chew
Band (Brass Band, Concert Band, Percussion Ensemble, Woodwind & Brass Ensemble), Marching Band

SYF Celebrations Team Members

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Script-to-Stage

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Festival Concert

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The Media Room

Eng Shuen Yin
Kaleidoscope

Eugenie Pui
The Youth Station Project

Evangeline Anne Lim
Sonic XPlorations, Parade of Bands

Grace Ho
Sonic XPlorations, Parade of Bands

Hoo Cher Liek
Band Jamboree

Joanne Ler
Script-to-Stage

Koh Wei Ling
The Media Room

Lee Ji Heng
Kaleidoscope, Sonic XPlorations

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Every effort has been made to acknowledge all contributors. We sincerely apologise for any inadvertent ommissions at the time of publication.

Click **here** to share your feedback with us!

Follow us at our official social media accounts to keep up with our latest updates!

@sgyouthfest @singaporeyouthfestivalsyf

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SYF Singapore Youth Festival

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