

PLAYlab 2025 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 and support for research and development in the creation of new ideas for TYA productions. These ideas can take 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. If you have a new idea for young audiences that you would like to explore, we encourage you to apply.

Selected groups or individuals will receive an honorarium to develop and bring their idea (or an excerpt of it) to life, under the guidance of *PLAYlab* Artistic Associate, Ellison Tan Yuyang. This will be presented as a 15-minute work-in-progress showcase to a live audience during Esplanade's children's festival, *March On*, where artists can receive feedback on their work from the audience. These ideas may also have the potential to be further developed for Esplanade's various platforms.

An online sharing and Q&A session about *PLAYlab* will be held on 1 Nov 2024, at 3pm. If you would like to attend, please register [here](#).

Proposal submission

Please submit a short write-up of your idea 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 makes your ideas different and worth exploring or developing? How is it creative, fun and original?
2. How does it relate to or challenge existing TYA practices? Is there something innovative that you are seeking to test?
3. 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?
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?
- What part of your idea do you hope to test and present? Is your presentation feasible with the budget provided?
- What potential might your idea have beyond the context and venue of *PLAYlab*?

We would like to invite artists to submit their ideas for exploration [here](#). Applications close on 10 Dec, Tue, 2359hrs.

Proposals will be selected based on the criteria laid out in Annex 1.

Annex 1: PLAYlab Selection Criteria

Assessment Criteria	Strong Evidence	Some Evidence	Little Evidence	No Evidence
Artistic Quality & Level of Innovation (50%)	<p>The proposal presents a well-articulated artistic vision that is creative, fun and refreshingly different.</p> <p>It shows strong potential to innovate or challenge existing TYA themes or practices in Singapore.</p>	<p>The proposal presents a well-articulated artistic vision that is creative and fun.</p> <p>There is an attempt to innovate or challenge existing TYA practices or themes in Singapore.</p>	<p>The proposal shows some artistic merit that may benefit from further refinement.</p> <p>It largely conforms to existing TYA practices or themes in Singapore.</p>	<p>The artistic value in the proposed work is difficult to discern.</p> <p>The proposal shows little understanding of current TYA practices and/or does not offer any innovative perspectives on TYA.</p>
Suitability for Young Audiences (25%)	<p>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.</p> <p>Factors such as developmental milestones, themes, content, and language are thoughtfully considered and addressed.</p>	<p>The proposal demonstrates a thoughtful consideration of the target age range with topics and issues that are generally suitable.</p> <p>Factors like developmental milestones, themes, content, and language are considered.</p>	<p>The proposal demonstrates a superficial understanding of the target age range.</p> <p>Factors such as developmental milestones, themes, content, and language need to be further considered and addressed.</p>	<p>The proposal demonstrates a lack of understanding of the target age group.</p> <p>Topics and issues are inappropriate, and developmental milestones have not been considered.</p>
Capability Development (25%)	<p>The proposal presents a strong opportunity for artists to deepen current skills and take on new challenges.</p> <p>There is very strong evidence that primary artists will benefit from the project and are invested to further the work beyond <i>PLAYlab</i>.</p>	<p>The proposal presents an opportunity for artists to deepen current skills and take on new challenges.</p> <p>There is evidence that primary artists will benefit from the project and are keen to continue exploring work in TYA.</p>	<p>The proposal demonstrates potential for the deepening of current skills.</p> <p>There is some evidence that the primary artists will benefit from this proposal.</p>	<p>The proposal does not demonstrate how artists may benefit from the project.</p>