

BOUNDLESS CREATIVITY

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Year in Review
2025/26

C O N T E N T S

FY2025/26 has been a year of purposeful growth for NAFA. Beyond our role in arts education, we have continued to contribute to and shape wider conversations around culture, creativity and society. Through our work across education, cultural policy, design research and creative practice, we have engaged in meaningful initiatives and exchanges that connect communities, disciplines and perspectives.

This commitment to excellence and purpose is also reflected in the generations of NAFA graduates who have gone on

to make their mark across the arts and creative industries. Today, more than 21,000 full-time graduates form a global community of artists, educators, designers and creative practitioners, carrying forward a spirit of creativity, exchange and the pursuit of excellence. We are especially proud that NAFA alumni Goh Boon Teck and Nai Swee Leng were conferred the Cultural Medallion in 2025, Singapore's highest honour for the arts, in recognition of their longstanding contributions to theatre and the visual arts respectively. Their achievements

are a source of pride for NAFA and an enduring reminder of the difference our graduates can make through their craft, vision and commitment.

As we approach our 90th anniversary and look towards our centennial milestone, we remain committed to empowering the next generation to shape the future through the arts. NAFA seeks to prepare our students not only for the creative professions, but also for a rapidly changing world. We want our graduates to possess the craft mastery and confidence to

pursue excellence, the empathy to engage thoughtfully with the world around them, the openness to learn across cultures, and the courage to experiment and create. These aspirations are embodied in NAFA's 4Cs—Craft Mastery, Care for Community, Cross-Cultural Perspectives and Courage to Create—which continue to shape who we are and how we educate, create, collaborate and grow as an institution.

With the steadfast support and stewardship of our Board of Directors and senior leadership

team, and the dedication of our faculty, staff, students, alumni and partners, I am confident that NAFA will continue to build on its rich heritage while embracing new possibilities. Together, we will shape the next chapter of the NAFA story, break new ground and advance the role of the arts in Singapore and beyond.

Ms Low Sin Leng
NAFA Chairman

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



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Co-founder
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Principal Architect
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LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

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Ms Harasha bte Khalid Bafana

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Ms Fen Peh

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Mrs Tan-Soh Wai Lan

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Mr Lau Teck Sien
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Co-opted Member

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Co-opted Members

Ms Wynthia Goh
Prof Cheong Hee Kiat

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(as of 31 March 2026)

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Vice President (Corporate Services)

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Academic Advisor (Southeast Asian Arts)

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Head, Student Admissions Office

Ms Jennifer Yong-Chor Poh Chin

Head, Library

Ms Xin Xiaochang

Head (Special Projects Unit), Planning & Projects Office

Ms Jessica Ong Ling Ling

Head, Advancement Office

TERTIARY EDUCATION

3

Faculties

.....

9

Schools

.....

22

Diploma and Bachelor's
Degree Programmes

.....

3

Master's Degree
Programmes

.....

1

NAFA Foundation
Programme

.....

About

540 diploma and degree
students travelled abroad
for Overseas Immersion
Programmes, Study Trips and
International Placements

.....

More than

34
Memoranda of Understanding
and partnership agreements
signed with prominent
educational institutions and
organisations

.....

Over

S\$1.6 million
awarded to close to
300 students in
scholarships, merit
awards and bursaries

.....

Over

2,500
visitors
attended NAFA
Open House 2026

.....

AT A GLANCE

CHILDREN'S ENRICHMENT AND ARTS PRESCHOOL

135

children enrolled across
the Bencoolen and
Luzerne Campuses

.....

4,683

young talents attended
art, dance, drama and
music weekend classes

.....

LIFELONG EDUCATION

1,125

places taken
up in Certificate
Courses

.....

2,385

places taken
up in Short
Courses

.....

4

new Short Courses
in craft, design, fine
art and wellness

.....

ALUMNI AND EMPLOYMENT

Over

21,000

full-time graduates
to date

.....

37%

of interns received offers
for full-time employment
following their internship

.....

847

graduates
from the
Class of 2025

.....

81%

of diploma and
degree graduates
secured employment

.....

AT A GLANCE

CRAFT MASTERY

We pursue excellence with intention – refining our craft, deepening our discipline and constantly pushing the boundaries of mastery.

New Bachelor of Music (Honours) Programme

Jointly developed by the Royal College of Music and NAFA, the programme is Singapore's first undergraduate music degree jointly developed by a local arts institution and an internationally renowned conservatoire.

Drawing on the complementary strengths of both institutions, the programme combines rigorous conservatoire training with interdisciplinary perspectives, global mobility and industry relevance.

Beyond creating a new degree pathway, the partnership reflects a shared commitment to nurturing future generations of artists who are both technically accomplished and culturally engaged. Its launch also affirms NAFA's role within Singapore's evolving arts and higher education ecosystem, underscoring its continued growth as a conservatoire-level training institution and the School of Music's rising international standing in specialist music education.



Renewed Partnership with Singapore Chinese Orchestra

NAFA has renewed our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Singapore Chinese Orchestra (SCO) for a three-year period. Building on previous agreements, this MOU renewal reinforces both

institutions' commitment to cultivating Chinese music and developing local talent through internships, joint performances, observation of closed-door rehearsals and specialised professional training.

To commemorate the renewal of the partnership, a celebratory concert was held. Conducted by SCO's Principal Conductor Quek Ling Kiong, the performance brought together 50 musicians from the SCO and 41 students from NAFA.



2025 Cultural Medallion

NAFA alumni Goh Boon Teck and Nai Swee Leng were conferred the 2025 Cultural Medallion, Singapore's highest honour for the arts. Their

achievements are a testament to their contributions to the advancement of Singapore's theatre and visual arts scene, respectively.



2025 NAFA Distinguished Alumni Award and NAFA Young Alumni Medal

The NAFA Distinguished Alumni Award honours established alumni whose lifelong dedication to their craft has led to significant professional achievements and meaningful contributions to society. Introduced in 2025, the NAFA Young Alumni Medal celebrates alumni under the age of 40 who have demonstrated exceptional promise and achievement in the early stages of their careers.

This year, Professor Chung Chen Sun, Lim Kay Hiong and Oliver Chong Teck Seng were awarded the NAFA Distinguished Alumni Award in recognition of their enduring contributions, artistic influence and excellence within both the local and international arts sectors. Meanwhile, Goh Shou Yi, Hubert Loi Xin Zhe and Kseniia Vokhmianina were named the inaugural recipients of the NAFA Young Alumni Medal, underscoring their professional achievements and strong commitment to advancing creative communities.

STA School Design Competition 2025

Four Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Design Practice students, Wong Xi En Elizabeth, Im Shi Hui Dionne, Artanti Calistabella Safitri and Figueroa Jessica Julia Reese, clinched the top award at the STA School Design Competition 2025 with their creative upcycling

of industrial wood waste into a chess set designed for HDB void decks. Their prototype reflects not only careful material handling and thoughtful construction, but also the team's ability to create meaningful, functional and socially relevant designs.



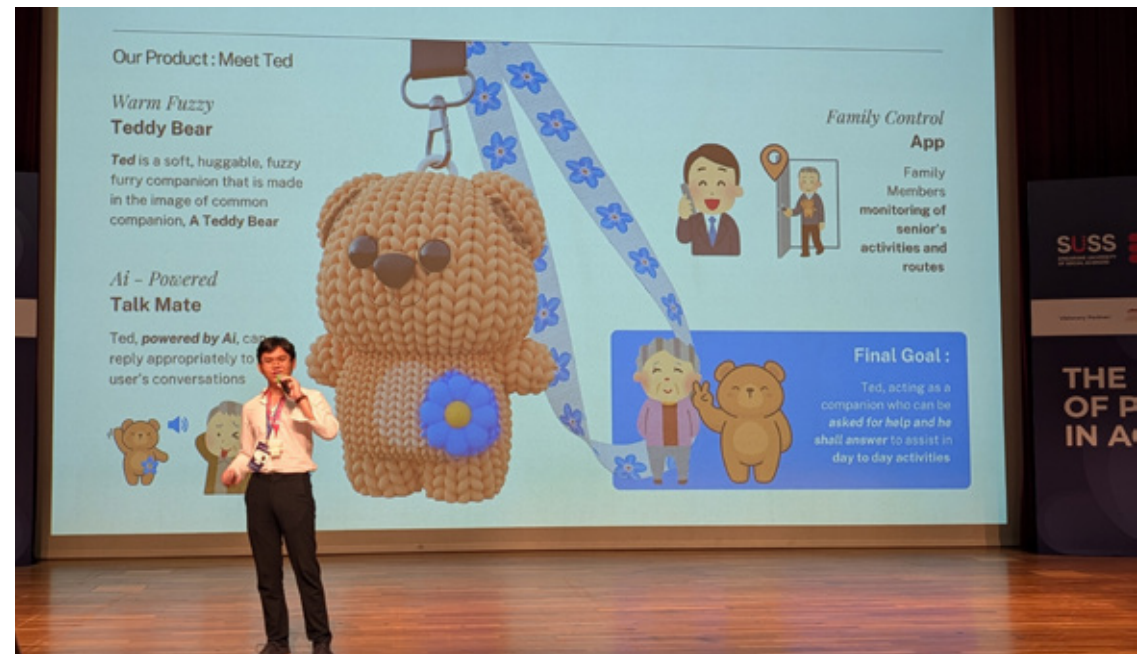
SUSS Global Impact Start-up Challenge and Geronpreneurship Innovation Festival

NAFA student, Bhone Pyae from the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Biophilic Design won first prize at the School of Social Sciences Global Impact Start-up Challenge (ISC) for his project "Pocket Nephew". Developed with support from the Talent Development Awards under the NAFA Talent Development

Programme, he demonstrated interdisciplinary knowledge by showing how design innovation can meaningfully address broader societal needs and contribute to community well-being.

Following his success at ISC, Bhone Pyae was invited to present his project at the

Geronpreneurship Innovation Festival (GIF), a flagship initiative under the Ngee Ann Kongsi Social Impact Hub led by Singapore University of Social Sciences. His achievements reflect the global, interdisciplinary, and community-centred learning experiences embedded within the School's Biophilic Design programme.



Singapore Chinese Music Festival 2025

Home to Singapore's only government-funded tertiary Chinese instrumental music programme, NAFA continues to play a leading role in nurturing the next generation of performers, educators and cultural advocates.

The Academy's participation in the Singapore Chinese Music Festival 2025 not only provided a platform for students and faculty to showcase their talents, but also reaffirmed our contribution to the continued development,

appreciation and sustainability of Chinese musical traditions within Singapore's cultural landscape.

Led by Lim Yau, Artistic Director of NAFA's School of Music, and featuring soloists Wong Sun Tat,

Head of Chinese Instrumental Studies, as well as NAFA Principal Study Lecturers Zhan Yongming (Dizi), Qu Jianqing (Yangqin), and Yu Jia (Pipa), the concert showcased the depth of expertise within NAFA's Chinese Instrumental Studies programme. Their collaboration with the NAFA Chinese Orchestra demonstrated the close integration of professional artistic practice and conservatoire-level training at the Academy.

The concert also offered students valuable opportunities to perform at a major national festival alongside distinguished faculty artists and leading practitioners. Such experiences form an integral part of NAFA's practice-based training model, enabling students to develop the artistic, collaborative and professional competencies required of contemporary performers.



International Arts Festival 2025

From 21 to 26 November 2025, 21 NAFA School of Young Talents Junior Dance students participated in the International Arts Festival (IAF). Of these, nine students achieved the highest-level Platinum and Champion Awards, six received Gold Awards, and five received Silver Awards. In addition, two students were awarded a 25% IAF Scholarship and GALA Award.

These achievements were made possible under the guidance of Head of Junior Dance Diana Daisy Lau, Programme Leaders Zou Yi and Natalie Lin, Senior Lecturer Zhao Yiming, faculty members Jessica Shi, Zhang Wen, Su Xiaofei, and Leane Lim. Members of the teaching team were also awarded Outstanding Teacher Awards.



Hengqin International Mozart Competition for Young Musicians

Eleven-year-old NAFA School of Young Talents Junior Music violin student Cathy Chen Xi had a successful outing at the sixth Hengqin International Mozart Competition for Young Musicians in Zhuhai, China. After winning first prize in Violin Group A (for ages 12 and below), she went on to perform Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 3 with Austria's

Salzburg Chamber Soloists in the final round, demonstrating stylistic authenticity and strong musical expression.

Competing against top international participants from South Korea, China and Russia, the young violinist earned unanimous praise from the youth jury.



We create with empathy and purpose –
uplifting our communities in Singapore,
Southeast Asia and the world.

CARE FOR
COMMUNITY

Singapore Night Festival 2025

NAFA took part in the annual event with five iconic pieces that showcased innovative artistic expression. From 22 August to 21 September 2025, NAFA students and alumni came together to curate an exciting showcase spanning creative artificial intelligence (AI) displays and emotionally stirring performances.

The festival's centrepiece "Constructing Selves: Faces of

a Shifting Form" blended live dancing, AI-generated visuals and immersive storytelling, while "InterSPACE" featured original interdisciplinary works by Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Performance Making students, with support from Diploma in Arts Management students. "They Walk Above Us", choreographed by dance alumna and founder of Frisque SG, Beverly Wan, also brought the traditional art of Chinese stilt walking to life.

These works were complemented by the "Huemanity" exhibition designed and created by three Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Design Practice students and the "Dandelion" interactive light installation, conceived by an adjunct faculty member and developed with support from NAFA students through hands-on experimentation with materiality and digital fabrication. "Dandelion" was awarded the Runner-Up – Bespoke Art

Category at the 2025 dARC Awards, an international honour celebrating excellence in lighting design.

Through these accessible and interactive projects, NAFA expanded opportunities for community engagement and fostered meaningful connections between art and everyday life, particularly within the Bras Basah Bugis Arts and Cultural District.

GiraffeSG@Central Campaign

Six benches, each featuring a colourful giraffe sculpture, were installed across Singapore, including Suntec City, Gardens by the Bay and One Holland Village. Co-created by NAFA alumni, invited artist collaborators, children and community participants, the benches transform everyday seating into sculptural works that invite reflection on care, inclusion and collective responsibility.

Developed in collaboration with the Central Singapore Community Development Council (CDC), this project reflects NAFA's role as a vibrant arts institution that brings art, education and community together, enriching society through meaningful creative expression.



Peranakan Museum Education Collaboration Showcase 2025

Eight NAFA School of Design & Media students across different diploma programmes collaborated with the Peranakan Museum to reinterpret Peranakan culture through contemporary design practices. Through

this interdisciplinary collaboration, students were exposed to diverse cultural narratives, traditions and visual languages, encouraging them to approach design with greater cultural sensitivity, curiosity and awareness.

The project also fostered intercultural dialogue between education, heritage and public audiences, demonstrating how design can serve as a bridge between tradition and contemporary expression.



Ageing Artfully Conference 2025

The Ageing Artfully Conference is a series jointly organised by NAFA and St Luke's ElderCare. The inaugural session, themed "Healing Expressions Through Arts" featured 14 distinguished speakers, a cross-sector plenary, and six hands-on workshops.

Co-developed and facilitated by artists, educators and healthcare professionals, the event explored how the arts can support emotional well-being, cognitive engagement, and social connection. Through participatory art experiences and dialogue, the transformative role of the arts in eldercare was reinforced.



The presence of Guest of Honour Ms Jane Ittogi, the First Lady of Singapore, underscored the national significance of this initiative.

Singapore Children's Book Festival 2025

The Singapore Children's Book Festival (SCBF) returned for its second year from 20 to 22 June 2025. Jointly organised by the Singapore Book Publishers Association (SBPA) and NAFA, this edition spotlighted local voices and heritage, promoting children's books by Singaporean authors and illustrators that reflect the rich multicultural tapestry of the nation.

Two new children's picture books, *Sly the Fly* and *Nasi Lemak Emak*, were launched at SCBF. Both titles were illustrated by recipients of the Student Illustrator Book Prize 2024, giving these student illustrators the opportunity to bring their ideas from concept to publication.



Image of Nasi Lemak Emak, provided by the recipient of the SCBF Student Illustrator Book Prize 2024.

NAFA Alumni Professional Day 2025

Held on 29 October 2025, the NAFA Alumni Professional Day 2025 brought together alumni, students, staff and industry professionals under the theme “Mentors, Mentees and Meaningful Conversations”. Centred on the “care for community” concept, the event celebrated the relationships that shape professional and creative

journeys, from receiving guidance as emerging creatives to giving back as mentors and industry leaders.

The programme featured a panel titled “Mentorship Journeys – How Guidance Shapes Careers”, where alumni speakers shared candid reflections on the people, experiences and turning points

that influenced their careers. Panellists included NAFA alumni Hubert Loi, Goh Shou Yi, Feon Koh, Jovan Yang and Gina Zhang.

Small-group mentor-mentee conversations, facilitated by alumni Megan Maesa Mulia and Jordan Lim, encouraged open dialogue on aspirations, challenges and navigating the creative industries.

More than a networking session, the event reflected the strength of the NAFA community—one built on support, generosity and the shared belief that meaningful guidance can shape future generations of creative practitioners.



The Universal Singapore and Malaysia Education Fair

On 10 and 11 August 2025, NAFA Overseas Alumni Chapter in Indonesia, together with the NAFA Outreach Team for International Student Recruitment, took part in the Universal Singapore and Malaysia Education Fair. Through conversations and interactive engagement, alumni shared their creative journeys, industry experiences and the possibilities that design education can unlock.

Positive responses from students, educators and members of the public reflected strong interest in the creative industries and the value of arts education. More than a promotional effort, the outreach reflected the Chapter's shared commitment to giving back, inspiring future creative talents, and supporting NAFA's outreach through cross-border artistic and educational collaborations.





NAFA Golf Charity 2025

On 3 September 2025, NAFA marked the 10th anniversary of our Golf Charity, raising more than S\$520,750 through the generous support of donors, corporate partners, friends of the Academy, and matching contributions from Tote Board's Enhanced Fundraising Programme. Since its inception, the annual fundraiser has raised over S\$4 million.

Proceeds from the Golf Charity go towards the NAFA Education Fund, providing bursaries, scholarships and financial aid schemes for students. These initiatives help ensure that deserving students can continue their artistic journeys, while nurturing young talents who will shape the future of the arts.

NAFA Giving Month

NAFA Giving Month, the Academy's annual fundraising campaign, brought together the NAFA community and members of the public to support deserving students with financial needs. In 2025, 21 Merit Awards were awarded to NAFA Diploma and Degree students for Academic Year 2026/2027, surpassing the initial fundraising goal of 19 awards.



We celebrate diversity and welcome international students and overseas academic institutions, corporate and societal partners. We cultivate intercultural exchange, allowing different perspectives and practices to inspire new practices.

CROSS CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES

Arts & Design Practice Research Exchange

Held from 6 to 7 August 2025, the third edition of the Arts & Design Practice Research Exchange (ADPRex) drew strong academic and artistic engagement, bringing together 53 presenters and 313 attendees from highly ranked universities and arts institutions worldwide.

Over the two-day event, ADPRex featured three keynote presentations and 14 panels, including two student panels, alongside video essays, a book launch and a publishers' table. Research insights from

the conference will be published in a special double issue of *Performance Research* titled "On Capturing Practice".

The event's theme "Capturing Practice" was developed in synergy with the sixth UOB-NAFA Southeast Asian Arts Forum, themed "Imaginary Library: The Art of Embodied Chronicles", held on 7 and 8 August 2025. Together, the two events reinforced NAFA's growing prominence as a centre of artistic and research excellence.



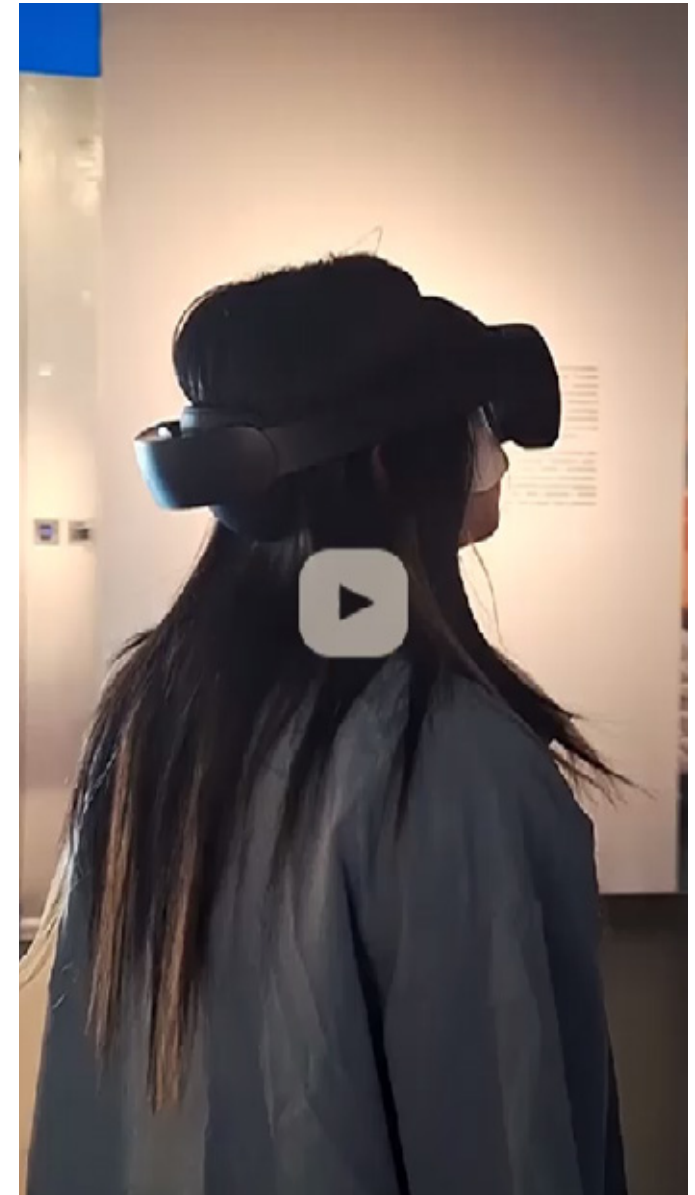
UOB-NAFA Southeast Asian Arts Forum 2025

The 2025 UOB-NAFA Southeast Asian Arts Forum continued to serve as a vital space for artistic exchange among practitioners and communities within the region. In its sixth edition, the forum, themed, “Imaginary Library: The Art of Embodied Chronicles” gathered the region’s leading artists, educators and researchers to reflect on how physical and digital archives shape identity in an era increasingly defined by artificial intelligence and rapidly evolving digital landscapes.

Through live presentations, performances and panel discussions, the discourse highlighted how digitised collections, online repositories and algorithmic tools are influencing artistic practice, reshaping our understanding of art history, culture and politics while opening new pathways for creative expression.

The forum also marked the debut of “Seeking Chimera”,

an online interactive game designed by Thai artist Gomesh Karnchanapayap in collaboration with the Institute of Southeast Asian Arts and tech studio Cyberrex. Hosted on UOB World, a metaverse platform, the game drew over 700 players as of 31 March 2026, demonstrating how art, heritage and digital spaces can deepen learning and engagement with Southeast Asian cultures.



Visitors interacting with the works at the gallery through VR headsets, featuring “Thai Talisman” by Thai artist Gomesh Karnchanapayap.

NAFA Cultural Policy Lab

Dr Hoe Su-Fern, Principal Research Fellow and the Director of NAFA Cultural Policy Lab, was appointed by the ASEAN Secretariat to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the ASEAN Strategic Plan for Culture and Arts (2016 – 2025), and to develop a new Work Plan for regional cultural cooperation in ASEAN (2026 – 2035). Across the year, senior government officials from the 11 ASEAN Member states convened alongside stakeholders from institutions such as UNESCO and The Korea Foundation to review the evaluation as well as to discuss and validate the development of the new Work Plan that will be endorsed officially at the 49th ASEAN Summit in November 2026.

The research also informed the development of a research project that will produce the first typology for mapping and visualising regional cultural relations in Southeast Asia. This will be a step-change towards enabling international cultural relations to become an infrastructure through which societies build trust, mutual understanding and collective capacity to respond to shared challenges. This is in line with the vision of the NAFA Cultural Policy Lab, Singapore's first and pioneering cultural policy research centre, dedicated to supporting resilient, regenerative and equitable arts and creative industries in Singapore and Southeast Asia through evidence-based and situated insights.

Healing Arts Singapore

A key driver and co-lead in Healing Arts Singapore (HASG), alongside the National University of Singapore's Centre for Music and Health at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music and the Jameel Arts & Health Lab, NAFA engaged over 500 participants from 8 to 12 December to explore the role of the arts in systems of care.

International experts in creative health, representatives from the WHO Western Pacific Region Office and Southeast Asia Region, including Malaysia, Brunei, and Indonesia, and key stakeholders from Singapore's arts, healthcare and social care sectors, participated in the NAFA-UAS Healing Arts Symposium, closed-door roundtable discussions and community engagement programmes led by NAFA's Associate Professor Michael Tan.

NAFA also serves as the appointed training institution for the Healing Arts Singapore ECCA Family Foundation Artist Commission Training Programme, supporting artists whose work will help shape new approaches to health, care and creativity in Singapore and the Western Pacific.



SCCC X NAFA–UAS Actor's Lab: Body, Voice & Presence

From 23 to 27 March 2026, NAFA's School of Theatre, in collaboration with the University of the Arts Singapore and the Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre organised a five-day creative acting camp.

Acclaimed theatre practitioners—Singapore's Ang Gey Pin and Malaysia's Seng Soo Ming—led

participants in foundational actor training during the first three days. This was followed by a two-day workshop on the "Bad Acting" methodology with Hong Kong's Olivia Yan, culminating in an open demonstration that bridged rigorous actor training with live performance.



Olivia Yan's Workshop for NAFA Contemporary Chinese Theatres Students

In conjunction with the Actor's Lab, Hong Kong theatre practitioner Olivia Yan also conducted an exclusive masterclass for students from the Bachelor of Arts (Honours)

Contemporary Chinese Theatres programme. Held over three evenings, the sessions deepened students' appreciation of advanced intercultural performance practices.

Shanghai FutureLab 2025

NAFA's Faculty of Art & Design participated in the Shanghai FutureLab 2025 exhibition, titled "Deep Roots, Bold Futures". Presenting under the theme of Southeast Asian cultural and design innovation, NAFA showcased how heritage continues to evolve, adapt and inspire new approaches to design, technology and sustainability.

Centred on adaptive resilience, the exhibition featured nine works by students, faculty and alumni that reimagined how culture shapes contemporary life. This engagement underpins NAFA's commitment to advancing Southeast Asian creative practices that are rooted in tradition yet forward-looking, contributing to FutureLab's global dialogue on design, innovation and culture.



Best of ASEAN Performing Arts 2025

NAFA School of Young Talents Junior Dance students Zhang Ziyi and Hillary Oon represented Singapore at the Best of ASEAN Performing Arts 2025, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Leading up to the event, the students participated in performing arts workshops ranging from traditional dance and music to contemporary interpretations of ASEAN culture.

During the event, representatives from participating countries presented a performing arts showcase to celebrate ASEAN's cultural heritage and regional solidarity through shared values. NAFA's representatives also performed at the 47th ASEAN Summit Gala Dinner on 27 October 2025.





University of the Arts London (UAL) and NAFA staff and students during the UAL Creative Exchange mobility programme, NAFA campus, Singapore.

Global Engagement

In 2025, NAFA students went on study trips to major cultural events and industry sites. These included Expo 2025 in Osaka where 45 Faculty of Art & Design students experienced one of the world's most significant showcases of innovation and design. Other study trips brought students to South Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, Vietnam and Malaysia.

Overseas Immersion Programmes (OIPs) also saw diploma students spending their school breaks at partner institutions in cities such as Bangkok, Shanghai and Yogyakarta to earn academic credits while deepening their learning and cultural perspectives. Bachelor of Music (Honours) Year 4 and Master of Performance Year 2 students in Chinese Instrumental Studies also completed a seven-week mandatory International Placement (IP) at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, China.

NAFA further enriched students' learning through intercultural exchange on campus by hosting international students and facilitating cross-cultural engagement. During the year, the Academy hosted Vanessa Girling, a Study Abroad student from Griffith University, under the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Biophilic Design programme, as well as 17 students and three staff members from the University of the Arts London (UAL) for the UAL Creative Exchange programme.

Additionally, NAFA hosted delegations from institutions worldwide, including California Institute of the Arts (CalArts), Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design (MOME), Royal College of Art (RCA), and National Taiwan University of the Arts (NTUA). These visits fostered meaningful exchanges, strengthened academic partnerships, and reinforced NAFA's role as a trusted collaborator in the international arts and design community.

COURAGE TO **CREATE**

We dare to explore boldly – embracing new ideas, technologies and experimentation. We see failures as learning catalysts that shape resilience, reflection and innovation.

Recognition and Impact

In 2025, NAFA students, alumni, and faculty continued to gain international recognition through exhibitions, performances, festivals, and competitions. The Academy's podcast series, *InspoGAO*, received recognition at the Asia-Pacific SABRE Awards 2025 in the Educational and Cultural Institutions category.

Other achievements included top honours at the inaugural ASEAN Furniture Design Award, finalist placement at the Margot Fonteyn International Ballet Competition, and award-winning performances in major international music competitions. NAFA alumni also showcased their artistic practice on international stages, with theatre productions presented in China and Hong Kong.



The residency programme at NAFA Studios @ Cité internationale des arts in Paris continued to support Southeast Asian artists through research, creation, and engagement with the international art scene. 14 artists from Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand participated in 2025.

NAFA faculty continued to advance global discourse through research, publications, and professional appointments. Notable publications included *Data-Driven Smart Community Design Strategies for Fostering Inclusive and Resilient Neighbourhoods* and *Signature Pedagogies for Professions in Arts and Design*. Faculty members also presented research at international conferences and received professional appointments across the region and beyond, reflecting NAFA's growing influence in arts education, cultural policy, design research and creative practice.

NAFA Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Design Practice student Muhammad Raihan Syahmi Bin Abdul Hadi, an enrollee of the NAFA Talent Development Programme, with his winning chair designs at the ASEAN Furniture Design Awards 2025. The Talent Development Awards supported the production of the chairs and his participation in the exhibition and awards ceremony.



Diploma in Dance student Hansomboon Wipob who is also an enrollee of the NAFA Talent Development Programme (front row, third from left, Competitor 10) with other finalists at The Margot Fonteyn International Ballet Competition 2025.

D&AD New Blood Awards 2025

Recent NAFA graduate Chang Kai Chu and alumnus Chang Kai-Ju, received recognition at the D&AD New Blood Awards 2025, an internationally recognised platform for emerging creative talent, for their project “KMC Power Up”. Their work demonstrated strong creative strategy, audience

insight and cultural relevance, transforming an everyday food product into an engaging interactive brand experience. Enrollees of the NAFA Talent Development Programme, they received support from the Talent Development Awards for their trip to the awards ceremony.



Featured by Sustainability Education Group Bamboo U

NAFA Year 3 Interior and Exhibition student Dean Lemhannas Putri Siahaan was featured in an article titled “Embracing Bamboo’s Natural Curves to Craft a Unique Bar Stool” published by Bamboo U, a sustainability education enterprise based in Bali, Indonesia. The feature highlighted her creative journey in the Bamboo Build & Design course, where she designed and crafted a bar stool using multiple species of bamboo while exploring the relationship between materiality, craftsmanship and sustainable design.



Christmas Train Launch at Dhoby Ghaut

On 20 November, NAFA Arts Preschool students performed at Dhoby Ghaut MRT Station for the Christmas Train Launch. The little performers lit up the station with joyful music through performances on keyboards and

bells, captivating the crowd with their confidence and creativity. They also presented a hand-painted Christmas artwork to Guest-of-Honour, Mr Baey Yam Keng, Minister of State for Culture, Community and Youth.



First Light of Fantasias Concert



The First Light of Fantasias concert delivered a polished and engaging musical experience for 337 attendees. Featuring the debut of Carl Vine's "Three Fantasias", the concert was led by Head of Junior Music Dr Poom Prommachart with faculty members Marianne Huang Yueyin on piano and Chen Shanhui Indra on guzheng. It showcased refined musicianship, stylistic sensitivity, and innovative cross-cultural collaboration through the integration of Western and Asian instruments.

JA Art Carnival 2025

A biennial event, the JA Art Carnival brought together all NAFA School of Young Talents Junior Art students to participate in two distinct arts and crafts projects. Conducted in a fun, celebratory spirit, the event concluded with a sweet treat for all participants.



Light to Night Singapore 2026

Themed “The Power in Us”, the festival, spearheaded by National Gallery Singapore, returned to celebrate the collective strength that emerges when people and communities come together to reflect, converse and create with art. Leveraging original

contemporary movement devices and curated dance structures, NAFA Diploma in Dance students invited audiences to engage with their interpretation of the themes explored in the artworks of artists Ngoc Nau and Syahmin Huda.

The Intercontinental Alliance for Integrated Care 2025

At the gala dinner of the Intercontinental Alliance for Integrated Care’s second annual flagship event, three students from the NAFA School of Fashion Studies—Mathilda Koh Jia Ling, Pang Wei Jie, and Yong Connie—collaborated with seniors from Lions Befrienders to create a bespoke collection that brought creativity and purpose to community-focused fashion. The intergenerational fashion showcase themed “Tapestry of Style: Weaving Generations Together through Fashion” demonstrated how purposeful partnerships can bridge generations, broaden perspectives and create meaningful impact.





“You Are Here. Now What?” Initiative

An ongoing initiative by the NAFA Faculty of Interdisciplinary Practices, “You Are Here. Now What?” returned for its third edition on 10 October 2025. Themed “Excavations”, the performance invited critical reflection and interdisciplinary

dialogue, exploring how collaboration across disciplines can generate new ideas and shared creative possibilities. The event was attended by NAFA and LASALLE, UAS staff and students, and arts industry professionals.

“We Made this Monster” Exhibition

In celebration of the NAFA School of Design & Media’s 50th anniversary, the exhibition sought to reframe design as a “monster”, portraying it as a living entity shaped by ambition, contradictions, experimentation and consequence. Through interdisciplinary programming and immersive installations,

it explored themes such as speculative futures, sustainability, cultural identity and collective experiences, challenging conventional narratives and questioning the systems and futures shaped by design.

Structured around “The Heart”, “The Guts”, “The

Breath”, and “The Mind”, the exhibition revealed the realities of the creative journey, including experimentation, failure, persistence, reflection, and ethical responsibility. By acknowledging both the visible and hidden dimensions of design practice, the exhibition encouraged resilience, critical thinking and innovation.

NAFA Arts Preschool Year-end Graduation and Performance

Inspired by “The Heart of Ice” and “The Nutcracker”, graduates and preschoolers from NAFA Arts Preschool across both campuses brought audiences on a wondrous journey through the arts, where snowflakes waltzed, toys came to life, and every beat and melody reflected the joy of learning.

Featuring graceful ballet, rhythmic percussion and expressive

keyboard performances, our K2 graduates showcased their talents at the Lee Foundation Theatre as part of their graduation ceremonies. The Luzerne Campus presented “The Nutcracker” on 21 November 2025, while the Bencoolen Campus staged “The Heart of Ice” on 27 November 2025, commemorating an important milestone in the children’s early learning journey.

The Grad Expectations 2025



This year, the signature graduation showcase featured over 500 original works by graduating students from the Faculty of Art & Design across Fine Art, Design & Media, 3D Design, and Fashion Studies.

The event opened with the Fine Art exhibition from 6 to 13 May, offering visitors insight into the diverse artistic practices and creative journeys of the graduating cohort. Five durational performances by graduating Fine Art students were also staged across multiple venues.



The Design Show followed, running from 22 to 29 May 2025. Themed “Fashion for Dementia”, this year’s fashion presentation featured the “Down the Lane” collection, which explored themes of memory and nostalgia through fashion, while highlighting the importance of support for those living with dementia. Students from NAFA Fashion Studies also presented a runway show exploring culture, identity and personal transformation. These works underscored the diverse creative approaches of NAFA’s emerging fashion designers.

NAFA Convocation 2025

At NAFA Convocation 2025, 799 graduates received diplomas, degrees and postgraduate qualifications across arts, design and performance. The convocation also marked a milestone in NAFA's postgraduate offerings with the inaugural graduates from the Master of Performance and Master of Composition.

Twenty-five Best Graduate Awards were presented in recognition of the graduates' excellence in artistry, leadership and service. Among the recipients were Debbie Yuen Hui Yee for her achievements in children's book

illustration, Althaea Grace Wangko for her contributions to community engagement and youth advocacy, and Muhammad Raihan Syahmi Bin Abdul Hadi for his leadership in a glass installation at the Singapore Night Festival. All three were also enrollees of the NAFA Talent Development Programme.

The inaugural NAFA Young Alumni Medal was also launched alongside the Distinguished Alumni Award to honour graduates under 40 who have excelled professionally while contributing meaningfully to the community and Academy.



NAFA Open House 2026

Held on 23 and 24 January 2026, the NAFA Open House saw a 25% increase in total visitors compared to 2025, with 41% more walk-in visitors and a noticeable increase in international students and parents.

The event featured workshops, talks, exhibitions, programme showcases and a newly curated series of

student performances across all three faculties, alongside campus-wide exhibits and installations.

The University of the Arts Singapore Open House on 7 March also welcomed prospective students and parents through talks introducing NAFA's diverse programmes and creative disciplines.

