

JOURNEY TO THE SOUTHWEST

A COMMUNITY
OUTREACH PROJECT
26.01 — 02.02.2021

OPEN CALL

Requirements:

- Artists or cultural workers (research, writing, teaching, etc.), having at least 2 years of experience, and an interest in learning and practicing community art, or relational arts
- Artist or cultural workers (research, writing, teaching, etc.), having at least 2 years of experience, a project that wants to learn and develop projects on the Mekong Delta. (Under this specific program, it is Ben Tre province and neighboring provinces).
- Participants should be in good physical condition, able to work in groups, highly dedicated to the project and able to communicate and research in their fieldwork
- Capacity to speak Vietnamese

DEADLINE OF
THIS OPEN CALL

31.12.2020

To apply, please email us before 31/12/2020 via hello@san-art.org titled "Application: Journey to the Southwest" along with:

- CV
- Statement of Purpose, stating reasons for applying to the programme and a research proposal
- Portfolio

We will respond as soon as we can. If you have any inquiries, please email us using the above address titled "Inquiry: Journey to the Southwest"

All the best,
Sàn Art

Journey to the Southwest is a community project that revisits the discourse on the labour division and the formation and accumulation of social capital involving: (1) individual cultural workers, and (2) social groups in contemporary Vietnam.

Despite various interpretations*, the concept behind social capital has been discussed and encouraged since the early 19th Century through political discourses from thinkers like Tocqueville or Dewey that emphasised the importance of connections amongst individuals that shared mutual interests and the needs to protect them. Connection - one of the most important factors that helps to constitute social capital - is the most agreeable concept amongst contemporary researchers and social activists. Social capital, generally, is the "connections among individuals - social networks and the norms of reciprocity and trustworthiness that arise from them," (Putnam, 19). In social activities, individuals connect with each other through a system of professionals, religions or interest groups. In the art and culture, groups of artists are formed on the basis of cooperation, support and assistance based on personality, skills and common goals. Serious or frivolous, connections are made through interactions over time as resources accumulate for the individuals involved.

With the desire to connect diverse values from individuals and collectives, Sàn Art is seeking potential colleagues to together travel, study, and create artworks, as well as to collaborate with local organisations on interdisciplinary projects, with a special emphasis on social work.

Journey to the Southwest calls for artists and researchers with an interest in the Mekong Delta (especially the Ben Tre region), or artists who are interested in community arts and relational arts practices to join us on a field trip and social work project in the coming Spring. During the one-week trip, we will learn about agriculture and practise farming and production; the artists will work with a local social organisation to participate in community initiatives, including making meals, joining communal activities and housing construction and/or maintenance to welcome the new year. There will be additional on-site research trips organized when necessary, as it is a starting point for an art/research project that we will produce together in the next year.

Sàn Art and local organisations in Ben Tre province hope to achieve connections:

- between artists and artists
- between the arts community and other professional groups
- between diverse groups of practitioners and local residents

Keywords:

- being-together as a part of artistic practice
- art organisations as a part of civil society
- documentation as artworks
- generating social capital

* The term *social capital* has many definitions, form and usages. The term appeared in a variety of multi-disciplinary texts including Jane Jacobs' *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, in which the author says, "...underlying any float of population must be a continuity of people who have forged neighborhood networks. These networks are a city's irreplaceable social capital," (Jacob, 138); or in Pierre Bordieu's definition, social capital is distinguished amongst three forms of capitals as "the aggregate of the actual or potential resources which are linked to possession of a durable network of more or less institutionalised relationships of mutual acquaintance and recognition." (Bordieu, 249)

ORGANIZERS

Sàn art



KIM LONG

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The workshop Journey to the Southwest is under the framework of a Community Outreach Project organized by Sàn Art and Kim Long agricultural initiative. This workshop is initiated with the sponsor of The British Council through Cultural and Creative Hubs Vietnam (CHV), 2018-2021, a project co-sponsored by the British Council and European Union, and organized by the British Council Vietnam in collaboration with VICAS.

[Learn more about CHV here.](#)