

**Arts Council Forum**  
**Connecting Cultures, Shaping Cities: Challenges, Opportunities, and Strategies**  
**Thursday, Feb 20, 2025**

Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture) hosts each year a forum to discuss the current and important themes in the field of arts and culture. This year's forum will focus on the value and potential that arts and culture bring to our cities.

International collaboration in arts and culture is a crucial factor in enhancing the city's creativity and generating new value. This forum will invite international experts to delve deep into the challenges and opportunities faced by artists and artistic organizations in the global art scene, the importance of building international networks, and the role of cultural policy.

We will invite Araf Ahmadali , Director of the Department of Arts & Culture of the City of Amsterdam, Choi Seok Kyu, Artistic Director of the Seoul Performing Arts Festival (SPAF), and Gilles Doré, Executive Director of CINARS, to discuss new opportunities and challenges in international arts development, policies and systems to support internationally active artists and artistic organizations, and the capacity building of professionals skillful of international marketing and management. With Tsukaguchi Mariko as moderator, we will engage in discussions with concrete examples. Through these discussions, we will conduct a multifaceted analysis of the impact of internationalization of arts and culture on cities and explore new perspectives on creating sustainable arts and cultural sector.

Advance registration is required (registration opens on Tue, January 21, 2025). Please visit the official website for the application link.

**【Outline】**

- **Title: Connecting Cultures, Shaping Cities: Challenges, Opportunities, and Strategies**
- **Date & Time: 5:00-8:00 PM (Japan Time), Thursday, Feb 20, 2025**  
(Part 1: Presentation / Part 2: Discussion / Part 3: Networking)
- **Venue: Arts Council Tokyo (Kudan First Place 5F, 4-1-28, Kudankita, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo)**
- **Language: Simultaneous Japanese-English interpretation provided**
- **Admission Fee: Free \*Advance registration required / First come, first served basis up to 70 persons**
- **Organizer: Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)**
- **Speakers: (in no particular order)**  
Araf Ahmadali ( Director of the Department of Arts & Culture of the City of Amsterdam )  
Choi Seok Kyu ( Artistic Director of Seoul Performing Arts Festival )  
Gilles Doré ( Executive Director of CINARS )  
Tsukaguchi Mariko ( President and Secretary General of Open Network for Performing Arts Management (ON-PAM). ) \*moderator
- **Registration: Please register online through the official website**  
<https://forum.artscouncil-tokyo.jp/2024/en/>

\*Please note that program contents may be subject to change

## ■ Speaker Profile



**Araf Ahmadali ( Director of the Department of Arts & Culture of the City of Amsterdam )**

Araf Ahmadali has been the director of the Department of Arts & Culture of the City of Amsterdam since February 2021, after being a policy advisor for this department for several years. He has a broad experience in making policies on international cultural affairs, funding, entrepreneurship and creative industries and a passion for creative (and digital) innovation and music production. He was in the lead to realize the first 'Night vision' of the City of Amsterdam; that calls for acknowledgement of night culture as a relevant artistic driver of Amsterdam and part of its cultural policy.



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**Choi Seok Kyu ( Artistic Director of Seoul Performing Arts Festival )**

Festival director, producer, and researcher. Currently Kyu is artistic director of Seoul Performing Arts Festival (2022-26) and creative director of Performing Arts Market in Seoul (2020-22). Kyu focuses on the discourse of contemporary art, developing and creating festival programs, creative research residencies, labs, workshops, and many other projects. He has acted as festival or creative director of many events, including the UK/Korea Season Festival 2017-18, the Chuncheon International Mime Festival, and the Ansan Street Arts Festival. In 2005, he established AsiaNow Productions, to develop, produce and present innovative Korean/Asian contemporary physical theatre, dance and interdisciplinary arts. In 2013, Kyu initiated the Asian Producers' Platform, a collective network of independent producers in the Asian region and recently he co-founded the Asia-Pacific Festivals Connection (APFC) for Asian artists' mobility and developing Asian perspectives.



**Gilles Doré ( Executive Director of CINARS )**

Since March 2022, Gilles Doré is the Executive Director of CINARS. Previously he was the Director of International Development for the performing arts. For the past 25 years, Mr. Doré acquired a solid experience in arts management and international development for the arts. Over the years, he has been general manager of Art Circulation a contemporary dance consortium, financial director O Vertigo Dance company, general manager of the Caserne Letourneux of the Theatre Sans Fil – a center dedicated for residencies and production. He was also a consultant for the Conseil des Arts et des Lettres du Québec & University of Montreal and also for the Art Council of the city of Laval and some music and theatre companies.

### **Moderator:**



**Tsukaguchi Mariko ( President and Secretary General of Open Network for Performing Arts Management (ON-PAM) )**

Tsukaguchi Mariko worked at Japan Center, Pacific Basin Arts Communication (PARC) and the secretariat of Performing Arts Meeting in Yokohama (TPAM) as a program officer from 2006 to 2017. As a grantee of the program of overseas study for upcoming artists 2009 by Agency for Cultural Affairs in Japan, she did an internship at Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh and Riverside Studio in London.

■About Arts Council Forum

Each year Arts Council Tokyo organizes forums aiming to address current and important themes in the field of arts & culture. Through discussion among experts from various fields, we aim to explore artistic and cultural measures which affirms and enhances Tokyo's presence as an international city.

■About Arts Council Tokyo

Arts Council Tokyo develops a variety of programs to encourage the creation and dissemination of arts and culture and to promote Tokyo as an international city of artistic and cultural attractions.

For inquiries regarding this project, please contact  
Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)

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