



Two challenges

Social

Design Opportunity

Communities

Deadline

30 November 2026

For queries, please email
info@singaporedesignawards.com

www.singaporedesignawards.com

Organised by



In partnership with



Submission Form





Background

The Singapore Design Awards honours outstanding designers, design students and design practices for their innovative design and human-centric approach. The awards aim to serve as a springboard for designers at all levels to take on increasingly complex problems in today's world, with the emphasis on enabling designers to bring their ideas into reality.

In partnership with the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) and the Singapore Government Partnerships Office (SGPO), the awards has been designed to be one that's relevant to the current challenges that Singapore is facing.



Call for Entries

10 September
2026



30 November
2026





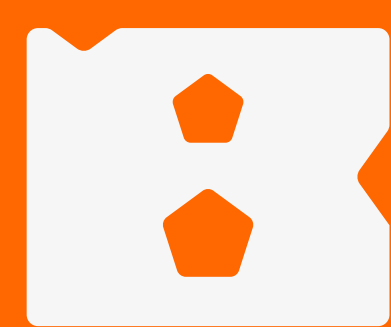
Design Challenge

Design Challenge 1

by National Council of Social Service

How might we identify and support individuals who are at risk of developing problematic behavioral habits before they require medical or clinical intervention?

Talk Spot Support Access



behavioural



addiction



Design Challenge 2

by Singapore Government Partnerships Office

How might we, as designers, bring different people and groups together to form resilient and sustainable micro-communities who act for community good?

Connect Contribute Participate Lead
Sustain Bridge



micro



community



04

Seed Money

1 Grand winner
for each Ministry

6 Finalists from
each Challenge Statement



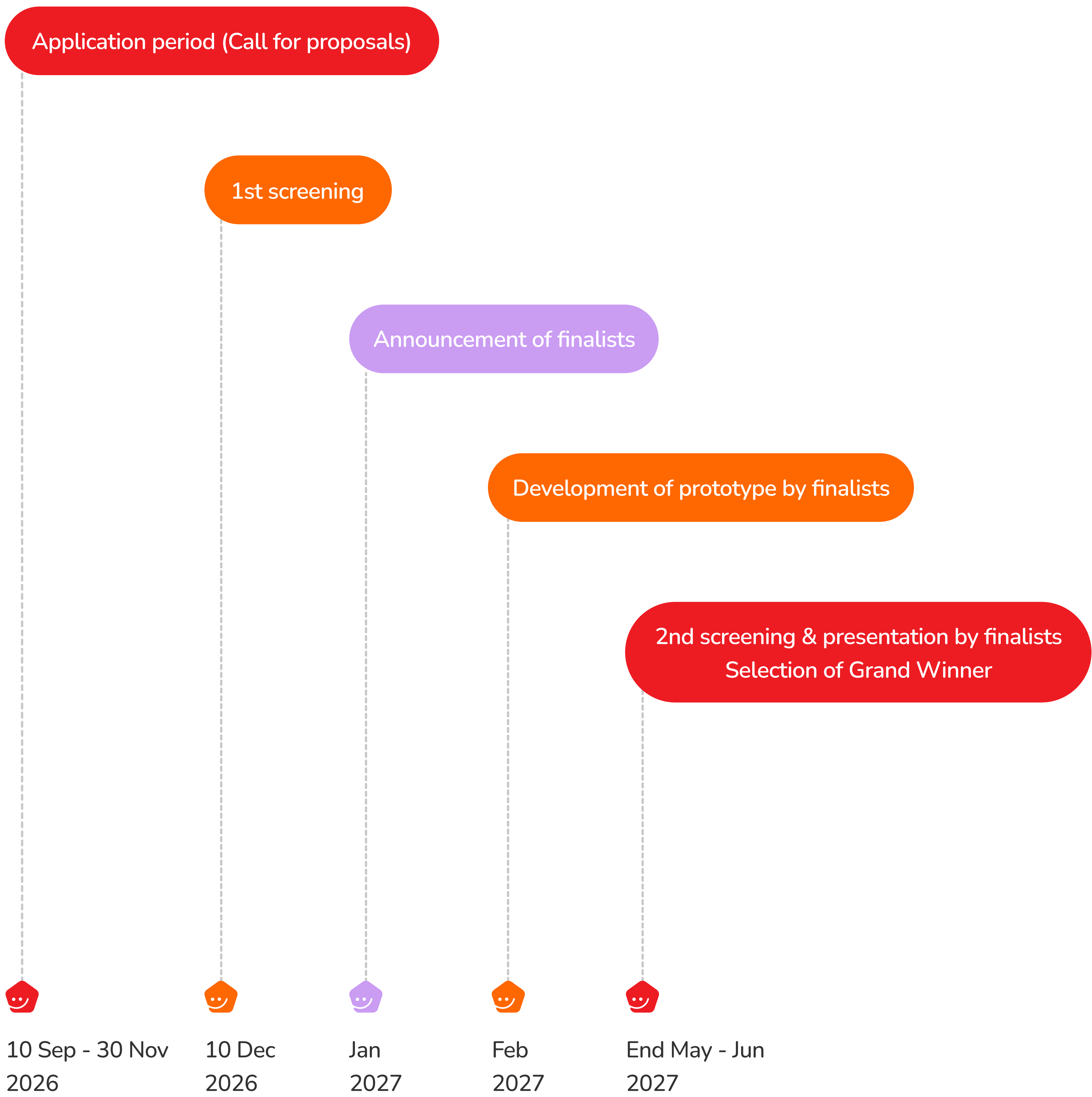
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Submission Guidelines

- 1 Submissions accepted from any creative persons (students or professionals) who use design as the primary problem-solving tool.
- 2 Individual, Corporate or Group submissions are welcomed.
- 3 Participants may form a conglomeration or consortium comprising designers / specialists to facilitate/realise the proposals.
- 4 Ideas must be original and not infringe on any copyrights or trademark.
- 5 Ideas must address any one (or more) of the challenge statements.
- 6 Ideas must be presented up to the prototype phase.
- 7 Ideas must be actionable and centred on tangible results.
- 8 Within funding scope: Ideas that can be implemented within 6 to 12 months timeline

06

Key Dates





Criteria

Objective of the project

Empathy assesses whether the team has identified a genuine need through a deep understanding of people, communities and context. Potential assesses the significance of the value the project could create for users, communities, organisations or society, based on a clear articulation of the gap(s) to be addressed and the outcome(s) to be achieved.

Working together with partners

Assesses whether the team has identified the right partners, stakeholders and collaborators, and whether these partnerships involve elements of co-designing and/or co-delivering that strengthen the project's ability to be realised.

Reaching more communities or groups

Potential evaluates the breadth and significance of the project's intended impact, including the extent to which it reaches and involves new and/or multiple stakeholder groups. Viability evaluates whether the solution can realistically sustain, adapt and scale to reach more people over time.

Your experience

Assesses whether the team has the relevant experience, capabilities and expertise to successfully realise the proposed solution.

Your Plan

Realisation assesses the credibility of the implementation plan, including roles, responsibilities, milestones, resource planning, and the overall readiness to deliver the project.



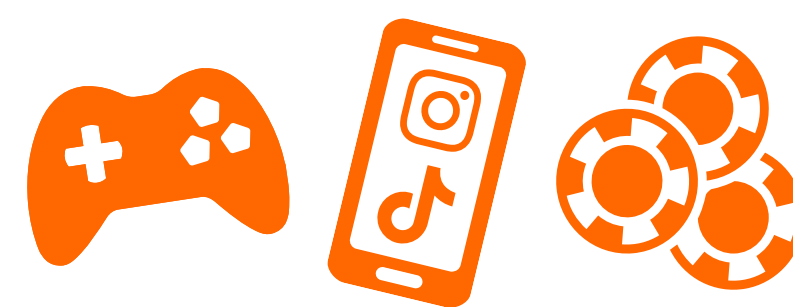
Design Challenge 1

by National Council of Social Service (NCSS)

How might we identify and support individuals who are at risk of developing problematic behavioral habits before they require medical or clinical intervention?

Core Issue

Problematic behavioural habits is when a person feels a strong urge to keep doing a certain activity or behaviour repeatedly, even if it starts to cause problems in daily life, relationships and finances. Recognising the difference between bad habits and problematic ones can be challenging.



Key insight

Stigma is a key barrier to seeking help for persons who struggle with problematic behavioural habits. There are three main types of stigma: social stigma (societal prejudice and discrimination), self-stigma (internalising negative beliefs), and structural stigma (policies, practices, and systems that exclude).

Possible design territories



Spot

Recognising early signs that a behaviour may be becoming problematic



Talk

Creating safe opportunities for people to open up about their behaviour and what may be behind it



Support

Providing practical and emotional support before the situation escalates



Wayfinding

Making the right help easier to find and understand

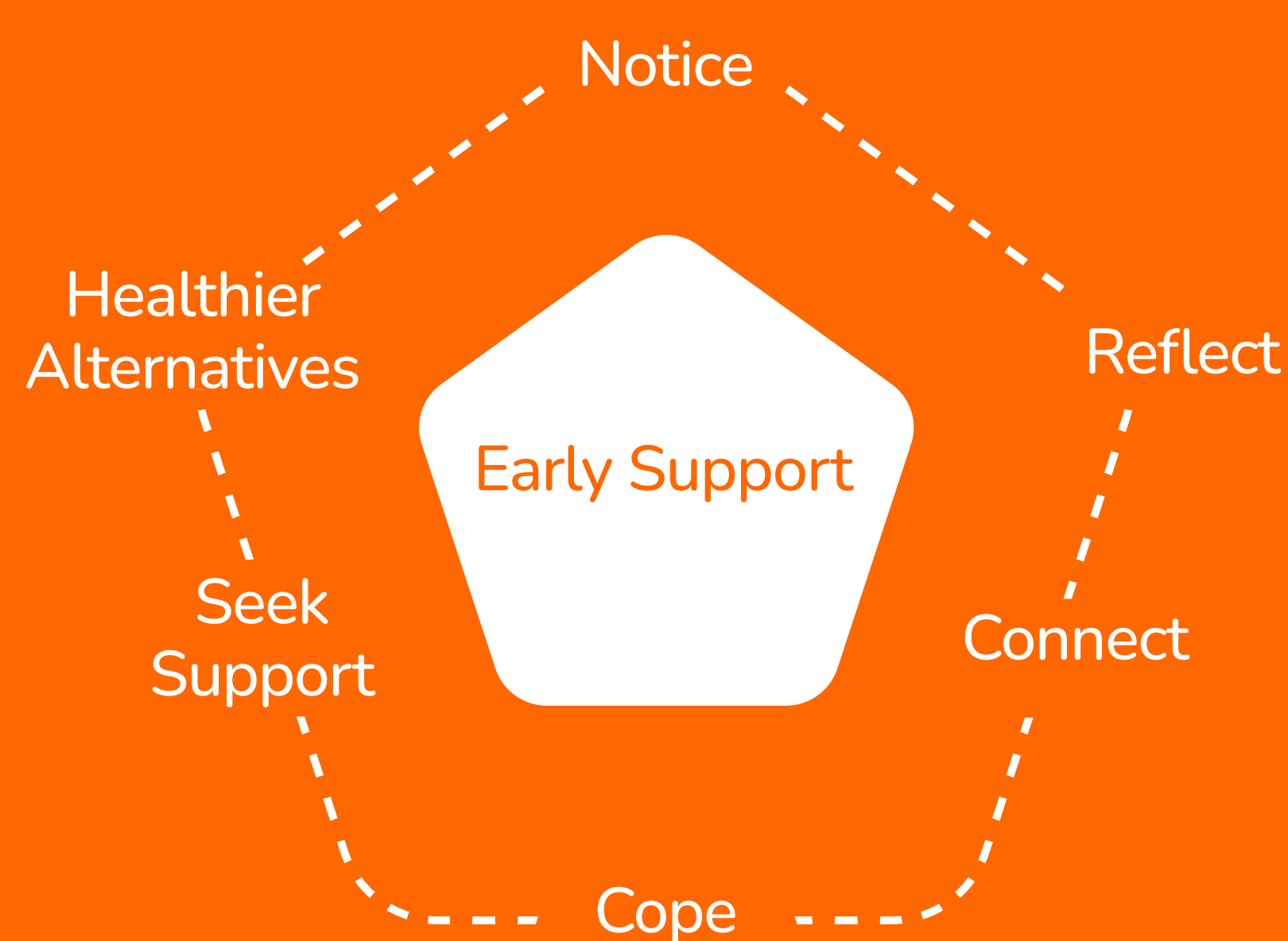


Design Challenge 1

by National Council of Social Service (NCSS)

What designers could explore

Design for the period before crisis or clinical intervention, helping people notice, reflect, connect, cope, seek support or find healthier alternatives.



- Products
- Services
- Digital Tools
- Environments
- Experiences
- Campaigns
- Community Interventions
- Systems

Products, services, digital tools, environments, experiences, campaigns, community interventions or systems that support early identification, prevention and help-seeking.

Important consideration

The focus is preventive, not medical or clinical treatment.

Examples / reference points

- [Behavioural addiction support | National Council of Social Service](#)
- [Capability Circles: Addiction Expert Series](#)
- [Research on problematic social media use and gaming](#)
- [Early intervention and behavioural addiction support](#)



Design Challenge 2

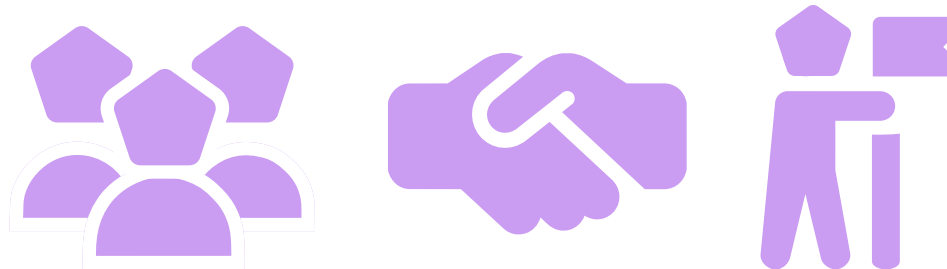
by Singapore Government Partnerships Office (SGPO)



How might we, as designers, bring different people and groups together to form resilient and sustainable micro-communities who act for community good?

Core Issue

People may live alongside one another without developing meaningful relationships or a sense of shared responsibility. Micro-communities can create opportunities for people to connect, contribute and act together, thereby serving as a locus for the deepening of relational trust, sustained participation in community life, and the nurturing of community leaders.



Key insight

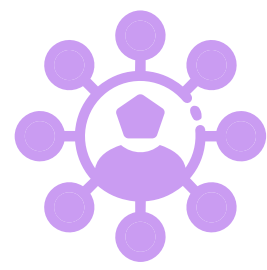
People often form stronger relationships because they have something meaningful to do together, rather than because they were told to “build community”. Relationships grow through doing together because people practise affirming one another’s gifts, being considerate of one another’s needs, navigating misunderstandings and disagreements, and sharing responsibilities.



Design Challenge 2

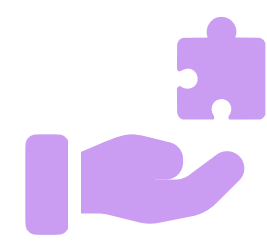
by Singapore Government Partnerships Office (SGPO)

Possible design territories



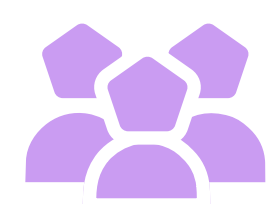
Connect

Bring people with different backgrounds together through shared tasks that build interdependence and trust over time



Contribute

Recognise members through their strengths and allow roles to shift between giving and receiving support



Participate

Anchor the community around a recurring shared practice that gives people a concrete reason to return



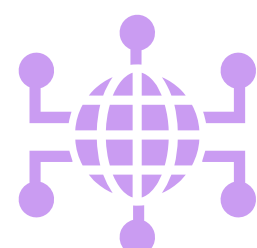
Lead

Create a pathway from participation to leadership so responsibility is not held by one person alone



Sustain

Build in predictable rhythm, reflection and proportionate safeguards so the community can adapt without losing its purpose



Bridge

Connect micro-communities with wider organisations and support so they stay resilient, without becoming closed off from the people and resources around them



Design Challenge 2

by Singapore Government Partnerships Office (SGPO)

What designers could explore

Design the conditions that allow micro-communities to form, grow and sustain themselves through shared purpose, recurring activities, contribution, trust and distributed leadership.

Programmes, platforms, placemaking, community initiatives, experiences or systems that:

- Activate people to participate, contribute, and take collective action for community good; and
- Help them build resilient relationships in so doing.

Important consideration

A shared purpose or practice gives people a reason to return. Co-creation and co-delivery are essential for creating a shared stake in the continuity of a micro-community. One-off attendance is not enough.

Examples / reference points

[!\[\]\(67b99c4d964e257c5482ff1b2462b204_img.jpg\) Neighbourhood Kakis](#)

[!\[\]\(94480c799e843c3a4dcfaf8c99e6db79_img.jpg\) Stridy](#)

[!\[\]\(7453c0f29ed3a7dcecf77fe714fbbf84_img.jpg\) Skillseed's Resilience Trails](#)

[!\[\]\(15d3dfb11951c9197b3fa51927099453_img.jpg\) Breakfast Buddy](#)

[!\[\]\(2c272f92eedd646336bf3d1161a690e1_img.jpg\) Share a Pot](#)

[!\[\]\(b52923ac887f6b630066a7f81d758df3_img.jpg\) Kasih Sayang by Kampong Kapor Community Services](#)

[!\[\]\(758fecfcf97b15b743a123b5de83ec46_img.jpg\) Repair Kopitiam](#)



Terms & Conditions



Eligibility

1. All entries submitted must be completed or realisable within the 6 to 12 months timeline, with a minimum viable product (MVP) following proof of concept.
2. Joint-project submissions from more than one design firm or practice are eligible for entry.
3. Conceptual works and projects developed by students who are still undergoing professional design studies are eligible.
4. Any projects submitted which have not conformed to the Terms & Conditions are not deemed ineligible.
5. Any work submitted without the company of proper and prompt payment is to be deemed as ineligible.
6. The executive committee in consultation with the international judges reserves the right to reject entries on the grounds of ineligibility if they affect the standards of the awards, potentially mar the reputation of the organisation and its jury, cause any concern on the issue of interests, etc.



Intellectual Property, Rights & Terms of Use

1. All rights related to the name and trademark of Singapore Design Awards are managed and owned exclusively by Design Business Chamber Singapore.
2. Any candidate seeking to use the related name and trademark must obtain written consent from the DBCS Executive Committee.
3. Awardees are permitted to use the relevant Singapore Design Awards logos.
4. Design companies or designers submitting works for any category must be responsible for their own intellectual property (IP) and patent issues. The organisers take no responsibility for any infringement of IP rights.
5. All design firms and institutions submitting an entry to the Singapore Design Awards agree to allow the organisers to use and reproduce their submissions for publicity purposes.
6. If any press, publications or media networks agree to publicise the awardees, the entrants agree to absorb any talent or other residual charges incurred by inclusion, if required.
7. All finalists of Singapore Design Awards agree to grant the National Council of Social Service (NCSS), the Ministry of Culture, Community & Youth (MCCY), and their affiliates and authorised representatives, an irrevocable, perpetual, non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty free, and fully-paid up licence. This licence allows NCSS, MCCY, and their affiliates and authorised representatives to use, copy, modify, reproduce, create derivative works, sublicense, and distribute the Awardee's intellectual property rights (IPR) for non-commercial and/or educational purposes only. The complete seed funding agreement for NCSS is available for viewing [here](#). Finalists of SGPO's challenge statement will be notified separately of the terms and conditions of seed funding from the SG Partnerships Fund, and are strongly advised to take note of funding caps and project expenses that can or cannot be covered by reviewing the FAQs.



Terms & Conditions



Judging

1. The judges reserve the right not to confer awards in any category if the entries were found to be below par in terms of reaching the top bandwidth of a category's score board.
2. The judges' decisions are made with their own discretion and are considered final.
3. All submissions will be evaluated by the same panel of judges from each discipline.
4. Should the judge be involved in any of the entries submitted, he/she will not be allowed to evaluate the project.



Contact Information

For any enquiries, please contact us at info@singaporedesignawards.com.

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Submit your ideas at www.singaporedesignawards.com