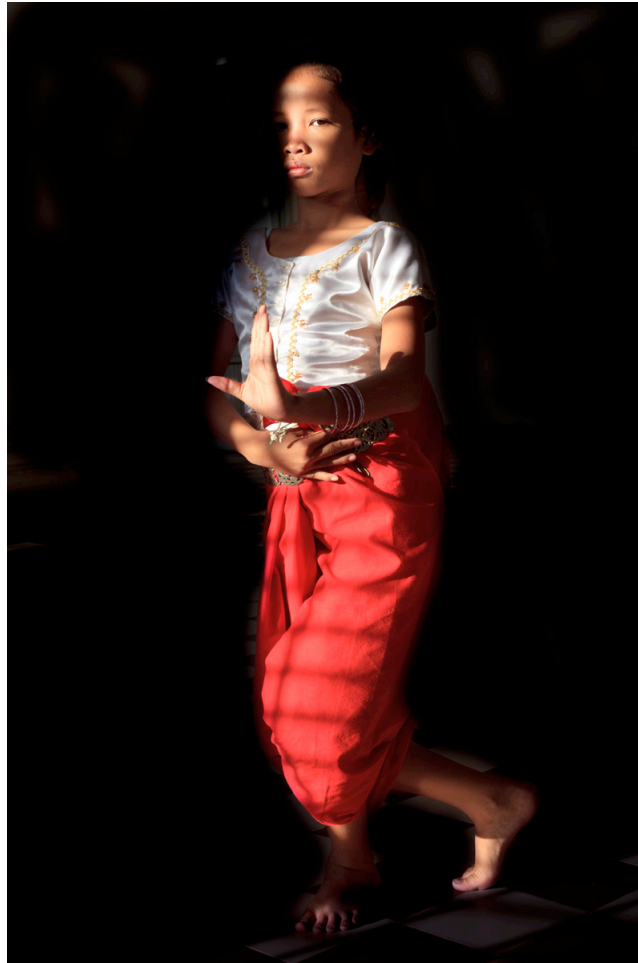

KHMER CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE
CONCEPT PAPER:
TRAINING IN TRADITIONAL KHMER ARTS



Background

The Khmer Cultural Development Institute (KCDI) exists for two main purposes: to teach, preserve and develop traditional Khmer culture and art; and to heal children who have been affected by disability, poverty, loss and trauma, using the creative process of the arts. The school was founded in Kampot on July 13 1994 by Catherine Geach, a violin professor at the Royal University of Fine Arts, having been legalized by the Supreme National Council (SNC) as a Cambodian NGO the previous year in 1993. Working in partnership with provincial authorities and the Ministry and Kampot Department of Culture for nearly twenty years, KCDI now cares for twenty-eight students in residence and in a transition program, all of them disadvantaged youth from Southwestern Cambodia. Our music program teaches the ancient traditional musical forms of Pinpeat, Mahouri and Wedding music (PleinKa), as well as ancient theatre and dance forms such as Yike, Trot, and Classical Khmer Ballet (Robam Boran). Many of our students have gone on to achieve scholarships at the Royal University of Fine Arts, and have become professional musicians and cultural scholars in Cambodian society.

In addition to teaching and preservation activities, the school presents regular public performances in Southwestern Cambodia, and engages in cross-cultural workshops with groups such as *Sibelius Academy Finland* and others. The school has also recently produced the second recording of our students' music, entitled *Songs From Kampot*. Thanks to its reputation for authentic traditional music, the school's performing group is frequently asked to perform at traditional ceremonies in and around Kampot, including weddings and other traditional festivals. All performances are conducted under strict guidelines which have been developed collaboratively with staff and students, to ensure that our child protection and cultural preservation goals are the highest priority. Fees from these performances help to support the children's care and the school's programs.

The KCDI boarding house is open to disadvantaged and vulnerable children in need of short-term residential care and to students interested in studying the traditional arts but living too far to travel to the school daily. All our boarding students are provided support and guidance in general education, vocational training, and life skills. All students also are provided support to visit families in their home province in addition to regular opportunities and events for families to visit the students at KCDI. For those children who were referred to the boarding house by the Department of Social Affairs, KCDI is currently looking at ways to re-integrate them back into their communities and implement the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth (MoSVY) policy on Alternative Childcare. This means working with communities and local authorities to re-integrate children back into communities, when possible. KCDI will also work with children and their families after they have returned to the community to ensure they are receiving adequate support and that their rights and basic needs are being met.

The school facilities are built on land donated by the Governor of Kampot, with funds contributed by the British Royal Government, the Canada Fund, and the Government of Japan, amongst many others. Currently, the organization is receiving operating support from Reach Out To Asia (ROTA) of Qatar, with the purpose of professionalizing the organization and making it more sustainable in the future. Through this funding a Board of Directors has been formed, and the organization is currently engaged in the process of identifying new long-term funding partnerships.

Vision and Mission

Vision: A society that respects, values and supports traditional Khmer arts and culture and provides opportunities for vulnerable children.

Mission: The mission of KCDI is to protect, preserve and develop Cambodian traditional arts and culture for future generations through education, training and awareness raising and to care for and heal vulnerable children.

Purpose/Goal

To provide training for resident and community children in Khmer traditional arts and a path towards future employment in the arts sector as professional artists.

Objectives

- To provide opportunities for children resident at KCDI and community children to receive high quality training in traditional Cambodian forms of music such as Yike, Pin Peat, Mahouri, classical ballet and other art courses
- To provide training opportunities enabling students to become professional artists
- To contribute to the preservation and protection of traditional and pure forms of Cambodian culture, in particular to the disappearing art forms of South West Cambodia

Activities

Each year, KCDI will hold auditions for its dance and music programs to allow new students to access training in these traditional art forms, unavailable anywhere in Kampot Province. KCDI will work in cooperation with state schools, pagodas and the Provincial Department of Fine Arts and Culture to organize auditions and select students. Students will be selected not only on natural talent, but also on needs, with students from poor and vulnerable families given priority.

Classes will be held three times a week, two hours per lesson in each art form, giving each student six hours of high-quality instruction per week. In the first year, there will be two levels, a beginning class for the new intakes and an advanced class for resident students. In subsequent years classes will be organized into three levels: beginner, intermediate and advanced.

Additional classes will be offered in complementary subjects such as music notation and history of traditional art forms. Short term courses will also be offered in a variety of other areas such as instrument making and repair, Sro Lai and shadow puppets.

Students will have opportunities to practice before an audience in the school's monthly concerts and in official performances as requested by local authorities or at festivals. Upon graduation from high school and from arts training, students will be able to join the KCDI Performance Group, an arts troupe which undertakes commercial performances such as at weddings, trot festivities and other festivals. This will provide students with professional employment experience as well as potential for earning an income.

In order to provide further support for students from poor families, a healthy and nutritious lunch will be provided during the week for those with identified need. Staff will also work closely with these families to monitor the home situation and as necessary, KCDI will provide

additional support to ensure children are able to study both at public school and at KCDI. Referrals to other services will also be provided as needed.

Budget

A. Overhead Costs	
Staffing	6,600
Operational Costs	2,418
Subtotal Overhead	9,018
B. Activity Costs	
Teaching Staff	17,100
Food Provisions	3,000
Health & Medical	60
Transportation	992
Equipment & Site Maintenance	2,300
Miscellaneous	930
Subtotal Activity Costs	24,382
Total	33,400