

About the Six Finalists of Arts X Tech Creative Competition

Tertiary Division	Participants	School	Participants	School
1	Chow Ka Kiu Mak Tsz Yu Sally	City University of Hong Kong City University of Hong Kong	Chow Chi Hang Lau Sin Ting	City University of Hong Kong Hong Kong Baptist University
2	Lau Yui Fong Hang Chi Lau Tsz Yee Yim Tai Him	The University of Hong Kong The University of Hong Kong The University of Hong Kong Jacobs University Bremen (Germany)	Lau Tsz Ying Wu Chun Ming Fu Ming Hon Harvey	Hong Kong Baptist University HKUST Munsang College*
3	So Chuen On Pong Pak Kan Chin Tian You	HKAPA HKAPA HKUST	Ng Yan Ling Illuminatus Kam Pak Sze	HKAPA HKAPA
4	Chuang Cheng Yu Magdalene Toh	HKUST HKUST	Cheung Ngai Yan Irene Ow Yong Chee Seng	HKUST HKUST

* With special approval by the Organizer to join the Tertiary Division

Secondary Division	Participants	School
5	Tsang Tsz Wa, Li Sze Kit, Tse Hiu Fung, Lee Nok Yin, Mak Chi To, Fan Tsun Yi	Po Leung Kuk Lee Shing Pik College
6	Chou Kai Him, Ting Akons, Ngan Yu Hang, Cheung Hui Sen, Ho Kyehim, Ip Cheuk Lam Julian, Leung Man Yui, Wong Ching Pan	Queen's College

Four Webinars for the First-Round Shortlisted Teams

Webinars	Titles	Guest Speaker(s)
1	Creative Process I: From concept to artwork	Mr Keith Lam, New Media Artist, and Mr Chris Cheung (h0nh1m), New Media Artist
2	Creative Process II: Behind the scenes of media arts creation	Ms. Anita Lam and Mr Andy Stokes, Founders of The Collective
3	Creating the sublime: Environmental and surround sound design	Mr King-Kong Fung, Sound Designer
4	How to stand out in a sea of proposals?	Ms Joel Kwong, New Media Arts Curator

Advisory Panel and Jury Panel

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- Dr Leung Chi Hin
- Mr Keith Lam
- The Collective (Ms Anita Lam and Mr Andy Stokes)

Jury Panel

- Mr Gaybird Leung
- Mr Kenneth Lee, Senior Outreach Manager,
Representative of the Hong Kong Arts Festival

Jury Representatives of Local Institutions

- Baptist University of Hong Kong
- City University of Hong Kong
- Education University of Hong Kong
- Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts
- Hong Kong Design Institute
- Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Lee Wai Lee)

About *Laila*: A Ground-Breaking Opera that Pushes Beyond Conventions, a Special Project of the 50th HKAF

Created for the FNOB by world-renowned composer and conductor Maestro Esa-Pekka Salonen, dramaturg Ms Paula Vesala, sound designer Mr Tuomas Norvio and arts and technology specialists the Ekho Collective, *Laila* incorporates Artificial Intelligence (AI), Virtual Reality (VR), video-projection mapping, 360 spatial sound and real-time sensors to offer a unique, immersive and interactive arts experience in a dome-shaped performance space.

Laila was born out of Opera Beyond, the FNOB's international open call, which went out in 2019, looking for concepts of an immersive, interactive art piece. The work was selected as the winning proposal out of 195 applications, and its creative team have brought the idea to fruition in collaboration with the FNOB.

Making a breakthrough by pushing beyond the traditional conventions of opera, *Laila* invites visitors into an exploration with AI—a self-learning code that mirrors its creator's failures and successes—to become co-creators in shaping a new reality, and to confront our hopes, fears and anxieties related to technology and the unknown. The experience is accessible to arts lovers, users of new technologies, young people and families alike.

Laila was recently awarded the prestigious FEDORA Digital Prize for 2020. Europe's largest opera and ballet competition, the FEDORA Prizes foster and reward new forms of artistic expression and access to opera and ballet through digital innovation. On selecting *Laila* as its winner, the judges recognised that "the work makes bold use of new technologies while extending reality into a mesmerising and collaborative experience".

This special project reaffirms the HKAF's dedication to supporting projects that push the boundaries of different art forms to achieve new breakthroughs in artistry and to create memorable and meaningful experiences for all.

About the Hong Kong Arts Festival

Launched in 1973, and celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, the Hong Kong Arts Festival is a major international arts festival, committed to enriching the cultural life of the city. In February and March every year, the Festival presents leading local and international artists in all genres of the performing arts, placing equal importance on great traditions and contemporary creations. The Festival also commissions and produces work in Cantonese opera, theatre, music, chamber opera and contemporary dance by Hong Kong's creative talent and emerging artists; many of these works have had successful subsequent runs in the city and overseas. The Festival also presents over 250 "PLUS" and educational activities that bring a diverse range of arts experiences to the community as well as tertiary, secondary and primary school students. In addition, through the "No Limits" project co-presented with The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, the Festival strives to create an inclusive space for people with different abilities to share the joy of the arts together.

HKAF is a non-profit organisation. The total budget for FY2021/22 (including the 50th Hong Kong Arts Festival and 2022 "No Limits") is approximately HK\$124 million. Current Government annual funding accounts for around 21% of the Festival's total income. Around 16% of the Festival's income needs to come from the box office, and around 45% from sponsorship and donations made by corporations, individuals and charitable foundations. The remaining 18% is expected to come from other revenue sources including the Government's matching scheme, which matches income generated through private sector sponsorship and donations.

(For more information, please visit <https://www.hk.artsfestival.org/>)

Disclaimer

All the content of works are independently produced by the relevant creative teams, and do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of HKAF or the sponsor.

Programme Information and Media Enquiries

For further enquiries, please contact:

About Project *Laila*

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