

SINGAPORE DESIGN BIENNALE 2027

INTERNATIONAL OPEN CALL



Closing Date: 12 Aug 2026, 5PM SGT

The inaugural Singapore Design Biennale (SDB) will take place from **14 May to 20 June 2027**, with the theme **1.35°N**.

Organised by the DesignSingapore Council (Dsg), SDB will build on Singapore's global renown as a nation shaped by design, succeeding the long-established Singapore Design Week with an expanded format that will be greater in ambition, scale and international partnerships.

We invite international, regional and local programme partners to co-create a vibrant design experience and be part of the first edition of SDB! Whether you are a local or international independent designer, a design-related organisation in the creative community, or a design-forward brand, corporate or organisation, we welcome your proposals in response to the theme for SDB 2027.

For more information on SDB, refer to the Annex.

SDB 2027 Theme

1.35°N

1.35°N marks Singapore's geographical latitude – more than a map coordinate for the Singapore Design Biennale, it is a base to spark global conversations.

Just above the equator, Singapore lives with heat as a constant, land as a limit, and resources that must be made rather than found. These conditions have shaped a culture of continual testing, adaptation, and improvement, where many of the pressures shaping tomorrow are already part of everyday life here.

At **1.35°N**, the future is less awaited than prototyped.

Looking beyond the horizon, the Biennale invites designers, architects, artists, researchers, technologists, and interdisciplinary practitioners from Singapore and around the world to respond to the realities of contemporary life and imagine possible futures together.

We seek works and propositions that approach **1.35°N** not as a fixed position, but as a site of experimentation, collaboration, and inquiry into how we might live, make, and relate in the world ahead.

Join us as a SDB Programme Partner

[BIT.LY/SDB_OC2027](https://bit.ly/SDB_OC2027)

1. Partners

International, regional and local partners spanning a wide range of sectors, including but not limited to:

- Singapore and international designers
- Design agencies
- Design institutions
- Design-led organisations and brands
- International and regional design festivals
- Retailers/malls
- Developers/place managers

2. Formats & Venues

Programmes can come in various forms and scales, including but not limited to:

- Exhibitions and installations
- National/city presentations, country pavilions and presentations from international design festivals
- Hackathons, networking sessions, workshops, open houses, studio visits, tours and graduation shows etc.

We welcome in-person programmes with **hands-on, experiential, or interactive elements** to enhance the overall experience and engagement.

The Singapore Design Biennale will feature Design Districts, embedding relevant, meaningful and impactful design into everyday environments and communities. Programmes are preferred to be clustered within SDB's Design Districts, including but not limited to:

- Bras Basah.Bugis
- Marina Bay
- Orchard
- Singapore Science Park

More information on Design Districts can be found in the Annex.

Beyond this, programmes and activations can take place in unconventional sites like bookstores, libraries, hotels and other public and civic spaces. Partners may consider other potential spots for activation.

Partners will be responsible to secure their own venues, and to consider locating them within the Design Districts mentioned above.

Where relevant, the SDB team may also assign programmes to be held in Design Districts, connect synergistic programme owners, and/or suggest new venues, subject to availability.

3. Access

Partners may choose to ticket their events or offer them free of charge. Partners will also be responsible for tracking footfall/attendance for their events.

4. Dates

SDB 2027 Key Dates (tentative):

12 May	SDB 2027 Media Preview
13 May (PM)	SDB 2027 Official Opening
14 May – 20 Jun	Festival Commissions, Design Districts and more!
18 May (TBC)	Design Futures event

Partners are advised to avoid **13 May evening** and **18 May**, as these are key SDB programme dates.

5. SDB Partner Entitlements

- Marketing and publicity support, such as event listing on SDB.SG, social media and other Dsg channels
- SDB branding assets and guidelines (logo files, SDB key visual etc.) will also be provided for use in your marketing collateral
- Invitation to SDB Official Opening for key personnel

6. Responsibilities

SDB Partners will be responsible for:

a. Conceptualisation, Management and Implementation

- Undertake the conceptualisation, financing, project management and successful execution of one/a series of programme(s) that align(s) with the SDB 2027 theme.
- Secure venue(s)* for the programme, and ensure all related licenses and permits are fully obtained and/or paid, where necessary.

b. Marketing and Publicity

- Market and publicise the programme through the applicant's own and/or partner channels to drive attendance.
- Promote SDB 2027 by applying the SDB logo in all applicable marketing and media collaterals.
- Submit programme artwork, full programme details and marketing copy to Dsg for SDB 2027 marketing and publicity purposes**.

c. Reporting

- All exhibitions should have suitable counters (digital or manual) to track footfall of the exhibition; other programme types should use suitable methods to track attendance e.g. registration.
- Reporting of attendance figures right after the completion of the programme to Dsg, by 21 June 2027.
- Submission of post-event survey after the completion of the programme by 5 July 2027. For paid ticketed events, submission of cost and revenue is required as part of the post-event survey.
- Provide event photographs and/or video footages for marketing purposes for SDB 2027 and future editions.

NOTE:

- *Partners are advised to soft-book and secure their own suitable venues in advance and provide complete marketing information at the time of Publicity Information submission.
- **Dsg reserves the final discretion over the range of marketing support for all programmes. Programmes with incomplete information and/or unconfirmed venue at the time of Publicity Information submission, may not be included in SDB 2027 marketing & publicity efforts.

7. Selection Criteria

Applicants will be assessed based on the following criteria:

a. Alignment of proposed programme with the following:

- SDB 2027 theme: 1.35°N

b. Quality of programme

- Quality of content: Relevance and depth
- Level of interactivity for visitors/participants

c. Quality of partner

- Experience in organising similar programmes in Singapore
- Reputation of organiser and collaborators
- Outreach e.g. social media following, network, community etc.

NOTE:

Dsg reserves the right to decline proposals that do not meet the criteria and limit the number of programme proposals selected.

Be a Festival Sponsor

As a sponsor, you form a critical part of the unique experience at one of Asia's most influential platforms for design, ideas and creative exchange. Connect with designers, creatives, communities and industry leaders to explore design's impact on society, culture, and the future.

We welcome partnerships that align with your brand values, business goals, and commitment to creativity, sustainability, and innovation.

To explore sponsorship opportunities and bespoke partnership possibilities, connect with us!

Let's discuss how we can create meaningful impact together.

Reach out to us at biennale@designsingapore.org

Be a Venue Host

APPLY HERE: [BIT.LY/SDB27VENUEPARTNER](https://bit.ly/SDB27VenuePartner)

For Singapore-based partners who are keen to offer their local venues/spaces to host SDB 2027 programmes, register your interest here: bit.ly/SDB27VenuePartner

Dsg will match suitable programmes with venue hosts where possible.

Timeline

ACTIVITY	DATES (Subject to change)
Singapore Design Biennale 2027 International Open Call	<u>Closing Date</u> : 12 August 2026, 5pm SGT
Confirmation of Successful Applicants	By 2 Oct 2026
For successful applicants	
Submission of Full Publicity Information	By 1 Feb 2027
Submission of Attendance Figures	By 21 June 2027
Submission of Post-event Survey Including reporting of costs and revenue	By 5 July 2027

Apply to be a SDB 2027 Programme Partner!

Submit your application here: bit.ly/SDB_OC2027

by Wed 12 Aug 2026, 5PM SGT

Inclusion of a brief proposal is optional, but beneficial for clearer evaluation.

Enquiries: biennale@designsingapore.org

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is there an application or participation fee for this open call?

No application or participation fee is required for this open call.

Are you accepting proposals for digital/virtual programmes?

Physical formats of the proposed programmes are preferred, but we are open to considering virtual/digital programme proposals, especially if they engage meaningfully with the festival theme, areas of impact and topics.

Can I submit a proposal if I'm based outside of Singapore?

Yes, we welcome anyone to submit a proposal.

Is there any funding available for programmes?

As part of SDB, organisers are encouraged to independently fund their programmes. Successful applicants will receive marketing and publicity support under the SDB umbrella, at the discretion of Dsg.

Is there additional support e.g. logistical, venue sourcing etc. for international programmes?

International programme organisers are encouraged to partner with Singapore-based partners, for additional on-the-ground support where needed.

Are there examples of past festival programmes I can refer to?

For an overview of the Singapore Design Week 2025 programmes and how they aligned with the previous festival theme and objectives, refer to <https://sdw.designsingapore.org/all-events/>

Are programmes allowed to seek sponsorships from other companies and organisations?

Yes, programmes are encouraged to secure their own sponsors and venue partners.

Are there venues provided?

Partners are advised to soft-book and secure their own venues in advance. Dsg will also link suitable partners up with other venues if suitable and available e.g. open call submissions that are aligned with key themes of Design Districts.

What happens if my programme is not accepted?

You may continue with the programme as planned, but it will not receive marketing support through the Singapore Design Biennale or DesignSingapore Council channels.

I still have more questions about the Open Call.

Drop us an email at biennale@designsingapore.org and we will be happy to answer your queries!

ANNEX

About the Singapore Design Biennale

Following 10 editions of Singapore Design Week (SDW), a leading design festival for the wider Asia region which began in 2014, Dsg is transitioning its flagship event into an expanded biennale format, scaling its ambitions and mandate further with a larger footprint, presence and remit. The Singapore Design Biennale reflects the ambitions of Singapore's Design 2035 Masterplan, a ten-year national roadmap to deepen Singapore's cultural vibrancy, and its role as a UNESCO Creative City of Design that shapes ideas and influences perspectives beyond its shores.

Key components of the Singapore Design Biennale

a. Design Districts

As part of the Singapore Design Biennale, Dsg will develop and expand more Design Districts across Singapore as sandboxes for residents, designers, and firms to improve and enliven their neighbourhoods. By encouraging people to co-design and test new community solutions, these activities help them feel more rooted and gain ownership over their neighbourhoods in the long run. Dsg will work with public agencies such as Enterprise Singapore, National Heritage Board, National Arts Council, and Urban Redevelopment Authority, as well as the community leaders and organisations that own and shape each district to make this happen. This started with Bras Basah Bugis (BBB) as Singapore's cultural and creative core, Singapore Science Park as an innovation hub, Orchard as the heart of Singapore's retail belt, and common spaces in the heartlands, where design is developed with and for everyday people.

b. Design Futures (working title)

Dsg's key thought leadership platform since SDW2023, the Design Futures Forum (DFF) assembled a host of distinguished thought leaders from Singapore and around the world to explore the future of design and design of the future. SDB will reimagine the Design Futures platform and build on previous editions to boost Singapore's reputation as a futuristic city of design.

c. Festival Commissions & Blockbuster Exhibitions

SDB will convene world-class, must-see experiences that position Singapore on the global design and creative stage. Anchored by large-scale public installations and flagship exhibitions and showcases, these programmes will be realised through partnerships with established institutions and complementary platforms, bringing internationally resonant ideas, curatorial depth and new audiences to SDB.

d. EMERGE

EMERGE will continue to position Singapore as a convener of quality design in Asia, shining a spotlight on emerging design talent from the region, showcasing the works of established designers who are pushing the boundaries towards greater impact and innovation.

e. B2B and B2C Experiences

New trade platform formats and direct-to-consumer experiences will position Singapore as Asia's leading marketplace for furniture, design and related sectors, leveraging regional and international partnerships, reinforcing Singapore's position as a global design hub.

f. Open Call Programmes

SDB features impactful, ground-up programmes presented by international, regional and local partners from the entire design ecosystem and community in response to the festival theme and areas of impact.