



24 October 2007

Media Release

NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD INVITES NOMINATIONS FOR PATRON OF HERITAGE AWARDS 2007

Mrs Julia Oh dedicated her lifetime to serving the museums as a volunteer, and capped it off with a generous donation to develop their human capital. Mr Choo Keng Kwang loaned his invaluable oil paintings to form part of the Singapore Philatelic Museum's exhibition. Finally, Mdm Tan Lee Lee, wife of the late Anthony Poon (Singapore's prominent abstract artist), donated a wide range of artworks by her husband towards the Singapore Art Museum, fulfilling the late artist's last wish.

These heartwarming tales of cultural philanthropy form part of this year's *Patron of Heritage Awards*. Into its second year, this distinguished national accolade honours the many heroes of heritage who have wholeheartedly donated to heritage causes island-wide. Dr Lee Boon Yang, Minister for Information, Communications, and the Arts, will grace the awards ceremony as Guest of Honour on 15 April 2008 at the Asian Civilisations Museum.

Nominations are now open for individuals or organisations who have given either in cash, artefact or kind towards museum and heritage causes in Singapore from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007. Long-term artefact loans of five years or more over the same period are also welcome for consideration.

Last year's inaugural event saw 86 awardees recognised and lauded for their donations and loans worth S\$118.5 million, made between 1 April 2004 and 31 December 2006. In the past year, the National Heritage Board (NHB) continued to receive generous gifts and loans from individuals and corporations alike – a testimony to the growing awareness and support of heritage philanthropy in Singapore.

Nominees for the *Patron of Heritage Awards 2007* include Mrs Julia Oh, a dedicated museum volunteer for 25 years, who was also the Singapore delegate to the World Federation of Friends of Museums (WFFM) from 1999 to 2004 and WFFM Secretary General between 2002 and 2005. In addition to her extensive volunteer efforts, Mrs

Oh has pledged a sum of S\$10,000 per year over 10 years for NHB's overseas scholarship programme. The first of its kind to NHB from an individual, Mrs Oh's gift aims to build the competence and expertise of the younger professionals in the areas of museum, archival or conservation-related work through overseas training. In the long run, this contributes to the development of the heritage industry's human and intellectual capital.

The Singapore Philatelic Museum on the other hand was the recipient of a generous loan by renowned local artist Mr Choo Keng Kwang. A recipient of both the Public Service Medal and Long Service Medal, Mr Choo is known for his vivid paintings of animals and local street scenes. His loan of three oil paintings on canvas worth S\$250,000 formed part of the institution's thematic exhibition held in celebration of the Lunar New Year. Titled *Spring Flowers and Autumn Moon*, the exhibition explored the origins and practices of Chinese festivals.

Another unique contribution came from Mdm Tan Lee Lee. Her in-kind contribution to the Singapore Art Museum came in the form of 23 remarkable works by Singapore Cultural Medallion awardee Anthony Poon worth more than S\$500,000. Spanning four decades, the donation significantly enhanced the Museum's collection of Singapore artists, who have been instrumental in shaping the development of art in Singapore.

Who Are Eligible

To be eligible for the awards, organisations or individuals must have contributed towards either of the following:

- Collection of any museum, interpretative centre or heritage gallery in Singapore
- Development or refurbishment of museums, interpretative centres, heritage galleries and institutions
- A heritage-related activity, project, programme or event
- Publications or development of scholarship that has an impact on heritage

Other than the above, NHB may also consider other contributions to heritage-related causes on a case-by-case basis.

Award Criteria

Awards will be given based on the following six categories:

Donations in cash, kind or material ¹:

- Distinguished Patron of Heritage: S\$2 million and above
- Patron of Heritage: S\$1 million to S\$1,999,999
- Partner of Heritage: S\$150,000 to S\$999,999
- Friend of Heritage: S\$50,000 to S\$149,999

Long-term loans (5 years or more) of materials (artefacts, artworks and others) within the qualifying period:

- Distinguished Supporter of Heritage: Value of items worth S\$1 million or more
- Supporter of Heritage: Value of items less than S\$1 million

Nomination Period and Details

Nominations for Patron of Heritage Awards 2007 will be open from **1 November 2007 to 11 January 2008**. The qualifying period will be from **1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007**. Nominees are invited to submit their forms by **6pm on 11 January 2007**. The forms can be downloaded from www.nhb.gov.sg/patron. Interested parties can visit www.nhb.gov.sg/patron, email nhb_ccip_heritageawards@nhb.gov.sg or call 6332 4513 for more information.

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About the Patron of Heritage Awards

Established since November 2006, the Patron of Heritage Awards celebrates the generous gifts made by benefactors to heritage. The award seeks to build a greater culture of heritage philanthropy in Singapore. This national accolade acknowledges the whole-hearted donations of cash and artefacts, as well as long-term loans made by the many unsung heroes of the heritage cause. Their inspiring gifts have helped the National Heritage Board and its partners to achieve new milestones and breakthroughs in making heritage an enriching part of everyone's lives.

¹ In-kind contributions include advertising/media space, venue space, F&B and manpower services. Materials comprise museological materials such as artworks and artefacts as well as archival materials like photographs, video and audio recordings.

About National Heritage Board

The National Heritage Board (NHB) champions the development and promotion of a vibrant cultural and heritage sector in Singapore. It makes heritage enriching, relevant and accessible to all through staging innovative programmes and forging collaborative partnerships with both private and people sector counterparts. NHB leverages on state-of-the-art technology and refreshing new approaches to make heritage more dynamic, alive and exciting for different audiences. It also manages both national and public museums, the National Archives of Singapore, and the Heritage Conservation Centre. NHB was formed on 1 August 1993 as a statutory board under the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts (MICA).

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