

# A BIGGER PICTURE

**ANNUAL REPORT 2016/2017**  
NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD





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# A BIGGER PICTURE

Taking the bigger picture means stepping back, broadening your perspective, and framing the shot with a wider lens. It means recognising the different, individual elements that form the composition, yet allowing them to tell a story that is greater than the sum of their parts. This is what NHB is attempting to do with our Heritage Plan for Singapore.

As we look back on FY2016, we also look forward. The world is changing at an exponential pace, making the stewardship of heritage more important than ever before. It is imperative that we have in place a cohesive, comprehensive national blueprint for heritage that charts our path in the direction we want to go.

It is with this in mind that we will formulate our strategies for the next lap; plans that weave all the parts of Singapore's heritage into a unified whole, to enable us to better tell the Singapore story, and showcase our Singaporean identity.

**Our Vision** » Pride in Our Past, Legacy for Our Future

**Our Mission** » To Preserve and Celebrate Our Shared Heritage



“HERITAGE IS MORE THAN  
FEEL-GOOD NOSTALGIA —  
IT DEFINES OUR FUTURE”





The SG50 celebrations in 2015 marked a coming of age for our nation. We reflected, celebrated and commemorated. The festivities ended on a high note, and gave us a sense of renewed confidence even as we looked ahead to a future with new challenges and uncertainties.

It has often been said that heritage is the stabilising force that underpins our very existence as a nation. Our shared stories help to create awareness and common ground, and these contribute to understanding and cohesion amongst groups of people from diverse backgrounds. In the volatility that is the 21st century – the uncertainty of the global economy, the rapid pace of change, the increasing complexity of society – heritage is all the more important as a ballast and anchor.

In the wake of SG50, the challenge was striking a balance between keeping an eye firmly on our past, without losing sight of what may come in the future. Some might question the relevance of NHB. The answer to this is always the same – to preserve and promote our heritage and culture upon which our dreams and aspirations are built. Heritage is much more than feel-good nostalgia – it defines our future.

With this in mind, the *Heritage Plan* for Singapore was announced during the Committee of Supply debate in March 2017. The *Heritage Plan* will encompass a range of areas to form a cohesive heritage roadmap for the future. Covering tangible and intangible heritage, museum excellence, community engagement and capabilities development, it will provide the bigger picture of our heritage, without ignoring the details that make all the difference to our unique culture and identity.

An integral part of the *Heritage Plan* is NHB's launch of the inaugural *Intangible Cultural Heritage Survey*, or *ICH Survey* for short. To many, ICH is something less familiar; in land scarce Singapore, we tend to focus on what we can see, feel and touch – our tangible or built heritage.

There are the obvious and natural examples of ICH, including the traditional arts, customs and traditions, and food. But there are also the lesser known elements; oral history traditions, folklore, and even geomancy. The survey, when complete, will enable us to better understand ICH in Singapore's multi-cultural context; helping each of us broaden our awareness of the practices of our own, as well as of other communities.

Digital engagement was another integral part of NHB's work in the past year, and will also feature prominently in

the *Heritage Plan*. It has helped us to further the reach of our work, and amplify access to audiences. In 2015, NHB launched its consolidated heritage resource portal, *Roots.sg*. I am happy to share that reception to this has been excellent, with 1.2 million users one year into its launch. This has exceeded our expectations.

With the *Heritage Plan*, NHB is working on the next phase of its *Digital Engagement Strategy*, with the goal of optimising the heritage experience for our visitors; whether online or at our museums and heritage institutions, harnessing the best technology available. This is the case of the National Museum of Singapore's new *Story of the Forest* installation and digital space *Gallery10*, which shine spotlights on the beauty and stories of our National Collection and people.

Credit for the hard work in 2016 goes to all my colleagues at NHB, led by Mrs Rosa Daniel. In her time at NHB, Rosa had overseen key changes and milestone projects, including the revamps at the Asian Civilisations Museum and National Museum, the gazetting of Singapore's first UNESCO World Heritage Site, as well as kicking off work on the *Heritage Plan*. It has been a pleasure working with her, and on behalf of everyone at NHB, I would like to extend my thanks for her dedication and hard work.

On the same note, we welcome Ms Chang Hwee Nee as NHB's new CEO. Hwee Nee is no stranger to us, having served on our board from 2009 to 2015. I am confident that she will build on the good work done, bringing to the table her diverse and invaluable experience.

Finally, I would like to convey my gratitude to my fellow board members serving on the various NHB boards, our partners, patrons, docents, volunteers and staff who have worked so hard to bring NHB to where we are today. Every one of us has an important role to play, and it is when we come together that the whole becomes more than the sum of its parts. Let us continue to work towards ensuring a heritage for our future.

**MR ONG YEW HUAT**  
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD



**“THE HERITAGE PLAN IS A SIGNIFICANT BLUEPRINT WHICH WILL COMPREHENSIVELY OUTLINE THE STRATEGIES IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS ON THE ROADMAP TO OUR COLLECTIVE VISION FOR SINGAPORE’S HERITAGE LANDSCAPE IN 2030.”**





FY2016/2017 marked the start of an exciting chapter for us at NHB. We began to lay the groundwork for the inaugural *Heritage Plan for Singapore*. It is neither a small nor easy task given Singapore's diverse and multi-faceted heritage. But in consultation with various partners, stakeholders and members of the community, we have successfully embarked on the journey to take stock of the areas Singapore has done well in, as well as identify gaps and future opportunities for improvement, change and growth in preserving and celebrating our heritage.

Singapore's heritage landscape has evolved and expanded in a short span of time. The proliferation of technology, a growing awareness and involvement in heritage among the community, and the evolution of traditions and practices – all these contribute to the shifting landscape. NHB has to stay in touch with changes and also actively leverage opportunities in this environment. The *Heritage Plan* is a significant blueprint which will comprehensively outline the strategies in the next five years on the roadmap to our collective vision for Singapore's heritage landscape in 2030.

Our museums, institutions and divisions have worked hard to present exhibitions, programmes, festivals, heritage trails and more, that are a means to fulfilling our mission of safeguarding and promoting our shared heritage, and making heritage more accessible to, and inclusive for all.

The Indian Heritage Centre staged its inaugural special exhibition, *Once Upon a Time in Little India*, that gave a fresh lens to Little India, from the stories of the people who settled and worked there, and also from the broader perspective of the Indian diaspora around the world. The Asian Civilisations Museum's *Port Cities: Multicultural Emporiums of Asia, 1500 – 1900*, explored different port cities that were confluences of economic, social and artistic interactions. These remind us of the diversity of our cultural influences, and the fact that we exist as part of a larger whole.

In our communities, the *Bedok* and *Little India Heritage Trails* were launched as our 15th and 16th heritage trails respectively, highlighting the lesser-known tales and interesting facts about these well-loved precincts. Similarly, the 2016 edition of the *Singapore Heritage Festival* focused on sharing the hidden stories of our shared spaces and ways of life, a highlight being guided tours and activities carried out on Pulau Ubin. The programmes brought out the stories of those who still call the island home, as well as the shared memories Singaporeans have of the space.

2016 was also a good year for our National Monuments, which received unprecedented support for their restoration and maintenance. For the first time, our *National Monuments Fund*

extended its support to the funding of regular maintenance works at the National Monuments. This allows preventive maintenance to be carried out before more serious restoration becomes necessary. Such support is critical for the responsible upkeep and preservation of our National Monuments.

NHB is committed to greater accessibility and inclusivity. We will look into enhancing our programmes to achieve this in the coming years. In 2016, our national museums and heritage institutions, on top of free admission for Singaporeans and PRs, extended free entry to persons with disabilities, and their primary caretakers. More than just providing physical access, we will work on enhancing the museum and heritage experience so that people from all walks of life can enjoy our heritage and culture.

On that note, *HeritageCares*, I am glad to share, has continued to provide more access to our museums and heritage. New partners have come on board to join in the giving through heritage, such as Youth Corps Singapore, whose youth volunteers designed *A Walk to Remember*, a programme featuring games and activities for underserved children at Jubilee Walk sites. Our reach to the young also continued with programmes such as the *Heritage Explorers Programme* and *Singapore's Little Treasures*, with the latter bagging the International Council of Museum's "Best Practice Award" for museum education.

2016 also marked my last year as Chief Executive Officer of NHB, and while I am sad to be going, I am also very proud of all we have achieved together in the last four years. Credit goes to my team at NHB, who have worked alongside me to reach our goals for the heritage sector. I also leave knowing that NHB is in good hands. Hwee Nee brings with her a wealth of experience and know-how, as well as a genuine love for our heritage and culture. I wish her all the best in her new role.

It leaves me to thank our Chairman, Mr Ong Yew Huat, and the various boards and partners for your support during my tenure. I couldn't have done it without you, and I count myself privileged to have worked with each and every one of you. Together, your work and efforts will help paint the bigger picture of our shared heritage in Singapore.

**MRS ROSA DANIEL**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,  
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We sincerely thank Ms Coonoor Kripalani-  
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We sincerely thank Mr Arun Mahizhnan, Mr Choo  
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(As of 31 March 2017)







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Strategic Communications  
& Development

**6. Mr Sean Lee**  
Director,  
Heritage Conservation  
Centre

**7. Ms Loh Heng Noi**  
Director,  
Collections &  
International Relations

**8. Ms Trudy Loh**  
Director,  
Heritage Institutions

**9. Ms Ong Chiew Yen**  
Director,  
Finance & Procurement

**10. Ms Sim Wan Hui**  
Director,  
Education & Community  
Outreach





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**11. Mr Alvin Tan**  
Assistant Chief Executive,  
Policy & Community

**12. Ms Julie Tan**  
Director,  
Operations & Administration

**13. Ms Angelita Teo**  
Director,  
National Museum of Singapore

**14. Ms Thangamma  
Karthigesu**  
Director,  
Culture Academy

**15. Mr Kennie Ting**  
Group Director, Museums &  
Director, Asian Civilisations  
Museum

**16. Ms Tresnawati Prihadi**  
General Manager,  
Singapore Philatelic  
Museum

**17. Ms Jean Wee**  
Director,  
Preservation of  
Sites & Monuments

**18. Mr Yeo Kirk Siang**  
Director,  
Heritage Research  
& Assessment

**19. Ms Jennifer Yin**  
Director,  
Volunteer Engagement





Story of the Forest at the National Museum of Singapore





01

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BUILDING MUSEUMS OF THE FUTURE —

# FOUNDATIONS, EXCELLENCE, CONTINUITY

Our national museums and heritage institutions are cornerstones of preserving and celebrating our heritage. They are not just repositories of our past, but also cultural beacons for our future. They offer physical reminders of our journey as a nation, and serve as rallying points for our communities in challenging times.

More than just edifices of brick and stone, museums encompass both the tangible and intangible – the priceless treasures that are our National Collection, and the precious stories and memories they hold. This is why it is vital for our museums and institutions to continue being accessible to all, for all. Our shared goal is to make the Singapore museum experience enjoyable and inclusive, and this has been done in both traditional and digital ways. Ultimately, this ensures that our heritage remains a source of reflection and inspiration for us all.



## ASIAN CIVILISATIONS MUSEUM

### CHRISTIANITY IN ASIA: SACRED ART AND VISUAL SPLENDOUR

27 MAY – 11 SEP 2016

This internationally acclaimed exhibition gave Singaporeans the chance to get up close to masterpieces from the Asian Civilisations Museum's (ACM) own collection, as well as those from major international museums including the Musée du Louvre, Bibliothèque nationale de France, and Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga, Lisbon. In all, the exhibition featured objects from 20 institutions and private collectors across six countries.

The exhibition covered 1,200 years of the history of Christianity in Asia, and explored the spread of the Christian faith across the continent. Artworks displayed included paintings, ivory figures, ceramics, furniture, altar pieces and shrines. These revealed how Eastern and Western artistic styles and craftsmanship were fused in the production of unique forms of Christian art.





## PORT CITIES: MULTICULTURAL EMPORIUMS OF ASIA, 1500–1900

4 NOV 2016 – 19 FEB 2017

*Port Cities* told the story of cosmopolitan, multicultural Asian port cities that came before Singapore. The show revealed how globalisation and cosmopolitan life are not modern phenomena, but have actually existed since at least the 1500s. The exhibition

provided visitors with accounts of people and fascinating objects from many different Asian port cities, highlighting the connections and interactions between these cities, and how these interactions led to the development of distinctive hybrid forms of fashion, furniture, jewellery, and art. Artworks featured came from ACM's collection, as well as from 22 different museums, places of worship, and private collections across seven countries.

By examining historic patterns of trade and migration, *Port Cities* also threw a spotlight on cultural adaptation and evolution, in particular, the emergence of hybrid communities such as those of the Eurasians and the Peranakans in Asian Port Cities. The same elements of cross-culturalism are reflected in Singapore's multicultural society today, a reminder of the important role our island nation played in global and regional trade historically.



*View of Singapore from Mount Wallich, Singapore, 1856*  
Percy Carpenter

## CITIES AND KINGS: ANCIENT TREASURES FROM MYANMAR

2 DEC 2016 – 5 MAR 2017

With works of art from the National Museum Collections of Myanmar, *Cities and Kings* showcased three significant eras in Myanmar's history: the formative Pyu and Mon Period, where early city-states emerged; the famed Bagan Period, where Buddhist temple architecture flourished; and the Mandalay period, with its celebrated courtly arts. Many of the objects were on display in Singapore for the first time, and some were on their first trip outside Myanmar. The exhibition also demonstrated the strong bilateral relations between Singapore and Myanmar.

*(Right): State Counsellor of Myanmar, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and Prime Minister of Singapore, Lee Hsien Loong, were Guests of Honour at the opening.*







## NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE

### ART OF THE REHEARSAL ONGOING

*Art of the Rehearsal* is an immersive video installation by multidisciplinary artist Sarah Choo Jing. This artwork depicts Singaporean dancers from various cultures practising along the back lanes of cultural districts in the city. Reflecting on the rigorous and intense training behind the performance, the artist seeks to bring out the consistent determination of the performers. The emphasis of the work is on the process, rather than on the final outcome.



## NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE

### WINGS OF A RICH MANOEUVRE ONGOING

*Wings of a Rich Manoeuvre* by home-grown artist Suzann Victor presents a chorus of eight kinetic chandeliers that "sing" with movement as they sway in a dramatic mid-air choreography of light. Each chandelier is constructed from stainless steel and studded with a sparkling array of Swarovski crystals. Together, the chandeliers create breathtaking aerial calligraphy as they morph from one hypnotic pattern to another, high above the bridge linking the National Museum's original 19th century colonial building with its modern glass wing.







**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE**

## **SINGAPORE, VERY OLD TREE** ONGOING

At the base of the museum's Glass Rotunda is the *Singapore, Very Old Tree* exhibit by local photographer and artist, Robert Zhao. Inspired by one of the oldest postcards found in the National Archives of Singapore, which depicts an unspecified tree dating from back to the year 1904, the exhibition showcases 17 images of trees around Singapore and tells intimate stories of each one. Together, they provide visitors with an alternative perspective of Singapore's history, and the personal connections that Singaporeans have with our local trees.



**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE**

## **WHAT IS NOT VISIBLE IS NOT INVISIBLE** 7 OCT 2016 — 19 FEB 2017

*What is Not Visible is Not Invisible* broadly surveyed the imaginary and the temporary through selected artworks from the French Regional Collections of Contemporary Art, and featured 34 artworks by 32 French and international artists. These navigated a transient journey through both the philosophical and the physical by means of unconventional approaches to art-making. Audiences were encouraged to interact with and explore the intangible, emotional and volatile relationship between the abstract, the organic and the structured.

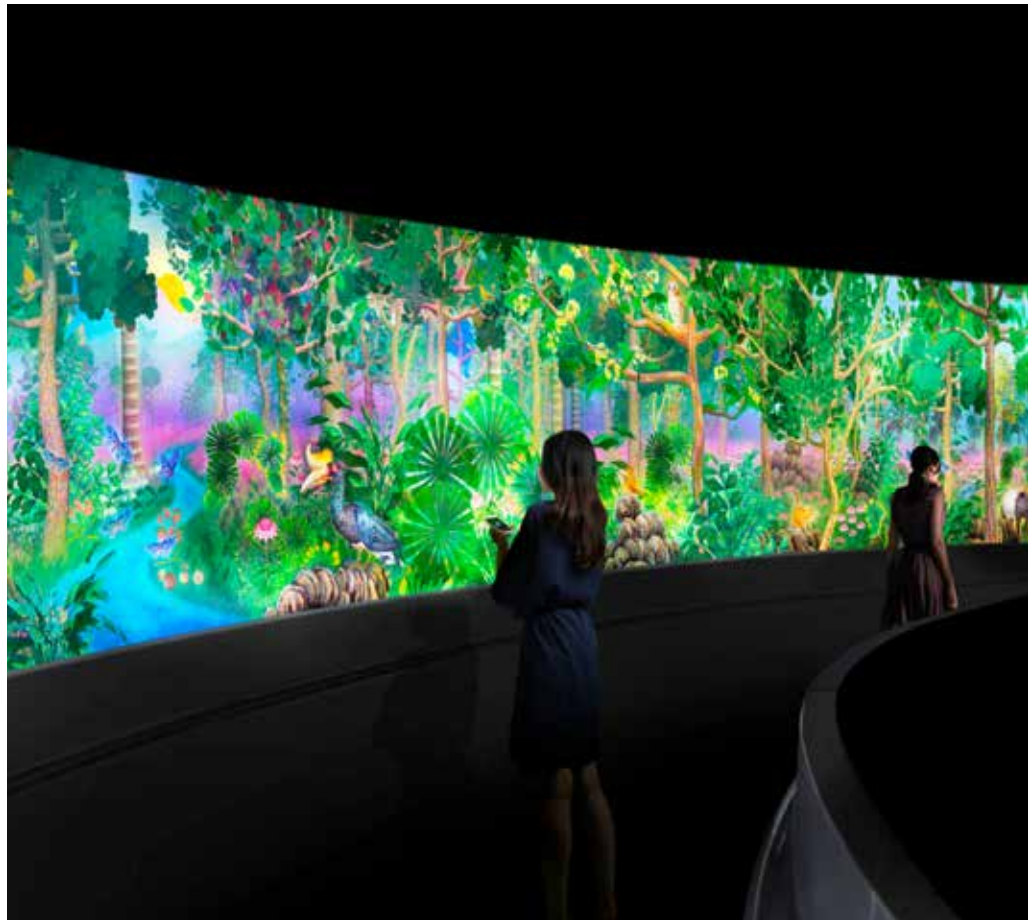
## NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE

### STORY OF THE FOREST

ONGOING

Drawing inspiration from the National Museum's prized *William Farquhar Collection of Natural History Drawings*, *Story of the Forest* is an immersive installation by internationally renowned art collective teamLab that brings to life 69 flora and fauna drawings from the collection. Animals native to 20th century Malaya such as the tapir and mouse deer "interact" with visitors as they descend through the museum's Glass Rotunda. Visitors can also go on "hunts" to "capture" the different flora and fauna that call the Glass Rotunda home, through the *Story of the Forest* application on their personal mobile devices.

To extend the *Story of the Forest* experience, the National Museum hosted an immersive "secret garden" exhibit titled *Second Nature*, which encouraged visitors to interact with elements from the *William Farquhar Collection of Natural History Drawings*. Visitors got to engage with the exhibit; contributing to the installation by folding origami flowers and attaching them to the flowering board.



## SINGAPORE PHILATELIC MUSEUM

### SHAKING IT WITH SHAKESPEARE

14 MAY 2016 — 26 MAR 2017

To mark the 400th death anniversary of William Shakespeare in 2016, the Singapore Philatelic Museum (SPM) presented the *Shaking It With Shakespeare* exhibition to celebrate the life and enduring legacy of the world's greatest playwright. Through over 400 stamps and philatelic materials issued by 70 countries, century-old picture postcards, original books from Shakespeare's day, historical Tudor-era replicas and animal specimens, the activity-based and fun-filled exhibition invited families to uncover nuggets of information about the literary giant.

## PERANAKAN MUSEUM

### NYONYA NEEDLEWORK: EMBROIDERY AND BEADWORK IN THE PERANAKAN WORLD

24 JUN 2016 — 18 JUN 2017

This exhibition was the first in the world dedicated to a comprehensive showcase of beaded and embroidered Peranakan works of art. It attests to 30 years of dedicated collecting by Singapore's museums: the country now holds the largest collection of nyonya needlework in public hands. Guest curator Cheah Hwei-Fe'n selected choice loans, including from the National Museum of World Cultures in the Netherlands and from private collections, to complement the Peranakan Museum's stunning works. The show revealed the cosmopolitan world of the Peranakan Chinese through nearly 200 intricately crafted objects in beads, gold, and silk.









## SINGAPORE PHILATELIC MUSEUM

### COLLECTING MAGIC: FROM STAMPS TO WANDS

2 NOV 2016 – 18 JUN 2017

Fans of the series were spellbound by a comprehensive collection of *Harry Potter* stamps from all over the world, including Singapore, Taiwan, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as movie memorabilia and collectibles on loan from private collectors. On display were the first licensed *Harry Potter* stamps, First Day Covers, postcards, special cancellations, unusual stamp labels, limited edition books and DVDs, prop replicas, movie posters, toys and more.

Interactive multimedia exhibits accompanying the exhibition, such as a unique heat-sensitive stamp display that uncovered “spells”, served to enhance the “magical” experience for visitors. These were specially created by a team of students from Nanyang Polytechnic’s School of Interactive & Digital Media.



## SINGAPORE PHILATELIC MUSEUM

### THE SINGAPORE JOURNEY: 50 YEARS THROUGH STAMPS

1 NOV – 2 DEC 2016, HONG KONG

*The Singapore Journey*, a travelling exhibition curated by SPM to celebrate Singapore’s Golden Jubilee, was brought to Hong Kong when the Consulate-General of Singapore in Hong Kong organised its first-ever philatelic exhibition. The exhibition, which traced the birth of Singapore as an independent nation in 1965, travelled to three places – Olympian City in Tai Kok Tsui, Citywalk in Tsuen Wan, and E-max at KITEC in Kowloon Bay.



## SINGAPORE PHILATELIC MUSEUM

### CHICKEN AND EGG: A FOWL TALE

20 JAN – 18 JUN 2017

SPM welcomed the zodiac year of the Rooster with an exhibition tracing the role of the chicken in society – from prehistory to the present. The chicken, a favourite in cuisines all over the world, also plays other roles – in faith, entertainment, medical aid and recreation. The exhibition featured over 200 stamps, dating from 1962 to the latest zodiac rooster stamps from Singapore and the Åland Islands, as well as fun, hands-on exhibits.



## ONCE UPON A TIME IN LITTLE INDIA

22 OCT 2016 – 21 JUL 2017

Across the world, "Little India" has come to connote an enclave with a concentration of Indian and South Asian communities. *Once Upon a Time in Little India* told the story of Singapore's very own Little India through historical and contemporary lenses, and drew parallels with diasporic settlements across the globe. Recreating moments past and present, this exhibition presented an appealing mix of historical artefacts and contemporary installations by artists Kumari Nahappan, Navin Rawanchaikul, and K Rajagopal.





## MALAY HERITAGE CENTRE

### **PUSĀKĀ: HERITAGE AND CULTURE OF THE JAVANESE IN SINGAPORE**

29 MAY — 28 AUG 2016

This community co-curated exhibition was part of the Malay Heritage Centre's (MHC) *Se-Nusantara (Of the Same Archipelago)* series. It traced the social and cultural history of the Javanese who settled in Singapore, and showcased the ways through which they maintained their cultural identity and heritage. The exhibition featured a diverse range of artefacts on loan from members of the Singapore-Javanese community, including a number of family heirlooms which have been passed down from one generation to the next.

*In partnership with the Javanese Association of Singapore*



## MALAY HERITAGE CENTRE

### **MEREKA UTUSAN: IMPRINTING MALAY MODERNITY, 1920s -1960s**

16 OCT 2016 — 25 JUN 2017

MHC's fifth special exhibition, titled *Mereka Utusan*, affirms the importance of language to a community by tracing the development of Malay modernity and identity through print, advertisements and editorial cartoons. The exhibition provided insights into how the Malay community in Singapore used the power of mass media to discuss and respond to historical events such as the Great Depression, World War II, and the nationalist movements that swept across Southeast Asia in the post-war years. It also featured two specially commissioned artworks by Singapore art collective Vertical Submarine, and international artist Mojoko.



## SUN YAT SEN NANYANG MEMORIAL HALL

### **ONE NIGHT IN WUCHANG: 1911 REVOLUTION AND NANYANG**

5 NOV 2016 — 30 APR 2017

*One Night in Wuchang* was a special exhibition co-presented by Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall (SYSNMH) and Guangzhou's The Memorial of Wuchang Uprising of 1911 Revolution. It featured more than 130 exhibits, including 88 artefacts which were displayed for the first time outside of China. The exhibition showcased the fateful night's events, as well as the personalities behind the plot. It also presented the responses of the overseas Chinese community in Singapore, expressed through platforms such as the print media. The exhibition was accompanied by a series of public lectures that explored the various facets of the Revolution and its socio-political impact.



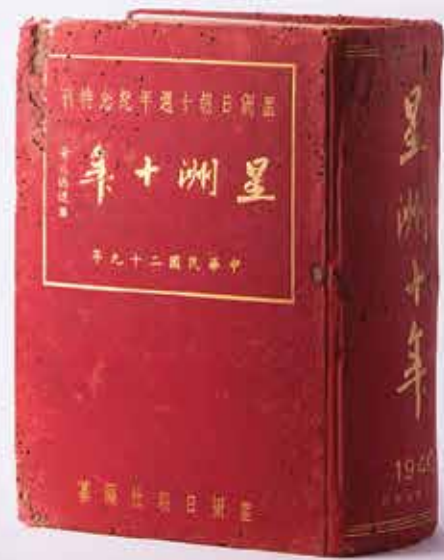


SUN YAT SEN NANYANG MEMORIAL HALL

EARLY CHINESE NEWSPAPERS  
IN SINGAPORE (1881 – 1942)

28 MAY – 9 OCT 2016

This special exhibition charted the history and development of Chinese newspapers from 1881 to the outbreak of World War II in Singapore. Through more than 100 images and artefacts, the exhibition explored stories of prominent individuals who shaped the newspaper and print industries in their early years. Regular guided tours for visitors were conducted weekly, with the assistance of SYSNMH's volunteer guides.



TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS  
BY THE HERITAGE INSTITUTIONS

UNIQUELY INDIAN: RITUALS  
AND FESTIVALS IN SINGAPORE

NOV 2016 – NOV 2017

Indian Heritage Centre (IHC) produced a travelling exhibition focusing on Indian festivals celebrated in Singapore. It featured some of the major Indian festivals, including the Indian harvest festivals Thaipusam, Holi, Onam and Deepavali. Apart from being special occasions for their respective communities, these festivals also serve as opportunities for Indians across Singapore to come together in celebration.

CELEBRATING HARI RAYA:  
STORIES FROM THE COMMUNITY

3 JUN – 21 JUL 2016

In partnership with eight students from Tanjong Katong Secondary School, MHC produced a travelling exhibition on Hari Raya Puasa. The exhibition focused on how the festival is celebrated in Singapore, little-known facts and also quotes from interviews conducted by the students. The panels also featured reflections from the students and what they learnt from interviewing the community.

SYSNMH'S TRAVELLING  
EXHIBITIONS AND  
PUBLIC LECTURES

SYSNMH worked with various schools to present a number of travelling exhibitions. *A Moment in History: Singapore and the 1911 Revolution* was a collaboration with Hwa Chong Institution, narrating the historical links between Singapore, China, and Dr Sun Yat Sen prior to the revolution. *The More We Get Together: Festivals and Festivities in Singapore*, an exhibition featuring festivals celebrated by the different communities in Singapore, was jointly curated by SYSNMH, Chung Cheng High School (Main) and River Valley High School for River Hongbao 2017.

SYSNMH also hosted a series of public lectures not just related to its exhibitions and festivals, but to Singapore Chinese culture in general. These included *One Newspaper, Two Countries: The Unique Story of Lianhe Zaobao* and *The Balestiers: The First American Residents of Singapore*.

OUR MUSEUM@TAMAN JURONG

Our Museum@Taman Jurong (OM@TJ) celebrated its fourth anniversary in January 2017. Since its establishment, the museum has sought to deepen its engagement with the local community and resident volunteers to tell the many stories of Taman Jurong and Singapore.

In 2016 and 2017, OM@TJ featured a series of three community co-created thematic exhibitions to document and highlight the social history and heritage of Jurong. *Play at TJ – Our Memories of Recreational Sites in Taman Jurong*, *Eat at TJ – Our Hawker Centres and Food Heritage*, and *Work at TJ – The Industrious Pioneers of Jurong*, narrate the stories and memories of past and present residents who have lived, worked and played in Jurong.

INCREASING INCLUSIVITY  
TO OUR MUSEUMS

At the 2016 Committee of Supply debate, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Grace Fu announced a series of initiatives aimed at fostering a more inclusive and caring community amongst Singaporeans. Since June 2016, NHB museums and institutions have been offering special concessions for persons with disabilities, and their primary caretakers. NHB, and its museums and institutions, will continue to work towards making the museum and heritage experience more inclusive and enjoyable for the underserved, with enhanced training for staff, docents and volunteers.





Dumpling Festival at the Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall





02

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# STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP

— RELATIONSHIPS, ENGAGEMENT, CHAMPIONS

Heritage is about people. Living and breathing, it is something that we experience collectively, and yet, is deeply personal at the same time. Drawing such connections between our national, community and personal histories is what underscores NHB's calendar of festivals and community outreach initiatives.

Our festivals, language campaigns, heritage trails, education programmes and community grants harness our partnerships with the community, establish long-standing relationships that allow us to collectively recognise and celebrate our shared heritage.



## 01 FESTIVALS

### SINGAPORE HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2016

29 April to 15 May 2016

1.6 MILLION FESTIVAL-GOERS  
100 PROGRAMMES  
120 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Spanning three weekends, the 13th edition of NHB's signature heritage festival continued to highlight the hidden and lesser-known stories about our shared spaces and ways of life. With more than 100 programme offerings and 120 partners, the festival enabled Singapore's varied communities to share their stories with others in a celebration of our diverse cultural heritage.

Over 1.6 million visitors enjoyed a myriad of activities, including an exhibition titled *Celebrating Radio: Sounds from the Past*, which celebrated 80 years of radio in Singapore; learning about Bedok's history with the newly launched *Bedok Heritage Trail*; and experiencing a different side of our National Monuments through specialist architectural tours and music recitals.

Pulau Ubin was a highlight of *Singapore Heritage Festival 2016*, and visitors were invited to enjoy the rustic beauty of the island at dusk with film screenings and music programmes, alongside guided tours. Festival-goers were also treated to a gastronomic walk down memory lane with a re-creation of the street hawker scene from yesteryear on the National Museum of Singapore's front lawn. There, Singapore's new generation of young "hawkerpreneurs" dished out favourite local treats such as *wanton mee* and *kueh tutu* for all to enjoy.

### CHILDREN'S SEASON 2016

28 May to 26 June 2016

The ninth edition of NHB's annual festival for children welcomed over 250,000 visitors of all ages to 24 participating museums island-wide, including NHB museums and institutions, and members of the Museum Roundtable (MR).

*Masak Masak* at the National Museum saw collaborations with both local and international artists, as well as students from the School of the Arts and the National University of Singapore's Division of Industrial Design. Together, they presented installations which encouraged social interaction, and emphasised the value of kinship and friendship. The Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM) staged the *Once Upon a Time in Asia: The Missing Mouse* exhibition, featuring a life-sized maze, workshops, programmes and tours inspired by real and mythical animals in Asian art.

18 MR museums extended the festival's repertoire of programmes, which included the Army Museum's special exhibition *Our Army, Our Nation's Strength* and an accompanying parent-child laser-tag game, and the Intan's collaboration with Kidzania to organise a children's Peranakan fashion parade.

### RIVER NIGHTS 2016

21 to 29 October 2016

Presented by ACM with the National Arts Council, *River Nights* returned for the third time to enliven the Singapore River and Empress Place precinct. This edition was themed *Phantasmagoria*, and featured programmes aimed at engaging the public through cross-cultural experiences, art, technology, and personal responses. ACM's signature Halloween offering, *ACM After Dark 2016*, was supported by the Embassy of the United States, and was held on the final night of *River Nights 2016*.

### SINGAPORE NIGHT FESTIVAL 2016

19 to 27 August 2016

550,000 FESTIVAL-GOERS  
70 BBB PARTNERS  
RENOWNED LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL ACTS

With the theme *Inventions and Innovation*, the Bras Basah Bugis (BBB) arts and heritage precinct was once again transformed into a wonderland by night with the ninth edition of the *Singapore Night Festival (SNF)*. Featuring a stellar line-up of both Singaporean and international artists, dazzling light art installations and spectacular street theatre performances attracted over 550,000 visitors to Singapore's arts and cultural belt.

Over the two weekends, visitors got to enjoy the steampunk-inspired *House of Curiosities* presented by local performance company Sweet Tooth by Cake, as well as roving artists such as VJ Suave from Brazil, who projected mesmerising characters across building facades.

*Night Lights* continued to be a hit with a series of light art installations sprawled across the precinct. Three such installations were selected from the inaugural *Night Lights Open Call*, including the *#Showerthoughts* installation, developed by a group of local students.

### ARMENIAN STREET PARTY 2017

10 and 11 March 2017

The *Armenian Street Party* is an annual outdoor event held in the BBB precinct, led by the Peranakan Museum. 2017's theme, *Old School* paid homage to the former Tao Nan School building in which the Peranakan Museum is currently housed, as well as the other schools that once existed in the vicinity.





Singapore Heritage Festival 2016



Children's Season 2016









Senior Minister of State for Culture, Community and Youth,  
Ms Sim Ann at the Singapore Night Festival 2016



Singapore Night Festival 2016



## 02 LANGUAGE CAMPAIGNS

### BULAN BAHASA 2016

*Bulan Bahasa (Malay Language Month)* is presented by the Malay Language Council, Singapore, and the 2016 edition was launched at the National Museum. At the launch weekend, *Rakan Bahasa (Friends of the Language)* held guided tours in Malay and English within the Singapore History Gallery, taking visitors through the stories behind exhibits, artefacts and historical milestones of importance to the Malay community. Visitors to the museum were also treated to a night concert held on the museum's lawn.

Two months of exciting programmes and activities followed, showcasing the Malay language as *Bahasa Ilmu* (knowledge), *Bahasa Budaya* (culture) and *Bahasa Mesra* (relationships). *Bulan Bahasa* was also brought to the heartlands of Chua Chu Kang, Jurong, Nee

Soon, Sembawang and Tampines. Organised by residents of the respective constituencies, the celebrations were held to engage the wider community in appreciating the beauty and versatility of the Malay language.

Throughout the year, the *Rakan Bahasa* also attended various training sessions and programmes, which provided them with skills and learning resources to build their Malay language capabilities.

### ANUGERAH GURU ARIF BUDIMAN 2016

The *Anugerah Guru Arif Budiman (Malay Language Teachers' Award)* celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2016. At the ceremony graced by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, outstanding Malay language teachers were recognised for their achievements. All award recipients also took the opportunity to

honour their teacher-mentors who made an impact in their teaching journeys, and careers in education. These teacher-mentors were also presented with tokens of appreciation for their contribution to the development of the award recipients.

### SPEAK MANDARIN CAMPAIGN

The *Speak Mandarin Campaign 2016* was officially launched by Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean, who shared his own experience and challenges faced in learning Mandarin, and encouraged everyone to build a strong basic foundation of the language.

In response to popular feedback, the campaign's signature event, the *Parent-Child Talent Competition*, launched a new category that encouraged pre-schoolers to participate in the competition with their parents. Other new programmes were also rolled out to



Bulan Bahasa 2016



Speak Mandarin Campaign



allow the public to better experience and appreciate Mandarin and the Chinese culture. These included a Public Lecture presentation by Professor Yu Dan from Beijing Normal University, as well as a series of *Story Challenge Roadshows* presented to primary and secondary school students.

The *Speak Mandarin Campaign* also collaborated with the Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall (SYSNMH) to present its programmes at the *Wan Qing CultureFest 2016*.

### SPEAK GOOD ENGLISH MOVEMENT

The *Speak Good English Movement* released *Grammar Rules*, an English language grammar guidebook covering major grammar topics and common English language errors made by Singaporeans. The books were distributed free-of-charge to members of the public

at the Singapore Philatelic Museum (SPM) and SYSNMH, and proved very popular with 10,000 copies distributed in a matter of days.

The *Inspiring Teacher of English Award*, presented by the *Speak Good English Movement* and The Straits Times, and supported by the Ministry of Education, celebrated the achievements of four "Teaching Award" winners and three "Leadership Award" winners.

### TAMIL LANGUAGE FESTIVAL

2016's *Tamil Language Festival* presented a month of new and interesting Tamil language programmes, dramas, cultural activities, literature appreciation sessions and oratorical programmes for Tamil-speaking Singaporeans, encouraging them to "Love Tamil. Speak Tamil", and embrace their mother tongue in their daily lives.

The second edition of the *Living Language, Living Heritage* notebook was published, in a continuing collaboration with the Umar Pulavar Tamil Language Centre. The notebook featured a collection of artefacts and motivational song lyrics, and was well received by schools and the general public.



(Left) Speak Good English Movement & Tamil Language Festival







## COMMUNITY FESTIVALS

### WAN QING MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL 2016

9 to 18 September 2016

SYSNMH celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival with a display of five larger-than-life lantern installations inspired by local playgrounds, including the iconic dragon and pelican-shaped playgrounds. These proved to be a hit with visitors. A special weekend of festivities was also held on 10 and 11 September with evening performances, lantern-making workshops, and a special talk by local author and illustrator Lee Kow Fong (Ah Guo).

### WAN QING CULTUREFEST 2016

5 to 13 November 2016

SYSNMH's sixth *Wan Qing CultureFest* sought to foster a greater appreciation of Chinese arts, culture and language through various offerings, both contemporary and traditional. Programmes included evening performances headlined by Mediacorp artistes, family friendly workshops such as terrarium and clay figurine-making, public lectures conducted by local and visiting historians, exhibitions, heritage trails and dramatised storytelling sessions for children.

### WAN QING FESTIVAL OF SPRING CELEBRATIONS 2017

13 January to 11 February 2017

SYSNMH's annual *Wan Qing Festival of Spring Celebrations* brought together visitors of different ethnic groups and cultural backgrounds to celebrate the Chinese New Year. A highlight of the celebrations was a zodiac-inspired installation, *A New Dawn*, which comprised 52 red roosters nesting on the front lawn of the memorial hall.

The festival featured programmes that included evening cultural performances, outdoor film screenings, special exhibition guided tours led by Mediacorp YES 933FM DJ Zhong Kunhua, and storytelling sessions.

### MALAY CULTUREFEST 2016

15 October to 5 November 2016

In celebration of the richness and diversity of Malay culture and heritage, the Malay Heritage Centre (MHC) organised its annual *Malay CultureFest* with the theme of *Bahasa* (language). The festival presented the Malay language through various creative and dynamic platforms such as oratorical performances, multimedia, dance, and

music. Visitors were treated to a host of programmes covering a variety of subjects, including song-writing, letterpress and silk-screening workshops, lectures on the Malay language and *Jawi* writing, and even the basics of playing the *gambus* – a traditional Malay string instrument.

### IHC CULTUREFEST 2016

22 to 23 July and 29 to 30 July 2016

Indian Heritage Centre presented a programme over two weekends which celebrated the diversity of Indian culture, arts and heritage. The festival featured classical and contemporary Indian dance performances, as well as opportunities to learn about the South Indian martial art form *Kalaripayattu*, *sari*-tying, and *rangoli* art. Visitors also got to learn more about the history of Little India through a showcase of old street photos from the archives of the Urban Redevelopment Authority.

## HERITAGECARES

Launched in March 2016, *HeritageCares* reaches out to the underserved, such as families in difficulty, persons with disabilities and/or special needs, senior citizens and youths-at-risk, through a range of heritage programmes at our national museums, heritage institutions and heritage sites. Part of NHB's overall community outreach efforts, the initiative is supported by donations from Patek Philippe and Cortina Watch Pte Ltd. In 2016, *HeritageCares* reached out to 3,500

beneficiaries from over 100 voluntary welfare organisations.

One of *HeritageCares*' key initiatives for 2017 to 2019 is the *A Walk to Remember (AWTR)* programme, developed in collaboration with Youth Corps Singapore (YCS). *AWTR* features heritage-related activities and games at *Jubilee Walk* sites, all of which are specially designed by youth volunteers from YCS, in consultation with NHB, to cater to children

from low-income families. This project will see around 100 beneficiaries and 150 youth volunteers coming on board each year. Such programmes, which bring together Singaporeans of all ages and walks of life, encourage giving back to society through heritage programmes, and enable heritage to be more accessible and inclusive for everyone.









Wan Qing CultureFest 2016



IHC CultureFest 2016



## 05 HERITAGE TRAILS

### BEDOK HERITAGE TRAIL

Launched in April 2016, the *Bedok Heritage Trail*, NHB's 15th heritage trail, invites visitors to explore the lesser-known tales of the precinct's history. The trail traces the evolution of Bedok's residential dwellings from kampong to modern estate, and narrates its history through tales of well-loved landmarks that include food markets, military lookouts and old seawalls found far inland today. Along the way, visitors can also stop by famous food spots and enjoy a taste of the leisurely lifestyle so often associated with the East.

### LITTLE INDIA HERITAGE TRAIL

The *Little India Heritage Trail*, NHB's 16th heritage trail, was introduced to narrate the story of Little India's history, which dates back to the 1800s. This is also NHB's first trail to offer short, thematic routes to cater to time-pressed trail-goers. The three bite-sized thematic routes — "Serangoon in the 1900s", "Walk of Faiths" and "Shop Till You Drop" — touch on different aspects of Little India; its rich history, its strong co-existence of different religions and communities, as well as its well-known status as a shopping haven.

### JUBILEE WALK GUIDED TOURS

The *Jubilee Walk* is an eight-kilometre heritage trail around the Civic District and Marina Bay area conceptualised to celebrate SG50, and connects the past, present and future elements of the Singapore story. Over 80 *Jubilee Walk* guided tours and programmes were organised in 2016, with a total of 5,850 participants from all walks of life. *Jubilee Walk* programmes will continue in 2017, and include learning journeys and tours for public agencies, community groups and underserved groups.



Bedok Heritage Trail





Jubilee Walk

## 06 TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS

### JUBILEE WALK

A travelling exhibition of the *Jubilee Walk* was specially curated to present the 24 historic locations on the trail. It features landmarks and sites that are associated with significant events in our nation's development, and highlights how Singaporeans overcame the odds and thrived by working together. The exhibition travelled to eight libraries across the island.

### 50 YEARS OF NATIONAL DAY PARADES

*50 Years of National Day Parades*, a travelling exhibition curated in conjunction with the National Day Parade (NDP) 2016, takes visitors on a journey from the very first parade in 1966, to 2015's Jubilee celebrations at the Padang. Featuring more than 100 images and items of NDP, the exhibition charts the many firsts and highlights of Singapore's NDPs over the years, and shares behind-the-scenes stories of past parade participants and organisers.



50 Years of National Day Parades and Travelling Exhibitions

## 07 HERITAGE GRANTS

More than 240 heritage projects with a total value exceeding S\$5 million, championed by individuals and community groups, have been supported by NHB's *Heritage Grant Scheme*. The scheme, launched in 2013, aims to promote greater community ownership and participation in the creation of heritage content.

A wide range of projects have benefitted from the scheme, from publications and documentaries, to exhibitions and events, adding to the variety of heritage touch-points and offerings. Some highlights include an info-documentary series titled *Legacy of Malay Comedy Opera*, documenting the art form of Malay comedy opera or *Jenaka Bangsawan*; a publication named *The House on Palmer Road*; as well as the *Teochew Festival 2016*, which showcased the best of Teochew heritage and culture.



Teochew Festival 2016



## 08 MUSEUM ROUNDTABLE

The Museum Roundtable (MR), an association of over 55 museums and heritage galleries in Singapore chaired by NHB, continued to encourage a museum-going culture through its signature programmes, and the development of museum professionals. Recognising the potential to expand the role of museums in early childhood education, NHB worked with the SEED Institute and Melbourne Museum to provide training to MR members on museum programme design and facilitation for pre-school audiences.

Annual NHB events, including *Children's Season*, *Battle for Singapore* and *Istana Art Event* also saw the enthusiastic participation of MR members. MR's regular calendar of sharing sessions touched on relevant and useful topics such as the use of robotic museum guides, virtual reality applications, cloud-based collections management, and online ticketing systems.

### MUSEUM ROUNDTABLE: A 20-YEAR JOURNEY 2 November 2016 to 26 February 2017

2016 also marked MR's 20th anniversary, which was commemorated with the *Museum Roundtable: A 20-year Journey* exhibition held at the National Museum. The exhibition, featuring the diverse collections of 13 MR museums, charted the tremendous growth and development of Singapore's museum landscape over the years.

### 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF SINGAPORE & BATTLE FOR SINGAPORE 2017 15 February to 12 March 2017

The *Battle for Singapore* (BSG) kicked off the 75th Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore. A series of guided tours to 11 World War II-related sites and structures, along with special programmes and public talks, provided rare insights and personal accounts about this key milestone in Singapore's history.

For BSG 2017, NHB collaborated with MR museums such as the Former Ford Factory, which officially reopened on 15 February 2017 after a year-long revamp, as well as heritage groups such as MyCommunity, All Things Bukit Brown and the NUS History Society, which introduced new walking trails.

On the digital front, NHB released articles and videos on our heritage portal, *Roots.sg*, and social media platforms, which depicted the lesser known aspects of the Japanese Occupation. A collaboration with photographer Nicky Loh on a photo essay of war survivors also revealed the grit and resilience demonstrated by our pioneers in those hard times. NHB's commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore will conclude with a World War II exhibition, titled *Witness to War: Remembering 1942* at the National Museum in September 2017.

## 09 HERITAGE EDUCATION

### HERITAGE EXPLORERS PROGRAMME

The *Heritage Explorers Programme* enables primary school students to experience life as a curator, historian, designer, educator and heritage ambassador. Through creative role-playing, the programme creates enjoyable experiences with the aim of raising awareness of Singapore's heritage amongst the young.

The programme complements the learning of Social Studies, National Education, and Character and Citizenship Education in schools, while also emphasising school-parent partnerships, and greater parent-child bonding. To date, this programme has

reached out to 70 primary schools, and more than 35,000 students have signed up to be young *Heritage Explorers*. This programme aims to reach out to all primary schools by 2022.

### SINGAPORE'S LITTLE TREASURES

*Singapore's Little Treasures* is NHB's first heritage education programme dedicated to pre-schoolers. Since its launch in May 2014, the programme has reached out to more than 117 pre-schools, with over 236 teachers trained, and almost 4,000 pre-schoolers engaged. The programme aims to provide pre-schoolers with the opportunity to discover our multicultural heritage through

creative, engaging and purposeful classroom activities, and subsequent museum visits.

Apart from providing the programme in English, the programme also promotes Singapore's multicultural heritage in the three official mother tongue languages — Malay, Mandarin and Tamil. In the two years since its launch, *Singapore's Little Treasures* has brought the young ones to NHB's museums and heritage institutions after they learn about the different museums and their collections in their classrooms. In 2016, the programme was awarded a "Best Practice Award" by the International Council of Museums for best practices in museum education.





Museum Roundtable: A 20-Year Journey



Singapore's Little Treasures



Heritage Explorers





Traditional Chinese calligraphy





Image by Nicholas Chen

03

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# PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE

— THE TANGIBLE AND THE INTANGIBLE

Preserving the past and planning for the future are two sides of the same coin. Both are essential for a healthy heritage landscape, just as how acknowledging and preserving the tangible and intangible aspects of our heritage are a must for the transmission of our cultural legacy.

NHB's mandate, as the custodian of Singapore's heritage, is to preserve, commemorate and promote our tangible and intangible cultural heritage. We have done this in many ways – from the physical preservation and promotion of our heritage assets such as our National Monuments, National Collection, national museums and institutions, and heritage trails; to the documentation and celebration of our shared traditions, beliefs and ways of life, through exhibitions, festivals, *Heritage Grant* projects and more. Together, these are what make us Singaporean.





Cathedral of the Good Shepherd



## NATIONAL MONUMENTS: STRENGTHENING SUPPORT AND ENHANCING ACCESS

### NATIONAL MONUMENTS FUND

**23 grant recipients**  
**S\$2.32 million awarded**  
**Greater support with new maintenance funding**

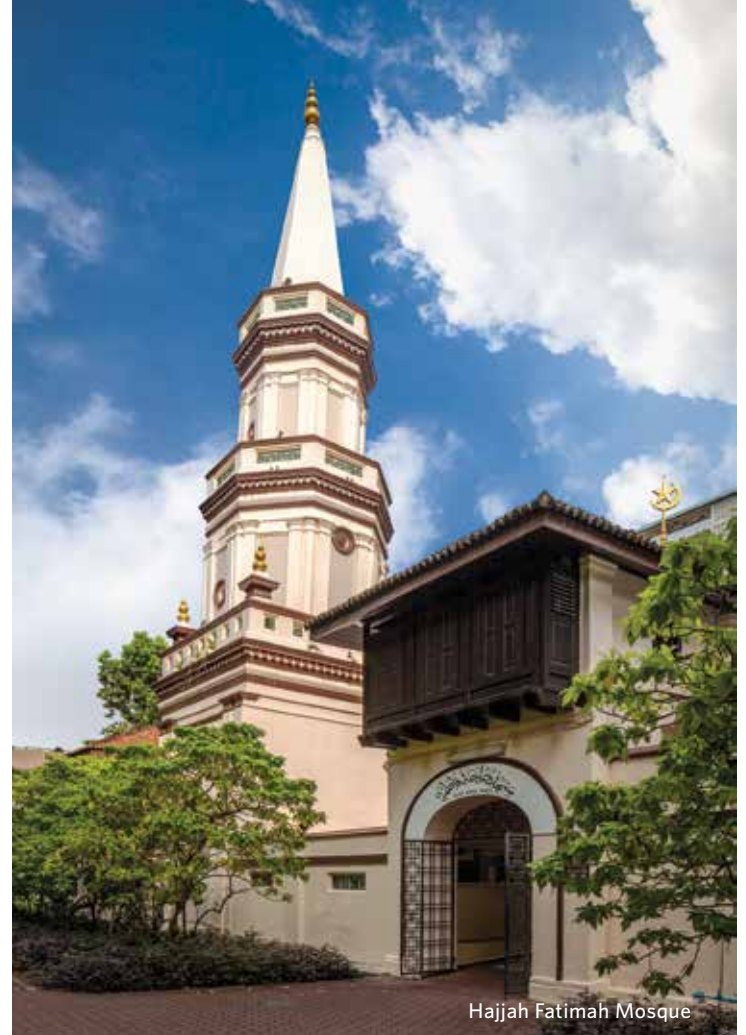
Gazetting our National Monuments as a homage to our nation's built heritage is important; ensuring their responsible maintenance and up-keep is equally vital. The *National Monuments Fund* (NMF), administered by the Preservation of Sites and Monuments division of NHB, enables this. The NMF was set up in 2008 to provide funding support for the restoration of National Monuments owned and managed by non-profit or religious organisations. Support through the NMF continued in the past year with 23 National Monuments awarded grants amounting to S\$2.32 million. To better cater to the needs of monument owners, a new category of NMF funding that supports maintenance works was introduced.

In FY2016/2017, eight National Monuments received funding for restoration works, and these included the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, which received the largest disbursement at S\$1.37 million, Hajjah Fatimah Mosque, Nagore Dargah Indian Muslim Heritage Centre and Tan Si Chong Su. Of the eight, four are second-time recipients. This illustrates the sustainable support the NMF provides to monument owners.

For the first time, regular maintenance works such as termite inspections, investigations of building defects, and minor repairs were also funded under the NMF, with about S\$100,000 disbursed to 20 National Monuments for this purpose. The new *NMF Maintenance Fund* was set up to restrain building deterioration, prevent unaddressed works from snowballing into significant restoration costs, and ultimately provide greater support for monument owners in their preservation efforts.

### NEW ISTANA HERITAGE GALLERY

With its grounds only accessible during the Istana Open House Days held on public holidays, Singaporeans and visitors alike can now enjoy a glimpse into the history of the Istana – a National Monument gazetted in 1992 – all year round with the new Istana Heritage Gallery. Unveiled on 7 October 2016 by President Tony Tan, the gallery showcases the historical, architectural and community significance of the Istana. Located within the Istana Park, it provides an accessible platform for the public to learn about the Istana's illustrious history, as well as view the precious State gifts from our international friends and counterparts.



Hajjah Fatimah Mosque



Sri Mariamman Temple



President Tony Tan launches the Istana Heritage Gallery



## PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE: SPEARHEADING RESEARCH AND STRENGTHENING OUR HERITAGE RESOURCES

### PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION DRIVE FOR TANGIBLE HERITAGE SURVEY

The two-year nation-wide survey of Singapore's tangible heritage was launched in September 2015, and work on the *Tangible Heritage Survey* is ongoing. This includes research and documentation of buildings and sites of historic or cultural interest found on mainland Singapore, completed in or before 1980. To enhance findings from the survey, an online *Public Contribution Drive* was launched to gather photographs and memories on selected buildings and sites from the heritage survey, including schools, civic institutions and community spaces. These memories of Singaporeans are an invaluable addition to NHB's repository of information and research on Singapore's built heritage.

### LAUNCH OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE SURVEY

NHB launched a nation-wide *Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Survey* in November 2016. The survey involves the research and documentation of ICH elements in Singapore, including traditional trades and crafts, oral traditions and expressions, performing arts, rituals, festive events and food heritage, amongst others.

This represents the first attempt to systematically research and document Singapore's rich ICH. When completed, the *ICH Survey* will help us better understand ICH in Singapore, as well as its significance to the different communities, and society at large. The survey's findings will also be used to help shape future initiatives and promotional efforts on Singapore's ICH.

### RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION PROJECTS

NHB commissioned a research study on Haw Par Villa in June 2016, in partnership with the Singapore Tourism Board. The study covers the built structures and statuary of Haw Par Villa, and documents their historical, architectural and social significance. This is the first time that a comprehensive study of Haw Par Villa's built heritage is being conducted since it ceased to be a commercial theme park in 2001. Findings will guide the development of a management plan for Haw Par Villa to ensure the long term protection of its heritage. The study is expected to be completed in late 2017.



Statuary at Haw Par Villa

Since 2015, NHB has been using aerial drones to document iconic structures around Singapore, as part of a heritage documentary series titled *Eye in the Sky*. To date, nine episodes have been released on NHB's heritage portal, *Roots.sg*, and feature places such as the Jurong Hill Lookout Tower, the "Forgotten Reservoir" at Keppel Hill, and Dakota Crescent Estate.

In January 2017, a collaboration with heritage enthusiasts, Mr Ang Yik Han and Mr Victor Yue, produced two other videos on Chinese temples. One episode focused on the Yueh Hai Ching Temple, and the other on the Thien Hock Keng and Singapore Yu Huang Gong Temples, all of which are National Monuments. The aerial drones video-recorded hard-to-reach areas, such as the roof and ceiling features, and offers viewers a close-up view of temple ornaments and tableaus that feature Chinese myths and symbols.





Toa Payoh Town Park Observation Tower



## HERITAGE CONSERVATION CENTRE: CONSERVING FOR POSTERITY

The Heritage Conservation Centre (HCC) continued to support the museums and institutions in the areas of new acquisitions, exhibitions, rotations, installations and de-installations, and loans.

### CONSERVATION TALKS

In addition to the work done behind-the-scenes, HCC conservators also participated in outreach efforts, in collaboration with NHB museums. These included fronting sharing sessions about conservation, such as through the National Museum's series of talks which celebrates Singapore's diverse multicultural heritage – *A Lighter Side of History*. In a talk titled *Caring for your Heirloom*, HCC conservators shared useful tips and knowledge on how to properly care for family heirlooms. The secrets behind preparing textiles were also expounded on at *Conserva-tour*, a talk done in conjunction with the Peranakan Museum's special exhibition, *Nyonya Needlework*.



Conservators at HCC









**MOU WITH SHAANXI RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
OF CULTURAL HERITAGE**

HCC embarked on an international collaboration, in the form of a conservation and research cooperation project with the Shaanxi Research Institute of Cultural Heritage (SIPCH). A Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation on Painted Clay Sculpture, Painted Wooden Sculpture and Stone Relic Conservation and Research was signed between SIPCH and NHB. This will see HCC and SIPCH cooperating on several projects, including Conservation Research on Standing Buddha Sculptures, Conservation Research on Guan Gong Sculptures and Research on Biological Weathering of Stone Relics.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF  
THE CONSERVATION SCIENCE LABORATORY**

An important step forward in capability development saw the undertaking of the first phase of the establishment of HCC’s Conservation Science Laboratory. The project began in 2015 with the furnishing of the laboratory with essential analytical equipment, and the first instruments were installed in 2016. When complete, the laboratory will enable HCC’s Conservation Science section to conduct scientific analysis of the National Collection; allow the identification of the material make-up of objects; and enhance the understanding of their deterioration. This will in turn allow HCC to achieve higher standards in the care of our nation’s artefacts and artworks.

**ATTAINING ISO 9001:2015  
CERTIFICATION**

As a tangible reminder of HCC’s good work, the centre was awarded ISO 9001:2015 certification in November 2016. This recognises HCC’s commitment to the maintenance of high standards of quality and service, and to continual improvement.











Parliamentary Secretary for Culture, Community and Youth,  
Mr Baey Yam Keng at the Digital in Cultural Spaces Conference





04

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# BUILDING CAPABILITIES

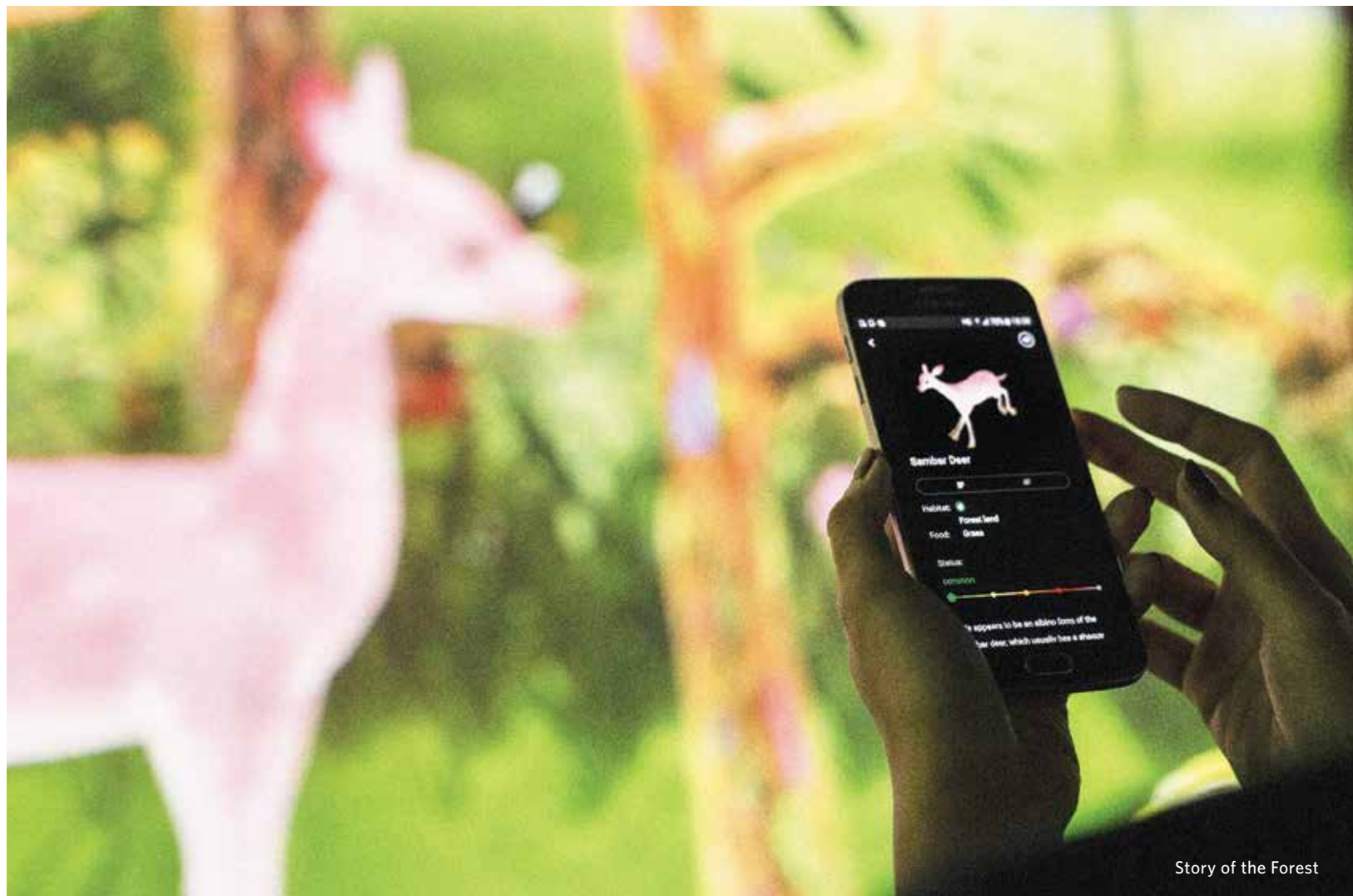
— PLANS, GROWTH, SUSTAINABILITY

Planning for the future and growing capabilities go hand in hand. Together, they strengthen our ability to preserve and document our shared heritage, encourage a culture of museum excellence, and deepen our engagements with the community.

Through enhancing the skillsets of our museum and heritage professionals, harnessing the strengths of technology in all aspects of our work, and embarking on collaborations with our partners, we will, collectively, lay a firm foundation for Singapore's heritage that will guide us well into the future.



# THE NEXT LAP FOR NHB'S DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY



Story of the Forest

*Roots.sg* was conceived in 2014 to bring the contents of our National Collection, National Monuments, heritage trails, historic sites, and other heritage resources, such as videos and documentaries, together in a single, one-stop heritage portal. Since its launch in 2016, *Roots.sg* has enabled NHB to extend the heritage and museum experience online, granting Singaporeans greater access to our repository of heritage resources. This is the first time that Singapore's diverse heritage resources have been collated in such a comprehensive and holistic manner on a digital platform, and it

involved the cataloguing of 100,000 artefacts and multimedia resources.

Since its launch, 1.2 million individuals have visited *Roots.sg*, and this has also resulted in an increase in the engagement of visitors on NHB's Facebook page. In the six months following the launch of *Roots.sg*, the time each visitor spends per visit has tripled from one minute to three minutes, with individuals averaging three pages per visit. The goal of *Roots.sg* is to be the foremost digital concierge for people wanting to delve into Singapore's heritage, and

to be synonymous with "Google" for everything related to Singapore's history, heritage and culture.

Moving forward, NHB will focus on developing knowledge management and customer relationship management systems that will amplify the digital reach of NHB's offerings and resources, as well as allow for better communications and marketing to this audience.



A close-up portrait of a man with dark, curly hair and a serious expression. He is wearing a light-colored, textured garment. The background is a deep red.

*Roots*

P R E S E N T S

**THE STORY  
OF RAFFLES**



0:21 / 2:58



# THE WORK OF CULTURE ACADEMY SINGAPORE



The Culture Academy Singapore (CA) was established in 2015 by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY) to be a centre of excellence for the development of culture professionals and administrators in Singapore's public sector. The academy's work spans three broad areas – education and capability development; research and scholarship; and the promotion of thought leadership in the arts and culture sector. In FY2016/2017, a total of 1,090 people attended two professional development courses, 12 *Curatorial Talks*, two

*In Conversation* sessions, one *Distinguished Speaker Series* lecture and a *Thought Leadership Conference*.

## **EDUCATION AND CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT**

In our efforts to increase the capabilities of culture sector administrators and professionals, and to sustain a strong leadership in the sector, CA collaborated with international institutions such as the Smithsonian Institution and Museums Victoria to co-create professional

development workshops on *The Role of the 21st Century Curator* and *Designing Engaging Exhibitions*. CA's monthly *Curatorial Talks*, which feature NHB curators, extended its platform to curators from the National Gallery Singapore and Singapore Art Museum.

## **RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP**

*Cultural Connections* is the first ever journal published by the public sector to champion thought leadership in cultural work, and aims to develop a body of resources and facilitate





knowledge management. The inaugural issue contains essays from prominent thought leaders from within the MCCY family of agencies, as well as other cultural professions.

#### **THOUGHT LEADERSHIP**

Local and international thought leaders offered their insights in a series of programmes organised to bolster cultural training and scholarship in the region. These included a *Distinguished Speaker Series* lecture by Mr Bernard Blistène, Director of the Musée National d'Art Moderne,

Centre Pompidou, Paris, in partnership with National Gallery Singapore. An *In Conversation* talk titled *A New Vision of Universal Culture*, by Dr Yannick Lintz, Director of the Islamic Department, Musée du Louvre, was also held in partnership with the Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM). The talk focused on the challenges faced by the museum in including Islamic art and culture within the Western framework of a universal culture museum. The inaugural *Thought Leadership Conference*, titled *The Digital in Cultural Spaces*, saw 23 speakers from

Singapore, Australia, the Netherlands, Hong Kong and the United States. The dialogue expounded on how cultural institutions have used technology in their work, and how they innovate, democratise and cultivate existing and new inclusive communities of users and producers.



# BUILDING NHB'S INTERNATIONAL STANDING



ICOM-Japan International Museum Day Symposium

## **24th ICOM GENERAL CONFERENCE 3 - 9 JULY 2016**

Mrs Rosa Daniel, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NHB and ICOM-Singapore Chairperson, led an NHB/ICOM Singapore delegation to attend the 24th International Council of Museums (ICOM) General Conference held in Milan, Italy. During the conference, NHB successfully facilitated the election of Mr Kennie Ting, Group Director (Museums) and Director of ACM, onto the Board of the ICOM Asia Pacific Alliance (ICOM ASPAC). This represents the first time an officer from NHB has been elected onto the board of an ICOM regional alliance.

Kennie's appointment, and the experience gained from NHB's attendance at the conference, has placed NHB in a better position to play a larger role in ICOM, and to have an influence on ICOM ASPAC's work priorities and processes. As Kennie is also the Vice-Chairman of the Asia Europe Museums Network (ASEMUS), his election onto the ICOM AS-

PAC Board also puts NHB in a good position to facilitate tie-ups and links between ASEMUS and ICOM ASPAC.

NHB's participation at the 24th ICOM General Conference also led to the development of an NHB international strategy for the engagement of ICOM, with identified priorities in the areas of education, audio-visual technologies, preservation and conservation.

## **ICOM-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY SYMPOSIUM 22 MAY 2016**

Mrs Rosa Daniel, CEO of NHB and ICOM-Singapore Chairperson, delivered a keynote speech about partnerships and sustainable heritage development in Singapore at the 2016 *International Museum Day Symposium* organised by ICOM-Japan in Tokyo, Japan. Themed "Museums and Cultural Landscapes", this was NHB's inaugural keynote address at the symposium, leading to greater awareness of NHB's

role and work amongst the museum community in Japan.

## **NHB'S PARTICIPATION IN ASEAN-RUSSIA FESTIVAL OF CULTURES 19 - 20 MAY 2016**

NHB's relations with ASEAN and Russia were boosted by a Peranakan showcase put up at an ethnological fair, organised by Russia at the *ASEAN-Russia Festival of Cultures* held in Sochi, Russia. Presented by the Peranakan Museum, NHB brought a slice of Peranakan culture to the audience, who were given the opportunity to embark on a virtual tour of the exhibition, *Sarong Kebaya: Peranakan Fashion and Its International Sources*. The special showcase also allowed visitors to gain insights into Peranakan culture, sample Peranakan snacks, and experience dressing up in Peranakan attire. The showcase was visited by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, who was in Russia to attend the *ASEAN-Russia Summit*.



# GIVING BACK TO AND THROUGH HERITAGE



## CULTURAL PHILANTHROPY

Every dollar counts and all donations, big or small, make a difference. To encourage more active contributions to the heritage and museum sector, NHB worked on several initiatives and events in 2016 to promote cultural philanthropy.

### SINGAPORE NIGHT FESTIVAL 2016 TAP TO DONATE

Visitors to the *Singapore Night Festival (SNF)* had the opportunity to show their support for the festival with a tap of their EZ-link cards. Each contribution to the festival earned the donor a brick, which they added on to a special *SNF LEGO* wall installation. This initiative was

supported by EZ-Link Pte Ltd, Wirecard Singapore Pte Ltd, and Xylvie Huang, Brick Artist.

### INDIAN HERITAGE CENTRE'S DONATE AND BRING HOME A MEMENTO

With every donation to the Indian Heritage Centre, visitors got to take home a memento – a capsule of saga seeds – part of the centre's special exhibition, *Once Upon a Time in Little India*. The fundraising initiative was inspired by *The Weighing Scale* installation by artist Kumari Nahappan. It featured over two tonnes of saga seeds that referenced the goldsmith trade in Little India, which traditionally used the seeds as a weighing measure for gold and precious metals. This initiative was supported by Kumari Nahappan and Sunny Day Concept.

## PATRON OF HERITAGE AWARDS 2016

Into its 11th year, the *Patron of Heritage Awards 2016* honoured the generosity of 74 individuals and organisations who contributed generously to Singapore's museums and institutions, and the heritage sector. A total of S\$8.13 million worth of donations and loans were received in 2016. These contributions — cash, in-kind support, and gifts and loans of personal artefacts and family heirlooms — supported outreach programmes, exhibitions, heritage and language festivals, as well as research and scholarships. The invaluable gifts from the donors contribute to the strong foundation on which we build a dynamic and enduring heritage and cultural sector.



# HERITAGE VOLUNTEERS



The vast contribution by our family of volunteers is significant in supporting our mission of promoting Singapore's heritage, and enriching the visitor experience at our museums and institutions.

Members of the Friends of the Museums, NHB's long-standing partner of 39 years, continued to guide actively at our museums and heritage institutions on weekdays. The *FOM-NHB Heritage Grant* has also provided 20 NHB officers with opportunities for attachments with overseas museums since 2008, enabling them to acquire new skills, knowledge, and ideas to promote museum and heritage education to our audiences.

Museum Volunteers Singapore consists of working adults who have been committing

their time and passion since 2004 to guiding at our museums and institutions on weekends and public holidays. Their growth is a testament to the flourishing interest in heritage amongst working professionals and executives.

The Mandarin Guides since 2003 and Mandarin Docents since 2006 are our two volunteer groups committed to serving our visitors through Mandarin and dialect tours. Our Japanese Docents went beyond their guiding duties by engaging the Japanese-speaking community, and sharing their guiding experiences through blogs, and on Expat Radio 96.3FM.

Among other volunteers are community groups who have collaborated with NHB in conducting guided tours of our heritage trails

at Tiong Bahru, Geylang Serai, Jurong, Little India, Balestier and Queenstown. Volunteers of NHB's Preservation of Sites and Monuments division conduct tours which focus on Singapore's National Monuments and heritage sites. There are also individuals who have volunteered their valuable time and energy at NHB's festivals and programmes.

NHB's achievements would not have been possible without these passionate individuals who are invaluable assets to our museum and heritage landscape, championing an appreciation and love for our heritage.





His Excellency Saleumxay Kommasith on a tour of the National Museum of Singapore



Her Royal Highness The Permaisuri of Johor, Raja Zarith Sofia (fifth from left) at the Heritage Conservation Centre



Her Royal Highness Maha Chakri Sirindhorn visited the National Museum of Singapore

## VISITS BY FOREIGN DIGNATARIES

1. **His Excellency Trần Đại Quang, President of Vietnam** visited the Ho Chi Minh Marker, 29 August 2016
2. **Her Royal Highness Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand** visited the National Museum of Singapore, 25 September 2016
3. **Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of Myanmar** attended the launch of *Cities and Kings* at Asian Civilisations Museum, 1 Dec 2016
4. **Her Royal Highness The Permaisuri Of Johor, Raja Zarith Sofia** visited the National Museum of Singapore, 8 February 2017
5. **His Excellency Saleumxay Kommasith, Minister Of Foreign Affairs from Lao People's Democratic Republic** visited the National Museum of Singapore, 12 February 2017
6. **Her Royal Highness The Permaisuri of Johor, Raja Zarith Sofia** visited the Heritage Conservation Centre, 16 March 2017

## NHB SCHOLARSHIPS

The *NHB Scholarship* scheme supports promising talent in Singapore by sponsoring the pursuit of full-time undergraduate or postgraduate studies in the fields of heritage, culture, and museum management or administration. In 2016, two scholarships were awarded, to enable the recipients to further their passion for the growth, development and preservation of Singapore's heritage.

Ms Louisa Tan, NHB's Senior Legal Counsel, will be pursuing a master's degree in the area of art law. Ms Clare Lim, Assistant Conservator (Objects) with HCC, is pursuing a master's degree in the conservation for archaeology and museums at the University College London.



# TAKING HOME A PIECE OF HERITAGE

The new Trade Gallery at the Asian Civilisations Museum displays a selection of exquisite works of art created out of the cultural and commercial exchanges through history. Objects on display range from simple everyday necessities to precious luxuries. To celebrate the opening of the gallery, MUSEUM LABEL has specially produced a range of merchandise that is inspired by the the artefacts from these ancient trade routes.







A collection of natural history drawings was commissioned by William Farquhar, the first Resident and Commandant of Singapore [1819-1823]. They depict the flora and fauna of the Malay Peninsula, most likely accomplished by local Chinese artists, with inscriptions identifying the species by their English and Malay names. MUSEUM LABEL has developed a series of merchandise inspired by these drawings.

**MUSEUM LABEL products are available at:**

National Museum of Singapore  
93 Stamford Road

Asian Civilisations Museum  
1 Empress Place

Malay Heritage Centre  
85 Sultan Gate

Indian Heritage Centre  
5 Campbell Lane



# OUR DONORS & PATRONS

**PATRON**

*[Nominees who have cumulatively contributed between S\$1 million to S\$1,999,999 between 1 Jan and 31 Dec 2016]*

Singapore Press Holdings Ltd

**PARTNER**

*[Nominees who have cumulatively contributed between S\$150,000 to S\$999,999 between 1 Jan and 31 Dec 2016]*

Air France  
Broadcast Professional Pte Ltd  
Changi Airport Group Singapore Pte Ltd  
Mr Edmond Chin  
Givaudan Singapore Pte Ltd  
KidZania Singapore  
Lien Shih Sheng Youth Chinese Literature Fund  
Panasonic System Solutions Asia Pacific  
SBS Transit Ltd  
Singapore Post Limited  
The Hour Glass Limited

**FRIEND**

*[Nominees who have cumulatively contributed between S\$50,000 to S\$149,999 between 1 Jan and 31 Dec 2016]*

American Express Foundation  
Armenian Apostolic Church of  
St. Gregory the Illuminator Singapore  
Dr William Chan and Mrs Chan Tsok Fah

Mr Harry Chin Chun Wah  
ERCO Lighting Pte Ltd  
Mr Richard Eu  
Mrs Lee Choon Guan Trust Fund  
Lee Foundation  
Professor Ng Yew Kwang  
Ong Family  
Showtec Communications Pte Ltd  
Mr Loren Shuster  
Singapore Art Museum  
Mr Tan Teo Kwang  
Mr Winson Tan  
Yuvabharathi International School

**SUPPORTER**

*[Nominees who have cumulatively contributed between S\$10,000 to S\$49,999 between 1 Jan and 31 Dec 2016]*

Mr Ang Keng Lam  
Asia Culture Communications Pte Ltd  
Association of Singapore Philatelists  
Capitol Investment Holdings Pte Ltd  
Mrs Shelly and Mr Michael Dee  
ECPark Pte Ltd  
Estate of H. Somapah [decd]  
EZ-Link Pte Ltd  
Mr Edgar Talusan Fernandez  
Friends of the Museums, Singapore  
Ms Gan Ee Bee  
Global Indian International School  
Havas Singapore  
Hotel Royal @ Queens  
Kaki Bukit Developments Pte Ltd

Keisuke Singapore Pte Ltd  
Mr and Mrs Lee Kip Lee  
Mr Keith Magnus  
Mr and Mrs Nair  
Mrs Julia Oh  
His Excellency Ambassador Dato' N Parameswaran  
Family of Gnanapragasam Pillai  
Plaza Singapura and Westgate  
PSA International Pte Ltd  
Raffles Singapore  
Rex Cinemas Pte Ltd  
Sin Chew Woodpaq Pte Ltd  
Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce Foundation  
Singapore Management University  
Mr Laurent and Mrs Dominique Solomon  
South Beach Consortium Pte Ltd  
Mr Ernest Tan and Mr Ronald Tan  
Ms Jeanette Tan  
Mr Michael Tay  
Mr Anil Thadani  
The Silent Foundation Ltd  
Thekchen Choling (Singapore)  
U.S. Embassy Singapore  
Velocity@Novena Square  
Ms Xylvie Wong

[Some donors have requested to remain anonymous]

# NATIONAL MONUMENTS FUND RECIPIENTS

**LIST OF 2016 RECIPIENTS OF  
NMF'S MAINTENANCE FUND**

1. Abdul Gafoor Mosque
2. Al-Abrar Mosque
3. Alkaff Upper Serangoon Mosque
4. Armenian Church of St Gregory
5. Chesed-El Synagogue
6. Church of Our Lady of Lourdes
7. Church of St Teresa
8. Hong San See
9. Jamae Mosque
10. Nagore Dargah Indian Muslim Heritage Centre

11. Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church
12. Singapore Yu Huang Gong
13. Sri Mariamman Temple
14. Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple
15. St George's Church
16. St Joseph's Church
17. Sultan Mosque
18. Tan Si Chong Su
19. Thian Hock Keng
20. Ying Fo Fui Kun

**LIST OF 2016 RECIPIENTS OF  
NMF'S RESTORATION FUND**

- 2008 & 2016 – Church of Our Lady of Lourdes  
2010 & 2016 – Cathedral of the Good Shepherd  
2011 & 2016 – St Joseph's Church  
2014 & 2016 – Nagore Dargah Indian Muslim Heritage Centre  
2016 – Armenian Church of St Gregory  
2016 – Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
2016 – Hajjah Fatimah Mosque  
2016 – Tan Si Chong Su



# HERITAGE GRANTS

## RECIPIENTS OF THE HERITAGE PROJECT GRANT

*Upgrading of the Eurasian Heritage Centre*  
Eurasian Association

*Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital (KWSH) Heritage Gallery*  
Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital

*Armenian Heritage Centre*  
Armenian Apostolic Church of St. Gregory the Illuminator  
Singapore

*Singapore Comics - History and Heritage*  
Chua Hak Lien

*Cantonese contribution to the Singapore community*  
Lee Kok Leong

*Curating Whampoa*  
Tsao Foundation

*The Last Artisan*  
Craig Brand McTurk

*The English Volume of "A General History of the Chinese in Singapore"*  
Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations

*Hong San See Temple, Singapore, the Journey to UNESCO*  
The Research Centre for National Monuments

*The Songs We Sang*  
Eva Tang Poh Chooi

*The Peranakan Garden*  
Sylvia Tan Siok Han

*6th Singapore Hokkien Festival and Publication*  
Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan

*From CPU to CNA - Creating Our Collective Consciousness*  
Naleeza binte Ebrahim Kunhi

*Enhancement of Kampong Gelam Heritage Trail with Heritage Markers*  
The Malay Heritage Foundation Ltd

## RECIPIENTS OF THE HERITAGE PARTICIPATION GRANT

*T.I.M.E.S Heritage Space of Teck Whye Primary School*  
Teck Whye Primary School

*Rosyth School Heritage Corner*  
Rosyth School

*Exhibition on Development of Chinese Opera in Singapore*  
Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan Dance Theatre Ltd

*Hup Yick: An Archival of Jalan Besar*  
Xin Xiao Chang

*The Little Book of Singapore Malay Languages*  
Nor Hidayah Binte Mohd Amin

*Singapore Chess: A History 1945-1986*  
Shashi Jayakumar

*Young Authors Programme - Publication of 2 books on Peranakan Culture*  
Teck Whye Primary School

*The Family History Project: Toolkit*  
Joy Wong

*Till We Meet Again - Rochor Centre, Singapore*  
Lau Eng Seng

*Legacy of Malay Comedy Opera in Singapore*  
Mohamed Safri Bin Abdul Manaf

*Singh in the Lion City*  
Uptake Media

*Traces of Time - Lost Landmarks of Radin Mas*  
Radin Mas Citizens' Consultative Committee

*Singapore Tamil Youth Conference 2016*  
NUS Tamil Language Society

*KCPPS Heritage Experiential Hub*  
Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Primary School

*AMKSS Heritage Staircase Gallery*  
Ang Mo Kio Secondary School

*Gems Avenue*  
Casuarina Primary School

*Heritage Corner at Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' Secondary*  
Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' Secondary School

*Heritage Wall@TPSS*  
Tampines Secondary School

*A History of Silat Seni Gayong PASAK of Singapore*  
Silat Seni Gayong Singapura

*50 Metres: Our Swimming Pools (2nd edition)*  
Jocelyn Lau

*My Queenstown Heritage Trail series (August 2016 to July 2017)*  
My Community

*Methodist Girls' School Heritage Centre*  
Methodist Girl's School Alumnae Association

*The CZ Story*  
Chongzheng Primary School

*The Bendemeer Heartbeat*  
Bendemeer Secondary School

*LH 70 Heritage Tower*  
Lianhua Primary School

*Living Treasures: Singapore's heritage homes brought to life*  
Wan Hussin Zoohri

*The Untold Story of the 'Lancing Girls', Life in the Big Three Worlds*  
Adeline Yeo Wai May

*Queenstown Lutheran Church, A Community & Heritage of Queenstown*  
Queenstown Lutheran Church

*The House on Palmer Road*  
Joyceline See Hui Hui

*If Doors Could Speak: Stories of Transformation*  
Canossa Convent Primary School

*Teochew Festival 2016*  
Teochew Poit Ip Huay Kuan

*Nursery Rhymes School Show*  
The Theatre Practice Ltd

*Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan Heritage Gallery*  
Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan

*Nanyang Primary School Heritage Gallery*  
Nanyang Primary School

*NE Legacy*  
Oasis Primary School

*River Hongbao 2017*  
Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations

*Xishan Heritage Room*  
Xishan Primary School

*HDB: Homes of Singapore*  
Eitaro Ogawa

*Greater Than the Sum of Its Parts*  
Singapore Hospice Council

*Seah Eu Chin: His Life & Times*  
Seah Li Song Shawn

*Retracing the Lines of Omar Bin Mohamed Gempih - A pre-war architect*  
Nur Haqam Bin Abdul Latiff

*The 1st Kristang Language Festival*  
Kevin Martens Wong Zhi Qiang

*Singapore Heritage Short Film Competition 2017*  
Singapore Film Society

*Heritage Fiesta 2017 - Its Past, Now Its Name*  
Huang Shin Yi

*The Way Finder @Bukit Brown Cemetary*  
Singapore Heritage Society

*Indian Short Films of Singapore*  
Mohamed Saleem Abdul Hadi

*A Temasek Tale*  
Temasek Junior College

*St. Stephen's School - Heritage Room*  
St. Stephen's School

*Heritage Space @ Admiralty*  
Admiralty Secondary School  
*T.I.M.E.S Heritage Guiding through Dramatisation*  
Teck Whye Primary School

*Ponthuk*  
Persatuan Bawean Singapura

*Singapore's Chinese Culture and Communities in the Late Qing Dynasty*  
Wong Chee Meng

*Young Authors Programme - Publication of 2 books on Heritage Building of Architectural Significance*  
Teck Whye Primary School

## RECIPIENT OF THE MARITIME HERITAGE PARTICIPATION FUND

*History of Singapore - Islands and Islanders*  
Frederick James Francis

## RECIPIENTS OF THE HERITAGE RESEARCH GRANT

*Heritage Values of Chinese Schools as Cultural Spaces*  
Dr Qu Jingyi, Nanyang Technological University

*Modern Values and Innovation of Chinese Opera in Singapore*  
Dr Wang Bing, National Institute of Education

*Collective Biography of the Singapore Chinese Community (1922-1972): The Digitization and Analysis of the Bukit Brown Burial Records in the National Archives*  
Professor Kenneth Dean  
Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

*Singapore's Tangible Heritage in Virtual and Augmented Reality*  
Dr Yeung Sai-Kit, Singapore University of Technology & Design

*Theatres of History and Memory: Industrial Heritage of 20th Century Singapore*  
Dr Loh Kah Seng  
Economic Growth Centre, Nanyang Technological University

*Study on the Perceptions of Singapore's Built Heritage and Landmarks*  
Ms Seah Chia Shih Paveena  
Institute of Policy Studies, National University of Singapore

*Designing Cultures: Rising cultural understanding and multicultural appreciation through Singapore's oral traditions and location mapping*  
Associate Professor Jesvin Puay-Hwa Yeo,  
Nanyang Technological University

*Evaluating the Tangible and Intangible Heritage of Shopping Centres in Singapore*  
Dr Liew Kai Khiun,  
Nanyang Technological University



# SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

## **NHB POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP**

Louisa Tan Hui Ru  
Senior Legal Counsel, Legal  
*Master in Arts in Art Law*

## **NHB SPONSORSHIP**

Clare Lim Li Yan  
Assistant Conservator (Objects)  
Heritage Conservation Centre  
*Master of Science in Conservation for  
Archaeology & Museums  
University College London*

## **JULIA OH-NHB INTERNATIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANT**

Noorashikin Binte Zulkifli  
Curator (West Asia)  
Asian Civilisations Museum

Phyllis Koh Zhen Qi  
Conservator (Paper)  
Heritage Conservation Centre

Cindy Lau Shin Yee  
Assistant Conservator (Objects)  
Heritage Conservation Centre

## **FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUMS (FOM)- NHB HERITAGE GRANT**

Muhammad Qazim Bin Abdul Karim  
Assistant Manager  
[Outreach & Education]  
Malay Heritage Centre

Sharon Chen Peiling  
Manager (Audience)  
Asian Civilisations Museum

Amanda Claire Chan Choon Guat  
Senior Manager  
International Relations

## **THE PROF KOH AWARD 2017**

*The Prof Koh Award was established  
in 2011 to recognise and reward staff  
innovation and excellence.  
It is funded through donations from  
NHB's Honorary Chairman,  
Professor Tommy Koh.*

### » **Most Visited Exhibition 2017**

Celebrating Radio:  
Sounds from the Past  
[National Museum of Singapore]

### » **Best Selling Publication 2017**

Connections:  
History and Architecture,  
City Hall and Supreme Court  
[Preservation of Sites and  
Monuments]

### » **EPIC Award 2017**

Miki Komatsu  
Senior Conservator (Textiles)  
Heritage Conservation Centre

Chua Li Koon  
Manager  
[Language Councils Secretariat  
and Corporate Development]  
Heritage Institutions

Sin Lye Kuan Josephine  
Manager  
Education and Community Outreach

Martini Binte Ali Wafar  
Senior Officer  
[Festivals and Precincts]  
Festivals and Precincts Development

Ding Xiao Wei Daphne  
Senior Visitor Services Officer  
Asian Civilisations Museum

Chua Puay Kiang  
Driver  
Operations and Administration

Chen Zhihui Adeline  
Registrar  
[Collections Management]  
Heritage Conservation Centre

Chia Shao Xiong  
Manager (Project Management)  
Asian Civilisations Museum

Huang Shiqi Jermaine  
Manager  
[Programmes and Outreach]  
National Museum of Singapore

Chin Jia Hui, Priscilla  
Officer  
[Outreach and Education]  
Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall

Foo Min Li  
Senior Manager  
[Curatorial and Outreach]  
National Museum of Singapore

## **SPECIAL APPRECIATION AWARD**

Ng Sock Hwee Eileen  
Reddy Philomena

## **LONG SERVICE AWARD 5-YEAR LONG SERVICE**

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Lee Jin Min Luis  
Nur Farhana Binte Salleh  
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Lee Bee Cheng  
Low Zhi Wei  
Chan Yen Li June  
Heng Wan Hui Samantha  
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Sng Peck Li  
Chua Hui Ru Lynn  
Lim Li Yan Clare  
Mo Kang Ho  
Tay Ann Ann Diana  
Lee Min Jie  
Mohamed Hafiz Bin Mohamed Shariff  
Suhaili Binte Osman  
Tan Lim Him Felix  
Ting Liangfa Alvin  
Kwok Jung Yun John  
Chew Kian Chin  
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Erina Kirsten Yeo  
Foo Shyuan Huey Joyce  
Siti Maria Binte Abdul Manaf  
Wee Jin Ann Gerald  
Mary Ho Kwek Phin  
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Chua Su-E Christie  
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Yap Soo Ei  
Tee Siew Khuan Cindy  
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Wee Ann Jee  
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Trudy Loh Ping Ling  
Muhammad Irfan Bin Mohamed Awi  
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Sin Wei Yang Warren  
Nazlinah Bte Naina Mohamad  
Goh Sze Mein Sylvia  
Koh Wan Yuen Cheryl

## **LONG SERVICE AWARD 15-YEAR LONG SERVICE**

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Tan Szan  
Wong Hong Suen

## **LONG SERVICE AWARD 20-YEAR LONG SERVICE**

Hanafi Bin Ahmad

## **LONG SERVICE AWARD 30-YEAR LONG SERVICE**

Loh Heng Noi

## **NATIONAL DAY AWARDS 2016**

PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL  
Mr Tham Tuck Cheong  
Chairman  
Preservation of Sites and Monuments  
Advisory Board

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION MEDAL  
[Silver]  
Ms Loh Heng Noi  
Director  
National Collection

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION MEDAL  
[Bronze]  
Ms Trudy Loh Ping Ling  
Director  
Heritage Institutions

EFFICIENCY MEDAL  
Miss Nor Aini Binte Omar  
Assistant Conservator (Paper)  
Heritage Conservation Centre



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## MANDARIN DOCENTS

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ANG Keng Chuan  
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CHIA Lai Peng Stella  
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CHUA Judy  
CHUA Mui Ngoh, Judy  
GIAN Bee Hua  
GOH Sin Shoo  
GOH Swee Geok  
HO Hwee Tin Rebecca  
HO Kwen Khee  
HONG Lai Sim, Anne  
JINGGA Rusanna  
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KHOO Tham Hoon  
KOH Soo Hoon  
KOK Yuet Heng  
KUO Shiu Nue  
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LEE Kok Leong  
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LEE Wei Seng Eddie  
LEONG Sow Ling  
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LOW Kah Meng  
LOW Kian Mong

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LUO Xi  
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MING Shasha  
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NG Koon How  
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ONG Tiong Eng  
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TAN Keow Mui, Cindy  
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TAN Siaw Peng, Ivan  
TAN Tee Kheng  
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TAY Boon Seng  
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TEOW Chiow Hua  
THE Liok Tjwan  
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WANG Xiao Zhuo  
WANG Meixin  
WONG Mui Juan  
XIE Dongming  
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CHOW Wai Lee  
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GOH Tock Woo  
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HENG Puay Siang, Rebecca  
HO Wei Ling

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HUANG Weiqing  
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LAU Mou Khum  
LEE Hee Boy  
LEE Pei Lih  
LIEN Wen Sze  
LIM Bee Furn  
LIM Bee Lay  
LIM Siew Wee  
LIM Soh Koong  
LIM Swee Jee  
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CHEN JA Jean  
CHEN Zhiying  
CHENG Min  
CHERN Siou Eng

CHEW Marissa  
CHEW Mei Fong, Cale  
CHEW Shu Feng, Mabel  
CHIA Jayson  
CHIANG Karen  
CHIN Swee Tin  
CHNG Hak Peng  
CHONG Mian Hwee  
CHONG Yeow Foong, Kelly  
CHOO Ban Nee  
CHOON Soon Wah, Roland  
CHOW Alfred  
CHOY Kah Wai  
CHUA Clare  
CHUA Kim  
CHUA Yvonne  
CHUI Wai Cheng  
CHUNG Georgina  
DIACONESCU Horia  
DONOUGH-TAN Gerardine  
FONG May Lan  
FOO Willy  
FU Leonard  
FURLONG Darly Elizabeth  
GAN Chee Hiong  
GOH Eric  
GUAH Darissa  
HANLON Paul  
HEEREMANS Kit  
HENG Xiang Hui  
HO Jacqueline  
HO Kevin  
HO Poh Lan  
HODGSON Craig  
HOFFMAN Caroline  
HOGAN Juniper  
HOGAN Michael  
HOOL Kate  
HOON Sue  
HOPKIN Anthony  
HWA Kia Min  
IVANOV Kirill  
JAYOS Mona  
JOY Joy  
KAPIC Adna  
KAY Chew Lin  
KHO Joan  
KHO Susanna  
KIM Quiyoung  
KOE Pak-Juan  
KOH Edna  
KOH Rapheal  
KOH Shu Fang, Nicole  
KOK Pooi-San  
KUM Isabel  
KUMARASAMY Sandra  
KWAN Sonia  
KWEK Lorraine  
KWOK Cecilia  
LAI Audrey  
LAI Yee Ling  
LAM Denise  
LAM Ida  
LAU Diana



LAU Kim Seng  
LEE Chen Qi  
LEE Inn Siew  
LEE Sean  
LEE Seow Chong  
LEE Teik Yoong  
LEE Thomas Cecilia  
LEE Xin Hui  
LEONG Stephen  
LEONG Yee Heng  
LEOW Pek Hia  
LI Lisa  
LI Xiang  
LI Yan Shan  
LIEW Rodney  
LIM Brenda  
LIM Joselin  
LIM Karen  
LIM Michelle  
LIM Simon  
LIM Soo Hwee  
LIM Theresa  
LIM Wee Kiat  
LIM Xinyuan Joanne  
LIM Yue Feng  
Lingehswari  
LONG Jing Ping  
LOO Connie  
LOO Rachel  
LOO Vanessa  
LOUIS Lionel Jonathan  
LOW Boon Chin  
LOW Ee Lang Elaine  
LOW Elaine  
LOW Jean  
LOW Loong Shiew  
LOW Ming Hwee  
LOW Tara  
LOW Zhi Qi  
LU Caixia  
MA Swan Hoo  
MAHAT Zuraidah  
MAK Check Hong  
MISTRY Diviesh  
MOCK Belinda  
MOK Ellen  
MORALES Angelo  
NEO Kristie  
NETTO Sunita  
NG Chuey Peng  
NG Ee Koon  
NG Ian  
NG Leonard  
NG Olivia  
NG Suzanne  
ONG Ai Khim  
ONG Chah Yiin  
ONG Dominic  
ONG Eng Hui  
ONG Irene  
OOI Sebastian  
OW YEONG Wai Mang  
PANG Cecilia  
PHUA Celeste

POK Irene  
POONG Lesley  
PWEE Timothy  
QUEK Rachel  
RAHMAT Redzuan  
REISMAN David  
SHAHDADPURI Ramesh  
SIAU Ming En  
SIM Flora  
SIM Cheryl  
SIM Chor Koon  
SIM Petrina  
SIOW Chih Wee  
SOH Lai Yee  
SOH Yu-Ting  
SOON Kah Hwee  
STAPLES Kristina  
SUN Yidan  
TAN Ai Yea  
TAN Anne  
TAN Boon Piang  
TAN Charlene  
TAN Clarie  
TAN Elaine  
TAN Helen  
TAN Heng Khim  
TAN Howe Siang  
TAN Hui Kheng  
TAN Jimmy  
TAN Johnny  
TAN Khai Yuen  
TAN Koon Siang  
TAN Patricia  
TAN Puay Lee, Kerry  
TAN Sheau Yin  
TAN Teck Ngee  
TAN Yam Hua Gertrude  
TAN Yew Guan  
TANG Amelia  
TANG Chong Wing  
TANG Summer  
TANPOCO Philip  
TAY Siew Khim  
TAY Thomas  
TAYLOR Jaime  
TEH Jolyn  
TENG Enid  
TEO Christian  
THNG Esther  
THONG Pao-yi  
TJHI Wilson  
TOH Willy  
TSAI Jean  
VAN DER VEN Christine  
VARAPRASAD Chitra  
WEE Soon Ann Raymond  
WEE Teck Hin  
WELCH Patricia  
WONG Genevieve  
WONG Judy  
WONG Lily  
WONG Oriana  
WONG WanJun  
WONG Woon Wai

WONG Yau  
YAP Jo Lin  
YEH Tsuei-Hua Tracey  
YEO David  
YEO Wee Ping  
YEO-ONG Gak Tong, Jean  
YEOW Francis  
YICK Penny  
YIP Wai Kuan  
YONG Chun Yuan  
YONG Yannie  
YUDISTIAWAN Wahyu  
Perdana  
ZHUANG Victor

**MALAY HERITAGE  
CENTRE DOCENTS\***

CHIA Bee Lian  
HO Priscilla  
HASSIN Rosni  
KAMARUDDIN Noorjahan  
LOKE Adelenne  
RASHID Hafiz  
SHAFAT Jaafar  
SULAIMAN Morni  
SYED Mehbuba Qureshia

**INDIAN HERITAGE  
CENTRE DOCENTS\***

BALASUBRAMANIAM Aparna  
BHAVANI Krishnasamy  
PNG Gek Lee  
SAMYNATHAN Roshini Shamala

**MUSEUM HOSTS\***

GOH Jasmine  
LOW De Wei  
NG Catherine  
TIETJEN Valerie  
TOCK Darien  
WAN Caroline

**PRESERVATION OF  
SITES AND MONUMENTS  
VOLUNTEERS**

CHIA Bee Lian  
CHUA Lydia  
HARRIS Catherine Marie  
HOFFER Karine  
KEK Wendy  
KHO Joan  
KIM Ouiyoung  
KOH Li Hong  
LEE Ai Ling  
LEE Elton  
LEE Peggy  
LEONG Yee Ting  
LI Ling  
LIEW Kwong Chin  
LOW Zhiqi

MARTIN Helene  
NABARRO Ariane  
NG Heok Joo  
PARRY Angela  
SAM Yun-Shan  
SEAH David  
SINGH Tripti  
SOO Wai Man  
SOON Kah Hwee  
SOON Kenneth  
TAN Charlene  
TAN Gertrude  
TAN Hui Kheng  
TAY Fabian Jude  
TONG Catalina  
TSAI Jean  
WEE Betty  
WEE Raymond  
WONG Eva  
WONG Jill  
WOODMANSEE Rosanne  
YEO Alvin  
YUEN Jillian

**OTHER VOLUNTEERS**

all things Bukit Brown  
Geylang Serai Integration and  
Naturalisation Champions  
Jon Cooper  
My Community  
Nanyang Technological  
University Heritage Club  
National University of  
Singapore History Society  
National University of  
Singapore Southeast  
Asian Society  
Seletar Hill Estate Residents'  
Association  
Sentosa Development Corp  
Singapore Armed Forces  
Veterans League  
Singapore Heritage Society  
Taman Jurong Integration and  
Naturalisation Champions  
Tiong Bahru Heritage  
Volunteers

*\* Docents from Museum  
Volunteers Singapore and  
Friends of the Museums who  
guide at the Malay Heritage  
Centre, Indian Heritage  
Centre or National Museum  
of Singapore have been  
recognised and listed under  
their respective groups.*



# GIFTS & ACQUISITIONS

## **MANGA MALAI (MANGO GARLAND OR NECKLACE)**

Late 19th /  
early 20th century,  
South India  
31 x 25 x 2cm

The *manga malai* is a typical Tamil necklace worn for celebratory occasions such as weddings and/or as part of dance costumes by *bharatanatyam* dancers. Nature inspired jewellery, featuring flora and fauna are common in South India. The *manga malai* design can be traced as far back as the Chola period, as seen in bronzes produced at that time. This necklace is a superior example of south Indian gold craftsmanship and is representative of the material culture of Tamils in the region.







**AN ICOSAHDREDON**  
Batavia/India, 18th century  
Height 4.3cm

This extraordinary and rare box is hollow and has twenty triangular sides. Each side is made of particularly fine, solid silver filigree. One of the triangular sides is hinged and opens, permitting access to the interior. The form fits into the oeuvre of scientific and mathematical devices in the Islamic world, perhaps tempered with mysticism and notions of magic. It is possible that this example was made there for export for the Islamic market in India, perhaps as a diplomatic gift. It also has a small Dutch import mark for foreign silver which bolsters the case that it was made in the Dutch East Indies.



**BIBLE BOX**  
Sri Lanka, 19th century  
10.2 x 5.9 x 2cm

This is a rare dutch colonial bible box made in Sri Lanka for the colonial market. These boxes would have traditionally held a small personal bible. It is conventional in design with a hinged lid and is thicker at the front than at the back to emulate a leather-bound book. It has chased and engraved silver mounts along the peripheries and along the 'spine', and the box itself is made of tortoiseshell. The hinged lid is kept closed by two silver clasps, engraved with floral motifs, while the remaining silver mounts are decorated with foliate arabesques.



**TWO MONKEYS**  
China, Qing dynasty (Qianlong period, 1736-1795)  
Porcelain with overglaze polychrome enamels and gold, height 26cm

This playful porcelain group is realistically modelled, and shows why Chinese porcelain figures were so highly sought after in Europe during the 16th through 18th century. The younger monkey is painted in dark grey to contrast with the adult. The unevenly painted fine parallel lines nicely simulate body hair.



## GIFTS & ACQUISITIONS

### **PORTRAIT OF ROBERT FULLERTON**

Attributed to George Chinnery  
Early 19th century  
Oil on canvas

Robert Fullerton was the governor of Penang from 1824 to 1826, and subsequently the first governor of the Straits Settlements upon its establishment in 1826, serving in that capacity until 1830. This portrait was most likely painted in Fullerton's younger days when he was an East India Company officer stationed in Madras. The painter of the portrait is almost certainly George Chinnery, a London-born artist who painted in Madras from 1802 to 1807 before heading to Calcutta and later the China coast.



### **SINGAPORE FROM CAIRN HILL**

Percy Carpenter, 1858  
Watercolour on paper

This view of Singapore was painted by Percy Carpenter, an English artist who resided in Singapore from 1855 until he moved to Calcutta by 1859. The foreground of this watercolour work depicts John James Greenshields, a partner of Guthrie & Co. and member of the Singapore Municipal Committee, together with his wife, looking outwards from their residence at Cairn Hill. Government Hill is visible at the centre of this landscape, flanked by Mount Sophia on the left and Institution Hill on the right. This idyllic, picturesque view shows hints of Singapore's busy trade, with glimpses of shipping scenes in the background.





**SHI HOU GUANYIN**

China, 14th or 15th century

Bronze, height 52.7cm

The presence of the tiny figure of Amitabha Buddha in the headdress identifies this figure as Guanyin. The lion is here because its roar ("Simhanada") symbolises the force of enlightenment. Depictions like this developed around the 11th or 12th century in India, where they were called Sinhanada Avalokiteshvara. The earliest Chinese examples are dated to the 12th century.





## GIFTS & ACQUISITIONS

### **A PAIR OF MOTHER-OF-PEARL DOORS**

Gujarat, India,  
18th century  
179x77cm

This is a rare pair of Indian hardwood painted doors, clad in mother-of-pearl and secured with gilt-metal pins and rosettes. On each narrow door, there is a gilt-bronze ring handle. The surface of the doors is entirely decorated with a mother-of-pearl geometric design and inset with mother-of-pearl flowers overlaid on top of painted mica. These doors are made in the same Gujarati tradition as mother-of-pearl decorated objects made for the export market (mainly to Portugal) during the 16th and 17th centuries. During this period, mother-of-pearl *Kunstammer* works were highly sought after by European collectors. In terms of technique, these doors share the same decorative characteristics as the luxury caskets, powder horns, rifles and daggers produced in Gujarat.







### 1) CHINESE BARBER SHOP

By Ernst Christiaan Leonard Agerbeek [1903-1945], dated 1928, Indonesia  
Oil on canvas, 60.9 x 80cm

This painting shows a scene in the lives of working class Chinese immigrants, living under the legacy of Dutch separatist policies in Indonesia. The artist depicted several common trade objects of the period. The painting reflects on the harsh realities of immigration and urban poverty. The artist, Ernst Christiaan Leonard Agerbeek, was born in Bandung, Indonesia and died in Java during the Japanese war.

### 2) MIAN PRATAP CHAND OF LAMBAGRAON HUNTING WITH THE MINISTER SHIVA

India, Sirmur, dated 1843  
Opaque watercolours on paper 24.5 x 35.5cm

Pratap Chand is shown hunting with his minister, Shiva, who according to the inscriptions is depicted twice. All three figures lean down from their horses simultaneously to strike their prey with their swords. Pratap Chand's prey is a gazelle, while his companion brings down a boar and a young pig. The appearance of Pratap Chand with his light chin beard and budding moustache suggests he is in his late teens, which would coincide with the date of 1843.

### 3) BUILT FROM THE GROUND UP, A LAYER AT A TIME

Loke Hong Seng, 1970  
Digital print on archival cotton paper

Loke Hong Seng was working as a radio announcer with Radio Television Singapore in the 1960s when he picked up photography and subsequently grew to specialise in street photography. His images of 1960s and 1970s Singapore offer a candid view of everyday life in the early days of the nation's development. This photograph shows workers at a HDB rooftop working on the construction of the Toa Payoh HDB new town. Newly constructed blocks can be seen in the background.

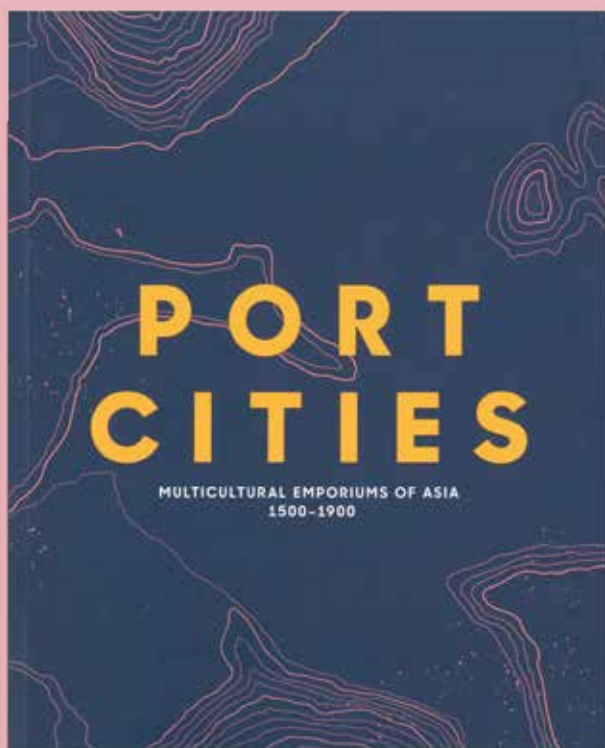
### 4) 1906 CHINESE REVOLUTION GOVERNMENT FUND RAISING BOND (100 DOLLARS)

1906, 21 x 13cm  
Gift of Dr Wan Thiam Teik

This bond was reported to have been ordered by Dr Sun Yat Sen himself and printed in France. It was shipped to Singapore and received by Mr Teo Eng Hock, before being shipped to Hong Kong and China for revolutionary fund raising purposes.



**PORT CITIES:  
MULTICULTURAL EMPORIUMS  
OF ASIA 1500–1900**



The Asian Civilisations Museum's (ACM) *Port Cities* perfectly encapsulates a fundamental human and cultural process that has existed since time immemorial—the constant mixing of things together. Such places, and the powerful cultural dynamics that took place within and between them, reflect how people, ideas, and objects circulate, and how culture is formed, spread, and shared. Four essays and a catalogue section of stunning objects make up a illustrated book to accompany the special exhibition.

**ONE NIGHT IN WUCHANG:  
1911 REVOLUTION AND  
NANYANG**



The exhibition catalogue for *One Night in Wuchang: 1911 Revolution and Nanyang* explores the impact of the uprising on Chinese society and examines responses from the Chinese community in Singapore through print media and archival documents. While paying tribute to Dr Sun Yat Sen and his revolutionary supporters, the exhibition also presented new interpretations of Chinese traditions, as well as ideas such as republicanism, national identity and citizenship.



## NYONYA NEEDLEWORK : EMBROIDERY AND BEADWORK IN THE PERANAKAN WORLD



*Nyonya Needlework* expands on a special exhibition held during 2016–17 at the Peranakan Museum. Guest curator Cheah Hwei-Fe'n examines parallel techniques of embroidery, work with gold thread, lace, and drawn needlework in this profusely illustrated volume. In her careful analysis of the techniques associated with Peranakan objects, she reveals a complex network of cultural connections. The various types of needlework were practised by women and men, and drew upon techniques from Europe, India, China, and the Malay world. There are many cross-cultural surprises within: gold embroidery derives not only from European military brocade but from ancient Chinese thread techniques of gold strips wrapped around paper. Many other techniques were long practised in remote islands of the Malay Archipelago.

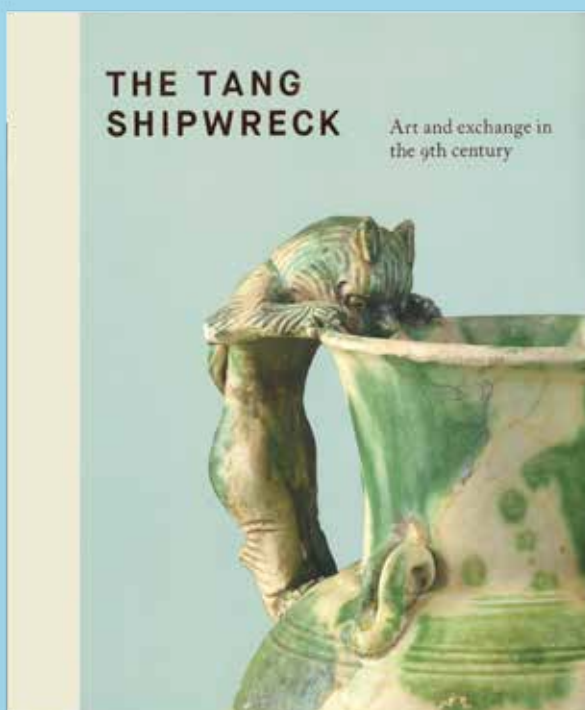
## CULTURAL CONNECTIONS VOLUME II



The second issue of *Cultural Connections* looks at how the arts, heritage and culture contribute, and indeed are essential elements, to the making of liveable cities. This volume explores how great cities such as New York and Singapore have embraced diversity as a unifying factor, making them liveable cities with heart and soul. This theme will be of interest not just to heritage and culture practitioners, but also to readers involved in city planning, architecture and public policy related to urban development.



## THE TANG SHIPWRECK: ART AND EXCHANGE IN THE 9TH CENTURY



This book tells the story of the Tang Shipwreck, discovered off Belitung Island in Indonesia in 1998, and now housed at ACM in Singapore. It is one of the most significant archaeological discoveries of recent times. The ten essays in this illustrated volume discuss the ceramics and other commodities found on board; the ship's construction and possible origin; China's maritime trade in the Tang period; Chinese ceramic production; ports of call in Asia and Southeast Asia; and life on board the ship.

## CONNECTIONS: HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE, CITY HALL AND SUPREME COURT



The Preservation of Sites and Monuments division's *Connections: History and Architecture, City Hall and Supreme Court* examines two of Singapore's most prominent National Monuments – the former City Hall and former Supreme Court. The histories of the buildings, their architecture and transformation are presented in three parts: *History and Architecture*, *Dreams and Visions*, and *Restoration and Preservation*. *Connections* received the Prof Tommy Koh Award for best-selling NHB publication in 2016.

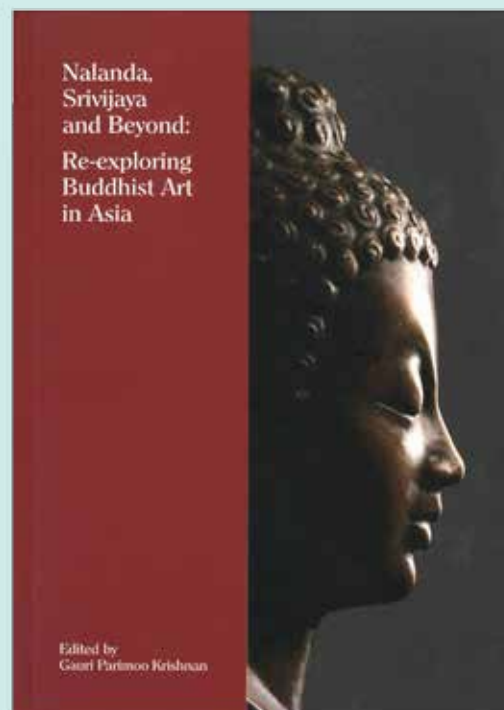


## KAMPONG GELAM: BEYOND THE PORT TOWN EXHIBITION CATALOGUE



The catalogue for Malay Heritage Centre's *Kampung Gelam: Beyond the Port Town* exhibition tells the story of Kampung Gelam – a historic and regionally recognised precinct that has defined and transformed the lives of Singaporeans across generations, through an exploration of its diverse ethnic and commercial make-up over the course of five decades. The publication, which features artefacts and images from the exhibition, also reveals the stories of residents, shopkeepers and visitors to the area, and what Kampung Gelam means to them.

## NALANDA, SRIVIJAYA AND BEYOND: RE-EXPLORING BUDDHIST ART IN ASIA



Recent studies of intra-Asian trade and Buddhist networks have brought fresh perspectives to the understanding of the pre-modern interaction between South and Southeast Asia. This collection of essays, based on a conference held in conjunction with *On the Nalanda Trail: Buddhism in India, China and Southeast Asia*, an exhibition organised by ACM in 2008, is a re-exploration of Buddhist art, archaeology, and epigraphy.













1909

CENTRAL  
FIRE STATION

1909





















National  
Heritage  
Board