

## MEDIA FACTSHEET

### 2021 Arts & Heritage Scholarships



*The 2021 Arts & Heritage Scholars with Mr Edwin Tong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, Mrs Rosa Daniel, Chief Executive Officer, National Arts Council, and Ms Chang Hwee Nee, Chief Executive Officer, National Heritage Board. Image courtesy of the National Arts Council.*

**18 August 2021, Singapore** – In emerging stronger as an arts community, and to inspire and uplift society in a post pandemic world, there is a need for diverse talents to enrich our arts and heritage ecosystem. This year, 10 outstanding individuals have been awarded the National Arts Council (NAC) and National Heritage Board (NHB) Scholarships. These scholarships nurture exceptional talent who are committed to drive the development of Singapore’s arts, heritage, and culture sector.

To support such talent development and long-term sustainable growth of the sector, NAC has committed over \$600,000 this year to eight scholarship recipients while two NHB Scholarship recipients will receive more than \$200,000 to further their studies.

The NAC Arts Scholarship recipients will further their studies in a wide range of disciplines, such as percussion performance, composing and art law. The pandemic has also given fresh impetus to the intersection of arts and areas such as technology, well-being and community building. Accordingly, NAC has supported applicants in arts and technology, dance therapy and community arts.

Upon completion of their studies, scholars can look forward to meaningful opportunities to develop and sustain their careers. NAC continues to partner the sector in providing opportunities for scholars to be hosted by arts and cultural institutions where they will broaden their networks and

gain exposure to skillsets beyond their immediate areas of training, in addition to receiving support through mentorship and career guidance.

At NHB, scholars play an active role in safeguarding Singapore's heritage, by celebrating our diverse cultures with local audiences, and exchanging experiences, knowledge and ideas with the international community. The NHB Scholarship recipients will explore areas such as archaeology, conservation, museum studies, curatorial studies and history.

The broader range of disciplines supported by the Arts and Heritage Scholarships over the years reflects the growth and maturity of Singapore's arts, culture and heritage ecosystem, and the deepening of capabilities across a range of specialisations. Through the scholarships, we hope to encourage talented individuals to pursue varied careers in these sectors, and develop future leaders who inspire their peers and galvanise the arts and culture landscape in Singapore.

Please refer to the following pages for the full list of scholarship recipients.

You may download high resolution images [here](#).


- ***Annex A – The NAC Arts Scholarship and 2021 NAC Arts Scholarship Recipients***
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## ANNEX A – THE NAC ARTS SCHOLARSHIP AND 2021 NAC ARTS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The NAC Arts Scholarship aims to nurture outstanding individuals to contribute to the arts and cultural development in Singapore. As future leaders of the arts and culture sector, scholarship recipients will challenge themselves to push artistic boundaries and lead their peers to create positive impact for the Singapore community through the arts. The recipients will fulfil a service commitment of up to 2 years in the arts sector upon graduation.


S/N	Scholarship Recipients	Brief Background of Recipients
1	<p>Bertram Wee Jia Kai Master of Music (Composition) Royal College of Music (United Kingdom)</p>  <p><i>Image credit: Hoong Wei Long</i></p>	<p>Bertram Wee is pursuing a Master of Music (Composition) at Royal College of Music. He is a composer and pianist active in the field of contemporary concert music and writes music for musicians both in Singapore and abroad, as well as performs with dedicated, like-minded colleagues.</p> <p>Bertram envisions a flourishing musical ecosystem that is conducive to the boundless development of Singaporean concert music. He desires a culture where musicians are proud to embrace the music of our composers – not just by commissioning new work, but also by performing regularly from the existing pool of local concert music.</p> <p>Bertram believes that that some of the most meaningful music defies convention and pushes the artistic envelope. As such, he aspires to develop a sustainable artist-driven platform in Singapore for new concert music that encourages risk-taking and experimentation: a space that will not just encourage our composers to produce their best work, but also inspire audiences with the power of this music.</p> <p>Bertram feels immensely privileged to be granted the NAC Arts Scholarship. The award aids him in his goal of creating a space for the proliferation of new concert music in Singapore, as well as enable him to make meaningful strides forward in his journey as a musician.</p>

<p>2</p>	<p>Chua Hui Ling (Renee)          Master of Arts (Advanced Theatre Practice)          Royal Central School of Speech and Drama          (United Kingdom)</p>  <p><i>Image credit: CHRISPPIC+</i></p>	<p>Renee Chua is a theatre maker and an applied theatre practitioner. As a theatre maker, she is passionate about theatre with social consciousness. Some of her works investigate topics such as women's issues, racism, bullying, inequality, and environmental issues. She is inspired by devising processes and collaborating with the community and artists to co-create multidisciplinary works.</p> <p>As a stage actress, some of her notable works include <i>Exile or Pursuit</i> (Inarts Theatre), <i>The Magic Lantern</i> (Paper Monkey, won ST Life! Award for Best Production for Young), <i>11</i> (Theatre Practice, nominated for Best Ensemble), <i>Home Boxes</i> (Paper Monkey, nominated for Best Ensemble), and <i>David the Best</i> (Drama Box).</p> <p>Renee's directorial works include <i>In A New Light</i> (Imagine, The Art Ground), <i>The House of Bernada Alba</i> (NAFA), <i>Wonderland</i> (Double bill, M1 Peer Pleasure 2019), <i>The Puppet King</i> (NAFA, Toy Factory).</p> <p>Renee founded Her Playback Theatre in 2018, a company made up of women to serve women's stories. She is also with Tapestry Playback Theatre since 2006, working with various communities to promote dialogue and social change. As one of the co-founders of Cassia Kaki 2.0, Renee worked with the elderly to provide support for the senior community.</p> <p>Renee is a graduate of the Centre of Playback Theatre (Dip) and the National University of Singapore (BA). She is currently teaching as an adjunct lecturer at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and Singapore Polytechnic.</p>
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<p>3</p>	<p>Chua Pei Yun          Master of Arts (Dance Movement          Psychotherapy)          Goldsmiths, University of London          (United Kingdom)</p>  <p><i>Image credit: Chua Pei Yun</i></p>	<p>Chua Pei Yun is pursuing a Master in Dance Movement Psychotherapy at Goldsmiths, University of London. Pei Yun is a trauma-informed mover, choreographer, teacher, facilitator, and interdisciplinary collaborator who continues to explore what it means to find one's authenticity through movement.</p> <p>Pei Yun believes that the body is a place where our lived experiences are stored, and in the use of movement to scaffold experiences within us. She seeks to use movement as a means to navigate trauma stories and help others build resilience and find support. Through the NAC Arts scholarship, she is grateful for the opportunity to explore the use of dance as a means to provide safe spaces for people to express themselves.</p> <p>Pei Yun believes that the arts are not only inspiring and meaningful, but also transformative. She seeks to promote the use of movement as a therapeutic modality to advocate and better understand our psychological wellbeing. In the larger picture, she hopes this will provide an avenue for her to continue advocating for the importance of mental health and wellbeing, especially in the context of the pandemic.</p>
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<p>4</p>	<p>Fong Sue Ting Priscilla Master of Music (Performance: Vocal Studies and Opera) Royal Northern College of Music (United Kingdom)</p>  <p><i>Image credit: Stephanie Tan</i></p>	<p>Fong Sue Ting Priscilla is pursuing a Master of Music in Performance (Vocal Studies and Opera) at Royal Northern College of Music. At sixteen, Priscilla was propelled into the world of classical singing by the thrill of storytelling and a love for the stage. Since then, she has pursued her passion for performance on various national and international stages, with the opportunity to work with musicians such as Roger Vignoles, Masaki Suzuki, and Caitlin Hulcup through masterclasses, collaborations, and coaching. She recently graduated with a Bachelors of Music (Highest Distinction) in Voice at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music.</p> <p>Music has always been an integral part of Priscilla's life, and she has actively explored ways to share the gift of music, including art's ability to impact and connect communities. In 2020, she co-founded Artpeace, a global organization created by 10 youths who believe art transcends cultural and language barriers. Together, the group inspired advocacy and action towards important global issues through kickstarting projects dedicated to increasing arts accessibility for marginalised communities.</p> <p>Priscilla believes that there is greater potential in the local music scene to connect with different communities both within our shores and beyond. Through Artpeace and other initiatives, she hopes to create a platform that inspires dialogue and networking among youth, using art as a medium to raise awareness and action towards positive social change. Through the NAC Arts Scholarship, she looks forward to developing a deeper understanding of the voice and returning back to Singapore a better musician, performer, collaborator and artist.</p>
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<p>5</p>	<p>Julia Tan Hui Xuan          Master of Music (Instrumental Performance: Percussion)          New York University Steinhardt (USA)</p>  <p><i>Image credit: Chloe Lim Miranda</i></p>	<p>Julia Tan is a performer, artist, and educator who will be reading a Master of Music (Instrumental Performance: Percussion) at New York University Steinhardt. She completed her Diploma studies as the Best Graduate at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and went on to pursue a Bachelor’s degree in Percussion Performance on a full scholarship at the Mannes School of Music (New York). A frequent guest at ensembles, Julia has performed with various ensembles like the Singapore Symphony Orchestra (SSO), Ding Yi Music Company, and Singapore Lyric Opera. In 2020, she received the SSO President’s Young Performers award, where she performed as a marimba soloist. Julia is also a member of Morse Percussion, an ensemble that seeks to expand, cultivate and integrate percussive music through modern practices. Recent performances by Morse Percussion include the debut of “Ghost of Yesteryear” at the Singapore International Festival of Arts and “The Morse Project” - an art collaboration with dance and visuals.</p> <p>Julia seeks to explore and expand the boundaries of today’s art while also preserving our history and culture. She hopes to promote greater appreciation of the arts locally. Upon completion of her studies, Julia hopes to use the knowledge and experience she has gained to nurture more aspiring artists and youths. She hopes that more people will come to know about percussion music and appreciate its beauty.</p> <p>Julia also seeks to contribute to strengthening our local musical identity with other like-minded artists. For Julia, the arts has the potential to foster deep and meaningful connections amongst people from diverse backgrounds, and as a means to express the blend of our cultures. She hopes to contribute to, and see the development of a richer, and diverse (yet harmonious) Singaporean culture.</p>
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<p>6</p>	<p>Mohamad Zaki Bin Jumahri Master of Laws (Art, Business and Law) Queen Mary University of London (United Kingdom)</p>  <p><i>Image credit: See Kian Wee</i></p>	<p>Mohamad Zaki Bin Jumahri will be pursuing a LLM in Art, Business and Law at Queen Mary University of London. His current research interests are focused on the intersection of art, technology, and the law.</p> <p>Zaki is an art lawyer, researcher, and writer with a decade's experience across the arts, cultural heritage, non-profit and legal sectors both in private and public sector organisations. He was previously Legal Counsel at the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, and headed the National Heritage Board's Legal Unit as Senior Legal Counsel. With a background in Southeast Asian art, he was also a Curatorial Trainee for OH! Open House. He has contributed to several art publications on a range of issues including copyright law, placemaking and contemporary art. He continues to volunteer for arts and heritage non-profits.</p> <p>Zaki strongly believes in the importance of increasing accessibility to, and awareness of, fundamental legal issues and concerns within the arts and cultural community. As part of the NAC Arts Scholarship, he intends to research the legal and policy issues impacting the art world because of the adoption of the latest technologies, including Artificial Intelligence and blockchain. He hopes that this research will provide greater insight into the increasingly complex and dynamic issues arising within the arts and cultural community and will prove beneficial to the various stakeholders.</p> <p>Zaki hopes for the Singapore arts and cultural scene to continue maturing and engaging thoughtfully with emerging trends in the art world. Despite the pandemic, he believes that this is an important time to pursue his studies given the increasing relevance and impact of technological developments on artmaking and artist practice globally. Through the NAC Arts Scholarship, he hopes to empower members of the arts and cultural community in the areas of art, technology, and the law.</p>
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<p>7</p>	<p>Ng Chee Yao (Dayn)        Master of Music (Music Production,        Technology, and Innovation)        Berklee College of Music (Spain)</p>  <p><i>Image credit: Tan Su-Hui, Sophy</i></p>	<p>Ng Chee Yao (Dayn) will be pursuing a Master of Music in Music (Production, Technology, and Innovation) at the Berklee College of Music, where he will be deepening his understanding of music production and the contemporary arts via digital and technological mediums.</p> <p>Dayn is co-founder and composer-in-residence of MUSA, an ethnic fusion band that incorporates Chinese music with contemporary styles, which's portfolio of original works include compositions, arrangements, video and audio productions. Since 2015, Dayn has composed and arranged for the Singapore Chinese Orchestra, local and international drama series, as well as been commissioned works for various educational institutions for the Singapore Youth Festival. Dayn's interest in cross-disciplinary initiatives is seen in his compositions and designs for music and sound productions for the Central Academy of Drama (China), Beijing Film Academy and Dance Ensemble Singapore, where he collaborated with Visual, Theatre and Dance art forms. He is also adjunct lecturer for the Music Technology, Music and Sound Design at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, where he seeks to inspire local and international students and practitioners through immersive and interactive experiences.</p> <p>Dayn is grateful for the opportunity to enhance his skills in music production and innovation through the NAC Arts Scholarship. Upon graduation, he seeks to continue transforming the music landscape in Singapore by embarking on a cross-disciplinary approach.</p>
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8	<p>Sindhura Kalidas Master of Arts (Dramaturgy &amp; Writing for Performance) Goldsmiths, University of London (United Kingdom)</p>  <p><i>Image credit: Rebecca Lim</i></p>	<p>Sindhura Kalidas is a theatre practitioner and educator. She will pursue the MA in Dramaturgy and Writing for Performance at Goldsmiths, University of London.</p> <p>By specialising in dramaturgy, Sindhura seeks to develop an expanded practice that includes site-specific theatre, verbatim theatre and hybrid work. Upon her return, she hopes to apply her learnings to create meaningful theatre for and with youths, that will allow them to confront complex social issues and re-evaluate their relationships with their communities. Across her work, she seeks to make space for more South Asian narratives in mainstream English theatre.</p> <p>Sindhura is a graduate of the Theatre Studies programme at the National University of Singapore. Over the years, she has diversified her largely performance-based portfolio to include writing, facilitating, directing and dramaturgy through her training and work with companies such as Teater Ekamatra, The Necessary Stage and The Finger Players (TFP). She was the first recipient of TFP's year-long fellowship programme for mid-career practitioners to deepen their understanding of puppetry. She has also been an English teacher and curriculum writer over the last eight years.</p> <p>Sindhura is committed to growing a theatre scene that holds space for all communities and that makes room to present a range of authentic accounts of life in Singapore. As a core team member of Women of Shakti, Singapore's first empowerment group for Tamil-speaking foreign migrant workers and having worked with Birds Migrant Theatre, she has witnessed the arts as a means for underrepresented communities to represent themselves on their own terms.</p> <p>Sindhura is keen to have her voice be part of a landscape that lets us all shape greater, more inclusive aspirations as a society and is extremely grateful to the NAC for giving her the opportunity to be one step closer to making this vision a reality.</p>
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## ANNEX B – THE NHB SCHOLARSHIP AND 2021 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The NHB Scholarship supports promising talents in Singapore to pursue full-time undergraduate or postgraduate studies in various disciplines that support the development of culture and heritage in Singapore. Upon the successful completion of studies, the NHB scholar will be in the employment of NHB serving a three-year (for overseas partial scholarship or local scholarship) or six-year (for overseas full scholarship) bond on a full-time basis.

S/N	Scholarship Recipients	Brief Background of Recipients
1	<p>Lum Wan Tong Bachelor of Liberal Arts Yale-NUS College (Singapore)</p>  <p><i>Image credit: Jun Xiang Soo</i></p>	<p>Wan Tong is pursuing Liberal Arts at Yale-NUS College and has just started the first year of her studies.</p> <p>Growing up, she visited various museums with her family, and was always fascinated by how history, heritage and culture were being recreated and portrayed through the exhibitions. Her interest in these areas grew as she studied history in school.</p> <p>Wan Tong volunteered as a Young Docent in secondary school, guiding tours at the National Museum of Singapore. This was her first formal experience delving into the heritage sector. As she conversed with visitors and guided them through the museum, she gained new insights about Singapore’s heritage beyond the textbook.</p> <p>One area she hopes to explore in the year ahead is cultural history – examining different events in the light of common people, analysing their different perspectives and its larger impact on society today. Through this, she hopes to weave together new perspectives, that could help to make Singapore’s heritage landscape more accessible and relevant to all Singaporeans. She hopes that one day she will be able to help other Singaporeans gain a deeper appreciation and understanding of Singapore’s heritage and the core values within.</p>

<p>2</p>	<p>Sarah Teo Joo          Master of Arts (Cultural Studies)          School of Oriental and African Studies          (SOAS), University of London (United          Kingdom)</p>  <p><i>Image credit: Sarah Teo Joo</i></p>	<p>Sarah joined the Preservation of Sites and Monuments division at the National Heritage Board in 2013 and was involved in the inscription of the Singapore Botanic Gardens as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Being able to put Singapore on the world map, this sparked her interests in Singapore’s built heritage, and showcasing it to the rest of the world.</p> <p>She continued to pursue her interests in this area thereafter, by working on some notable projects including the gazette of the Fullerton Hotel as Singapore’s 71<sup>st</sup> national monument in 2015; the gazette of the Changi Prison Wall as Singapore’s 72<sup>nd</sup> national monument in 2016; and the development of the Founder’s Memorial in 2019. She worked with multiple stakeholders on these projects and learnt the importance of understanding heritage from different perspectives.</p> <p>Sarah will be pursuing a Masters of Arts (Cultural Studies) at SOAS University of London, where she hopes to gain exposure into the different cultures and ways of thinking. This would help her cultivate a better understanding on the perspectives that need to be considered when working on future projects. Ultimately, she hopes to deepen her understanding of Singapore’s local context, and inspire others to find out more about the intangible aspects of Singapore’s built heritage.</p>
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