

MEDIA RELEASE

CELEBRATING THE CHAMPIONS BEHIND OUR SHARED HISTORY AND HERITAGE WITH NHB'S PATRON OF HERITAGE AWARDS 2020

Singapore, 30 November 2021 – In a hybrid awards ceremony that took place this evening, 63 cultural philanthropists and patrons of the heritage sector were recognised for their generous contributions to enrich the heritage ecosystem as part of the National Heritage Board's (NHB) *Patron of Heritage Awards 2020*.

2 The annual ceremony honours organisations and individuals who have given generously to heritage causes. In 2020, these donors contributed a total of about S\$3.24 million in cash and artefact donations, as well as in-kind support to various heritage causes. Their contributions have helped sustain important heritage and cultural work amid unprecedented times brought on by the pandemic.

3 Guest-of-Honour Mr Edwin Tong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law, said, "Today, we celebrate those who have contributed generously to the safeguard and promotion of our heritage. But our Singapore story is not yet complete, far from it; it has yet to reach its fullness and depth. We hope that more can step forward to contribute – including volunteering at our heritage institutions, supporting the works of our cultural heritage practitioners, or contributing ideas to refresh our museums' content. I look forward to inviting more Singaporeans to write new chapters of the Singapore story with us."

Strengthening Our Heritage and the National Collection

4 Amidst a challenging year, the heritage sector continued to present dynamic exhibitions, well-loved festivals and exciting programmes for Singaporeans. These offerings would not have been made possible without the fervent support of heritage benefactors.

5 Partner award recipient Fullerton Hotels and Resorts' donation supported the Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM) in staging inspiring special exhibitions that enable the museum to continue connecting both local and international audiences with Asian narratives and historical objects, like the recently concluded *Life in Edo | Russel Wong in Kyoto* exhibition. Over at the

National Museum of Singapore (NMS), its exhibition *Home, Truly: Growing Up with Singapore, 1950s to the Present* received in-kind support from donors Givaudan Singapore Pte Ltd and Singapore Press Holdings Limited. Maybank, through its foundation, undertook new ways of promoting Southeast Asian culture and heritage in past and upcoming collaborations, such as funding video-based artworks for display at NMS and presenting a travelling exhibition *Entwine: Maybank Women Eco-Weavers Meet Southeast Asian Artists*, which celebrated the work of Southeast Asia's female weaving communities.

6 Contributions also went towards efforts that make heritage more accessible to the young as part of deepening their interest and appreciation of our culture. UOL Group Limited supported ACM's signature family-friendly programme *ACM Adventures*, while long-time patrons such as Tai Sun (Lim Kee) Food Industries Pte Ltd, Hong Leong Foundation and BNP Paribas Singapore supported NMS' *Children's Season* and *Doraemon's Time-Travelling Adventures in Singapore*, which captured the imagination of the younger generation.

7 Among the donations were also those that supported capability building and development opportunities to elevate Singapore's heritage landscape. Non-profit volunteer society Friends of the Museums (FOM) – known for their training and management of guides at Singapore's museums to enhance the community's knowledge of Asia's history, culture and art – made a donation towards the annual FOM-NHB Heritage Grant, which will strengthen the competencies and knowledge of Singapore's professionals in museum and heritage education, and foster partnerships opportunities with overseas counterparts.

11 In addition, donors also generously gifted their cherished objects to our museums. They include Mr Lim Kok Lian, who donated three personal items belonging to his grandparents, Singapore pioneer Dr Lim Boon Keng and Grace Pek Ha Yin, to the Peranakan Museum. Such objects can help shed further light on the family histories of significant Peranakan figures. A series of donations of photographs over the years from Mr Peter Lee and his brothers in memory of their parents Mr and Mrs Lee Kip Lee has also transformed the Peranakan Museum's collection of photography, making it one of the most comprehensive collections of photographs of Peranakans in Southeast Asia today.

12 Ms Yeoh Chee Yan, Chairman, NHB, said, "The warm generosity of heritage benefactors like yourselves – whether through contributions in cash, in kind or in the form of artefacts are essential for the safeguarding of our heritage, allowing Singaporeans and foreigners alike to enjoy the nation's

rich heritage for years to come. We remain committed to our mission of preserving and celebrating the shared heritage of our diverse communities, and I look forward to your continued patronage as we journey onward together.”

13 For more information, please refer to:

- Annex A: Criteria of the *Patron of Heritage Awards*
- Annex B: Key statistics of the *Patron of Heritage Awards 2020*

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For media enquiries, please contact:

Cherell Soon

Tate Anzur

8102 9131

cherell.soon@tateanzur.com

Charissa Yang

Tate Anzur

9112 7355

charissa.yang@tateanzur.com

About the Patron of Heritage Awards

Established in 2006, the *Patron of Heritage Awards* is an annual event that aims to boost heritage philanthropy in Singapore by honouring individuals and organisations who have made significant contributions towards enriching our national heritage.

About the National Heritage Board

The National Heritage Board (NHB) was formed on 1 August 1993. As the custodian of Singapore’s heritage, NHB is responsible for telling the Singapore story, sharing the Singaporean experience and imparting our Singapore spirit. NHB’s mission is to preserve and celebrate the shared heritage of our diverse communities, for the purpose of education, nation-building and cultural understanding. It manages the national museums and heritage institutions, and sets policies relating to heritage sites, monuments and the National Collection.

Through the National Collection, NHB curates heritage programmes and presents exhibitions to connect the past, present and future generations of Singaporeans. NHB is a statutory board under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. Please visit www.nhb.gov.sg for more information.

Who is Eligible for the Patron of Heritage Awards

To be eligible for the *Patron of Heritage Awards 2020*, organisations or individuals must have fulfilled either of the following during the qualifying period from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020:

- Contributed artefacts, artworks or archival materials to the collection of any museum or heritage institution in Singapore
- Contributed to the building and development of museums and heritage institutions in Singapore
- Played a pivotal role in creating memorable heritage events for the community at large
- Contributed to publications and scholarships related to heritage

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

Awards Criteria

Awards will be given based on the following seven categories:

Donations in cash, kind or material:

- Distinguished Patron: S\$2 million and above
- Patron: From S\$1 million to S\$1,999,999
- Partner: From S\$150,000 to S\$999,999
- Friend: From S\$50,000 to S\$149,999
- Supporter: From S\$10,000 to S\$49,999

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

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

Key Statistics for Patron of Heritage Awards 2020

(i) Value of contributions

The value of contributions acknowledged by *Patron of Heritage Awards 2020* is about S\$3.24 million. The breakdown of the contributions is as follows:

Year	2020
Contributions	
Cash donations	S\$1.765 million
Artefact and in-kind donations	S\$1.471 million
Total	About S\$3.24 million (rounded up)

 (ii) Number of awardees who received the various award categories in *Patron of Heritage Awards 2020*

Award categories	Number of awardees
Distinguished Patron (S\$2 million and above)	0
Patron (From S\$1 million to S\$1,999,999)	0
Partner (From S\$150,000 to S\$999,999)	5
Friend (From S\$50,000 to S\$149,999)	11
Supporter (From \$10,000 to \$49,999)	47
Distinguished Supporter of Heritage (Long-term loans – Value of items worth S\$1 million or more)	0
Supporter of Heritage: (Long-term loans – Value of items less than \$1 million)	0

**The above excludes patrons acknowledged under “Special Thanks”.*

(iii) Number and percentage of patrons that are corporations and individuals in 2020

	Organisations/Foundation	Individuals
Number	36	27
Percentage	57.1%	42.9%

(iv) Value of contributions from 2016 to 2020

Year	Value of Contribution
2016	S\$8.13 million
2017	S\$5.55 million
2018	S\$6.49 million
2019	S\$8.67 million
2020	S\$3.24 million