

MEDIA RELEASE**For immediate release****HERITAGE AND CULTURE UNITE SINGAPOREANS IN CELEBRATION OF THE
NATION'S 56TH BIRTHDAY**

Singapore, 30 July 2021 – This National Day, the National Heritage Board (NHB) hopes to unite Singaporeans through arts, culture and heritage with the illumination of seven buildings in the Bras Basah Bugis (BBB) precinct in the colours of the National Flag, and a line-up of online performances, stories and interactive offerings that celebrate Singapore's 56th birthday.

Buildings that represent different chapters in Singapore's story

2 Cultural and historical landmarks in the BBB precinct – the Central Fire Station, Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, National Museum of Singapore, National Design Centre, Stamford Arts Centre, Objectifs – Centre for Photography and Film, and The Cathay – will be bathed in red and white light to inspire and encourage Singaporeans.

3 The lighting of three National Monuments in the historic BBB precinct will be a testament to the contributions and progress of different communities towards nation-building over the decades. The Central Fire Station is Singapore's oldest existing fire station and a symbol of the transformation of our nation's early volunteer firefighting squads into a modern-day civil defence force; The Cathedral of the Good Shepherd is the oldest Catholic Church in Singapore, having been constructed in 1843 as a place of worship for Singapore's first Catholic community; while the National Museum of Singapore is the nation's oldest museum, tracing its history to the mid-1800s, inspiring visitors today with stories of Singapore and the world.

4 Four other buildings that are hubs of Singapore's cultural and design scene – the National Design Centre, Stamford Art Centre and Objectifs – Centre for Photography and Film, and The Cathay – will join the tribute to Singapore for its birthday. These institutions represent a modern city that thrives on its vibrant creative communities while treasuring its heritage. The National Design Centre occupies the 120-year-old premises of the former St. Anthony's Convent, which was founded by the Portuguese Mission for Singapore's poor and disadvantaged communities; Stamford Arts Centre was built in 1920 as the Japanese

Elementary School, before going on to house the Shackle Club (a British military recreation centre), Gan Eng Seng School and Stamford Girls School; Objectifs – Centre for Photography and Film (a non-profit visual arts space dedicated to film and photography) was once home to the Methodist Girls School and subsequently the first Straits Chinese Methodist Church; while The Cathay was the tallest building in Singapore and Southeast Asia when it opened in 1939.

5 The light-up of BBB precinct is presented alongside the light-ups of cultural and historical landmarks in the Civic District, including Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, National Gallery Singapore, The Arts House, The Fullerton Hotel Singapore, and Victoria Theatre and Victoria Concert Hall, in a show of unity across the arts and culture sector.

6 Ms Chang Hwee Nee, Chief Executive Officer, NHB, said, “National Day is an important time for us to take stock of what we have done as a nation – to celebrate our achievements, remember the challenges that we have overcome, and look forward to the road ahead. While we mark the occasion under less than normal circumstances yet again this year, the colours of our flag and the shared values they represent – universal brotherhood and the equality of man, and pervading and everlasting purity and virtue – remain the same. We hope that the light-up of these historically and culturally significant buildings, along with our online activities, will uplift the spirits of Singaporeans, encourage Singaporeans to stay united and emerge from these times stronger, as we have always done in the past.”

Heritage anytime, anywhere

7 Alongside the light-up, NHB will present an exciting line-up of digital National Day programmes for people of all ages to enjoy heritage and culture anytime, anywhere. Highlights include the *National Day Monumental Hunt*, which invites players to search for hidden items around the Padang to win attractive prizes; the Malay Heritage Centre’s *Rentak Warisan Bersama Sri Mahligai: National Day Special*, which features unique renditions of songs that celebrate Singapore’s journey performed on Facebook live; the latest chapter of *@ Home, Truly*, which invites readers to discover secret histories of our bus system, the Singapore River, national campaigns and more; a virtual guided tour of the *Singapore River Walk*, which explores the history and key landmarks of this key waterway; and *Singapore Snapshots* craft workshops by Our Tampines Gallery and Kreta Ayer Heritage Gallery, where participants will create paper cameras that feature key local landmarks.



8 The Asian Civilisations Museum, National Museum of Singapore, Indian Heritage Centre and Singapore Philatelic Museum will also present programmes online that include performances, workshops and tours. NHB's heritage portal, roots.gov.sg, will feature a series of poignant films that explore themes of racial harmony and community, a multicultural rendition of 2002's National Day song "We Are Singapore", and more.

9 Please refer to **Annex A** for event information on the BBB Light-up and **Annex B** for a full list NHB's National Day offerings.

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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.

Bras Basah.Bugis Precinct National Day Light-up

The Bras Basah.Bugis precinct celebrates National Day in red and white lights, to rally Singaporeans to be united through culture.



Seven historically and culturally significant buildings in the Bras Basah.Bugis precinct will be lit in the colours of the National Flag to inspire and encourage Singaporeans, and to represent the nation's shared values and achievements.

Date: 1 August 2021 – 31 August 2021

Time: 7.30pm – 12am

Venues:

1. Central Fire Station,
62 Hill St, Singapore 179367
2. The Cathedral of the Good Shepherd
"A" Queen St, Singapore 188533
3. National Museum of Singapore
93 Stamford Rd, Singapore 178897
4. National Design Centre
111 Middle Rd, Singapore 188969
5. Stamford Arts Centre
155 Waterloo St, Singapore 187962
6. Objectifs – Centre for Photography and Film
155 Middle Rd, Singapore 188977
7. The Cathay
2 Handy Rd, Singapore 229233

BE INSPIRED BY HERITAGE AND CULTURE THIS NATIONAL DAY!

Performances

Celebrate 9 August with novel renditions of some of our favourite National Day tunes!

ONE IDENTITY – presented by Very Special Arts Singapore featuring StrawberryStory



Resilience is a core Singaporean value, and local street artists continue to exemplify this.

Join Very Special Arts Singapore in empowering two visually impaired artists, Ivni and Wai Yee, as they delight us with their rendition of some of our favourite National Day songs. The duo make up two-piece band StrawberryStory, and build hope through their performances on the streets, in ballrooms, at parties and on stages across Singapore.

Enjoy their strong camaraderie and tongue-in-cheek stories as they share their life experiences and how they continue to reinvent themselves and remain positive in the midst of the pandemic.

To be screened via the National Museum's [FB Live](#)
Date: 9 August 2021
Time: 2pm – 2.30pm
Admission fee: Free
For more information/registration details: <https://go.gov.sg/nmsnd21>

Performance by Open Score Project



Open Score Project is a multicultural music ensemble whose sound uniquely blends various ethnic musical cultures of the world. The ensemble has performed for events such as the NAC Young Artist Award and Cultural Medallion award ceremonies, as well as overseas National Day celebrations.

Join Open Score Project for this performance that will feature a repertoire of songs, including National Day favourites *Singapore Sunny Island* and *Bunga Sayang!*

To be screened via the National Museum's [FB Live](#)
Date: 9 August 2021
Time: 4pm – 4.30pm
Admission fee: Free
For more information/registration details: <https://go.gov.sg/nmsnd21>

Performance by Silver Songbirds



Be serenaded by the Silver Songbirds, a group of active seniors who are passionate about singing and theatre, as they perform classic National Day songs such as *Count on Me, Singapore* and *Stand Up for Singapore!*

To be screened via the National Museum's [FB Live](#)
Date: 8 August 2021
Time: 4pm – 4.30pm
Admission fee: Free
For more information/registration details: <https://go.gov.sg/nmsnd21>

Rentak Warisan Bersama Sri Mahligai: National Day Special



Rentak Warisan Bersama Sri Mahligai takes you on a musical journey of Singapore's transition from colony to independent nation with unique renditions of songs like *Singapura Waktu Malam* and *Di Waktu Petang Di Geylang Serai* to celebrate National Day!

Join us online and tell us your fondest memories of old Singapore to stand a chance to win exciting prizes!

To be screened via the Malay Heritage Centre's [Facebook](#) and [Youtube](#)

Date: 4 August 2021
Time: 8.30 pm
Admission fee: Free

NHB Heritage Institutions' National Day Music Videos



No birthday is complete without a song. NHB's heritage institutions – the Indian Heritage Centre, Malay Heritage Centre and Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall – present renditions of the 2002 National Day song *We Are Singapore* using traditional Indian, Malay and Chinese musical instruments, followed by a combined music video that brings the three communities together for an eclectic multicultural arrangement of the song.

Listen to the renditions here:

- [Indian Heritage Centre](#)
- [Malay Heritage Centre](#)
- [Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall](#)
- [Combined](#)

Stories of Singapore

Learn more about what makes Singapore, Singapore through these stories and perspectives of Singaporeans from all walks of life.

@ Home, Truly



@ Home, Truly follows Nadine and her Gong Gong (Mandarin for “grandfather”) as they relive the highs, lows, and moments in between of Singapore’s journey from its beginnings as a nation to today. A new chapter of their story launches on 4 August, inviting readers to go on a journey through time and space to discover relics of our bus system, scents of our Singapore River (pre-clean-up), and tunes of our colourful (and “mascot-ful”) campaigns.

Available from 4 August 2021 on [Roots.gov.sg](http://www.roots.gov.sg)
To explore previous chapters, visit:
<http://www.roots.gov.sg/home-truly>

Yours, Truly Performance + Dialogue with the Director and Actors



What is home to you? Follow Shan Shan and Hadi as they relive fond memories of how Singapore has become a home for each and every one of us, and discover what makes Singapore home, truly. The 35-minute guided promenade performance* of the *Home, Truly: Growing Up with Singapore, 1950s to the Present* special exhibition will be followed by a 30-minute live dialogue session with the director and actors.

*Captions will be provided for the deaf and/or hearing-impaired community.

*Audio description will be provided for the visually-impaired community.

To be screened via the National Museum’s [FB Live](#)
Date: 8 August 2021
Time: 10am – 11am
Admission fee: Free
For more information/registration details: <https://go.gov.sg/nmsnd21>

Home, Truly Zoom Tour for Seniors



What does it take to build a home in Singapore? In this special run of our *Home, Truly Zoom Tour* for seniors, our Care Facilitator volunteers go on a walk down memory lane to discover some of the personal stories of those who call Singapore home.

This programme is suitable for senior participants, and is held in conjunction with the exhibition *Home, Truly: Growing Up with Singapore, 1950s to the Present*. The tour will be conducted in English.

To be held over Zoom
Date: 7 August 2021
Time: 10.30am – 11.30am
Admission fee: Free
Please email nhb_nm_programmes@nhb.gov.sg to register for the programme or for more information.

NHB National Day Short Films



These three specially commissioned short films explore themes of racial harmony, sacrifice and integration this National Day.

Timmy & Tammy Storytelling


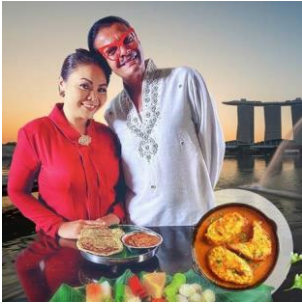


In this interactive storytelling

Hawker Culture in Singapore – What it Means to Singaporeans



Hawker Culture in Singapore was inscribed as Singapore’s first element on the UNESCO

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Your 55th takes a poignant look at the struggles of a couple from different communities • Once Upon a Time in Katong challenges notions of culture and belonging • What I've Always Wanted to Say peels back layers of time to reveal the untold sacrifices of a father, and his heart for his son 	<p>session based on the popular children's book <i>Timmy & Tammy: What Is Singapore?</i>, families will hear from four interesting characters who have each chosen an object to represent Singapore. Take part in fun activities the characters have prepared in their quest to decide which "Singapore" resonates best with them!</p> <p>This programme is presented in conjunction with the <i>Home, Truly: Growing Up with Singapore, 1950s to the Present</i> special exhibition.</p> <p>To be screened via the National Museum's FB Live Date: 9 August 2021 Time: 10am – 10.30am Admission fee: Free For more information/registration details: https://go.gov.sg/nmsnd21</p>	<p>Representative List of the Intangible Cultural of Humanity on 16 Dec 2020.</p> <p>Find out what this means to Singaporeans and listen to our promises to safeguard it for future generations here.</p>
<p>Monumental Birthday Wishes for Singapore</p>  <p>Our National Monuments have stood the test of time and stand as witnesses to Singapore's history. In a tribute to their contributions to Singapore, here's a compilation of their stories from the past and present, told by National Monument owners and occupiers as they offer well-wishes to Singapore.</p> <p>Watch the video here.</p>	<p>IHC Celebrates: National Day with Kumar & Khalijah</p>  <p>Catch local comedians Kumar and Siti Khalijah having a hearty conversation about what culture and heritage mean to them while serving up a savoury Indian dish that is well-loved by Singaporeans.</p> <p>To be screened via: IHC's FB page Date: 9 August 2021 Time: 6pm</p>	

Heritage Games and Activities
Get into the National Day spirit with these games and activities the whole family can enjoy, anytime, anywhere!

National Day Monumental Hunt (A mini digital game)



The Padang has been a site for National Day Parades since the first one in 1966. It continued to host the annual parades until 1975, after which the National Stadium and Marina Bay Floating Platform rotated parade hosting duties with the Padang. Hunt for all the items in this mini-game, which features a National Day Parade at the Padang with its surrounding monuments, and stand to win attractive prizes!

To be screened via [Roots.gov.sg](https://www.roots.gov.sg)
 Date: 9 August 2021
 Time: 12pm

ACM Celebrates: National Day



Celebrate Singapore's 56th birthday with the Asian Civilisations Museum through a host of adventures! Discover objects in an online trail that tell stories of Singapore's history and listen to a medley of well-loved National Day tunes. Be inspired by the lush greenery around ACM and in our garden city. Share a photo of your pet plant or a favourite plant or flower found in Singapore. For a taste of home, download a recipe card and try making your own kaya spread.

To be screened via ACM's [Facebook](#) page and [website](#)

Date: 9 August 2021
 Time: 10 am

Celebrate NDP 2021: Snapshots of Marina Bay by Our Tampines Gallery & Kreta Ayer Heritage Gallery



Marina Bay is home to some of Singapore's iconic landmarks, including the floating platform that hosts our annual National Day Parade, the Merlion, and the three towers of Marina Bay Sands. Come celebrate Singapore's 56th birthday with our online workshops and create a colourful paper camera, complete with a sliding roll of these illustrated icons!

To be held over Zoom
 Date & Time:
 1 August 2021 4pm – 5pm
 8 August 2021 2pm – 3pm
<https://peatix.com/event/2176307/view>

Talk at the Tuckshop: Multiculturalism



Recent focus on racial discourse in Singapore has put the spotlight on Singapore's reputation as a diverse society. How much do we really know about our friends from different races, beyond their observable customs and what we see on the surface? Through specially designed virtual activities, we invite you to share your experience and hear about the lived


National Day Fun! – Design Your Own National Day Stamp



Get creative with the Singapore Philatelic Museum and design your very own National Day stamp to commemorate Singapore's 56th birthday! Stand a chance to win a *Quirks in the Island City Stamp Presentation Pack*!

Date: 4 August 2021 – 15 August 2021
 For more information:

Singapore River Walk Virtual Guided Tour



The *Singapore River Walk* is a trail which introduces the history of the Singapore River and explores the key landmarks and sites that define this waterway.

Join us as we take you on a virtual journey from Collyer Quay to Robertson Quay, to trace the



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experiences of people from other communities, as we explore Singapore as our home. This programme is suitable for participants aged 16 years and above.

To be held over Zoom

Date: 7 August 2021

Time: 2pm – 5.30pm

Admission fee: \$5/person

For more information/registration details: <https://ndoh-talk-at-the-tuckshop.peatix.com/>

www.nhb.gov.sg/spm/programmes/activities-and-events

contributions of the river towards Singapore's mercantile development through the various communities who lived and worked around it, as well as the spectacular architecture and social history of its bridges.

To be held over Zoom

Date: 8 August 2021

Time: 10.30am – 12.30pm

For more information/registration details:

<https://peatix.com/event/2366335/view>