

Strength Through Heritage

NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021





President Halimah Yacob touring the National Museum of Singapore's *A Voyage of Love and Longing* exhibition in conjunction with the National Museum's *International Women's Day* celebrations, hosted by (from left) NHB Chief Executive Officer Chang Hwee Nee, the museum's assistant curator Nur Syafiqah Jaafar, and director Chung May Khuen. Housed in the *Goh Seng Choo Gallery*, the exhibition features a selection of natural history drawings from the William Farquhar Collection with Malay literature, to encourage visitors to not only learn about the diverse natural history in the region, but also to rediscover the rich cultural heritage of our Malay community and neighbours.



Chairman's Foreword

The past year has certainly been an eventful one. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have been far-reaching, greatly disrupting the lives of people worldwide.

Heritage and culture play a significant role in times such as these. Our heritage reminds us of who we are and where we come from, and the lessons we draw from history can help us face the future with greater confidence. Shared experiences of a crisis like the pandemic contribute to the building of social resilience and national identity, which will be especially important as the world and our nation make their way forward.

It has been interesting to observe how agencies, organisations, and cultural practitioners in Singapore have harnessed the power of heritage, each in their own unique way. Yet, across the board, we witnessed accelerated digitalisation of content and the emergence of hybrid programmes, a trend which looks set to stay as we continue adapting to the "new normal". Museums and galleries have reimagined the presentation of exhibitions and programmes in creative ways, in order to remain accessible and work safely around prevailing restrictions.

At NHB, efforts to safeguard and promote Singapore's heritage pushed ahead, across the different pillars of *Our SG Heritage Plan*. We brought heritage to Singaporeans when physical museum visits and on-location programmes were not possible, and the digital resources produced have accelerated and enriched the growing collection of heritage content. Nonetheless, I was very encouraged to see visitors steadily return to our museums once they were able to safely reopen, with many participating actively in our other heritage offerings, both physical and digital. This reaffirms the integral role heritage plays in our society.

This has been a truly extraordinary year, and I would like to commend my colleagues at NHB for their ingenuity, diligence, and determination, in going beyond the call of duty to enable our shared heritage to be a continued source of strength to Singaporeans during the pandemic. My deepest thanks to our partners, patrons, docents, and volunteers for the steadfast support as well. I look forward to another memorable year ahead.

“Heritage and culture play a significant role in times such as these. Our heritage reminds us of who we are and where we come from, and the lessons we draw from history can help us face the future with greater confidence.”

Ms Yeoh Chee Yan
Chairman
National Heritage Board

Chief Executive's Message

In my message last year, I likened the start of 2020 to a roller coaster ride. This analogy has continued to ring true through the rest of the year and early 2021, with the world's and Singapore's battle against the COVID-19 pandemic still very much in progress.

The closure of our museums and suspension of on-site offerings for two months during the Circuit Breaker last year was unprecedented for NHB. Thankfully, there was a silver lining, as we were compelled to accelerate the development of our digital capabilities, and in the process, learned invaluable lessons about how to make our rich library of heritage content and resources accessible and engaging even whilst navigating the most challenging circumstances.

Digital initiatives were significantly pushed to the forefront in FY2020. Highlights from this period included *DigiMuse: Circuit Breaker Edition*, the #SGCultureAnywhere and National Day campaigns, our first-ever digital *Singapore HeritageFest*, and many more online and hybrid offerings from our museums, divisions, and heritage institutions which sought to inspire and rally Singaporeans even as they grappled with the impact of the pandemic.

During this challenging yet exciting year, we continued to make steady progress across the four pillars of *Our SG Heritage Plan – Our Places, Our Cultures, Our Treasures, and Our Communities*.

It was quite a year for *Our Cultures*, as we announced the six inaugural recipients of *The Stewards of Singapore's Intangible Cultural Heritage Award*. Of course, the high point was the inscription of Hawker Culture in Singapore on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in December. It was indeed a triumphant way to close 2020, and I would like to again thank the National Environment Agency, The Federation of Merchants' Associations, Singapore, and Singaporeans from all walks of life who showed their support for the bid, for being with us on this very fruitful two-year journey.

Our Treasures saw several important milestones reached. The Heritage Conservation Centre celebrated its 20th anniversary, while the Indian Heritage Centre, Malay Heritage Centre, and Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall (SYSNMH) brought much-needed cheer and encouragement through online and hybrid celebrations of their respective communities' festivals, and special exhibitions. SYSNMH also saw the launch of its refreshed Gallery 3, which focuses on the social reforms, commemorative events, and identity of the Chinese community after the 1911 Revolution.

COVID-19 also presented us with the opportunity to kick-start the National Museum of Singapore's *Collecting Contemporary Singapore* project, which aims to chronicle significant moments in Singapore's recent and contemporary history through the collection of objects and stories that capture people's lived experiences. The project has received about 4,000 public submissions to date, ranging from photos and narrative accounts, to items such as posters and designer masks. While the collection has focused on Singaporeans' experiences of COVID-19 so far, it will be expanded to other themes over the next few years.

The unveiling of the Asian Civilisations Museum's new third-floor galleries was another significant milestone, marking the completion of the museum's multi-year refresh as Singapore's museum of Asian antiquities and decorative art. Regular revamps of our museums and institutions are important to ensure their relevance and appeal to Singaporeans, which in turn contributes to the growth of a museum-going culture in Singapore.

Our Places played their part to inspire Singaporeans. 10 National Monuments were lit up in red and white as a display of solidarity during the National Day celebrations, and a moving video in which owners and occupiers of 16 National Monuments expressed their hopes for Singapore touched many. Technology was also harnessed in a year where physically visiting many places was not possible at times. The *Telok Ayer 360* project brought the National Monuments and communities in

the area onto smartphone and computer screens, and *Monumental Robo-Tours* allowed students to explore National Monuments from their classrooms.

At a time when we expanded our definition of community and gained a deeper understanding of its importance, our efforts to partner with and celebrate *Our Communities* went on unabated. We worked closely with former and current residents to launch the *Hougang Heritage Trail*, which told the story of one of Singapore's oldest heartland towns. We also continued to reach out to the more vulnerable among us. Our *HeritageCares* programme worked closely with Youth Corps Singapore to adapt heritage-related content to virtual school holiday programmes for children, and under *Silver Hubs*, we launched the *My House of Memories* app, in collaboration with National Museums Liverpool and the British Council Singapore, which uses heritage content to help those living with dementia.

Our SG Heritage Plan was conceived as a five-year road map for Singapore's heritage, and we will soon enter its final year in 2022. It has given a greater focus and organisation to our work, and I am proud of what it has achieved so far. It is important that we build on the foundation it has given us, and work has already begun on *Heritage Plan 2.0*. Many of you reading this would in fact be part of that process, and I am looking forward to our journey together on this next lap of promoting and safeguarding our heritage.

2021 has seen the return of some normalcy, but there is still a long way to go, and very likely more twists and turns can be expected. Team NHB has been nimble and adaptable, showing fortitude and dedication in difficult times and I am very grateful to all my colleagues. To our board members, partners, volunteers, and docents, my heartfelt thanks for weathering this storm with us too. I am confident that we will emerge stronger and more united than before.

“...we were compelled to accelerate the development of our digital capabilities, and in the process, learned invaluable lessons about how to make our rich library of heritage content and resources accessible and engaging even whilst navigating the most challenging circumstances.”



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Deputy Chief Executive Officer
ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute;
& Head (Temasek History
Research Centre)
ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute

Prof Vineeta Sinha
Department Head
Department of Sociology and
South Asian Studies Programme
National University of Singapore

NHB ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

(AS OF 31 MARCH 2021)



NHB SENIOR MANAGEMENT



Ms Chang Hwee Nee
Chief Executive Officer



Ms Jennifer Chan
Deputy Chief Executive
Corporate Development



Mr Alvin Tan
Deputy Chief Executive
Policy & Community



Mr Kennie Ting
Group Director (Museums) &
Director, Asian Civilisations Museum
& Peranakan Museum



Ms Loh Heng Noi
Director
Collections



Mr Mohamed Hardi
Director &
Chief Information Officer
Information Technology



Ms Ong Chiew Yen
Director
Heritage Conservation Centre



Ms Ong Swad Wen
Director
Finance, Procurement &
Administration



Mr Akbar s/o Haja Mydin
Director
Infrastructure & Projects



Mr Marcus Chee
Director
Strategic Planning &
Data Management



Ms Chua Boon Cher
Director
Internal Audit



Ms Chung May Khuen
Director
National Museum of Singapore



Ms Tresnawati Prihadi
Director
Singapore Philatelic Museum



Mrs Wai Yin Pryke
Director
Education & Community
Outreach



Ms Sim Wan Hui
Director
Language



Mr Gerald Wee
Director
International &
Museum Relations



Mr Goh Chour Thong
Director
Strategic Communications
& Digital



Ms Han Twee Heng
Director
Human Resource &
Organisation Development



Ms Cheryl Koh
Director
Heritage Institutions



Ms Jean Wee
Director
Preservation of Sites &
Monuments



Mr Yeo Kirk Siang
Director
Heritage Research &
Assessment

NHB SENIOR MANAGEMENT

A 'Culture Boost' In Challenging Times

Our heritage and culture define us, and in times like these, can be a powerful source of inspiration and an anchor for our identity.

In FY2020, as it became necessary to limit in-person activities in our fight against COVID-19, we stepped up our digital efforts to ensure that our heritage offerings remained accessible to everyone. Our annual signature *Singapore HeritageFest* moved online for the first time in its history, as did other campaigns and festivals which celebrated our diverse cultures and aspects of intangible cultural heritage. The exploration of our tangible heritage was also extended into the virtual sphere, with our built heritage being presented in a new light through digital exhibitions and initiatives.

Throughout the year, we also worked closely with the community to co-create heritage content, strengthen existing partnerships, and forge new ones. Some of these collaborations came through projects supported by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth's \$75 million *Arts and Culture Resilience Package*, which assisted arts and culture organisations and practitioners hard hit by the onset of the pandemic.

These efforts ensured that Singaporeans had a seamless stream of heritage offerings and experiences to draw strength and inspiration from, even whilst dealing with an unprecedented situation and uncertain times.

*Selected photos in this publication were taken before the instituting of safe management measures during the COVID-19 situation.

CO-CREATING HERITAGE EXPERIENCES WITH THE COMMUNITY

SINGAPORE HERITAGEFEST 2020: DIGITAL EDITION
 17th edition of the annual festival, and its first-ever digital edition
 » 19 June to 5 July 2020

- Reached over one million audiences digitally*.
- Involved 60 partners who co-presented a wide variety of online programmes, including videos, podcasts, as well as interactive micro-sites that told the lesser-known stories of Tanjong Pagar, Pasir Ris, and Kallang, live-streamed food demonstrations of beloved heritage dishes, self-guided online trails of historical precincts, photo-essays, and live dialogues.



An interactive micro-site by Cake Theatrical Productions, which re-imagined the stories of everyday heroes in the history of Tanjong Pagar.



A sambal food art workshop, hosted by Carlyn Law and Fareena Mehr Omar, which was live-streamed on Facebook.

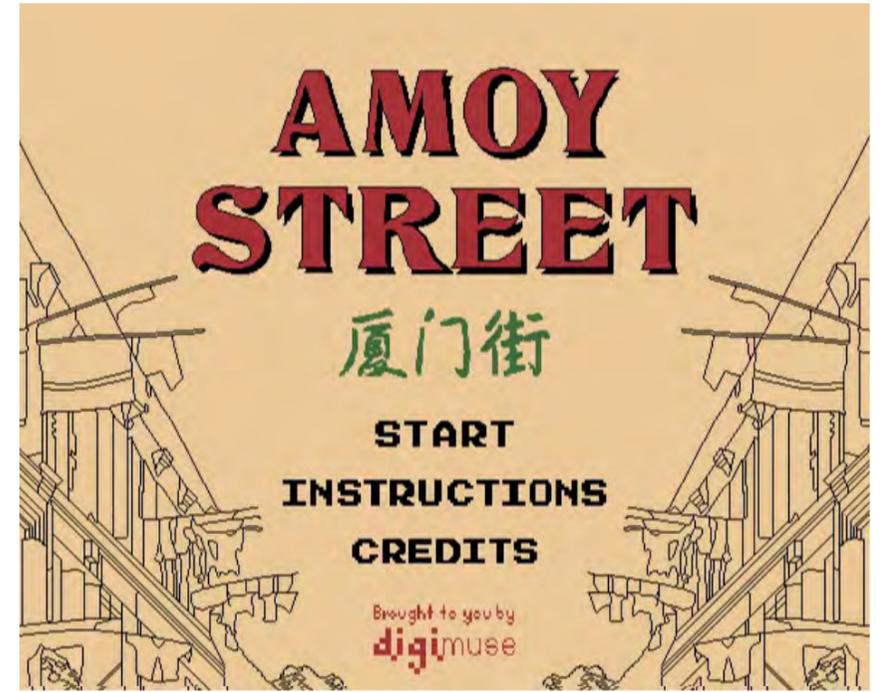


* Singapore HeritageFest 2020 achieved a digital reach of over one million across its online offerings.

DIGIMUSE

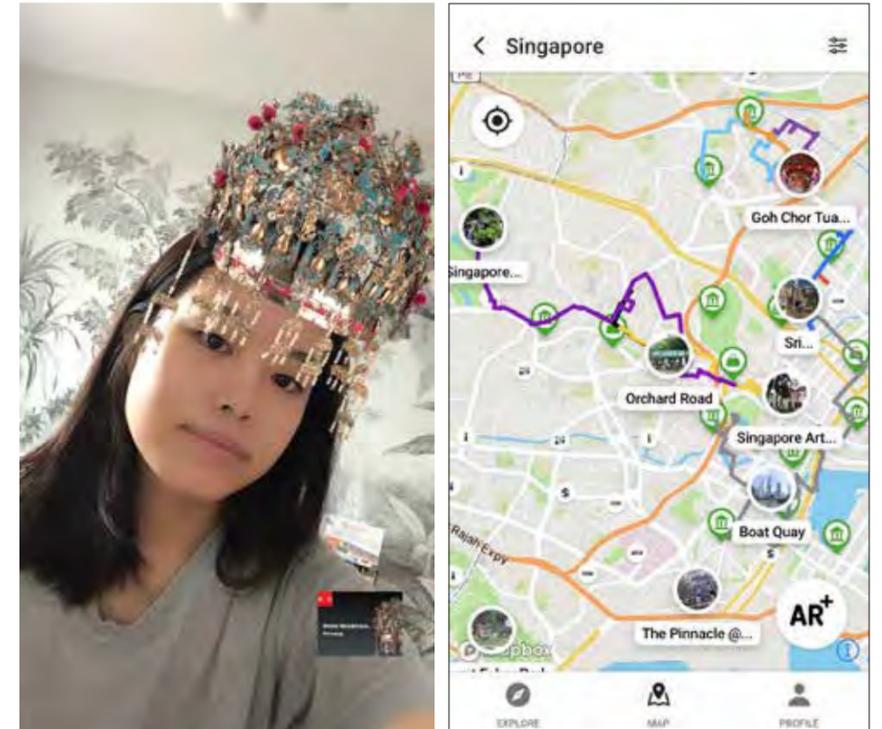
Launched in 2017 with the aim of engaging the wider technology sector to crowdsource ideas that enhance museum experiences and contribute to a vibrant cultural sector

- *DigiMuse: Circuit Breaker Edition* invited local creatives to pitch and produce bite-sized heritage-related digital content, which culminated in projects ranging from augmented reality (AR) filters to role-playing games.
- The month-long open call in May attracted a strong response of more than 70 proposals, out of which about 25 were selected to each receive up to S\$5,000 to bring their creative proposals to life.
- *DigiMuse* extended its reach beyond Singapore, working with Australia-based online platform Plattar to produce *Plattar AR*, an AR-enhanced architecture tour of the National Museum of Singapore, and also went beyond museum walls, with a *SmartGuide* project by Czech mobile app firm SmartGuide, that brought visitors on an audio tour of three local precincts with an AR-enhanced map.



“For my project, I worked with my friend, Ms Koh Huan Ni, who is a baker, to share interesting bite-sized stories and facts about our heritage through yummy, baked goods. Through food, we hope to make our history and heritage more accessible, relevant and interesting...”

Jeremy Leong, the creator of *Bite-sized Heritage*, one of the *DigiMuse: Circuit Breaker Edition* projects



DigiMuse: Circuit Breaker Edition projects: a pixel role-playing game by Elizabeth Ang, which features time-travelling and items from the Peranakan Museum’s collection; an interactive Instagram AR filter by GOWAAA which lets users “try on” fashion and jewellery star pieces from the Asian Civilisations Museum’s Collection, and *SmartGuide* project by mobile app company SmartGuide.

CO-CREATING
HERITAGE
EXPERIENCES WITH
THE COMMUNITY

NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS 2020

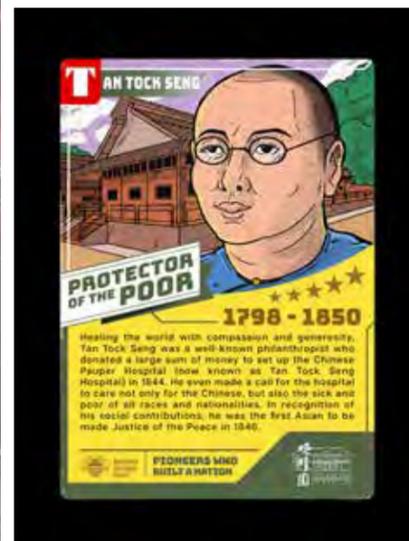
Across NHB's museums and heritage institutions

Highlights included:

- The light-up of 10 National Monuments and arts and cultural institutions across the Bras Basah, Bugis Precinct and Civic District, including the National Museum and Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM), in the national colours of red and white.
- A moving video in which the owners and occupiers of 16 National Monuments shared stories of these treasured buildings and offered their well-wishes to Singapore.
- A series of digital trading cards that featured local pioneers such as Zubir Said, Tan Kah Kee, and S Rajaratnam, who made significant contributions to their communities and to Singapore's nation-building efforts.

SINGAPORE TALES

- A digital retelling of Singapore's myths and legends, which are an important part of our intangible cultural heritage.
- Featured two well-known legends – *The Attack of the Swordfish* and *Badang the Magnificent* – narrated by local artiste Benjamin Kheng and local actor Chua En Lai respectively. Singaporeans were invited to participate by contributing videos of themselves acting out scenes in the stories. Selected contributions were stitched into the final *Singapore Tales* videos.



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CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSE CULTURES AND INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE DIGITALLY

RAMADAN TOGETHER

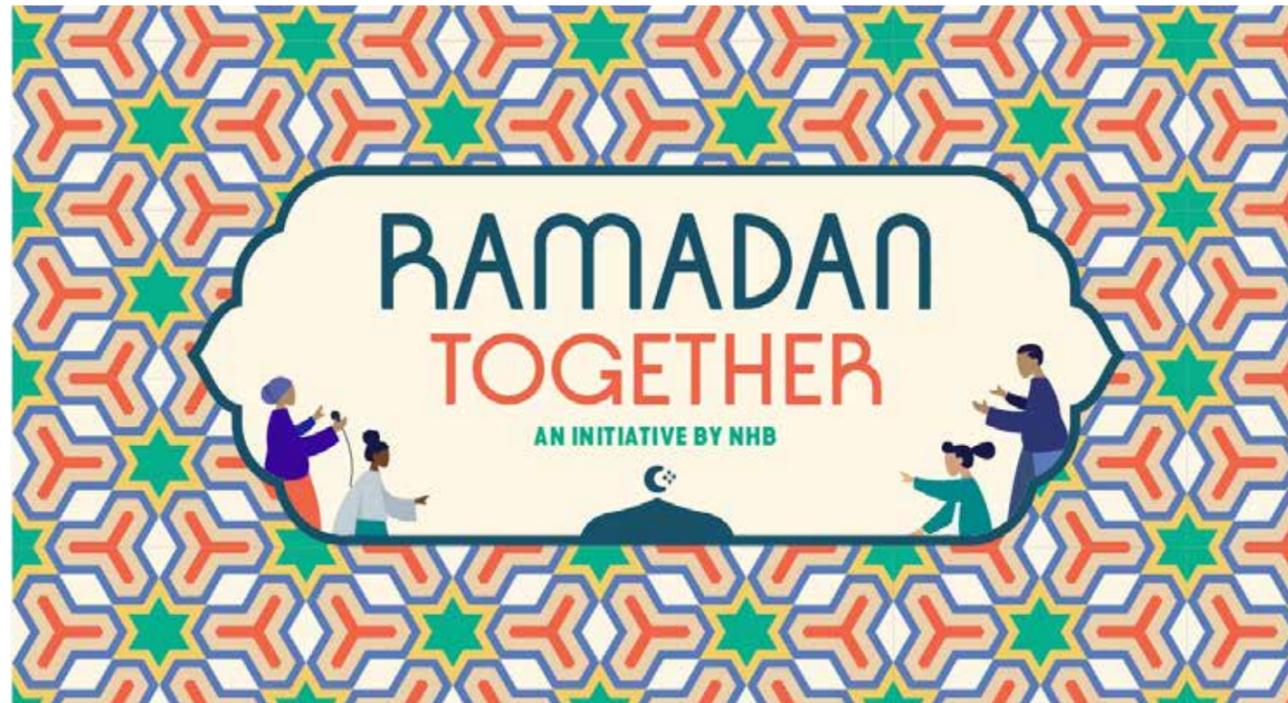
» 23 April to 23 May 2020

- *Ramadan Together* sought to provide a better understanding of the social practices, customs, and beliefs of the month of Ramadan as it is observed in Singapore, as well as to enable the community to connect virtually during the Circuit Breaker period when Ramadan took place.
- A highlight was a mass *iftar* on Zoom, which was live streamed on Facebook. Participants were invited to break fast together and discuss the significance of Ramadan and Hari Raya. More than 1,200 viewers tuned in to the live stream, while the Zoom session involved 50 participants, including 20 non-Muslims.

LO HEI, OUR WAY

» February 2021

- *Lo Hei, Our Way* explored everything *lo hei*, from the origins of *lo hei* in Singapore and the practitioners who shaped the tradition, to the evolution of *lo hei* over time, and the current significance and the symbolism of its practices.
- Highlights included videos featuring chefs and servers involved in the practice, a fun guide to the auspicious phrases associated with *lo hei*, and contributions from the community on social media about why and how they celebrate *lo hei*.



Iftar Together (left), and Masak Together (right) which saw the community connecting virtually over a mass *iftar* and the cooking of Raya dishes.



CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSE CULTURES AND INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE DIGITALLY

NHB's three Heritage Institutions – the Indian Heritage Centre (IHC), Malay Heritage Centre (MHC), and Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall (SYSNMH) – staged online or hybrid celebrations of their signature festivals, with engaging digital and on-site programmes that explored the traditions and practices of the Indian, Malay, and Chinese communities respectively.

INDIAN HERITAGE CENTRE CULTUREFEST 2020

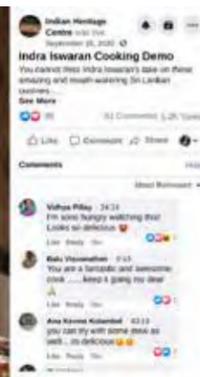
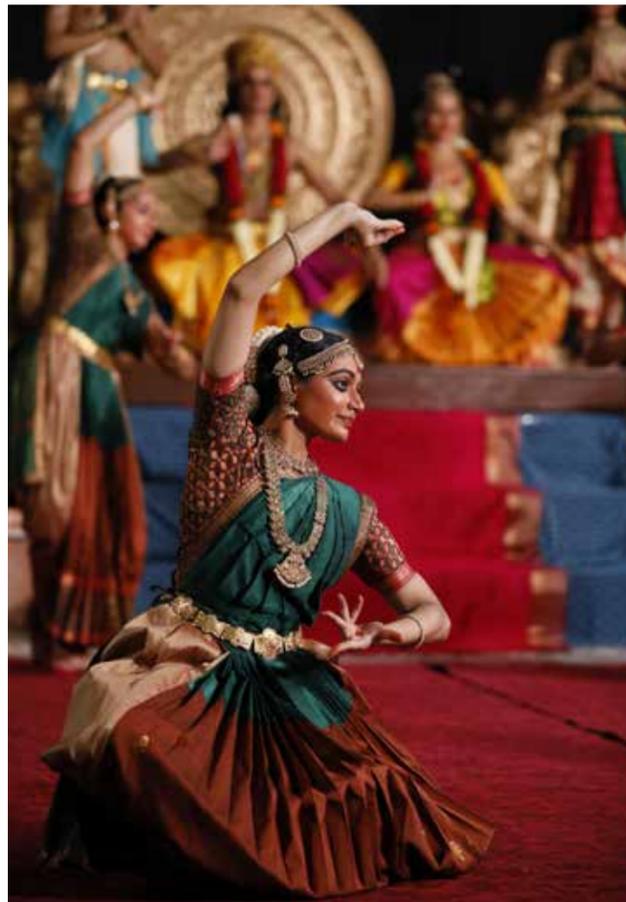
Hybrid edition of the annual CultureFest
» 5 to 20 September 2020

- Showcased the diversity of Indian arts, culture, and heritage in Singapore through the lens of the epic literary work *Ramayana*.
- Highlights included a *madhubani* folk art display at the centre's lobby and *Sita*, a dance production of celebrated Indian artist Raja Ravi Varma's *Ramayana* paintings, brought to life by Apsaras Arts, a recipient of NHB's *The Stewards of Singapore's Intangible Cultural Heritage Award*.

ONCE UPON A DEEPAVALI – OUR SHARED STORIES

Hybrid celebrations by IHC
» 14 October to 14 November 2020

- *Once Upon a Deepavali – Our Shared Stories* explored the unique ways that Deepavali is observed in Singapore through stories from the community. Highlights included a video series that brought viewers into the homes of Indian families as they celebrated Deepavali, and a specially commissioned music video with an original song composed by local musician Shabir.
- On-site activities included a highly popular, fully subscribed *Trishaw Trail*, which gave participants the opportunity to revel in the atmosphere of the Little India precinct in the lead up to the Festival of Lights.



A cooking demonstration of Sri Lankan cuisine by chef Indra Iswaran and festival host Sajini.



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CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSE CULTURES AND INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE DIGITALLY

PONGAL DAY OUT 2021

Hybrid celebrations by IHC
» 9 to 17 January 2021

- Gardening workshops, farm tours, guided tours of Campbell Lane, immersive installations at IHC, and online activities, including a TikTok Pongal dance challenge, were rolled out to celebrate Pongal, and grow public awareness and understanding of this important harvest festival.
- IHC developed its first-ever Pongal microsite targeted at students and teachers, to facilitate the sharing of the festival's significance and traditions in a classroom setting.

#ONxONRAYAFEST 2020

Digital edition of MHC's Hari Raya Open House
» 24 April to 22 June 2020

- Featured a diverse line-up of online programmes that showcased the food, fashion, culture, and performing arts of the Malay/Muslim community.

DID YOU KNOW

- #OnxOnRayaFest is a spin on the Malay catchphrase "on tak on", which is used to ask someone if an activity or event is going to proceed. Loosely translated in English as "are we doing this or not?", this is in reference to the uncertainty that the COVID-19 pandemic had created.



(top) Hari Raya greetings from SG Oudists, Malay Heritage Foundation, and MHC team; (bottom left) then-Member of Parliament and then-Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Home Affairs and Health Amrin Amin and his mother sharing their family recipes for *kuih makmur* and *kuih tart*; and (bottom right) Azrina Tahar, co-owner of homegrown modest fashion label Sufyaa, sharing her experience in giving back to the community.

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CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSE CULTURES AND INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE DIGITALLY

MALAY CULTUREFEST 2020

Hybrid edition of the annual CultureFest, in conjunction with *Urang Banjar: Heritage and Culture of the Banjar in Singapore*

» 27 November to 13 December 2020

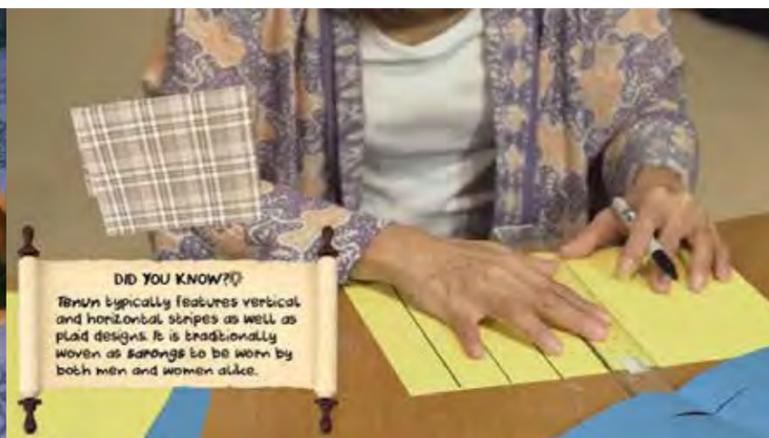
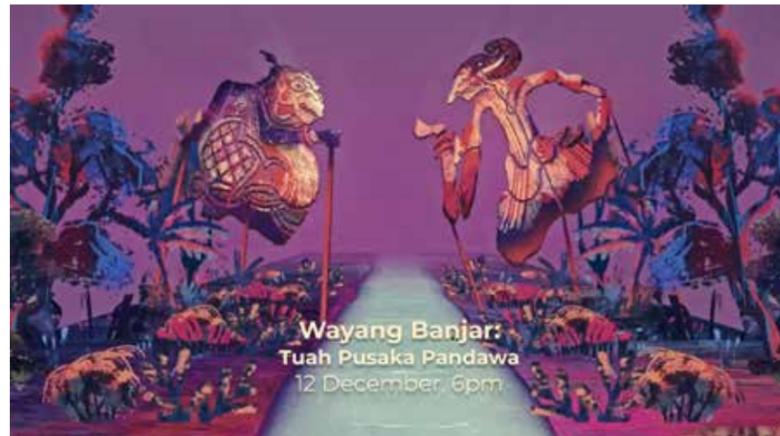
- Co-presented with various community partners, the three-week long hybrid festival showcased the diversity of Malay artistic and cultural expressions in Singapore with a focus on Banjarese cultural heritage.
- A dedicated microsite provided audiences with a one-stop portal to access content such as dance and music performances, workshops, trails, and hands-on cultural activities.

WAN QING DUMPLING FESTIVAL 2020

Digital celebrations by SYSNMH

» 1 to 30 June 2020

- Brought heritage closer to home through online offerings that celebrated this traditional festival, such as cooking classes, games, quizzes, interactive craft demonstrations, and more.



Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Edwin Tong at the launch of *Urang Banjar: Heritage and Culture of the Banjar in Singapore* exhibition and *Malay CultureFest 2020*.



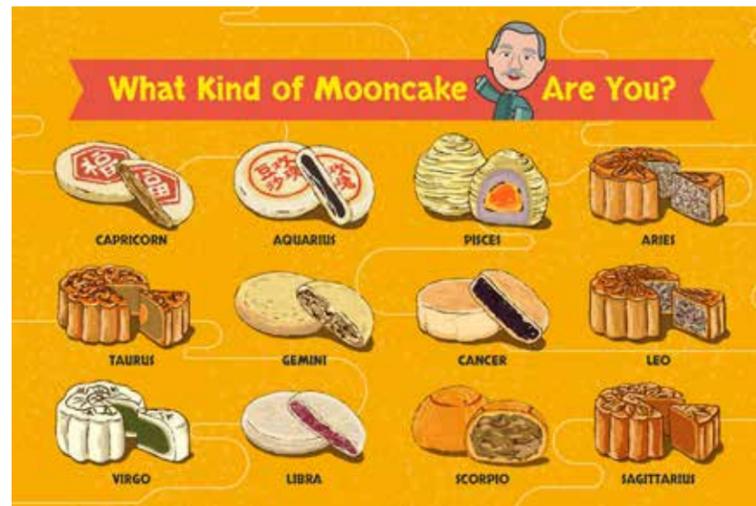
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CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSE CULTURES AND INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE DIGITALLY

WAN QING MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL 2020

Hybrid celebrations by SYSNMH
» 14 September to 11 October 2020

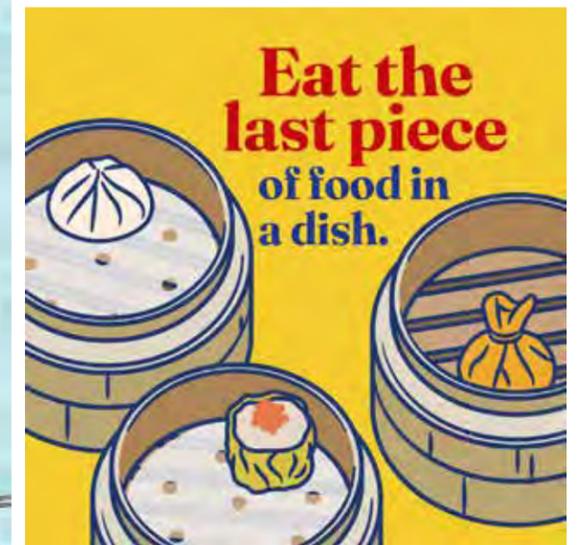
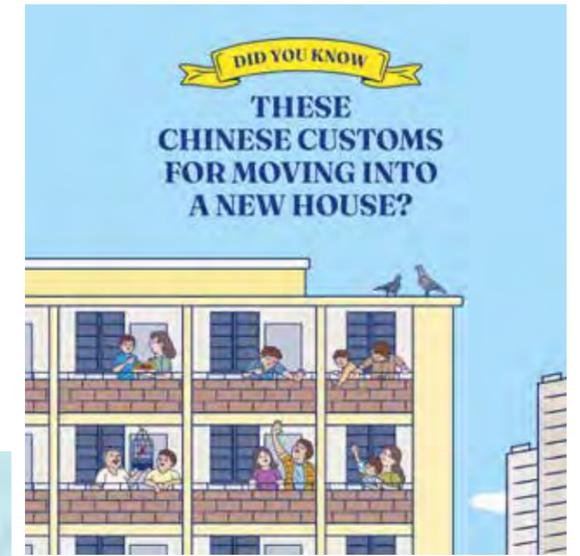
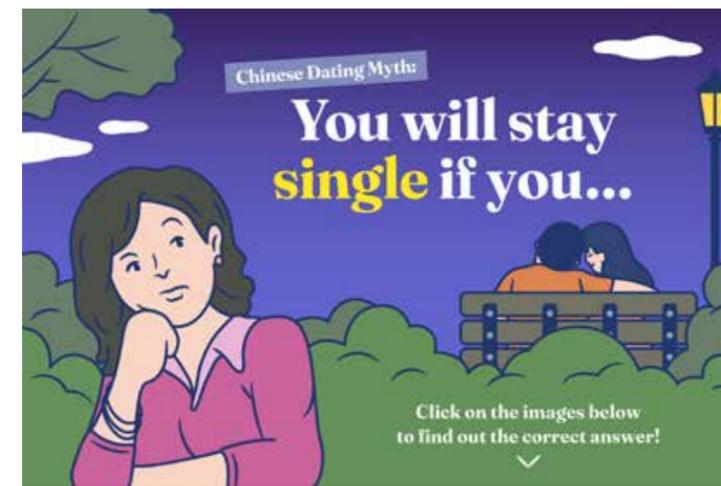
- Visitors to SYSNMH were greeted by four large, roly-poly fish lanterns on its lawn, aptly titled *Rolling in Abundance*. The outdoor lantern installation was produced in collaboration with Hong Kong artist Sunny Tam of 78JO.
- In the spirit of giving back to the community, SYSNMH also collaborated with InterContinental Singapore, AllsWell Singapore, Anderson Secondary School, and St Margaret's Secondary School to distribute 200 festive care packages to Hougang Sheng Hong Student Care Centre, the Singapore Deaf Association, and COMNET Senior Activity Centres (Cluster Support) (Ang Mo Kio).



WAN QING CULTUREFEST 2020

Digital edition of the annual SYSNMH CultureFest
» 14 to 29 November 2020

- Celebrated the significance and symbolism of food in Chinese culture throughout various stages of life.
- Programmes included a 'live' *ang ku kueh*-making demonstration, and an interactive 'live' Q&A session with a traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) physician and a dietician on the dos and don'ts of pre and post-natal foods.





CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSE CULTURES AND INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE DIGITALLY

WAN QING FESTIVAL OF SPRING 2021

Hybrid celebrations by SYSNMH
» 5 January to 28 February 2021

- The highlight art installation *Double Prosperity* featured two 2.5-metre tall 'foo dou' guardian lions on the SYSNMH lawn, traditionally installed in front of imperial Chinese palaces to protect the buildings and their residents.
- Designed in collaboration with artists Tan Yizi and Lee Hsieh-Lung of Blackbox, a design and collectible label based in Chengdu, China.



Craft activities as well as lion dance and festive drum workshops were offered on-site, while online offerings included a step by step demonstration on how to make fried *nian gao*, a sweet rice cake made from glutinous rice flour.

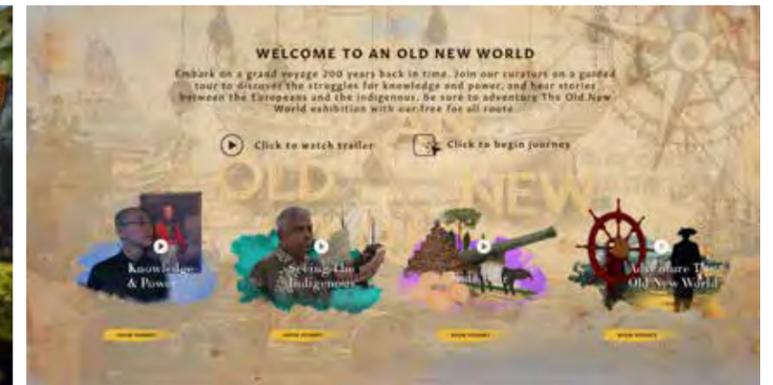


CONTINUED EXPLORATION OF OUR TANGIBLE HERITAGE

AN OLD NEW WORLD: DIGITAL EDITION

» Launched in April 2020

- A 360° digital exhibition that brings visitors on a journey through the National Museum's bicentennial exhibition *An Old New World: From the East Indies to the Founding of Singapore, 1600s – 1819*.
- Visitors may choose to explore the galleries at their own pace, or embark on a specially curated exploration of featured artefacts and the surrounding showcases while listening to narrations by curators Daniel Tham and Iskander Mydin.
- An educator's commentary for lower secondary students, which will enable students to delve deeper into pre-colonial Singapore as they conduct their historical investigations of that period, was also launched in October 2020.





CONTINUED EXPLORATION OF OUR TANGIBLE HERITAGE

TELOK AYER 360

» *Launched in July 2020*

- Illustrated by local artist Lee Xin Li, viewers can explore a 360° illustration of Telok Ayer Street, 'hunt' for hidden items, and learn about the history of the National Monuments and communities in the area.



CONTINUED
EXPLORATION OF
OUR TANGIBLE
HERITAGE

VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE ASIAN CIVILISATIONS
MUSEUM'S MATERIALS AND DESIGN GALLERIES

» Launched in August 2020

- A virtual twin of the ACM's *Fashion and Textiles*, *Jewellery*, and *Ceramics* galleries – all part of its Materials and Design third floor galleries – allows viewers to explore over 400 finely crafted masterpieces that tell stories of Asian identities, history, and cultural interactions.



ZOOM INTO HISTORY

» 1, 2, 8 and 9 August 2020

- The National Museum's artefacts came to life on Zoom to tell the stories of the different eras that they "witnessed" first-hand.
- Familiar local theatre personalities and comedians, including Alvaro Quesada, Fakkah Fuzz, Hossan Leong, Jacky Ng, Janice Koh, Magalakshmi Sudarsanan, Rishi Budhrani, and Tan Kheng Hua lent their voices to bring these artefacts to life.



CONTINUED
EXPLORATION OF
OUR TANGIBLE
HERITAGE

MUSIC AT MONUMENTS – NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD X SINGAPORE CHINESE CULTURAL CENTRE

» Launched in September 2020

- Four music videos featured local musicians performing at ACM, Goodwood Park Hotel, Jurong Town Hall, and SYSNMH, presenting these iconic National Monuments in a new light.
- A collaboration with the Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre, *Music At Monuments* received a total of over 300,000 views.



Eric Chua
13 Nov 2020

To wish our Hindu community a happy Deepavali, local trio MUSA performed the popular Deepavali song Unnai Kanda Naan Aada (As I Danced Upon Seeing You).

This is the third video of Music At Monuments – National Heritage Board x Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre 新加坡华族文化中心 series, filmed at the Jurong Town Hall.

#didyouknow that Jurong Town Hall is Singapore’s youngest National Monument? 🤔 It was completed in 1974, and gazetted in 2015 as a symbol of Singapore’s success in its early industrial development. You can recognise the building by its iconic three-faced digital clock tower. Imagine having such a giant alarm clock! 🕒

I’d like to wish all Hindus Iniyia Deepavali Nal Vaazhthukkall (Happy Deepavali)

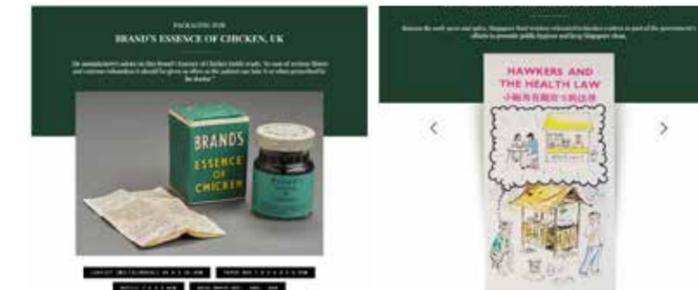
#SGCultureAnywhere

Parliamentary Secretary for Culture, Community and Youth Eric Chua sharing the music video featuring Jurong Town Hall in a Facebook post.

EVERY BODY PLAYS A PART

» Launched in September 2020

- This online showcase draws from the National Museum’s collection to present a fresh narrative of public health crises and responses in Singapore from the late 19th century.



#NEVERBEFORESG

» 5 October 2020 to 31 January 2021

- Curated by multi-disciplinary artist Yang Derong, the online exhibition explored our state of mind during the COVID-19 pandemic, through 140 artworks by 91 creatives.



Heritage as a unifying force

Our heritage is diverse, a tapestry made up of countless strands that represent the cultures, traditions, and stories we hold dear. This diversity is our strength, with each strand representing a shared experience that binds us together as a nation.

Several major milestones in FY2020 celebrated our multiculturalism. Most notably, we made history with the inscription of Hawker Culture in Singapore on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Alongside our digital push, NHB's museums and divisions continued to launch new exhibitions, galleries, outreach initiatives, and programmes, enabling Singaporeans of all ages, from all walks of life, to deepen their love and appreciation of our heritage.

At NHB, we believe that Singapore's heritage belongs to every Singaporean. The relationships that we have developed over the years with fellow professionals, enthusiasts, educators, volunteers, patrons, and Singaporeans themselves are crucial, as we strive to safeguard and promote Singapore's heritage, hand-in-hand with the community, at a time when heritage and unity are most needed.

*Selected photos in this publication were taken before the instituting of safe management measures during the COVID-19 situation.



RECOGNITION FOR INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN SINGAPORE

INSCRIPTION OF HAWKER CULTURE IN SINGAPORE ON THE UNESCO REPRESENTATIVE LIST OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF HUMANITY

» December 2020

- Hawker Culture in Singapore is our first Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) element to be inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- The milestone was the culmination of a two-year long collaborative journey between NHB, the National Environment Agency, The Federation of Merchants' Associations, Singapore, and Singaporeans from all walks of life who supported the bid.
- Following the successful inscription, NHB organised *Singapore Hawker Culture: A Webinar Series - People, Food, Places* to engender a better appreciation of Hawker Culture as a living heritage, and how it can play a role in promoting community identity and fostering inter-cultural appreciation. The first webinar was held in January 2021.



Ministers Edwin Tong and Grace Fu pasting a decal to celebrate the successful UNESCO inscription, and to thank Singapore's hawkers.



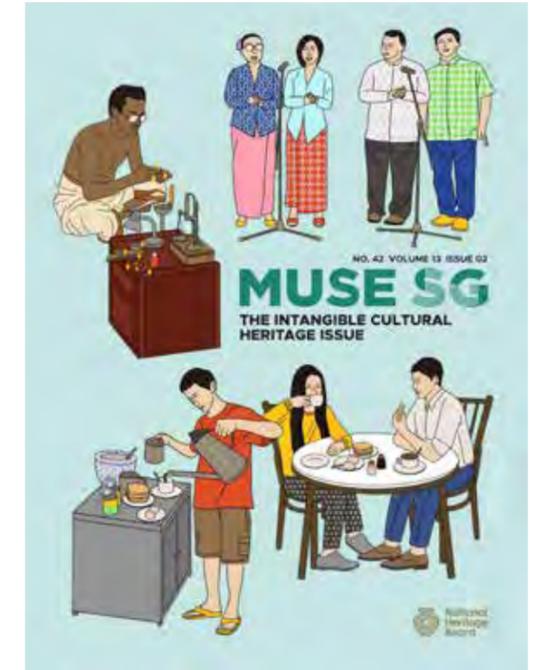
RECOGNITION FOR INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN SINGAPORE

THE STEWARDS OF SINGAPORE'S INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE AWARD

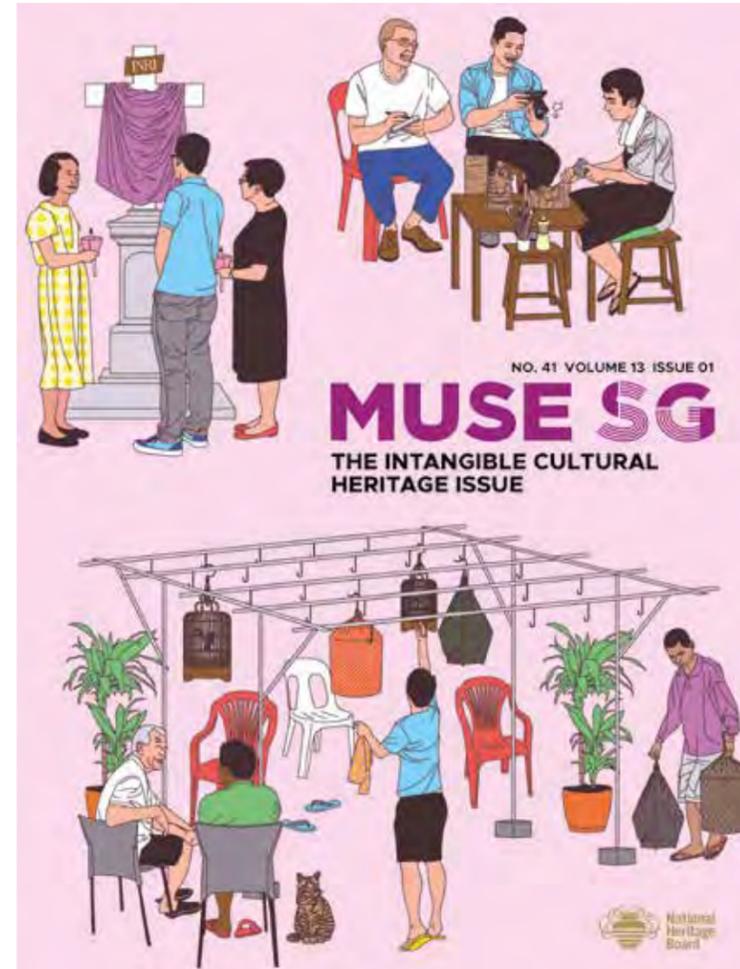
- Six individuals/groups were announced as inaugural recipients of *The Stewards of Singapore's Intangible Cultural Heritage Award* by NHB in 2020, in recognition of their outstanding commitment to the promotion and transmission of their ICH practices to the wider community and to future generations.
- The recipients of the award were: Apsaras Arts, Mr Gwee Thian Lye (prominent *wayang Peranakan* and *dondang sayang* performer, playwright, and director), Mr Michael Ker (third generation *popiah*-maker at Kway Guan Huat Joo Chiat Popiah), Nam Hwa Opera, Sri Warisan Som Said Performing Arts, and Thow Kwang Pottery Jungle.
- An award ceremony was held in December 2020 to formally recognise the six recipients.

MUSE SG ICH EDITION

- NHB partnered students from the National University of Singapore's History Society and Nanyang Technological University to produce a two-part series on *MUSE SG*, NHB's outreach magazine, that focused solely on Singapore's ICH.
- Part of NHB's youth engagement efforts to promote interest in different aspects of Singapore's heritage.
- The partnership involved students conducting research and co-creating content on 14 ICH practices in Singapore, such as *ayurveda*, Eurasian cuisine, soya sauce making, and *dondang sayang*.



Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Edwin Tong (centre) with NHB Chairman Yeoh Chee Yan (third from left), NHB Chief Executive Officer Chang Hwee Nee (third from right), and the six award recipients.





RECOGNITION FOR INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN SINGAPORE

#OURSGHERITAGE PHOTO CONTEST (A PARTNERSHIP WITH NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ASIA)

- To encourage Singaporeans to discover our nation's diverse ICH, this integrated campaign comprised feature articles, social media content, and videos, and a round-island photowalk by young photographers to unique locations such as Kebun Bahru Bird-Singing Corner and Thow Kwang Pottery Jungle.
- Over 500 entries were received, highlighting the rich ICH that can be found in Singapore.

Photograph by @ongwill, the grand prize winner of the photo contest.

“The Nine Emperor Gods festival is one of the most important religious events for the Taoist community in South East Asia, and widely celebrated in Singapore in more than 15 temples each year. This photo depicts the final night of the Nine Emperor Gods Festival where there is an elaborate ritual to send off the gods.

Boats would be set ablaze in the sea bidding goodbye to the nine emperor gods. However, the festival, which is a celebration that dates back 2,000 years, is more than ancient cosmology and rituals, but a reflection of how our temple communities have transformed to align with our changing landscape, and a symbol of Chinese culture and tradition. Its promotion and preservation will go a long way in continuing to shape our Singaporean identity, and is an indelible part of our living cultural heritage, giving us a unique sense of identity, community and responsibility.”

@ongwill





RECOGNITION FOR INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN SINGAPORE

NEW ELEMENTS LISTED ON THE ICH INVENTORY

» November 2020

- NHB's ICH inventory exists to recognise and document Singapore's rich cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity.
- Nine elements were added to the ICH Inventory, with input from the community, bringing the total number of elements on the inventory to 97.
- The nine new elements were *kway chap*, the making and repairing of Malay drums, the making of Chinese signboards, the making of flower garlands, the making of *tempeh* and *tapai*, the Nineteen Day Feast and Bahá'í community life, the Passover and associated Jewish practices and rituals, *yusheng* and *lo hei*, and *zapin*.





PRESENTING THE STORIES OF SINGAPORE

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

URANG BANJAR: HERITAGE AND CULTURE OF THE BANJAR IN SINGAPORE

» *Malay Heritage Centre*

» *28 November 2020 to 25 July 2021*

» *Fifth instalment of the Malay Heritage Centre's Se-Nusantara series of community co-curated exhibitions and programmes on the ethnic and cultural diversity of the Malay community in Singapore*

- Traced the historical journey of the Banjar community, or 'Urang Banjar', and introduced their culture and identity through ethnographic objects, community stories, and treasured family belongings, which showcased their strong sense of kinship, industry, and history.
- Of the over 100 items displayed, more than 30 were loans from the Banjar community.
- Featured a dedicated children's space, *My Babak's Studio*, which was based on the childhood memories of two sisters whose late father was a Banjarese diamond trader and jeweller.



(top) Bridal headdress with entremble diamante filaments, which reflects a blended style of Malay, Chinese, and even Art Deco elements. (bottom) Mohd Gazali bin Mohd Arshad loaned a model of his childhood home (a rumah panggung or raised house on pillars), which he had constructed from memory.





PRESENTING THE STORIES OF SINGAPORE

HOME, TRULY: GROWING UP WITH SINGAPORE, 1950S TO THE PRESENT

» National Museum of Singapore
» 19 December 2020 to 3 October 2021
» Digital companion available

- Explored moments and experiences in Singapore’s past and present, to encourage visitors to reflect on what Singapore means to them and their hopes for the home we aspire to be.
- “Home” was presented through the voices of the people. A quarter of the 200 photographs featured were community-contributed, while rich personal stories of living and growing up in Singapore were unearthed through a public call and engagement sessions.
- The exhibition included a pilot experience for visually impaired visitors, involving the use of a prototype smart cane which provided a descriptive audio tour and navigational instructions.
- The exhibition is presented in collaboration with The Straits Times in conjunction with its 175th anniversary.



“Such a well-curated exhibition. My children and I thoroughly enjoyed it. They now have many more questions to ask their grandparents about what their *ye ye* and *ma ma* experienced growing up!”

Visitor to the *Home Truly* exhibition



Minister of State for Culture, Community and Youth Low Yen Ling viewing the exhibits at *Home Truly*.





PRESENTING THE STORIES OF SINGAPORE

FAITH BEAUTY LOVE HOPE – OUR STORIES, YOUR ACM

» *Asian Civilisations Museum*
» *23 December 2020 to 28 February 2021*
» *Digital twins available*

• Three exhibitions threw the spotlight on the community of people behind the Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM), revealing the human side of the museum through the stories and perspectives of staff, tenants, partners, artists, and collectors.

- *Faith Beauty Love Hope – Our Stories, Your ACM*: a special exhibition of stories from the hearts and minds of staff and supporters of the museum, inspired by the best of ACM's collection.

- *Perfect Stranger*: an installation by Singaporean artist Dawn Ng, revealing the wonder of human connection.

- *thINK: Chinese Calligraphy, Connoisseurship, and Collecting* (till 25 April 2021): an exhibition that presented the intimate relationship between collector, collection, and the making of a legacy.



RIVER HONGBAO 2021 EXHIBITION – GUARDIANS OF GOOD FORTUNE: THE HISTORY OF LION DANCE IN SINGAPORE

» *Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall*

» *In collaboration with the Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations, Mandarin Docents, Anderson Secondary School, Catholic High School, and River Valley High School*

» *10 to 20 February 2021*

• Explored the importance and symbolism of the lion in Chinese culture, highlighted the different styles and components of a lion dance performance, and traced the rich history of Chinese lion dance performances in Singapore.

• 12 student guides from Anderson Secondary School, Catholic High School, and River Valley High School provided video tours of the exhibition, replacing the on-site guided tours of previous editions.



Faith Beauty Love Hope

(from top) *Faith Beauty Love Hope*; *thINK: Chinese Calligraphy, Connoisseurship, and Collecting*; and *Perfect Stranger* by Dawn Ng.

欢迎来到“春到河畔”和我们一起迎接新春!
Welcome to River Hongbao 2021



PRESENTING THE STORIES OF SINGAPORE

PICTURING THE PANDEMIC: A VISUAL RECORD OF COVID-19 IN SINGAPORE

» *National Museum of Singapore*
» *27 February to 17 October 2021*

- Chronicled Singapore's response to the unprecedented COVID-19 global crisis, through commissioned works by five local photographers and two filmmakers, along with a selection of objects collected from a public open call.
- Marked the National Museum's introductory exhibition of its new *Collecting Contemporary Singapore* initiative, which seeks to document contemporary events and developments in Singapore by collecting related artefacts and stories through engagements with the public.





PRESENTING THE STORIES OF SINGAPORE

SIKHS IN SINGAPORE – A STORY UNTOLD

» *Indian Heritage Centre*
» *26 March to 30 September 2021*

• Celebrates the rich history and lesser-known stories of the small but prominent Sikh community in Singapore.

• Co-created with the Sikh community, it showcases more than 450 artefacts from local and international private collections, institutional collections of Sikh organisations in Singapore, as well as the National Collection.



Minister of State for Culture, Community and Youth Alvin Tan viewing the *Sikhs in Singapore* exhibition.



SCRIBBLE TOWN

» *From 30 September 2020*

• Presented with Singapore Children’s Society, this interactive children’s exhibition aimed to raise awareness of the issue of bullying through the story of three comic-style illustrated characters in the fictional world of “Scribble Town”.

• The physical exhibition was hosted at Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall (SYSNMH) till 31 January 2021. A travelling version of the exhibition is on display at different venues in Singapore in 2021.





PRESENTING THE STORIES OF SINGAPORE

DORAEMON'S TIME-TRAVELLING ADVENTURES IN SINGAPORE

» *National Museum of Singapore*
» *31 October to 27 December 2020*

- Over 90,000 visitors embarked on a time-travelling adventure with Doraemon, the lovable robot cat and main character of the eponymous Japanese *manga* series. They explored stories of Singapore through artefacts in the National Collection, and also participated in an exciting on-site scavenger hunt that offered the chance to bring home specially-designed collectibles.
- The campaign was complemented by an online trail, where participants rediscovered fun facts about 14 neighbourhoods around Singapore through an "island-wide" hunt.
- Won the Gold award for the category of Best Public Relations (PR) Campaign: Government/Public Services at the *PR Awards 2021*, which discovers, recognises, and rewards the best in the PR and communications industry across Southeast Asia, South Asia, and the ANZ regions.
- The campaign is also a finalist in the Outstanding Marketing Idea category of the *Singapore Tourism Awards 2021* presented by the Singapore Tourism Board.





PRESENTING THE STORIES OF SINGAPORE

OVERSEAS EXHIBITIONS

THE BAOLI ERA: TREASURES FROM THE TANG SHIPWRECK COLLECTION

» *Shanghai Museum*

» *15 September 2020 to 10 January 2021*

» *Held in conjunction with the 2020 commemoration of 30 years of diplomatic ties between Singapore and the People's Republic of China*

- First dedicated exhibition of ACM's Tang Shipwreck Collection in China, which provided fresh perspectives of the history of the shipwreck's 9th-century cargo.
- 248 artefacts – including 168 treasures from the ACM's Tang Shipwreck Collection – were on display in the Shanghai Museum.



EARLY CHINESE NEWSPAPERS IN SINGAPORE AND THE CHINESE REVOLUTION

» *Sun Yat-sen Library, Zhongshan, China*

» *12 November to 12 December 2020*

- SYSNMH travelled a showcase of over 100 artefacts and historical images to the Sun Yat-sen Library in Zhongshan, which explored the history of Chinese newspapers in Singapore from the early 1880s to 1942, and their links to the revolutionary movement in China.



(above) Visitors viewing the exhibits at *The Baoli Era* exhibition at the Shanghai Museum in China. (below, left) Minister of State for Culture, Community and Youth Low Yen Ling delivering her speech virtually during the exhibition's opening.

(below, right) Visitors viewing the exhibits at *Early Chinese Newspapers in Singapore and the Chinese Revolution* exhibition at the Sun Yat-sen Library in Zhongshan, China.



PRESENTING THE STORIES OF SINGAPORE

TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS

SEEING IS BELIEVING – EVERY STAMP TELLS A STORY

» August 2020 to May 2021

• *Seeing is Believing* featured stamps made of exotic materials, such as Thai silk for Thai stamps, cork for Portuguese ones, lace for stamps from European countries, and the world's first hand-pasted beaded stamps from Singapore, which paid homage to the exquisite beadwork of the Peranakans.



(above) Cork Tree, Portugal, 2007

Did you know that Portugal is the world's biggest producer and exporter of cork? This stamp is made from wafer-thin "paper cork", with a thickness of just 0.35mm.



(left) Peranakan Museum Collection, Singapore, 2008

The world's first beaded stamp is designed in a unique pouch shape, and is intricately pasted by hand with 'caviar glass beads'.

MALAY HERITAGE CENTRE

» *Malay Pioneer Series: Women in Action!*

» *Ke Makkah: Kampong Gelam and the Pilgrimage Industry*

» *Celebrating Hari Raya: Stories from the Community*

SUN YAT SEN NANYANG MEMORIAL HALL

» *Celebrating Commonalities: Festive Customs in Singapore*
Co-curated with students from River Valley High School

» *Chinese Business Pioneers – Supporting Singapore's Education*
Co-curated with students from Hwa Chong Institution

» *Early Chinese Newspapers in Singapore (1881 - 1942)*

» *The More We Get Together: Festivals and Festivities in Singapore*
Co-curated with students from Chung Cheng High School (Main) and River Valley High School

» *Pioneering Rural Settlements: The Legacy of Lim Nee Soon*
Co-curated with students from River Valley High School



(far left) *Ke Makkah: Kampong Gelam and the Pilgrimage Industry*
—
Malay Pioneer Series: Women in Action!

(far left) *Chinese Business Pioneers - Supporting Singapore's Education*
—
Pioneering Rural Settlements: The Legacy of Lim Nee Soon

(far left) *The More We Get Together: Festivals and Festivities in Singapore*
—
Early Chinese Newspapers in Singapore (1881 - 1942)



PRESENTING THE STORIES OF SINGAPORE

NEW GALLERY OPENINGS

COMPLETION OF MATERIALS AND DESIGN GALLERIES

» *Asian Civilisations Museum*
» *From 4 April 2020*

• ACM unveiled its new third-floor galleries – Fashion and Textiles, and Jewellery – marking the completion of the museum’s multi-year refresh as Singapore’s museum of Asian antiquities and decorative art.

• The two new galleries, together with the refreshed Ceramics gallery, are collectively themed Materials and Design, and display over 400 precious and finely-crafted masterpieces, telling stories of Asian identities, histories, and cultures.





PRESENTING THE STORIES OF SINGAPORE

NEW GALLERY OPENINGS

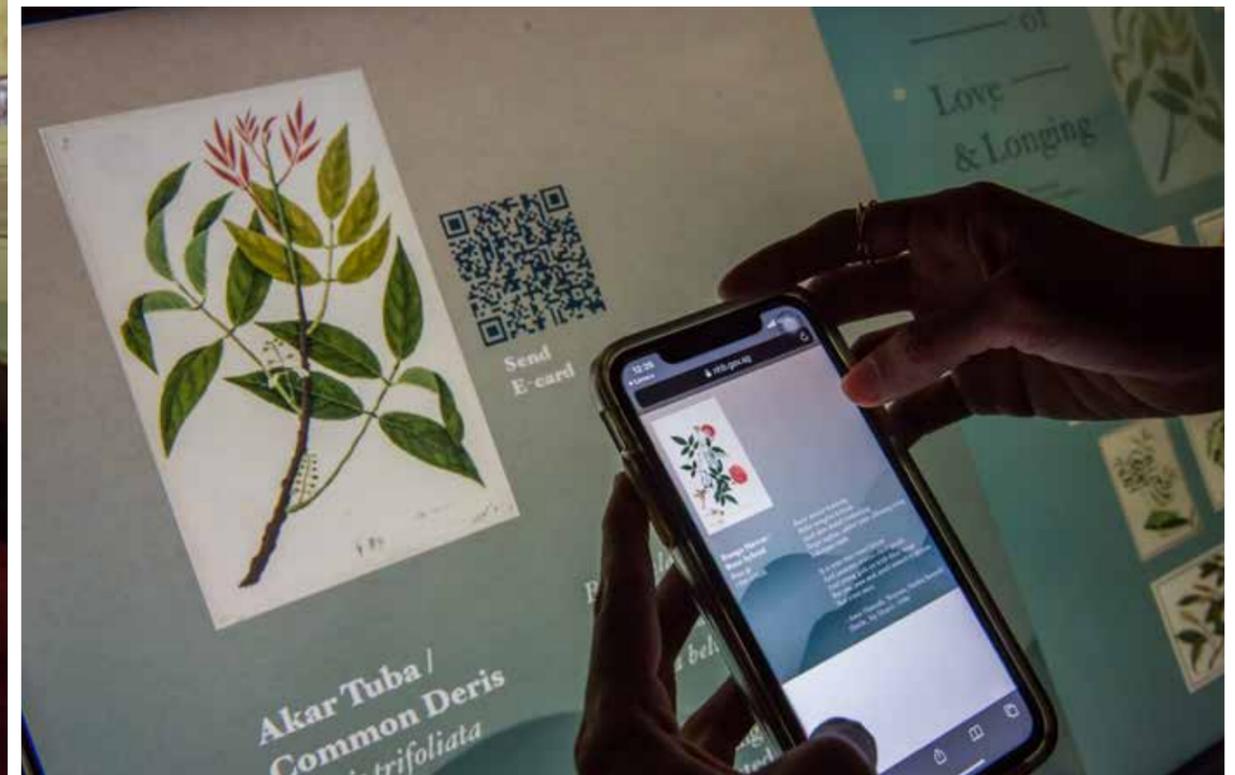
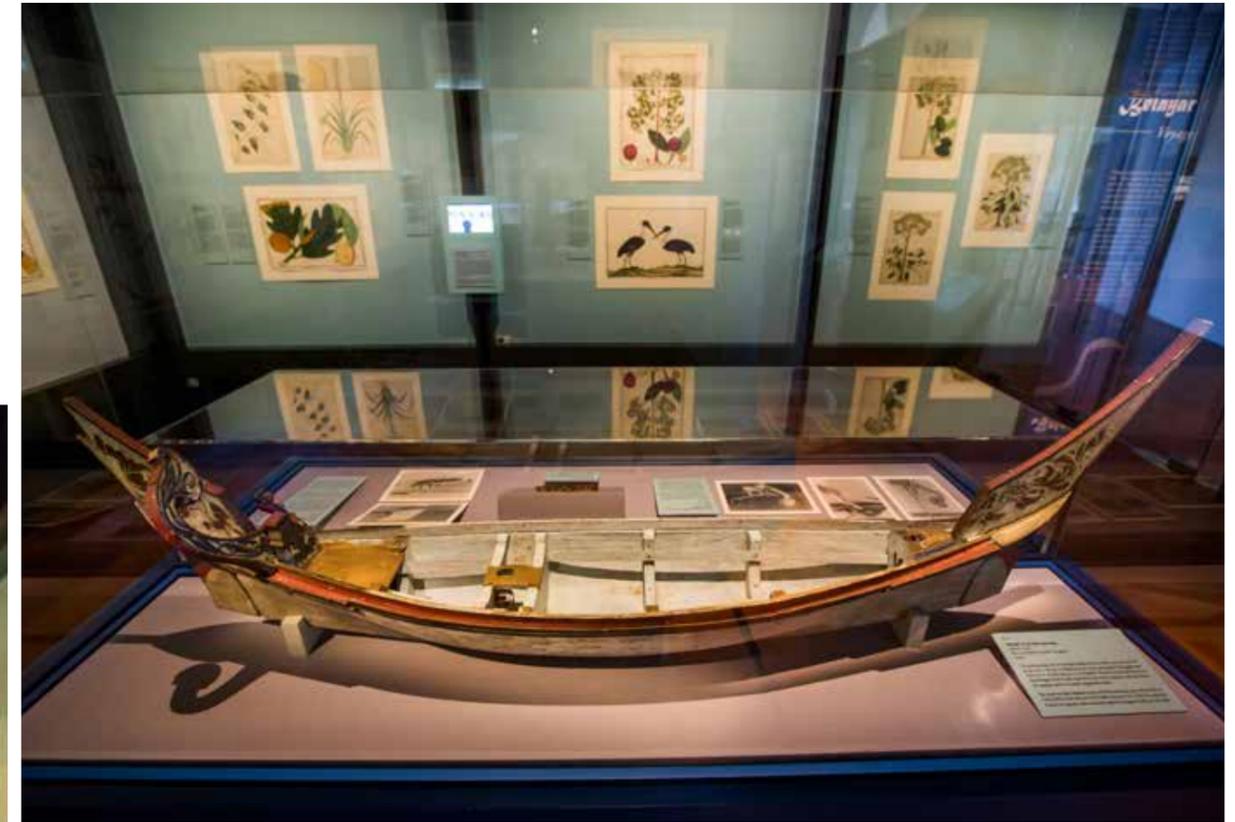
REFRESH OF THE GOH SENG CHOO GALLERY: A VOYAGE OF LOVE AND LONGING

» *National Museum of Singapore*
» *From 10 February 2021*

• The refreshed space brings visitors on a journey through the emotions experienced during a sea voyage across the Malay

Archipelago, through selections from the *William Farquhar Collection of Natural History Drawings* featured alongside the social memories, literature, and material culture of the Malay world.

• Complemented with a game app in which players can chart their own sea adventures.





PRESENTING THE STORIES OF SINGAPORE

NEW GALLERY OPENINGS

REFRESH OF GALLERY 3

» *Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall*
» *From January 2021*

• The refreshed Gallery 3 focuses on the social reforms, commemorative events, and identity of the Chinese community after the 1911 Revolution.

• Features updated content and 12 new artefacts, including community contributions such as a commemorative tea set and bowl featuring the “18-Star Flag” and “Five-Coloured Flag”, a commemorative badge bearing the image of Dr Sun Yat Sen, and a New Year greeting card with the words “*Bo Ai*” (universal love)*.



New Year Greeting card with the words “*Bo Ai*”, date unknown

The back of this greeting card depicts the ancient Chinese myth of the goddess Ma Gu offering longevity peaches, while the front of the card features the words “*Bo Ai*” (universal love), which encapsulated Dr Sun Yat Sen’s vision for Chinese democracy. Cards bearing scripted messages were distributed before the Chinese New Year as a way of wishing friends and family a better year ahead.



Commemorative tea set and bowl featuring the “18-Star Flag” and “Five-Coloured Flag”, 1912

This commemorative tea set and bowl, which were used by the Chinese in Singapore, are decorated with the “18-Star Flag” and “Five-Coloured Flag”. They were produced in Chaozhou to celebrate the first anniversary of the 1911 Revolution.



FOUNDERS' MEMORIAL: A MEMORIAL BUILT BY SINGAPOREANS

- Following the announcement of the winning architectural design by Kengo Kuma & Associates, in collaboration with K2LD Architects in March 2020, NHB continued its public engagement efforts to involve Singaporeans in the development of the memorial.
- From August 2020 to March 2021, experience design workshops were conducted with close to 300 participants, with sessions in different languages for youths and seniors, educators and creatives, and persons with disabilities and their caregivers.
- The workshops built on past engagement efforts, where Singaporeans had shared their hopes for the Founders' Memorial to be a welcoming, integrated gallery and garden space for all to enjoy, and an evocative space for reflection. These workshops gathered insights and generated ideas on how this vision could be realised through curating the key moments during a visitor's journey and various spaces at the site.





SPEARHEADING HERITAGE CONSERVATION: 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HERITAGE CONSERVATION CENTRE

- The Heritage Conservation Centre (HCC) has been a dedicated repository and conservation facility for the care of Singapore's National Collection since 2000, housing more than 200,000 artefacts and artworks.
- The centre has established itself as a sector leader in heritage conservation over the last 20 years, with a team of experts who manage and provide the best possible care for the National Collection.
- The centre boasts climate-controlled repositories and specialised conservation laboratories for the storage and treatment of different types of artefacts and artworks, and a state-of-the-art conservation science laboratory which conducts scientific analysis, material testing, and research.

- Various public programmes were launched to commemorate HCC's 20th birthday, including:
 - Two videos on Facebook "live" that took viewers behind-the-scenes to introduce the facility, the team and how they care for our National Collection.
 - Trial programme *Collection Cares*, which involved artworks featuring familiar scenes from old Singapore travelling to homes for seniors, coupled with on-site craft activities conducted by an art therapist over Zoom, to spark memory recall and conversations, and improve their emotional well-being.

- HCC continued to develop its capabilities through collaborations and research projects, and the sharing of this knowledge on local and international platforms. Notable projects included:
 - A collaborative project with the Queensland Art Gallery, Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, to investigate the materials and properties of contemporary pre-primed canvases has led to poster presentations at the 13th *Infrared and Raman Users Group* symposium in Sydney and the *Conserving Canvas Symposium* at Yale University.
 - A research paper on the use of non-woven support materials for the conservation of three-dimensional painted silk presented at the 48th *American Institute for Conservation Annual Meeting's* textiles specialty session.

- A presentation on the reflection into the conservation of Peranakan silk costumes for the international conference organised by the Queen Sirikit Museum of Textiles, Thailand, and Thammasat University.
- A paper on the use of controlled vocabulary in the cataloguing of Singapore's National Collection was presented during the virtual *CIDOC* (the International Council of Museum's (ICOM) International Committee for Documentation) *Conference 2020*, and accepted for publication by the Heritage University's online magazine.
- A paper co-written by HCC and the Singapore Art Museum on conserving a contemporary artwork by FX Harsono, which was accepted for publication by South Korea's National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art.

- Training sessions conducted on textiles and mounting for seamstresses, integrated pest management for museums and heritage institutions, and basic collections care for government institutions.



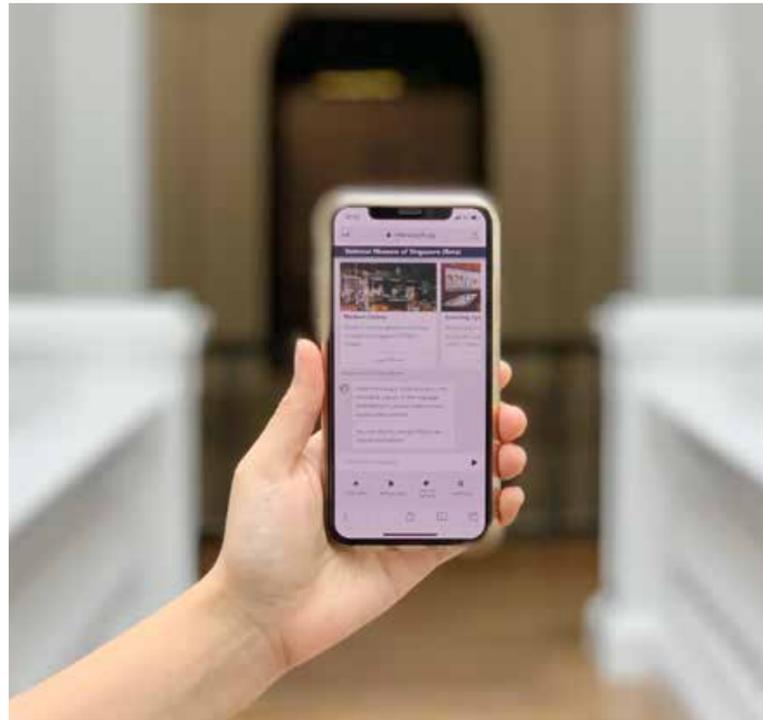
DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY

LAYERED HERITAGE EXPERIENCES WITH CHATBOTS

- Content-delivery chatbots were deployed at selected NHB museums and heritage institutions, notably at the National Museum's *Home, Truly: Growing Up with Singapore, 1950s to the Present* exhibition, offering visitors deeper engagements with audio tours, artefact highlights, exhibition captions in four languages, a digital catalogue, and a digital concierge.



Say "hi" to three of our chatbots deployed at the Malay Heritage Centre, National Museum of Singapore, and Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall (left to right).



NEW DOCENT AND CURATOR GUIDED TOUR VIDEOS FOR THE INDIAN HERITAGE CENTRE

- The Indian Heritage Centre (IHC) launched new digital tours, led by IHC's curators and docents, which allow digital visitors to embark on self-guided journeys of the galleries at their own time and pace. They involved a total of 29 docents from the Friends of the Museums and Museum Volunteers groups.



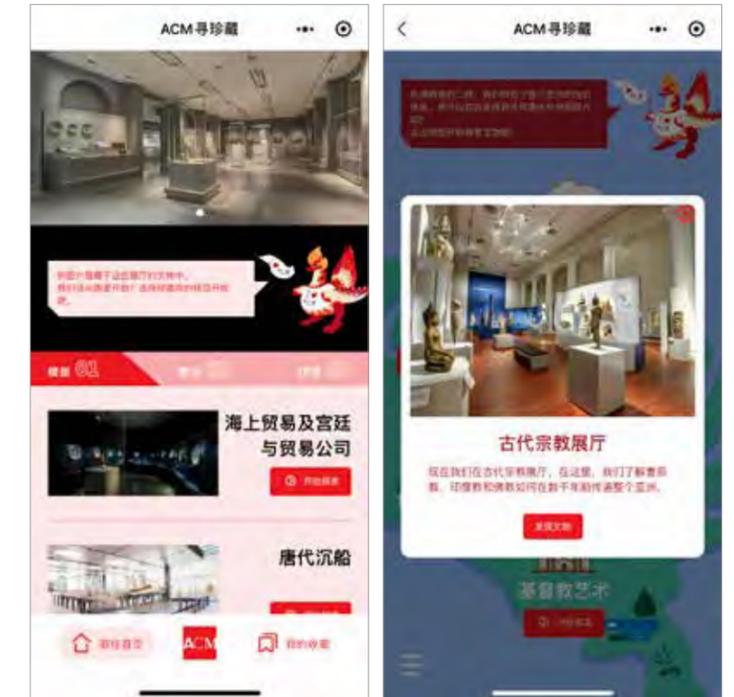
STUDENT GUIDED TOUR VIDEO SERIES FOR SYSNMH

- A series of 16 videos (eight in English and eight in Mandarin) introduce the content of SYSNMH's Gallery 4 - Chinese Business Pioneers, featuring 40 students from ITE College West, River Valley High School, and Singapore Chinese Girls' School.
- Part of SYSNMH's inaugural online *Student Guide Training Programme*, in collaboration with the Friends of the Museums and Mandarin Docents groups.



LAUNCH OF NEW SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

- ACM launched its WeChat account for online and on-site engagement for Chinese-speaking audiences. Followers can explore ACM's galleries virtually and learn more about the museum's collection through its mini-programmes.
- IHC launched its TikTok account to reach out to younger audiences.





INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

NHB-ICHCAP MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

» Signed on 25 March 2021

- To enhance bilateral cooperation in ICH matters, NHB and the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region Under the Auspices of UNESCO (ICHCAP) signed a five-year memorandum of understanding (MOU). The MOU covers collaborations on ICH-related initiatives, such as staff exchanges, research, publications, training programmes, and conferences on ICH themes.



NHB Chief Executive Officer Chang Hwee Nee signing the NHB-ICHCAP MOU



LOAN OF BUNGA EMAS (GOLD FLOWER) ROYAL SCULPTURE FROM KEDAH STATE MUSEUM

- A prized royal sculpture known as the *Bunga Emas* was loaned to Malay Heritage Centre (MHC) from the Kedah State Museum, Malaysia for the *Seekor Singa, Seorang Putera dan Sebingkai Cermin* (A Lion, A Prince and a Mirror) special exhibition. A 19th century tributary gift from the Sultanate of Kedah to Siam, this object had not left Kedah since 1958 prior to this loan, and was on display at MHC from February to July 2020.

ICOM AUSTRALIA-ICOM SINGAPORE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

» Signed on 10 November 2020

- To strengthen bilateral cooperation in the museum and heritage sector, NHB and the National Museum of Australia signed a five-year MOU, on behalf of ICOM Singapore and ICOM Australia respectively. The MOU covers collaborations on conservation-related projects, most notably a joint pilot training programme on conservation and collection management for Southeast Asian professionals in 2022.



SHARING THE STORIES AND LANGUAGES OF OUR COMMUNITIES

THE HOUGANG HERITAGE TRAIL – NHB'S 20TH HERITAGE TRAIL

- The *Hougang Heritage Trail* traces the transformation of one of Singapore's oldest heartland towns, from a rural area with vast plantations and fruit orchards to a modern, thriving heartland estate.
- Features 28 new interviews with community members, the highest number of all of NHB's trails to date.
- First trail in the heartlands to feature two National Monuments, which were both gazetted in 2005: the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Hougang Tou Mu Kung.

DID YOU KNOW:

- Hougang is commonly pronounced as *Au Kang*, its name in both Teochew and Hokkien. It means "at the back of the river", and is a reference to Sungei Serangoon at the end of Upper Serangoon Road, around which many Teochew-speaking inhabitants settled.
- Hougang became the first housing estate in Singapore to have a fast-food restaurant and bowling alley.
- Upper Serangoon Road is one of the oldest roads built in Singapore. By the late 1830s, the road extended all the way from town to the foot of Sungei Serangoon. Many of Hougang's early landmarks are situated along this road and can still be seen here today.



(left) Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary; (top) Masjid Haji Yusoff; and Instagram favourite Block 316 (above) with its iconic rainbow mural painted on its façade at Hougang Avenue 7.



SHARING THE STORIES AND LANGUAGES OF OUR COMMUNITIES

SPEAK GOOD ENGLISH MOVEMENT *Let's connect. Let's Speak Good English.* » Year-long

- Encourages Singaporeans to appreciate the value of good English in connecting and communicating across cultures and borders.
- Presented a series of five lighthearted videos which depicted everyday Singaporeans in familiar situations and contexts as they debated the use of certain

English words. The videos received more than 2 million views on Mediacorp Channel 5 and more than 1 million views on social media.

- 49 partner-led programmes engaged more than 3,110 participants and raised awareness on the importance of using standard English.
- The *Inspiring Teacher of English Award 2020*, presented with The Straits Times and supported by the Ministry of Education, recognised seven exceptional English teachers.

SPEAK MANDARIN CAMPAIGN 讲华语，我也可以。 *Speak Mandarin? Yes, I can.* » Year-long

- 32 partner-led programmes encouraged the use and appreciation of Mandarin and engaged more than 4,000 live and digital participants.
- 494 family teams registered for the ninth edition of the *Speak Mandarin Campaign Family Talent Competition*, held virtually with CHIJ St Nicholas Girls' School (Primary), the Committee to Promote Chinese Language Learning, and PCF Sparkletots.

- 61 students participated in the fourth edition of the *Speak Mandarin Campaign "My Story" Public Speaking Competition*. The grand finals were streamed live to an online audience of more than 48,000.
- The first-ever online dialogue titled *Speak Mandarin, Spark Creativity!* featured speakers Dr Woo Yen Yen, Wang Shijia (Ang Ku Kueh Girl), Neo Hai Bin, Ben Hum, and Liu Kuan Yin. 215 participants were engaged over Zoom, with 819 viewers actively following via the Facebook live-stream.





SHARING THE STORIES AND LANGUAGES OF OUR COMMUNITIES

BULAN BAHASA (MALAY LANGUAGE MONTH)

Cita. Citra. Cinta. Bahasa Kita. (Relevance, diversity and love for the language)

» 15 August to 11 October 2020

- The first-ever virtual *Bulan Bahasa* was presented by 62 community groups, Malay Activity Executive Committees, and schools on Zoom, Facebook, and Instagram. 1,610 participants were engaged in programmes over Zoom and garnered 279,700 views for 144 programmes hosted on various social media platforms.
- The launch ceremony was televised on Mediacorp Suria for the first time and reached a total of 73,740 viewers. Three *Duta Bahasa* (Malay Language Ambassadors) were appointed at the ceremony.

RAKAN BAHASA (FRIENDS OF THE LANGUAGE)

- 315 students from 157 schools were appointed as *Rakan Bahasa* to cultivate their love for the Malay language and inspire their friends and families.
- These students were given opportunities to hone their Malay language skills through *Kembara Rakan Bahasa* activity cards, *Penterjemah Pintar* (Translation Competition), *Oh Hello Skoolz!* radio segments, and a public speaking workshop. They were also involved in the televised launch ceremony as presenters and performers.

ANUGERAH GURU ARIF BUDIMAN (MALAY LANGUAGE TEACHERS AWARD)

- Three outstanding teachers were recognised for their contributions to the learning and teaching of the Malay language.
- Co-presented by Majlis Bahasa Melayu Singapura (Malay Language Council, Singapore), Persatuan Guru Bahasa Melayu (Malay Language Teachers Association), Berita Harian, and the Malay Language Learning and Promotion Committee.

TAMIL LANGUAGE FESTIVAL

தமிழை நேசிப்போம், தமிழில் பேசுவோம்

Love Tamil, Speak Tamil

» 28 November to 20 December 2020

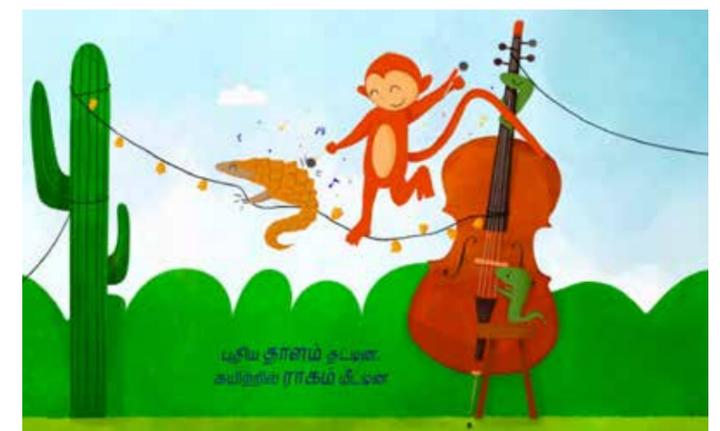
- The first-ever virtual *Tamil Language Festival* by the Tamil Language Council involved 25 partners and it encouraged the appreciation and use of Tamil through drama, music, dialogues, competitions, and seminars.
- 1,790 participants were engaged over 25 programmes, with 39,930 views received for 16 programmes which were hosted on various social media platforms.
- Seven capacity building programmes in the form of theatre and acting classes, and writing workshops were conducted to deepen the younger generation's appreciation for Tamil.



Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat (second from left), at the launch of *Bulan Bahasa*, with (from left) Minister of State for Home Affairs and National Development Assoc Prof Faishal Ibrahim, who is chairman of the Malay Language Council, Singapore, Language Ambassador Dr Norshahril Saat, and Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Communications and Information Rahayu Mahzam, who is chairman of *Bulan Bahasa Committee*.



Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs Masagos Zulkifli Bin Masagos Mohamad presented the awards to the three winners of the *Anugerah Guru Arif Budiman*.





GROWING THE NEXT GENERATION OF HERITAGE LOVERS

CHILDREN'S SEASON 2020

» *On-site and online offerings by 22 Museum Roundtable museums across the island*

» *November 2020 to January 2021*

- *Children's Season* aims to inculcate a love for heritage in children through fun and educational programmes and cultivate a museum-going culture.
- 2020's edition saw the creation of a virtual *Hide-N-Seek* game with 22 levels, each themed after a participating museum, which encouraged the virtual exploration of artefacts and museum spaces through panoramic 360° photographs.



The virtual *Hide-N-Seek* game (top) won a Gold Award at the 2021 *Marketing Magazine's MARKies Awards* in the 'Most Creative Government Sector/Non-Profit Marketing' category. The *MARKies* recognise and reward the most innovative, creative, and effective campaigns and projects across Singapore's marketing services industry.

- 500 children from social service agencies and student care centres enjoyed craft workshops using a kit co-developed by ACM and partner Red Balloon Therapy, inspired by art therapy principles, to evoke a sense of safety and comfort in participants.
- Children and families at the National Museum explored the topic of change, inspired by stories of resilience and innovation "told" by featured artefacts. Families were guided through this process as they participated in on-site activities such as a *My Family's Stories* kit and a family mindfulness workshop.



Children's Season 2020 partnered with Singaporean artist Peter Draw to present the illustrated character Ai as the campaign's mascot, customised to reflect the unique features of each of the partner museums.



"What I like most about the trip is that the museum educators tell us about the history of Singapore in a fun and fulfilling way. That is what I like most about the excursion."

Student from Ang Mo Kio Secondary School

"The Museum Educators were very engaging especially when they took on different characters. Information shared was beyond the social studies textbook, so it was interesting to listen to and view the artefacts."

Teacher from Shuqun Primary School

MUSEUM-BASED LEARNING AT NHB MUSEUMS

» *More than 4,000 students participated from November 2020 to March 2021*

- Museum-based Learning (MBL) involves all Primary 6 and Secondary 2 students and aims to instil a deeper appreciation of Singapore's history and development, and a sense of pride in the younger generation.

- Part of the Ministry of Education's (MOE) cohort learning journeys.
- Trained museum educators facilitate conversations and conduct storytelling, role-playing, and hands-on activities.
- To sustain engagement when on-site museum visits were temporarily halted, NHB and MOE co-developed MBL teaser videos and e-learning experience packages, which students could access via MOE's Student Learning Space portal.





GROWING THE NEXT GENERATION OF HERITAGE LOVERS

HERITAGE EXPLORERS PROGRAMME

» *More than 90,000 students from over 100 primary schools have participated since 2016*

- *Heritage Explorers Programme* aims to raise students' awareness and interest in local and community heritage through creative role-playing.
- Complements the primary school curriculum and emphasises school-parent partnerships, and greater parent-child bonding.

DRAW MY STAMP STORY ART COMPETITION

- More than 5,500 primary and secondary school students participated in the annual competition organised by the Singapore Philatelic Museum.
- The competition aims to cultivate students' appreciation in postage stamp designs. Participants use drawings to tell a story and include stamp elements in their work.

SINGAPORE'S LITTLE TREASURES

» *Engaged more than 10,000 preschoolers from over 500 preschool centres and trained more than 800 teachers since 2014*

- *Singapore's Little Treasures* is a programme for preschoolers and preschool educators and is conducted in Malay, Mandarin, and Tamil.
- Promotes Singapore's multicultural heritage through creative classroom activities paired with meaningful learning journeys at our museums.

MONUMENTAL ROBO-TOURS

- *Monumental Robo-Tours* is a new programme which enables school students to go on guided tours of participating National Monuments remotely with a mobile telepresence robot.
- Increases accessibility to our National Monuments, bringing them closer to students through the use of technology.

SG TIME TRAVELLERS AND ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME

- Thematic experiential guided tours and complementary assembly programmes which focus on national resilience, and aim to foster a sense of national identity in students.
- While on-site trails were suspended in FY2020, NHB conducted programmes during online assemblies for more than 21,000 upper primary, secondary, and tertiary students.

TERTIARY PARTNERSHIPS

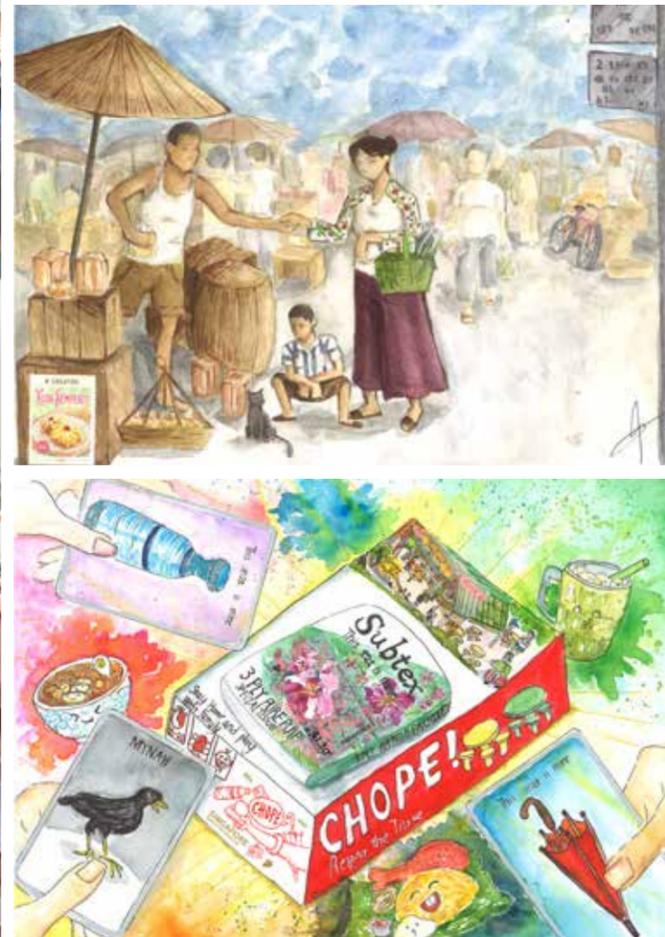
- NHB actively engages post-secondary education institutions to integrate heritage content into the existing modules of their curricula, to sustain interest in heritage throughout the schooling journey.
- In FY2020, more than 2,500 first-year Singapore Management University students participated in specially co-created heritage experiences at NHB museums as part of one of their core modules.

“Today’s virtual live tour at Sultan Mosque was a wonderful way for our students to experience Singapore’s rich heritage, especially during this period of disruption. Virtual experiences like this can open up new possibilities for young people to discover Singapore and beyond.”

Qihua Primary School Principal Lee Hui Feng



Heritage Explorers Programme



Draw My Stamp Story Art Competition



Monumental Robo-Tours



SG Time Travellers and Assembly Programme



GROWING AND SUPPORTING THE HERITAGE ECOSYSTEM

ARTS AND CULTURE RESILIENCE PACKAGE (ACRP) GRANTS

- To support the digitalisation and continued operation of heritage organisations during COVID-19, NHB administered three grants in FY2020: the *Digital Project Grant (DPG)*, *Capability Development Scheme for the Arts (CDSA)*, and the *ACRP Operating Grant*.
- A total of approximately \$225,000 has been awarded to 15 *DPG* and *CDSA* projects by heritage organisations and private museums to date.

HERITAGE GRANT PROJECTS

» Over \$12 million awarded to more than 470 grant recipients to date

Notable Projects include:

- *Chitty Melaka Cookbook* (publication)
- *Rediscovering the Mercantile Jewels of Singapore: A Study of the Heterogeneous Gujarati Diaspora from 1850 to 2020* (publication)
- *Lion and Dragon Dance in Singapore* (publication)
- *The Nine Emperor Gods Festival in Singapore: Heritage, Culture, and Community* (publication)
- *Madrasah Al-Arabiah Al-Islamiah Heritage Gallery* (exhibition)

NATIONAL MONUMENTS FUND

- \$1.43 million awarded in FY2020 to support the restoration and maintenance of 18 National Monuments.
- Since 2009, the fund has supported 49 restoration projects on 28 National Monuments.

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

- Our family of volunteers includes docents from the Friends of the Museums, Japanese Docents, Mandarin Docents, Mandarin Guides, and Museum Volunteers, as well as volunteers from Museum Hosts, Preservation of Sites and Monuments Volunteer Guides, and HCC Volunteer Guides.
- Other passionate individuals who volunteer at NHB events, programmes, and festivals include *HeritageCares'* volunteers who serve as guides, befrienders, and facilitators, and Care Facilitators at the National Museum.
- Presented annually since 2015, NHB's *Heritage Volunteers Appreciation and Awards* recognised 103 long-serving docents including Ms Pauline Choe, who was presented with the 20-year Long Service Award.

MUSEUM ROUNDTABLE HONGBAO CAMPAIGN

» 22 January to 19 February 2021

- Returning for its 7th edition, the campaign featured 32 specially-designed ox-themed red packets customised to represent participating Museum Roundtable (MR) members, and a special QR Code scavenger hunt.

BATTLE FOR SINGAPORE 2021

» 20 February to 14 March 2021

- *Battle for Singapore 2021* commemorated the 79th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore with a series of programmes that featured various places and stories related to the Japanese Occupation, in partnership with MR museums, local heritage experts, and heritage groups.
- These included 37 guided tours, such as special-access tours of Fort Siloso and mini-museum tours at the Former Ford Factory, National Gallery Singapore, Singapore Discovery Centre, and Eurasian Heritage Gallery.

MUSEUM ROUNDTABLE CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

- NHB conducted eight webinars on topics from digitalisation to COVID-19 recovery plans as part of the sharing of best practices among MR members.
- *MRadio* – a podcast series recorded and produced by NHB – was launched to provide MR members and museum enthusiasts on-the-go access to conversations and observations on the museum landscape in Singapore. Three episodes about museum education, curation, and the background of the MR have since been broadcast.

PATRON OF HERITAGE AWARDS 2020

- Recognised the generosity of 63 individuals and organisations who contributed to Singapore's heritage sector, museums, and institutions from January to December 2020.



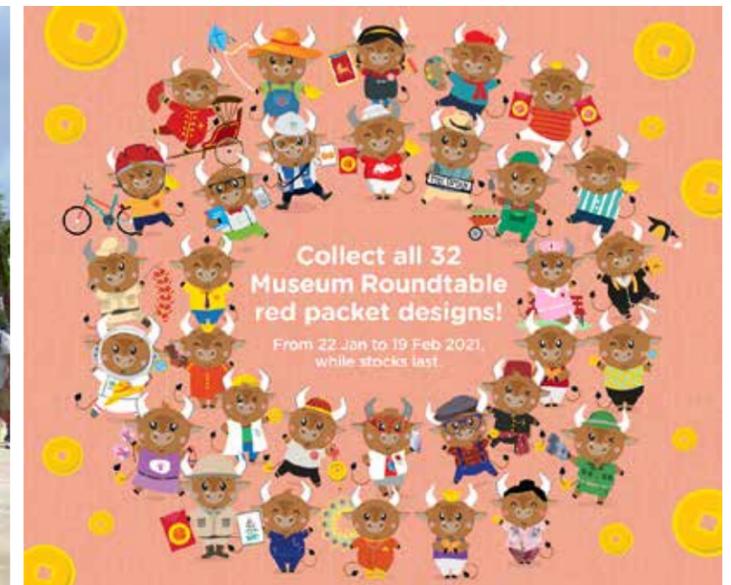
Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church, one of the recipients of the *National Monuments Fund* in FY2020.



Volunteer Engagement



Battle for Singapore 2021



Museum Roundtable Hongbao Campaign



MAKING HERITAGE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

MUSEUMS' ACCESSIBILITY INITIATIVES

AUDIO DESCRIPTION TOURS BY THE ASIAN CIVILISATIONS MUSEUM

Available on the Asian Civilisations Museum's website

- 14 free *Audio Description Tours* have been specially scripted to provide detailed descriptions of selected key artefacts, serving as a useful resource for persons with visual impairments.
- Seven more *Audio Description Tours* will be made available by Q4 of 2021.

“Though I have no vision, by hearing the audio description, I am able to conjure an image in my mind, (and it) makes me feel like I am on an adventure.”

Feedback from a visitor on *Audio Description Tours*

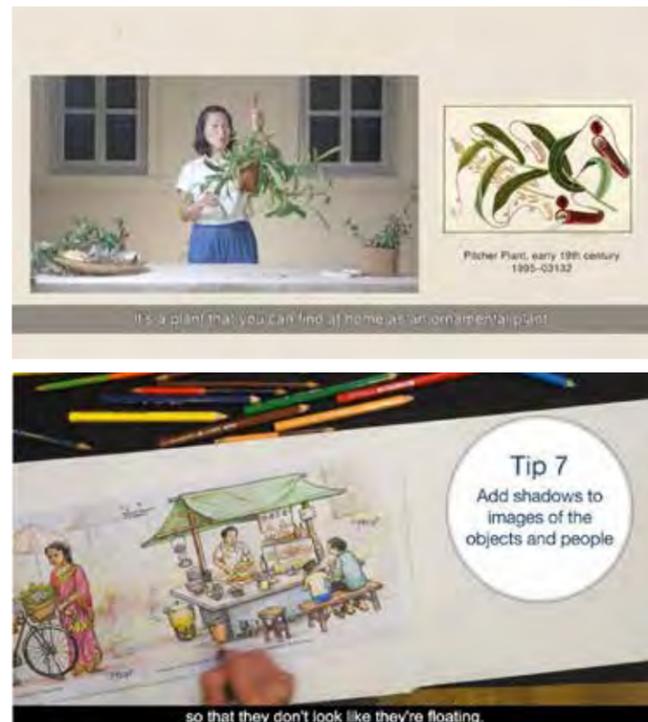


Audio Description Tours by ACM

SENIOR-FRIENDLY DIGITAL RESOURCES AND VIRTUAL TOURS

Digital resources available on the National Museum's website

- The National Museum developed a range of digital resources to engage seniors during the COVID-19 pandemic, including a series of video tutorials featuring local artist Yip Yew Chong, cookbook author and food scholar Christopher Tan, and non-profit organisation Ground-Up Initiative, for seniors to learn colouring techniques and new recipes, and embark on do-it-yourself projects based on the museum's collection.
- Seniors also explored the museum's galleries through specially-designed virtual tours led by Care Facilitators, which also catered to persons with dementia and their caregivers.



Senior-friendly Digital Resources by the National Museum of Singapore



MAKING HERITAGE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

HERITAGECARES

- *HeritageCares* reaches out to the underserved communities, including families in difficulty, senior citizens, youths-at-risk, and persons with disabilities and/or special needs. In FY2020, the *HeritageCares@Home* initiative was launched, comprising a variety of virtual programmes organised with partner organisations, to continue engaging the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- These included bilingual storytelling sessions, experiential art therapy sessions, and an interactive theatre experience centred on local cuisine with local arts group, Practice Tuckshop.
- *HeritageCares* also worked closely with Youth Corps Singapore to conceptualise a virtual theatre-based programme, *Let's be STARS*, which incorporated heritage content and elements of drama play, and jointly brought meaning to *Heritage Thursdays* together under KidsFun. The facilitation of these programmes were assisted by over 500 youth volunteers.



HeritageCares

“Usually, we see pictures of people but not items. These are images of ordinary items from the old days, some of which are not around anymore. It is easy to choose which photos to look at and some of them help me recollect the past.”

Lau Han Cheong, a participant from NTUC Health Day Centre for Seniors (Bukit Batok West) on his experience with the *My House of Memories* app, as shared with The Straits Times.

SILVER HUBS

- The *Silver Hubs* initiative co-develops age-friendly programmes with partners from the health and social care sectors to provide enriching heritage experiences for seniors and promote active ageing.
- In FY2020, *Silver Hubs* launched the *My House of Memories* app, developed in collaboration with National Museums Liverpool and the British Council Singapore. The app features a digital library of familiar objects to trigger memories for persons living with dementia, to encourage greater interaction with their caregivers. These include 100 objects from Singapore's National Collection and 11 additional objects from the Alzheimer's Disease Association. The app also serves as a resource that provides localised content, such as information on dementia in Singapore, suggestions on activities for seniors and caregivers to engage in, and contacts for them to reach out to.
- *Silver Hubs* also continued to engage the silver community through digital programmes such as *Virtual Return to the Tea Dance*, in which seniors participated virtually in evergreen music and dance sessions that promoted their psycho-social and emotional well-being.



A senior from NTUC Health Day Centre for Seniors trying out the *My House of Memories* app, together with a care staff.



MAKING HERITAGE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

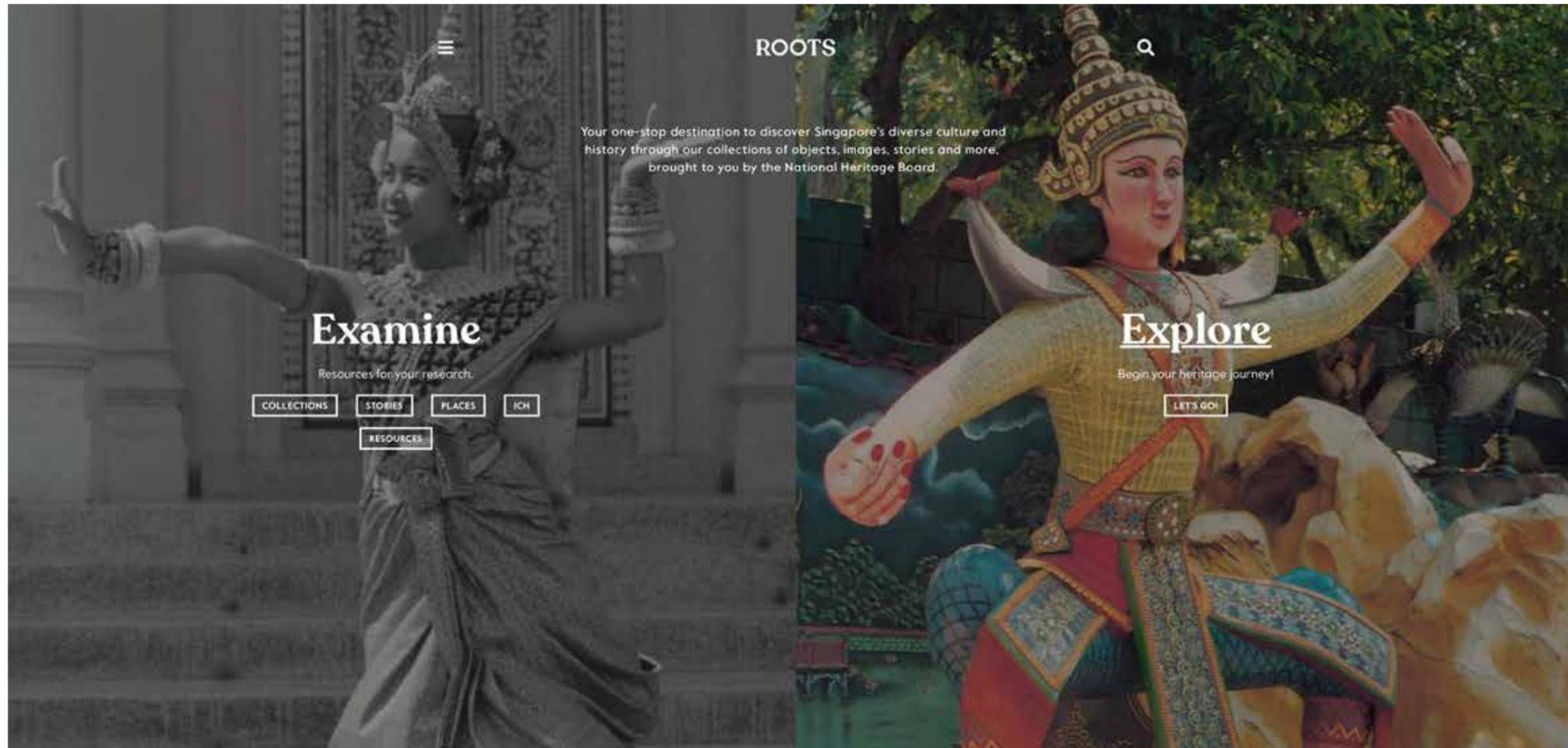
DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY

THE ALL NEW ROOTS.GOV.SG – NHB'S ONE-STOP DIGITAL CONCIERGE

- NHB relaunched its heritage portal, *Roots.gov.sg*, as a one-stop digital concierge with a cultural ontology that brings together digital resources from across Singapore's arts and culture scene.
- The portal is currently home to over 100,000 artefacts and multimedia resources, spanning our National Collection, heritage trails, National Monuments, historic sites, intangible cultural heritage, and more.

• Highlights of the revamped *Roots.gov.sg* include:

- More advanced artificial intelligence which powers more accurate and relevant searches and recommendations, allowing users to find information from the extensive catalogue easily, and suggested exploratory routes based on individual users' areas of interest.
- Cultural ontology integrates resources from partners' databases, including the National Library Board's Infopedia and the Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay's Offstage, enabling the discovery of a wider selection of content.
- A brand-new look, improved user-friendliness, fresh content, and enhanced features, such as a more seamless integration with Google Maps for navigation around heritage trails and National Monuments.



gifts & acquisitions



GROUP OF HEIRLOOM JEWELLERY

Philippines

Late 19th to 20th century

Gift of the Montilla Family of Pulpandan, Negros Occidental
and gift of the estate of Doña Leoncia Lacson y Torres of
Talisay, Negros Occidental

These adornments were inherited through four generations of the Montilla family, who are Spanish-mestizos from Negros Island and pioneers of large-scale sugar production in the Philippines. These objects reflect the family's mixed ancestry and reference pivotal moments in history, such as the spread of the Catholic faith due to the Spanish colonisation of the Philippines and the historical role of the Philippines as a global producer of tortoiseshell products, gold, pearls, and coral. Manila, being an important jewellery-making centre, attracted itinerant smiths from places like Fujian, China, who contributed to the creation of hybrid and cross-cultural jewellery.



COLLECTION OF 12 WATERCOLOUR PAINTINGS BY ARTISTS ONG KIM SENG AND CHEW PIAK SAN

Late 1970s and 1980s
Gift of 3M Singapore

3M Singapore donated 12 watercolour paintings – eight by Ong Kim Seng and four by Chew Piak San – to the Singapore Philatelic Museum. Works by the artists show old street scenes of Singapore during the late 1970s and 1980s.



SCROLL CASE FITTED WITH ESTHER SCROLL

Probably Canton, China
Mid to late 19th century
Gilded silver, ink on parchment

Decorated with alternating panels of bamboo and prunus chased in low relief and enamelled in blue and green, this gilded silver case was made to house a scroll of the Hebrew Book of Esther. The Book of Esther, often referred to as the "Megillah", is read out loud in the synagogue during the Jewish feast of Purim, which is celebrated on the 14th of Adar (February or March).

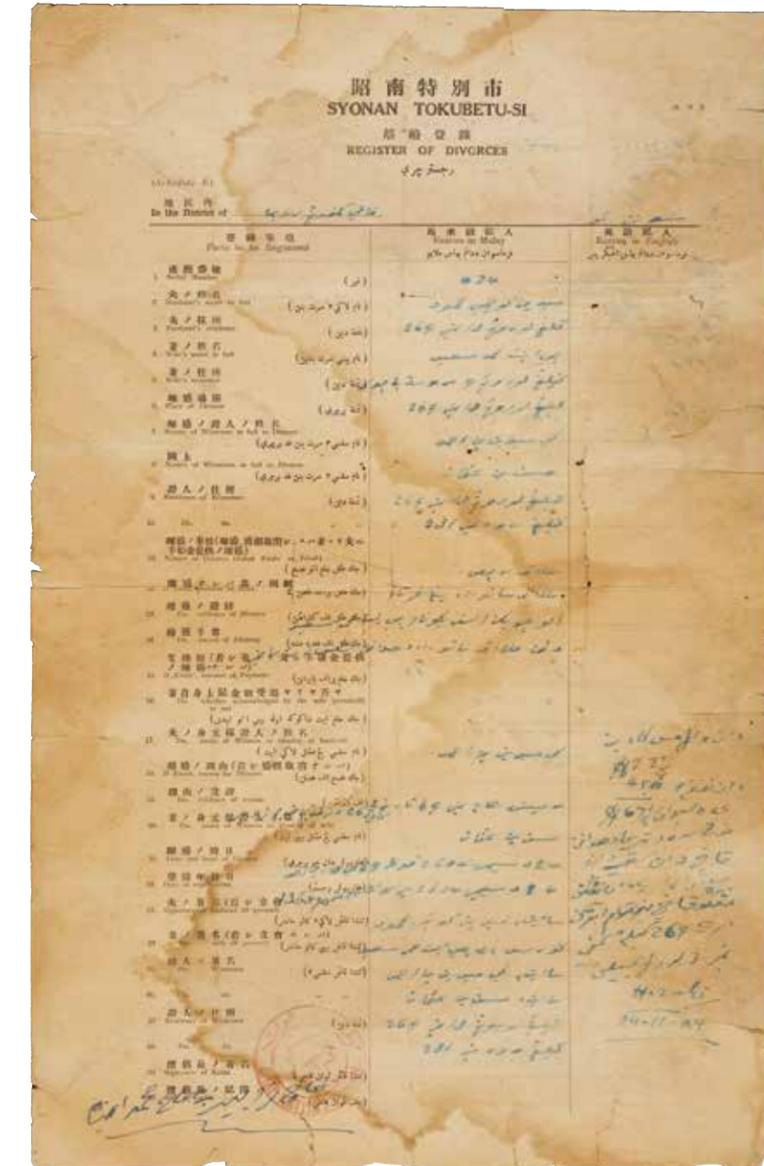
This case was made in Guangzhou (Canton) or Hong Kong, as evidenced by the marks on its base. It was in the collection of the Sassoons, a family of Baghdadi-Jewish descent who moved to Mumbai (Bombay), India, and acquired immense wealth in the China trade.



MUSLIM DIVORCE CERTIFICATE ISSUED DURING THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION 1944

This certificate was administered by a *kadi*, an appointed Muslim official who usually oversees marriage solemnisations, for the granting of a divorce between a couple living in Geylang during the Japanese Occupation. Issued by the *Syonan*

Tokubetsu-shi or municipal arm of the Japanese administration on 24 December 2604 (the Japanese imperial year, which corresponds with 1944 CE in the Gregorian calendar), the certificate specifies several important details about the divorce, including the names of the couple, the witnesses to and location of the divorce proceedings, the nature of the divorce, as well as evidence of alimony.



TRADITIONAL BANJARESE WEDDING TEXTILE

Late 20th century

This wedding backdrop is made of sequins and consists of a main panel (*dinding tengah*) as well as two fringe panels (*tabiran*). It is known as *kain arguci* (also spelt as *air guci*), with 'arguci' being a reference to the style of embroidery where sequins are embroidered to create large-scale decorative motifs on a piece of silk or satin.

Arguci is thought to have originated from the Banjar community in South Kalimantan, Indonesia, in the 18th century and its use extended to the Banjar community in Singapore, whose members have recalled purchasing or renting them from merchants in Singapore and South Kalimantan.



AUTOGRAPH BOOKS BELONGING TO PIONEERING BATCH OF MALAY WOMEN TEACHING GRADUATES

1950 – 1953

This pair of autograph books belonged to a former Malay teacher and alumnus of the Maktab Perguruan Perempuan Melayu, or Malay Women's Training College (MWTC) that was established in Malacca in 1934. The MWTC was one of the few training colleges for aspiring women Malay teachers, including from Singapore. The autograph book documents the owner's move from her days as a student at the MWTC to her new residence in Geylang, Singapore, as well as the hopes and aspirations of an emergent class of newly formally-educated Malay women in post-independence Singapore and Malaysia.



PAIR OF DEER

Tibet, 18th century
Gilded copper

This pair of standing deer, one female and the other male with a single horn, were made in copper alloy repoussé and gilded. Deer sculptures like these would flank an eight-spoked *Dharmachakra* (wheel of Dharma) symbolising the teachings of the Buddha. In monasteries and temples in Tibet, Mongolia, Bhutan, and elsewhere in the Himalayas, such an ensemble is installed at the highest point of its roof or on major gateways, the most famous example being the one on the Jokhang temple in Lhasa, Tibet.



PORTRAIT PLAQUE, RING AND BOX BELONGING TO DR LIM BOON KENG

Germany, England, and Singapore
Early 20th century
Various materials
Gift of Lim Kok Lian in memory of his grandparents Lim Boon Keng and Grace Pek Ha Yin

The gold ring is engraved with the couple's initials and the date of their 1908 wedding. The German porcelain plaque featuring their enamel painted portrait was likely a wedding gift. The English sterling silver box was presented to Dr Lim Boon Keng in 1926 by notable friends such as Lim Nee Soon, Song Ong Siang, and Tan Kah Kee, and its inscription makes reference to his position as President of Amoy University. One of the leading Peranakan activists in the early 20th century, Dr Lim was an advocate for educational and political reforms in both the Straits Settlements and China.





SLEEVELESS CHEONGSAM WITH EMBROIDERY OF YELLOW FLOWERS BELONGING TO MRS BENJAMIN SHEARES

1960s – 1970s
Gift of Dr Joseph Sheares, Mr Edwin Sheares, and Ms Constance Sheares

This *cheongsam* belonged to Mrs Benjamin Sheares, the wife of Singapore's second President, Mr Benjamin Sheares. Mrs Sheares was born Yeo Seh Geok (1917–2014) in Quanzhou, a small town near Xiamen in the southern Fujian province of China. She came to Singapore in the late 1930s to escape the Japanese invasion of China. Soon after, she started training as a midwife at the Kandang Kerbau Hospital. In 1939, she married Dr Benjamin Sheares, an established surgeon who later became the president of Singapore from 1971 to 1981. The daisy prints on the *cheongsam* reflect a motif adopted from 'hippie' fashion of the 1960s. Mrs Sheares wore this *cheongsam* when receiving diplomatic guests in the Istana.



TWO-DAY MARINE CHRONOMETER BELONGING TO HMS BULAN

c1918 – 1919
Wood, metal

This chronometer belonged to the HMS Bulan, a cable laying ship built in 1924 for the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company (P&O). In 1939, at the beginning of World War II, the Bulan was incorporated into the Malayan Auxiliary Fleet. The Japanese invasion of Malaya in December 1941 led to the Bulan being taken over by the Royal Navy, and its crew was replaced by men from the sunken battleships Prince of Wales and Repulse. As Singapore was further threatened by invasion, the evacuation of civilians and some key technicians began in January 1942. The Bulan participated in the evacuation in February 1942, safely bringing refugees from Keppel Harbour to Batavia despite being bombed in the Banka Strait.



WILLIAM HEATHER'S CHART OF THE STRAITS OF MALACCA AND SINGAPORE

1803
*Engraved by J. Stephenson
Engraving on paper*

This extremely rare chart by the London publisher and mapmaker William Heather shows us the navigational understanding of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore at the turn of the 19th century, more than 15 years before the founding of the settlement at Singapore. Of particular interest is the inset map of the Straits of Singapore (spelled as was common at that period as "Sincapore") showing mainland Singapore (identified as Pulo Panjang or "Long Island" in Malay). Tanah Merah is identified on the island's east coast as well, with the labels "Red Cliffs".



BLOCK 8 JALAN BUKIT HO SWEE

2017
*Darren Soh
Archival pigment print
Edition 10/10*

This photograph of a housing block at Jalan Bukit Ho Swee is part of a series on public housing in Singapore taken by photographer Darren Soh. Jalan Bukit Ho Swee was the site of Singapore's first large-scale construction project carried out by the Housing and Development Board. The estate's two- and three-room flats, built in 1962, were the first flats to undergo Singapore's first-ever public housing upgrading programme – the Main Upgrading Programme – from 1994 to 1995.

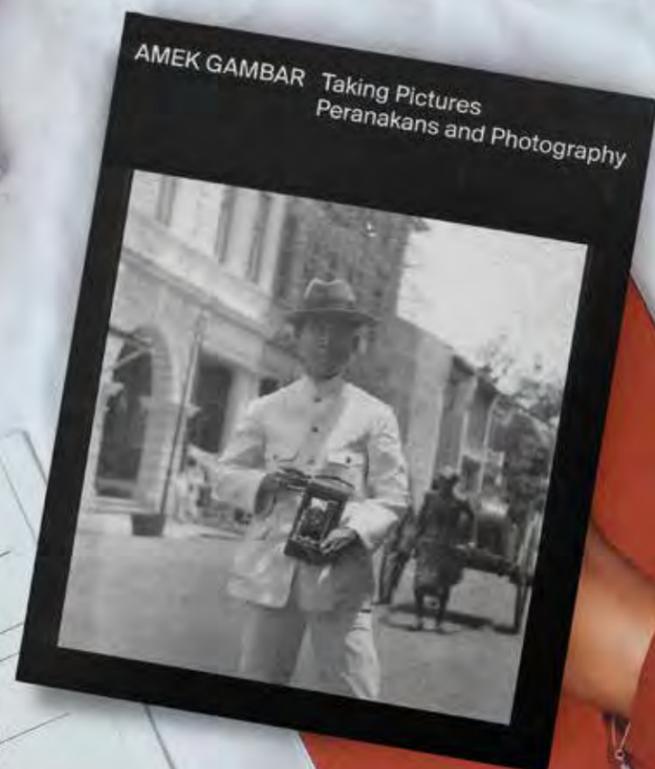
TOH KEE ROASTING OVEN

1960s
*Metal
Gift of Toh Kee*

This oven is a custom built, brick-lined oven which belonged to Toh Kee Roast Duck, a food stall at People's Park Food Centre owned by Ms Ng Foong Teng. The stall was founded by her grandfather, Mr Ng Chow Hon, who was born in Panyu, Guangzhou, and moved to Singapore in the early 1900s to earn a living. This oven had been in operation since at least the 1960s. It is a charcoal roaster that can fit twelve ducks at a time.



publications



AMEK GAMBAR – TAKING PICTURES: PERANAKANS AND PHOTOGRAPHY

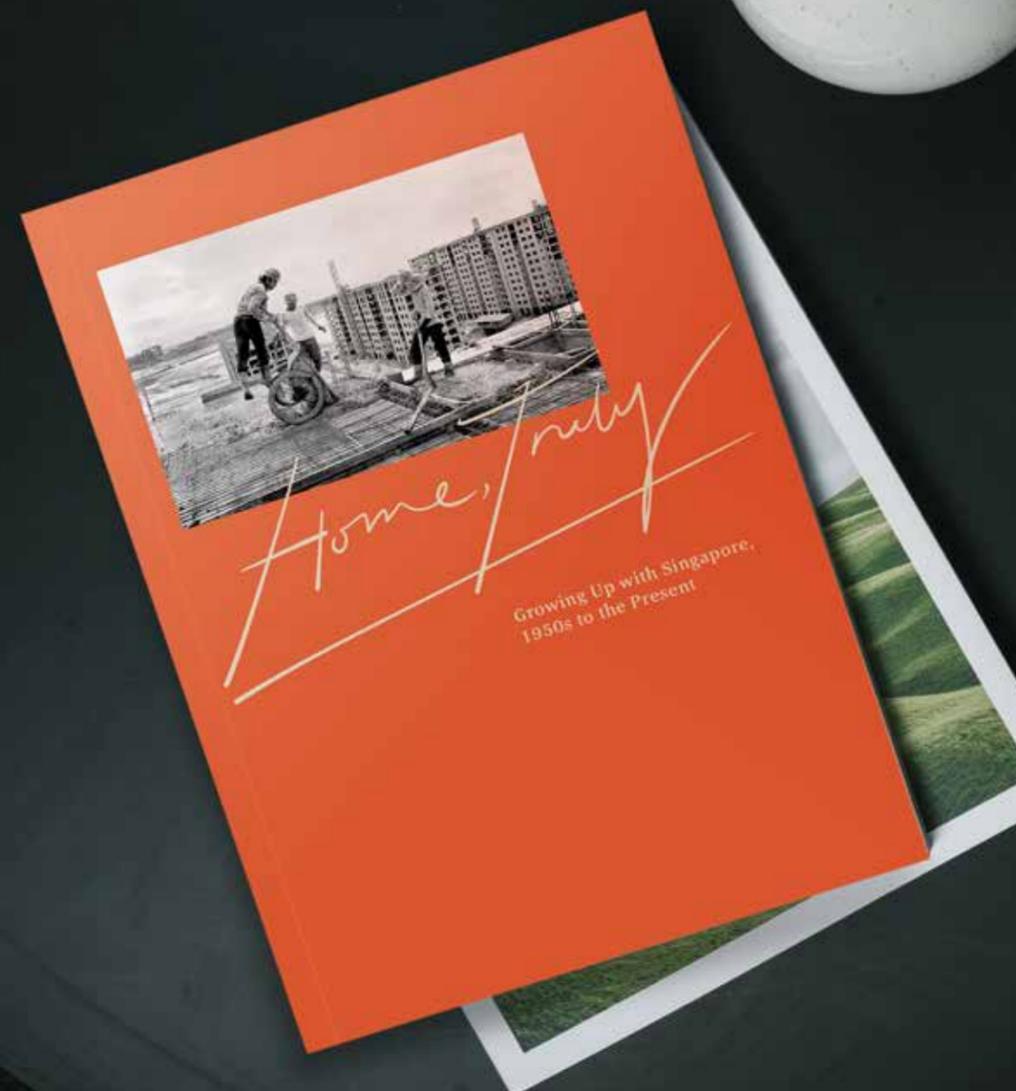
Amek Gambar charts the early history of photography in Singapore, from European travellers to pioneering Chinese and Japanese studios in the region. Informative essays and more than 280 photographs from the 1840s to 2009 make this book a fascinating and valuable historical resource. By 1841, just two years after its invention, photography had arrived in Singapore and Peranakans were quick to exploit its potential. This book reveals the diverse ways the community used this medium to express identity, tradition, locality, modernity, nationality, and art.

Edited by Peter Lee
Essays by Joachim K. Bautze, Sebastian Dobson, J. Casey Hammond, Peter Lee, Gilles Massot, Gael Newton, Liesbeth Ouwehand, Susie Protschky



ACM TREASURES: COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS (NEW EDITION)

An updated edition of the popular *ACM Treasures: Collection Highlights*, the book mirrors the structure of the museum's permanent galleries, with sections dedicated to Trade, Faith and Belief, and Materials and Design that present highlight objects from each gallery. With nearly 200 objects in full colour and accompanying short explanations, this book is a perfect gift and handy guide to the museum.



HOME, TRULY: GROWING UP WITH SINGAPORE, 1950S TO THE PRESENT

Home, Truly, published in conjunction with the exhibition of the same name at the National Museum of Singapore, is an exploration of key shared experiences and moments from the 1950s to the present, that speak of who we are as Singapore and Singaporeans. Presented through the lens of personal memories in the context of national events, some of these stories might make us smile while others reveal the struggles and challenges that we had to overcome. Collectively, they make up the kaleidoscope of accounts that have shaped us over the years.

The publication also includes a behind-the-scenes look at curatorial considerations in putting the exhibition together and how curators involved citizens in various aspects of the exhibition.

merchandise

Natural History Drawings: William Farquhar Collection Inspired Range

Draws inspiration from objects in the collection



merchandise

Home, Truly: Growing Up with Singapore, 1950s to the Present Inspired Range

Inspired by sites and objects which were a part of growing up and living in Singapore





*Photo was taken before the instituting of safe management measures during the COVID-19 situation.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

CARE FACILITATORS

Andrea Lim
 Ca'uis Chan Siew Wai
 Chai Tng Khin
 Chow Qian Yu
 Chua Kim Cheng
 Chan Tuck Kay
 Damien Lim
 Daniel Teng Ngee Seng
 Emilia Kho
 Florence Tay
 Foo Qi En
 Goh Teng Chiew
 Gong Eng Hee Angeline
 Hilary Lee
 Hoon Tor Shiang
 James Choo
 Janice Seah Wei Lin
 Jerome Lee Han Yang
 Joan Chua
 Jovin Tan
 June Chan
 Kendra Ong Hwee Kheng
 Kimberly Wong Tze Lee
 Koh Sok Cheng
 Lau Hui Tiang
 Li San Gek
 Lim Cheng Bee
 Lim Si Huan
 Loh Mei Yoke
 Loh Siew Mei
 Loh Wai Poon
 Loke Chua Yean
 Mak Check Hong
 Natalie Tan Ngah Leng
 Ng Yong Seng
 Ngiam Puey Ling
 Ong Li Hui
 Phyllis Lim
 Poon Baoqin
 Rosalind Tan
 Roselin Ang
 Salve Seema Raju
 See Poh Huat
 Serene Koh Chew Tin
 Shirley Koh
 Simon Pulford
 Tan Cheau Ling
 Tan Hui Kheng
 Tan Lei Siew
 Tan Sheng Wei
 Tan Swee Kee
 Tanya-Marie Choong
 Thanarajan Premavathi
 Thian Mei Leng
 Tina Soo
 Toh Shok Ching (Susie)
 Vaynii A. Satish
 Willem Christiaan Bouwer
 Villet
 Wong Pui Sum

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUMS

Abdol Hamid Safia Binte
 Abdol Hamid Yasmin Binte
 Agarwala Bahadur Nupur
 Ahmed Imran
 Alamuru Jayasree
 Arivan Durga
 Awasthi Udita
 Ayer Soumya
 Baik Chong Eun
 Balasubramaniam Aparna
 Behl Mona
 Belyanina Olesya
 Blanchard Constance
 Blanchard Katia
 Boey Belinda
 Bredenkamp Heike
 Carfantan Caroline
 Carle Samantha
 Carrasco Gabriela
 Carvalho Maria
 Chai Yuki
 Champendal Anne
 Chan Charles Ban Kee
 Chan Clara
 Chan Kit Fun
 Chan Mina Sze Ming
 Chassat Reyes Claude
 Chen Fui Lin
 Cheong Shobana
 Choe Pauline
 Chong Mae
 Chong Susan
 Chong Yit Peng
 Chopra Anushree
 Chow Annabel
 Chua-Gumpert Oi Leng
 Clark James Timothy Adrian
 Clercin Junqueira Soares
 Flavia
 Collette Lara
 Conde Molist Maria Eulalia
 Cookson Carey
 Cooper Merielle
 Dasgupta Ranjini
 Davies Jolie
 Dawson Charlotte
 De Rham Linn
 Devitre Seema Haria
 Dhanuka Tulika
 Dias Juliana
 Dubur Ep Montane Estelle
 Duckworth H. Christiane
 Durusut Yasemin
 Dutta Anisha
 Edleson Mary Jane
 El Glaoui Maya
 Enders-Bhatia Melissa
 Ewe Ee Foong
 Fairclough Tessa
 Fong Susan

Foo Swee Sim Michelle
 Forbes-Kelly Carla
 Fung- Khoo Helen Li-Ann
 Fushimi Ikumi
 Ganesh Ratnam
 Geerdink Susanne
 Goh Cindy
 Goh Yvonne
 Gole Deepali
 Grishaeva Irina
 Groake Jo
 Guibert Valerie
 Guichard Otway Valerie
 Gutierrez Anne Marie
 Gyllenhammer Karen
 Han Jiwon
 Han Thei Thei
 Hardy Jonathan
 Harold Gisella
 Henna Clare
 Heo Hyunwoo
 Hertz Michelle
 Hiron Jane
 Ho Poh Wai
 Hoffer Karine
 Hui May
 Iyer Nilofar
 Jagannathan Vasanthi
 Jain Ridhima
 Je Mi La
 Jeganathan Maliga
 Johnson Philippa
 Kan Suet Man Shirley
 Karaya Rosita
 Kasten Darlene
 Kaul Abha Dayal
 Kaul Aditi
 Kausikan Kalyani
 Kawamata Makiko
 Kawaratani Linda
 Kek Angela
 Kennedy-Cooke Alison
 Khaou Stephanie
 Khaw Joan
 Kho Ah Keng
 Khong Swee Lin
 Khoo Lynette Siew Lynn
 Khoo Sylvia
 Khusaini Julina
 Kim Hee Jin
 Kim Hyong Mi
 Kokhno Oksana
 Komanthakkal Anitha
 Kong Yeong Choy
 Kow Chong Seen Roderick
 Krishnapuram Venkatachar
 Godha
 Kulpati Shivani Kanwal
 Kwan Min Yee
 Kwok Rosalie
 Laek Cindy
 Lalwani Garima

Lam Frederick
 Lam Min Yee
 Lee Euna
 Lee Eunju
 Lee Hong Leng
 Lee Jayne
 Lee Jenni
 Lee Kiu Sim
 Lee Kum Yin (Doris)
 Lee Patrick Kok Sing
 Lee Peggy
 Lee Rita
 Lee Seung Jin
 Lee Simone
 Leger Tania
 Leong Lee Chiew
 Leow Chin Lee
 Lever Sarah
 Liew Caroline M.L.
 Lim Cheang Yee Angela (Cy)
 Lim Chey Cheng
 Lim Peck Lian
 Lim Yuen Ping
 Limpo Geraldine Marie
 Lo Yiling
 Loh Mei Yoke
 Long Fung
 Loo Pye Fung Diana
 Low Patricia J M
 Madrid Jill
 Mann Aditi
 Mawandia Sonal
 Mitchell Kate
 Montgomery Janice
 Mori Jun
 Mortimer-Schutts Ulrika
 Mousumi Rao
 Muthusamy Saroja
 Nabarro Ariane
 Nair Vidhya
 Narayanan Ramya
 Narula Shriya
 Nayir Ely
 Neo Swee Tin Lynda
 Neves Patricia
 Ng Beng Hua Angela
 Ng Karen
 Ngh Tee Bok William
 Oei Dennis Chooi Leng
 Oh Amber S.H
 Oh Caroline
 Oh Janice
 Olcer Triches Isabella
 Ong Constance
 Ong Constance
 Ong Gwen
 Ong Jane
 Ong Michelle
 Owens Kathleen Laura
 Palma Carlotta
 Palmer Shannon
 Pang Ong Choo

Park Jeong Sook
 Peh Sylvia
 Peng Sujin
 Phuah Millie
 Poh Lip Hang
 Pourprix Viviane
 Pushkarna Sukanya
 Raeymaekers Inez
 Rajkumar Mary
 Ramaswami Neena
 Ramesh Jyoti
 Rampal Pia
 Rao Avni
 Rao Sophia
 Rice Le Theouff Mireille
 Rigopoulou Effrosyni
 Rodyukova Irina
 Sadavarte Shweta
 Sam Yun-Shan
 Sanadhya Manisha
 Santis De Emes Lia
 Schalk Vidya
 Schneuwly Pavla
 Scott Mary Elizabeth
 Sen Paroma
 Seow Katherine
 Seshadri Priya
 Shahal Sadiah
 Sharples Katy
 Shia Ai Lee
 Shiau Michelle
 Shivkumar Radhika
 Siew Wai Leen
 Silberstein Sabine
 Sim Terence
 Sim Tina
 Sim Yvonne
 Singh Priyanka
 Siregar Vera
 Socha Laura
 Soh Jane
 Soh Sin Yan Nicholas
 Srinivasan Rama
 Sung Haean
 Tamsitt Rupa
 Tan Aik Ling
 Tan Eugene L. A.
 Tan Florence
 Tan Linda
 Tan Lorena
 Tan Lowell
 Tan Mychelle
 Tan Rosalind
 Tan Shook Fong
 Tan Su Ling
 Tan Wah Cheng
 Tang Siew Nghoh
 Tay Bee Wah
 Tay Debbie
 Tay-Phuah Florence Kuo Ann
 Telford Ana Isabel

Teo Chwee Peng
 Tham Madeleine
 Thng Jacqueline
 Thomas Premoj
 Thompson Susan
 Tong Catalina
 Torres Beatriz
 Touchais Godel Sophie
 Tyebally Ramlah
 Ugarte Patricia
 Urykwow-Tchang Ewa
 Van Mameren Anneke
 Venkatesh Mathangi
 Viton Virginie
 Wang Li-Ching
 Webb Talia
 Wee Betty
 Wee Rosie Wah Keow
 Weeks Nirmala
 Weigelt Uta
 Weiss Mi Kyung
 Welch Patricia Bjaaland
 White Hilary
 Wick Jo
 Wiegeler Larissa
 Wong Chee Sing
 Wong Choy May
 Wong Debbie Tak Yee
 Wong Li Juan
 Wong Peck Fong Susan
 Wong Siong Lai
 Wong-Mark Kathleen
 Woon Janis
 Woon Sook Yin Jillian
 Wright Jo
 Wu Leah
 Yeo Lee Cheng
 Yeo Pei Shyuan
 Yoon Lai Cheng
 Yu Jinkyung
 Yudistiawan Wahyu Perdana
 Zeng Christine

JAPANESE DOCENTS

Jay Adachi
 Kaori Akahira
 Etsuko Asaga
 Julia Dredge
 Ikumi Ebihara
 Mihoko Furuya
 Mikiko Hanasaki
 Asuka Hashimoto
 Naoko Higuchi
 Naomi Lida
 Takako Lino
 Ryoko Ishida
 Tatsue Kamo
 Akiko Kato
 Hikari Katsuno
 Makiko Kawamata
 Satoko Kira

Ai Komatsu
Toshiko Kujime
Meiko Kuninaka
Makiko Kura
Michiyo Lim
Maki Mashita
Yuka Mashita
Rika Matsuoka
Yumiko Misawa
Yuka Mitsuda
Kumi Murayama
Ikuko Nakamaru
Aki Nakamura
Maki Nakamura
Naomi Nakao
Malavika Nataraj
Hiromi Nishiyama
Kanakano Ohara
Noriko Ohashi
Yuri Onishi
Junko Osamura
Yoshie Osawa
Kaoru Saito
Manami Sato
Junko Sato
Yoko Sawada
Ayaka Shimokawa
Naoko Staples
Fusako Takahashi
Yoko Takemasa
Yuka Tan
Tomoko Yamaki
Eri Yokoi
Satoko Yokoi
Namiko Yoo

**MANDARIN DOCENTS
(NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
SINGAPORE)**

Ang Bee Lian
Chang Jian Quan
Chen Po Ju, Doris
Cheng Poh Fah
Chhua Bak Siang
Chia Lai Peng Stella
Chia Ong Siong
Choo Beng Choo, Esther
Chua Mui Ngoh, Judy
Gian Bee Hua
Goh Sin Shoo
Ho Hwee Tin, Rebecca
Khoo Siew Gim
Koh Soo Hoon
Kok Yuet Heng
Kuo Shiu Nue
Lee Kok Leong
Li Yang, Luna
Liew Fui Lian
Long Chin Peng
Low Kah Meng
Loy Siang Teng
Lum Yuit Har
Ng Guat Choon
Ng Siew Lak

Ong Tiong Eng
Ong Chee Teng
Ong Poh Keng
Teresa Ooi
Pok Cheng San
Sim Kelvin
Tan Tee Kheng
Tay Boon Seng
Tng Geok Khim
Wang Xiao Pei Sharon
Wong Mui Juan
Xie Dongming
Xu Amanda
Yap Hwee Suan
Yeo Chor Hoon
Yeo Yeow Kwang
Zhang Min Silvia
Fan Xue, Shann
Goh Yoke Hwee
Huang Ming
Kok Hui Lai
Leung Shun Yee, Yvonne
Li Jiaxin, Cassandra
Li Qin, Eric
Li Zheng Ying, Christina
Lim Jia Ying
Lo Yiling
Lun Enyi, Dawn
Luo Ya Hui
Mi Le
Ng Gin Ping, Jimmy
Ng Kim Hong
Ong Bin Lay
Shen Mei Ling
Sun Lu
Tang Quin Choy
Wang Huixin
Wong Ee Fern
Zhong Lin

**MANDARIN DOCENTS
(SUN YAT SEN NANYANG
MEMORIAL HALL)**

Ang Keng Chuan
Chhua Bak Siang
Gian Bee Hua
Goh Swee Geok
Ho Hwee Tin Rebecca
Ho Kwen Khee
Jingga Rusanna
Koh Bee Ha
Kong Poh Yen
Lee Wei Seng Eddie
Leong Sow Ling
Li Yang
Lim Bee Bee Sherry
Lim Chin Nam
Lim May Lang Louise
Lim Sok Koong
Long Chin Peng
Low Kian Mong
Ng Hui Miang
Ng Guat Choon
Ong Poh Keng

Seow Siew Bee
Michelle Shiau
Tan Boon Piang
Tan Giok Sun
Tan Kelvin
Tan Siaw Peng Ivan
Tay Geok Eng
Tee Fabian
The Liok Tjwan
Tsai Mei Lin Anita
Wong Chin Fee
Yang Sheng
Yap Guan Kwee David
Yen Chinn Leii
Yeo Bee Lan
Yeo Chor Hoon
Yong Foong Lan
Yong Foong Yee Florence

MANDARIN GUIDES

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Jessie Chen Shuai
Cheng Poh Fah
Chia Lai Peng Stella
A.W. Choo
Chow Kwee Keow
Chow Wai Lee
Fong Pick-Huei
Goh Tock Woo
Hau Chan Yen Renate
Heng Puay Siang Rebecca
Ho Wei Ling
Anne Hong Lai Sim
Huang Weiqing
Jia Minsha
Lau Mou Khum
Lee Hee Boy
Lee Pei Lih
Lien Wen Sze
Lim Bee Lay Mary
Lim Bee Furn
Lim Siew Wee
Lim Soh Koong
Lim Swee Jee
Liong Kit Yin
Jade Liu Yu
Long Chin Peng
Low Kian Mong
Mak Check Hong
Ng Hui Miang
Eddie Ng Chee Chian
Ong Tiong Eng
Quek Siow Kai
Stella Rong
Michelle Shiau
Allan Sim Soon Huat
Tan Boon Piang
Tan Chong Poh
Tan Hui Kheng
Tan Siew Hoon
Maria Tan Tai Suang
Tay Geok Eng
Bernny Tse Sau Wan
Wong Mui Juan

Pamela Wong Wing
Jess Yap Kah Ming
Yen Chinn Leii
Yeo Poong Poh
Yeo Bee Lan
Yeong Sen Cheng
Yong Foong Lan
Florence Yong
Chua Poh Leng
Seow Siew Bee
Wang Hong Ru
Cherry Cai
Cheng Yam San
Lee Eng Lock
Penny Chooi
Chua Joo Suan
Han Wan Juan
Sophie Ho
Koh Chue Eng
Koh Hwee Ping
Shirley Kue Chen Wah
Lea Shu-Hui
Carroll Lee
Oi Leng Lee-Ponrajah
Lee Yit Seong
Snow Liew Sat Lian
Simon Lim
Lim Gek Hiang
Jessica Lim
Quek Yew Hock
Sai Siew Choo
Siah Sheng Yuan
Isabel Tan Aik Ling
Tan Liang See
Tang Jia Peng
Zoey Wang Hui
Jerry Xu
Shirley Ling Yang
Benny Zhang Wei

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Roshini
Fistri Abdul Rahim
Sylvia Aditiawan
Nurul Aini Binte Ajmain
Heather Ang
Jonathan Au Yong
Anisha Baghudana
Ha Bui
Chai Tng Khin
Mina Sze Ming Chan
Robert Chan Ying Lock
Chan Yun Hol
Chern Siou Eng
Cale Chew
Chew Shu Feng Mabel
Marissa Chew
Chew Pei Ying
Karen Chiang
Chin Swee Tin
Chong Mian Hwee
Choo Ban Nee
Roland Choong
Choy Kah Wai

Chua Ru Xi, Clare
Verena Chua
Cindy Chuah
Chui Wai Cheng
Georgina Chung
Zuraidah Binte Daud
Horia Diaconescu
Gerardine Donough-Tan
Mark Fillon
Darly Elizabeth Furlong
Simon Furlong
Eric Goh Kian Huat
Joshua Goh
Gong Eng Hee Angeline
Darissa Guah, Siew-Lian
Paul Hanlon
Kit Heeremans
Ho Chia Wei Kevin
Caroline Hoffmann
Juniper Hogan
Michael S Hogan
Kathleen Hooi
Sue Hoon
Anthony Hopkin
Catherine Hostiani
Muhammad Shukery Bin
Mohamed Idrus
Mona Jayos
Yusniza Binte Jusary
Pak-Juan Koe
Koh Siok Ee Edna
Rapheal Koh Yew Lee
Lilian Koh
K Bhavani
Sandra Kumarasamy
Audrey Lai
Lam Hong Lih Denise
Ida Lam
Ivan Larin
Diana Lau
Karen Lau
Lau Kim Seng
Lee Chen Qi
Felicia Lee
Lee Gek Lee
Lee Inn Siew
Miranda Lee
Lee Xin Hui
Brian Lee
Stephen Leong
Leow Pek Hia
Li Seow Chong
Rodney Liew Chay Ming
Lim Mingxun
Lim Wee Kiat
Bryan Angelo Lim
Sheila Lim
Lim Yue Feng
Joselin Lim
Long Chin Peng
Connie Loo
Rachel Loo Pei Fong
Lionel Jonathan Louis
Low Boon Chin
Low Yi Lin, Elaine

Low Loong Shiew
Low Ming Hwee
Low Zhiqi
Ma Swan Hoo
Mak Check Hong
Katheryn Maung
Diviesh Mistry
Belinda Mock
Ellen Mok
Alam Fajarahman Mulyana
Kristie Neo
Ng Ee Koon
Leonard Ng
Ngiam Puey Ling
Fengshu Ni
Ong Eng Hui
Irene Ong
Kian Tiong Sebastian Ooi
Elizabeth Ow Yeong Wai
Mang
Pok Ai Ling, Irene
Timothy Pwee
Redzuan Rahmat
Muhammad Hafiz Bin Rashid
Nadya Salyriana Bte
Mohamed Sallehin
See Wai Ming
Ramesh Shahdadpuri
Angie Sim
Cheryl Sim
Sim Chor Koon
Flora Sim
Siow Chih Wee
Siau Ming En
Soh Lai Yee
Soh Yu Ting
Soon Kah Hwee
Sun Yidan
Kristina Stapels
Vicneswary Subramaniam
Tan Ai Yea
Tan Bee Peng
Tan Boon Piang
Cindy Tan
Clarie Tan
Elaine Tan
Tan Yam Hua Gertrude
Tan Heng Khim
Tan Howe Siang
Tan Hui Kheng
Jimmy Laurance Tan
Johnny Tan
Tan Koon Siang
Patricia Tan
Tan Peck Hoon
Rosalind Tan
Tan Teck Ngee
Tan Yew Guan
Tan Khai Yuen
Regina Tan Mei Leng
Avril Tan
Tan Poh Ewe
Alamelumangai Tanabal
Samuie Tarjalía
Alvina Teo
Eliza Teo

Sheryl Teo
Jolyn Teh Ling San
Thong Pao-Yi
Tjhi Wilson Chandra
Toh Guan Long Willy
Jean Tsai
Yvonne Tseng
Christine C M van der Ven
Chitra Varaprasad
Yingting Wang
Raymond Wee Soon Ann
Wee Teck Hin
Patricia Bjaaland Welch
Genevieve Wong
Wong Huey Khey
Wong Lee Yoon Judy
Lily Wong
Oriana Wong
Wong Woon Wai
Wong Yau
Yap Chee Siong (Victor)
Yap Jo Lin
Tracey Yeh
Francis Yeow
Nicole Yong Zi Hui
Yannie Yong
Wahyu Perdana Yudistiawan
Gloria Zhang
Victor Zhuang

MUSEUM HOSTS

Andre Candido Ubriaco de
Oliveira
Bernadette Tan
Can Tay
Caroline Wan
Sun Yidan
Chan Wei Chei Karen
Cheah Hui Yan
Chia Soo Lian
Choi Won Hee (Rachel)
Christine Lim
Christopher Paul Kiely
Chua Kim Cheng
Chung Yin Wah
Desiree Heather Handy
Elly Yao
Eunice Lui
Eunice Tan
Florence Tay
Foo Chong Yew
Foong Pui Lin
Goh Bee Yen
Goh Seng Chuan, Joshua
He Qixian
Huang Peijuan Madeline
Hyak Hwee Ping Melissa
Irina Tay
Regina Tan Ho
Jasvinder Kaur
Jennifer Lee Hui Chuen
John Ivan Larin
Jorina Choy
Joyce Loh

Khek Qun,Claire
Kim Hyunjin
Kimberly Tan Kai Hui
Kimberly Wong Tze Lee
Koh Ngiap Leng Michelle
Kyungwon Yoon
Lau Wai Choi, Lucca
Lena Yeo
Lennard Chan
Lim Cheng Bee
Lim Gek Beng Henry
Lim Jia Ying (Joy)
Lim Ming Nuan (Ming Lim)
Lim Mingxun
Lim Qi Ying
Lin Wanlei
Lisa Low
Long Zhangqin
Lu Siqi
Mahima Puri
Manasi Trivedi
Marie de Visser
Mdm Luciana Mainardi de
Souza Aranha
Mohammad Sohfi Bin Abdul
Hamid
Muhammad Hanif Bin Salim
Mylene Soriano
Nam Chng Hou, Erik
Natasha Chee Shan Ning
Ng Siu Wai
Ong Joo Yong
Purnima Borate
Qian Zihan
Rachel Lim Tze Qi
Ramon Francisco Asis
Sanoria
Razali Bin Ahmad
Rishab Sood
Rita Tan Yiqing
Sakshee Bagri
Samantha Wong Qin Yu
Sameeksha Sood
San Thida - Myanmar
Sarah Yeow
Shan Meimei
Shi Rui
Siau Limin
Simon Julian Pulford
Soh Eng Kiau
Tan Kwee Hong
Tan Ming Siew
Tan Pei Pei
Tan Wen Qi
Teow Chiow Hua
Teresa Ooi
Thong Keng Wai
Toh Yong Ren, Andrew
Tran Thi Duong Thao Joycelyn
Valerie Lee
Vivian Goh Jia Yu
Wah Shih Chin, Jenny
Yeo Kuo Hong
Yeo Wee Ping
Yeoh Gim Kok

**PRESERVATION
OF SITES AND
MONUMENTS
VOLUNTEER GUIDES**

Ariane Nabarro
Betty Wee
Catalina Tong
Catherine Marie Harris
Chan Ying Lock Robert
Charlene Tan
Christopher Loke
Fabian Jude Tay
Goh Teck-Pek
Ian Alexander Ng
Jamie Lee Jia Min
Jean Tsai
Kho Guek Neo Joan
Koh Li Hong
Lee Kim Choon Peggy
Leong Yee Ting
Liew Kwong Chin
Low Zhiqi
Png Gek Lee
Rosanne Woodmansee
Sam Yun-Shan
Soon Kah Hwee
Sophie Poggio
Stephanie Khaou
Tan Hui Kheng
Tan Hui Ming Arthur
Tan Yam Hua Gertrude

**HERITAGE
CONSERVATION
CENTRE VOLUNTEER
GUIDES**

Brooks Goodyear
Sue Sismondo

OUR DONORS AND PATRONS

PARTNER

*(Nominees who have cumulatively
contributed between S\$150,000 and
S\$999,999 between 1 January and
1 December 2020)*

- Maybank
- Pan-United Corporation Ltd
- SBS Transit Ltd
- Singapore Press Holdings Limited
- The Fullerton Hotels and Resorts

FRIEND

*(Nominees who have cumulatively
contributed between S\$50,000 and
S\$149,999 between 1 January and
31 December 2020)*

- 3M Singapore
- Ms Lucy Davis
- Mr Michael Tay Wee Jin
- Ms Paige Parker
- Mr Richard Eu
- Singapore Post Ltd
- Stephen Riady Foundation
- The Nehemiah Foundation
- UOL Group Limited
- Yuvabharathi International School

SUPPORTER

*(Nominees who have cumulatively
contributed between S\$10,000 and
S\$49,999 between 1 January and
31 December 2020)*

- Amoy Canning Corporation (S) Limited
- Mr Ben J Benjamin
- Bloomberg
- BNP Paribas Singapore
- Certis
- DBS Bank Ltd
- Mr Edmond Chin
- Ee Sin Paper Products (Pte) Ltd
- Foolproof (SG) Pte Ltd
- Friends of the Museums (Singapore)
- Givaudan Singapore Pte Ltd
- Ms Gopi Mirchandani
- Great Eastern
- Mr Guenther R. and Mrs Heike Meyer
- Ho Bee Foundation
- Hong Leong Foundation
- Mr Kennie Ting
- Dr Kenson Kwok
- Keppel Corporation
- Kris Foundation Fund
- Mr Kwek Eik Sheng
- Mr and Mrs Lee Kip Lee
- LGT Bank (Singapore) Ltd
- Mr Lim Kok Lian
- Mr Loh Lik Peng
- Mapletree Investments Pte Ltd
- Mr Mark Lee

- nTan Corporate Advisory Pte Ltd
- Mr Patrick Lee Kwok Kie
- Mr Rapheal Koh
- Mr Rodrigo Rivero Lake
- Mr Sam Goi Seng Hui
- Singapore Chinese Chamber of
Commerce Foundation
- Singapore Press Holdings Foundation
Limited
- Mrs Suan Thung-Brooks
- Sulwhasoo Singapore
- Tai Sun (Lim Kee) Food Industries
Pte Ltd
- Mr Thap Tuck Cheong
- Thekchen Choling (Singapore)
- Mr Timothy C M Chia
- Mr Tony Chew and Dr Melanie Chew
- Ms Yeoh Chee Yan

SPECIAL THANKS

- DesignSingapore Council
- Lee Kuan Yew Fund for Bilingualism
- Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura (MUIS)
- National Gallery Singapore
- Singapore Tourism Board
- Tote Board

(Some donors have requested to remain
anonymous)

HERITAGE GRANTS

HERITAGE PARTICIPATION GRANT RECIPIENTS

Singapore, Our Home, IJ, Our Legacy
CHIJ Our Lady Queen of Peace

Hillgrove Heritage Corner
Hillgrove Secondary School

Nan Chiau High School Heritage Gallery
Nan Chiau High School

The ACSian Heritage Trail in Anglo-Chinese School Junior
Anglo-Chinese School (Junior)

Making RGS Home: A Walk Through Our Heritage To The Future
Raffles Girls' School (Secondary)

Visitor Service Centre
Masjid Abdul Gafoor

Chitty Melaka Cookbook
Devastri Parasurama Bok (on behalf of Peranakan Indian (Chitty Melaka) Association Singapore)

Rediscovering the Mercantile Jewels of Singapore: A Study of the Heterogeneous Gujarati Diaspora from 1850 to 2020
Mustafa Izzuddin

The Singapore, From Your Generation Through Mine: Together, A Stronger Singapore Exhibition
Jamaine Qarah-Davianne Chen

CHIJ Our Lady of Good Counsel Heritage Corner
CHIJ Our Lady of Good Counsel

Madrasah Al-Arabiah Al-Islamiah Heritage Gallery
Madrasah Al-Arabiah Al-Islamiah

The St Andrew's Story
Goh Wan Cha

Lion and Dragon Dance in Singapore
Pauline Loh Tuan Lee

Pioneer Merchants of Singapore
Johnston, Boustead, Guthrie and Others
Richard Edward Hale

In the Belly of the Carp (working title)
Tina Sim

Family History of Chia Keng Villager
Chiang Kheng Joo

Unplanned Heritages of Singapore Planned Shopping Centres: Histories, Imaginations and Communities
Liew Kai Khiun

The Nine Emperor Gods Festival in Singapore: Heritage, Culture, and Community
Koh Keng We

Meantime Magazine
Pang Xue Qiang

HERITAGE PROJECT GRANT RECIPIENTS

Once Upon An Island: Images Of Singapore Through The Lens Of Ivan Polunin
Asmara Zoe Khyun-Jin Rabier

Victoria Memorial Hall and Theatre: The First 100 Years (1902-2002)
Loke Hoe Kit

Singapore & Germany: A History of Trade, Friendship and Success (working title)
GESS Fund Ltd

Museum of SIFAS: Exploring the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Indian Arts in Singapore
Singapore Indian Fine Arts Society (SIFAS)

HERITAGE RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS

The *Heritage Research Grant* aims to encourage institutes of higher learning, think tanks, heritage non-governmental organisations (NGOs), companies limited by guarantee, academics, and researchers to embark on heritage-related research and/or technology-based projects for the documentation and preservation of Singapore's heritage.

Since its launch in 2015, the grant has supported over 40 projects, including eight projects in FY2020:

Mapping Female Religious Heritage in Singapore: Chinese Female Temples as Sites of Regional Socio-Cultural Linkage (19th Century to the Present)
Show Ying Ruo, National University of Singapore

Polyglot Medical Heritage in Maritime Southeast Asia: Foundational Resources and Digital Tools
Michael Stanley-Baker, Nanyang Technological University

NATIONAL MONUMENTS FUND RECIPIENTS

The *National Monuments Fund* is a co-funding scheme that supports eligible National Monuments in their efforts to restore and maintain their buildings. Special attention is paid to structural repair and other critical works to ensure good preservation practice.

RESTORATION

Lian Shan Shuang Lin Monastery
St Joseph's Church
Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church
Thian Hock Keng

MAINTENANCE

Al-Abrar Mosque
Alkaff Upper Serangoon Mosque
Armenian Church of St Gregory Cathedral of the Good Shepherd
Chesed-El Synagogue
Church of St Peter and St Paul
Hajjah Fatimah Mosque
Hong San See
Jamae Mosque
Lian Shan Shuang Lin Monastery
Maghain Aboth Synagogue
Sri Mariamman Temple
Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple
St Andrew's Cathedral
St Joseph's Church
Sultan Mosque
Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church
Thian Hock Keng

Being and Becoming Female in the Malay World: Interrogating and Curating the Photo-Archives of Early Singapore
Maznah Mohamad, National University of Singapore

Writing 'Pakistanis' into Singapore's History: Heritage and Identity of a Community
Sher Banu Khan, National University of Singapore

Fashion Shows and Fashion Media: Identification and Documentation of Singapore Fashion Heritage
Jinna Tay, National University of Singapore

Pandemics and Major Epidemics in Singapore, 1819-2021
Hsu Li Yang, National University of Singapore

The development of the microelectronics industry in Singapore, 1968-1990
Hallam Stevens, Nanyang Technological University

Singapore, The Angelbeek Report and the 'Donation' of Empire, 1812-1825
Kwa Chong Guan, Singapore Heritage Society

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP 2020

The National Museum of Singapore invites researchers to contribute to academic scholarship on Singapore history and heritage. The Fellowship is open to Masters and PhD candidates, and PhD degree holders of all disciplines to conduct independent research on topics related to the National Museum's collections.

The National Museum Research Fellowship was awarded to two Fellows in FY2020:

Dr Emily Kang Ning Teo
Dr Teo's project, titled *A Nineteenth-Century Melting Pot: A Cultural History of William Farquhar's Natural History Drawings*, proposes to examine the National Museum's collection of drawings as a 19th-century "melting pot" of British, Chinese, and Malay scientific and artistic worlds.

Grace Teo Jie Ying
Grace Teo examines the National Museum's collection of colonial-era legal documents. Her project, titled *Certifying Conduct, Character, and Competency: Advocate-Solicitors as "Qualified Persons" in the Straits Settlements*, examines the role and status of the advocate-solicitor (lawyer) in colonial Malaya. This study, as the proposal suggests, is an essential contribution to the origins of legal practice and education in colonial administration, and how the law was administered across the British empire.

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUMS (FOM) – NHB HERITAGE GRANT

This grant provides officers with the opportunity to acquire new skills, knowledge, and ideas to promote museum and heritage education to NHB audiences. It also serves as a platform to network and foster potential partnership opportunities with overseas counterparts. Two officers were supported by the grant in FY2020:

Mandy Lim Jia Hui
Assistant Manager (Silver Hubs)
Education & Community Outreach

Tan Chiu Huan Shereen
Manager (Outreach & Education)
Malay Heritage Centre

JULIA OH – NHB INTERNATIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANT

The grant aims to develop and strengthen curatorial and conservation related competencies and knowledge in our officers. It also provides our officers with the opportunity to network and foster potential partnership opportunities with other museums and institutions. Two officers were supported by the grant in FY2020:

Malvika Agarwal
Assistant Curator
Indian Heritage Centre

Tan Xue Miao
Assistant Manager (Collections Management)
Heritage Conservation Centre

NHB SCHOLARSHIP

Hana Muhammad Sahl

NHB POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Sarah Teo Joo
Assistant Director (Planning & Secretariat)
Founders' Memorial

NHB SPONSORSHIP

Jervais Choo Soon Heng
Deputy Director
Organisation Design & Innovation

Gerilynn Yee Ming Xuan
Senior Manager
Festivals & Precinct Development

THE PROF KOH AWARD 2021

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
Doraemon's Time-Travelling Adventures in Singapore

BEST SELLING PUBLICATION
Living With Ink: The Collection of Dr Tan Tsze Chor

EXEMPLARY INNOVATOR AWARD
Home, Truly: Growing Up With Singapore, 1950s to the Present

EPIC AWARD

Arielle Lau
Kathleen Lau
Selena Lau
Tan Yan Xin
Sim En Qi

LONG SERVICE AWARD 2020

5-YEAR SERVICE
Gowtham S/O Gopal
Liew Yee Cheng Regina
Chan Sock Mun
Chua Pei Jun Jermaine
Mohamed Sufiyan Bin Mohamed Hanafi
Mohan S/O Singayyan
Ramesh S/O Arjan
Siti Asmah Binti Abdul Karim
Suraendhiran S/O Ramadass
Chua Peng Keong
Goh Chui Peng Rita
Nurraihan Binti Abdul Hamid
Yeo Kheng Yen Stephanie
Toh Li Min Kezia
Lim Fung Ting
Tan Shuying

10-YEAR SERVICE
Chong Joon Wei Jeff
Melissa Viswani
Noorashikin Binte Zulkifli
Tashauna Amanda Dass
Ting Wei Jin Kennie
Yoong Gee Kee Jackie
Norsaleen Binte Salleh
Lau Swee Huang Selena
Seow Hwee Peng Sandra
Ismawaty Dewi Binte Jaffar
Kim May
Soh Lay Koon Charlene
Tan Jia Ying
Yeow Mei Lan Stephanie

15-YEAR SERVICE
Onn Choon Yu Clement
Neo Lih Wei
Goh Chia Rong Jonathan
Salleh Bin Abdul Karim
Wong Yew Keong Shaun

20-YEAR SERVICE
Tan Yong Hock Simon
Ng Yen Peng
Low Jyue Tyan
Ng Ching Huei

25-YEAR SERVICE
Idris Bin Salleh
Lim Ai Ling Irene
Tay Eng Siah Hendrick
Arul Gopal Krishnan
Khoo Lor Nam
Lee Siew Wah

40-YEAR SERVICE
Hasanah Binte Monet

NATIONAL DAY AWARDS 2020

PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL
Prof Tan Tai Yong
Chairman
National Collection Advisory Panel

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION MEDAL (SILVER)
Ms Cheryl Koh Wan Yuen
Director
Strategic Comms & Development

COMMENDATION MEDAL
Ms Ng Wan Gui
Assistant Director
(Collections & Exhibitions)
Asian Civilisations Museum

EFFICIENCY MEDAL
Mr Justin Ho Kwok Hoong
Manager (Strategic Comms)
Strategic Comms & Digital

LONG SERVICE MEDAL
Ms Nor Aini Binte Omar
Conservator (Paper)
Heritage Conservation Centre

PUBLIC SECTOR TRANSFORMATION AWARDS 2021

The Public Sector Transformation (PST) Awards recognise and reward public officers and agencies for excellence in service delivery, organisation practices and innovation. The awards spur officers and agencies to pursue PST outcomes and showcase best practices to support learning across the Public Service.

MCCY/PST AWARDS

STAR PARTNER AWARD
Chia Hong Sen (IT Consultant,
Guide Dogs Singapore)

CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT EXCELLENCE AWARD
Inscription of Hawker Culture in Singapore on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

EXEMPLARY INNOVATOR AWARD
Home, Truly: Growing Up with Singapore, 1950s to the Present



Visitors enjoying a guided tour of the Indian Heritage Centre's permanent galleries

The cover image of this Annual Report features the façade of the National Museum of Singapore, blanketed in a special projection of the National Day 2020 theme “*Together, A Stronger Singapore*” in all four official languages.

The museum, along with nine other National Monuments and arts and cultural institutions across the Bras Basah, Bugis Precinct and Civic District, was bathed in Singapore’s national colours of red and white in the lead up to National Day 2020, in a show of solidarity and celebration of the nation’s 55th birthday, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Rallying Singaporeans to stand #UnitedThroughCulture, the light-up was a joint effort by agencies and institutions under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, including the National Heritage Board, National Gallery Singapore, Arts House Limited, and Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay.

