


# Strength Through Heritage

NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021





A photograph showing four women in a museum gallery. From left to right: a woman in a green dress, a woman in a black hijab and patterned dress, President Halimah Yacob in a red and gold batik dress and white hijab, and a woman in a grey blazer. They are all wearing blue surgical masks and looking at a display of botanical illustrations on the wall. The gallery has dark walls and spotlights illuminating the exhibits.

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.

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**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.”**



**Ms Chang Hwee Nee**  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Heritage Board

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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



**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



**Mr Goh Chour Thong**  
Director  
Strategic Communications  
& Digital



**Ms Han Twee Heng**  
Director  
Human Resource &  
Organisation Development



**Ms Cheryl Koh**  
Director  
Heritage Institutions



**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



**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



**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.



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# 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.



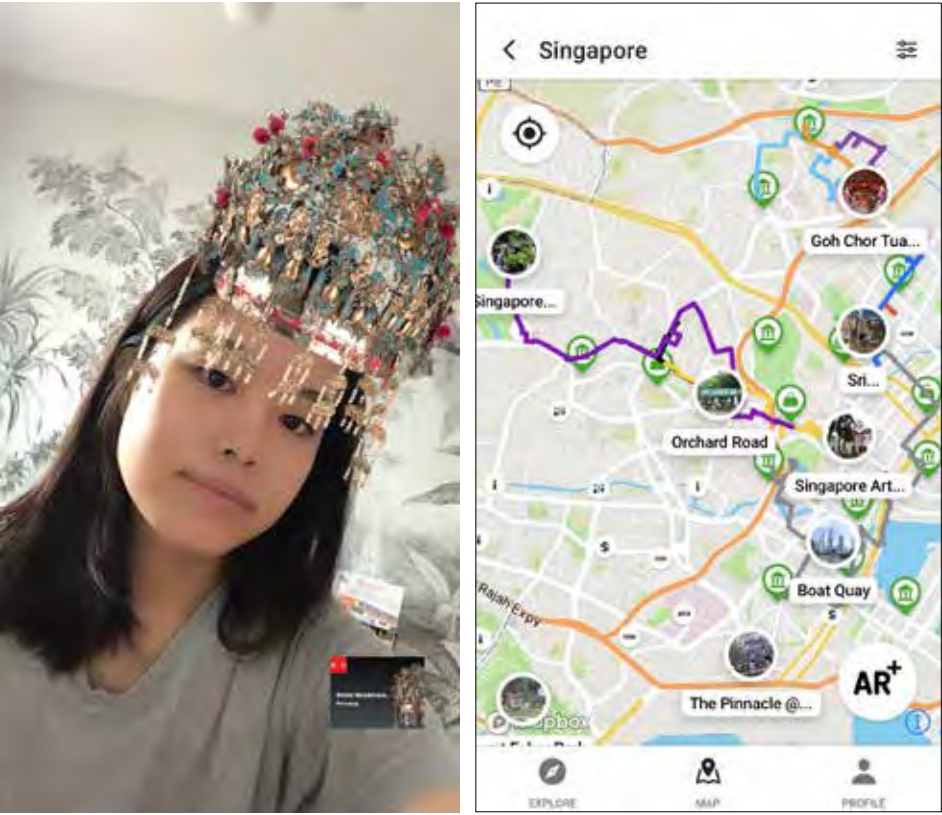
A sambal food art workshop, hosted by Carlyn Law and Fareena Mehr Omar, which was live-streamed on Facebook.



\* 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.



*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.







# CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSE CULTURES AND INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE DIGITALLY

## RAMADAN TOGETHER

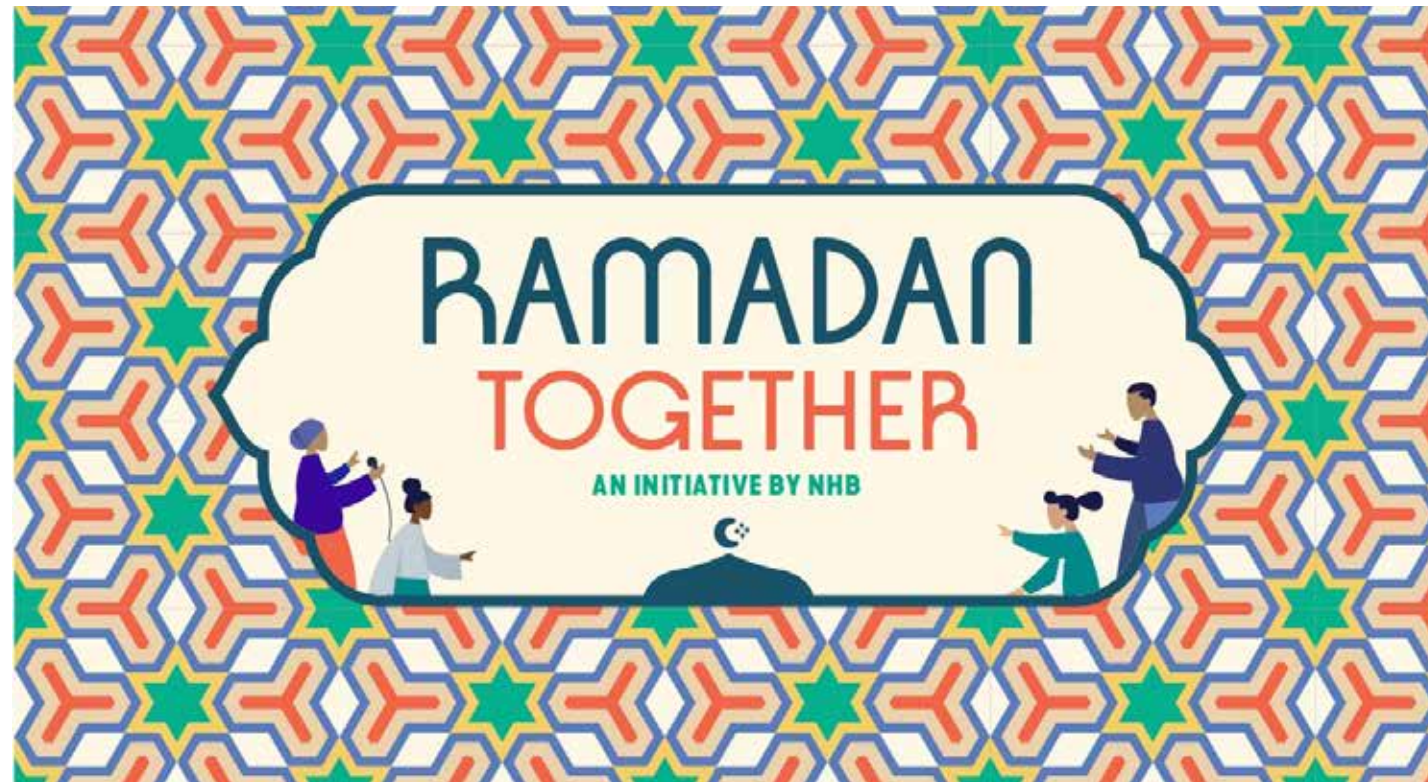
» 23 April to 23 May 2020

- *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.







# 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.





# 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.

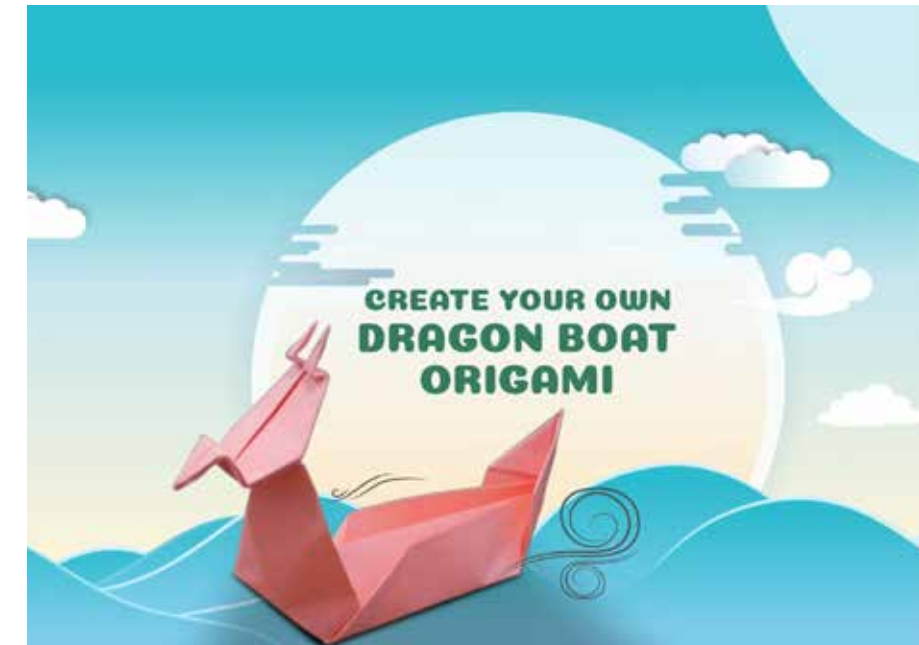


Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Edwin Tong at the launch of *Urang Banjar: Heritage and Culture of the Banjar in Singapore* exhibition and *Malay CultureFest 2020*.

## 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.





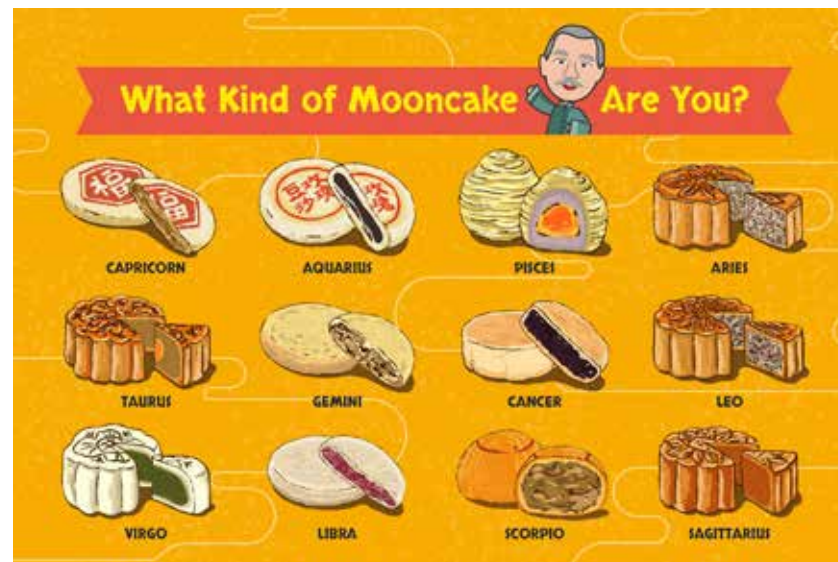


# CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSE CULTURES AND INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE DIGITALLY

## WAN QING MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL 2020

*Hybrid celebrations by SYSNMH*  
» 14 September to 11 October 2020

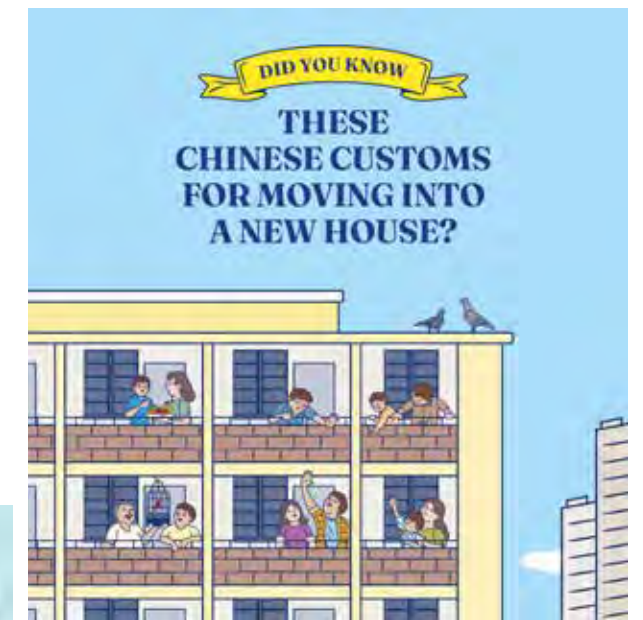
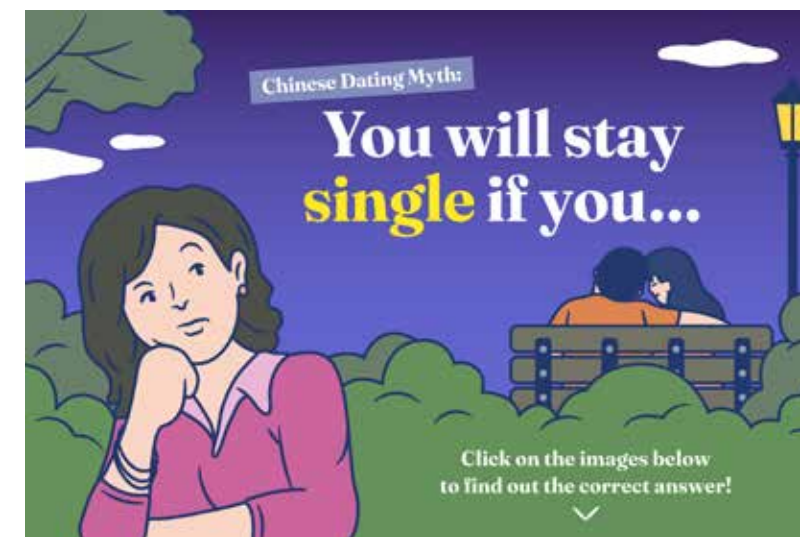
- Visitors to SYSNMH were greeted by four large, roly-poly fish lanterns on its lawn, aptly titled *Rolling in Abundance*. The outdoor lantern installation was produced in collaboration with Hong Kong artist Sunny Tam of 78JO.
- In the spirit of giving back to the community, SYSNMH also collaborated 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.





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## 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.





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# 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.

## EVERY BODY PLAYS A PART

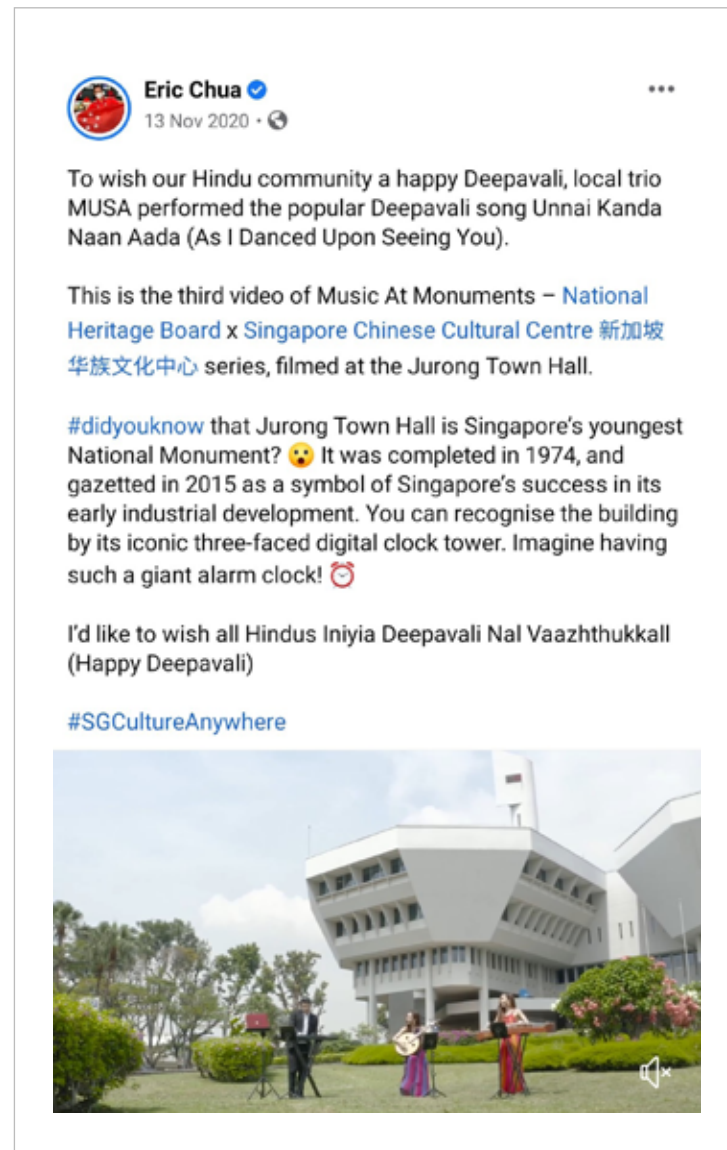
» *Launched in September 2020*

- 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.

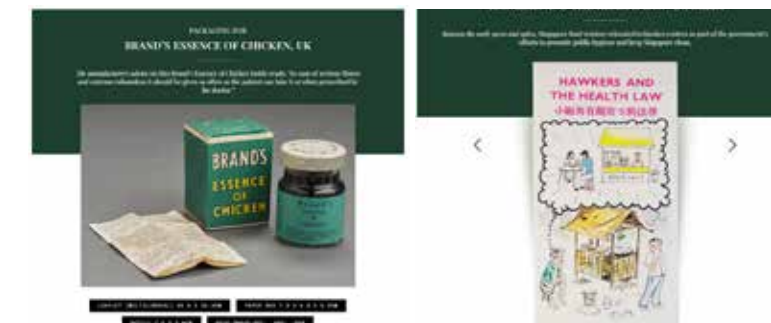
## #NEVERBEFORESG

» *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.



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





# *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

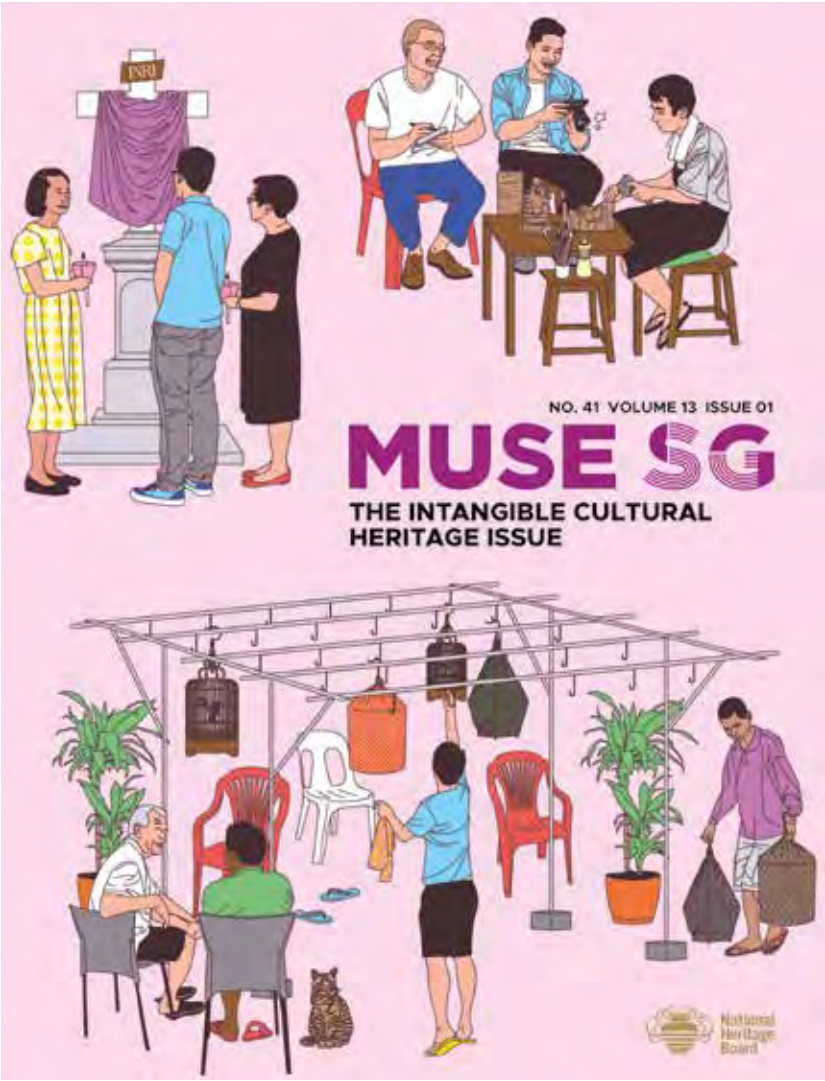
- Six individuals/groups were announced as inaugural recipients of *The Stewards of Singapore's Intangible Cultural Heritage Award* by NHB in 2020, in recognition of their outstanding commitment to the promotion and transmission of their ICH practices to the wider community and to future generations.
- 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.



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

## 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.







# 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.



(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.

### 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.







# 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

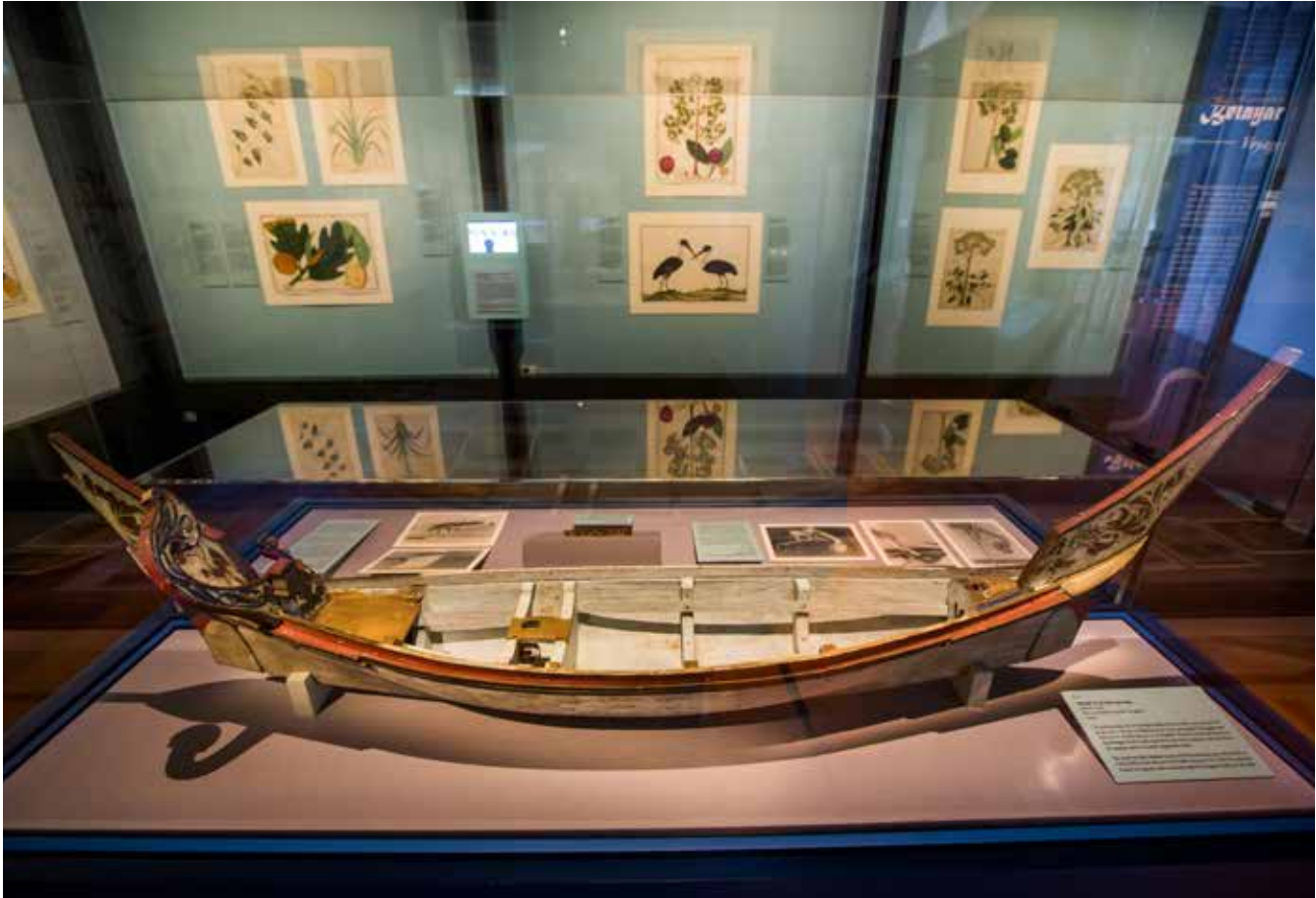
## REFRESH OF THE GOH SENG CHOO GALLERY: A VOYAGE OF LOVE AND LONGING

» *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: 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE HERITAGE CONSERVATION CENTRE

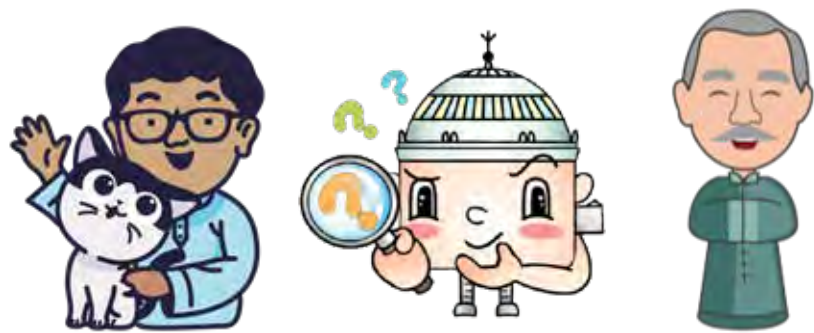
- The Heritage Conservation Centre (HCC) has been a dedicated repository and conservation facility for the care of Singapore's National Collection since 2000, housing more than 200,000 artefacts and artworks.
- The centre has established itself as a sector leader in heritage conservation over the last 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.



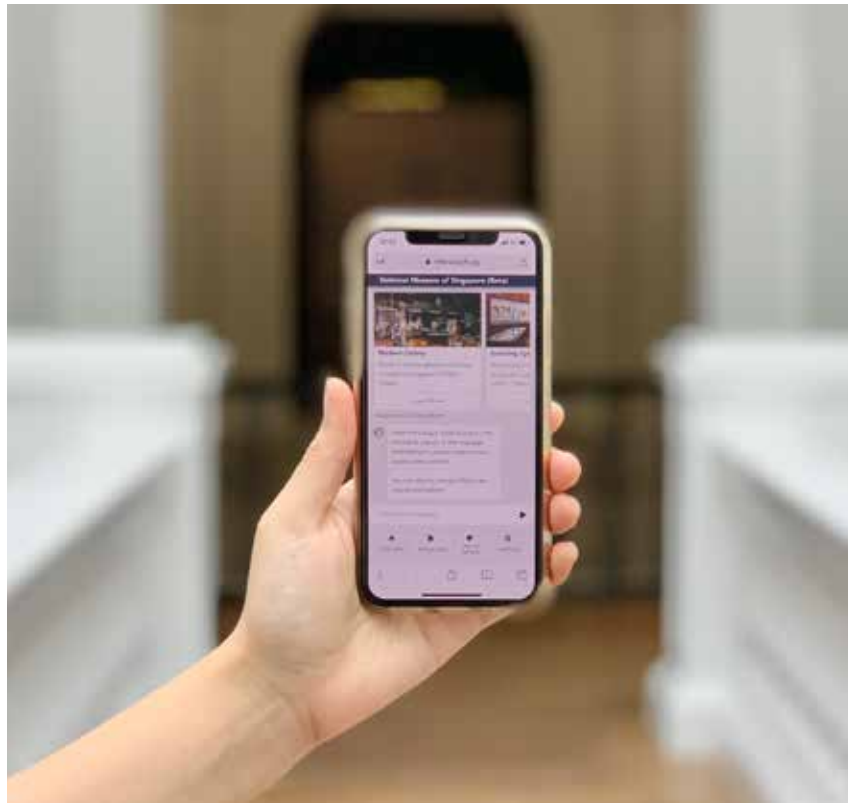




# DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY



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).



## 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.

## 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 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.

- 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.

## 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.



*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



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.





# 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

“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

### 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.

### 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.





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

- 
- A detailed botanical illustration of a branch from a tree, likely a species of Eriobotrya. The branch is covered with large, ovate, green leaves that have prominent pinnate venation. Small, yellow, bell-shaped flowers are clustered in the leaf axils. Several large, yellow, pear-shaped fruits hang from the branch. In the bottom left corner, a cross-section of a fruit is shown, revealing a large, red, fleshy seed. In the bottom right corner, there are three small, detailed drawings: a whole fruit, a seed, and a flower. The entire illustration is enclosed in a simple black rectangular border.





# gifts & acquisitions

## GROUP OF HEIRLOOM JEWELLERY

*Philippines*

*Late 19th to 20th century*

*Gift of the Montilla Family of Pulupandan, 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).

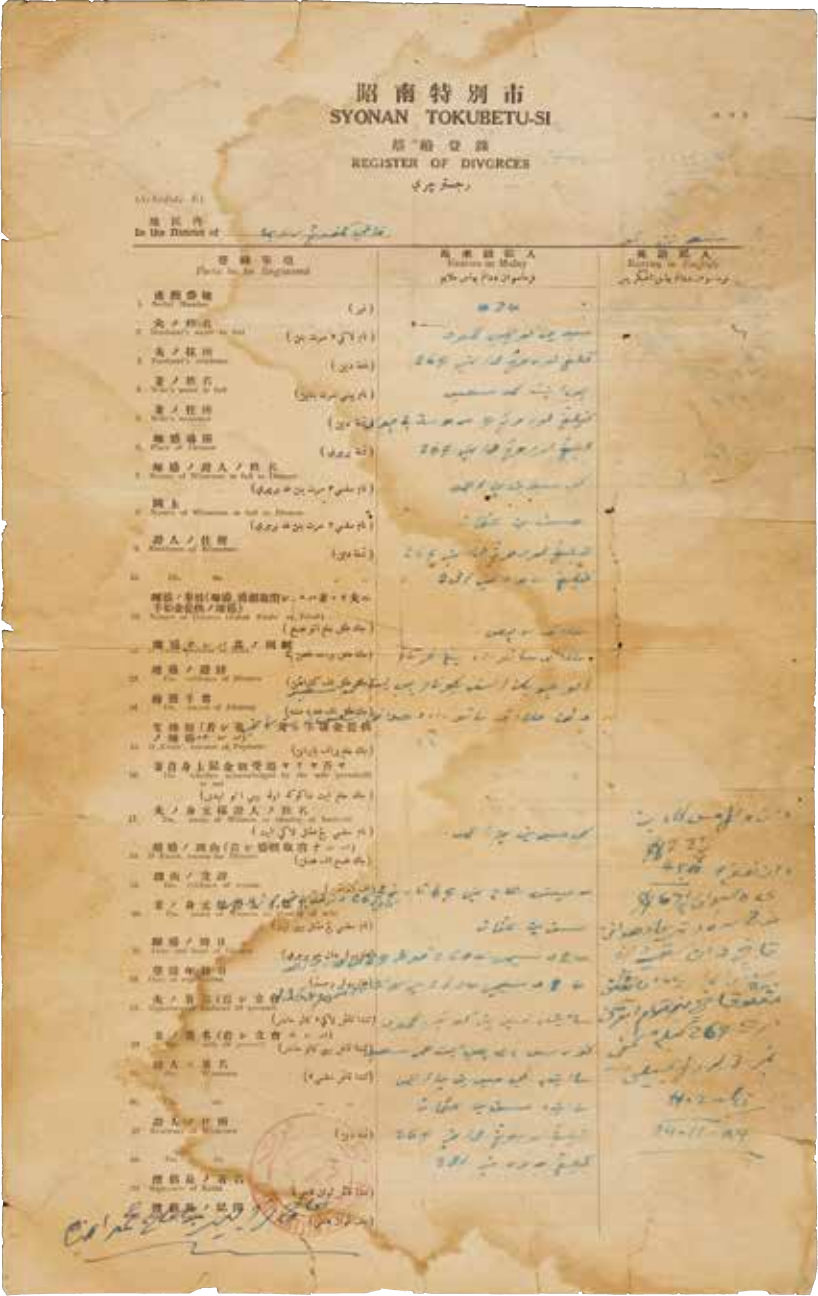
This case was made in Guangzhou (Canton) or Hong Kong, as evidenced by the marks on its base. It was in the collection of the Sassoons, a family of Baghdadi-Jewish descent who moved to Mumbai (Bombay), India, and acquired immense wealth in the China trade.



**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.





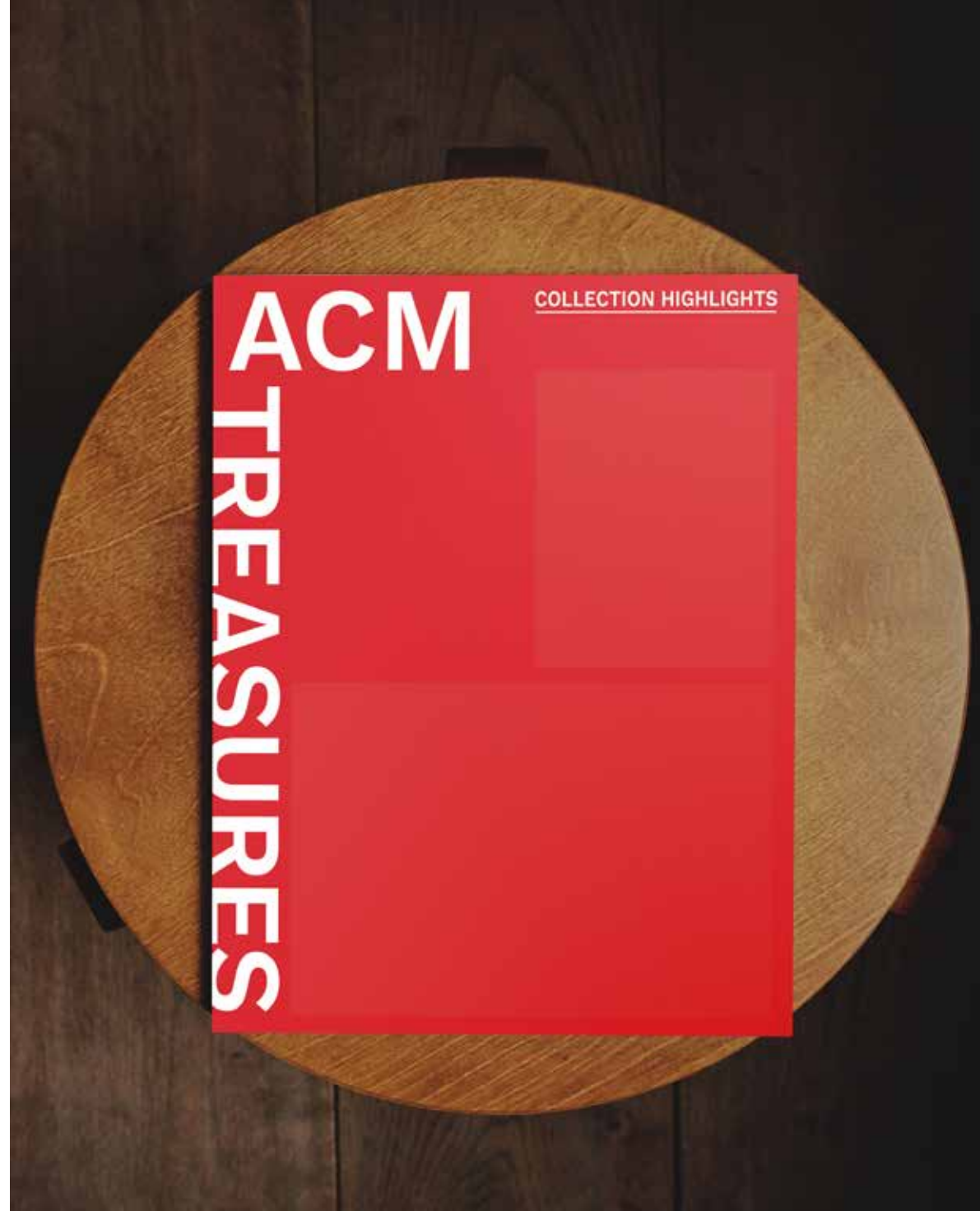
# publications



## AMEK GAMBAR – TAKING PICTURES: PERANAKANS AND PHOTOGRAPHY

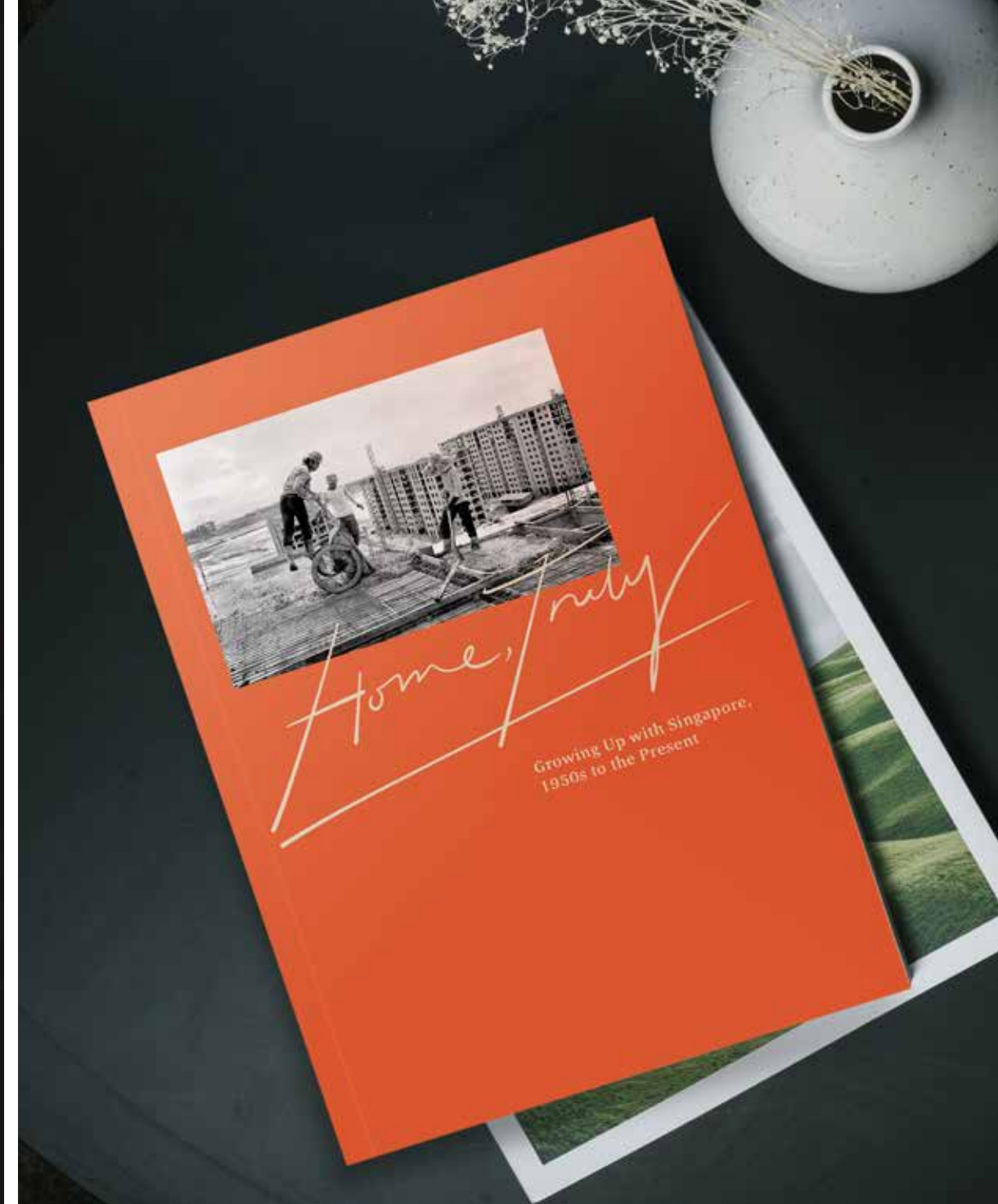
*Amek Gambar* charts the early history of photography in Singapore, from European travellers to pioneering Chinese and Japanese studios in the region. Informative essays and more than 280 photographs from the 1840s to 2009 make this book a fascinating and valuable historical resource. By 1841, just two 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  
Brendkamp 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 Thet Thet  
Hardy Jonathan  
Harold Gisella  
Hennah Clare  
Heo Hyunwoo  
Hertz Michelle  
Hirons 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  
Ngoh 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 Thoeuff Mireille  
Rigopoulou Effrosyni  
Rodyukova Irina  
S L Mythili Devi  
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 Sadiha  
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 Hae-an  
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 Ngoh  
Tay Bee Wah  
Tay Debbie  
Tay-Phuah Florence Kuo Ann  
Telford Ana Isabel

Teo Chwee Peng  
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Thng Jacqueline  
Thomas Premoj  
Thompson Susan  
Tong Catalina  
Torres Beatriz  
Touchais Godet 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  
Wiegele 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

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Mihoko Furuya  
Mikiko Hanasaki  
Asuka Hashimoto  
Naoko Higuchi  
Naomi Lida  
Takako Lino  
Ryoko Ishida  
Tatsue Kamo  
Akiko Kato  
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Ai Komatsu  
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Meiko Kuninaka  
Makiko Kura  
Michiyo Lim  
Maki Mashita  
Yuka Mashita  
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Yumiko Misawa  
Yuka Mitsuda  
Kumi Murayama  
Ikuko Nakamaru  
Aki Nakamura  
Maki Nakamura  
Naomi Nakao  
Malavika Nataraj  
Hiromi Nishiyama  
Kanaoka Ohara  
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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  
Satoke 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

Ang Bee Lian  
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  
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Tan Boon Piang  
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Wong Mui Juan

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Yen Chinn Leii  
Yeo Poong Poh  
Yeo Bee Lan  
Yeong Siew 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  
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Han Wan Juan  
Sophie Ho  
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Zoey Wang Hui  
Jerry Xu  
Shirley Ling Yang  
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MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

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Nurul Aini Binte Ajmain  
Heather Ang  
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Anisha Baghudana  
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Chew Shu Feng Mabel  
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Chew Pei Ying  
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Chong Mian Hwee  
Choo Ban Nee  
Roland Choong  
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Darissa Guah, Siew-Lian  
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Low Zhiqi  
Ma Swan Hoo  
Mak Check Hong  
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Ngiam Puey Ling  
Fengshu Ni  
Ong Eng Hui  
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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  
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Flora Sim  
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Siau Ming En  
Soh Lai Yee  
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Tan Hui Kheng  
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Chitra Varaprasad  
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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  
Chai Min Wei  
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  
Jacqueline 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

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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
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- Ee Sin Paper Products (Pte) Ltd
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- LGT Bank (Singapore) Ltd
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- Mapletree Investments Pte Ltd
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- nTan Corporate Advisory Pte Ltd
- Mr Patrick Lee Kwok Kie
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- 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 Tham 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  
Devastry 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  
  
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.

