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 Hay Syafiqah Jaafar, and director Chong May Khuen. Housed in the Goh Seng Chye 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.
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, donors, and volunteers for the steadfast support as well. I look forward to another memorable year ahead.

Ms Yeo Chee Yan
Chairman
National Heritage Board
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 History, Our Cultures, Our Communities, and Our SG.

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 (SYSSNH) brought much-needed cheer and encouragement through online and hybrid celebrations of their respective communities’ festivities, and special exhibitions. SYSSNH 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 hope 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 Robin-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 pays tribute to the 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.
Dr Maha Swan Hoo
Senior Clinical Investigator
Institut D’Expertise Clinique

Mr R Dilkaran
Managing Director
Jay Gee Healthcare Group

Mr R Rajaram
Senior Director, Office of Admissions
National University of Singapore

Assist Prof Rajesh Rai
Head, South Asian Studies
National University of Singapore

Prof Tan Ta Yong
President
Yale-NUS College

Malay Heritage Foundation

Dr Noorshahir Sait
Senior Fellow
ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute

Mr Alvin Tan
Deputy Chief Executive (Policy & Community), National Heritage Board

Dr Ashar Ibrahim
Lecturer
Department of Malay Studies, National University of Singapore

Mr Khor, Asran
Principal & Director
Kite Studio Architecture

Dr Lui Ah Eng
Adjunct Senior Fellow
University Scholars Programme

Ms Nadia Yeo
Deputy Director (Legislation and Policy Advisory), Ministry of Home Affairs

Md Rahayu Buang
Director, Early Childhood Development Agency

Ms Sueve Rihan
Principal (Audit & Advisory Services)
Rohan Mab & Partners LLP

Mr Zaitlin Abdul Hamid
Deputy Director (Mother Tongue Language Branch)

Ministry of Education
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.*
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.

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 microsites 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.

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CO-CREATING HERITAGE EXPERIENCES WITH THE COMMUNITY

An interactive microsite 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 Farwana Mohd Omar, which was live-streamed on Facebook.

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

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

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

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.
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 artist 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.

NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS 2020

Across NHB’s museums and heritage institutions

Highlights included:

• The light-up of 16 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.

CO-CREATING HERITAGE EXPERIENCES WITH THE COMMUNITY
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.
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.
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.

DID YOU KNOW
- #OnxOnRayaFest is a spin on the Malay catchphrase “we 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.

#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.

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CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSE CULTURES AND INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE DIGITALLY

(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.
MALAY CULTUREFEST 2020
Hybrid edition of the annual CultureFest, in conjunction with Urang Banjar: Heritage and Culture of the Banjar in Singapore
» 27 November to 13 December 2020
• Co-presented with various community partners, the three-week long hybrid festival showcased the diversity of Malay artistic and cultural expressions in Singapore with a focus on Banjarese cultural heritage.
• A dedicated microsite provided audiences with a one-stop portal to access content such as dance and music performances, workshops, trails, and hands-on cultural activities.

WAN QING DUMPLING FESTIVAL 2020
Digital celebrations by SYSNMH
» 1 to 30 June 2020
• Brought heritage closer to home through online offerings that celebrated this traditional festival, such as cooking classes, games, quizzes, interactive craft demonstrations, and more.

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
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 Hsiao-Lung of Blackbox, a design and collectible label based in Chengdu, China.

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.

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

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.
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.

CONTINUED EXPLORATION OF OUR TANGIBLE HERITAGE

Eric Chua

13 Nov 2020

To wish our Hindu community a happy Diwali. A local trio NISHA performed the popular Deepavali song Uma Kanda Na Aa As (As I Danced Upon Seeing You).

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

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

I’d like to wish all Hindus happy Deepavali! Nal Vazhthukkal (Happy Deepavali)

#SGCultureAnywhere

Parliamentary Secretary for Culture, Community and Youth Eric Chua sharing the music video featuring Jurong Town Hall in a Facebook post.
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.
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 Quee Thian Lye (prominent wayang Peranakan and dondang sayang performer, playwright, and director), Mr Michael Ker (third generation popiah-maker at Kway Guan Huat Joe 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 recognize 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.
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.

“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 goodbyes 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.”
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.

RECOGNITION FOR INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN SINGAPORE
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-Nusantra 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.

PRESENTING THE STORIES OF SINGAPORE

(Special Exhibitions)

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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.
River Hongbao 2021 Exhibition – Guardians of Good Fortune: The History of Lion Dance in Singapore

» Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall
» In collaboration with the Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations, Mandarin Docents, Anderson Secondary School, Catholic High School, and River Valley High School
» 10 to 20 February 2021

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

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

Faith Beauty Love Hope – 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.

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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.
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.

PRESENTING THE STORIES OF 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.

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 50 years of diplomatic ties between Singapore and the People’s Republic of China
• First dedicated exhibition of ACM’s Tang Shipwreck Collection in China, which provided fresh perspectives of the history of the shipwreck’s 9th-century cargo.
• 248 artefacts – including 168 treasures from the ACM’s Tang Shipwreck Collection – were on display in the Shanghai Museum.

EARLY CHINESE NEWSPAPERS IN SINGAPORE AND THE CHINESE REVOLUTION

» Sun Yat-sen Library, Zhongshan, China
» 12 November to 12 December 2020
• SYSNMH travelled a showcase of over 100 artefacts and historical images to the Sun Yat-sen Library in Zhongshan, which explored the history of Chinese newspapers in Singapore from the early 1880s to 1942, and their links to the revolutionary movement in China.

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

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 (1840 – 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

PRESENTING THE STORIES OF SINGAPORE
TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS

» Early Chinese Newspapers in Singapore (1840 - 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

» Malay Pioneer Series: Women in Action!
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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.

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

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(above) Cork Tree, Portugal, 2007

(left) Peranakan Museum Collection, Singapore, 2008

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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.
REFRESH OF THE GOH SENG CHOONG 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.
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).

PRESENTING THE STORIES OF SINGAPORE

NEW GALLERY OPENINGS

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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.

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.
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.
The Heritage Conservation Centre (HCC) has been a dedicated repository and conservation facility for the care of Singapore’s National Collection since 2000, housing more than 200,000 artefacts and artworks.

The centre has established itself as a sector leader in heritage conservation over the last 20 years, with a team of experts who manage and provide the best possible care for the National Collection.

The centre boasts climate-controlled repositories and specialised conservation laboratories for the storage and treatment of different types of artefacts and artworks, and a state-of-the-art conservation science laboratory which conducts scientific analysis, material testing, and research.

Various public programmes were launched to commemorate HCC’s 20th birthday, including:

- Two videos on Facebook “live” that took viewers behind-the-scenes to introduce the facility, the team and how they care for our National Collection.
- Trial programme Collection Cares, which involved artworks featuring familiar scenes from old Singapore travelling to homes for seniors, coupled with on-site craft activities conducted by an art therapist over Zoom, to spark memory recall and conversations, and improve their emotional well-being.

HCC continued to develop its capabilities through collaborations and research projects, and the sharing of this knowledge on local and international platforms. Notable projects included:

- A collaborative project with the Queensland Art Gallery, Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, to investigate the materials and properties of contemporary pre-primed canvases has led to poster presentations at the 13th Infrared and Raman Users Group symposium in Sydney and the Conserving Canvas Symposium at Yale University.
- A research paper on the use of non-woven support materials for the conservation of three-dimensional painted silk presented at the 48th American Institute for Conservation Annual Meeting’s textiles specialty session.
- A presentation on the reflection into the conservation of Peranakan silk costumes for the international conference organised by the Queen Sirikit Museum of Textiles, Thailand, and Thammasat University.
- A paper on the use of controlled vocabulary in the cataloguing of Singapore’s National Collection was presented during the virtual CIDOC (the International Council of Museum’s (ICOM) International Committee for Documentation) Conference 2020, and accepted for publication by the Heritage University’s online magazine.
- A paper co-written by HCC and the Singapore Art Museum on conserving a contemporary artwork by FX Harsono, which was accepted for publication by South Korea’s National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art.
- Training sessions conducted on textiles and mounting for seamstresses, integrated pest management for museums and heritage institutions, and basic collections care for government institutions.
DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY

LAYERED HERITAGE EXPERIENCES WITH CHATBOTS

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

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.

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.

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(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 facade at Hougang Avenue 7.
SPEAK GOOD ENGLISH MOVEMENT
Let’s connect. Let’s Speak Good English.
» Year-long
• Encourages Singaporeans to appreciate the value of good English in connecting and communicating across cultures and borders.
• Presented a series of five lighthearted videos which depicted everyday Singaporeans in familiar situations and contexts as they debated the use of certain English words. The videos received more than 2 million views on Mediacorp Channel 5 and more than 1 million views on social media.
• 49 partner-led programmes engaged more than 3,110 participants and raised awareness on the importance of using standard English.
• The Inspiring Teacher of English Award 2020, presented with The Straits Times and supported by the Ministry of Education, recognised seven exceptional English teachers.

SPEAK MANDARIN CAMPAIGN
讲华语，我也可以。
Speak Mandarin? Yes, I can.
» Year-long
• 32 partner-led programmes encouraged the use and appreciation of Mandarin and engaged more than 4,000 live and digital participants.
• 494 family teams registered for the ninth edition of the Speak Mandarin Campaign Family Talent Competition, held virtually with CHIJ St Nicholas Girls’ School (Primary), the Committee to Promote Chinese Language Learning, and PCF Sparkletots.
• 61 students participated in the fourth edition of the Speak Mandarin Campaign “My Story” Public Speaking Competition. The grand finals were streamed live to an online audience of more than 48,000.
• The first-ever online dialogue titled Speak Mandarin, Spark Creativity! featured speakers Dr Woo Yen Yen, Wang Shijia (Ang Ku Kueh Girl), Neo Hui Rui, Ben Hum, and Liu Kuan Yin. 215 participants were engaged over Zoom, with 819 viewers actively following via the Facebook live-stream.
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)

• 354 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 Singapore (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 நேசிப் போம், தமிழில் நப்புசு
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.

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

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.

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• 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.

“Where 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

Part of the Ministry of Education’s (MOE) cohort learning journeys.

Trained museum educators facilitate conversations and conduct storytelling, role-playing, and hands-on activities.

To sustain engagement when on-site museum visits were temporarily halted, NHB and MOE co-developed MBL teaser videos and e-learning experience packages, which students could access via MOE’s Student Learning Space portal.
GROWING THE NEXT GENERATION OF HERITAGE LOVERS

HERITAGE EXPLORERS PROGRAMME
- More than 90,000 students from over 100 primary schools have participated since 2016
- Heritage Explorers Programme aims to raise students’ awareness and interest in local and community heritage through creative role-playing.
- Complements the primary school curriculum and emphasises school-parent partnerships, and greater parent-child bonding.

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.

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.

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
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 Doents, Mandarin Doents, Mandarin Guides, and Museum Volunteers, as well as volunteers from Museum Hosts, Preservation of Sites and Monuments Volunteer Guides, and ECC 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 15 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.

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.

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.

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.

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ACTIVITIES
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
Audio Description Tours by ACM

Senior-friendly Digital Resources by the National Museum of Singapore

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.

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

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.

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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.
THE ALL NEW ROOTS.GOV.SG – HNB’S ONE-STOP DIGITAL CONCIERGE

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

MAKING HERITAGE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY

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

The Singapore Story through 60 objects
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 Leocadia 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.

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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 spelled 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 Kang 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 Kang 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.

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 Chwee Han, 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.

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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.

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

Published in conjunction with the exhibition of the same name at the National Museum of Singapore, this publication is an exploration of key shared experiences and moments from the 1950s to the present, that speak of who we are as 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.

Edited by Peter Lee
Essays by Joachim K. Bautze, Sebastian Dobson, J. Casey Hammond, Peter Lee, Gilles Massot, Gael Newton, Liesbeth Ouwerhand, Susie Protschky
Natural History Drawings: William Farquhar Collection Inspired Range
Draws inspiration from objects in the collection.
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.
Ng Guat Choon
Low Kah Meng
Long Chin Peng
Kuo Shiu Nue
Ho Hwee Tin, Rebecca
Goh Sin Shoo
Choo Beng Choo, Esther
Chia Ong Siong
Chhua Bak Siang
Cheng Poh Fah

(NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
Namiko Yoo
Naoko Staples
Ayaka Shimokawa
Junko Sato
Noriko Ohashi
Naomi Nakao
Aki Nakamura
Ikuko Nakamaru
Kumi Murayama
Yumiko Misawa
Maki Mashita
Ai Komatsu

MANDARIN DOCENTS
Wong Mui Juan
Tan Chong Poh
Jade Liu Yu
Liong Kit Yin
Lim Bee Furn
Anne Hong Lai Sim
Fong Pick-Huei
A.W. Choo
Chia Lai Peng Stella
Cheng Poh Fah

Yen Chinn Lee
Yap Guan Kwee David
Yap Choo Guan
Tsai Mei Lin Anita
The Liok Tjwan
Tee Fabian
Tan Siaw Peng Ivan
Tan Kelvin
Tan Giok Sun
Michelle Shiau
Seow Siew Bee
Yen Chinn Lee
Yeo Bee Sen
Tan Malay
Tan Liang See
Quek Yew Hock
Lea Shu-Hui
Shirley Kue Chen Wah
Koh Hwee Boon
Chua Joo Suan
Cherry Cai
Seow Siew Bee
Yong Foong Lan

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PRESERVATION OF SITES AND MONUMENTS
Volunteer Guides

Alfredo Segovia

Gusbenedic

OUR DONORS AND PATRONS

PENSION

PAR...
HERITAGE GRANTS

HERITAGE RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS

The Heritages Research Grant aims to encourage institutions of higher learning, think tanks, heritage non-governmental organisations (NGOs), companies limited by guarantee, universities, and museums 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.

Beng and Becoming Female in the Malay World: Memorymaking and Carving the Photographs of Early Singapore
Masnah Mohamed, National University of Singapore
Writing "Pakistan" into Singapore's History: Heritage and Identity of a Community
Shar Baha Khan, National University of Singapore
Fashion Shows and Fashion Media: Identification and Documentation of Singaporean Fashion Heritage
Jenice Tay, National University of Singapore

Foundation Projects

Migration, Modernity and Epidemics in Singapore, 1890-2017
Hui Li Ying, National University of Singapore
The development of the microelectronics industry in Singapore, 1960-1990
Hobin Shanmug, Nanyang Technological University
Singapore, The Angelbowed Roll and the 'Donation' of Empress, 1864
Koe Cheng Goot, Singapore Heritage Society

HERITAGE 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 history and heritage. The Fellowship is open to Masters and PhD candidates, and PhD degree holders of all history and heritage.

Victoria Memorial Hall and Theatre
The First 100 Years (1902-2002)
Luke Ho Kit

SINGAPORE ART MUSEUM
Exploring the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Indian Arts in Singapore
Aminur Rahman Ali

NATIONAL MUSEUMS FUND RECIPIENTS

The National Museum funds co-in funding projects that support eligible National Museums in their efforts to restore and maintain their buildings. Special attention is paid to structural repair and other critical efforts to restore and maintain their buildings. Special attention is paid to structural repair and other critical efforts to restore and maintain their buildings. Special attention is paid to structural repair and other critical efforts to restore and maintain their buildings.

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Al Almar Mosque
Abdul Aziz Salleh

Al-Makassar Mosque
Abraham Mousumevi

Arabian Church of St Peter and St Paul
Catherine Naughton

Alkaff Upper Serangoon Mosque
Al-Abrar Mosque

Museum of Ethnology
Dr Idris Ahmad

MAINTENANCE

Al-Almar Mosque
Abdul Aziz Salleh

Al-Makassar Mosque
Abraham Mousumevi

Arabian Church of St Peter and St Paul
Catherine Naughton

Alkaff Upper Serangoon Mosque
Al-Abrar Mosque

Museum of Ethnology
Dr Idris Ahmad

NATIONAL ARTS FUND RECIPIENTS

The Arts and Heritage Fund aims to support the arts and heritage sectors in their efforts to preserve and promote Singapore's rich cultural heritage.

In the Belly of the Carp
Turner
Tina Sim

Family History of Choo Keng Villiger
Choo Kung Fong

Unplanned Heritages of Singapore
Phyllis Shopping Centre

Heterogeneous Gujarati Diaspora
Devastry Parasurama Bok

Heterogeneous Gujarati Diaspora
Devastry Parasurama Bok

GEMINI
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In the Belly of the Carp
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Tina Sim

Family History of Choo Keng Villiger
Choo Kung Fong

Unplanned Heritages of Singapore
Phyllis Shopping Centre

Heterogeneous Gujarati Diaspora
Devastry Parasurama Bok

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The Singapore Chinese School
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Alphabetic "A" of the Singapore Chinese School
Lee Kang Yang

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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.