



MEDIA RELEASE

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HERITAGE BENEFACTORS RECOGNISED FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN ENRICHING THE SINGAPORE STORY AT THE PATRON OF HERITAGE AWARDS 2016

Singapore, 23 May 2017 – The National Heritage Board recognised 74 individuals and organisations at the annual *Patron of Heritage Awards* for their generous contributions to the museums and heritage sector. The donors, who gave a total S\$8.13 million to various heritage causes in the 2016, received awards from Minister for Community, Culture and Youth, Grace Fu, at a ceremony held today at the Asian Civilisations Museum.

2 In a calendar year filled with exciting exhibitions, festivals, and programmes, the support of these patrons of heritage – through cash or in-kind support – amplified concerted efforts by NHB to draw the public closer to Singapore’s tangible and intangible cultural heritage, and made it more accessible to people from all sections of society. The push to present new perspectives of Singapore’s story was also bolstered by collectors and artists who generously donated valuable artefacts and artworks to supplement the narratives in Singapore’s network of museums.

3 More than half of the donors (57% or 42 out of 74) acknowledged in 2016 are new. This has happened in every batch of donors since 2014, and reflects the growing support for giving to heritage causes. In 2016, first-time donors include Ms Jeanette Tan who made a cash contribution to the National Museum of Singapore, and the Global Indian International School which also made a cash gift to the Indian Heritage Centre’s inaugural special exhibition *Once Upon A Time in Little India*. Long-time donors include the Singapore Press Holdings who supported NHB on initiatives such as heritage trails and travelling exhibitions, and ECPark Pte Ltd to the Singapore Philatelic Museum.



4 Said Ms Chang Hwee Nee, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NHB, “As part of our engagement for the Heritage Plan for Singapore, ¹we have heard from many that their ideal museum should offer an immersive experience, carry multi-faceted narratives, and be a safe social space where individuals from all walks of life can gather and learn. The gifts from our patrons help us to do just that. The stories they tell, or help to tell, add layers and depth to the various narratives, and enable us to further the museum and heritage experience for our visitors.”

Giving to enhance museum offerings

5 Artefacts are tangible heritage resources that help to tell stories from the past. NUS Museum received a good proportion of artefact donations in 2016, including a collection of 19 masterpieces from prominent watercolour artist and founding member of the Singapore Watercolour Society, Mr Harry Chin Chun Wah. Other donations to the museum came from Ambassador Dato' N Parameswaran of two artworks by Grace Selvanayagam and Mohammad Din Mohammad, and artist Edgar Talusan Fernandez who donated one of his own artworks.

6 Adding to the national collection were generous donations to the Peranakan Museum and the Indian Heritage Centre, such as a collection of 152 pieces of Peranakan jewellery and porcelain, dating back to the early 19th century and once owned by Singapore pioneer and merchant Tan Kim Seng. Highlights include pieces that make up a bridal headdress and porcelain pieces which were among the earliest types used by Peranakans in Singapore.

7 The Indian Heritage Centre received artefact donations from Mr Vinod Nair in the form of an intricate wedding pendant and a pair of pillars that reflect important aspects of the cultures of the Chettiars and Malayalees respectively. The family of Gnanapragasam Pillai also donated a portrait of him to accompany the solid gold necklace or *kasumalai* which is a presently one of the key artefacts within the centre's galleries.

¹ The Heritage Plan for Singapore is a comprehensive and holistic national blueprint for the heritage sector in Singapore; it will be developed in close consultation with heritage stakeholders, and the general public. The intention to formulate the Plan was announced by Grace Fu, Minister for Culture Community and Youth, during the Committee of Supply (COS) budget debate 2017. More details may be found here www.nhb.gov.sg/about-us/heritage-plan-for-singapore

Giving to enliven the heritage experience

8 Aside from artefact donations, museums have also benefitted from the support of organisations in creating interactive programmes and exhibitions that provide meaningful experiences for visitors.

9 Panasonic Systems Solutions Asia Pacific and Broadcast Professional Pte Ltd provided in-kind support for the National Museum of Singapore's immersive installation *Story of the Forest*, which brings to life 69 drawings from the Farquhar Collection of Natural History Drawings, through innovative uses of technology. This attractive installation enables visitors to learn about heritage while interacting with it. Beyond the museums, major outreach platforms like the Singapore Night Festival and Singapore Heritage Festival were made possible by donors such as Showtec International Pte Ltd, Sin Chew Woodpaq Pte Ltd, Raffles Singapore and Novena Square Investments Ltd. Their support allowed NHB to bring arts and heritage to new audiences.

10 International flavour and fragrance company Givaudan is another passionate supporter of the arts and heritage scene. Using the power of scents, Givaudan lent their creative and technical expertise, with the creation of scents, to the National Museum of Singapore and Singapore Heritage Festival to bring back memories of yesteryears. Givaudan also supported initiatives like the exhibition *Eat at TJ - Our Hawker Centres and Food Heritage* and Children's Season 2016.

For more information, please refer to:

- **Annex A** for the criteria of the *Patron of Heritage Awards*
- **Annex B** for key statistics of the *Patron of Heritage Awards 2016*

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About the Patron of Heritage Awards

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

About National Heritage Board

The National Heritage Board (NHB) was formed on 1 August 1993. As the custodian of Singapore's heritage, NHB is responsible for telling the Singapore story, sharing the Singaporean experience and imparting our Singapore spirit. NHB's mission is to preserve and celebrate the shared heritage of our diverse communities, for the purpose of education, nation-building and cultural understanding. It manages the national museums and heritage institutions, and sets policies relating to heritage sites, monuments and the national collection. Through the national collection, NHB curates heritage programmes and presents exhibitions to connect the past, present and future generations of Singaporeans. NHB is now a statutory board under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. Please visit www.nhb.gov.sg for more information

Who is Eligible for the Awards

To be eligible for the *Patron of Heritage Awards 2016*, organisations or individuals must have fulfilled either of the following during the qualifying period from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016:

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

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

Awards Criteria

Awards will be given based on the following seven categories:

Donations in cash, kind or material:

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

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

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

Key Statistics for Patron of Heritage Awards 2016

(i) Value of contributions

The value of contributions acknowledged by *Patron of Heritage Awards 2016* adds up to S\$8.13 million. The breakdown of the contributions is as follows:

Year	2016
Contribution	
Cash donations	S\$4.35mil
Artefact and in-kind donations	S\$3.78mil
Total	S\$8.13mil

 (ii) Number of awardees who received the various award categories in *Patron of Heritage Awards 2016*

Award categories	Number of awardees
Distinguished Patron (S\$2 million and above)	1 (wishes to remain anonymous)
Patron (From S\$1 million to S\$1,999,999)	1
Partner (From S\$150,000 to S\$999,999)	11
Friend (From S\$50,000 to S\$149,999)	16
Supporter (From \$10,000 to \$49,999)	45
Distinguished Supporter of Heritage (Long-term loans – Value of items worth S\$1 million or more)	NA
Supporter of Heritage: (Long-term loans – Value of items less than \$1 million)	NA

(iii) Number and percentage of awardees that are corporations and individuals in 2016

	Organisations/Foundations	Individuals
Number	46	28
Percentage	62%	38%



(iv) Number and percentage of awardees that are repeat donors and new donors in 2016
(compared to 2015 donor list)

	Repeat Donors	New Donors
Number	32	42
Percentage	43%	57%

(v) Value of contributions from 2006 to 2016

Year	Value of Contribution
2006 (1/4/2004 – 1/12/2006)	S\$118.5 million
2007	S\$11.2 million
2008	S\$95 million
2009	S\$11 million
2010	S\$8.12 million
2011	S\$9.2 million
2012	S\$8.6 million
2013	S\$20.54 million
2014	S\$8.5 million
2015	S\$16.0 million
2016	S\$8.13 million

(vi) Number of awardees from 2006 to 2016

Year	Number of awardees
2006 (1/4/2004 – 1/12/2006)	86
2007	51
2008	65
2009	61
2010	35
2011	48
2012	42
2013	108
2014	69
2015	104
2016	74