

MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR, CULTURE ACADEMY

This publication is a compilation of the papers that were presented at the Culture Academy Singapore's Conference on "Reviving and Revitalising Cities: The Role of Arts and Culture" held on 7th December 2017.

Arts and Culture provide us with many therapeutic and intangible benefits. Very often, we do not realise that they form our cultural DNA and that they are social levellers – understood by everyone and appreciated by anyone regardless of their socio-economic or educational background.

Arts and culture have always been a simple and effective way of telling and remembering the stories of an individual, his or her family or families, and even the shared memories of a community or nation. Arts and culture provide the "heartbeat" that brings people from diverse backgrounds together as well as tell us more about who we are as an individual, community and a nation. Most importantly, they create liveable and enduring spaces for people.

This is why the Culture Academy Singapore chose this theme; How arts and culture can be embraced to revive and revitalise cities and spaces.

The many papers and roundtable discussions provided participants with much food for thought and amongst the many takeaways was the important sharing and discussion of new ideas that everyone could take back to try out in their respective places of work. More importantly, it also was a platform for networking and meeting new colleagues and for discussion of new collaborations on urban planning and rejuvenation of spaces.

This conference would not have been successful and thought provoking without the support of many people. We would like to thank our partners, The British Council (Singapore) and the University of Melbourne. We are also grateful to our Culture Academy Steering Committee members without whose advice and support this event would not have been possible. We also thank the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY) and our sister agencies within the MCCY family for their strong support and guidance.

Our thanks also to our Keynote Speaker, Mr Douglas Gautier, CEO and Artistic Director of the Adelaide Festival Centre and all our speakers and moderators, local and from overseas who readily accepted our invitation to be part of this conference.

Finally, our thanks to Dr Kenson Kwok, Board Member, National Gallery Singapore and Founding Director, Asian Civilisations Museum, who aptly rounded up the conference and also contributed the Preface for this publication.

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