

# TREASURING & SHARING OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE

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Quarterly Research Newsletter



## Culture BYTES

Dear Readers,

In an ever-changing, globalised world, our tangible and intangible cultural heritage are vital in helping us understand our history and the defining traits of our Singaporean identity. Tangible cultural heritage, which includes buildings, historic sites, monuments and landscapes, provide physical markers of our journey as a nation, evoking strong memories of shared experiences. Our intangible cultural heritage comprises the traditions and practices, events, expressions, knowledge, skills and trades which help define who we are as we have developed as a people, evolving through our interactions with each other and between our communities.

In this issue, the research articles *Heritage Study of the Old Police Academy* and *Safeguarding the History and Culture of Pencak Silat in Singapore* provide insights into the value of tangible and intangible cultural heritage for urban planners and the wider community respectively, and offer suggestions on how our heritage can continue to be safeguarded. The issue's third article, *Evaluating visitor experience of digital interpretation and presentation technologies at cultural heritage sites: a case study of the old town, Zuoying*, evaluates how digital experiences can enhance the appreciation of cultural heritage. Finally, our interviewees, Mrs Santha Bhaskar and Dr Natalie Pang, share how heritage shapes our values, beliefs and aspirations, further strengthening our sense of belonging and pride in being Singaporeans. It is important that we do not confine heritage solely to the past, but instead find ways to keep it alive.

From all of us at Culture Academy Singapore

### RESEARCH

Study

## Heritage Study of the Old Police Academy

Commissioned by HDB, URA and NHB



Photos of the former Old Police Academy administrative offices that once marked the start and end of the training journey for police officers.

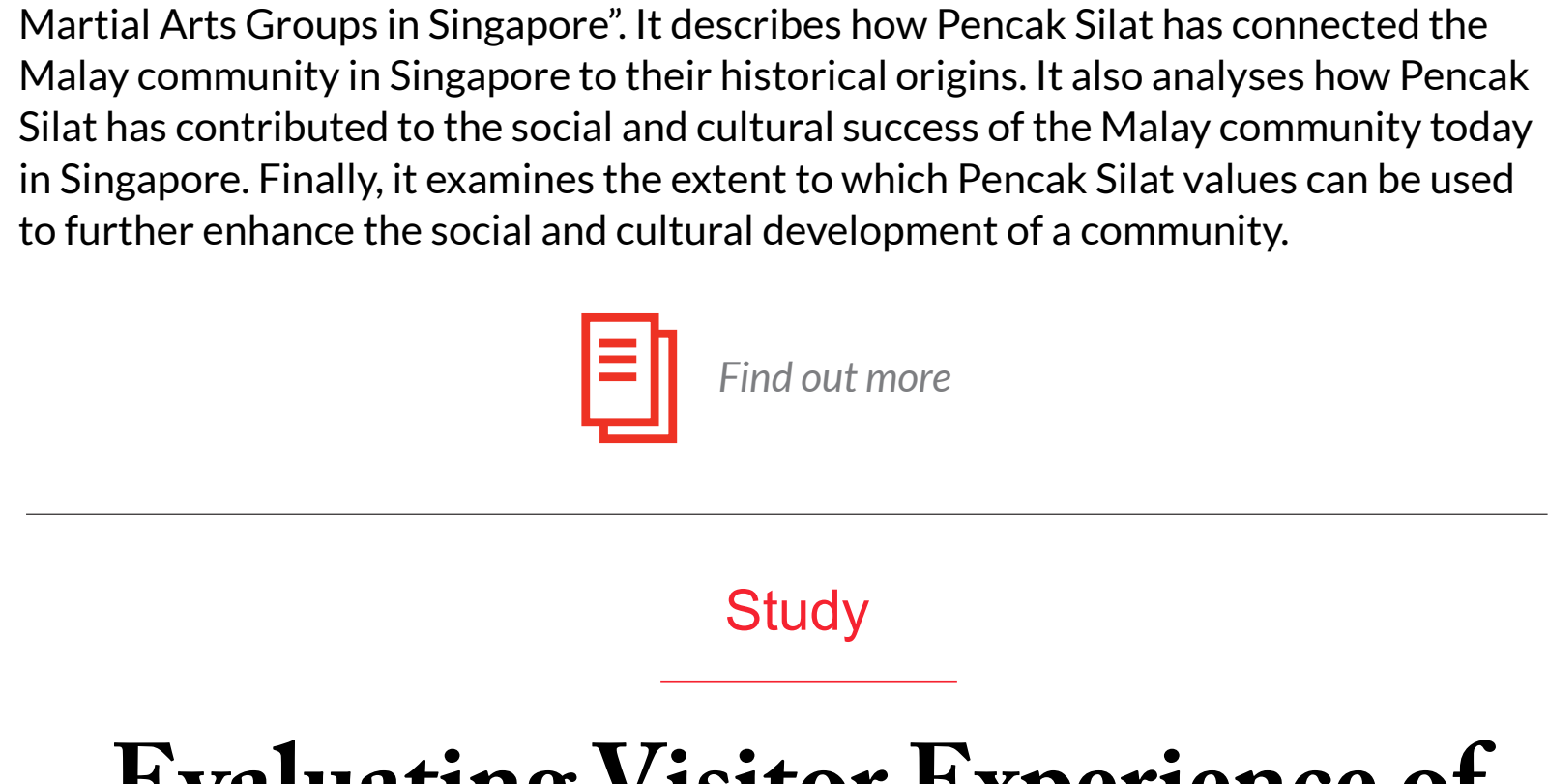
The area occupied by the Old Police Academy (OPA) and its immediate Mount Pleasant Road surroundings has been zoned for Residential use in the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) Master Plan since 1998. The URA, Housing & Development Board, and National Heritage Board commissioned the Department of Architecture, National University of Singapore, to conduct an in-depth heritage study to inform master planning and building design pertaining to the heritage building cluster at the OPA and its immediate surroundings. The study suggests ways to balance the development potential and the heritage elements of the site so as to minimise adverse impact to the site's significance and enhance positive outcomes.

Find out more

Survey

## Safeguarding the History and Culture of Pencak Silat in Singapore: An Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Malays in Singapore

By Dr Mohamed Effendy



2015 Sea Games: Pencak Silat (Day 1) by VOXSPORTSdotNET

This paper draws from the overarching project on "Preserving Intangible Cultural Heritage: Documenting and Recording the History, Culture and Memory of Malay Martial Arts Groups in Singapore". It describes how Pencak Silat has connected the Malay community in Singapore to their historical origins. It also analyses how Pencak Silat has contributed to the social and cultural success of the Malay community today in Singapore. Finally, it examines the extent to which Pencak Silat values can be used to further enhance the social and cultural development of a community.

Find out more

Study

## Evaluating Visitor Experience of Digital Interpretation and Presentation Technologies at Cultural Heritage Sites

A case study of the old town, Zuoying by Ying Liu



Digital technologies are increasingly used in the interpretation and presentation process at cultural heritage sites, shifting the manner of heritage display from previous ways which have tended to be monolithic and static, to a more diversified, experiential, and interactive approach that enables new connections between heritage and the public. With digital experience becoming a key component of visitors' heritage experience, this case study on Old Zuoying City (OZC) highlights digital technologies' ability to connect visitors with the site's cultural values. The study also presents an evaluation framework for the heritage digital experience comprising visitors' expectations, acceptance, and experience of digital interpretation and presentation technologies.

Find out more

### INTERVIEWS

## Cultural Heritage Advocates

Promoting cultural heritage through the outstanding contributions in their field.



### Safeguarding Our Roots

Mrs Santha Bhaskar  
Artistic Director, Bhaskar's Arts Academy

Santha Bhaskar, Recipient of the Stewards of Intangible Cultural Heritage Award (2021), shares her thoughts on the value of preserving intangible cultural heritage and why it is important to safeguard traditions like Indian Dance.

"Traditional dances are passed on from generation to generation. It gives us connections to the past. They reflect our identity and shape values, beliefs and aspirations, thereby defining a people's national identity. It is important to safeguard our roots and our integrity as a people."

Read the interview transcript



### Keeping Heritage Alive

Dr Natalie Pang  
Executive Committee Member, Singapore Heritage Society  
Deputy Head of the Department of Communications and New Media, National University Singapore

Dr Natalie Pang speaks to us about the value of preserving and conserving cultural heritage, the challenges faced here and the ways to mitigate these challenges.

"While we work on preservation and conservation issues, we should also recognise that heritage is present and alive in our everyday lives. It is important not to 'lock up' heritage as something that is 'has been', only in the past - we need to also pay attention to what is important to us, and present/practised right now, and think about ways to keep it."

Read the interview transcript

### RESOURCES

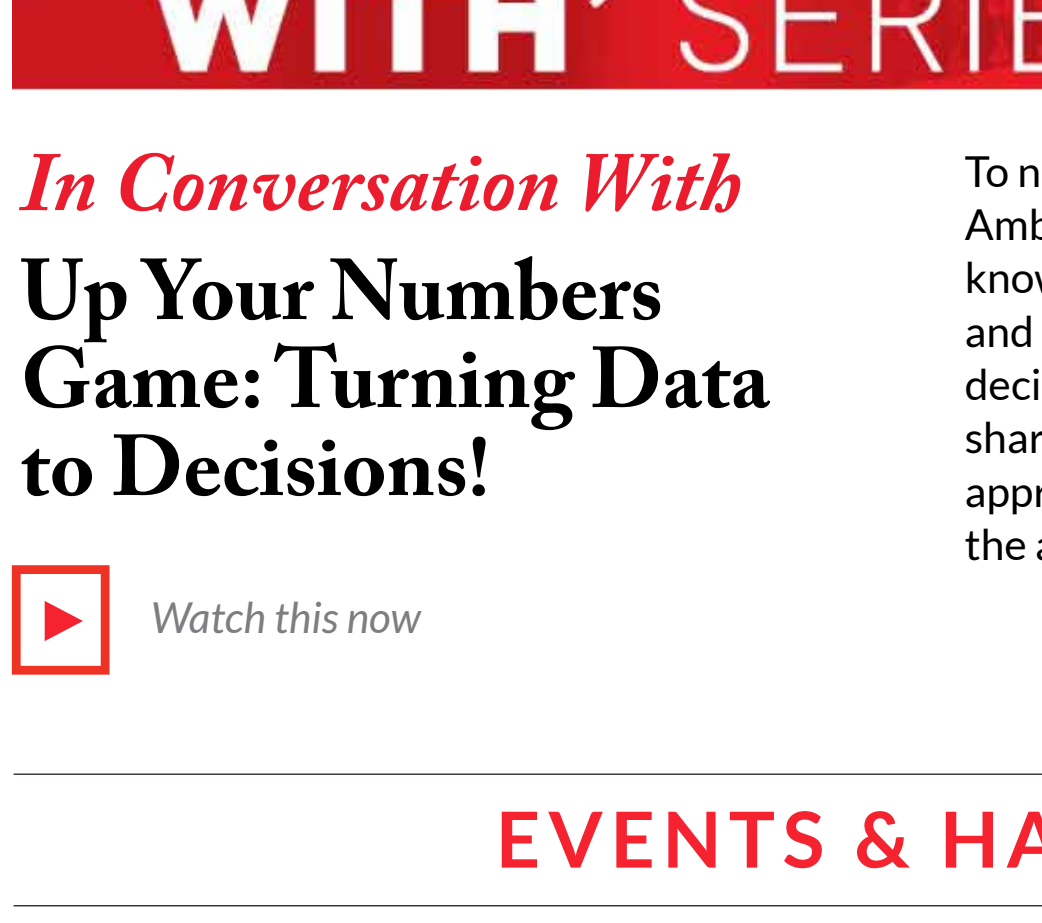


## 2021 Southeast Asian Collaborative Meeting on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage

The two-day symposium explores the various ways in which we can encourage youths to become active advocates and adopters of Intangible Cultural Heritage, as well as the continued relevance of Intangible Cultural Heritage to younger generations.



Day 1: Harnessing Youth Potential in Craft and Performing Arts



Day 2: Technology and the Digital Medium

## 'IN CONVERSATION WITH' SERIES

### In Conversation With Up Your Numbers Game: Turning Data to Decisions!

To navigate a VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, Ambiguous) world, leaders and their agencies need to know where to get data, how to pick the right datasets, and most critically, use such data to make good decisions. Learn from our eminent speakers as they share how to get the best out of a data analytics approach and how this can be successfully applied in the arts and culture sector.

Watch this now

### EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

SINGAPORE CHINESE CULTURAL CENTRE  
*One of Us, All of Us*

Developed from the *One of Us* video series, *One of Us, All of Us* is an exhibition that gives visitors insight into local Chinese dialect culture through an up close and personal showcase of over 20 people. Through stories, videos, and artefacts, visitors will discover the people who are making waves in dialect culture. From a young adult who has been performing Teochew opera since the age of three to a heritage ang ku kueh brand giving the traditional snack a new spin, every story brings a new perspective to our local Chinese dialect culture.

The exhibition runs from 7 Jan 2022 to 31 Mar 2022.

Visit the website now

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE  
*Voices of Singapore*

The Singaporean identity is inherently plural. In the 1970s, race, culture and language were formalised and enshrined into categories that were at once distinct and discrete. By the mid-1980s, these characterisations were debated and articulated in many different ways by Singapore's arts practitioners, who created original works that emphasised expressions of national identity and belonging. In the process, they shaped a vibrant society that could accommodate multiple voices and communities - a legacy that continues to inspire us today. Through cultural artefacts that include music, performances, television and theatre, this gallery explores how Singaporeans forged a unique voice for themselves.

Visit the website now

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