

MEDIA RELEASE

More opportunities for Singaporeans to engage in arts and culture activities

1. In 2016, Singaporeans had more opportunities to engage and participate in arts and culture activities. According to the Singapore Cultural Statistics 2017, the number of non-ticketed performing arts activities saw an all-time high in 2016. Attendance figures at museums and heritage institutions also reached record high levels last year.

Key Highlights from Singapore Cultural Statistics 2017

2. Building on the momentum of SG50, 2016 saw close to 6000 non-ticketed performing arts activities, which was an all-time high. This meant that Singaporeans had more opportunities to come together and enjoy arts and culture activities. The variety of activities included community arts events, such as the National Arts Council's (NAC) *Arts in Your Neighbourhood* and *Silver Arts*, as well as cultural festivals like Esplanade's *Huayi Festival* and *Tapestry – A Festival of Sacred Music*.

3 The wide range of non-ticketed activities resulted in attendances of over 9.2 million, the highest on record since 2012. Visitorship figures to museums and heritage institutions also hit a record high of over 5.1 million in 2016.

Annual Conference by the Culture Academy Singapore

4. Key highlights of the Singapore Cultural Statistics 2017 were announced by Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Grace Fu at the Culture Academy Singapore's annual conference on 7 December 2017. The one-day conference centred on the theme of "*Reviving and Revitalising Cities and Spaces through Arts and Culture*". It featured local and international industry experts, who offered important perspectives and insights on the role of the arts and culture in shaping attractive, liveable cities which are a source of pride for their residents.

5. During her opening speech, Minister Fu said, “The Singapore Cultural Statistics 2017 show that we are on the right track in engaging Singaporeans, and developing a more vibrant arts and culture scene. But we must not rest on our laurels. We can do more in revitalising our city and spaces through place-making. We must continue to engage our stakeholders and to do so more deeply, to build on our existing efforts and enhance how we bring diverse communities together, and deepen our sense of national identity.”

6. The different ways in which the arts and culture can help revitalise cities and spaces were further discussed and illustrated through case studies presented during the conference. These included the on-going development of the Shepparton Art Museum in Melbourne, Australia; the success of Penang’s George Town Festival; and closer to home, place-making initiatives and programmes in Singapore’s Civic District and Bras Basah. Bugis. Such case studies underscored the importance of the arts and culture in social communities, as well as the potential challenges and opportunities.

7. The Singapore Cultural Statistics 2017 can be accessed [here](#).

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For Singapore Cultural Statistics 2017

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For Culture Academy Singapore's Annual Conference

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About the Culture Academy Singapore

The Culture Academy Singapore was established in 2015 by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth to groom the next generation of cultural leaders in the public sector. Guided by its vision to be a centre of excellence for the development of culture professionals and administrators, the Culture Academy's work spans three areas: Education and Capability Development, Research and Scholarship, and Thought Leadership. In these areas, the Culture Academy Singapore provides networking opportunities, platforms for exchange of creative ideas and offers professional development workshops, public lectures and publications to nurture thought leaders in Singapore's cultural scene.

About the 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 a statutory board under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. Please visit www.nhb.gov.sg for more information.