

**SPEECH BY MRS ROSA DANIEL, DEPUTY SECRETARY (CULTURE),  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE, COMMUNITY AND YOUTH AT THE  
OPENING OF CULTURE ACADEMY SINGAPORE'S THIRD ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE ON "ACCESSIBILITY FOR DIVERSE COMMUNITIES:  
THE ROLE OF CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS" ON 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018  
AT THE ESPLANADE RECITAL STUDIO**

Ms Sim Ann, Senior Minister of State for Culture, Community and Youth

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen.

Good morning and welcome to the Culture Academy Singapore's annual conference.

**CULTURE ACADEMY'S REPORT CARD**

2 The Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY) established the Culture Academy in 2015, with the objective of developing our cultural leadership and strengthening our external linkages to foster knowledge exchanges. Over the past 3 years, the Academy has organised many conferences and professional development workshops tapping on local expertise and international trainers.

3 Some notable examples include a timely conference on digital developments with experts from the UK, US, The Netherlands and Australia in 2016. This was followed by an insightful conference on place-

making bringing in cultural leaders from the region including Malaysia and Indonesia in 2017. We also organised the Malraux Seminar with the French government in 2018. Besides these major conferences, the Academy runs regular and frequent programmes such as the series “In Conversation With”, offering exposure to relevant topics such as fundraising and museum management.

4 The Academy publishes an annual journal called Cultural Connections featuring many of our top cultural leaders and international counterparts. This year in commemoration of Singapore’s chairmanship of ASEAN, a special issue was published with 1,500 copies disseminated at ASEAN Ministerial and official meetings.

5 As a leadership institute under the Ministry, the Academy plans its own curriculum to ensure that the objectives of building shared purpose and effective cultural leadership are met. We tap on our own public and private sector leaders, academics and community groups as resources to offer insights and experiences. During these programmes, our cultural leaders engage each other in frank discussions, framing challenges and identifying possible solutions that they can work on together. Some of our programmes also offer study visits in the region, enabling our participants to interact with counterparts for instance in Malaysia and Indonesia.

These opportunities for our cultural leaders to learn together contribute towards stronger inter-agency collaborations within our cultural sector.

## **FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

6 Looking forward, we want the Academy to become a node within Southeast Asia for nurturing cultural leaders. We would like to work closely with counterparts to bring the rich arts and cultural heritage of Southeast Asia to others beyond the region.

7 The Academy will work on its capabilities to foster learning by providing a platform for researchers, academics and practitioners from Singapore or other countries interested to delve into research areas of mutual interest. Over time, this will allow us to build a rich database that can be tapped on by anyone to learn more about these professional domains, and in particular the arts and heritage of Southeast Asia. With rapid technological innovations, the Academy will also seek to leverage technology to expedite our work, making it more seamless in bringing arts, culture and heritage to our diverse audiences.

## **ABOUT THE CONFERENCE THEME**

8 The conference today continues our journey to encourage research and nurture thought leadership.

9 At a time of rapid change, many of our societies grapple with political and economic transformation, an ageing society, emerging new technologies and transmigration. It is a good time to discuss how the arts, culture and heritage can help societies and governments to buffer the changes and displacements that come with these developments. This conference provides an opportunity to explore the nature of “diverse communities” and how culture can serve to inspire and connect us all.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

10 I would like to thank our partners who have come on board to support us in many ways. I am very pleased to note that we have grown our network from 18 in 2016 to 28 partners this year.

11 We thank our eminent speakers and session moderators from overseas as well as from Singapore for readily accepting our invitation to speak and to moderate the various panels. Our thanks also to the keynote speaker, Dr David Fleming, for taking time from his busy schedule to share his thoughts on accessibility in the arts.

12 And much thanks to a group of very special people, the students from SOTA and members of the Muscular Dystrophy Association (Singapore) for that beautiful performance. We started this morning’s programme with the performance to show that arts and culture brings

diverse communities together and provides a level playing field. Thank you, Mr Jeremiah Choy, for making this possible.

13 Last but not the least, we thank our Guest of Honour SMS Ms Sim Ann for setting aside this time to be with us despite her busy schedule.

14 Let me end by wishing all of you a very exciting two days of intellectual exchange and perhaps the start of collaborations to provide more access for our diverse communities to enjoy the benefits that arts, culture and heritage can bring.

15 Thank you.