

**MCCY COS 2023**  
**FACTSHEET**



**A HOME WHERE WE  
BELONG, BOND AND BUILD  
THE FUTURE TOGETHER**



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## Table of Content

<b>Section</b>	<b>Page</b>
<u><a href="#">Shaping the Future of our Arts and Heritage Together</a></u>	2 - 18
<u><a href="#">Building a Better Society for Each Other</a></u>	19 - 22
<u><a href="#">A More Vibrant and Inclusive Sporting Nation</a></u>	23 - 29
<u><a href="#">Building a Stronger Culture of Care and Giving</a></u>	30 - 34
<u><a href="#">Empowering Youths to Play a Bigger Role in Shaping Singapore's Future</a></u>	35 - 42

## Shaping the Future of our Arts and Heritage Together

### **[New] Our SG Arts Plan (2023 – 2027) to build a thriving arts scene, nurture artistic excellence and an engaged audience**

The National Arts Council (NAC) will launch *Our SG Arts Plan (2023 – 2027)* later this year. This Plan is a roadmap to develop Singapore's arts scene for the next 5 years.

2 In developing Our SG Arts Plan, NAC engaged more than 1,300 stakeholders from the arts community and beyond, such as representatives from the retail, real estate and technology sectors, from June 2021 to September 2022. NAC also reached out to over 15,000 members of the public in its public engagement from November 2022 to February 2023, through on-ground roadshows at The Arts House and One Punggol, as well as listening points targeting youth and seniors in partnership with REACH.

3 Over the course of the engagements, stakeholders identified the following trends:

- a. The potential of the arts to bridge communities and explore difficult societal issues in the face of Singapore's growing social diversity and evolving national identity.
- b. The ability of the arts to add dynamism and vibrancy to urban surroundings, and its role in contributing to Singapore's global competitiveness.
- c. Cross-pollination between the arts and different adjacent creative sectors that could encourage ideas, talent and skills to flow across industries, enabling Singapore artists to reach wider audiences locally and internationally.

4 Building on the gains from the first edition from 2018 to 2022, *Our SG Arts Plan (2023 – 2027)* will roll out initiatives across three strategic thrusts:

**(i) Strategic Thrust #1 - A Connected Society: *Community anchored by shared arts and culture***

NAC aims to create better access to the arts by embedding the arts into key life areas (e.g., education for students, and well-being for all ages), expand arts touchpoints through partnerships, grow strong ties within and across diverse communities through the arts, and drive arts advocacy among the 3P (Public, People and Private) sectors.

a. Sustain Audiences through Life and Strengthen Communities through Shared Experiences

- NAC will strengthen access to arts in schools and the healthcare sector.
  - Through closer collaborations with the Ministry of Education, NAC will ensure greater access for all students to quality arts learning experiences, such as Museum-Based Learning programmes at the cohort level.
  - NAC will strive to enable arts to make a greater social impact by growing evidence-based research on the impact of arts on well-being, through intentional programme design, and working with people and public sector stakeholders, so as to implement arts-based interventions.
- NAC will look into strategic partnerships to offer more arts activities in civic areas such as parks, community and lifestyle spaces, reaching audiences at different life stages and enabling them to connect with each other through the arts.
  - NAC will build on partnerships with agencies such as People's Association, National Library Board, National Parks Board (NParks) and Sport Singapore to expand the current Arts & Culture Nodes network, as touchpoints for physical and digital arts events island-wide.
  - A framework for designing arts programmes for social outcomes will also be shared with partners, to create deep engagement

programmes for bridging communities and deepening their sense of belonging.

b. Drive Arts Advocacy

- NAC will foster an appreciation of the social impact of the arts and encourage giving across people, public and private sectors. This includes advocacy efforts to highlight how the arts can contribute to social outcomes, and reaching out to new segments of donors who typically give to social causes.

**(ii) Strategic Thrust #2: A Distinctive City: *Vibrant spaces inspired by and for the arts***

NAC aims to increase and deepen access to affordable public and private spaces, integrating the arts into spaces and places where people live, work and play across Singapore, and growing vibrant precincts.

a. Diversify Arts Spaces

- In recognition that arts infrastructure is a key enabler of the arts scene, NAC will step up efforts to work with other government agencies to diversify arts spaces. NAC will co-develop inclusive arts spaces at Kampong Java and 45 Armenian Street with the arts community and other stakeholders. These include arts undergraduates who are potential future users of the space, educators, patrons and representatives from the public and private sectors. NAC has begun work to better understand the stock of spaces – whether NAC or other-owned – suitable for the arts. More details on arts spaces can be found from pages 11 to 13.

b. Grow Vibrant Places and Precincts, Infuse Arts Everywhere

- NAC will step up efforts to partner the public and private sectors to support arts creation and presentation and make the arts more accessible to the public.

- NAC will work with other government agencies to create new places where the arts can be presented to and encountered by new audiences. Besides Gillman Barracks (under the Singapore Land Authority), other examples include art installations in public parks under NParks, and MRT stations under the Land Transport Authority.
- NAC will also onboard private stakeholders such as malls and business owners to invigorate more public spaces and neighbourhoods with public artworks which will contribute to their unique identities.

**(iii) Strategic Thrust #3 - A Creative Economy: An arts sector defined by excellence, innovation, and close collaboration with stakeholders and partners in adjacent industries**

a. Facilitate New Business Models

- New business models will improve the sustainability of the arts. Partnerships with adjacent industries in the creative economy can create more employment and career progression opportunities for artists. This includes looking at areas such as new business models and digital adoption, Intellectual Property rights, to cultivate new audiences, expand markets, and grow revenue streams.

i. New technology and data-enabled business models in the arts and culture sector

- For example, NAC will be launching a one-stop digital platform, Cultural Concierge (working title), that aggregates arts and culture events in Singapore and allows audiences to see at a glance what is on, search and filter through events and book tickets. Details on Cultural Concierge can be found in pages 14 to 15.
- NAC will work with industry leaders in the arts and in technology through an Alliance for Action, to explore opportunities in the metaverse for audience development, monetisation and

showcase innovation. Other efforts in this area can be found in pages 14 to 16.

ii. Partnerships with adjacent sectors

- For example, NAC and the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) jointly worked on the *Performing Arts Tours* to support the development and test-bedding of innovative performances. The concept brought together tour operators and arts practitioners to create richer performances for the audience, and unlocked an alternative business model which monetised existing content and thereby created a potential revenue stream – contributing towards financial sustainability for the artists. It also increased audience outreach and growth. NAC will be exploring more projects with STB and also similar partnerships with other government agencies and commercial partners.

b. Equip for Artistic Excellence and Growth

- NAC will build capabilities and development pathways for long-term employability in the arts.
  - i. NAC will collaborate with Institutes of Higher Learning (IHL) and industry partners to provide pathways for career progression and skills development. To support this, two competency frameworks will be introduced with more details from pages 15 to 16.

c. Unlock Internationalisation Opportunities

- Singapore's reputation as a globally connected arts centre and global creative centre will grow international demand and markets for local arts. NAC will place a focus on helping local arts practitioners reach international audiences and gain recognition overseas. NAC will also work closely with partners to position Singapore as a cultural city and hub in the region, including through signature events such as exhibitions, conferences, and festivals.

- i. NAC will also identify and establish more thought leadership platforms such as conferences and fairs, as well as collaborate with international stakeholders such as UNESCO, International Council of Museums (ICOM) and International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA) to help build knowledge and expertise in the region.

**[New] Our SG Heritage Plan 2.0 to deepen our sense of belonging and national identity**

*Our SG Heritage Plan 2.0* is the second heritage masterplan which identifies new priorities for the heritage sector in the next five years, and lays out the initiatives that will take these priorities forward. It will be launched by the National Heritage Board (NHB) later this year.

2 The first masterplan for the heritage sector, *Our SG Heritage Plan*, has achieved many milestones in the promotion and celebration of Singapore's heritage. NHB made great strides in the safeguarding and promotion of Singapore's intangible cultural heritage with grants and programmes to support and recognise crafts and their practitioners, and with the inscription of Singapore's Hawker Culture onto UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2020. The community's participation in exploring and celebrating their heritage was deepened with co-creation opportunities across exhibitions, programmes and festivals. More light was shed on the Singapore story through the continued development of and engagement with our National Collection and museums, and research and archaeology. The area of built heritage saw important developments that better protect our National Monuments and enable the stories of Singapore's spaces to be celebrated by future generations. The application of digital technology has also increased exponentially, expanding the reach and possibilities of Singapore's heritage.



3 To build on these achievements, NHB consulted over 650 stakeholders<sup>1</sup> across 50 engagement sessions between December 2020 and June 2022 to gather their views on the future of the heritage landscape. From August to November 2022, the public was invited to share feedback through a microsite and seven physical booths. NHB received over 72,000 ideas and suggestions through the exercise.

4 Through the engagements, as well as learning from the first heritage masterplan, NHB has identified several key areas to further:

- a. Uncover the varied aspects of our Singaporean **heritage and identity**;
- b. Increase **co-creation opportunities** with citizens and across government agencies;
- c. Provide **greater support** to heritage stakeholders;
- d. Better harness the potential to bring Singapore's heritage to a **regional and global audience**, and
- e. Accelerate **digital transformation** to enhance heritage and museum experiences.

5 *Our SG Heritage Plan 2.0* will consist of four building blocks – **Identity, Community, Industry and Innovation** – which address these subjects.

**(1) Heritage x Identity – Strengthening our sense of “Singaporean-ness” through our multi-cultural heritage**

There will be greater efforts to reflect a more layered understanding of the Singapore identity. As Singaporeans continually contemplate our national identity, the work of NHB will keep pace to capture more comprehensively what constitutes our heritage and identity. Some efforts in this area include the following:

- More focused efforts in the areas of **archaeology** and **maritime archaeology**;
- Canvassing more **ground-up contributions** and creating more opportunities for **exhibition co-creation**; and

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<sup>1</sup> The stakeholders comprise museum professionals, academic institutions, community groups, youths, creatives, clans, business associations, traditional craft practitioners and precinct stakeholders.

- A key plan in this area will be expanding our collecting mandate to include a new domain on **design**.

- **Expanding the National Collection in the Design Domain**

Design will be a new collecting area for the National Collection, which will cover a range of design disciplines, from fashion, to craft, product and industrial design, graphic design, architecture and emerging multidisciplinary design fields. The collecting focus will be works of contemporary Singaporean designers and architects, though we aim to also collect works from the Southeast Asian and Asian regions, and to reach out to local collectors of design objects. Accessioning such objects into the National Collection will help expand our understanding of Singapore's identity within the context of its region's history and aesthetic, and better illustrate the Singapore Story and our nation's connection with the region and the world. Besides strengthening the collection in terms of contemporary objects and creative expression, it will also augment museums' existing efforts to strengthen ties with the design community and industry. In the year ahead, the national museums will take the opportunity to develop curatorial and collecting strategies in the space of design, while the Urban Redevelopment Authority and National Library Board aim to document and collect materials about Singapore's modern and contemporary architecture.

Some headway has already been made by the Asian Civilisations Museum in the space of fashion design, in partnership with the local fashion community and industry. In May 2023, ACM will present its first exhibition on a contemporary Singaporean fashion designer, *Andrew Gn: From Singapore to the World*. ACM first featured a piece from Gn in the inaugural *#SGFASHIONNOW* in 2021. The exhibition celebrates a generous and unprecedented gift of over 160 representative works from Gn, documenting the entire breadth of his illustrious career. Moving forward, ACM will also reach out to the design community in the jewellery, furniture, and craft sectors to expand public mindshare for their works.

## **(2) Heritage x Community – Empowering Singaporeans to share our heritage**

NHB will ramp up efforts to partner citizens and community organisations, to enable more to get involved in the exploration and celebration of their heritage. This will include:

- More opportunities for communities to **co-develop heritage touchpoints** such as festivals and cultural programmes to enliven neighbourhoods and bring heritage closer to Singaporeans from all walks of life;
- Deepening **youth engagement and participation** in heritage; and
- Creating more opportunities for **volunteering**.

Through such engagements, NHB hopes to continue increasing co-creation opportunities with citizens to engender a greater sense of ownership of our heritage.

## **(3) Heritage x Industry – Cultivating a vibrant heritage ecosystem that creates opportunities for all**

NHB will be looking to encourage and consolidate efforts by diverse stakeholders to safeguard and promote our heritage, to uplift the heritage industry, and create more creative and economic opportunities for Singaporeans in this area. Initiatives include:

- New platforms to showcase our **traditional crafts**;
- Strengthening the **sustainability of our heritage businesses**, such as with NHB's *Organisation Transformation Grant*; and
- Showcasing our rich culture and heritage overseas through concerted **internationalisation efforts**.

## **(4) Heritage x Innovation – Future-proofing our heritage**

NHB will be exploring the development of new digital strategies in partnership with the private sector, to continue our efforts to utilise technology for the promotion and celebration of our heritage and future proof the sector. This will include:

- Exploring ways to **digitally preserve and document** our heritage assets; and

- Using new technology to **augment visitor experiences** at the museums and **enhance the accessibility** of our heritage, which could include Virtual Reality experiences, three-dimensional (3D) displays and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

6 More details will be shared at the launch of **Our SG Heritage Plan 2.0** later this year.

**[Update] Arts spaces diversified to support arts and culture practitioners and add vibrancy to shared spaces**

Arts infrastructure is a key enabler of the arts scene. NAC continues to ensure that arts spaces remain relevant and suitable to prevailing needs of the arts sector. NAC remains committed to facilitate fair access and inclusive opportunities for the community – especially for new groups and younger practitioners.

2 Ongoing efforts to diversify arts spaces to support arts and culture practitioners include:

**Kampong Java**

- To provide arts spaces for practitioners to experiment, innovate and create, NAC will work with the Singapore Land Authority to pilot arts sandboxes at 52 to 56 Kampong Java, where artists can have a conducive place to focus on their creative process.
- In 2022, NAC organised three focus group discussions, seeking ideas and views from the arts community on how the site would be supported with the objectives of experimentation and test-bedding.
- There was broad consensus that Kampong Java should be a sandbox – broadly defined as a space for experimentation and incubation of works, where a process-driven ethos is valued; a multi-disciplinary venue where artists from different art forms can work together; and an accessible and affordable space for the artists.
- The new arts sandbox is scheduled to be completed and ready for occupation by end 2024.

## **45 Armenian Street**

- 45 Armenian Street (45AS) is a conserved building leased from the Government and managed by NAC. The building is over 90 years old and has been earmarked for renovation since 2017. Previously tenanted by The Substation, 45AS came to be an iconic inclusive, multidisciplinary space.
- In upgrading the space, NAC is committed to ensuring that the space remains inclusive for artistic experimentation, supporting the work of young and emerging practitioners. NAC has been working closely with the arts community and stakeholders to co-create the vision for renovated arts space. NAC established a Resource Panel, comprising individuals with vast experience both in the arts and managing organisations, who led the engagements of over 100 stakeholders from the arts community on their collective aspirations for the site.
- The Resource Panel distilled insights from the focus group discussions and presented a set of recommendations for NAC's consideration. These recommendations include the following roles:
  - An advisory panel with expertise in relevant fields, to guide NAC and the curatorial and programming team,
  - A lean curatorial and programming team that not only partners others to create opportunities for emerging arts practitioners, but bears the task of balancing business and non-for-profit activities, and works with potential donors for financial sustainability, and
- These recommendations will form the basis for 45AS' next phase of development.
- NAC will be convening an Advisory Panel this year, comprising some members of the Resource Panel and domain experts from various sectors to guide the development and design for 45AS taking reference from the Resource Panel's recommendations. These include the construction and physical design, programme design, and funding and resourcing plans related to the building.
- The renovation work is targeted for completion in over the next two years.

3 In order to better support the arts sector's needs, NAC has embarked on a phased mapping study to understand arts infrastructure provision beyond NAC's arts spaces.

- In the first phase, NAC completed a big data study, with the aim to construct an inventory of arts spaces and assess sufficiency. The findings from this phase suggested that there are many spaces outside of NAC's provision suitable for arts use – with close to 940 spaces being utilised by the arts community for arts activities such as rehearsals, studio practice, performances and exhibitions.
- The next phase of the study in 2023 seeks to understand accessibility and affordability of the spaces identified. NAC will then continue to engage the arts community and key stakeholders on the findings and recommendations in the final stage of the study.

**[Update] Building a future-ready arts and heritage sector by driving sectoral digitalisation efforts**

Capability building of the arts and heritage sectors continue to be key areas of focus for both the *Our SG Arts Plan* and *Our SG Heritage Plan*. One of the key focus areas includes digitalisation, which allows our arts and culture organisations and practitioners to present new experiences, grow new audiences and visitors, as well as to improve operational efficiency, leading to business transformation. There will be continued efforts to increase awareness and drive adoption of the **Arts & Culture Digital Roadmap** and other digital solutions in the sector, as well as the introduction of the **Cultural Concierge**. NAC also plans to form an **Alliance for Action (AfA) to better leverage the metaverse** to showcase Singapore arts.

**Efforts to Drive Digital Adoption, including the Arts and Culture Digital Roadmap**

2 The Arts and Culture Digital Roadmap, launched in February 2022, is designed to support the adoption of digital solutions to improve the operational productivity of arts and culture organisations and practitioners, and help them deliver greater impact. It includes a self-assessment checklist which can be used to gauge

level of digital readiness, an array of digital solutions for various phases of the creative process, and a list of funding schemes and other resources.

3 To increase awareness and drive adoption of the Roadmap, and other digital solutions in the sector, NAC will focus on:

- i. Curating programmes and workshops for the arts sector, in partnership with the private sector and digital solution providers.
  - a. The UOB-NAC Acceleration Programme for the Arts will help arts organisations and artists better leverage digital tools and solutions to build business and financial competencies.
  - b. In 2023, NAC will also continue to work with Branded to hold the next edition of *Arts Matters*, a networking conference which aims to facilitate inter-disciplinary cross-sector learning and networking with technology and commercial partners.
- ii. Improving the arts and culture sector's access to suitable resources and networks, including solution providers, vendors and digital advisors and consultants, to catalyse digital adoption efforts
  - a. NAC will organise a technology marketplace for the arts sector – a curated showcase to bring together the arts sector, digital solution providers, vendors, and agencies supporting digitalisation.
  - b. NAC also plans to curate a suite of shared resources containing technology solutions that support organisation operations and processes. The network of technology experts, consultants and service providers to guide the arts sector to keep up with the pace of digitalisation will be grown.

### **Cultural Concierge**

4 The Cultural Concierge (working title) is a digital platform that enables a user to search, filter and receive recommendations for arts and culture events. It will enter its beta stage which will launch in end-March 2023. Some key features of the platform include:

- Arts and culture event listings from cultural institutions and ticketing platforms such as NHB, National Gallery Singapore, The Esplanade Co Ltd, Arts House Limited and SISTIC;
- Personalisation of recommendations based on users' preferences, saved searches and booking history;
- Generation of audience insights for arts and culture stakeholders to better understand, engage and grow audiences.

5 During the beta launch, users are encouraged to share any feedback to improve the platform's user experience. Other functions, such as enhanced recommendation capabilities, automated content syndication with partners, and integration with additional ticketing platforms, will be rolled out progressively next year. More details will be shared on NAC's website when available.

#### **Alliance for Action: Project Arts Metaverse**

6 As part of efforts to partner and co-create with industry and stakeholders under the new Our SG Arts Plan, NAC will embark on "Project Arts Metaverse". NAC will work with industry leaders in the arts and in technology through an Alliance for Action, to explore opportunities in the metaverse for audience development, monetisation and showcase innovation. The AfA will be set up in the second half of 2023 and more details will be shared during the launch of Our SG Arts Plan.

#### **[Update] Building a stronger arts and culture workforce through new Competency Frameworks**

Building on efforts to drive clearer articulation of pathways for career progression, promote skills development acquisition and improve career mobility in the arts sector, NAC will be rolling out **two Competency Frameworks (CFs) in the areas of Arts Education and Technical Theatre & Production** in Q3 2023. The CFs, together with other complementary training initiatives, will help to raise the standards of the arts professions in the sector and ensure that the arts workforce is skilled and ready to take on opportunities of the future.



2 Working with the arts sector, training and education institutions, and key government agencies like SkillsFuture Singapore, the two CFs are being developed to provide a clearer overview of arts professions in the fields of Arts Education and Technical Theatre & Production, articulating the skills and knowledge needs of the sector in the respective fields. The following groups will benefit from the CFs:

- **Arts practitioners** can use the CFs to chart their career pathways and guide their decisions in training and professional development. There will be a simple self-assessment tool to help them identify skill gaps as well as reference documents that articulate the skills and knowledge required.
- **Arts employers** can refer to the CFs to enhance their human capital, talent development and management practices.
- **Training providers** can use the information in the CFs to regularly review and enhance their programmes to align with the industry needs and improve the quality of their programmes. The CFs will provide them a tool to counsel students on probably career options and clarify job expectations.

3 The two sub-sectors are the focus as they have a high proportion of self-employed persons (SEPs) and have been identified as areas of emerging need for clarity in skills and competencies, career pathways and professionalism.

**[Update] Strengthening support for Self-Employed Persons (SEPs) through the Arts Resource Hub**

In November 2019, NAC established the Arts Resource Hub (ARH) to provide creative SEPs resources (including coworking and performance spaces) to sustainably continue their practice, share ideas with one another, and attend talks and programmes to grow meaningful careers. There are currently over 2,500 subscribers to the ARH.

2 NAC will be reviewing the ARH To ensure that the ARH continues to support the arts SEPs meaningfully. NAC will be inviting arts SEPs to share their feedback and co-develop the ARH 2.0 concept. There will be consultative sessions to understand the needs and areas of interest, as well as gather insights on how they interact with the ARH. The co-created solutions with arts SEPs will address gaps

and identify areas for improvement for ARH's physical and digital touchpoints. NAC aims to complete its review in June 2023, and launch the enhanced ARH 2.0 progressively.

3 During the review, the ARH will continue to provide support and resources to the SEP community through its digital platforms, co-working and performance spaces, as well as continued collaborations with partners and intermediaries. This includes the ARH Connects event series which supports learning and networking for arts SEPs, and spans the fields of finance, legal, wellness and more. The series will continue to be held 2 to 3 times each year and aims to feature more programmes led by the arts community.

### **[New] Preserving Singapore's National Monuments for the future**

Our National Monuments are physical reminders of our history and culture, conveying a sense of place and identity. As part of continued efforts to safeguard our built heritage, various National Monuments will be undergoing restoration works from 2023 to preserve the buildings for posterity, and our future generations.

#### **National Museum of Singapore**

2 The restoration and upgrading works for the National Museum of Singapore (National Museum) will include restoring its building façade and upgrades to its museum building facilities. These works are expected to be carried out in phases from late-2023 and are expected to be completed in 2025.

3 While the restoration works are carried out, the National Museum will remain open and accessible to the public<sup>2</sup>. The National Museum will also take the opportunity to review and refresh the content of its permanent galleries, including the Glass Rotunda experience. More details on the National Museum's restoration and content refresh will be shared later this year.

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<sup>2</sup> The main Singapore History Gallery, the *Story of the Forest* installation in the Glass Rotunda and other special exhibitions and programmes will still be open to visitors.

### **Former Istana Kampong Gelam (housing Malay Heritage Centre) and Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall**

4 To improve accessibility and enhance overall visitor experience, both the former Istana Kampong Gelam (housing Malay Heritage Centre) and Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall will be undergoing restoration and upgrading works. These include restoration works to the monument buildings and infrastructural upgrades like mechanical and electrical (M&E) replacement works to ensure that the buildings continue to be energy efficient, with the Malay Heritage Centre also enhancing its galleries and refurbishing its auditorium.

5 The works for the former Istana Kampong Gelam and Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall will begin from 2023 and 2024 respectively, and are expected to be completed in 2025. The two heritage institutions will be closed for the duration of their respective works.

### **Istana**

6 The main building of the Istana was built between 1867 and 1869, and was gazetted collectively with Sri Temasek as a National Monument in 1992, in recognition of the role they played in Singapore's transition from colony to sovereign state. As a National Monument, it represents a shared aspect of heritage for all Singaporeans.

7 The Istana will undergo major restorations works to address deterioration due to age and environmental conditions, and to update existing mechanical and electrical (M&E) systems, starting in early-2024. The restoration works will ensure that the Istana is well preserved for its historical importance and remains functional as a working Government building and venue for important state events and community gatherings.

## **Building a Better Society for Each Other**

### **[Update] Deeper collaboration among Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**

Self-Help Groups (SHGs) run programmes and services that make a positive impact on vulnerable families and individuals as well as support educational and youth development. They also foster strong bonds across different communities and further the spirit of unity in our society.

2 To better serve the community and strengthen our social compact, SHGs – namely Chinese Development Assistance Council (CDAC), Yayasan Mendaki (Mendaki), Singapore Indian Association (SINDA), and Eurasian Association (EA) – will deepen collaboration in youth leadership development, as well as joint training and deployment of volunteers.

#### **(i) SHGs are planning for the inaugural inter-SHG youth dialogues to take place in July 2023.**

- It is part of a series of youth dialogues that will be based on key themes emerging from Forward Singapore.
- Youths will have the opportunity to help chart Singapore's path forward and embark on ground-up initiatives. They will also have the chance to join SHG volunteer pools and connect on issues they are passionate about.
- The SHGs plan to have two dialogue sessions per year, with each SHG hosting on a rotating basis.

#### **(ii) SHGs will train and equip their volunteers with skill sets to facilitate deployment of volunteers across various SHG flagship programmes.**

- Many of SHGs' programmes rely heavily on volunteers. With joint volunteer training and development, volunteers will have more opportunities to interact with one another across the different SHGs.
- They will also be exposed to diverse experiences and perspectives that will help them to develop and grow.

**[Update] Community Dispute Management (CDMF) will be enhanced for more harmonious neighbourhoods**

Over the years, there has been an increasing trend of feedback on community disputes. For example, in 2021, HDB reported 3,200 cases per month of neighbour noise-related feedback, a 25% increase from 2020.

2 Similarly, Ministry of Law's Community Mediation Centre (CMC) saw an increase of 132% in registered cases and the Community Disputes Resolution Tribunals (CDRTs) experienced a 95% increase in claims in 2020, compared to the same period in 2019. Whilst the mediation settlement rate for agency-referred cases that proceed for mediation is about 89%, the take-up rate for mediation (i.e., proportion of registered cases that proceed to mediation) among agency-referred cases is about 28%.

3 Led by MCCY, the Inter-Agency Committee for Community Dispute Management (ICCDM) has reviewed the Community Dispute Management Framework and will make the following enhancements:

- **Develop clearer norms on positive neighbourly behaviour** and to encourage the amicable resolution of such feedback in the first instance;
- **Strengthen the mediation framework** to increase the use of mediation to resolve disputes amicably, such as mandating mediation; and
- **Streamline and simplify Community Disputes Resolution Tribunal (CDRT) processes** to deliver faster and more effective relief.

4 The enhancements seek to:

- Achieve more harmonious neighbourhood relations where residents uphold and abide by pro-social norms, and where disputes arising from violation of norms can be effectively and quickly resolved.
- Address pain points that residents and agencies currently encounter in managing and responding to community disputes, including grappling

with the transient nature of dis-amenities, lack of levers, and process difficulties at the CDRT.

5 Most neighbour disputes can and should be resolved through community engagement and mediation. The enhancements are intended to support early amicable resolution of disputes, while also providing more effective means to address protracted and egregious cases.

6 A public consultation on the proposed CDMF enhancements will be conducted later this year. Some of these enhancements will require amendments to the Community Disputes Resolution Act 2015 (CDRA), which will be tabled in Parliament after the public consultation exercise.

**[Update] Forward Singapore Unite Pillar: Engaging stakeholders and launch of physical and digital campaigns that evoke a sense of home**

Since the Forward Singapore exercise was launched in June 2022, over 14,000 Singaporeans from all walks of life have participated in about 140 engagement sessions, of which 23 sessions were held under the Unite Pillar. The engagement participants comprised a wide range of stakeholders, including members of the public, corporates, volunteers, youths, representatives from sports and arts organisations and social service agencies.

2 Participants in our engagements spoke about embracing diversity, and the shared culture, heritage and experiences that connected us with one another, even those living overseas. Participants were also enthusiastic about playing a bigger role in shaping our future.

3 Physical and digital campaigns were also rolled out. For example, the interactive 'As One United People' roving roadshows (until early April 2023) were launched to raise awareness, spark conversations, and engage the public on three key thrusts under the Unite Pillar – Belong, Bond and Build. Visitors were invited to contribute their thoughts and respond to questions relating to national identity and what unity means to them, and a total of more than 26,000 responses were received so far.

4 More updates on the Unite pillar can be found at [www.forwardsingapore.gov.sg/pillars/unite](http://www.forwardsingapore.gov.sg/pillars/unite).

## A More Vibrant and Inclusive Sporting Nation

### **[New] Additional ActiveSG credits for children to enjoy an active and sporting lifestyle**

Sport Singapore (SportSG) will increase access for children to ActiveSG programmes and facilities, to encourage our children to be active, and cultivate lifelong sports participation from young. We also want to create more opportunities for children from different social backgrounds to interact and bond over sports, outside of school.

2 Singapore Citizens (SCs) and Permanent Residents (PRs) age 4 to 12 this year (i.e. born in years 2011-2019) will now have more opportunities for structured sport participation beyond school with an additional \$100 credit in their ActiveSG account. Individuals in this age group who are ActiveSG members will automatically receive the additional credits on 1 May 2023. Non-ActiveSG members (aged 4-12) who sign up as a new member between 1 May 2023 and 31 Oct 2023 will receive a total of \$200\* ActiveSG credits. These credits can be used to:

- Offset the cost of programmes such as ActiveSG Academies and Clubs, leagues and competitions, and
- Cover entry fees for swimming pools and facility bookings.

3 The ActiveSG credits can be rolled over to the next year if members use their credits at least once in the current year.

4 Eligible individuals can sign up at [myactivesg.com](https://myactivesg.com) or via the ActiveSG app.

*\*Since 2014, a one-off \$100 ActiveSG credit is given to all Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents upon signing up for ActiveSG membership. The additional \$100 ActiveSG credit will only be available from 1 May 2023.*



**[Update] A more vibrant Kallang Alive precinct**

Singaporeans can look forward to more community and sporting event days at the Singapore Sports Hub in the year ahead. These include World Table Tennis Singapore Smash, FIBA 3x3 Asia Cup, HSBC Rugby 7s, and community events such as Stadium Open Houses, sport try-outs and the GetActive! Singapore. The National School Games (NSG) which began in February, will be making a return to the Singapore Sports Hub. The Sports Hub will be the venue for the semi-finals and finals of a number of sports, such as track and field.

2 With the completion of the handover, we have been able to make good progress to building a more vibrant, integrated Kallang Alive precinct. The planned development of facilities at Kallang Alive precinct will be completed in stages over the coming years, with the Kallang Football Hub and Kallang Tennis Centre due to be completed by the second half of 2023. With these facilities, the community will be able to enjoy the seven indoor courts and 12 outdoor courts at the Kallang Tennis Centre, and four sheltered pitches, three outdoor pitches for 11-a-side football and futsal at the Kallang Football Hub.

3 Singaporeans can also look forward to a greater array of community events occurring alongside marquee competitions (e.g., football clinics at the side lines of marquee soccer matches).

**[Update] More sports spaces in neighbourhoods in 2023 under the Sports Facilities Master Plan (SFMP)**

SportSG continues to refresh and introduce new infrastructure and concepts to increase the accessibility to sports facilities and encourage social cohesion and a healthy lifestyle through sport participation.

2 Bukit Canberra, an integrated sport and community hub, will see facilities such as an indoor sports hall, swimming pools, gym, fitness and dance studios, a hawker centre, and a polyclinic. The indoor sports hall and hawker centre opened to the public at the end of 2022. The rest of the facilities will come onstream progressively.

3 Residents in Jurong will have greater access to sporting facilities when the ActiveSG Sport Village @Jurong Town opens in the first half of 2023. The Sport Village will consist of a full-sized hockey field, four sheltered courts for futsal and indoor hockey, two outdoor tennis courts, four outdoor pickleball courts, three football fields for 11/7/5-a-side football, a jogging path and outdoor fitness areas.

4 Residents in Sembawang and Punggol East are now able to enjoy new sporting facilities at the recently completed Sport-in-Precinct (SIP) facilities in their neighbourhood. More SIP projects are also expected to open in Nee Soon Central, Woodlands and Gek Poh in the second half of 2023.

5 Rejuvenation works at Delta and Choa Chu Kang Sport Centres will be completed with the centres slated to open in the first half of 2023.

6 The design tender for Toa Payoh Integrated Development (TPID) project launched in June 2020, has been awarded to MKP Architects Pte Ltd. The proposed sporting facilities such as swimming pools, indoor sports halls, sheltered tennis, futsal and netball courts, gymnasium and fitness studios, and a football stadium, will create opportunities for the community to come together and bond through sporting activities. At the same time, these elements will also help people achieve their health and wellness goals. In addition, there are plans for the development to house the national training centres for aquatics, netball and table tennis. Other proposed community facilities include a public library, a regional park and a polyclinic. Residents can look forward to these facilities by 2030.

**[Update] Updating the Disability Sports Master Plan (DSMP) for greater inclusivity in sports**

MCCY and SportSG, together with partner agencies, will update the DSMP to enhance our current initiatives and further drive the take-up of disability sports.

2 Launched in 2016, the DSMP has contributed to more sports participation among persons with disabilities. Based on SportSG's National Sport Participation Survey, the sports participation rate among persons with disabilities has grown from 28% in 2015 to 50% in 2019. This compares with a sports participation rate of 66% for the general population in 2019.

3 With the launch of the Enabling Masterplan 2030 by MSF, it is timely to review the outcomes and impact of DSMP initiatives and update our strategies to provide a further boost to persons with disabilities in sports participation, through enhancing current initiatives and plugging gaps in the system.

4 MCCY will work towards increasing opportunities for mass sports participation for persons with disabilities and enhancing support for aspiring para-athletes.

#### Efforts in supporting disability sports

5 Since 2016, SportSG has introduced a range of disability sport programmes, including learn-to-play programmes and an annual Play Inclusive campaign.

6 Since its launch in March 2022, the Para Sport Academy has rolled out 10 sports over two phases with more than 200 participants to date. The academy has also built a robust network of partners in the para sport ecosystem to create more opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate in sport, as well as develop pathways for persons with disabilities who wish to pursue sport at a competitive level.

7 As of January 2023, SportSG has retrofitted swimming pools at six ActiveSG Sport Centres with ramps for wheelchairs and eight Inclusive ActiveSG gyms, with upcoming redevelopment plans to enhance accessibility to all sports facilities and other amenities for persons with disabilities. We are working towards making all ActiveSG Gyms inclusive by 2026.

#### **[Update] Singapore Sport Hall of Fame refresh to recognise outstanding Sports personalities; TeamSG athletes give back**

The Singapore Sport Hall of Fame will be refreshed to recognise athletes who demonstrate a sustained contribution back to sport, beyond medal achievement. It will also include a new category for sport leaders such as administrators, coaches and scientists. The President of Singapore will be presenting the Singapore Sport Hall of Fame award.

2 Our Hall of Fame awardees are not only recognised for their sporting contributions, but also valued as role models who can galvanise TeamSG athletes to give back to the community. Since the launch of TeamSG Cares in April 2022, close to 80 athletes have been involved in TeamSG Cares initiatives. There are more than 4 initiatives a month, which include weekly food distribution activities, school engagements, talks to underprivileged youths, sport clinics (boxing, bowling, football), and fund-raising activities for President's Challenge.

3 Former and current athletes can also tap on a SportSG-funded Active Citizen Grant (ACG) to kickstart ground-up initiatives on their own or in collaboration with corporate partners that contribute towards giving back to community. As of end-2022, SportSG has approved and disbursed over \$75,000 through the ACG grant to 5 athletes for community projects.

### **[New] Building capabilities in the fitness industry with new National Registry of Exercise Professionals**

A new National Registry of Exercise Professionals (NREP) will be rolled out in phases from April 2023 as part of the longer-term strategy to professionalise the fitness industry and build capabilities, especially in the area of safety and knowledge. Our fitness professionals are important contributors to our overall sports ecosystem that promotes an active lifestyle for all. All exercise professionals are strongly encouraged to register under the NREP.

- 2 With the implementation of the NREP:
- There will be clear safety standards and capability requirements to help the fitness sector raise its professional standards;
  - Exercise professionals will be certified and provided with free membership with the National Instructors and Coaches Association (NICA) in the first year. As NICA members, exercise professionals will enjoy benefits that include mediation support for workplace disputes, training funding to defray essential course fees and business networking & resources; and

- Members of public will have access to the Registry so that they can make more informed decisions and have greater assurance when engaging accredited exercise professionals.

3 The first phase will start from April 2023, where exercise professionals who have the following certifications will be accorded the full NREP membership\*:

- Standard First Aid with AED & CPR
- Code of ethics
- Relevant fitness/exercise certification

*\*Exercise professionals who do not possess the Standard First Aid with AED & CPR certification but would like to be registered on NREP can do so and receive a provisional NREP membership. With the provisional membership, they will be able to register for the Standard First Aid course at a subsidised rate. Upon successful completion of the First Aid course, the exercise professional will be accorded the full NREP membership.*

4 From April 2024, government agencies who hire a sizable number of exercise professionals including Sport Singapore, People's Association, Health Promotion Board and Ministry of Home Affairs will only hire exercise professionals registered under the NREP. Exercise professionals will also need to have the Safe Sport Certification in addition to the required certifications in the first phase.

5 In a later phase, the NREP will implement an accreditation framework to drive continual education and capability development in the sector. SportSG will be working with the relevant stakeholders to develop this accreditation framework.

**[Update] Unleash the Roar! - Making progress towards growing a strong pipeline of football talent**

Since the launch of Unleash the Roar! (UTR!) in 2021, a total of 12 School Football Academies have been established, of which two have dedicated programmes for girls. UTR! plans to expand the number of SFAs and increase its programme intake by the beginning of 2024. This will bring the total participation numbers to approximately 800 male and female footballers, aged 13 to 16 in SFA

programmes – an increase from the 400 youths in the pilot phase launched in 2022.

2 UTR! has also started a partnership with Spain's LaLiga Academy to provide overseas training opportunities to help Singapore's young football players grow and develop their skills. In November 2022, 20 UTR! youths had the opportunity to attend a month-long training and compete with La Liga Academy footballers. UTR! will work towards making such experiences more available for the youths.

3 In addition, UTR! will continue to create more structured opportunities for training and competition, both locally and overseas, for young talented football players who aspire to be selected and represent Singapore in the national teams. This will include a scholarship programme that will provide promising footballers the best environment to train and compete. The first batch of scholarships is expected to be awarded by end-2023. More details on the scholarship and eligibility criteria will be announced in the coming months.

## **Building a Stronger Culture of Care and Giving**

### **[Update] Empowering community partners to better engage volunteers and support more beneficiaries**

MCCY will continue to foster vibrant and collaborative SG Cares Community Networks to enable individuals and organisations to collectively address needs in each town:

- MCCY is working with partners such as the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) and Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) to provide more support to the 24 SG Cares Volunteer Centres in deepening their capabilities.
- MCCY will also continue to grow the network of SG Cares National-level Intermediaries to expand the pool of resources and services that SG Cares Community Networks can tap on.

### **Deepening capabilities of 24 SG Cares Volunteer Centres**

2 As of December 2022, SG Cares Volunteer Centres (VCs) facilitated more than 45,000 volunteers to meet needs on the ground in their respective communities. The SG Cares VCs also trained over 3,000 volunteer leaders, developing their skills and confidence to spearhead ground-up initiatives within their communities.

3 MCCY is working with partners to help SG Cares VCs deepen their capabilities in the core domains of volunteer management and training, partnership engagement, digitalisation, and communications. For example:

- NCSS will develop a Volunteer Development Framework to guide SG Cares VCs and their partners within the SG Cares Community Networks in volunteer management and training;
- SUSS will conduct regular Community of Practice sessions and offer training programmes and UniLearn courses in the areas of Social

Entrepreneurship, Digital Marketing, Data Analytics, Stakeholder Engagement, and Social Innovation.

### **Growing the network of SG Cares National Intermediaries**

4 As of December 2022, SG Cares VCs and their partners have collectively served over 340,000 beneficiaries with more than 370,000 volunteering hours.

5 Since 2021, MCCY has engaged professional bodies across the legal, accounting, medical, nursing, chartered secretaries and professional engineering sectors to serve as SG Cares National Intermediaries. As SG Cares National Intermediaries, these professional organisations contribute their professional skills and knowledge to SG Cares VCs and their network of community partners.

6 To-date, six professional bodies have joined the network of SG Cares National Intermediaries. We will continue to grow this network to expand the pool of resources and services that SG Cares Community Networks can draw on to achieve greater impact on the ground.

### **[New] Growing Purpose-Driven Businesses in Singapore**

In January 2023, the Alliance for Action on Corporate Purpose, led by National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre (NVPC) and the Singapore Business Federation (SBF) Foundation launched a framework and blueprint on corporate purpose<sup>3</sup>.

2 The framework and blueprint are a guide for businesses to implement and track their progress as purpose-driven organisations. Purpose-driven companies are not just profit-oriented but seek to contribute to society across environmental, human, social, and economic dimensions. Beyond corporate giving, purpose-driven companies design their business practices and operations in ways that benefit society. The framework and blueprint build on existing Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) accreditation frameworks, which makes it easy for businesses to start or advance in their corporate purpose journey.

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<sup>3</sup> Corporate Purpose: A Framework and Blueprint for Businesses in Singapore



3 MCCY is exploring a partnership with SBF in 2023 to promote the adoption of the framework and blueprint among businesses in Singapore. This includes supporting businesses in understanding how businesses can adopt business practices that contribute to ESG outcomes. This partnership will also support NVPC to grow the number of purpose-driven companies in Singapore.

4 To date, 47 companies have committed to adopt and implement corporate purpose within their organisations.

### **[Update] Corporate Volunteer Scheme (CVS) enhanced and extended for three years**

The Corporate Volunteer Scheme (previously known as Business and Institution of Public Character Partnership Scheme) will be extended for three years (i.e. 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2026) and enhanced to adapt to the evolving volunteering landscape in Singapore.

2 Under the Corporate Volunteer Scheme, businesses enjoy a 250% tax deduction on wages and qualifying expenditure when their employees volunteer at an IPC. Under the enhanced scheme:

- Businesses will be able to claim tax deductions for volunteering activities conducted outside of the IPC's premises, such as:
  - General activities, including the following:
    - Befriending activities such as art & craft sessions and sports and fitness activities.
    - Cleaning/refurbishment activities such as decluttering, repair and refurbishment of beneficiaries' homes
    - Virtual activities such as online mentoring and tuition support for youths/children.
  - Skills-based activities, including the following:
    - Pro-bono professional services to IPCs such as legal, audit and accounting services provided by professional services firms.
    - IT services for IPCs e.g., development and provision of digital solutions/tools for IPCs.

- With the doubling of the cap on qualifying expenditure for each IPC from \$50,000 to \$100,000, businesses can cultivate deeper volunteering partnerships with IPCs, benefitting the IPCs and the causes/beneficiaries they serve.

3 The enhancements will take effect from 1 January 2024.

**[Update] Over 305 charities benefited from the Charities Capability Fund (CCF) in 2022**

The Charities Capability Fund (formerly known as VWOs-Charities Capability Fund (VCF)) was extended for five years from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2027. It was first established in 2007.

2 CCF aims to enhance productivity, operational efficiency, governance, and management capabilities of the charity sector. Between 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022, 305 charities/IPC's have tapped on CCF and more than \$2 million of the funds were committed.

**[Update] Tax Deduction for Qualifying Donations extended for three years**

To continue to encourage giving, the Government will extend the **250% tax deduction for qualifying donations made to IPCs and other eligible institutions** (see [Table 1](#)) for another three years, i.e., for donations made during the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2026 (both dates inclusive).

Table 1: Eligibility Criteria

<b>Eligible Donations</b>	<b>Eligible Recipients</b>	<b>Eligible Donors</b>
Cash donations	Any IPC and the Singapore Government	All donors
Gift of shares listed on the Singapore Exchange (SGX) or of units in unit trusts traded in Singapore or listed on the SGX	Any IPC	Individual donors only
Gifts of artefacts	Approved museums (approval by the National Heritage Board (NHB))	All donors
Donation of public sculptures	Approved recipients (approval by the NHB)	All donors
Gifts of parcels of land or buildings	Any IPC	All donors

## **Empowering Youths to Play a Bigger Role in Shaping Singapore's Future**

### **[New] More opportunities to grow youth leaders who have a heart for Singapore**

National Youth Council (NYC) will extend its leadership programmes to younger youths, to develop youth leaders who have a heart for Singapore and understand the unique challenges and opportunities that we face as a nation.

2 Since 2017, NYC has been running the flagship Our Singapore Leadership Programme (OSLP) that focuses on developing young adult leaders aged 25 – 35 years old. Extending our efforts to younger youths (16 – 24 years old), NYC will offer OSLP to secondary school student leaders and introduce a new programme for students from the Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs). These programmes provide opportunities for youths to:

- i. Develop their leadership potential beyond the classroom;
- ii. Deepen their understanding and appreciation of national issues;
- iii. Connect with other youth leaders/peers to spark ideas and lead ground-up actions; and
- iv. Expand their perspectives, soft skills, and networks through their interaction with youth of a wide range of backgrounds.

3 Youths play a crucial role in shaping our nation's future. It is important for them to understand and appreciate the key challenges, trade-offs and opportunities that Singapore faces in policymaking, and anchor them in Singapore's context and national policies. It is also important to equip them with the relevant skills, networks and perspectives for greater civic involvement. Through this initiative, NYC seeks to:

- i. Foster a more rooted and committed community of youth leaders with a heart for Singapore;
- ii. Encourage greater understanding between students from different institutions and demographic backgrounds.
- iii. Empower youth leaders to be catalysts of change and encourage their peers to effect positive change in partnership with the Government, fellow citizens, and other stakeholders in society.

4 In the steady state, NYC will provide a continuum of opportunities to develop youth leaders from 15-35 years old. More details on the new programmes are as follows:

**i. Our Singapore Leadership Programme (Secondary 4)**

- The first edition was piloted in December 2022 and ran from 5 to 8 December 2022, with 53 schools/student leaders, including four students from the madrasahs. The four-day programme was jointly organised by NYC and People's Association's National Community Leadership Institute and in partnership with the Ministry of Education.
- This residential programme caters to nominated Secondary 4 student leaders and is an adaptation of the NYC's OSLP flagship programme for those between the ages 25 and 35. Participants were provided the opportunity to attend workshops and dialogues, and immerse themselves in unique place-based learning experiences (e.g., visits to Sembcorp Floating Solar Farm and former Singtel Kranji Transmitting Station).
- Youth are nominated by their schools. The second edition of the programme is planned for December 2023.

**ii. New programme for IHL students**

- For students in the IHLs, a new leadership programme is being developed by NYC, and will be launched in mid-2023 for nominated student leaders from across the IHLs. More details will be shared when ready.

4 These youth leadership programmes are some of the many opportunities that NYC provides for youths to develop and grow. Post-programme, NYC will continue to engage, develop, and cultivate youth leaders at different transitions through various developmental and leadership opportunities across NYC, youth sector organisations, and other government agencies.

**[Update] Resumption of the OBS cohort programme**

Resumption of MOE-OBS Challenge (MOC) programme

The National Outdoor Adventure Education (OAE) Masterplan between MCCY and MOE was first announced at Budget and COS 2016. The MOE-OBS Challenge (MOC) programme for Secondary 3 students was rolled out in 2017, and will serve the entire cohort of Secondary 3 students every year in the steady state.

2 As part of safe management measures during COVID-19, the programme was temporarily paused before resuming to a two-day in-person programme in 2022. Post-COVID-19, the MOC programme reached around 23,000 participants in 2022 (about 60% of the S3 cohort). Feedback from students, teachers, and parents has been positive. Since the start of 2023, the MOC programme has returned to its original full five-day residential format.

3 Once completed, the new campus at Coney Island will expand OBS's capacity to provide more Outdoor Adventure Learning (OAL) opportunities for youths and, together with OBS's existing campuses, will aim to serve the entire cohort of up to 40,000 Secondary 3 students and 5,000 post-Secondary School youths every year.

Sub-committees formed to improve professional and safety standards in OAE sector

4 The OAE Council was formed in September 2022 to spearhead the development of Singapore's OAE sector with the objective of setting the national standards for operations and safety.

5 The OAE Council has established three sub-committees comprising public and private sector stakeholders to drive the following workstreams:

- i. Standards and Certification: This sub-committee is overseeing the development of national OAE Activity Standards (OAEAS) and designing the standards adoption strategy.
- ii. Professional Development: This sub-committee is designing a comprehensive workforce development roadmap for individuals and organisations in the OAE sector. This includes aspects covering the recruitment, employment terms, training, and professional development of practitioners.
- iii. Safety and Compliance: This sub-committee will institute an OAE sector-specific Risk Assessment & Management System and an Incident Reporting System.

6 These workstreams commenced in December 2022 and include ongoing consultations and engagements with relevant stakeholders in the sector.

### **[Update] Six Well-Being Circles set up under the SG Mental Well-Being Network**

The SG Mental Well-Being Network (“Network”) was launched in July 2022 to bring government agencies, community partners, and citizens together to take action and strengthen the mental health and well-being outcomes in our society.

2 The **Well-Being Circles** are a key initiative under the Network. They aim to: (i) raise awareness of mental well-being issues and resources, (ii) teach citizens basic skills to look after themselves and others, (iii) provide a platform where citizens can support each other, and (iv) train volunteers to be community well-being leaders.

3 Six Well-Being Circles have been set up in various locales across Singapore:

- Befrienders’ Network @ Zhenghua
- Moulmein-Cairnhill (MoCa) Well-Being Circle

- Punggol West Well-Being Circle
- Project Re:Ground @ The Red Box (Somerset)
- Bukit Batok East Well-Being Circle
- Kolam Ayer Well-Being Circle

4 The Well-Being Circles are made up of community leaders and mental health and well-being organisations that conduct well-being programmes for those in their community. Each Circle has a different mix of programmes and partners to cater to the needs of the local community.

5 MCCY worked with a variety of government and community partners such as Health Promotion Board, National Council of Social Service, Agency for Integrated Care, MOH Office for Healthcare Transformation, TOUCH Community Services, Singapore Association for Mental Health, Growth Collective, Happiness Initiative, and Campus Psy to implement Well-Being Circles in the community. Thus far, the Well-Being Circles have brought together 27 partner agencies and organisations and trained about 400 citizens who can potentially be deployed to support others.

6 In the year ahead, the Network will work with more partners and citizens to strengthen mental health and well-being in the community.

**[Update] More opportunities for youths to be involved and take greater ownership of spaces within Somerset Belt**

Youths continue to be involved in shaping the development of the **Somerset Belt** into a vibrant precinct that builds their identity and supports their aspirations.

2 There will be more opportunities for youths to get involved and take greater ownership of spaces within the Somerset Belt.

- Expanding opportunities for civic youth participation and ownership:  
Youths interested in place-making and programming will be able to have a direct hand in defining parts of the Somerset Belt and how the precinct will operate in the future. For example, we will be inviting youths to share



their ideas and collectively decide on what they would like to do with the iconic Red Bus. More details will be announced in 2Q 2023.

- ii. Enabling youths to take ground-up action: MCCY and NYC will continue to provide platforms and funding support for youths to implement their ideas. For example, through our signature programme, *Realise Your Somerset Project*, we supported 24 projects in 2022 and reached out to more than 18,000 youths through various causes such as the arts, sports, e-sports, environment, mental well-being, and entrepreneurship.
- iii. Place-making Somerset Belt into a vibrant youth precinct: MCCY and NYC will continue to work with community and corporate partners and other interested parties to support and showcase youths' aspirations and passions on Somerset Belt. For example, at the inaugural *Somerfest* in December 2022, youths saw projects by their peers and participated in exciting activities such as entrepreneurship talks led by our partner INVADE and music showcases by another partner Zendyll Studios.
- iv. Refreshing the precinct to support youths' aspirations: Physical infrastructure enhancements will begin in 2023 and will be completed in phases over the next two years to ensure continued youth activations at the precinct during construction. The works are targeted to provide multi-purpose spaces with flexible modular structures to enable plug-and-play activations to help realise our youths' ideas.

3 \*SCAPE is also refreshing its space in 2023 with a re-launch in early 2024. When the refresh is complete, youths can expect to find new experiences and programming that are co-designed with the creative and other industries, social enterprises, and community interest groups.

4 By partnering our youths, Somerset Belt will have spaces carved out for vibrant activities, catering to a variety of youth interests, subcultures, and lifestyles

to foster greater interactions among youths and build a distinct Somerset community that is “by youths, for youths, and with youths”.

5 Youths interested in placemaking can look out for calls to action via the Somerset Belt’s social media platforms (Instagram and Telegram), and website: <https://youthactionplan.sg/somersetbelt/>.

### **[Update] Mentoring SG Office set up to drive the movement**

The Mentoring SG movement is a key initiative launched in support of the Forward Singapore (FSG) exercise to build a strong mentoring ecosystem, where youths can access relevant mentoring opportunities based on their diverse needs arising from their life stages and circumstances.

2 The **Mentoring SG movement** seeks to do so by:

- i. Improving wayfinding on mentoring opportunities and matching for mentors and mentees;
- ii. Strengthening capability and capacity of mentoring organisations and mentors;
- iii. Fostering partnerships between schools, corporates, and mentoring organisations to strengthen and expand mentoring opportunities; and
- iv. Promoting youths’ awareness and acceptance of mentoring.

3 The Mentoring SG movement continues the work of the **Mentoring Alliance for Action** (AfA), which was set up in 2021 to strengthen the mentoring culture in Singapore and provide opportunities for youths to gain access to mentorship. During its term, the Mentoring AfA has amassed more than 1,000 mentors and created around 4,000 mentoring opportunities for youths.

4 Following the conclusion of the Mentoring AfA in December 2022, the Mentoring SG movement will implement the Mentoring AfA’s recommendations, such as strengthening wayfinding, fostering partnerships and promoting awareness, to accelerate the growth of mentoring opportunities for youths.

- 5 To drive the movement, the **Mentoring SG office**<sup>1</sup> was launched on 9 December 2022 to strengthen youth mentoring efforts in Singapore. This includes:
- i. Promoting youth awareness and acceptance of mentoring through amplification;
  - ii. Enhancing the Mentoring.sg site and the first-stop portal, Mentoring SG Connect, to help mentors and mentees find suitable opportunities tailored to their needs;
  - iii. Expanding mentoring opportunities for youth through partnerships among schools, corporates, and mentoring organisations;
  - iv. Building capabilities among interested mentors by providing training and resources, and sharing best practices.