

MCCY COS 2015 LIVEABLE CITY, ENDEARING HOME

Factsheet 1

SG50 – Our Heritage, Our Culture, Our Future

Reflecting on our journey together, celebrating what makes us Singaporean and inspiring confidence and action for Singapore's future

I. Vibrant Civic District for SG50 and Our Future

As we celebrate our Golden Jubilee this year, we want to celebrate our heritage, our culture and our future. We want to **enliven and bring greater vibrancy to the Civic District**, the birthplace of modern Singapore, to create a space where people can develop greater emotional connection to the city. As part of the transformation of the Civic District, we restored the Victoria Theatre and Victoria Concert Hall, and are now revamping the Asian Civilisations Museum, National Museum of Singapore, and Esplanade. We are also **creating greater accessibility for pedestrians** and beautifying the District with public artworks.

There will also be **exciting programmes in the Civic District to look forward to** this year. The soft-opening of the National Gallery and launch of the Art Connector will be happening-with a carnival at the Padang in end November. Following that, the Jubilee Walk will also be launched.

Jubilee Walk

The Jubilee Walk is a commemorative trail that connects the past, present and future elements of the Singapore Story together. The Jubilee Walk will be identified by trail and monument markers, leading visitors through iconic locations within the Civic District and Marina Bay area. This new trail will be launched in November 2015 with a mass walk that journeys from the National Museum of Singapore to Gardens by the Bay, where the “futuretogether.SG” exhibition will be held. The Jubilee Walk will be a physical legacy from our Jubilee year, for generations to enjoy in the years to come.

Public Art Commissions for Jubilee Walk

As part of Jubilee Walk, the National Arts Council – in collaboration with the National Heritage Board and the Urban Redevelopment Authority – conducted an open call for proposals in June 2014. **Artists were invited to develop artworks that commemorated Singapore's 50th birthday and resonated with the significance of Jubilee Walk.** Three such artworks by Singapore artists have been selected and will be commissioned under the Public Art Trust, and it will be installed within public spaces along Jubilee Walk. This will **make art a part of our cityscape and allow the public to reflect on our heritage, identity and nation-building journey through art** while enjoying these public spaces.

The three artworks are:

- “24 hours in Singapore” by Baet Yeok Kuan
- “The Rising Moon” by Han Sai Por and Kum Chee-Kiong
- “Cloud Nine: Raining” by Tan Wee Lit

For more information, please see **Annex A. Revamping the Esplanade Forecourt**

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Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay will be **revamping its Forecourt** from 2 March – 31 July 2015. This is part of its ongoing plans to refresh parts of the centre to better serve its visitors and patrons. The Forecourt will re-open in August 2015 with lush greenery, shaded play and seating features for families and friends to gather, and suited for arts performances throughout the year. The revamp also **aims to improve the experience for visitors** around the wider Civic District Precinct, including enhancing the existing pedestrian connection to Esplanade Park from the Padang and the new Jubilee Bridge.

More images are available in **Annex B**.

‘Naked Museum’ at National Gallery Singapore

A ‘Naked Museum’ event, held over two weekends (25 – 26 April & 2 – 3 May), offers a special sneak preview of the Gallery – the only time it will be seen without the artworks it will be exhibiting. The focus of the event is to **showcase the beauty of the buildings’ transformation** and to provide an educational tour on the buildings’ history. The event will also create greater anticipation for the Gallery’s soft-opening at the end of 2015.

II. More funding for the conservation of Singapore’s heritage

We also want to **continue growing and documenting our shared heritage**, to **preserve and conserve** it for the future generations of Singaporeans. The Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY) will provide a **boost towards Singapore’s heritage effort**. Specifically, more funding will be available for the following heritage effort:

- \$12M for a second round of funding for NHB’s National Monuments Fund (NMF) to safeguard the preservation of our built heritage;
- Funding for heritage commemoration, assessment and research

Funding boost to heritage preservation and commemoration efforts

Heritage awareness amongst Singaporeans has grown over the years, with more taking greater ownership of our shared heritage and identity. In partnership with the community, we are committed towards ensuring that our heritage and history are preserved.

MCCY will thus provide a **boost for the preservation and commemoration of Singapore’s heritage**. **\$12M has been set aside for a second tranche of NHB’s National Monuments Fund (NMF)** to safeguard the preservation of our built heritage, and **funding will also be dedicated to heritage commemoration, assessment and research**. The funding support will go towards safeguarding Singapore’s built and tangible heritage that have testified to our nation’s development, and continue to remain as physical reminders of our shared past.

Top-up to the National Monuments Fund with new usage for maintenance

NMF will provide a second round of funding of \$12M for the next five years to continue supporting our **31 qualifying religious and non-profit National Monuments** in their restoration efforts – a \$7M increase from the first tranche of \$5M that was introduced in 2008.

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To encourage responsible ownership of the National Monuments, the second tranche of NMF will continue to be disbursed through a **co-funding scheme**. The **funding cap per application has also been raised from \$1M to \$1.5M** to better cope with the rising restoration costs. Each application will be assessed on the severity of damage that needs to be rectified and only restoration works that are in accordance with the National Monuments' respective Preservation Guidelines can qualify for the grant.

The guidelines for NMF's usage will also be **expanded for the first time to cover maintenance and preventive measures**, which will help arrest deterioration and aging problems of the National Monuments early and alleviate restoration costs in the long run.

This new provision, coupled with regular site inspections conducted by NHB's Preservation of Sites and Monuments division, will further **bolster support for the upkeep of our National Monuments**.

Funding for heritage assessment and commemoration

As Singapore progresses as a nation, the need to balance redevelopment with heritage preservation will intensify. We want to develop our capabilities and knowledge base through the areas of heritage research, documentation and commemoration in order to achieve a healthy balance between Singapore's development and heritage preservation.

About the Heritage Research Grant
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) can submit research proposals.• Two Requests for Proposals will be made each year

The funding will contribute to two main areas:

- **A nation-wide heritage survey of Singapore's heritage**

The nation-wide heritage survey aims to systematically and comprehensively map out Singapore's landscape of tangible (historic sites and structures) and intangible (traditions and cultures) heritage. Research and documentation projects will concurrently be carried out, and their findings added on to information gleaned from the survey.

- **A new heritage research grant**

The heritage research grant, a new NHB grant initiative, will provide funding to encourage institutes of higher learning, think tanks, and academics to contribute to the wealth of heritage information and resources through their study and research. Their contributions will help plug existing gaps in heritage research, and provide insights into other new areas.

To support these new initiatives, **NHB will be inviting experts of different disciplines from academia, heritage NGOs and heritage practitioners to form a Heritage Advisory Panel** that will advise us on best practices in documentation and commemoration, and guide us in the upcoming heritage surveys and research.

Together, these initiatives will help realise a ready knowledge pool of heritage resources, which can be tapped on to guide decisions and processes in planning and development, as well as raise overall awareness and understanding of both our tangible and intangible heritage. They will also serve as yet another platform for more partnerships between the government, communities, academics and researchers to synergise their heritage assessment and commemoration efforts.

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III. Supporting Next-Gen Aspirations

As we look towards the future for Singapore, we want to be sure to support the aspirations of our youth, as they will shape Singapore's future.

Involving youth in SG50 celebrations

This year, National Youth Council will host a series of youth engagement conversations led by thought leaders. These sessions will **invite youth to share their reflections and stories on SG50**. In addition, there will also be many events **for youths to celebrate SG50 together** which include the SHINE Youth Festival (10th Anniversary), Youth Celebrate! and Aspirations with Chingay.

These events will culminate in a pinnacle event, the FutureTogether.SG exhibition where youths can reflect on and commit to building a better future for Singapore.

Stronger focus for *SCAPE programmes

*SCAPE will undertake **infrastructural developments and enhancements, and more programming that will better support youth aspirations**. This also includes plans to update their tenant mix with new lifestyle offerings that are popular with youths.

Programmes at *SCAPE will have a stronger focus on areas of strong youth interest such as music, media and dance. Youths can look forward to the following events in the coming months:

- *SCAPE Invasion Tour (March 2015 – November 2015) – outreach programme bringing made-in-Singapore music talents to our schools
- YouTube Fanfest (May 2015) – Live show involving international YouTube sensations
- National Youth Film Awards (July 2015) – inaugural showcase of films produced by local students

*SCAPE will also be developing a suite of personal well-being and development programmes. These can take the form of seminars, talks and workshops where youths are guided by mentors who will broaden their perspectives and coach them on life skills such as leadership and stress management.

In time to come, youths can also benefit from a physical and digital concierge service at *SCAPE, a "first-stop centre/portal" with information on all youth-related events and programmes available in Singapore.

Enhancements to *SCAPE infrastructure

The following areas at *SCAPE will be enhanced to better support its focus and programmes:

- Bandstand & Youth Plaza – space will be enhanced with a new bandstand for more outdoor music performances, increased hangout areas for youths and improved tenant mix with lifestyle offerings
- Gallery – remodelled 100-seater space suitable for film screenings, music performances and seminars

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More details on the infrastructural enhancements will be shared when ready.

For more information, please see **Annex C**.

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ANNEX A

The Public Art Trust Commissions

The Public Art Trust

The Public Art Trust (PAT) is an initiative by the National Arts Council (NAC) to make art a part of our urban spaces and bring art closer to Singaporeans. It aims to commission impactful and meaningful new art in spaces where we live, work and play; cultivate philanthropy and best practices; and develop visual literacy among Singaporeans. It will prioritise opportunities for Singapore artists and provide platforms for collaborations with international peers to drive education and develop best practices in public art in Singapore. The PAT will also partner private donors and corporates who see the value in creating new public art, by providing tax incentives and dollar-for-dollar matching towards commissioning costs.

The PAT was established by the NAC in 2014 with \$10 million seed funding from the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY).

“24 Hours in Singapore” by Baet Yeok Kuan

“24 Hours in Singapore” is a spherical audio sculpture that features recordings of life from Singapore’s daily scenes—the sounds of traffic in heartlands, neighbourhood parks, wet markets, coffee shops, MRT trains, etc. Sited near the Asian Civilisation Museum along the Singapore River, the artwork consists of five large, polished steel spheres that reflect the surrounding landscape and act as an audio time capsule retaining the memories of our present day. Serving as a remembrance of the rich intangible heritage of our daily lives in Singapore, the sculpture brings the public closer to different events happening in Singapore within the time scape.

About the Artist

Baet Yeok Kuan graduated with a Diploma in Fine Arts (Painting) from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts in 1987 and received his MA in Fine Arts from the University of Central England, Birmingham in 1992. He has represented Singapore in various international symposiums and was also the President of Modern Art Society Singapore from 2003 to 2004. To date, he has held six solo exhibitions and participated in numerous group exhibitions locally and globally, winning much international acclaim for his works. His outstanding achievement in the arena of art also won him the distinguished Young Artist Award by the National Arts Council in 1995.

“The Rising Moon” by Han Sai Por and Kum Chee-Kiong

A large installation of stone and steel sculptures positioned parallel to the flow of the Singapore River within the Esplanade Park, “The Rising Moon” will be a tribute to the role that the river has played in Singapore’s economic progress as a maritime nation. An artistic reinterpretation of our national symbols—the five stars and crescent moon, the artwork is also a reflection of the notion of nationhood and our timeless core values. Situated on the lawn area, the public will be able to walk between the spaces of each sculpture and interact with it.

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About the Artists

Han Sai Por is a leading Asian sculptor and Singapore Cultural Medallion recipient. Celebrated for her works in stone, her accolades include the Grand Prize at the Triennale-India 2005 and Outstanding Sculpture Award, China in 2006. As a pioneer generation artist and former art educator, Han dedicates a large part of her life to the Singapore art scene. Over three decades, Han has channelled her passion into works that make significant comment about the changing landscape. A strong advocate for public art, her commissioned works can be found in numerous public spaces in Singapore, bringing art closer to the masses.

Kum Chee-Kiong, an artist-architect and a recipient of Certificate of Distinction at Singapore-CDL Sculpture Award, often investigates the nature of human existence and its related issues that constitute our contemporary condition through his works. He is always inspired by 'nature', 'space - time' and 'emptiness' as a means to re-establish contact with the inner life and rhythms of nature.

“Cloud Nine: Raining” by Tan Wee Lit

In acknowledgement of Singapore's quest for a more secure independence through water self-sufficiency, “Cloud Nine: Raining” brings a new contemporary artwork to the mouth of the Singapore River. The sculpture will appear almost to float above the water—defying gravity just as Singapore defied the odds. Just as the nearby Victorian cast iron Tan Kim Seng Fountain was commissioned in 1925 to celebrate the development of piped water to the town area, the 'floating' cloud sculpture will be a visual celebration of the achievements thus far in our sustainability journey.

About the Artist

Tan Wee Lit graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago with an MFA in Sculpture and has exhibited extensively locally and internationally as a practicing artist. He is a recipient of numerous study awards and scholarships from the National Arts Council Singapore and the Media Authority Singapore for his undergraduate and graduate studies. Tan has also worked on multiple commissions for private and public collections, amongst them a stainless steel sculpture for Raffles Place and a feature wall for Haw Par Villa MRT station inspired by Chinese paper-cut.

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ANNEX B

Highlights of Esplanade's forecourt revamp



- Creating more space for play, art and performances
- Improved connectivity to MRT, Esplanade Park and the Jubilee Bridge
- More greenery and water features



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ANNEX C

Programmes for youth to celebrate SG50 together

Event	Date(s) and brief description
Aspirations for Chingay	<p>In celebration of SG50, Chingay 2015, themed "We Love SG", the grandest Parade organised to date was held on 27 – 28 February 2015. The 43rd Chingay Parade Singapore was presented by 11,000 beautiful multi-cultural performers.</p> <p>Chingay 2015 aimed to engage youths more meaningfully. One of the means in which they have done so is through the Chingay Youth Aspirations Application, which allowed youths to share their aspirations, hopes and dreams for Singapore and post them on the app's gallery section, where other readers can read them.</p>
Youth Celebrate!	<p>Held at the Singapore Sports Hub, Youth Celebrate! is a showcase of youth achievement in sports, uniformed groups and performance arts. An estimated fifty thousand students and guests can look forward to highlights that include inter-school sports events, display bands parade and two record-setting aquatic feats.</p>
SHINE Youth Festival	<p>SHINE Youth Festival is the annual high-point celebration of Youth Talents nation-wide to develop and showcase youth talents, profile inspiring youth leaders and role-models in their talent fields and build a following of young people for the Festival who will get to showcase and participate in the best of youth culture. The Festival will be the biggest youth celebration taking place during the first weekend of Youth Month at the Orchard Belt from ION Orchard to SCAPE. SHINE Youth Festival will be spicing up Orchard Road with music & dance, urban sports, visual arts, gaming and other popular youth activities that our young people passionately embrace. Youths can look forward to witnessing dance-off battles, interacting with art pieces specially created by youths, taking part in unique sports activities like slacklining, and watching screenings of short films produced by our talented youths.</p>

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Highlights of *SCAPE's revamp



Examples of new and upcoming *SCAPE's programmes that youths can look forward to:

***SCAPE Invasions Tour (March 2015)**

The *SCAPE Invasion Tour is an outreach programme that brings quality made-in-Singapore music talents to the assembly halls in secondary and tertiary institutions. This year, the Tour is visiting 32 schools and headliners include popular Singapore acts such as The Sam Willows, ShiGGa Shay and Gentle Bones.

YouTube FanFest (May 2015)

Returning this year in May is the *SCAPE-partnered YouTube FanFest, which brings together some of the biggest YouTube sensations from around the world for a live show on our stage.

National Youth Film Awards (July 2015)

The inaugural National Youth Film Awards aims to establish a benchmark in national excellence and talent identification between the film industry and Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) offering film-related courses. Through this showcase of youth media talents, industry players are able to identify new youth talents for mentorship and apprenticeship opportunities.

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Proposed infrastructure developments for *SCAPE



Bandstand & Youth Plaza

Refreshed common areas and new performance space:

- New Bandstand to cater for more outdoor music performances and greater exposure for youth artistes and bands
- Increased communal hangout seating areas on non-performance days
- Improved tenant mix to include popular youth brands in lifestyle offerings such as blog shops



Gallery

Remodelled to a 100-seater multi-functional space that caters to:

- Film screenings
- Music performances & recitals
- Seminars and talks