

MCCY COS 2018
Together Making Singapore Home
A Caring People • A Cohesive Society • A Confident Nation

A Caring People

Arts / Heritage	<p>I. ArtReach (Update)</p> <p>Launched in 2012, ArtReach is an initiative of the National Arts Council which seeks to promote arts access to underserved communities such as the elderly, low-income families, at-risk youth, and Persons with Disabilities. Through ArtReach, NAC partners artists, government agencies, community partners and social service organisations to collaborate on projects that use the arts to enhance the mental and emotional wellness of beneficiaries, and strengthen their social connections. ArtReach also provides opportunities for the professional development of artists and other stakeholders (e.g. as centre staff/volunteers), and promotes research and the sharing of best practices.</p> <p>This year, NAC will also launch the Befrienders Arts Toolkit to resource volunteers by providing arts-based activity ideas to support the befriending process and deepen people-to-people engagement. The toolkit will be disseminated through the Social Service Organisations (SSOs), and also be made available as an e-resource.</p> <p>In addition, the WeCare Arts Fund¹ was renewed by \$1 million in 2017 to support collaborations between the social service organisations and the arts community over the next two years. Since its initiation in 2014, the fund has supported 170 SSOs, or nearly 20% of the social service sector in Singapore. There have been over 8,000 beneficiaries, through close to 350 programmes involving more than 90 artists. An example is NAC’s partnership with the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) to steadily integrate the arts into the community care framework, and thereby promote the well-being and active ageing of our seniors. By working with artists to develop resources for staff in this sector, NAC and AIC have equipped almost 400 healthcare staff from 89 centres with the capabilities to run arts programmes.</p> <p>In March this year, NAC and Very Special Arts (VSA) Singapore will also co-organise the first Arts and Disability International Conference 2018, to share best practices and provide insights on innovative approaches to inclusive arts practices and engagement. The</p>
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¹ A collaboration between the National Arts Council (NAC) and the People’s Association, the fund is administered by the five Community Development Councils (CDCs) in Singapore and aims to increase arts access for beneficiaries in the social service sector.

	<p>Conference is part of the inaugural True Colours Festival, which will showcase the talents of artists with disabilities from Singapore and the Asia-Pacific region.</p>
	<p>II. HeritageCares (Update)</p> <p>HeritageCares is a philanthropic initiative by the National Heritage Board (NHB). It seeks to provide under-served segments of our society greater access to meaningful experiences that encourage family bonding, enhance social skills, provide quality educational experiences and promote active ageing. Since the launch of HeritageCares in March 2016, over 200 programmes have been organised, engaging over 1,600 volunteers and serving about 8,000 participants ranging from low income families, persons with disabilities, youths-at-risk and senior citizens. The programmes include guided tours of museum exhibitions and heritage trails, educational workshops and craft activities.</p> <p>Under Our SG Heritage Plan, more of such initiatives will be developed to promote active ageing and to encourage cross-generational interaction. For instance, our Heritage Institutions (HIs) – the Malay Heritage Centre, Indian Heritage Centre and Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall -- will serve as ‘Silver Hubs’ to promote active ageing. The institutions seek to be the focal point of each community and a way to represent Singapore’s diversity. There will be opportunities for seniors to volunteer as guides and facilitators in galleries or be active participants in programmes.</p> <p>These programmes will also be designed in partnership with relevant stakeholders to improve the physical and mental well-being of our seniors. For example, a Conversation Starter Kit for seniors was launched at the HIs last year, as a platform for our seniors to share their personal and community experiences. Co-developed by the National Council of Social Service, National Heritage Board and a core team of social service organisations, the kit consists of 40 images of the 1950s and 1960s from the National Collection divided into two categories – landmarks and daily life – and is accompanied by structured prompts to facilitate dialogue amongst Singaporeans of all ages.</p> <p>HeritageCares serves to achieve our long-term goal for our museums and heritage programmes to be inclusive and accessible to all.</p>
Charities	<p>III. Governance of Charities (Announcement)</p> <p>The Office of the Commissioner of Charities (COC) aims to develop a well-governed and thriving charity sector, with support from the public when it comes to making informed choices about charitable giving. More information on COC’s two projects in 2018 is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>1. Strengthening smaller charities’ regulatory compliance through co-regulation and more targeted guidance</u>

	<p>The COC will work closely with umbrella bodies to establish shared services beginning mid-2018, to help charities (particularly those which are smaller and may have more limited resources) comply with regulatory requirements, such as annual submissions. The COC will also develop legislative guidance to help charities better understand their regulatory obligations, for e.g. clarifying information that is required in their annual reports, audit requirements and providing templates to make it easier for charities to prepare annual submissions. The COC will work with umbrella bodies to enable their members to have stronger governance and better compliance.</p> <p>2. <u>Introducing new Visibility Guide for charities to communicate their causes, and increase transparency and accountability</u></p> <p>The COC will develop a Visibility Guide to help charities put out key information in a simple manner. This guide will enable donors to easily understand the financial position, use of donations, and activities of a charity, and allow better communication of each charity's causes and impact. The COC will also ramp up its efforts to promote safer giving from mid-2018, with targeted outreach to the elderly and working adults.</p>
<p>Sports</p>	<p>IV. Team Nila (Update)</p> <p>Through Team Nila, we are able to create opportunities for social mixing and for different segments of the community to come together and give back to society. To recognise outstanding Team Nila volunteers, SportSG has launched awards on 1 January 2018: <i>Outstanding Team Nila</i> and <i>Team Nila Tiered Awards</i>.</p> <p>There are plans for more Nilas to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct physical activities at sporting spaces and facilities in our neighbourhoods, ranging from floorball, running and water play. Currently, close to 100 are already doing so. • Volunteer to help support the physical and mental development of children and youths in their various support roles, such as assistant coaches with ActiveSG Academies and Club • Assist allied health trained experts in helping residents take ownership of their health and wellness under the Active Health initiative • Provide support to the community in times of an emergency or crisis. About 750 Team Nila volunteers have been trained in CPR+AED. <p>SportSG will continue to equip Team Nila with new skills through structured training plans. For example, about 500 Team Nila</p>

	volunteers will go through various Singapore Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ) training programmes in 2018.
	V. SportCares (Update)
	SportCares was launched in 2012, to empower vulnerable groups such as at-risk youth, youth from low-income households and Persons with Disabilities.
	In 2017, SportCares reached out to about 10,000 youth and children. 400 SportCares youth put in 7,000 volunteering hours.
	From April 2018, a HEARTS framework will be made available. Under this framework, social service organisations, community groups and other like-minded organisations will be empowered with the know-how to improve the lives of vulnerable groups through sport.
	This framework will be in the form of a HEARTS book and field manual as well as toolkits, which will be shared with social service organisations and schools.

Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth