

# Spotlight on Cultural Policy Series: Roundtable on the Development of Community Arts in Singapore

Wednesday, 15 March 2017

The Glass Hall, Singapore Art Museum

PANEL I  
Community Arts Policies and Implementation

**SPEAKER 2**

**Ms Chua Ai Liang**

**Director**  
Arts & Communities  
National Arts Council



NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL  
SINGAPORE

Institute of Policy Studies  
**Community Arts Roundtable**

15 March 2016

Chua Ai Liang  
Director, Arts & Communities

# Community Arts Engagement



# Defining Community Arts

Community arts practice is based on the belief that cultural meaning, expression and creativity reside within a community, that the community artist's task is to assist people in freeing their imaginations and giving form to their creativity.

The collaboration between artists and others is central and necessary to the practice of community arts.



# Increasing arts participation for various demographics and communities

Increasing participation



**Youth Arts**



**Silver Arts**  
*Advocating meaningful possibilities seniors have in the arts*



**ArtReach**  
*Arts in the Social & Healthcare Sector*



# Increasing arts participation through arts volunteerism

Increasing participation



*Arts volunteers at Arts in Your Neighbourhood, Music@Empress and Singapore Writers Festival*

# Developing partnerships to open spaces

*Partnering Community Organisations to Seed Community Nodes*



**Community Centres**





# Our Gallery @ Taman Jurong

*Bringing signature arts events into community*

Developing cross-sector partnerships

The Our Gallery At **Taman Jurong** visual art projects involved **Taman Jurong** residents in the art-making process from project conceptualisation to the finished artwork, so as to foster deeper appreciation and engagement of the visual arts projects in the community. This **Art Trail** will also introduce you to artworks created or co-created by artists and residents, which are on display across **Taman Jurong** landmarks. **Self-Guided Tour**



**Taman Jurong Art Trail, as part of Singapore Art Week 2016**



# Our Gallery @ Taman Jurong

*Bringing signature arts events into community*



**Magical Safari Wall**  
(Chai Chee Seam)



**A New View of an Old Estate**  
(Fiona Koh)



**Legendary Portraits**  
(Terence Lin)

Developing cross-sector partnerships

# Arts@ SAFRA

*Bringing signature arts events into community*



**SAFRA Jurong**  
*Pots and Hands by Amit Gilboa*



**SAFRA Mount Faber**  
*An Effort Most Futile by Tan Zi Xi*



**SAFRA Toa Payoh**  
*The Rainbow Toymaker by Cake Theatrical*



**SAFRA Punggol**  
*MICAppella*

“We see the arts as a very dynamic avenue where we can **encourage more interesting and meaningful interactions among the NSmen community and their families.** Hence, we’ll have many more programmes at our clubs this year that promote active participation in various genres of art like interactive, performing, and visual arts. We are certainly looking at having more workshops conducted by well-known artists to engage and benefit SAFRA members and also ground-up initiatives where NSmen can showcase their creative talents, **creating a vibrant arts scene within our clubs.**”

Ms Kris Ho, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, SAFRA

I really enjoy Bedok CC's Bedok Arts Kaleidoscope programme very much. Many residents like it as well, as some of us do not have the opportunity to go to the theatre venues.  
– Han Ah Lai, Bedok resident

“These community arts programmes liven up the entire precinct – adults and kids alike enjoy it. My 10-year-old son loves the *Art Fresco* drama programme at the Woodlands Regional Library node. The programme instils a sense of confidence in our kids and teaches vital soft skills in bringing out the potential in our next generation.” – William Tan, Woodlands resident

“I really enjoy Bedok CC's Bedok Arts Kaleidoscope programme very much. Many residents like it as well, as some of us do not have the opportunity to go to the theatre venues.” – Han Ah Lai, Bedok resident.

# Activating community spaces for the arts

*Working with partners to present broad-based programmes*

ARTS  
IN YOUR  
NEIGHBOURHOOD

Increasing participation  
Developing cross-sector partnerships



**Gathering Spaces**



**Neighbourhood Housing Estates**



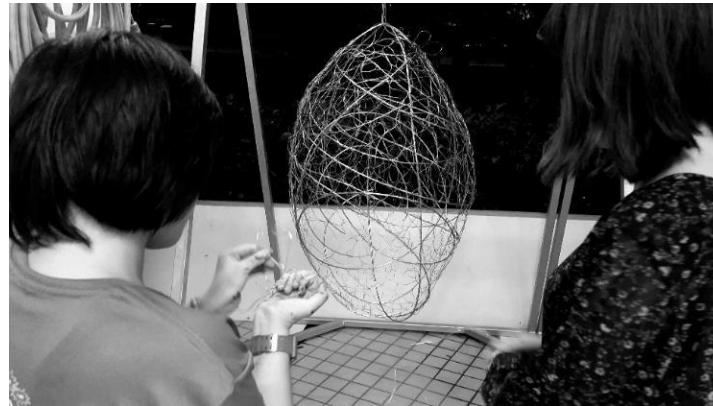
# Developing cross-sector partnerships to increase access

*Integrating the arts within other sectors*

Developing cross-sector partnerships



***Alzheimer's Disease Association***



***Singapore Association for Mental Health***



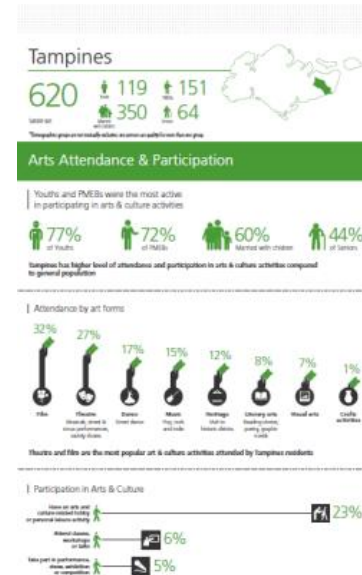
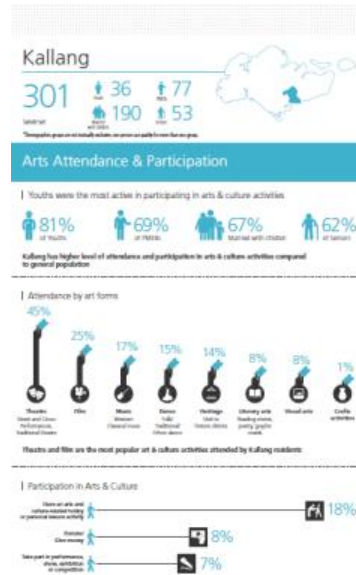
***Singapore Association for Visually Handicapped***

# Embarking on research into Community Arts

*Working alongside academics to build literature and document the scene*



**Arts for Ageing Well Study (NTU)**



**Arts & Culture Nodes in the Heartlands: Exploring Strategies, Spatial Opportunities and Impact (NUS-CSAC)**

# Capability development for community artists

*Equipping a wider base of artists with skills for engagement*



***Hands-on experience in using tools and methods to enhance existing artistic practice and engaging communities***



***Introduction to Social Sector***

**LASALLE**  
COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

***Upcoming Community Arts Mentorship Programme***



# Capability development for community partners

*Integrating the arts within other sectors*



**Everyday Waltzes for Active Ageing**  
(The Arts Fission Company)



**Rhythm Wellness**  
(One HeartBeat Percussion)



**Nodes Evaluation Toolkit**



**Learning Journeys**



# Capability development for Community Arts

*Platforms for advocacy, networking and sharing of knowledge*



**Greenhouse Sessions, by ArtsWok Collaborative**



**Arts in Eldercare Seminar 2016**



**Visual summary of discussions at Arts & Disability Forum 2016**

# Providing support for ground-up initiatives

*Numerous projects emphasizing artistic quality and collaboration*



***Superhero Me, led by Jean Loo, in collaboration with children from lower income backgrounds and special needs schools***



***Octopus Residency, based in Little India, exploring creative placemaking through the arts***



***Unseen: Constellations, by Alecia Neo and visually-impaired students from Ahmad Ibrahim Secondary School***

# Providing support for ground-up initiatives

*Numerous projects emphasizing artistic quality and collaboration*



***Both Sides Now, by Drama Box and ArtsWok Collective, exploring end-of-life issues through arts***



***My Queenstown by My Community, a festival centred and inspired by Queenstown neighbourhood***



***Awaken the Dragon by Jennifer Teo, raising awareness of Singapore's artistic heritage at the last 2 Dragon Kilns remaining***

# Community Arts outreach efforts in numbers

	(2012 to 2016)
No. of audience reached through Community Arts platforms (e.g. Silver Arts, Arts in Your Neighbourhood, ArtReach)	648,000
No. of artists engaged	200
No. of VWOs bringing arts to beneficiaries	100

In summary, we've seen developments and endeavour to continue our efforts in Community Arts.

Increase mindshare of community arts, bringing onboard community partners who integrate the arts into their core services and roll out sustained programmes

Garnered greater interest in building capabilities for community arts to thrive

Increase in relevant and strong artistic content tailored for the community



END.



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