

19 September 2019

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

Rewind, Refresh, Regain – Launch of the WeCare Arts Exhibition 2019 and Renewed Partnership with \$1 Million Injection for the WeCare Arts Fund *~About 12,000 beneficiaries benefitted from the Fund~*

Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, was the Guest of Honour at the launch of the WeCare Arts Exhibition on 19 September 2019 at Wisma Geylang Serai Event Space. The exhibition showcases the diversity of the WeCare Arts Fund projects, a scheme by the National Arts Council (NAC) and Community Development Councils (CDCs) in Singapore that supports collaborations between artists and Social Service Agencies (SSAs). Through the Fund, artists and SSAs organise arts-based projects to engage beneficiaries within the social service sector, while promoting lifelong learning and a more inclusive environment for underserved communities.

2 Since 2014, the WeCare Arts Fund has benefitted over 12,000 beneficiaries and continues to provide them with opportunities to make friends and enhance their sense of wellness. Building on the successful partnership between NAC and the five CDCs, the WeCare Arts Fund has been given a new injection of \$1 million over the next two years.

3 “As an inclusive society, I want to see the arts being enjoyed by all segments of the society. And many artists and arts practitioners are keen to work with social service agencies to bring opportunities for art-making to persons with special needs. Indeed, the arts have the power to bring people of diverse backgrounds together. Initiatives such as the WeCare Arts Fund facilitate partnerships between people, private and public sectors to make programmes such as today’s exhibition possible. With the continuation of this Fund, I look forward to more of such projects to create meaningful shared experiences, and strengthen the sense of belonging in our communities”, **said Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth.**

4 The 11-day WeCare Arts Exhibition 2019 showcases the creative efforts of senior beneficiaries from participating SSAs across five districts through artistic activities like photography, batik painting and dance. With the theme “Rewind, Refresh, Regain”, the exhibition shows how seniors have been encouraged to revisit their memories, reinvigorate their imaginations and at the end of the process, be acquainted with the functions, skills, and sentiments they might have lost touch with. The Exhibition is free and will be open to the public from 19 to 29 September 2019.

5 “This is the second WeCare Arts Exhibition presented by the five CDCs and NAC which showcases the efforts of the beneficiaries of the WeCare Arts Fund. With the additional \$1 million, the CDCs will continue to enhance the accessibility and participation in the arts for the vulnerable, particularly the youth and the elderly. We hope to use the arts as a powerful medium to bond the community, promote inclusion and lifelong learning”, **said Ms Low Yen Ling, Chairman of Mayors’ Committee and Mayor of South West District.**

6 **Mrs Rosa Daniel, Chief Executive Officer of NAC** said, “It is timely for NAC to renew our partnership with the CDCs following the launch of Our SG Arts Plan last year, as a deeper commitment to championing the arts for the enjoyment of more Singaporeans. This Fund enables NAC to reach out to a wide network of Social Service Agencies and artists to encourage inclusive programmes that increase accessibility of the arts for various communities. The WeCare Arts Exhibition continues to celebrate the creative talents and powerful stories of the seniors, cherishing the connections made with our families and friends through the arts.”

7 This media release is jointly issued by CDCs and NAC. For media enquiries, please contact the contact persons below.

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ABOUT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS (CDCs)

There are five CDCs, namely, Central Singapore, North East, North West, South East and South West CDCs. Mayors of the Districts are Chairman of the respective CDCs. The CDCs' **ABC** mission is to **A**ssist the Needy, **B**ond the People and **C**onnect the Community.

The Office of the Mayors are:

Ms Low Yen Ling	Chairman of Mayors' Committee & Mayor of South West District
Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman	Mayor of South East District
Dr Teo Ho Pin	Mayor of North West District
Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng	Mayor of Central Singapore District
Mr Desmond Choo	Mayor of North East District

For more information, please visit www.cdc.org.sg, www.pa.gov.sg and OurCommunity.sg

ABOUT THE NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL

The National Arts Council champions the arts in Singapore. By nurturing creative excellence and supporting broad audience engagement, our diverse and distinctive arts inspire our people, connect communities and profile Singapore internationally. We preserve our rich, cultural traditions as we cultivate accomplished artists and vibrant companies for the future. Our support for the arts is comprehensive – from grants and partnerships to industry facilitation and arts housing. The Council welcomes greater private and corporate giving to and through the arts, so that together we can make the arts an integral part of everyone's lives. For more information on the Council's mission and plans, please visit www.nac.gov.sg.

**WECARE ARTS EXHIBITION 2019
ON THURSDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2019
AT WISMA GEYLANG SERAI EVENT SPACE**

FACTSHEET

1. What is WeCare Arts Fund?

The WeCare Arts Fund is a funding scheme seeded by the National Arts Council (NAC) and Community Development Councils (CDCs) in 2014. The Fund supports collaborations between artists and Social Service Agencies (SSAs) in using the arts as a platform to engage beneficiaries within the social service sector. Through arts-based projects, the Fund allows participants to bond and make new friends, while promoting lifelong learning and a more inclusive environment for underserved communities.

2. Who can apply for WeCare Arts Fund?

The Fund is open to all SSAs for collaborative projects led by artists/ arts groups in performing, visual, literary or multi-disciplinary art forms.

3. What is WeCare Arts Exhibition?

The WeCare Arts Exhibition is a platform to showcase the diversity of WeCare Arts Fund projects, the creativity of the beneficiaries, and the various impact of the arts. The five projects in this exhibition will feature photography, batik, Chinese brush painting, ceramics and hip hop dance. With the theme “Rewind, Refresh, Regain”, the exhibition shows how seniors have been encouraged to revisit their memories, reinvigorate their imaginations and at the end of the process, be acquainted with the functions, skills, and sentiments they might have lost touch with.

WeCare Arts Exhibition 2019 Project Details



Old Photos, New Memories!

Led by Stanley Koh

With seniors from Care Corner Seniors Services Ltd

In this digital photography and reminiscence programme, the seniors took a closer look at their old photographs to uncover words, meaning and significance within the images. They also embarked on photography walks to Chinatown, Gardens by the Bay and Arab Street to capture new images and create new memories and experiences on the streets of Singapore. Beside documenting their visual stories, these workshops allowed the seniors to have a deeper connection with Singapore heritage in a new way.

About Stanley Koh

Stanley is the owner of TOPIXSTUDIO. He has 10 years of photography experience and specialises in portraits. His passion for teaching photography stems from his experience using it as a tool to get people to engage, communicate, and connect. He has taught digital photography for six years in the community care sector, and has conducted workshops with the Alzheimer's Disease Association, Assisi Hospice and Touch Activity Centre Ang Mo Kio.



Besides Cups and Saucers

Led by Vanessa Tong

With seniors from NTUC Health Active Ageing Hub (Kampung Admiralty)

In this project, ceramic art was a conduit to facilitate mind-body connections and engage seniors in creative expressions. By learning hand-building techniques, ceramic finishes and processes

	<p>in clay-making, the seniors were able to experiment and develop interest in a new art form as they tried their hand at creating their own cups, saucers and teapots. The project also gave the seniors a chance to bond and connect with their peers.</p> <p><i>About Vanessa Tong</i> Vanessa is an art therapist and educator who has worked with beneficiaries from various Social Service Agencies. She believes in innovation and has encouraged her students to explore and express themselves by applying traditional techniques into contemporary art.</p>
	<p><i>Lyrics of Wax</i> <i>Led by Sarkasi Said & Imelda Zahry Bte Sarkasi</i> <i>With seniors from Jamiyah Nursing Home</i></p> <p>Over the course of eight weeks, the seniors explored the traditional art form of batik painting with artists Sarkasi and his daughter, Imelda. In this introduction to batik culture, seniors experienced and learnt a new skill working with <i>tjantings</i>¹, hot wax and a variety of fabrics, and were encouraged to identify motifs they liked. Through applying techniques such as tracing, design transfer, shading, reverse painting, and wax resist, the seniors had a multi-sensorial, participatory experience. Seniors felt a sense of achievement as they were empowered to create unique batik art pieces that expressed their identities.</p> <p><i>About Sarkasi Said and Imelda Zahry Bte Sarkasi</i> Sarkasi Said is an internationally renowned batik painter who has been practicing this form since 1970. He has held numerous exhibitions worldwide and his creations can be found at government offices and embassies around the world. He is now 79 years old and continues to display his passion for batik through his artwork.</p>

¹ A tjanting is a tool for putting wax onto cloth before it is dyed.

	<p>His daughter, Imelda Sarkasi, has developed her interest and received training in the art of batik while working with her father since 1999. She conducts batik classes in schools and the community regularly, and organises corporate events and international exchange programmes in batik art.</p>
	<p><i>Chinese Brush Painting</i> <i>Led by Tan Suang Suang</i> <i>With seniors from Montfort Care (GoodLife! @ Marine Parade)</i></p> <p>In this series of workshops, the seniors were introduced to basic techniques of Chinese brush painting to encourage a deeper appreciation of Chinese arts and culture. For many of these seniors, this was the first time they were handling a brush and practicing a visual art form. Over the course of 10 sessions, they learned various skills including proper posture, free-hand techniques, handling of rice paper, and brushes and ink to create their own works. The Chinese brush painting workshop encouraged creative engagement among the seniors and improved cognitive well-being for the seniors.</p> <p><i>About Tan Suang Suang</i> Tan Suang Suang is the Artist-Instructor and Director of I Cre8 Art Enrichment Centre. She has 35 years of art and design teaching experience at LASALLE College of the Art and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. Since 2017, she has conducted arts programmes in Chinese brush painting, mixed medium and acrylic painting for seniors at Neighbour Ring Community Services and Montfort Care Centre.</p>



Hip Hop Dance

Led by Alex Ow

*With seniors from AMKFSC Community Services
(COMNET @ 182 Rivervale Crescent SAC)*

In this hip hop dance class, the seniors had the opportunity to take on a distinctive and energetic art form usually associated with urban youth culture. They learnt basic techniques and found their own groove while having fun with the choreography at the same time. Besides improving their physical and mental wellness, the 24-week programme allowed the seniors to forge stronger friendships over an extended period.

About Alex Ow

Alex has been dancing for almost 18 years, and received hip hop, jazz and ballet training in Singapore and overseas. He has been invited to teach dance in Germany, Mexico, and the USA. He has also performed for local and international artistes like Wang Lee Hom and Coco Lee.

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GLOSSARY AND TRANSLATION OF KEY TERMS

CDC'S MISSION

S/N	Key Term	Chinese Translation	Malay Translation
1.	A ssisting the Needy	协助贫困居民	Membantu Yang Memerlukan
2.	B onding the People	增强民众凝聚力	Mengeratkan Ikatan Masyarakat
3.	C onnecting the Community	与社区密切联系	Menghubungkan Masyarakat

S/N	Key Term	Chinese Translation	Malay Translation
4.	National Arts Council (NAC)	国家艺术理事会	Majlis Seni Kebangsaan
5.	WeCare Arts Fund	关怀艺术基金	Dana Seni WeCare
6.	Community Development Council (CDC)	社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat
7.	Central Singapore CDC	中区社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat Singapura Tengah
8.	North East CDC	东北社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat Timur Laut
9.	North West CDC	西北社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat Barat Laut
10.	South East CDC	东南社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat Tenggara

S/N	Key Term	Chinese Translation	Malay Translation
11.	South West CDC	西南社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat Barat Daya
12.	Mayor	市长	Mayor / Datuk Bandar (formal address)
13.	Mrs Rosa Daniel Chief Executive Officer, National Arts Council	陈慧 理事长, 国家艺术理事会	Mrs Rosa Daniel, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif, Majlis Seni Kebangsaan
14.	Ms Low Yen Ling, Mayor of South West District Chairman, Mayors' Committee	刘燕玲女士, 西南区市长 市长委员会主席	Ms Low Yen Ling, Datuk Bandar, Daerah Barat Daya Pengerusi, Jawatankuasa Datuk Bandar
15.	Dr Maliki Osman, Mayor of South East District	孟理齐博士, 东南区市长	Dr Maliki Osman, Datuk Bandar, Kawasan Tenggara
16.	Dr Teo Ho Pin, Mayor of North West District	张佃宾博士, 西北区市长	Dr Teo Ho Pin, Datuk Bandar, Kawasan Barat Laut
17.	Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng, Mayor of Central Singapore District	潘丽萍女士, 中区市长	Ms Denise Phua, Datuk Bandar, Daerah Singapura Tengah
18.	Mr Desmond Choo Mayor of North East District	朱倍庆, 东北区市长	Mr Desmond Choo, Datuk Bandar, Daerah Timur Laut
19.	District Councillors	社区理事	Ahli Majlis Daerah
20.	Grassroots Advisers	基层组织顾问	Penasihat Akar Umbi

S/N	Key Term	Chinese Translation	Malay Translation
21.	Grassroots Organisations (GROs)	社区基层组织	Persatuan Akar Umbi