

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### “Making Arts Inclusive & Making Friends” for Vulnerable in the Social Service Sector: NAC and CDCs extend partnership

- *\$1 Million WeCare Arts Fund for 2 years*

**Singapore, 4 September 2017** – The National Arts Council (NAC) and the Community Development Councils (CDCs) renewed their partnership by setting aside \$1 million for the WeCare Arts Fund over the next two years, for programmes that make arts inclusive, use arts to make friends and promote self-confidence among the less advantaged and underserved communities.

2 Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth witnessed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing by the Chairman of Mayors’ Committee, Ms Low Yen Ling, and NAC Chief Executive Officer Mrs Rosa Daniel, and also officiated the opening of the WeCare Arts Exhibition, which runs from 3 to 14 September 2017 at Our Tampines Hub. Hosted by the five District Mayors, the event was a milestone for the WeCare Arts Fund, first launched in 2014. In conjunction with Silver Arts Festival 2017 and 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the CDCs, the exhibition featured unique artworks created by seniors from five participating social service organisations, who were guided by artists as they weaved in their personal stories in their works (*Please refer to Annex A for more details of the exhibition*).

3 The WeCare Arts Fund is funded through the NAC’s **ArtReach** initiative to promote arts access to the social service sectors for wellness, intervention and rehabilitation.

4 In support of *SG Cares in CDCs*, the CDCs administer the WeCare Arts Fund programme so that the less advantaged and the vulnerable can enjoy arts, make new friends through the process, and inculcate the mindset of lifelong learning to learn new skills.

5 “The CDCs are happy to continue this collaboration with NAC. Since it started in 2014, the Fund has enabled many Social Service Organisations to integrate arts as part of their programming to promote self-confidence among the vulnerable in society, particularly among our youths and elderly. It is most heartening to see the joy that the programme has brought to the lives of our people, allowing them to express freely and creatively, learn new skills and make new friends. I like to thank NAC for its continued support in this meaningful

programme”, **said Ms Low Yen Ling, Chairman of Mayors’ Committee and Mayor of South West District.**

6 Mrs Rosa Daniel, CEO, NAC, said, “The arts can help to foster inclusivity among our communities, and the WeCare Arts Fund is a meaningful scheme that enables artists and groups to impact lives among the underserved. We encourage more organisations in the social sector to recognise the value of the arts in enhancing the well-being and personal growth of their beneficiaries. We are confident that artists and groups looking to engage with the social sector through the arts will find the support offered by the Fund useful.”

7 Artist Alexandria Neoh, who worked with seniors from Thye Hua Kwan Moral Charities Bedok Radiance Senior Activity Centre, shared, “It has been a wonderful experience working with the seniors for this WeCare Arts Fund project. I have realised the arts can be a powerful tool to empower seniors, to encourage them, showing them that although they may be advanced in years, they can still learn new things and create good works. It has been really inspiring for me – not just in teaching them, but also realising I have learnt much from them too.”

#### **ABOUT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS (CDCs)**

Established in 1997, the Community Development Councils (CDCs) celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Community Development this year.

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 comprises:

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](http://www.cdc.org.sg), [www.pa.gov.sg](http://www.pa.gov.sg) and [OurCommunity.sg](http://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, we want to develop Singapore as a distinctive global city where the arts inspire our people and connect our communities. We preserve our rich, cultural traditions while 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, visit [www.nac.gov.sg](http://www.nac.gov.sg).

### **About ArtReach**

ArtReach is an initiative of the National Arts Council to promote arts access to the social service sector for wellness, intervention and rehabilitation. It supports artists and voluntary welfare organisations to collaborate on projects that use the arts to achieve social outcomes, and initiates conversations through workshops and seminars. ArtReach also develops resources to help social care workers, healthcare workers and volunteers start and lead their own arts programmes. For more information on ArtReach, visit [www.nac.gov.sg/arts-you/for-everyone/social-sector](http://www.nac.gov.sg/arts-you/for-everyone/social-sector).



## **ANNEX A: PROJECTS FEATURED AT THE WECARE ARTS EXHIBITION**

03.09.2017 – 14.09.2017

Festive Walk East, Our Tampines Hub

The stories we tell are a reflection of our life experiences. Working with artists over a series of 6 to 8 workshop sessions, seniors from different Social Service Organisations went through a personal and collaborative process that eventually culminated in the creation of unique artworks. This exhibition shares an intimate glimpse into their life stories, exploring ideas of home, history, identity and community.

The projects were supported under the WeCare Arts Fund, a collaboration between the National Arts Council and the People's Association Community Development Councils, to increase arts access in the social service sector.

	<p><b><i>THE MORE WE GET TOGETHER, THE HAPPIER WE'LL BE</i></b> <b><i>By Mary Bernadette Lee</i></b> <b><i>With seniors from Jia Ying Senior Activity Centre &amp; youth volunteers from Serangoon Secondary School</i></b> A home is made by its inhabitants; their presence, dreams, memories and imagination. Using papier-mâché and found-materials, six senior-youth pairs created sculptures that expressed their shared understanding of what Home means to them.</p>
	<p><b><i>INTERWOVEN LIVES</i></b> <b><i>By Alexandria Neoh</i></b> <b><i>With seniors from Thye Hua Kwan Moral Charities Bedok Radiance Senior Activity Centre</i></b> Seniors learnt the art of weaving using custom made hand-loom. Through the therapeutic process of weaving, and using a wide variety of yarns, fibres, and natural materials, the seniors each made an original artwork inspired by personal reflections and self-discovery.</p>



### ***TELLING OUR STORIES***

***By Objectifs***

***With seniors from SilverCOVE – NTUC Health***

Through photography, seniors were encouraged to create a meaningful visual story to share with their friends and family. They learnt the basics of photography and storytelling through a series of guided field shoots in their neighbourhood, and feedback sessions. Their photo stories give us a glimpse into their daily lives.



### ***PROJECT VIBE***

***By Lisan Denise Chng***

***With seniors and volunteers from Bright Vision Hospital***

This project bridged senior patients and community volunteers through a shared experience in mosaic art, fostering socialisation and interaction. Individual mosaic works created by the seniors and volunteers were eventually pieced together to form a collective whole, reinforcing the idea of community.



### ***REMINISCING THE GOOD OLD DAYS***

***By Joanne Lio***

***With seniors from St Luke's ElderCare***

Intended as a multi-sensory experience, seniors worked on projects that integrated their personal stories in the exploration of different forms of art expression. This included designing stamps for print making, and creating clay works inspired by their visit to the National Museum of Singapore.