



**SINGAPORE
HERITAGE
SOCIETY**
Research • Education • Advocacy

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 August 2016

The Singapore Heritage Society was established in 1986 as a Society. It was registered under the Charities Act on 12 March 1987 and was granted Institution of Public Character status on 14 January 2009.

OBJECTIVE

The Society is dedicated to the preservation, transmission and promotion of Singapore's history, heritage and identity. The Society further aims to promote active interest in the cultural life and history of Singapore and to initiate action on research, evaluation, documentation, publication, collection, display, and preservation and restoration of skills and items of historical interest.

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE & ADVISORS

Management Committee	<p>The Management Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting held on 13 September 2015 is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Dr Chua Ai Lin (President)2. Mr Khir Johari (Vice-President)3. Mr Siva S Krishnasamy (Honorary Treasurer)4. Mr Alex Tan Tiong Hee (Honorary Secretary)5. Ms Catherine Lim6. Mr Timothy Pwee7. Mr Tony Tan Say Kiong8. Mr Tan Wee Cheng9. Dr Yeo Kang Shua10. Mr Victor Yue
Trustees	NIL
Banker	OCBC Bank
Auditor	Louise Neo & Co 1 Fifth Avenue #03-08 Guthrie House Singapore 268802
Investment Advisor	NIL
Other Advisor(s)	NIL

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR THE YEAR 2015–2016

This has a year to a chance to catch our breaths after the intense celebration of SG50 – Singapore's 50th anniversary, in 2015, but as this year's Annual Report shows, the Singapore Heritage Society has not let up in pursuing a full slate of activities and strengthening our public role as an independent voice on heritage issues in Singapore.

At last year's Annual General Meeting, we asked our members what they thought the Society's most important contribution was and the answer came back loud and clear: advocating for heritage conservation. That discussion also crystallised a vision which we are now proud to use as the slogan of SHS: *Giving a Future to our Past*. It encompasses our fundamental belief that history has an integral role to play in how Singapore should develop. In January 2016, we brought this discussion one step further to think through how SHS could progress towards this vision in the next two to three years. We settled on three main approaches:

- i. giving voice to forgotten histories
- ii. connecting disparate stakeholders and fostering discussion
- iii. persuading key decision makers on best practices in heritage policy.

These tasks are nothing new for SHS but looking ahead at how the Society should grow, we need to approach our work in a more structured and strategic manner. Fundamentally, this involves building capacity. In addition to membership subscriptions and private donors, we are very fortunate to have been the recipient of funds from Tote Board and Singapore Turf Club as well as the Cultural Matching Fund from the Ministry of Community, Culture and Youth (MCCY), so for the immediate future, we are financially sound. What is even more challenging is finding committed manpower – both voluntary and paid – with the right skills in our core areas of research, public education and advocacy, as well as the passion for our cause which will be necessary to carry us through the obstacles ahead. Not only is this a priority for SHS, but we see a critical need for more experienced, knowledgeable professionals in the wider history and heritage industry in Singapore, and it will take time to grow this pool.

What gives us hope is the very clear explosion in public concern for local heritage, in no small part due to the stimulus from innumerable SG50 celebratory projects focusing on local history and identity. The SHS Facebook Page gathers over a hundred new Fans each week and we will certainly cross 9,000 Likes in the next three months. Through our interviews with prospective staff and interns, we have met many new faces and consistently they have told us how much our social media presence has impressed and educated them. When SHS released a media statement on the proposed demolition of Ellison Building in August this year, the issue quickly caught the attention of several alternative news websites as well as many individuals who have gone on to express their support in blog posts and Urban Sketcher artworks. These are the audiences aged 25-44 (see the section on 'Social Media' in this President's Report), complementing the longstanding membership base of SHS which generally lies in a more senior age group. These older SHS supporters are less IT-savvy but they hold a wealth of knowledge and experience which is equally important to our organisation.

In 2017, we will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Singapore Heritage Society. This is an important age for deciding what counts as history or heritage – many state archives operate on a ‘Thirty Year Rule’, which allows documents to be made openly accessible to the public after thirty years, and planning authorities often use thirty years as the minimum age for designating heritage buildings. In Singapore, where everything changes so quickly, and at an increasingly fast pace, whatever survives that special thirty-year mark deserves attention. Ironically, SHS has been so concerned with a plethora of heritage issues all this while, that we haven’t had much time to reflect upon our own organisation’s history and how we managed to come this far. That will be a task for the coming year.

We will not only look back but look forward as well. We must learn from and tap on the dynamism of social change initiatives across various fields beyond History, which is the study of the past. Rather, Heritage is ‘the *living presence* of the past’ and demands that we understand equally well the context of the present and future. We will continue to develop our toolkit of approaches, by working with our partners or attending training sessions in socially-engaged arts, such as with Drama Box and Invisible Photographer Asia, in participatory placemaking, with Participate In Design, or asset-based community development, with the NUS Chua Thian Poh Community Leadership Fellowship. To understand more about our approach to heritage conservation and the work of SHS, I invite you to read my article which was published this year in the National University of Singapore Society (NUSS)’s journal, *Commentary: Singapore - A Democracy of Deeds and Problem-Solving*, entitled ‘Giving a Future to our Past’ - Reflections on Developing the Heritage Conservation Cause’, which can be downloaded at http://www.nuss.org.sg/publication/1464683902_commentary2016_final.pdf.

Finally, no review of the past year is complete without sincere thanks to all those who have helped us. You are too many to name individually here but each one of you is a valued compatriot in our cause. A big thank you to our selfless and capable volunteers, who have given so much of their time and themselves; our members, who stand up to be counted by putting their names and subscription fees down in concrete support of heritage advocacy; our donors, who are so essential on the journey to making our vision become a reality; as well as our many other well-wishers, whom we invite to join us – as members, donors or volunteers – in Giving a Future to Our Past.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chua Ai Lin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chua Ai Lin

RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

Advocacy in its broadest sense is the key work of the Singapore Heritage Society. We advocate a deeper understanding of Singapore's past, amongst a broader spectrum of society, and also advocate for best practices in heritage management. The research and public education work we do are the building blocks for heritage advocacy. While we do take up advocacy for the preservation of specific historical sites which are under threat, our larger objective is to emphasise the *underlying principles* behind the meaning or management of such sites. We believe that greater stakeholder engagement in the planning process will result in more robust solutions that fulfil the social, environmental and economic dimensions of sustainable development.

We conduct this advocacy at several different levels:

- Tours for SHS members and the public
- Talks, forums and seminars open to SHS members and the public
- Scholarly articles and conference papers
- Publications for the general public
- Disseminating information on social media
- Interviews with the media (see section, 'Media Coverage')
- Representation on governmental advisory committees
- Participation at government feedback sessions

For a more in-depth exposition on SHS's advocacy work, please read the article in the National University of Singapore Society (NUSS)'s journal by SHS president, Dr Chua Ai Lin, 'Giving a Future to our Past' - Reflections on Developing the Heritage Conservation Cause', in *Commentary: Singapore - A Democracy of Deeds and Problem-Solving*, Volume 25 (2016), pp. 38-49, which can be downloaded at http://www.nuss.org.sg/publication/1464683902_commentary2016_final.pdf.

In 2015-2016, SHS's activities have addressed the following advocacy issues:

1. Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA)

SHS continues to emphasise the fundamental need for HIA as a key policymaking tool, particularly given rapid pace of changes to the landscape.

- a. *Policy Analysis Exercise on 'Striking the balance between heritage conservation and urban renewal in Singapore: Advocating for a mandatory Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) regime', with Trent Ng, as part of his Masters of Public Policy at NUS Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.*

This report was completed in December 2015 and subsequently, on 13 January 2016, with the kind assistance of the National Heritage Board's Heritage Research and Assessment unit, SHS arranged for Trent Ng to present his policy recommendations to relevant officers in National Heritage Board, Urban Redevelopment Authority, and the Ministry of National Development.

- b. *Capacity-building workshops on Heritage Impact Assessment methodology.*
SHS has introduced established UNESCO experts who provide training on HIA methodology to the relevant authorities with the intention that these workshops

will raise the level of professional expertise in Singapore. Discussions are on-going to finalise these workshops.

- c. *Consistently recommend the use of heritage impact assessments with reference to specific cases.*

Heritage Impact Assessment is the single most useful policy-making tool across the board for the place-based heritage issues faced by SHS. As such, we explicitly recommend HIA in our positions on Bukit Brown, Pulau Ubin, Tanjong Malang and Ellison Building etc.

2. Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)

ICH is another branch of heritage recognised by UNESCO which SHS believes is crucial to as part of a holistic approach to conservation, both in its own right and as a layer to the tangible, built heritage.

- a. *Integrating heritage in Singapore's urban development: research on historic places of worship in Telok Ayer, Tanjong Pagar, and Tanjong Malang.*

Commencing in the first quarter of 2016, SHS has commissioned Ethnographica Pte Ltd, an anthropological research consultancy to carry out a two-year research study of 21 historic sites of worship of different faiths, dating from 1824 to 1934, of which only 9 are currently protected as national monuments. As sites of living heritage, these places of worship provide social anchors for historically continuous communities who transmit collective knowledge and shared memories from generation to generation. In this process, they become the custodians of intangible cultural heritage – a crucial dimension of heritage that is in urgent need of research. Adopting the Historic Urban Landscape approach recommended by UNESCO, this project will integrate tangible and intangible cultural heritage, as well as integrate heritage structures and practices across cultures and sites. This project aims to contribute to the further development of a conservation paradigm that goes beyond the piecemeal conservation of isolated sites. This has been granted a \$120,000 Heritage Research Grant from the National Heritage Board.



SHS team studying maps of conservation zones. (Photo: Chua Ai Lin)

3. Conservation of built heritage

SHS promotes awareness and advocates for the conservation of worthy structures that have not been gazetted for protection and the application of international best practices in conservation.

a. *Ellison Building.*

In August 2016, it was announced that the Land Transport Authority (LTA) and the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) would demolish numbers 235, 237, and 239 Selegie Road, part of the gazetted conservation building, Ellison Building (1924), for the construction of the North South Highway. The units would be reconstructed when the Highway is completed. SHS released a media statement on 18 August 2016 calling for:

- i. plans to demolish and reconstruct Ellison Building to be reconsidered;
- ii. to know if there was any heritage impact assessment (HIA) carried out to inform decisions pertaining to Ellison Building; and if so, would the report be disclosed for public viewing and consultation?
- iii. the relevant authorities to provide platforms for stakeholders and experts to come together and explore viable alternatives to current plans.

b. *Tanjong Pagar Railway Station platform.*

On 27 October 2015, the Land Transport Authority (LTA) held a closed-door feedback session for invited parties which included SHS and other heritage-interest organisations and individuals. Plans for a new Circle Line station at the Tanjong Pagar Railway Station, a gazetted national monument, would require the removal of most of the 550m-long platform, of which only 80m are part of the gazetted national monument. Of three options presented by LTA, SHS strongly supported the option providing for the affected portion to be disassembled and reassembled. On 27 May 2016, LTA, URA and the Singapore Land Authority announced that this course of action had been approved and that the canopy structures of the former Tanjong Pagar Railway Station building will be dismantled and fully restored after the completion of the new Circle Line Cantonment station in 2025.

c. *'Dakota Crescent: The Built Heritage and Community Life of Public Housing', 13 September 2015 at The Projector.*

Held in conjunction with the SHS Annual General Meeting, this event was held at The Projector, comprising a film screening of *Heartland* (2015, director Mark Chua, writer Mark Kwan), a talk on 'Learning Public Housing Histories' by Dr Lai Chee Kien, followed by an open discussion moderated by Assoc Prof Kwok Kian Woon. There was a full house of approximately 200 people, majority of whom were of the younger age group.

d. *'Our Modern Past – Volume 1: A Visual Survey of Singapore Architecture, 1920s–70s'.*

Written by Ho Weng Hin, Dinesh Naidu and Tan Kar Lin, with photographs by the late Jeremy San, this three-part publication co-published with the Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) Press in April 2015, constitutes a sustained effort to document the city-state's Modern heritage, promote appreciation of this architecture, and present a case for its conservation. The publication attracts a

steady stream of interest, with external requests for use photographs from the book and interest to hold an exhibition in Geneva.

e. *Representation on URA's Architectural Heritage Awards committee.*

In the current term, the Society is represented by Dr Yeo Kang Shua on this committee.

4. Tanjong Malang

On 29 October 2015, the Land Transport Authority announced that three new Circle Line MRT stations would be built. At the site of the Prince Edward Station at Tanjong Malang, there are six historic structures: Mount Palmer, Fook Tet Soo Khek Temple (1844), Keramat Habib Noh (1866), Masjid Muhammad Haji Salleh (1903), Palmer House (1956), Bestway Building (1958, former Singapore Polytechnic), none of which have been gazetted for conservation. Of these, Mount Palmer, Palmer House and the rear blocks of Bestway Building have been or will be demolished. For some years, SHS has publicly emphasised the great historical importance of this site and is now actively engaged in putting our views forth to the authorities.

a. *Representation during LTA engagement sessions on MRT Circle Line construction.*

LTA has invited SHS representatives to four engagement sessions between Oct 2015 and July 2016, which were also attended by NHB and URA. During these meetings, we were briefed on transportation infrastructure development plans (bus terminal and MRT) at the Tanjong Malang site. SHS has provided scholarly research information on the historic value of the site and strongly recommended consideration of the historic architecture and community use of the site in the construction phase, the design of the MRT station exit, urban design and landuse around the bus terminal and MRT exit. In addition, public awareness of the history of Tanjong Malang can be raised through displays inside the completed MRT station and through naming the station using the vernacular 'Tanjong Malang' rather than the current working name, 'Prince Edward Station'. SHS also introduced to LTA the architecture academics, Associate Professor Johannes Widodo and Dr Imran Tajudeen, who had organised a public seminar on the history of Tg Malang under the Singapura Stories banner, in order to share their knowledge and feedback.



Keramat Habib Noh and Masjid Muhd Haji Salleh at Tanjong Malang. (Photo: Chua Ai Lin)

- b. *Walking tour conducted by Assoc Prof Johannes Widodo, 23 April 2016.*
In 2005, Assoc Prof Johannes Widodo wrote a paper presenting research on the history of Tanjong Malang and calling for the conservation of the Palmer Road area. His walking tour for SHS covered Tanjong Malang as well as Telok Ayer, which was attended by 20 members of SHS and the general public.
- c. *SHS research project: Integrating heritage in Singapore's urban development research on historic places of worship in Telok Ayer, Tanjong Pagar, and Tanjong Malang.*
Fook Tet Soo Khek Temple, Keramat Habib Noh and Masjid Muhammad Haji Salleh at Tanjong Malang are included in this two-year study, commenced in the first quarter of 2016. Adopting the Historic Urban Landscape approach recommended by UNESCO, this project will integrate tangible and intangible cultural heritage, as well as integrate heritage structures and practices across cultures and sites. This project aims to contribute to the further development of a conservation paradigm that goes beyond the piecemeal conservation of isolated sites.

5. Bukit Brown

- a. *'World War II at Bukit Brown' co-published with Ethos Books.*
Co-edited by Catherine Lim and Claire Leow of All Things Bukit Brown, this book is a collection of essays and poems, mined mainly from oral history and family archives, which looks at the Second World War (1942-1945) and the impact in Singapore from the perspective of those interred at Bukit Brown Cemetery. All Things Bukit Brown have very kindly gifted copyright to SHS and Ethos Books. The book was partially funded by a Participation Grant from the National Heritage Board, applied for by co-editor Claire Leow. The book was launched on 9 April 2016 by Guest of Honour, Senior Minister of State for National Development, Desmond Lee, and his speech can be read here
<http://app.mnd.gov.sg/Newsroom/NewsPage.aspx?ID=7232&category=Speech&year=2016&RA1=&RA2=&RA3=>
As of 30 August, the book has already sold over 600 copies
- b. *Representation on the Bukit Brown Working Committee, led by Ministry of National Development (MND).*
SHS is a member of this working committee led by the Strategic Planning division at MND, alongside the Heritage Research and Assessment unit of NHB and representatives from Land Transport Authority (LTA), National Parks Board (NParks) and URA, together with community partners, All Things Bukit Brown. The remit of this committee is to look into the conservation and display of salvaged tomb artefacts and how to improve the visitor experience to Bukit Brown.
- c. *Conservation of old Bukit Brown gates.*
With the original entrance to Bukit Brown affected by LTA's road construction, the iconic 1920s cast iron gates were under threat. As part of the MND working committee, SHS called for the conservation of the iconic Bukit Brown gates and that they be reinstalled at the new entrance. Following recommendations from SHS, NHB contracted professional metal conservation services to refurbish the gates and they were reinstalled in early August 2016.



Removal of old Bukit Brown gates for restoration, 28 Sep 2015. (Photo: Chua Ai Lin)

- d. *"Bukit Brown: World Monuments Watch 武吉布朗坟山: 列入 2014 世界文物建筑观察名单"*, article published in *怡和世纪 Yihe Shiji*, issue 27 (October 2015). This piece by SHS president, Chua Ai Lin, provides an update on the status of Bukit Brown, the official documentation project and public outreach activities by volunteers. Published in the magazine of the Ee Hoe Hean club, the article can be downloaded at www.eehoehean.org/upload/file/14441875033385.pdf

6. Pulau Ubin

- a. *Member of Friends of Ubin network set up by the Ministry of National Development (MND).*
Since December 2013, SHS representatives have been part of this network aimed at discussing proposals for the appropriate management of Pulau Ubin in order to maintain its rustic character and sustainability as a recreational site. The network is chaired by Senior Minister of State for National Development, Desmond Lee, and includes MND, National Parks Board, Urban Redevelopment Authority, National Heritage Board as well as invited representatives from civil society organisations, educational institutions and individuals with interests and knowledge relevant to Pulau Ubin. Amongst these stakeholders, SHS represents the cultural and ethnographic dimension.
- b. *Playing an advisory role to the National Heritage Board (NHB).*
Based on recommendations by SHS, in April 2015, NHB commissioned the Pulau Ubin Cultural Mapping Project. The research, led by anthropologist, Dr Vivienne Wee, was completed in March 2016 and the findings presented to the Friends of Ubin Network and Senior Minister of State for National Development, Desmond Lee. Among other points, the study shows that the wider Pulau Ubin social

network is a thriving one, and these findings will inform future policy decisions on how best to retain the heritage value of Pulau Ubin.

c. *'The Island of Everlasting Utility' photo project by Clarice Lee.*

The inaugural SHS Photo Mentorship Grant with Invisible Photographer Asia was awarded to Clarice Lee for her project about Ubin residents entitled, 'The Island of Everlasting Utility'. Her project is inspired by the residents of Pulau Ubin, who despite being largely over 60 years of age, have found creative and resourceful ways to deal with challenges of everyday life on the island. SHS organised an exhibition of *The Island of Everlasting Utility* on 4 June 2016, as part of the SHS booth for NParks' Ubin Day at the Assembly Area on Pulau Ubin. Read more about the project here:

<http://invisiblephotographer.asia/2016/07/19/islandeverlastingutility-claricelee/>



*The Island of Everlasting Utility photo installation at Ubin Day, 4 June 2016.
(Photo: Chua Ai Lin)*

d. *Pulau Ubin Tua Pek Kong temple and festival brochure.*

SHS produced a colour brochure on the Pulau Ubin Fo Shan Ting Da Bo Gong Temple 乌敏岛佛山亭大伯公庙 and the temple's Tua Pek Kong Festival 大伯公千秋, to explain the history of the temple, its deities, and key elements of the festival. This is the largest festival celebrated on Pulau Ubin which attracts thousands of worshippers from the mainland. Just before and during the festival, copies of the brochure were distributed to visitors to Ubin from the Pesta Ubin booth and the temple itself. The brochure is available for free PDF download at http://www.singaporeheritage.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/SHS-Ubin-Tua-Pek-Kong-v160515_colour.pdf

e. *Facebook group on Pulau Ubin.*

Set up by SHS members, Chua Ai Lin and Victor Yue, in May 2014 and jointly managed with Ria Tan of Wild Singapore, this group provides a common platform for the public to share of all Pulau-Ubin related news and information,

as well as photographs. Moderators actively seek out relevant information to update the group several times a week. There are 2,164 members as of 24 August 2016, as compared to 1,567 members on 6 August 2015.

- f. *Pesta Ubin 2016, organised by Ria Tan of Wild Singapore.*
Pesta Ubin 2016 was a 5-week long open house on the island from 14 May to 12 June, comprising a wide variety of activities on different aspects of Pulau Ubin. With the Pulau Ubin Tua Pek Kong Festival coinciding with Pesta Ubin, SHS decided to produce a brochure to explain the festival and temple to visitors. As compared to organising a one-off event, this brochure can be circulated year-round and can easily be updated with a calendar of events each year.
- g. *Ubin Day 2016, organised by NParks.*
Held on 4 June 2016 at the Pulau Ubin Assembly Area, this event involved more than 10 community groups, presenting a variety of activities and educational booths about Pulau Ubin and related biodiversity conservation topics. SHS was invited to be part of the Ubin Day working committee. The SHS booth at Ubin Day focused on the lives of Ubin residents, centering on SHS member, Clarice Lee's photo project, 'The Island of Everlasting Utility'. Alongside the photographs, we described scenarios of real-life problems faced by aging residents of Ubin, and taught visitors how to make handicrafts which Ubin islanders create from discarded materials, so as to brought forth the larger theme of upcycling and sustainability. Our booth was conceptualised and produced by Gracie Teo, Clarice Lee, Chua Ai Lin, with the assistance of Michelle Kan.

7. Chinatown/ Kreta Ayer

Since the late 1990s, when Chinatown was first redeveloped by the Singapore Tourism Board, SHS has made the case for a more authentic and community-centred approach to development of Chinatown, as laid out in our publication, *Rethinking Chinatown and Heritage Conservation in Singapore* (Singapore Heritage Society, 2000; now available as free PDF on our website). Today, we hope to take stock of the changes in the area thus far, and bring back greater public awareness of the cultural and community assets, so that stakeholders on the ground may have a stronger voice in shaping development of Chinatown.

- a. *Picturing Chinatown.*
 - i. Sharing session in Mandarin by Picturing Chinatown participants, at Grassroots Book Room, 6 Sep 2015. This session was organised to accompany a mini-exhibition of Picturing Chinatown photo essays in independent book store, Grassroots Book Room, located in Bukit Pasoh in Chinatown. Three speakers of different generations, Chong Shin Kian, Andrew Lin and Jennifer Teo, gave presentations based on their photo essays, with an introduction to the project by Lim Mei Lan. There was a full-house audience, with many audience members who used to live or frequent Chinatown eagerly sharing their own experiences.
 - ii. Picturing Chinatown booklets. In October 2015, a second print run of 5000 copies was made of booklets based on the online exhibition of SHS's Picturing Chinatown project www.picturingchinatown.com. These booklets were distributed free to community partners in Chinatown, and made available to the general public at the National Library Board in

Victoria Street, library@Chinatown, Erich's Wuerstelstand in Banda St and Chong Wen Ge at Telok Ayer Street.

- iii. Picturing Chinatown exhibition, at Lepark, People's Park Complex, Jan 15-30 2016. Photographs by Picturing Chinatown participants were exhibited as part of Singapore Art Week's programme 'PPC: A Public Living Room', curated by May Leong of Hyphen. The SHS installation was conceptualised and executed by Gracie Teo, Tan Li-Anne and Carolyn Lim.



*A talk by SHS's Victor Yue on Chinese New Year in Chinatown at Gan Clan, 20 Feb 2016.
(Photo: Chua Ai Lin)*

- b. *Research paper on Kreta Ayer clan associations.*
SHS intern and sociology student, Aerin Lai, conducted in-depth qualitative interviews with ten executive committee members of ten different clan associations, most of which are currently located within Kreta Ayer area or were relocated there. Her paper looks at problems that Chinese clan associations in Singapore are facing and some of the ways in which SHS and relevant governmental agencies can alleviate these issues, as well as how clan association members make sense of their involvement in these the association vis-à-vis the larger community.
- c. *Spring at Bukit Pasoh 春遊武吉巴梳, co-organised with Grassroots Book Room 草根書室 & Siong Leng Musical Association 湘灵音乐社, 20 Feb 2016.*
Initiated by Grassroots Book Room, the objective of this ground-up event was to celebrate the Lunar New Year whilst bringing together the community of associations and small businesses in the Bukit Pasoh area. Events included a traditional Chinese New Year *Da Tuan Bai* (大团拜 mass greeting), lion dance, open houses, storytelling for children, an architectural tour, and Nanyin music workshop. Response was overwhelming and there are plans to repeat the event in 2017.
- d. *Community connections in Chinatown-Kreta Ayer.*
SHS Executive Committee member, Victor Yue, is a lifelong resident of the area and recognised for his blog and Facebook Group titled 'Bullockcartwater' (a reference to the place name Kreta Ayer 牛车水). Through Victor Yue, SHS continues to reach out

to organisations, businesses, clan associations, arts groups as well as people who live and work in the area to stay abreast of local happenings as well as build relationships to strengthen the social fabric.

- e. *Engagement with agencies on Chinatown matters.*
SHS maintains regular communication with relevant departments from the Singapore Tourism Board (STB), URA and NHB to provide feedback and suggestions on developments and events in the area, including the revamped Chinatown Heritage Centre which reopened on 28 January 2016.

8. Rail Corridor

- a. *Conservation of Tanjong Pagar Railway Station platform*
Please see section 3b above, under 'Conservation of built heritage'.
- b. *Representation in Rail Corridor Partnership group organised by the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA).*
SHS is represented in the Rail Corridor Partnership and has been invited by URA to attend meetings with the Rail Corridor design competition winning consortium, comprising Japanese firm Nikken Sekkei and local landscape firm Tierra Design. SHS provided information on the history of the KTM Railway as well as highlighting cultural features of note in the current landscape.
- c. *Green Rail Corridor guide map, produced with the Nature Society (Singapore).*
Published in March 2015 with the full title, 'Green Rail Corridor: A Guide to the Ecology and Heritage of the Former Railway Land' by Ho Hua Chew, Lai Chee Kien and Tham Wai Hon, SHS provided copies on consignment basis for sale to the public at Grassroots Book Room and Betel Box Hostel. All these copies have now been sold.
- d. *KTM Oral History Project.*
In 2014-2014, with funding from the Singapore Memory Project (SMP) of the National Library Board (NLB), SHS conducted a 50 one-hour interviews about the former KTM Railway. Since December 2015, the transcripts of a selection of these interviews have been made available in the SMP online portal under the header 'KTM Oral History Project'.

9. Other engagement sessions

- a. *Focus group discussions on Proposed Founders' Memorial, November 2015.*
Upon invitation by NHB, SHS Exco members attended focus group discussions on Proposed Founders' Memorial. General members of the Society were also encouraged to attend engagement sessions for the general public.
- b. *National Library Legal Deposit Tea cum Networking Session, 2 February 2016.*
SHS members were invited to this private event to meet newly appointed director of the National Library, Singapore, Mrs Wai Yin Pryke, as well as to exchange views on new initiatives of the National Library and network with stakeholders from the publishing industry, Library & Archives Advisory Committees, Media Development & Authority, and the Ministry of Communications and Information.

PARTNERSHIPS

SHS has been steadily broadening our range of partnerships to broaden the reach of our public education efforts, as well as to play a greater role in government initiatives relating to our strategic objectives.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

1. *World Cities Summit, 10-14 July 2016 at Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre.*
In 2016, SHS was also honoured to be invited to be a Strategic Partner of the World Cities Summit, organised by MND's Centre for Liveable Cities and URA. As described on the WCS official website, 'The biennial World Cities Summit is an exclusive platform for government leaders and industry experts to address liveable and sustainable city challenges, share integrated urban solutions and forge new partnerships.' President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong were Guests of Honour at WCS2016.
2. *National Heritage Board (NHB).*
SHS works closely with NHB, primarily the Heritage Research and Assessment division. In the Bukit Brown Working Committee, we collaborated on the restoration and reinstallation of the old Bukit Brown cemetery gates, and in the Friends of Ubin Network, SHS's recommendations led to NHB's Ubin Cultural Mapping Project. Another area of cooperation is in working towards the use of Heritage Impact Assessments in Singapore; NHB has assisted SHS in organising a presentation and discussion on a HIA legislative framework with URA and MND, and in discussing the organisation of HIA training workshops. SHS experts were invited to focus group discussions for the proposed Founders' Memorial and networking sessions with NHB management. For the third year running, NHB has nominated SHS as a beneficiary of the President's Charity Gold Cup Race, organised by Tote Board and Singapore Turf Club. This year, SHS has also been awarded an NHB Heritage Research Grant of \$120,000 for our two-year project, 'Integrating heritage in Singapore's urban development: research on historic places of worship in Telok Ayer, Tanjong Pagar, and Tanjong Malang'.
3. *Ministry of National Development (MND).*
SHS is represented on two bodies convened by MND, the Bukit Brown Working Committee and the Friends of Ubin Network (please see above section on 'Research and Advocacy' for further details). Senior Minister of State for MND, Desmond Lee, kindly graced SHS's book launch for *World War II at Bukit Brown* on 9 April 2016.
4. *Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA).*
SHS shares many areas of common interest with URA and is represented on several URA committees: the Architectural Heritage Awards panel and the Rail Corridor Partnership, as well as working together on MND's Bukit Brown Working Committee and the Friends of Ubin Network. Continuing a successful partnership in organising public outreach events over the last three years, URA provided co-presented a talk and provided venue sponsorship over the last twelve months.

5. *National Library Board (NLB).*

Currently in progress are two NLB book projects which have been contracted to SHS: *Song Ong Siang's One Hundred Years of the Chinese in Singapore – a revised and annotated version* and a revised edition of *Syonan: Singapore under the Japanese, 1942-1945*. In February 2016, the National Library invited members of SHS to a private event, the 'National Library Legal Deposit Tea cum Networking Session' to exchange views on new initiatives of the National Library and network with stakeholders from the publishing industry, Library & Archives Advisory Committees, Media Development & Authority, and the Ministry of Communications and Information.

6. *National Archives of Singapore (NAS).*

Following many successful Cakap Heritage events jointly organised with NAS, in October 2015, a successful new 'show and tell' format was tried out for a session at Memories of Old Ford Factory featuring of World War II memorabilia brought in by members of the public. The event was featured in a 5-minute video by Channel News Asia released on their Facebook Page. NAS is also providing invaluable support for SHS's production of a revised edition of our 1992 publication, *Syonan: Singapore under the Japanese, 1942-1945*, which will be launched simultaneously with the reopening of the revamped Memories of Old Ford Factory in January 2017.

7. *National Parks Board (NParks).*

Through SHS's activities on Pulau Ubin, we have come to partner the NParks, who are the central coordinating agency for the island, and a key agency in the Friends of Ubin Network. In 2016, SHS was invited by NParks to be part of the working committee for Ubin Day this year.



SHS president, Dr Chua Ai Lin, attending the MND Huddle appreciation dinner for volunteers, 20 November 2015. (Photo: Chua Ai Lin)

8. *Singapore Tourism Board (STB).*
SHS's interest in Chinatown/Kreta Ayer provides many opportunities to work closely with the place managing agency for the area, STB's Cultural Precincts Development division. In the last one year, collaboration has largely been through informal assistance and discussions. SHS members were also invited to exclusive preview tours of the newly-revamped Chinatown Heritage Centre in January 2016.
9. *Seng Poh Residents' Committee (Tanjong Pagar GRC).*
For the Tiong Bahru Flea Market on 5 June 2016, SHS was among the non-profit organisations invited by Seng Poh RC to set up an outreach booth.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

1. *NUS Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP)*
From January 2015 to January 2016, as one of the organisations offering Policy Analysis Exercise case studies for Masters in Public Policy students, SHS worked with LKYSPP student, Trent Ng on his thesis 'Striking the balance between heritage conservation and urban renewal in Singapore: Advocating for a mandatory Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) regime'.



Certificates of Appreciation being presented to SHS and other client organisation participating in KYSPP's Policy Analysis Exercise 2016, 4 March 2016. (Photo: Ian Chong)

2. *Temasek Polytechnic.*
From June to October 2015, Temasek Polytechnic students in Photography and Design offered pro bono services to help SHS with marketing collaterals. Photographs taken by Tan Ding Wei and Pearlcelia Liong have been used, particularly in promotional materials on the SHS Facebook Page.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS

Community movements

1. *All Things Bukit Brown (atBB).*

A key partner in the Bukit Brown cause, SHS has been working closely with atBB since its inception. Both SHS and atBB are part of the Bukit Brown Working Committee convened by MND and worked together on the restoration and reinstallation of the old Bukit Brown cemetery gates. This year, we co-published with Ethos Books, *World War II at Bukit Brown*, a compilation of essays written and edited by atBB, who have kindly gifted the copyright to SHS and Ethos. We also jointly organised 'The Ong Sam Leong Story - A Triple Perspective' event.

2. *Jane's Walk (Singapore).*

Inspired by Jane Jacobs (1916-2006), a celebrated urbanist and activist whose writings championed a fresh, community-based approach to city building, Jane's Walk is an international movement where free, locally-organised walks are held around the world on the anniversary of Jane Jacobs' birthday to encourage placemaking and community-building. For three years running, SHS has helped Jane's Walk connect with potential walk leaders and run walks. In 2016, SHS member Andrew Lin led a walk Sungei Road flea market and Rochor Centre, two places which will soon be removed for transport infrastructure developments.

Arts groups

3. *Invisible Photographer Asia (IPA).*

IPA is a leading influential platform for Photography and Arts in Asia which conducts workshops and mentorships for socially-engaged photography. In December 2015, seven SHS members and partners jointly attended IPA's 'Visualising Social Stories' Workshop. In November 2015 and June 2016, IPA has kindly offered a special heritage-themed grant for their three-month Photo Mentorship, worth USD\$600, which is jointly organised with SHS. Clarice Lee was the awardee in December 2015 and her completed project, *The Island of Everlasting Utility*, was exhibited at the SHS booth for Ubin Day on 4 June 2016.



The IPAXSHS Photo Mentorship Grant, June 2016.

4. *Drama Box.*

For the Singapore International Festival of the Arts 2015, Drama Box produced a trilogy entitled *It Won't Be Too Long* about the Bukit Brown campaign and the dynamics of space in Singapore. The trilogy was nominated for the M1-The Straits Times Life Theatre Awards 2016 in four categories, including Production of the Year. Interviews with SHS members were included as part of the production and SHS president, Dr Chua Ai Lin, was a guest panellist in the participatory theatre component, 'The Lesson' on two occasions. In June 2016, SHS nominated Drama Box for the Singapore Advocacy Awards 2016, in which they were recognised as one of two Advocacy Organisations of the Year.

5. *Hyphen.*

Hyphen is an independent non-profit that conceptualises innovative and multi-disciplinary projects in arts and culture through creative matchmaking. In Jan 2016, SHS's Picturing Chinatown project participated in 'PPC: A Public Living Room', a mini arts festival organised by Hyphen at Lepark, People's Park Complex.

Publishers & book distributors

6. *Ethos Books.*

SHS's main publication in 2016, *World War II at Bukit Brown*, owes much to our co-publishers, Ethos Books, with whom the Society has previously published *Spaces of the Dead: A Case from the Living* (2011) and *The Makers and Keepers of Singapore History* (2010). At the SHS booth for the Tiong Bahru Flea Market in June 2016, the sale of these SHS books and other heritage titles was made possible with assistance from Ethos.

7. *Landmark Books.*

In July 2016, Landmark and SHS jointly organised a panel discussion on 'Literature x History' featuring prominent local writers and historians. In the coming year, we will also be working together on a revised version of *Syonan: Singapore under the Japanese, 1942-1945*, which was first produced in 1992 by SHS and Landmark Books.

8. *APD Singapore.*

A leading independent book distributor for trade and academic titles, APD have distributed many past SHS publications. They regularly offer discounted rates on new heritage titles to SHS members. Once a year, APD opens its warehouse for an exclusive SHS members-only sale.

Placemaking partners

9. *Grassroots Book Room 草根書室.*

One of Singapore's most prominent independent Chinese book stores, Grassroots Book Room, reopened under new management in January 2015 and has quickly become a cultural anchor in the Bukit Pasoh area with a full programme of carefully curated cultural events. From September to October 2015, SHS's *Picturing Chinatown* 《光影纪实: 牛车水旧事新说》 project held a bilingual mini exhibition and sharing session at Grassroots Book Room. Together with Siong Leng Musical Association, SHS was part of the group convened by Grassroots Book Room to organise the inaugural Spring at Bukit Pasoh event to celebrate Lunar New Year in February 2016.

10. *Siong Leng Musical Association 湘灵音乐社.*

Founded in 1941, the Siong Leng Musical Association carries on the living heritage of Nanyin music, a Hokkien genre which is inscribed on UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage. The Association performs at traditional temple festivals, the Esplanade and public outreach workshops. Siong Leng is one of our Bukit Pasoh placemaking partners where their premises with a small museum are located. They also invite SHS to join private events such as their annual Kusu Island pilgrimage and yearly gala dinner.



With the Siong Leng Musical Association on their annual pilgrimage to Kusu Island, 24 Oct 2015. (Photo: Chua Ai Lin)

11. *Gan Clan Singapore 新加坡颜氏公会.*

One of the more dynamic clan associations today, Gan Clan operates the Gan Heritage Centre at its premises in Bukit Pasoh. They regularly provide venue support for partner organisations' heritage and culture activities, such as the talk by SHS's Victor Yue on 'Chinatown and Chinese New Year' for the Spring at Bukit Pasoh festival on in February 2016.

12. *Aster by Kyra Pte Ltd.*

Located at the restored Chong Wen Ge within the grounds of the Thian Hock Keng national monument in Telok Ayer, Aster by Kyra comprises a historic decorative tiles gallery and a Peranakan-themed café. They have kindly provided a venue for many SHS meetings and public events including 'The Ong Sam Leong Story - A Triple Perspective' and craft workshops to raise funds for SHS.

MEDIA COVERAGE

SHS received significant coverage in the media in the past twelve months, with a total of 55 mentions in the English and Chinese media, as well as in 4 ministerial speeches. Mainstream media exposure is the one of the most effective forms of advocacy and public education, reaching the general public as well as policy makers. Through daily media summaries produced in-house by various government agencies, the views of SHS are highlighted to staff and management of agencies dealing with heritage-related issues.

Media Mentions

1. 《“光影纪实：牛车水旧事新说”分享会》
联合早报, 3 September 2015.
2. ‘Voting on the squeeze for space’
The Straits Times, Corrie Tan, 21 September 2015.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/lifestyle/arts/voting-on-the-squeeze-for-space>
3. ‘Bukit Brown's iconic gates to be refurbished, relocated’
The Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 30 September 2015.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/bukit-browns-iconic-gates-to-be-refurbished-relocated>
4. ‘Pulau Ubin ‘far from a dying town’’
The Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 3 October 2015.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/pulau-ubin-far-from-a-dying-town>
5. ‘Haw Par Villa worth observing: Operator’
The Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 5 October 2015.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/haw-par-villa-worth-preserving-operator>
6. 《快乐 星期天》
联合早报, 11 October 2015.
7. ‘Why it is urgent to protect Haw Par Villa’
The Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 15 October 2015.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/why-it-is-urgent-to-protect-haw-par-villa>
8. ‘Public can give views and join forums on Founders' Memorial’
The Straits Times, Walter Sim, 16 October 2015.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/public-can-give-views-and-join-forums-on-founders-memorial>
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The Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 19 October 2015.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/alkaff-upper-serangoon-mosque-among-4-winners-of-ura-architectural-heritage-awards>
10. ‘Restoration teams for Victoria Concert Hall, National Gallery honoured’
Channel NewsAsia, Chan Luo Er, 20 October 2015.
<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/restoration-teams-for/2203952.html>

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Today, Francis Micah Law and Neo Chai Chin, 29 October 2015.
<http://www.todayonline.com/singapore/heritage-groups-want-current-sites-along-upcoming-circle-line-preserved>
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The Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 30 October 2015.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/part-of-tanjong-pagar-rail-terminus-to-make-way-for-mrt-station>
13. 《环线延长线广东民站 地铁施工将拆丹戎巴葛火车站部分月台》
联合早报, 李静仪和苏文琪, 30 October 2015.
<http://m.news-com.cn/news/index.php?c=show&id=235329>
14. 'Rail corridor plans a good balance of greenery, development, say analysts'
Today, Francis Law, 10 November 2015.
<http://www.todayonline.com/singapore/rail-corridor-plans-good-balance-greenery-development-say-analysts>
15. 'Bridges to be gazetted 'endearing landmarks''
The Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 11 November 2015.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/bridges-to-be-gazetted-endearing-landmarks>
16. 'Unearthing history of early S'pore occupants'
The Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 11 November 2015.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/unearthing-history-of-early-spore-occupants>
17. 《裕廊绿意星罗的工业花园》
联合早报, 黄向京, 16 November 2015.
<http://www.zaobao.com.sg/special/report/singapore/sg50/scenery/story20151116-549234>
18. 'More than child's play'
The New Paper, Natasha Meah, 23 November 2015.
<http://www.tnp.sg/news/singapore-news/more-childs-play>
19. 'Pre-war sites off Shenton Way under scrutiny'
The Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 4 December 2015.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/pre-war-sites-off-shenton-way-under-scrutiny>
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Channel NewsAsia, Gasthoori Manickam, 23 December 2015.
<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/haw-par-villa-to-get-fine/2372348.html>
21. 'Step out to learn about Singapore's heritage'
The Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 7 January 2016.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/step-out-to-learn-about-singapores-heritage>
22. 'Centre gives new life to Chinatown's old stories'
The Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 9 January 2016.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/centre-gives-new-life-to-chinatowns-old-stories>

23. 《牛车水原貌馆重开 票价涨有人嫌贵》
联合早报, 许翔宇, 9 January 2016.
<http://www.zaobao.com.sg/media/video/story20160109-569016>
24. 'Reclaiming Chinatown's identity'
Business Times Singapore, Tan Teck Heng, 29 January 2016.
<http://www.businesstimes.com.sg/lifestyle/arts-entertainment/reclaiming-chinatowns-identity>
25. 'Gallery to offer year-round glimpse of Istana's treasures'
The Straits Times, Lim Yan Liang and Toh Yong Chuan, 14 February 2016.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/gallery-to-offer-year-round-glimpse-of-istanas-treasures>
26. 《本周六老建筑开放日 春游武吉巴梳 漫步历史老街》
联合早报, 谢燕燕, 15 February 2016.
<http://m.news-com.cn/news/index.php?c=show&id=251513>
27. 《“春游武吉巴梳” 欢迎公众参加》
我报, 谢燕燕, 15 February 2016.
<http://mypaper.sg/chinese-news/chun-you-wu-ji-ba-shu-huan-ying-gong-zhong-can-jia-20160215>
28. 'Making Changi Prison monument more visible'
The Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 16 February 2016.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/making-changi-prison-monument-more-visible>
29. 'Punish rogue developers, Penang government told'
New Straits Times, Predeep Nambiar, 19 February 2016.
<http://www.nst.com.my/news/2016/02/128267/punish-rogue-developers-penang-government-told>
30. 'Parts of heritage site Palmer House to be cleared for MRT'
The Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 25 February 2016
<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/parts-of-heritage-site-palmer-house-to-be-cleared-for-mrt>
31. 《为历史地标添新貌 开辟共用休闲绿地 南大计划重新发展云南园》
联合早报, 谢燕燕, 3 March 2016.
<http://www.zaobao.com.sg/lifestyle/education/live/story20160303-588023>
32. 'Heritage of Yunnan Garden 'spans globe''
The Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 4 March 2016.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/heritage-of-yunnan-garden-spans-globe>
33. 《云南园重新发展 新老校友反应不一 有校友盼吸引更多人 有人认为翻新后不值得留念》
联合晚报, 侯佩瑜, 4 March 2016.
<http://www.wanbao.com.sg/local/story20160304-76612>
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The Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 28 March 2016.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/sgsh-to-preserve-heritage-features-as-far-as-possible>

35. 《中央医院古迹将获保留 旧病院围墙老墓碑不受扩展工程影响》
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<http://www.wanbao.com.sg/local/story20160328-78392>
36. 'Singapore's history to come alive in new book focusing on Bukit Brown'
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<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/singapores-history-to-come-alive-in-new-book-focusing-on-bukit-brown>
37. 'Home briefs : New book on Bukit Brown history'
The Straits Times, 6 April 2016.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/home-briefs-new-book-on-bukit-brown-history>
38. 'Parliament: Representation of Singapore's history is objective, says Grace Fu'
The Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 14 April 2016
<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/parliament-representation-of-singapores-history-is-objective-says-grace-fu>
39. 《傅海燕反驳刘程强： 历史诠释不是只有一种官方表述》
联合早报, 15 April 2016.
<http://zpolitics.zaobao.com.sg/zpolitics/news/story20160415-605302>
40. 'Lost skill of kampung building found on Ubin; NHB study reveals thriving community'
The Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 28 April 2016
<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/lost-skill-of-kampung-building-found-on-ubin-nhb-study-reveals-thriving-community>
41. 《专家：乌敏岛诺丁海滩生态系统需 10 年重建》
联合早报, 黄小芳, 23 May 2016.
<http://m.news-com.cn/news/index.php?c=show&id=266715>
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Channel NewsAsia, Angela Lim, 4 June 2016.
<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/nparks-to-be-central/2844702.html>
43. 'People in the spotlight'
The Straits Times, Ankita Varma in Venice, 4 June 2016
44. 《加速应对岛民公众需求 公园局集中管理乌敏岛事务》
联合早报, 黎远漪, 5 June 2016.
<http://m.news-com.cn/news/index.php?c=show&id=268214>
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The Straits Times, Jalelah Abu Baker, 19 July 2016.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/survey-on-intangible-cultural-heritage-to-start-soon>
46. 'Heritage spotlight on Haw Par Villa'
The Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 1 August 2016.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/heritage-spotlight-on-haw-par-villa>
47. 'Staying relevant'
The Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 1 August 2016.
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48. 'Bukit Brown gets back its 1920s gates'
The Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 8 August 2016.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/bt-brown-gets-back-its-1920s-gates>

49. '4 Reasons Why We Don't Want Our Mama Shops To Die'
GET.com, Fizah Hatman, 12 August 2016.
<https://get.com/sg/blog/4-reasons-why-we-dont-want-our-mama-shops-die/>
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The Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 18 August 2016.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/tunnel-works-to-affect-heritage-building>
51. 'Singapore Heritage Society asks Government to reconsider demolition of historical building'
The Independent, 18 August 2016.
<http://theindependent.sg/singapore-heritage-society-asks-government-to-reconsider-demolition-of-historical-building/>
52. 'Part of conserved building to make way for N-S Corridor'
My Paper, Melody Zaccheus, 18 August 2016.
<http://mypaper.sg/top-stories/part-conserved-building-make-way-n-s-corridor-20160818>
53. 'Yet another heritage site (part of it) is making way for your cars'
Mothership, Joshua Lee, 19 August 2016.
<http://mothership.sg/2016/08/yet-another-heritage-site-part-of-it-is-making-way-for-your-cars/>
54. 'Singapore Heritage Society asks Government to reconsider demolition of historical building'
The Online Citizen, Martha Soezean, 22 August 2016.
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55. 'Tomb hunting brothers do their bit to preserve Singapore heritage'
The Straits Times, John Lui, 29 August 2016.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/lifestyle/tomb-hunters>

Ministerial Reports

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Singapore Government News, 19 October 2015.
<https://www.ura.gov.sg/uol/media-room/speeches/2015/oct/speech15-11.aspx>
2. 'Speech by S Iswaran (Industry) at Official Opening of Chinatown Heritage Centre'
Singapore Government News, 28 January 2016.
<https://www.mti.gov.sg/NewsRoom/Pages/MR-S-Iswaran-at-the-Official-Opening-of-Chinatown-Heritage-Centre-2016.aspx>
3. 'Speech by SMS Desmond Lee at Book Launch of "World War II Bukit Brown"'
Singapore Government News, 9 April 2016.
<http://app.mnd.gov.sg/Newsroom/NewsPage.aspx?ID=7232&category=Speech&year=2016&RA1=&RA2=&RA3=>
4. 'A Shared Endeavour to Strengthen National Pride, Identity'
Singapore Government News, 14 April 2016.
<https://www.mccy.gov.sg/news/speeches/2016/Apr/shared-endeavour-to-strengthen-national-pride-and-identity.aspx>

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EVENTS

SHS has gained a reputation for a full calendar of stimulating events for members and the public conducted by invited subject experts. We also hold Cakap Heritage events which adopt a more informal, conversational approach, where participants are invited to exchange knowledge and experiences on specific topics. Upon invitation, the Society also provides public lectures and tours, in particular to educational and non-profit organisations.

Talks, Forums, Seminars

1. '《光影纪实: 牛车水旧事新说》分享会' (Sharing session by participants of SHS Picturing Chinatown project), co-organised with Grassroots Book Room, 6 September 2015 at Grassroots Book Room.
2. 'Dakota Crescent: The Community Life and Built Heritage of Public Housing (Film Screening and Discussion)', 13 September 2015 at The Projector. Comprising a screening of 'Heartland' (2015, director Mark Chua, writer Mark Kwan), presentation and discussion by Dr Lai Chee Kien, moderated by Assoc Prof Kwok Kian Woon.
3. 'Book launch: World War II at Bukit Brown', co-organised with All Things Bukit Brown, 9 April 2016 at URA Centre, with presentations, 'Stories Behind Battle at Cemetery Hill and The Adam Park Project' by Jon Cooper, 'The Multiple Spaces of Bukit Brown' by Dr Chua Ai Lin, 'Socially-Engaged Art and Bukit Brown' by Kok Heng Leun, and panel discussion moderated by Assoc Prof Darren Koh on 'The Role of Community Engagement — Shared Experiences' with the presenters and Claire Leow of All Things Bukit Brown.
4. 'Singapore: Literature x History Panel Discussion', co-organised with Landmark Books, 9 July 2016, at Enabling Village, with panelists: Alfian Sa'at, Dr Lai Chee Kien and Meira Chand, and moderators: Goh Eck Kheng and Dr Gwee Li Sui.
5. 'The Ong Sam Leong Story - A Triple Perspective', co-organised with All Things Bukit Brown, 9 July 2016 at Chong Wen Ge with presentations, 'The Coolies of Christmas Island' by John Hunt, 'The New World' by Genine Loo, 'In Conversation with Sharon Ong' (great-great-granddaughter of Ong Sam Leong).
6. 'The Balestiers: A talk by Richard Hale', co-organised with URA, 30 July 2016 at URA Centre.



'Singapore: Literature x History Panel Discussion', 9 July 2016. (Photo: Stella Wee)

Workshops

1. 'The Secret Language of Chinese Opera' by the Thau Yong Amateur Musical Association, 11 June 2016, Thau Yong Amateur Musical Association (for SHS members only).
2. 'Screen Printing on Fabric: A Workshop by Eve Lim', 20 August 2016, 10.30-11.30am, 2.30-3.30pm, 4-5pm, Chong Wen Ge.

Cakap Heritage Sessions

'Mementos and Memories', co-organised with National Archives of Singapore (NAS), 3 October 2015 at Old Ford Motor Factory.



A show and tell of World War II artefacts at 'Cakap Heritage: Mementos and Memories' at Memories of Old Ford Factory, 3 Oct 2015. (Photo: Chua Ai Lin)

Exhibitions and Installations

1. 《光影纪实: 牛车水旧事新说》 *Picturing Chinatown* bilingual mini-exhibition, 6 September-3 October 2015, Grassroots Book Room, Bukit Pasoh.
2. *Picturing Chinatown* installation, 15-30 January 2016, as part of Singapore Art Week's programme 'PPC: A Public Living Room', at Lepark, People's Park Complex.
3. 'The Island of Everlasting Utility: A Pulau Ubin Photo Project', 4 June 2016, Pulau Ubin Assembly Area.

Overseas Tours

'Flavours of Old Batavia' with Khir Johari, 1-4 September 2016, Jakarta.

Local Walks

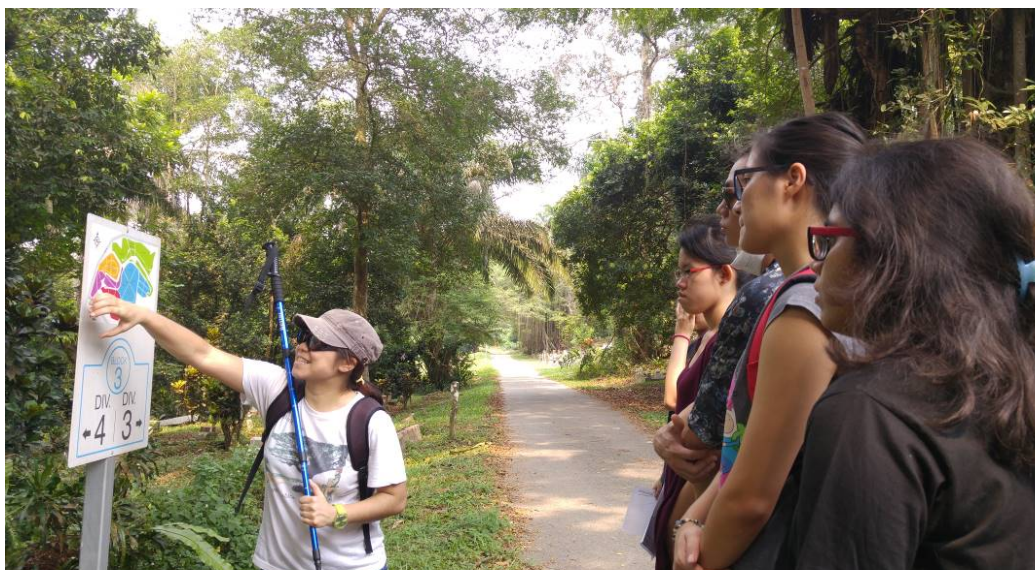
1. 'Reading the Cosmopolitan Layers of Tanjong Malang and Telok Ayer', by Assoc Prof Johannes Widodo, 23 April 2016.
2. 'Disappearing Landscapes - Thieves Market and Rochor Centre', by Andrew Lin as part of Janes's Walk, 7 May 2016.



*SHS tour of Tanjong Malang and Telok Ayer with Assoc Prof Johannes Widodo, 23 April 2016.
(Photo: Johannes Widodo)*

Lectures, workshops and tours conducted upon request

1. 'It Won't Be Too Long: The Lesson', Dr Chua Ai Lin as guest panellist for participatory theatre production by Drama Box, 11 September 2015 and 12 May 2016.
2. 'Stories of Ourselves': lecture and site visit to Bukit Brown for Yale-NUS College students, conducted by Dr Chua Ai Lin, 25 September 2015.
3. 'Civil society and the Future of Bukit Brown', guest lecture for ASD20.305 Elective: Conservation Theories and Approaches of Built Heritage, Singapore University of Technology and Design, conducted by Dr Chua Ai Lin, 2 August 2016.



Dr Chua Ai Lin with students from Yale-NUS at Bukit Brown, 25 Sep 2015. (Photo: Beth Uding).

SOCIAL MEDIA

In addition to organising events for members and the general public, as well as maintaining a media presence through commentary pieces and regular interviews, we maintain an active social media profile. In particular, the daily news updates provided on our Facebook Page help the general public to stay abreast of heritage-related current affairs, so that we may have a more well-informed active citizenry.

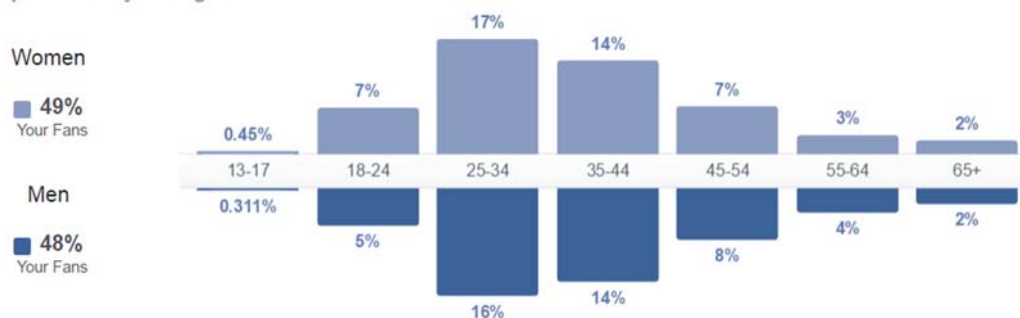
1. *SHS Facebook Page*

www.facebook.com/sgheritage

The SHS Facebook page was started in July 2011. Since August 2014, our volunteer Han Ming Guang has been managing the Society's Facebook Page, curating and scheduling postings. This is an important service to our members and the general public because it keeps them abreast of the current heritage news and issues on a daily basis.

The value of our Page for our society is reflected by the growing numbers of Page Likes and Post Likes. As of 30th August 2016, there were 8,644 likes as compared with 5,121 on the 13th of August 2016. This represents an increase of about 63.7% increase in our Facebook Page Likes over a 12-month period. Almost all our Facebook fans are located in Singapore, largely within the 25 to 44 age group, equally divided between men and women.

The people who like your Page



Breakdown of SHS Facebook Page fans by gender and age group, 31 Aug 2016.

Our individual post regularly reaches over 1000 readers and per week, our Facebook posts reach about 35000 readers. SHS did not use any paid Facebook post for their social media postings.

2. *SHS Twitter*

http://twitter.com/SgHeritage_Soc

As of 12th August 2016, the SHS Twitter feed had 231 followers and 3,331 Tweets as compared to 161 followers a year ago. Currently, all tweets are automatically generated as copies of the SHS Facebook postings.

3. *SHS Instagram*

<http://instagram.com/singaporeheritagesociety>

Started in February 2014, our Instagram account is not updated on a regularly basis, nevertheless the number of followers increased to 161 as of 12th of August 2016.

PUBLICATIONS

1. **'World War II at Bukit Brown' co-published with Ethos Books, co-edited by Catherine Lim and Claire Leow of All Things Bukit Brown (published April 2016).**

This book is a collection of essays and poems, mined mainly from oral history and family archives, which looks at the Second World War (1942-1945) and the impact in Singapore from the perspective of those interred at Bukit Brown Cemetery. All Things Bukit Brown have very kindly gifted copyright to SHS and Ethos Books. The book was partially funded by a Participation Grant from the National Heritage Board, applied for by co-editor Claire Leow. The book was launched on 9 April 2016 by Guest of Honour, Senior Minister of State for National Development, Desmond Lee, and his speech can be read here

<http://app.mnd.gov.sg/Newsroom/NewsPage.aspx?ID=7232&category=Speech&year=2016&RA1=&RA2=&RA3=>

As of 30 August, the book has already sold over 600 copies.



Cover of World War II at Bukit Brown

2. **'Song Ong Siang's One Hundred Years of the Chinese in Singapore – a revised and annotated version' edited by Kevin Tan (on-going).**

Commissioned by the National Library Board, the Society has embarked on a project to annotate, edit and re-publish Sir Song Ong Siang's classic volume, *One Hundred Years of the Chinese in Singapore*, as an e-book under the general editorship of Dr Kevin Tan. This volume was first published in 1921 and underwent two reprints in 1968 and 1991 before going out of print. As Song passed away in 1941, the book is now in the public domain. This work is especially timely as it coincides with the current interest in Bukit Brown cemetery by providing much information on personalities buried at Bukit Brown and their families.

3. Revised version of 'Syonan: Singapore under the Japanese, 1942-1945' (on-going).

In August 2016, the National Library Board (NLB) contracted SHS to produce a revised edition of this 1992 SHS publication. As a concise and accessible account of the Japanese Occupation, this book has the potential to reach a wider audience as compared to other titles on this topic. The original author and publisher commissioned by SHS in 1992, Lee Geok Boi and Landmark Books, have agreed to work on this new edition. The book is intended to be launched in January 2017 to coincide with the 75th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore in World War II on 15 February.



The original 1992 version of Syonan: Singapore under the Japanese, 1942-1945.
(Photo: Chua Ai Lin)

MEMBERSHIP

As of 31 August 2016, we have 254 members, as compared to 239 a year ago. The role of existing members in introducing friends to join SHS has been particularly important, as is our growing profile in the social media sphere. Moving forward, we aim to improve the processes for membership registration and renewal and are exploring suitable software platforms for this.

SHS members have priority and discounted rates for all SHS events, with selected activities exclusive to members. SHS members also receive special invitations to activities by partner organisations. In 2016, these activities were:

1. Kusu Island pilgrimage with Siong Leng Musical Association, 24 October 2015.
2. Invisible Photographer Asia Photo Mentorship Grant for SHS members, December 2015 and July 2016.
3. 'Visualising Social Stories' workshop by Invisible Photographer Asia, group discount for SHS members, 18-20 December 2016.
4. Chinatown Heritage Centre preview tours, organised by Singapore Tourism Board (STB), 4 & 5 January 2016.
5. National Library Legal Deposit Tea cum Networking Session, organised by National Library, 2 February 2016, at National Library Board.
6. 'The Secret Language of Chinese Opera' by the Thau Yong Amateur Musical Association, 11 June 2016 at Thau Yong Amateur Musical Association.
7. SHS annual overseas tour: 'Flavours of Old Batavia' with Khir Johari, 1-4 September 2016, Jakarta.
8. SHS annual book sale at APD book distributors, who kindly offer a generous discount at special once-a-year sale for our members. The last sale was held on 2 July 2016. APD also regularly offers our members promotional rates on new titles relating to Singapore history and heritage.

With a plethora of history and heritage events being organised island-wide by many different organisations throughout the year, SHS also makes it a point to send email announcements of relevant external activities to members.

FUNDRAISING

Since 14 January 2009, SHS has been conferred the status of Institution of Public Character (IPC), one of less than 600 registered charities in Singapore which meet the stringent criteria of the Commissioner of Charities. IPC status allows SHS to issue tax deductible receipts to donors who want to claim tax relief based on the amount of qualifying donations made. The current tax relief is 250% of the donations.

SHS is also eligible for the Cultural Matching Fund (CMF) fund established by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY) which offers dollar-for-dollar (1:1) matching grants for private cash donations to arts and heritage charities since 2014. SHS was successfully awarded a CMF grants in February 2016 of \$18,074.

Aside from cheque and cash donations, SHS is registered with the government-run online donation portal. Due to its convenience and our appeals for donations on the SHS Facebook Page, online donations showed a marked increase in 2015-2016. The SHS page at Giving.Sg is www.giving.sg/singapore-heritage-society

Donations and sponsorships in the Financial Year ending 31 March 2016 totalled \$41,032. This year's fundraising was notable for our year-end online fundraising drive, innovative initiatives from SHS members, as well as being a beneficiary of the President's Gold Cup Race. SHS wishes to record our sincere thanks to all donors.



Senior Minister of State, Desmond Lee, presents complimentary copies of World War II at Bukit Brown to Mr Tan Keng Leck of the Tan Ean Kiam Foundation, 9 April 2016. (Photo: Lawrence Chong)

1. President's Charity Gold Cup Race

For the third year running, SHS was nominated by the National Heritage Board for the President's Charity Gold Cup Race, a charity event organised by Tote Board which raises funds for beneficiaries from arts, heritage and library groups, as well as among health, social services and education organisations. In November 2015, SHS was one of 27 beneficiary organisations, and received \$16,000.

2. Year-end fundraising drive

This year, we ran a dedicated fundraising and membership drive in November and December, a time of the year when many people are keen to give. SHS volunteers, interns and Executive Committee members worked on a series of four Facebook Notes, publicising the work and impact of SHS and the need for the public to support heritage conservation. In particular, we called for contributions towards the cost of publication of *World War II at Bukit Brown*, for which \$12,744 was raised, largely from donations from Ee Hoe Hean club, the Tan Ean Kiam Foundation, Dr James Khoo and Aster by Kyra Pte Ltd.

3. Individual initiatives by SHS members.

- a. Victor Lim of Aster by Kyra Pte Ltd, launched his book, *Peranakan Tiles Singapore*, at the Peranakan Museum on 10 October 2015, and donated all proceeds from book sales at the launch, totalling \$2448.
- b. A charity sale was organised by Eunice Chua and Asher Mak from 1 July to 3 August 2016 to raise funds for SHS by appealing for members of the Facebook group, 'Chope Chope! @ AVM Arts & Antiques' to donate vintage collectibles for sale. A total of \$1350 was raised.
- c. Eve Lim conducted three fabric screen printing workshops, inspired by motifs from vintage decorative tiles on 20 August 2016 with the kind venue sponsorship of Victor Lim of Peranakan Tiles @Chong Wen Ge, and kindly donated all proceeds from workshop fees, totalling \$1250.



Screen printing on fabric workshop, 20 Aug 2016 at Chong Wen Ge. (Photo: Victor Lim)

ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

1. SHS Executive Committee Strategic Retreat 2016

This was held on 16 January 2016 at Changi Beach Club, the last such retreat having been held on 5 January 2013. The full-day session provided the opportunity for ExCo to take stock of SHS's key advocacy issues, operational issues and review the Society's vision and mission.

2. Administration

The Society has no paid staff. Since June 2006, the secretarial work of the Society has carried out by Ms Wendy Chua of Bizcomm Pte Ltd who acts as the Society's administrative secretary on a service contract.

From Aug 2015 to April 2016, SHS conducted a recruitment exercise to hire a full-time or part-time paid staff to organise outreach programmes for members and the public. Due to unforeseen circumstances, we have yet to embark on a full schedule of work with a paid staff member.

3. Internships

Through our internship programme, we hope to provide exposure to students and young adults to the field of heritage conservation advocacy as well as non-profit organisation management.

Following a very positive experience with several general interns, as well as project-based internships from January to August 2015, SHS embarked on its first ever public call for general interns in December 2015, and a second call in July 2016. Each round has attracted about 12 applicants from a variety of backgrounds, ranging from junior college to Master's level students, and majoring in social sciences, humanities, business administration and even Mechanical Engineering. Seven interns were selected for the first call, and four for the second call.



SHS interns accompany SHS Exco members to visit Bukit Brown, 14 Aug 2016. (Photo: Chua Ai Lin)

Some articles by our interns have been posted in the Notes section of the SHS Facebook Page. In particular, Leong Chao Yang's piece "'Nothing is left" - Why we need youths to change hearts and minds about Singapore's heritage' (11 Dec 2015) explains the SHS internship experience and how youths can contribute to the work of our Society. His piece can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/notes/singapore-heritage-society/nothing-is-left-why-we-need-youths-to-change-hearts-and-minds-about-singapores-h/917098998337737>.

4. Capacity-building

SHS Executive committee members, key volunteers and interns have attended workshops and conferences to raise their capabilities in skills relevant to the work of the Society. In some cases, SHS has organised a group discount for members. These training opportunities included:

- a. 'Visualising Social Stories', workshop by Invisible Photographer Asia, 18-20 December 2016
- b. 'Practical Approaches on Participatory Arts', workshop by Participate In Design, organised by National Arts Council (NAC), 5 March 2016
- c. 'Using Tech for Social Change - Fundraise effectively for your cause', workshop by SimplyGiving.com, organised by *SCAPE, 12 March 2016
- d. 'Let's go Mapping!', workshop organised by *SCAPE, 14 April 2016
- e. 'Arts-based Placemaking Workshop' by Cynthia Nitikin, Project for for Public Spaces, organised by National Arts Council, 29 July 2016
- f. 'Apa Itu Activist' conference, 20 August 2016

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATE AND EXPLANATION OF MAJOR FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

The Society's main source of income is from donations and grants from government projects. Membership subscriptions alone are insufficient to meet day-to-day expenses. In all activities the Society has organised, every effort has been made to ensure that each event and project is self-funding. It should nonetheless be noted that subscriptions by members do not cover year-to-year operation costs and that cross subsidies are secured through money made in publishing, consulting and other ventures.

Policy on Finance & Funding

The Society is funded by a combination of subscriptions from members, donations from well-wishers as well as through the sale of its publications and the provision of heritage consultancy services. It is the Society's policy that all new projects be self-financing. Throughout its history, the Society has never taken a loan from any individual or institution to finance its activities.

Statement of Accounts

Statement of accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2016 is attached.