



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

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 August 2015

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 28 September 2013 is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Dr Chua Ai Lin (President)2. Dr Terence Chong (Vice-President)3. Dr Yeo Kang Shua (Hon Secretary)4. Mr Timothy Pwee (Hon Treasurer)5. Mr Tan Wee Cheng (Advisor on Finance & Governance)6. Mr Alex Tan Tiong Hee (Member)7. Mr Tony Tan (Member)8. Mr Dinesh Naidu (Member)9. Mr Siva Krishnasamy (Member)10. Dr Christina Loong (Member)
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 2014–2015

The last twelve months have seen the Singapore Heritage Society continue the directions laid out in the previous year, launch a much-awaited project that has been over a decade in the making and find new and innovative ways to work towards our objectives.

The highlight was without doubt the launch of *Our Modern Past Volume 1: A Visual Survey of Singapore Architecture, 1920s–70s*. This book project was initiated under around the time when the demolition of the Old National Library building in Stamford Road was announced in 2000. In the time that it has taken to complete this book, some of the works featured, like the Old National Library, are now gone, thus underscoring the important contribution *Our Modern Past* makes in both documenting the depth of Singapore's cultural development over nearly a century, and making a case for the preservation of everyday architecture that is often under-appreciated. Proper documentation is a labour-intensive undertaking, requiring dedication and commitment, and for this we salute the team of Dr Kevin Tan, who oversaw the project for a decade as president of SHS, writers Ho Weng Hin, Tan Kar Lin and Dinesh Naidu, as well as pay tribute to the late Jeremy San, whose brilliant photography captures the spirit of our built heritage. This publication would not have seen the light of day without sponsorship from the Urban Redevelopment Authority, National Heritage Board, private donors, and the publisher, the Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) Press.

The year has also been notable in taking on new ways of working towards our objective of research, education and advocacy. We worked with students and interns across a range of initiatives. They ranged from post A-Level and polytechnic students to postgraduates doing their Master's degrees; some worked on graded university field projects with SHS as the 'client' organisation, others assisted us in general organisational work or specific outreach and research projects in Chinatown and Pulau Ubin. All in all, we worked directly with a total of 28 students from seven different institutional programmes or departments. The students contributed their disciplinary expertise, ranging from graphic design to business administration, alongside history and geography; while at the same time, SHS fulfilled its educational mission in a very direct and experiential way.

We also sought to use a deeper, more sustained approach to the general public by organising a four-month long bilingual community arts project, *Picturing Chinatown*, funded by an *irememberSG* grant from the National Library Board. Twelve participants aged from 18 to 75 responded to announcements in the press, social media and posters in the Chinatown area to produce photo essays, which are now presented in an online exhibition at picturingchinatown.com, providing the seed — and a new group of heritage enthusiasts — for future work that continues to encourage an appreciation of the cultural richness of this historic locality. As with our student projects and internships, we believe in nurturing individuals to (re)discover their connection for places and the past in Singapore.

Behind the scenes, SHS's advocacy work has also made progress in terms of the establishment of more regular channels of engagement with a range of government agencies for Bukit Brown, Pulau Ubin, Chinatown and other issues. The tool of heritage impact assessment (HIA), which are conducted when site of historical value are faced with change, is an approach that we strongly believe will lead to better decision-making in protecting our heritage assets, as well as providing a structured framework for citizen's participation in co-creation of policies with the state. In Singapore, there is currently no legislation mandating

or common practice of carrying out impact assessments, and SHS is committed to working towards this goal.

Moving ahead, with an expanding load of issues and initiatives demanding our attention, we are taking a big step to hire a paid project manager for the first time, to support the volunteer-run Executive Committee. With the manpower in place we look forward to being able to achieve even more in the coming years.

All these achievements would not have been possible without support from many sources. We were very privileged to be nominated by the National Heritage Board for the second year running as a recipient of the President's Gold Cup Charity given out by the Tote Board and Singapore Turf Club. This sum is very valuable as it helps us to defray the rising cost of organisational overheads, unlike other government grants which are tied to specific project expenditure. The new Cultural Matching Fund, administered by the National Arts Council, which offers one-to-one matching donations has also been a very welcome new initiative for which we are grateful. We hope more potential donors will see how their contributions can unlock much greater benefits for SHS through this scheme.

I would like to express a big thank you is due to all our members and volunteers who have helped us in the last year and not least the very overworked Executive Committee! – we would not have been able to any of this without you. Many other individuals and organisations have lent their support and assistance along the way and touched us with their kindness and goodwill – you have our sincere gratitude.

On a more sober note, we remember with fondness our longstanding and faithful member, the late Mrs Takako Jeoh, who sadly passed away in April. For many years, she was tirelessly dedicated to learning about and sharing her knowledge of Singapore history, courageously continuing even when she was ill. May her spirit continue to inspire us to face the challenges that lie ahead.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chua Ai Lin', with a horizontal line underneath.

Chua Ai Lin
President

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

In 2014-2015, our activities have addressed the following advocacy issues:

1. Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA)

SHS advocates for the use of heritage impact assessments as a means to evaluate the intangible cultural value of a site before redevelopment. This is particularly important in Singapore, given the rapid pace of changes to the landscape.

- a. Collaborated with NMP Professor Tan Tai Yong to present a speech recommending heritage impact assessments at the Parliamentary Committee of Supply debates on 12 March 2015.*

In his speech, he noted problems such as the lack of inter-ministerial coordination and suggested that heritage impact assessments would be a good way of mitigating the impact of development projects on cultural heritage.

- b. Representation on a Hong Kong Study Trip on heritage impact assessment processes and heritage revitalisation schemes.*

In March 2015, SHS was invited by URA to join a delegation along with representatives from the Ministry of National Development, Urban Redevelopment Authority and National Heritage Board to learn about Hong Kong's experience with heritage impact assessments and heritage revitalisation programmes. The SHS representatives noted the importance of transparency of processes – also which helped in capacity-building, great emphasis and attention given to the social fabric of historic sites, and more sophisticated assistance schemes (fiscal incentives and technical assistance), as well as the highly-developed nature of NGOs (international organisations, tertiary institutions, foundations established by large commercial corporations) running successful heritage revitalisation projects.

- c. *Working with a Masters student from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy to do a Policy Analysis Exercise on a policy framework for heritage impact assessment.*
SHS proposed a policy analysis exercise on heritage impact assessment to students at LKYSPP, and the project was selected by one student with a legal background. SHS has been offering guidance to this student who will write up a policy proposal for the introduction of HIA. It is hoped that this exercise will provide us with a useful documents to further our advocacy efforts with administrators and policymakers.
- d. *Published newspaper commentaries recommending the use of heritage impact assessments in specific cases.*
Wherever possible, we reiterate the utility of conducting HIA for heritage issues at hand, particularly sites facing developmental change such as Bukit Brown, 38 Oxley Rise (home of Lee Kuan Yew) and Pulau Ubin (see section, 'Media Coverage').

2. Conservation of built heritage

- a. *Publication of 'Our Modern Past – Volume 1: A Visual Survey of Singapore Architecture, 1920s–70s'*
Written by SHS members Ho Weng Hin, Dinesh Naidu and Tan Kar Lin, with photographs by the late Jeremy San, and jointly published with the Singapore Institute of Architects, this publication is the culmination of SHS's massive project lasting almost fifteen years. The project aims to research and document Singapore's modern architectural history and heritage from the 1930s, in order to promote awareness and appreciation of this architecture among architects, planners, policy makers and the general public. Drawing on specially commissioned photographs, original interviews with architects as well as previously unpublished archival materials. This year, we published the first of two volumes of *Our Modern Past*.
- b. Newspaper commentaries
 - i. 'Mr Lee Kuan Yew's house a chance for due process', by Terence Chong and Yeo Kang Shua, *Straits Times*, 24 April 2015.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/mr-lee-kuan-yews-house-a-chance-for-due-process>
 - ii. 'What makes a national monument?' by Yeo Kang Shua and Terence Chong, *Straits Times*, 17 June 2015.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/what-makes-a-national-monument>
- c. *Representation on URA's Architectural Heritage Awards committee.*
In the current term, the Society is represented by Dr Yeo Kang Shua on this committee.

3. Social memories

Currently the legislative framework for preserving heritage sites allows for sites to be gazetted by the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) on the basis of architectural merit, or by the National Heritage Board's Preservation of Sites and Monuments Board on the basis of national historical significance. Social memories around the sites of everyday life which hold meaning for Singaporeans have often not been sufficiently recognised by this framework. This is where SHS organises public events to bring forth the depth and textures of popular sentiment towards local places.

- a. *Cakap Heritage* sessions
Since 2011, SHS has started facilitating *Cakap Heritage*, intimate sessions which encourage participants to reflect on intangible factors such as a community's ways of life that are tied to places. Through sharing of personal experiences and interaction amongst the audience and event host, such sessions bring out accounts of everyday experiences and intangible practices of the past, illustrating the power and meaning of social memories for Singaporeans, and how they are tied to physical locations and spaces. In 2014-5, a number of such sessions were held at various locations, in partnership with organisations such as NAS and URA. The maps and archival material provided by these organisations were valuable in sparking conversations. For a full listing, see section, 'Events'.

4. Bukit Brown

- a. *Representation on Bukit Brown working committee organised by the Ministry of National Development (MND)*
This committee was set up by MND to discuss artefact conservation issues, proposals for display of salvaged headstones and artefacts, and how to better facilitate the visitor experience in Bukit Brown. SHS and All Things Bukit Brown (ATBB) are represented, alongside government agencies, MND, Urban Redevelopment Authority, National Heritage Board, National Parks Board and Land Transport Authority.
- b. *Official partner in Bukit Brown World Monuments Watch Day (14 March 2015)*
This Watch Day marks the listing of Bukit Brown by the World Monuments Fund in October 2013 for 2014 to 2016, to raise global awareness of sites under threat and encouraging community engagement to take ownership. This event saw guided walks, storytelling for children, a sketch walk, traditional games and painting of Peranakan tiles. As an official partner, SHS sponsored the tote bags for event participants and volunteers.
- c. *Letter to Straits Times Forum arguing for Bukit Brown as a worthy UNESCO World Heritage Site.*
'Bukit Brown Cemetery has international recognition' by Chua Ai Lin, *Straits Times*, 14 July 2015.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/forum/letters-in-print/bukit-brown-cemetery-has-international-recognition>

5. 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 brainstorming and discussing proposals for the appropriate management of Pulau Ubin in order to maintain its rustic character and sustainability as a recreational site. The network includes MND, National Parks Board, Urban Redevelopment Authority, National Heritage Board as well as invited representatives with nature and heritage interests, and people with deep experience of Pulau Ubin. Amongst these stakeholders, SHS represents the cultural and ethnographic dimension of concerns associated with the island.
- b. *Playing an advisory role to the National Heritage Board (NHB)*
Meetings were called by NHB to discuss heritage-specific issues on Pulau Ubin. SHS highlighted the pressing need for ethnographic, rather than historical research data,

pointing out that NHB had already previously commissioned a historical survey of the island. In contrast, there exists scant data on the living community of residents, cultural and religious sites and businesses, to inform policy making and site management plans. SHS gathered academic researchers in anthropology, ethnography, architectural conservation and vernacular architecture to make recommendations in meetings with NHB.

c. *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 1,567 members as of 6 August 2015, as compared to 394 members on 26 August 2014. Among the new members, there is a noticeable proportion whose primary interests lie in culture, religion and heritage, particularly after numerous photographs and reports of the annual Tua Pek Kong festival in June 2015 were posted in the Group.

d. *Newspaper commentary published in Straits Times, emphasising value of Pulau Ubin as living cultural heritage.*

'Pulau Ubin's place in local hearts and history' by Jean Chia and Chua Ai Lin, *Straits Times*, 13 June 2015.

<http://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/pulau-ubins-place-in-local-hearts-and-history>

e. *Ethnographic research Internships for students*

From May to July 2015, SHS has arranged for five post-A Levels and undergraduates from the Department of History at NUS to be attached to the research team led by Dr Vivienne Wee of Ethnographica, conducting NHB-commissioned research to interview the Pulau Ubin community.

f. *Ubin Day in 2014 (30 Nov) and 2015 (13-14 June)*

In 2014, SHS helped to arrange for Cookery Magic to do a workshop. In 2015, SHS made possible a talk by Dr. Lai Chee Kien about kampong houses in Singapore and Malaysia, and a tour by Dr. Vivienne Wee on the temples on Pulau Ubin.

6. Chinatown

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. In the past year, we have also used Chinatown as a site to testbed new approaches to encouraging the public to deepen their relationship to and reflection about heritage places.

a. *'Picturing Chinatown', a series of community workshops on reflective storytelling through photography, sponsored by the irememberSG project grant scheme.*

Held from January to April 2015, these workshops focused less on memories and recording of history than on training participants to identify, acknowledge, reflect on

and articulate their feelings and responses to the places around them that are close to their heart. Their photo essays have been put up in a bilingual online exhibition (<http://picturingchinatown.com/>) and booklet. A soft launch of this website cum thank you party was held at the Good Morning Nanyang Cafe (Pagoda Street) on 14 May. Participants' photographs were also exhibited at this cafe, and facilitator Jean Chia also presented a talk on this project on 12 July at library@Chinatown. From 25 Aug, a selection of the works were exhibited in Grassroots Book Room on Bukit Pasoh Road and on 6 September, the participants will give a presentation in Mandarin there.

b. Chinatown Bullockcart installation, as part of HeritageFest 2015

In collaboration with two other non-profit organisations, community design project organisers, Participate In Design, and theatre group, Drama Box, SHS conceptualised the 'Chinatown Bullockcart' installation during HeritageFest 2015 from 8-9 May at different locations in Telok Ayer and Kreta Ayer. This roving installation engaged visitors and residents of Chinatown, by getting them to ask questions about Chinatown, vote for their favourite questions and attaching their answer of what they would like to preserve to a particular part of Chinatown on a physical corkboard map of the area. This helped SHS to gain data on people's thoughts and feelings towards Chinatown today in an innovative way.

a. Cultural mapping of Chinatown

From May to July 2015, SHS worked with ten undergraduate and post-graduate interns from the Chua Thian Poh Community Leadership Fellowship, University Scholars Programme, Department of History at the National University of Singapore and three post-A-Levels students. They were tasked to produce up a landuse survey of streets in Kreta Ayer, Bukit Pasoh and Ann Siang so as to better understand the current use of spaces in the area and the range of stakeholder interests. This data will inform planning of future projects to promote and raise awareness of the area's cultural and historical vibrancy.

b. The People's Chinatown tour.

Developed by SHS ExCo member and professional heritage guide, Tony Tan, this tour gives an in-depth look into the everyday residential, community and commercial spaces of Chinatown-Kreta Ayer in HDB blocks and shopping malls, presenting a very different experience of Chinatown from the tourist stalls along the streets of conservation shophouses. This tour has been run several times for different audiences: SHS members, the general public and upon request for school groups. In May 2015, this tour was included as part of the annual Jane's Walks event (see sections, 'Events' and 'Partnerships').

c. Chinatown Heritage Centre.

SHS was invited to sit on a total of three tender evaluation committees organised by the Singapore Tourism Board for the revamp of the Chinatown Heritage Centre.

d. Community connections in Chinatown-Kreta Ayer.

Through SHS member, Victor Yue, a lifelong resident of the area who is well-known for his blog and Facebook Group titled 'Bullockcartwater', SHS continues to reach out to organisations, businesses, clan associations, arts groups (both traditional and contemporary) as well as people who live and work in the area to share our approach laid out in *Rethinking Chinatown and Heritage Conservation in Singapore*.

7. Rail Corridor

a. *Publication of Rail Corridor guide map with the Nature Society (Singapore).*

This physical guide map serves as a guide to the ecology and heritage of the former railway land. The heritage section of this guide map was written by Dr. Lai Chee Kien, an architectural historian. The guide was distributed to all SHS members. Copies were provided on consignment basis for sale to the public at Grassroots Book Room and Betel Box Hostel.

b. *Representation in Rail Corridor Partnership group organised by the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA).*

On 18 Mar 2015, URA launched a Request for Proposals inviting architects and landscape architects to assemble a multi-disciplinary Design Team and provide consultancy services to develop a Concept Master Plan and Concept Proposals for the Rail Corridor Project. The documentation report of built heritage along the Rail Corridor prepared by SHS for URA in 2012, was released for use by participants in the Request for Proposals. SHS's online [Railway Heritage Interactive Map](#) also provided a visual means to access the research data. SHS is represented in the Rail Corridor Partnership by Dinesh Naidu.

8. Haw Par Villa

a. *Representation on the tender evaluation committee organised by Singapore Tourism Board (STB)*

SHS was represented on this committee, alongside STB, the National Heritage Board and the Urban Redevelopment Authority. SHS played an important role in championing the historical and architectural conservation issues at stake.

9. Singapore Botanic Gardens (SBG)

a. *Representation on SBG's World Heritage site management committee*

On 4 July 2015, the Singapore Botanic Gardens achieved the honour of being officially listed by UNESCO as Singapore's first World Heritage site. We are especially pleased to see this come to fruition after early attempts by SHS in 2009 to raise the idea of having a UNESCO World Heritage site in Singapore with the relevant authorities. SHS is officially represented on SBG's World Heritage site management committee by Siva Krishnasamy.

10. Tours to endangered places

a. *My Queenstown Heritage Trail featuring Tanglin Halt, in collaboration with My Queenstown for SHS members on 26 October*

Tanglin Halt was slated to be HDB's largest Selective En bloc Redevelopment Scheme in June 2014. Yet, as one of Singapore's oldest housing estates where many original residents (some from the kampong that predates the HDB estate) live and work, it has a deeply-rooted sense of community. My Queenstown-My Community, one of the most active community heritage groups around, organised a special tour for SHS members as their monthly free tours are always fully-booked.

PARTNERSHIPS

1. *Singapore HeritageFest 2015, organised by the National Heritage Board.*

In 2015, SHS organised the exhibition, “Moderns in our Midst: A Photographic Tribute to Singapore’s Modern Architectural Heritage”, held at the atrium of the National Museum from 17 April to 18 May. The exhibition launch coincided with the launch of *Our Modern Past*, a book project that SHS had been working on for almost fifteen years.

SHS also ran a Chinatown Bullockcart roving interactive installation in collaboration with Participate In Design and Drama Box. This was held on 8-9 May 2015, at Telok Ayer Street (in conjunction with the Telok Ayer Festival Light-up) and at Chinatown Complex.

2. *Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA).*

URA’s Conservation Management Department, which seeks to promote public awareness of heritage areas and conservation buildings, has been co-organising with SHS a series of Cakap Heritage events which are free and open to the public. URA is attracted by the format of SHS’s Cakap Heritage events, which allow for the collective exchange of personal experiences about the past, as these provide the intangible, experiential dimension to the tangible physical landscape. The vast collection of maps and old photographs put on display by URA has greatly enriched the experience of participants and spurred the discussion. So far, 4 such sessions have taken place in 2014-5, regarding Kampong Glam, Tiong Bahru, Queenstown, and St. Anthony’s School (see section, ‘Events’).

SHS is also officially represented on two URA Committees for the Architectural Heritage Awards and the Rail Corridor Partnership (see section, ‘Research and Advocacy’).

3. *National Archives of Singapore (NAS)*

The National Archives of Singapore has co-organised with SHS a number of Cakap Heritage events. Archival material such as old photographs have also been crucial in triggering memories and sparking discussions in such sessions. 4 such sessions have been held in 2014-5, all of which were in conjunction with the *irememberOrchard* exhibition held at library@Orchard (see section, ‘Events’).

4. *Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA).*

The Singapore Institute of Architects, through its SIA Press, published the first of a two volume book project with SHS, *Our Modern Past*, which documents Singapore’s modern architecture. Sponsors from the public and private sectors have helped to cover part of the costs. The book launch was held at the National Museum on 17 April 2015.

5. *NUS Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP)*

For the fourth time, SHS was invited by LKYSPP to present a lecture on civil society case studies to executive students at the School. In January 2015, we also embarked on a deeper collaboration with the school by being one of the organisations offering Policy Analysis Exercise case studies for Masters students to do their compulsory graduating project with. One student is currently being mentored by SHS to develop a policy framework for heritage impact assessment in the Singapore context.

6. *NUS Business School.*
From January to April 2015, a group of four NUS business students worked on a graded Field Service Project to explore how SHS can engage corporates better. Their research involved understanding SHS's core objectives and principles, analysing SHS's membership database, interviewing companies with heritage-related products or services as well as comparing corporate membership schemes of local and overseas non-profit organisations.
7. *NUS Chua Thian Poh Community Leadership Fellowship*
The NUS Chua Thian Poh Community Leadership Fellowship places students on community projects aimed at addressing social needs. A selected group of highly-motivated Fellows are trained in the approach of Asset-Based Community Development which seeks to empower members of the community to identify and offer solutions for themselves. Fellows apply their research skills to real-world problems and gain important exposure on the ground. SHS took in several of these students to work on a cultural mapping of Chinatown, adapting our project work plan to mentor and train them in heritage issues and fieldwork skills (see section, 'Research and Advocacy').
8. *Temasek Polytechnic School of Design*
SHS was fortunate to be placed on MOE's list of approved charities that educational institutions have been encouraged to assist as part of SG50. In July 2015, we were selected by Temasek Polytechnic's School of Design and are currently working with them to produce collaterals for the Society.
9. *Nature Society (Singapore)*
SHS collaborated with NSS to write and release a Rail Corridor guide map. This documents the ecology and heritage of the former railway land.
10. *All Things Bukit Brown (atBB)*
With their blog, weekly volunteer tours and on-going research into Bukit Brown, atBB are a valuable partner of SHS in raising awareness and organising events about Bukit Brown. In 2015, we were a partner of the Bukit Brown World Monuments' Watch Day organised by atBB.
11. *Drama Box*
Located in the heart of Chinatown and with an interest in community theatre, Drama Box is a well-established bilingual theatre group. We have been working together with them towards a common goal of promoting the cultural identity and vibrancy of the area. We collaborated on the 'Chinatown Bullockcart' roving installation for Singapore HeritageFest 2015 (see 'Research and Advocacy').
12. *Participate in Design*
A small non-profit organisation with a track record of innovative projects to engage and benefit residents in local communities using the participatory design approach, Participate in Design brought their skills to the 'Chinatown Bullockcart' roving installation which we put up for Singapore HeritageFest 2015 (see 'Research and Advocacy').
13. *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. In May 2015, SHS participated in Jane's Walk for the second time, with Tony Tan's tour of 'The People's Chinatown', and assisted the organisers of Jane's Walk (Singapore) to connect with potential walk leaders.

MEDIA COVERAGE

SHS received significant coverage in the media in the past twelve months, with a total of 58 mentions, in the English and Chinese media, including of SHS-organised activities under the umbrella of larger events. Mainstream media exposure is the one of the most effective forms of advocacy and outreach as newspapers and television reach out beyond the community of heritage enthusiasts to 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.

Op-ed commentaries

1. 'Mr Lee Kuan Yew's house a chance for due process'
Straits Times, Terence Chong and Yeo Kang Shua, 24 April 2015.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/mr-lee-kuan-yews-house-a-chance-for-due-process>
2. 'Pulau Ubin's place in local hearts and history'
Straits Times, Jean Chia and Chua Ai Lin, 13 June 2015.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/pulau-ubins-place-in-local-hearts-and-history>
3. 'What makes a national monument?'
Straits Times, Yeo Kang Shua and Terence Chong, 17 June 2015.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/what-makes-a-national-monument>

Letters to the press

1. 'Bukit Brown Cemetery has international recognition'
Straits Times, Chua Ai Lin, 14 July 2015.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/forum/letters-in-print/bukit-brown-cemetery-has-international-recognition>

Reports on SHS's activities

1. 《用镜头捕捉共同回忆 借光影追溯牛车水街坊人事》
联合早报, 许翔宇, 28 December 2014.
2. '7,000 to make tracks for Green Corridor Run'
Straits Times, Carolyn Khew, 9 March 2015.
<http://news.asiaone.com/news/singapore/7000-make-tracks-green-corridor-run>
3. 《新加坡现代建筑遗产光影展 回望建筑》
联合早报, 莫美颜, 16 April 2015.
4. 《回望建筑 重新认识新加坡》
我报, 莫美颜, 17 April 2015.
5. 《这些 钢筋水泥 命运谁做主? 》
联合早报, 黄向京, 26 April 2015.
6. '3 conservation advocates put out book to highlight Singapore's early architectural gems'
Straits Times, Natasha Ann Zachariah, 30 May 2014.
<http://www.straitstimes.com/lifestyle/3-conservation-advocates-put-out-book-to-highlight-singapores-early-architectural-gems>

Interviews

1. 'Patching heritage cracks'
Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 26 September 2014.
<http://news.asiaone.com/news/asian-opinions/patching-heritage-cracks?page=0%2C0>

2. 'Walk through past, present & future'
The New Paper, 16 October 2014.
<http://www.tnp.sg/news/walk-through-past-present-future>
3. 'Sherlock Holmes of forgotten tombs'
Straits Times, Melody Zaccheus, 20 October 2014.
<http://news.asiaone.com/news/singapore/sherlock-holmes-forgotten-tombs>
4. '\$9.5m heritage project raises eyebrows'
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EVENTS

SHS has gained a reputation for a full calendar of stimulating events for members and the public conducted by invited subject experts, where attendees acquire new knowledge about aspects of Singapore history, become exposed to fresh ways of thinking about heritage and historical issues and have a platform to discuss them with like-minded individuals.

In addition to talks and seminars by academics and specialist researchers, the Cakap Heritage series of events introduced by SHS in 2011 has proven to be very popular. This series takes a more informal, conversational approach, where participants are invited to exchange knowledge and experiences on specific topics. This year, we have partnered with URA and NAS in our Cakap Heritage events.

Talks, Forums, Seminars

1. 'Anatomy of a Riot – Enquiring into the Civil Unrests of Our Past', Centrestage Symposium for educators and students, 13 September 2014, National Museum of Singapore.
2. 'Championing Culture & the Arts in Parliament: A Conversation with Janice Koh', 14 September 2014, UP Singapore at 237 South Bridge Road.
3. 'The History of Indians in Singapore' by Dr. Rajesh Rai, 31 January 2015, National Museum of Singapore.
4. 'SEA Games in the World: A History of Urban Sport in Southeast Asia' by Dr. Lai Chee Kien, 23 May 2015, Singapore Sports Hub.
5. 'Kampong Houses in Singapore and Malaysia' by Dr. Lai Chee Kien, 13 June 2015, HSBC Volunteer Hub, Pulau Ubin [in celebration of Ubin Day 2015].
6. 'Picturing Chinatown – a community arts project' by Jean Chia, 12 July 2015, library@Chinatown.
7. 《光影纪实: 牛车水旧事新说》分享会 Picturing Chinatown sharing session by Chong Shin Kian, Jennifer Teo and Andrew Lin, 6 September 2015, Grassroots Book Room.

Cakap Heritage sessions

1. 'Colonial Days of Orchard', 31 October 2014, library@Orchard [co-organised with NAS].
2. 'Swinging 60s to the Disco Years', 21 November 2014, library@Orchard [co-organised with NAS].
3. 'Made in Kampong Glam', 13 December 2014, Malay Heritage Centre [co-organised with URA].
4. 'Traversing Orchard's Transformation', 23 January 2015, library@Orchard [co-organised with NAS].
5. 'Remembering World War II in Tiong Bahru', 14 February 2015, Tiong Bahru Community Centre [co-organised with URA].
6. 'Memories of Queenstown Public Library', 25 February 2015, Queenstown Public Library [co-organised with URA, My Queenstown Community and Queenstown Public Library].
7. 'Meet Me at Orchard', 20 March 2015, Orchard Road [co-organised with NAS].
8. 'My St. Anthony School Days', 29 May 2015, St. Anthony's Primary School [co-organised with URA, in celebration of the 130th anniversary of St. Anthony's Primary School].

Workshops

1. Picturing Chinatown, a community photography and reflective storytelling project for 12 participants, involving workshops, lectures, site visits and tours, from January to May

2015. The online exhibition of participants' photo essays is at www.picturingchinatown.com.

Local Tours

1. Visit to Baba William Gwee's house with William Gwee, 6 September 2014.
2. 'Exploring Jurong: the 'Garden Industrial Estate'', Bus trip with Dr. Lai Chee Kien, 27 September 2014, Jurong.
3. 'Text in The City tour: Chinatown Trail' with Diana Chua, 1 October 2014, Chinatown. Organised by The Arts House with guides from SHS.
4. 'Text in The City tour: Chinatown Trail' with Charlotte Chu, 8 October 2014, Chinatown. Organised by The Arts House with guides from SHS.
5. 'Text in The City tour: Bras Basah Trail' with Charlotte Chu, 9 October 2014, Bras Basah. Organised by The Arts House with guides from SHS.
6. My Queenstown Heritage Trail featuring Tanglin Halt with MyCommunity, 26 October 2014.
7. 'The Restoration of Victoria Theatre and Concert Hall' with Mok Wei Wei, 1 November 2014, Victoria Theatre and Concert Hall.
8. 'Zhongshan Warship and Its Treasures' with Dr. Tan Teng Phee, 12 April 2015, Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall.
9. 'The People's Chinatown' by Tony Tan, 2 May, Chinatown [in celebration of the Jane's Walks movement].
10. 'Ubin Day "Templing"' with Dr. Vivienne Wee, 14 June 2015, Pulau Ubin [in celebration of Ubin Day 2015].

Exhibitions & Installations

1. NHB HeritageFest 2015: 'Moderns in Our Midst: A Photographic Tribute to Singapore's Modern Architectural Heritage', National Museum of Singapore, 17 April to 18 May.
2. NHB HeritageFest 2015: 'The Chinatown Bullockcart', a roving interactive installation in Chinatown, with partners Participate In Design and Drama Box, 8-9 May 2015.
3. 'Picturing Chinatown', a community photography exhibition at Good Morning Nanyang Cafe (Pagoda Street), 14 May to 30 Sept 2015.
4. 'Picturing Chinatown' selections exhibited as part of 'Three Views of Chinatown' at Grassroots Book Room, 25 Aug to late October 2015.

Overseas Tours

1. 'Capitals of Burma: Heritage Tour to Myanmar' with Dr. Lai Chee Kien, 6-13 Dec 2014
This trip brought 30 SHS members to temples and pagodas, palaces, markets, monasteries, artisan workshops and a museum in the south of Myanmar. Dr. Lai – SHS member, architect and architecture historian – helped to shed greater light on the architectural principles of the cultural sites visited.
2. 'Prehistoric Rock Art and Khmer Ruins: The Archaeology of Northeast Thailand' with Dr. Noel Hidalgo Tan, 18-25 July 2015.
Although the northeast is Thailand's most remote and little-visited region, it is home to some of the richest archaeological sites in Southeast Asia. With the expert guidance of an archaeological specialist Dr. Noel Hidalgo Tan at Bangkok, this tour took participants to sites spanning from the prehistoric past to later Dvaravati and Angkorian cultures.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

In addition to organising a full calendar of events for members and the general public, as well as maintaining a media presence through commentary pieces and regular interviews, we have been active in conducting public outreach in various ways: producing a quarterly newsletter, maintaining an active social media profile, providing public lectures and tours upon invitation, particularly to educational and non-profit organisations. 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.

A. Roots – the quarterly SHS newsletter

Ever since its revival in July 2014 by ExCo members Terence Chong and Dinesh Naidu, *Roots* has been released again in November 2014 and April 2015. The newsletter aims to provide SHS members and supporters with updates on key events in the heritage sector, the Society and a preview of forthcoming SHS events. Past issues of *Roots* have been scanned and uploaded on the SHS website at: http://www.singaporeheritage.org/?page_id=3017

B. Social Media

Members of the public also support and show an interest in the work of SHS by ‘Likes’ on our Facebook Page and subscribing to our Twitter account. Through these mediums, SHS provides daily updates on heritage news by linking to press reports and web pages of interest, as well as publicising our own activities.

1. *SHS Facebook Page*

www.facebook.com/sgheritage

The SHS Facebook Page was started in July 2011. Since August 2014, we have had a dedicated volunteer, Han Ming Guang, to manage the Society’s Facebook Page, curating and scheduling postings. This provides an important service to the general public by keeping them abreast of current heritage news on a daily basis.

The value of our Page is reflected in the growing number of Page Likes and Post Likes. As of 13 August 2015, there were 5,121 Likes as compared with 3,460 on 23 August 2014. Individual posts now regularly reach over 1000 readers, and our posting of the Straits Times article, ‘Singapore Botanic Gardens Clinches prestigious Unesco World Heritage site status’ on 4 July 2015 reached a record 19,856 readers. SHS did not use any paid Facebook posts.

2. *SHS Twitter*

http://twitter.com/SgHeritage_Soc

As of 13 August 2015, the SHS Twitter feed had 161 followers and 2,134 tweets, as compared to 100 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, the SHS Instagram account provides a channel to reach a younger audience. Although the SHS Instagram was not updated regularly in the past year, the number of followers rose to 130 as of 13 August 2015, more than double the number at this time in 2014.

C. Lectures, workshops and tours conducted upon request

1. 'Policy Trade-Offs: Live Case of Bukit Brown Cemetery', lecture by Chua Ai Lin, for *Executive Programme on Contemporary Policy Debates in Singapore*, NUS Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, 20 November 2014.
2. 'Places, Spaces and Identities', workshop by Chua Ai Lin and heritage tour of Bras Basah by Charlotte Chu, as part of core training programme for Student Councillors and Peer Support Leaders, School of Science and Technology, 11 Nov 2014.
3. 'Singapore Heritage Society: engaging and representing community stakeholders', invited presentation by Chua Ai Lin for *4th National Build Heritage Forum*, Abha, Saudi Arabia, 1 December 2014.
4. 'Heritage in Singapore: Chinatown as a case study', workshop by Chua Ai Lin and heritage tour by Tony Tan for community youth group, 28 January 2015.
5. Chua Ai Lin, 'Contrasts and contradictions in present-day "Chinatown"', on-site lecture for *Dd3008 Cities, Bodies, Memories*, Art, Design and Media faculty, Nanyang Technological University, 14 February 2015.
6. Chua Ai Lin and Terence Chong, 'Civil society and conservation', guest lecturers for *ASD20.305 Elective: Conservation Theories and Approaches of Built Heritage*, Singapore University of Technology and Design, 4 August 2015.

PUBLICATIONS

1. **'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 (published March 2015)**

This physical guide map serves as a guide to the ecology and heritage of the former railway land and is a joint publication with the Nature Society (Singapore) to educate the public, using the form of an innovatively-designed foldout map. It is SHS's latest effort in documenting promoting the value of the Rail Corridor, following a built heritage survey report conducted in 2012, an online interactive map (<http://singaporeheritage.org/railcorridor>) launched in 2013 and fifty oral history interviews completed for the National Library Board. This guide has been distributed free to participants in the Green Corridor Run on 8 March 2015, to members of the Nature Society (Singapore) and in July, every member of SHS received a complimentary copy. Copies were provided on consignment basis for sale to the public at Grassroots Book Room and Betel Box Hostel. This publication was kindly sponsored by Shell and Jebsen and Jebsen.

2. **'Our Modern Past: Modern Architecture in Singapore 1920s To 1970s' by Dinesh Naidu, Ho Weng Hin and Tan Kar Lin (published April 2015)**

One of SHS's long-running research projects, this book project aims to research and document Singapore's modern architectural history and heritage, in order to promote awareness and appreciation of this architecture among architects, planners, policy makers and the general public. Drawing on specially commissioned photographs by the late award-winning architectural photographer Jeremy San, original interviews with architects as well as previously unpublished archival materials, this book is published in three volumes. The book was published by the Singapore Institute of Architects, through its SIA Press. We thank our sponsors, including the Urban Redevelopment Authority and National Heritage Board, as well as individual donors as well as the many owners and occupants who allowed us entry onto their premises. The book was launched on 17 April 2015 at the National Museum.

3. **'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.

MEMBERSHIP

As of 1 August 2015, we have 239 members, as compared to 264 a year ago. While many may remain interested in heritage issues and activities, there is room for us to improve the process of subscription reminders and renewals so as to make it more convenient for members.

We are in the process of improving our Corporate Membership scheme to make it more appealing to potential corporate members. From January to April 2015, we worked with a team of students from NUS Business School who did a Field Service Project to propose a revised Corporate Membership scheme for SHS.

Events that are exclusive to those with valid SHS subscriptions are:

- a) Designated local tours
- b) Annual overseas tours
 - i. 'Capitals of Burma: Heritage Tour to Myanmar' with Dr. Lai Chee Kien, 6-13 December 2014, Myanmar
 - ii. 'Prehistoric Rock Art and Khmer Ruins: The Archaeology of Northeast Thailand' with Dr. Noel Hidalgo Tan, 18-25 July 2015, Northeast Thailand.
- c) Book sale at APD book distributors, who have kindly offered a generous discount at special once-a-year sale for SHS members. The last sale was held on 30 May 2015.

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.

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.

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 2015 is attached.