

SINGAPORE HERITAGE SOCIETY

Annual Report
For Year Ended
31 July 2020

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ABOUT SINGAPORE HERITAGE SOCIETY

Giving a Future to Our Past

SHS is an independent voice for heritage conservation in Singapore. Our work is guided by our definition of heritage as 'the living presence of the past'. Singapore's history is a vital part of our identity and growth. Social bonds are strengthened when we understand and cherish the social memories of past and present generations in the spaces we protect. These beliefs drive our key efforts in **research**, public **education** and **advocacy**.

The Singapore Heritage Society was registered as a society on 12 March 1987. SHS was registered as a charity under the Charities Act (Chapter 37) on 24 November 1993. SHS was first granted Institution of a Public Character (IPC) status on 14 January 2009. Currently, SHS has been approved as an IPC from 14 July 2019 to 13 July 2021.

UEN NUMBER

S87SS0042J

REGISTERED ADDRESS

50 East Coast Road, #02-73
Roxy Square, Singapore 428769

AUDITORS

Hoon Tai Meng & Co.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sincere thanks to CROP.SG for supporting SHS with their design and layout services.



- **31 October to 2 November 2019**
8th mASEANa (Modern ASEAN Architecture) International Conference Singapore 2019 on “*Progressive Once More*”: *Rejuvenating Mid-century Modern Architecture in Southeast Asia*, co-organized with the Docomomo Singapore Working-Group-in-Progress and the NUS Department of Architecture
- **September to December 2019**
Bicentennial Walking Workshops Series on historic places of worship in Telok Ayer, Tanjong Pagar and Tanjong Malang
- **November to December 2019**
Bauhaus Imaginista x Singapore exhibition, with the Goethe-Institut Singapore and Objectifs – Centre for Photography and Film
- **Jan 2020**
Short film, *Still Standing* by Tan Wei Ting with Kirsten Tan, commissioned by the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre, dedicated to Singapore Heritage Society
- **May 2020**
Establishment of the Southeast Asian Cultural Heritage Alliance (SEACHA) with SHS as a founding member

Bicentennial Walking Workshop to historic places of worship in Tanjong Pagar and Tanjong Malang (29 Sep 2019)



It will come as little surprise that this year's activities were significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the restrictions on activities imposed by the Government to deal with it.

Fortunately, before this happened, the Singapore Heritage Society (SHS) was able to organise a number of key events, including the following:

- The 8th mASEANa (Modern ASEAN Architecture) International Conference Singapore 2019, co-organized with the Docomomo Singapore Working-Group-in-Progress and the NUS Department of Architecture, which took place between 31 October and 2 November 2019. The theme was *"Progressive Once More": Rejuvenating Mid-century Modern Architecture in Southeast Asia*.
- A series of four Bicentennial Walking Workshops on religious sites between September and December 2019. These workshops, which involved walking tours followed by workshop discussions on heritage-related issues, were based on the SHS's research project on 21 historic places of worship in Telok Ayer, Tanjong Pagar and Tanjong Malang funded through a heritage research grant from the National Heritage Board.
- An exhibition called *Bauhaus Imaginista x Singapore* together with the Goethe-Institut Singapore and Objectifs – Centre for Photography and Film in November and December 2019 on the influence of the Bauhaus movement on architecture in Singapore.

The Government's COVID-19 'circuit breaker' measures in force between 7 April and 1 June 2020 meant that no in-person activities could be held. One event that had to be postponed was a proposed networking session for SHS donors which would have involved the screening of a short film about Pearl Bank Apartments, *Still Standing* by Tan Wei Ting with Kirsten Tan, followed by a discussion with the filmmakers and Tan Cheng Siong, one of the development's original architects. The film, which was part of the 15 Shorts

collaboration commissioned by the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre, was kindly dedicated to the SHS by the filmmakers. It is hoped that the event can be held in the future.

Nonetheless the Society's work continued, albeit online. On 30 May 2020 we organised a well-received panel discussion and live cooking demonstration, *Food Heritage at Home: An Online Panel of Cooks*, with Spice Zi, Sarah Huang Benjamin, Khir Johari and Christopher Tan. A few weeks later, the SHS participated in the Singapore Heritage Festival which went virtual this year, with working team members Lynn Wong and Fauzy Ismail talking about *Ordinary Objects with Extraordinary Stories* on 21 June 2020. Their presentation also drew on the 21 historic places of worship research project. Executive Committee members held internal meetings and meetings with external parties using video-conferencing software.

In particular, it is worth mentioning that the SHS has been actively helping the Southeast Asian Cultural Heritage Alliance (SEACHA), of which it is a founding member, look into how it can formally establish itself. Following discussions held through the Internet, it has been decided that the Alliance will be registered in Thailand.

While we look forward to some semblance of life returning to normal in the near future, the pandemic has shown us the possibilities of reaching out to a wider, even an international, audience by organizing more online events. We would do well to build on this experience to continue furthering the Society's aims of heritage research, public education and advocacy.



Dr Jack Tsen-Ta Lee
President, Executive Committee
Singapore Heritage Society

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & MANAGEMENT

Singapore Heritage Society is governed by the Executive Committee, which is responsible for overseeing and managing the organisation. The society is also led by an Executive Director. Organisational administrative functions are handled by a company secretary contracted on a yearly basis.

The current Executive Committee was elected at the Annual General Meeting held on 21 Sep 2019, for a two-year term of office. We have been able to successfully manage leadership succession, balancing a good mix of experienced and new members on the ExCo. Our four officeholders continue for a second term in their respective offices, and half of the committee comprises new members elected to ExCo for the first time.

Two long standing ExCo members, Tan Wee Cheng and Tony Tan Say-Kiong, who have served 10 years or more, chose to step down in Jan 2020 for personal reasons. SHS thanks them for their many years of dedication and continued support of the Society. Jonathan Poh was subsequently co-opted into the ExCo.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



The SHS Executive Committee, newly elected at the Annual General Meeting held on 21 Sep 2019. L to R: Victor Yue, Dr Jack Tsen-Ta Lee, Dr Chua Ai Lin, Dr Rizwana Abdul Azeez, Dr Natalie Pang, Eliza Pang, Tan Wee Cheng, Han Ming Guang (Tony Tan and Kok Heng Leun not in photo)

| NAME | CURRENT APPOINTMENT | OCCUPATION | PAST APPOINTMENTS IN SHS EXCO |
|------------------------|--|---|---|
| Dr Jack Tsen-Ta Lee | President (appointed Sep 2017) | Expert Member, International Scientific Committee on Legal, Administrative and Financial Issues (ICLAFI), International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) | |
| Dr Chua Ai Lin | Vice President (appointed Sep 2017) | Executive Director of SHS | Vice President (Sep 2011-Sep 2013); President (2013-2017) |
| Mr Victor Yue | Honorary Treasurer (appointed Sep 2017) | Retired | |
| Mr Han Ming Guang | Honorary Secretary (appointed Sep 2017) | Librarian, National University of Singapore | |
| Dr Rizwana Abdul Azeez | ExCo Member | Independent Researcher | |
| Mr Kok Heng Leun | ExCo Member | Artistic Director at Drama Box | |
| Ms Eliza Pang | ExCo Member | Finance Manager at Singapore Technologies Engineering Marine Limited | |
| Dr Natalie Pang | ExCo Member | Senior Lecturer, National University of Singapore | |
| Mr Tony Tan Say Kiong | ExCo Member (til Jan 2020) | Director, Betel Box Asia Pte Ltd | |
| Mr Tan Wee Cheng | ExCo Member (til Jan 2020) | Adjunct Associate Professor, National University of Singapore | Honorary Treasurer (Sep 2009-Sep 2013) |

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Dr Chua Ai Lin
Executive Director
Appointed since Jan 2018

COMPANY SECRETARIAL SERVICES

Bizcomm Pte Ltd
50 East Coast Road
02-73, Roxy Square
Singapore 428769

Advocacy is in its broadest sense 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. Our research is a critical foundation for this advocacy by providing in-depth, specialised knowledge and analysis which informs our advocacy. This research comprises both academic studies as well as up-to-date field knowledge from site visits.

¹
For a more in-depth exposition on SHS's advocacy work, please see 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, http://www.nuss.org.sg/publication/1464683902commentary2016_final.pdf

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.¹

We conduct this advocacy at several different levels:

- Representation on governmental advisory committees (see section, "Committee Representation");
- Participation at government feedback sessions;
- Talks, forums, seminars and tours open to SHS members and the public (see section, "Public Outreach");
- Disseminating information online (see section, "Online Presence");
- Interviews with the media (see section, "Media Coverage");
- Publications for the general public;
- Scholarly articles and conference papers.

1. Built Heritage - Modern Architecture

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. In particular, SHS advocates for the conservation of modernist built heritage, which receives comparatively less attention in terms of heritage conservation.

- A. 8th mASEANa International Conference Singapore 2019, *Rejuvenating Mid-Century Modern Architecture in Southeast Asia*, at The URA Centre (31 Oct to 2 Nov 2019)

mASEANa (modern ASEAN architecture) is a series of conferences and workshops coordinated by Docomomo Japan and the University of Tokyo, and supported by Docomomo International and ICOMOS International Scientific Committee for 20th Century Heritage. The 2019 conference in Singapore was organised by the Docomomo Singapore Working-Group-in-Progress, NUS-Dept of Architecture, together with SHS. The conference brought together Southeast Asian practitioners with in high-profile international experts, such as Donovan Rypkema of Heritage Strategies International (USA) and Elain Harwood from Historic England (UK), to discuss themes such as the social and economic value of heritage, technologies in conservation of mid-century modern architecture, and community initiatives. SHS' Executive Director, Dr Chua Ai Lin, delivered one of the two keynote addresses, speaking on SHS's advocacy for the conservation of modern architecture which began twenty years ago. The event was free and open to the public, attracting 230 people over two days. We are very grateful to the Guest of Honour, Minister Desmond Lee,

Presenters at the 8th mASEANa International Conference Singapore 2019 (31 Oct to 2 Nov 2019)



Minister for Social & Family Affairs and Second Minister for National Development for delivering the opening remarks at the Special Plenary Session on 'Rejuvenating Modern Buildings: The Social and Economic Values of Heritage', as well as to the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) for providing venue sponsorship.

Subsequently, SHS organised the transcription of the conference proceedings and worked with the Docomomo Singapore Working Group-in-Progress to have the proceedings published by Docomomo Japan as part of the publication, mASEANa Project 2019: *"Progressive Once More", Rejuvenating Mid-Century Modern Architecture in Southeast Asia - The Report of the mASEANa Project 2019, 8th and 9th International Conference*. Released in April 2020, a PDF version of the report is available for free download at <http://www.maseana.iis.u-tokyo.ac.jp/assets/maseana-2019-web.pdf.pdf>



Publication which includes transcripts of speakers' presentations at the 8th mASEANa International Conference Singapore 2019

B. *bauhaus imaginista* exhibition at Objectifs (23 Nov to 21 Dec 2019)

SHS partnered the Goethe-Institute Singapore, and visual arts space, Objectifs, to present this exhibition celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Bauhaus Movement, the influential German school of modernist design and

architecture. *bauhaus imaginista x Singapore* looked at how Bauhaus impacted design internationally, including how the movement left its mark on Singapore's landscape. The exhibition included 14 large photographic prints of local modernist architecture by the late Singapore photographer Jeremy San, originally commissioned by SHS, which exemplify Bauhaus concepts.



Panel discussion launch event for "*bauhaus imaginista*" exhibition at Objectifs (23 Nov 2019)

C. Representation on Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) committees

SHS ExCo members sit on URA advisory panels which deal with built heritage conservation issues.

- i. Heritage and Identity Partnership panel
SHS President, Dr Jack Tsen-Ta Lee, has been appointed as member from 1 August 2018 to 31 July 2020.
- ii. Design Advisory Panel (Conservation)
SHS Executive Director, Dr Chua Ai Lin, has been appointed as a member from 11 Jan 2020 to 10 Jan 2022.

D. SHS featured in URA's "30 Years of Conservation" exhibition and publication

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Urban Redevelopment Authority's Conservation Programme, URA produced a free exhibition which was held at the URA Centre Atrium from 21 Oct to 14 Dec 2019. The exhibition mentioned the formation of SHS in 1987 and that the Society "has been playing an important role in promoting interest in the preservation and transmission of Singapore's history, heritage and identity", and included several photos of SHS members and activities. The accompanying publication, *30 Years of Conservation in Singapore Since 1989: 30 Personal Reflections and Stories*, includes profile interviews with past SHS ExCo member, Dr Yeo Kang Shua, and present ExCo members, Dr Chua Ai Lin and Jonathan Poh. The book can be downloaded at <https://www.ura.gov.sg/-/media/Corporate/Resources/Publications/Books/30yrs-of-conservation.pdf?la=en>

2. Historic Places Of Worship In Telok Ayer, Tanjong Pagar And Tanjong Malang

Having completed the initial two-year research project in 2018, we are now building on the knowledge and relationships established with stakeholders at the various historic places of worship, with the aim of raising public awareness and assisting these communities in their challenges of keeping heritage alive.

At Masjid Haji Muhammad Salleh for Bicentennial Walking Workshop 1: Between skyscrapers & MRT: historic places of worship in Tanjong Pagar and Tanjong Malang (29 Sep 2019)



At Kong Chow Wui Koon for Bicentennial Walking Workshop 3: Continuity & succession in Cantonment & Bukit Pasoh (24 Nov 2019)



A. Bicentennial Walking Workshops series (Sep to Dec 2019)

To commemorate the Singapore Bicentennial in 2019, we conducted a series of four three-hour "walking workshops" on the historic places of worship in our research project. Each event comprised a walking tour of four to six sites of different faiths, led by project researchers, Lynn Wong, Fauzy Ismail, stakeholders from at least one of the sites speaking to event participants, followed by a discussion workshop on heritage concepts led by SHS Executive Director, Dr Chua Ai Lin, held on location at one of the historic places

At the Lim Tai See Chong Soo Kiu Leong Tong clan association, SHS member, Daniel Teo, tells participants about his great-grandfather, Lim Loh, one of the clan's founders who also designed and built the clan building (24 Nov 2019)



of worship. The events were fully-subscribed each time, with some who even attended all four sessions, as they found the interaction with stakeholders and the facilitated discussions with fellow participants particularly meaningful.

We are extremely grateful to the many sites which opened their doors to our event participants and generously shared their knowledge, as well as our media partners, Our Grandfather Story, which ran a series of Instagram Stories on each walking workshop. With over 60,000 followers on Instagram, Our Grandfather Story brought in significant public attention and an increase in followers to the SHS Instagram account.

These walking workshops were funded by an NHB Heritage Participation Grant and MCCY National Integration Council grant. (More information on our event partners and each walking workshop can be found in the sections ‘Partnerships & Networking’ and ‘Public Outreach’ as well as media articles in “Media Mentions”).



Walking workshop group discussions in the oldest mosque in Chinatown, Masjid Jama'e (Chulia), (29 Dec 2019)

B. Singapore Heritage Festival: Ordinary Objects with Extraordinary Stories (21 June 2020)

SHS was invited by the National Heritage Board to give a presentation for this year's fully-digital Singapore Heritage Festival, with the support of NHB's media production team. Project researchers, Lynn Wong, Fauzy Ismail, with the

support of SHS interns, conceptualised a presentation using everyday objects, such as rice and hair, to talk about intangible heritage and historic places of worship. The presentation was filmed in a studio setup at the National Museum, to be live streamed on Facebook and YouTube by NHB, and can be viewed here:

<https://www.heritagefestival.sg/programmes/ordinary-objects-with-extraordinary-stories>



Filming for the live online presentation for the Singapore Heritage Festival took place at National Museum of Singapore (21 June 2020)

C. Web story by Kontinentalist, “Singapore’s historic sites of worship: Communities in a changing city”

The team behind the Walking Workshop Series worked closely with Kontinentalist to distil the key takeaways from the research and workshop discussions into a web story that combines text with data visualisation, which was finally published online on 3 Sep 2020. Read the story here:

<https://kontinentalist.com/stories/singapore-religious-heritage-sites-history-and-conservation>

D. Digitisation of Seng Wong Beo rare documents

In the course of our initial research project, we discovered rare historical, liturgical manuscripts at Seng Wong Beo temple and have been in discussions with the temple

Singapore's oldest Hindu temple, Sri Mariamman Temple, located in Chinatown / Kreta Ayer, was one of the stops for the Bicentennial Walking Workshop 4: Culture and memory in Ann Siang & Kreta Ayer (29 Dec 2019).



caretaker on the digitisation and preservation of these documents before they degrade. In July 2020, SHS applied for, and has been awarded, an NHB Digital Project Grant, to carry out this task, to be completed by end March 2021.

E. Documenting the impact of Covid-19

Project researcher, Lynn Wong, initiated follow-up interviews with some of the historic places of worship in the original project to find out about the impact of the coronavirus on their activities. She has written about her findings in a post for the NUS Asia Research Institute's blog on Covid-19 and religion: "Ritual Adaptations on Telok Ayer: Liturgical Negotiations in a Chinese Temple and a Methodist Church" (published 26 June 2020), <https://ari.nus.edu.sg/20331-23>.

F. Poems and reflections by writer, Verena Tay

SHS member and established local writer, Verena Tay, attended all four of our Walking Workshops and was inspired to amplify SHS's message through her creative writing and photographs, circulated on her public social media platforms and in an international online event, The Poetry of Place - Ballygar Carnival 2020, which she participated in. Read her posts: <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10156573711415267&set=a.10155602851880267>

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10156596091000267&set=a.10155602851880267>
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10156703839985267&set=a.10155602851880267>
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10156705864510267&set=a.10155602851880267>
<https://www.facebook.com/verena.tay/posts/10156795540425267>
<https://www.facebook.com/verena.tay/posts/10156795607420267>

3. Intangible Cultural Heritage

ICH has come to the forefront of heritage policy in Singapore following the Singapore state's ratification of UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in February 2018. SHS has been actively promoting research and public education on diverse aspects of ICH since the Society's establishment in 1987. Aside from looking at cultural heritage practices, we also highlight the intangible heritage dimension of landscapes and built heritage.

3.1. Food Heritage

A. Research study on "The evolution of Singapore's Hawker Culture: street food and changing landscapes"

Funded by a National Heritage Board Heritage Research Grant, SHS has commissioned research consultants, Ethnographica Pte Ltd to study the evolution of hawker culture in terms of the intergenerational transmission of culinary traditions and as symbolic reminders of changing landscapes and altered ways of life. The two-year project, originally intended to be completed in early 2021, has been delayed because Covid-19 has impacted the ability to carry out fieldwork in person, as well as affecting the business of hawker stalls, some of which have stopped functioning.

B. *Reviving Our Forefathers' Disappearing Foods* film screening (23 Nov 2019)

As part of URA's Tanjong Pagar Day Out, SHS organised a short film screening and Q&A with the filmmaker, Lynn Wong, in the premises of Kong Chow Wui Koon clan association. The documentary, narrated in Cantonese and Mandarin,

highlights disappearing foods amongst the Cantonese/Hakka community in Singapore and how these dishes were revived in four Chinese clan associations in Bukit Pasoh, Kreta Ayer and Tanjong Pagar.

"Reviving Our Forefathers' Disappearing Foods" film screening and Q&A with filmmaker, Lynn Wong, at Kong Chow Wui Koon (23 Nov 2019)



C. Focus Group Discussion on "Edible Heritage in Chinatown and Little India" (1 Feb 2020)

SHS members were invited to a focus group session organised by Assoc Prof Kelvin Low (Dept of Sociology, National University of Singapore) and Assoc Prof Hui Yew-Foong (Hong Kong Shue Yan University) to discuss the findings of their two-year research project on food heritage in Singapore. Participants at the session were also invited to be interviewed for subsequent stages in the research.

D. Food Heritage at Home webinar (30 May 2020)

With Covid-19 safe distancing restrictions in force, SHS organised our first-ever fully online public event. With many people restricted to the home, home cooking has been garnering more interest and consequently many traditional recipes are being revived and reinterpreted. Moderated by SHS Executive Director, Dr Chua Ai Lin, our panel discussion featured cooks known for their interest in heritage foods, including well-known food writer, Christopher Tan, television food presenter, Sarah Huang Benjamin, as well as Spice Zi Kitchen, a mother-and-daughter-duo who run workshops on

SHS ExCo and members at the focus group discussion on "Edible Heritage in Chinatown and Little India" (1 Feb 2020)



SHS's first online event on food heritage, a panel discussion including live cooking demonstrations (30 May 2020)



Indian Muslim home cooking, and past SHS vice president and Malay cuisine expert, Khir Johari. Using the Zoom platform, panelists joined in from home, which allowed Sarah Huang Benjamin and Spice Zi Kitchen to do live cooking demonstrations. A lucky winner was randomly selected from the 120 Zoom participants to receive the *kolukattai* prepared live by Spice Zi Kitchen. The event was extremely popular, with Zoom places fully-registered overnight, and the live video posted on Facebook has over 3,600 view as of end Aug 2020. View the event at: https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=251366699504551&ref=watch_permalink

E. Heritage Singapore Food Facebook Group

SHS Executive Committee member, Victor Yue, founded and administers this group dedicated to sharing knowledge about the food of Singapore, especially those that could be on the way to extinction. First established in 2011, this group now has 15.1K members.

3.2. Heritage Languages



Publicity graphic designed by SHS Interns for International Mother Language Day (21 Feb 2020)

A. 'Words of Wisdom' video series

To celebrate UNESCO International Mother Language Day on 21 February 2020, SHS interns created a series of videos on the theme, 'words of wisdom', to raise public awareness of heritage languages in Singapore, featuring native speakers of seven different languages each saying a proverb, followed by an explanation of their meanings in the same language. English subtitles were provided.

Links to respective videos:

Kristang: <https://www.instagram.com/p/B80x8d9Hwxj/>
Malay, Javanese: <https://www.instagram.com/p/B83Z3-SHjDs/>
Tamil, Hindi: <https://www.instagram.com/p/B850zt2H9B2/>
Hakka, Hokkien: <https://www.instagram.com/p/B888DtKnv7F/>

B. Heritage Languages of Singapore Facebook group

SHS Executive Committee members, Victor Yue and Chua Ai Lin, are founders and administrators of this Facebook group,

where members share content on languages of Singapore, the region and beyond. There are 1,749 members as of 4 Aug 2020, as compared to 1,471 members one year ago. The group can be found at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/heritagelanguage>.

3.3. Joint-Call For Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre's Chinese Arts And Culture Research Grant

In 2019, the Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre (SCCC) invited SHS to run a joint call for their Chinese Arts and Culture Research Grant, open exclusively to members of SHS. The grant was awarded to Lynn Wong Yuqing and Dr Lin Chia Tsun for the project, "Cultural heritage of Singapore's over-100-years-old kinship-based clan associations". Research has progressed well, albeit hindered by the impact of Covid-19.

In 2020, SCCC carried out a joint call for the grant together with Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and SHS. The maximum quantum of the grant has been increased to \$100,000. For successful applicants endorsed by SHS, SHS bears responsibility for disbursement of the grant as well as overseeing the procurement process of the successful applicant(s). As per the standard procedure for research organisations, SHS levies an indirect research cost for reviewing applications and progress reports, banking and administrative services, financial governance, legal agreements, and associated risks and liabilities.

3.4. Experiencing Traditional Festivals

A. Chinese Chinese New Year Temple Visits

As with previous years, in the evening of the eve (25 Jan 2020) and early hours of the first day of the Lunar New Year, SHS Exco member Victor Yue led a group to visit six temples connected to different Chinese dialect groups, to observe the festivities surrounding the tradition of devotees seeking to pay respects as early as possible in the Lunar New Year. The temples visited were Thian Hock Keng, Yu Huang Gong, Yue Hai Qing, Fook Tet Soo Khek Temple, Hainan Hwee Kuan and Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple.

On 27 January, Victor Yue, also led a visit to the historic Chan Chor Ming Tong, a 'vegetarian hall' in the Balestier area, which is closed to visitors all year round except for the 3rd day of

the Lunar New Year, when hundreds of devotees arrive to pray for blessings for the new year. With most of the elderly residents of Chan Chor Ming Tong having passed away, its future remains uncertain.

B. Kusu Island pilgrimage with Siong Leng Musical Association

SHS ExCo members, youth volunteers and general members joined the Siong Leng Musical Association on their annual pilgrimage to Kusu Island to perform Nanyin music and Liyuan opera at the Tua Pek Kong Temple, on 29 Sep 2019. The annual Kusu pilgrimage is an important piece of Singapore's intangible cultural heritage, and visiting the island each year allows us to observe the built heritage and intangible heritage on the island to note any changes.

3.5. NHB Stewards Of Singapore's Intangible Cultural Heritage Award Evaluation Panel

Dr Rizwana Abdul Azeez is SHS's representative to this panel for the period 8 Nov to October 2022. National Heritage Board launched the Stewards of Singapore's Intangible Cultural Heritage Award in October 2019 and announced the winners in June 2020.

3.6. Publications

- A. Jack Lee (2020). "Sense of Place: The Intersection Between Built Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage in Singapore," *Journal of Comparative Urban Law and Policy*: Vol. 4 : Iss. 1, Article 32, 604-621. Available at: <https://readingroom.law.gsu.edu/jculp/vol4/iss1/32>
- B. Victor Yue (30 June 2020), "Covid-19 and Its Impact on Local Temple Events and Related Economic Activities in Singapore", *CoronAsur: Religion & Covid-19 blog*, published by the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. Available at: <https://ari.nus.edu.sg/20331-24/>

4. Bukit Brown

Since the announcement in 2011 of a highway to be built cutting through Bukit Brown Cemetery, SHS has advocated for thorough historical documentation and research to underpin the proper consideration of heritage in land

2
For a more in-depth SHS's 2012 position paper on Bukit Brown is available at http://www.singaporeheritage.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/SHS_BB_Position_Paper.pdf

planning decisions for the area, the conservation of worthy grave artefacts, as well as public education activities in partnership with All Things Bukit Brown.² The 8-lane Lornie highway opened in stages between October 2018 and April 2019.



Graves in Bukit Brown Cemetery overlook Lornie Highway, which opened fully in April 2019

A. Ministry of National Development (MND) Bukit Brown Work Group

The Work Group, chaired by MND, comprises representatives from MND, National Heritage Board (NHB) and the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), SHS and All Things Bukit Brown. Based on SHS and All Things Bukit Brown prior work to recommend a list of artefacts for salvaging during the construction process, as well as propose a curated selection of these for outdoor display within open spaces in Bukit Brown cemetery, in the year under review, the Work Group has conducted several site visits to evaluate possible open spaces for the display, as well as to assess salvaged artefacts currently held in storage.

B. Bukit Brown Wayfinder self-guided trail

Launched in 2017, this self-guided trail of 25 notable tombs, marked by signages on site, and accompanied by a guide book for free PDF download from the SHS website, remains



Site recce by the Bukit Brown Work Group, comprising SHS, All Things Bukit Brown, MND and NHB (22 Mar 2020)

the most comprehensive introduction to Bukit Brown cemetery for visitors exploring on their own. We are currently reviewing the condition of on-site installations to carry out required maintenance such as replacement of faded signs. The guide is available at www.singaporeheritage.org/bukitbrownwayfinder.

5. Pulau Ubin

SHS's vision for Pulau Ubin is to revitalise the living heritage of the island through the kampung community, and their homes.³ We do this through activities that bring the former Ubin community together, assist local residents in the repair of buildings, document and research intangible and built heritage, as well as public education.

A. Friends of Ubin Network (FUN)

SHS has continued promoting and advocating for the cultural heritage of Pulau Ubin via FUN since its inception in 2014.

Chaired by Minister for National Development, Desmond Lee, and led by the National Parks Board, this network discusses issues affecting daily life and future development on the island. It comprises public-sector representatives from the Ministry of National Development, National Parks Board, Urban Redevelopment Authority and National Heritage Board, as well as civil society organisations, educational institutes and individuals. SHS is the convenor of 'Kawan Ubin', a sub-group under FUN which focuses on community and living heritage issues.

Due to Covid-19, the number of meetings and activities planned under FUN were cancelled. Kawan Ubin continued working with the Community Liaison Team under NParks to ensure the well-being of Ubin residents especially during the circuit breaker. One of the Kawan Ubin groups, the Accessible Ubin initiative, assisted with moving a wheelchair-bound Ubin resident to get to the jetty for his medical appointments on the mainland (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZC-nhfs87T0>). Kawan Ubin also contributed to a proposal submitted by Ethnographica Pte Ltd to organise tours that will be co-led and co-facilitated by Ubin residents.

B. Pulau Ubin FB page

Set up in 2014 by SHS Executive Committee members Chua Ai Lin and Victor Yue, and jointly managed with nature advocate, Ria Tan, the public Facebook Group for Pulau Ubin provides a common platform for the public to share and discuss Pulau Ubin related news and information. There are 3,437 members as of 6 Aug 2019, as compared to 2,837 members one year ago, and 2,607 members in the year prior. Since the coronavirus pandemic started, there has been a much larger number of people joining the group, possibly because more people are turning to outdoor recreation in the light of Covid-19 restrictions and safe distancing rules. The group can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/pulau.ubin>

6. Chinatown / Kreta Ayer

Since the late 1990s, when Chinatown was first redeveloped by the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board, SHS has made the case for a more authentic and community-centred approach to the development of Chinatown, as laid out

³ Read more about the SHS vision for revitalising the Pulau Ubin kampung at <https://www.facebook.com/notes/singapore-heritage-society/revitalising-ubin-as-living-kampung/1574324345948529/>

in our publication, *Rethinking Chinatown and Heritage Conservation in Singapore* (Singapore Heritage Society, 2000; now available as a free PDF on our website).⁴ Today, we aim 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.

⁴ Download at http://www.singaporeheritage.org/?page_id=3198.

A. “Remembering 7 Sisters’ Festival”, a panel discussion in Cantonese (3 Aug 2019) at Chinatown Heritage Centre

This event featured well-known speakers veteran journalist, Mdm Au Yue Pak, author and researcher, Lee Kok Leong, traditional craftsman, Jimm Wong Pui Fatt and moderator, Charmaine Leung, author of award-winning memoir, *17A Keong Saik Road*. They shared memories of the Seven Sisters’ Festival, which was once a major festival in Chinatown/Kreta Ayer, but is now rarely seen in Singapore. With the venue sponsored by Chinatown Heritage Centre, the event was quickly over-subscribed, and we catered to a larger audience with live stream video on Facebook which had 970 views.⁵ This was one of the rare occasions where a talk has been conducted entirely in Cantonese, much to the delight of the audience.

⁵ Watch at <https://www.facebook.com/events/328178491460892>

SHS’s plans for a public talk in Aug 2020 on Chinatown’s ‘street of the dead’ of the past in Sago Lane, have been postponed because of Covid-19 restrictions on large events.

B. STB Chinatown Work Group

Heavily dependent on tourist traffic, Chinatown’s businesses have been particularly hard hit by Covid-19. SHS continues to



“Remembering 7 Sisters’ Festival” panel discussion at the Chinatown Heritage Centre (3 Aug 2019)

observe developments in the area and participates actively in the network of stakeholders in the Singapore Tourism Board’s Chinatown Work Group.

C. “bullockcartwater 牛车水 Kreta Ayer” Facebook group

Established by Victor Yue, who is a lifelong Chinatown resident, this group is a platform for anyone interested in Chinatown to stay abreast of local happenings and connect with each other. There are over 1,700 members as of end August 2020, as compared to 1,440 members one year ago. The group can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/kretaayer>

7. Other Public Sector Engagement

SHS Executive Committee members serve on a number of government advisory panels, as detailed in the section in this President’s Report on “Representation on committees”. In addition, SHS ExCo have participated in the public sector engagement activities listed below.



NHB-SHS annual networking session at National Museum (8 Feb 2020)

| EVENT | ORGANISER | DATE | VENUE |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| Friends of Rail Corridor meeting | National Parks Board | 13 Jan 2020 | Singapore Botanic Gardens |

| EVENT | ORGANISER | DATE | VENUE |
|--|-------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Pasir Panjang Park's Stakeholder Engagement Launch event | National Parks Board | 18 Jan 2020 | Pasir Panjang Park |
| NHB-SHS annual networking session. Organised by NHB, this annual event provides an opportunity for SHS's ExCo and key volunteers, and NHB's Chief Executive and senior management, to provide updates on their respective organisations and have open-ended discussion. This year, the dialogue session was followed by a guided tour to the historic Former View Road Hospital. | National Heritage Board | 8 Feb 2020 | National Museum of Singapore |
| NVPC impact of covid | NVPC | 18 May 2020 | Online meeting |
| Singapore Heritage Festival - rebranding & envisioning interview | National Heritage Board | 20 Jul 2020 | Online meeting |
| Emerging Stronger Conversation with Minister Desmond Lee | MCCY | 27 Aug 2020 | Online meeting |



Emerging Stronger Conversation, online dialogue with Minister Desmond Lee (27 Aug 2020)

Advisory panels and work groups are important channels by which SHS interacts and conveys expert opinion to the public sector and professional sphere. These committees operate at different levels of formality, some with an officially-appointed representative from the SHS ExCo, and others which recognise SHS broadly as an organisational participant.

| ORGANISATION | COMMITTEE | TERM OF OFFICE | REPRESENTATIVE |
|--|---|----------------------------|------------------------|
| National Heritage Board (NHB) | National Collection Advisory Panel | 1 Sep 2013 to 31 Dec 2021 | Dr Jack Tsen-Ta Lee |
| | Nomination Committee for Hawker Culture | 1 Aug 2018 to 28 Feb 2021 | Dr Jack Tsen-Ta Lee |
| | Archaeology Advisory Panel | 19 Aug 2019 to 31 Dec 2021 | Dr Jack Tsen-Ta Lee |
| | Heritage Project Grants External Advisory Panel | Dec 2019 to Dec 2021 | Dr Chua Ai Lin |
| Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) | Heritage & Identity Partnership panel | 1 Aug 2018 to 31 July 2022 | Dr Jack Tsen-Ta Lee |
| | Design Advisory Panel (Conservation) | 11 Jan 2020 to 10 Jan 2022 | Dr Chua Ai Lin |
| Ministry of National Development (MND) | Bukit Brown Work Group | Jan 2015 to present | SHS |
| National Heritage Board | Stewards of Singapore's Intangible Cultural Heritage Award Evaluation Panel | 8 Nov 2019 to October 2022 | Dr Rizwana Abdul Azeez |
| National Parks Board (NParks) | Friends of Ubin | Mar 2014 to present | SHS |
| | Friends of the Rail Corridor | Oct 2017 to present | SHS |

| ORGANISATION | COMMITTEE | TERM OF OFFICE | REPRESENTATIVE |
|---|--|---------------------|--|
| Singapore Tourism Board (STB) | Chinatown Work Group | Aug 2018 to present | Victor Yue |
| | Little India Work Group | Aug 2018 to present | Tony Tan Say-Kiong (Aug 2018-Jan 2020); Dr Rizwana Abdul Azeez (Jan 2020-present) |
| International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) | Expert Member, International Scientific Committee on Legal, Administrative and Financial Issues (ICLAFI) | Apr 2016 to present | Dr Jack Tsen-Ta Lee |
| Southeast Asia Cultural Heritage Alliance | Board Member | May 2020 to present | Dr Natalie Pang |

SHS interacts with many other organisations in the course of our work. Besides the various government and professional committees that our ExCo members sit on (See section, “09 Representation on committees”), we work together with educational institutions, community organisations and initiatives, research organisations and businesses on different levels. With increasing numbers of external organisations seeking collaboration with SHS, we evaluate these requests in terms of alignment with SHS’s mission, strategic objectives, project foci, governance principles and manpower resources. More broadly, SHS ExCo often meet and interact with other organisations in the arts & culture, or nonprofit and NGO sector, to learn more about each other’s work and deepen our knowledge of these domains.

1. International Networking

The Southeast Asian Cultural Heritage Alliance (SEACHA) is a network formally established in May 2020 to promote effective government-community partnership in cultural heritage management. It aims to strengthen the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community as a people-centered third pillar of ASEAN, and comprises seven founding members from Southeast Asia, including Singapore Heritage Society. Due to Covid-19, most of the activities so far have been online.





2. Local Partners

The table below summarises SHS's local partners. Please refer to other sections of this Annual Report, "Research and Advocacy" and "Public Outreach" for more details about the projects and events referred to below.

| ORGANISATION | GRANT-AWARDING BODY | PROJECT PARTNER | EVENT PARTNER | VENUE PARTNER |
|--|--|---|--|--------------------|
| GOVERNMENT SECTOR ENTITIES | | | | |
| Ministry of Culture, Community & Youth (MCCY) | National Integration Council's Community Integration Fund | | | |
| National Heritage Board (NHB) | 1. Heritage Research Grant; 2. Heritage Participation Grant | | Singapore Heritage Festival: Ordinary Objects with Extraordinary Stories | |
| National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre (NVPC) | | 15 Shorts - 'Still Standing' film; Centre for Nonprofit Leadership volunteer matching | | |
| Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) | | | | mASEANa Conference |
| EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS | | | | |
| National University of Singapore, Department of Architecture | | | mASEANa Conference | |
| ARTS & CULTURE ORGANISATIONS | | | | |
| Drama Box | | | Remembering 7 Sisters' Festival | |

| ORGANISATION | GRANT-AWARDING BODY | PROJECT PARTNER | EVENT PARTNER | VENUE PARTNER |
|---|---------------------|--|--|--|
| Goethe-Institut Singapore | | bauhaus imaginista | | |
| Objectifs - Centre for Photography and Film | | bauhaus imaginista | | |
| Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre (SCCC) | | Chinese Arts and Culture Research Grant - joint call | | |
| COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND INITIATIVES | | | | |
| Accessible Ubin | | Kawan Ubin | | |
| All Things Bukit Brown | | Bt Brown Work Group | | |
| Docomomo (Singapore) Working Group | | publication of mASEANa Conference Report | mASEANa Conference | |
| Kong Chow Wui Koon | | | | 1. Reviving Our Forefathers' Disappearing Foods film screening; 2. Bicentennial Walking Workshop: Continuity & succession in Cantonment & Bukit Pasoh |
| Lim Tai See Chong | | | Bicentennial Walking Workshop: Continuity & succession in Cantonment & Bukit Pasoh | |
| Soo Kiu Leong Tong | | | | |

| ORGANISATION | GRANT-AWARDING BODY | PROJECT PARTNER | EVENT PARTNER | VENUE PARTNER |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|--|--|
| Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan | | | Bicentennial Walking Workshop: Life and soul: historic places of worship in Telok Ayer | |
| PLACES OF WORSHIP & RELIGIOUS ORGANISATIONS | | | | |
| Cundhi Gong | | | Bicentennial Walking Workshop: Continuity & succession in Cantonment & Bukit Pasoh | |
| Fook Tet Soo Khek Temple | | | Bicentennial Walking Workshop: Between skyscrapers & MRT: historic places of worship in Tg Pagar & Tg Malang | |
| Hindu Endowment Board (Sri Mariamman Temple) | | | Bicentennial Walking Workshop: Culture and Memory in Ann Siang & Kreta Ayer | |
| Masjid Jamae (Chulia) | | | | Bicentennial Walking Workshop: Culture and Memory in Ann Siang & Kreta Ayer |
| Masjid Haji Muhammad Salleh (Palmer Road) / Maqam Habib Noh | | | | Bicentennial Walking Workshop: Between skyscrapers & MRT: historic places of worship in Tg Pagar & Tg Malang |

| ORGANISATION | GRANT-AWARDING BODY | PROJECT PARTNER | EVENT PARTNER | VENUE PARTNER |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--|---------------|
| Malabar Mosque | | | Tour of Malabar Mosque | |
| Mun San Fook Tuck Chee Temple | | | Remembering 7 Sisters' Festival | |
| Nagore Dargah | | | Bicentennial Walking Workshop: Life and soul: historic places of worship in Telok Ayer | |
| Seng Wong Beo | | | Bicentennial Walking Workshop: Between skyscrapers & MRT: historic places of worship in Tg Pagar & Tg Malang | |
| Siang Cho Keong | | | Bicentennial Walking Workshop: Culture and Memory in Ann Siang & Kreta Ayer | |
| Sri Layan Sithi Vinayagar | | | Bicentennial Walking Workshop: Continuity & succession in Cantonment & Bukit Pasoh | |
| Telok Ayer Methodist Church | | | Bicentennial Walking Workshop: Culture and Memory in Ann Siang & Kreta Ayer | |

| ORGANISATION | GRANT-AWARDING BODY | PROJECT PARTNER | EVENT PARTNER | VENUE PARTNER |
|---|---------------------|---|--|--|
| Yu Huang Gong | | | Bicentennial Walking Workshop: Life and soul: historic places of worship in Telok Ayer | |
| RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS | | | | |
| Ethnographica Pte. Ltd. | | 1. Commissioned research consultant; 2. Kawan Ubin | | |
| BUSINESS ENTITIES | | | | |
| Chinatown Heritage Centre | | | | Remembering 7 Sisters' Festival |
| Kontinentalist | | | Bicentennial Walking Workshops Series - media partner | |
| Our Grandfather Story | | | Bicentennial Walking Workshops Series - media partner | |
| Pek Sin Choon Pte Ltd | | | Remembering 7 Sisters' Festival | |
| Singapore Musical Box Museum @ Chong Wen Ge | | | | Bicentennial Walking Workshop: Life and soul: historic places of worship in Telok Ayer |
| Singapore Tai Chong Kok Confectionery (Hue Kee) | | | Remembering 7 Sisters' Festival | |

| ORGANISATION | GRANT - AWARDING BODY | PROJECT PARTNER | EVENT PARTNER | VENUE PARTNER |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Travellution | | | Remembering 7 Sisters' Festival | |
| Worldwide Hotels | | | Remembering 7 Sisters' Festival | |



Discussion notes from the Bicentennial Walking Workshops to historic places of worship

SHS has continued our long-standing reputation of organising a full year of expert-led events for members and the public. Representatives of SHS were also invited to participate in public events organised by others. Upon invitation, the Society also provides public lectures and tours, primarily to educational and non-profit organisations.

From 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020, SHS organised 9 public events, often with event or venue partners. Of particular note was our series to commemorate the Singapore Bicentennial, of ‘walking workshops’ to historic places of worship comprising a walking tour, interaction with stakeholders from the historic sites, and a discussion workshop for the participants.



Outside Telok Ayer Methodist Church, during the Bicentennial Walking Workshop 4: “Culture and memory in Ann Siang & Kreta Ayer” (29 Dec 2019)



1. SHS-Organised Events

A. Guided tours and walks

| DATE | EVENT TITLE | NO OF ATTENDEES |
|-------------|--|-----------------|
| 29 Sep 2019 | Bicentennial Walking Workshop 1: Between skyscrapers & MRT: historic places of worship in Tanjong Pagar and Tanjong Malang Link to event: https://www.facebook.com/events/410556929813941/ Photos and summary: https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?vanity=sgheritage&set=a.3420358634673479 | 30 |
| 27 Oct 2019 | Bicentennial Walking Workshop 2: Life and soul: historic places of worship in Telok Ayer Link to event: https://www.facebook.com/events/504297850148257 Photos and summary: https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?vanity=sgheritage&set=a.3420370408005635 | 30 |
| 24 Nov 2019 | Bicentennial Walking Workshop 3: Continuity & succession in Cantonment & Bukit Pasoh Link to event: https://www.facebook.com/events/544510276094276 Photos and summary: https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?vanity=sgheritage&set=a.3420388614670481 | 30 |
| 29 Dec 2019 | Bicentennial Walking Workshop 4: Culture and memory in Ann Siang & Kreta Ayer Link to event: https://www.facebook.com/events/591116454995303 Photos and summary: https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?vanity=sgheritage&set=a.3584153981627276 | 30 |



Group discussions during Bicentennial Walking Workshop 1: "Between skyscrapers & MRT: historic places of worship" (29 Sep 2019)

B. Talks, panels, forums and conference

| DATE | EVENT TITLE | VENUE | CO-ORGANISERS & PARTNERS | APPROX NO. OF ATTENDEES |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| 3 Aug 2019 | Remembering 7 Sisters' Festival Link to event: https://www.facebook.com/events/328178491460892 | Chinatown Heritage Centre | - | 60 + 975 views for Facebook live video |
| 31 Oct - 2 Nov 2019 | mASEANA International Conference 2019 Singapore - Progressive Once More (Rejuvenating Mid-century Modern Architecture in Southeast Asia) Link to event: https://www.eventbrite.sg/e/8th-maseana-international-conference-singapore-2019-tickets-72039156055 Link to report on conference: http://www.maseana.iis.u-tokyo.ac.jp/assets/maseana-2019_web.pdf.pdf | The URA Centre | Docomomo International, NUS Department of Architecture | 230 |
| 23 Nov 2019 | Opening & Panel Discussion: bauhaus imaginista x Singapore Link to event: https://www.facebook.com/events/406026460300986 | Objectifs | Goethe-Institut Singapore; Objectifs | 100 |
| 23 Nov 2019 | Reviving Our Forefathers' Disappearing Foods - film screening Link to event: https://www.facebook.com/events/991978314488482 | Kong Chow Wui Koon | - | 30 |
| 30 May 2020 | Food Heritage at Home: An Online Panel of Cooks Link to event: https://www.facebook.com/events/534854760534986 Link to video: https://www.facebook.com/145479398828102/videos/251366699504551 | Online via Zoom and Facebook Live | - | 120 via Zoom 3,600+ views for Facebook live video |

Panel of Cantonese-speakers Mdm Au Yue Pak,, Lee Kok Leong, Jimm Wong Pui Fatt and moderator, Charmaine Leung, at 'Remembering 7 Sisters' Festival' event (3 Aug 2019)



SHS Executive Director, Dr Chua Ai Lin's keynote presentation at the mASEANA International Conference (31 Oct 2019)



Live cooking demonstration by Spice Zi Kitchen during "Food Heritage at Home: An Online Panel of Cooks" (30 May 2020)



C. Others

| DATE | EVENT TITLE | NO. OF VIEWS |
|-------------|--|---|
| 21 Feb 2020 | A series of videos by SHS celebrating UNESCO's International Mother Languages Day on the theme, 'words of wisdom' | 2752 (total for 4 videos) |
| | Links to respective videos: KRISTANG: https://www.instagram.com/p/B80x8d9Hwxi/ https://www.facebook.com/145479398828102/videos/615464932626929 MALAY, JAVANESE: https://www.instagram.com/p/B83Z3-SHjDs/ https://www.facebook.com/145479398828102/videos/1566129170191703 TAMIL, HINDI: https://www.instagram.com/p/B850zt2H9B2/ https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=497126434334692 HAKKA, HOKKIEN: https://www.instagram.com/p/B888DtKnv7F/ https://www.facebook.com/145479398828102/videos/2611804399109298 | Average of 675 views per video on Instagram; up to 1.1K views on Facebook |

2. Externally-Organised Events, With Shs Participation

A. Conferences and seminars

| DATE | PAPER TITLE & CONFERENCE | SHS PRESENTERS | CONFERENCE ORGANISER |
|-------------|---|------------------------|---|
| 5 Nov 2019 | 'Intangible Cultural Heritage and Visions of Multiculturalism: Viewpoints from Singapore', a paper presented at 2019 <i>Intangible Cultural Heritage International Symposium</i> , Seoul, Republic of Korea | Dr Rizwana Abdul Azeez | Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation, Seoul, Republic of Korea |
| 23 May 2020 | Conservation Practices amid a Pandemic: Southeast Asian Perspectives (online panel discussion) | Jonathan Poh | Southeast Asian Cultural Heritage Alliance and Heritage Conservation Society, Manila, Philippines |
| | Link to event: https://www.facebook.com/events/1529453903881333 | | |

B. Talks, tours and other events

| DATE | EVENT TITLE AND SPEAKERS | ORGANISER |
|------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 19 Jan 2020 | Tour of Malabar Mosque conducted by Mr Mohamed Nasim, Vice Chairman of Malabar Mosque committee, exclusively for SHS members | Malabar Mosque |
| 21 Jun 2020 | Singapore Heritage Festival: Ordinary Objects with Extraordinary Stories, online presentation by SHS researchers, Lynn Wong Yuqing & Fauzy Ismail [online event] Link to event video: https://www.heritagefestival.sg/programmes/ordinary-objects-with-extraordinary-stories | National Heritage Board |
| 23 & 24 Jun 2020 | Tree-planting event and video at Lim Chu Kang in support of the One Million Trees movement, featuring SHS President, Dr Jack Tsen-Ta Lee | National Parks Board |

Tour of Malabar Mosque for SHS members, prior to building extension works, conducted by Mr Mohamed Nasim, Vice Chairman of the mosque committee (19 Jan 2020)



Live stream online presentation for the Singapore Heritage Festival by SHS researchers, Lynn Wong Yuqing & Fauzy Ismail (21 June 2020)



3. Private Lectures/ Dialogues Conducted Upon Request

| DATE | EVENT | SHS SPEAKERS |
|-------------|--|---|
| 26 Oct 2019 | mASEANa workshop 2019 (Singapore Modern Architectural Heritage Inventory) from 25 Oct - 2 Nov 2020 for National University of Singapore, University of Tokyo & Tokyo University of Science at URA Centre and NUS Module AR5951: Topics in History & Theory of Architecture (Singapore's Tangible & Intangible Architecture & Urban Heritage) | Victor Yue, "Growing up in Chinatown (Tua Po): A memory sharing session based on a personal journey" Dr Natalie Pang, "Appraisal as a dialogical two-way activity between meaning-making and action" |

SHS President, Dr Jack Lee, participating in NParks' tree-planting event for the One Million Trees movement (23 & 24 June 2020) [Photo courtesy of NParks]



In the past 12 months, SHS was mentioned in the mainstream and online press a total of 25 times, in English and Chinese, and mentioned in at least one television broadcast. Outside of Singapore The Daily Tribune (Philippines) also . SHS was also mentioned in two ministerial speeches by Second Minister for National Development, Desmond Lee.

Print and Online Media

1. Sharmaine Loh, “We visited Bukit Brown Cemetery on the first day of the seventh month”, *SG Magazine*, 5 August 2019, <https://sgmagazine.com/city-living-things-to-do/news/bukit-brown-cemetery-hungry-ghost-festival-self-guided-trail>

2. Lisa Twang and Jodi Thiele, “My love letter to Pulau Ubin”, *Dayre*, 26 September 2019, <https://dayre.me/story/098ad167b5>

3. Ong, Wee Jin, “Moment in the sun”, *The Straits Times*, 9 October 2019, <https://www.straitstimes.com/multimedia/photos/moment-in-the-sun-0>

4. Melody Zaccheus, “Ex-National Library building’s gate posts in safekeeping, will return to old spot after SMU moves them”, *The Straits Times*, 10 October 2019, <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/ex-library-buildings-gate-posts-in-safekeeping>

5. Low Shi Ping, “How to rehabilitate mid-century modern architecture”, *Design and Architecture*, 15 October 2019, <https://www.designandarchitecture.com/article/how-to-rehabilitate-mid-century-modern-architecture.html>

6. Melody Zaccheus, “Orchard Road shophouse picks up restoration award; URA marks 30 years of conservation”, *The Straits Times*, 21 October 2019, <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/orchard-road-shophouse-picks-up-restoration-award-ura-marks-30-years-of-conservation>

7. Melody Zaccheus, “Century-old shophouse wins URA’s conservation award”, *The New Paper*, 22 October 2019, <https://www.tnp.sg/news/singapore/century-old-shophouse-wins-uras-conservation-award>

8. Rahimah Rashith, “Heritage Malay royal building turned into interactive-game space is disrespectful, say critics”, *The Straits Times*, 6 November 2019, <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/criticism-over-heritage-buildings-new-concept>

9. 新明日报, “甘榜格南 ‘黄宫’ 变密室逃脱室惹议”, 6 November 2019

10. Stephanie Peh, “A case for the conservation of modern architecture”, *Indesign*, 12 November 2019, <https://www.indesignlive.sg/insight/case-conservation-modern-architecture>

11. Melody Zaccheus, “NParks steps in to save and restore Pulau Ubin’s kampungs as elderly population dwindles”, *The Straits Times*, 23 November 2019, <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/nparks-steps-in-to-save-and-restore-pulau-ubins-kampungs-as-elderly-population-dwindles>

12. 卢凌之, “巴西班牙让公园设计集思广益”, 联合早报, 19 January 2020

13. Matthaeus Choo, “The Finale of ‘15 Shorts’ Packs Emotional Haymakers in Its Collection of Superb Shorts”, *Sinema*, 21 January 2020, <https://www.sinema.sg/2020/01/21/15-shorts-finale-review/>

14. *Our Grandfather Story*, “Exploring Former Fuk Tak Chi Temple with Singapore Heritage Society”, 8 February 2020, <https://www.instagram.com/p/B8SWN9dFwTg/>

15. *Our Grandfather Story*, “Exploring Kong Chow Wui Koon with Singapore Heritage Society”, 16 February 2020, <https://www.instagram.com/p/B8m8ovZAZBT/>

16. *The A-List*, “Short films for a good cause by Singapore filmmakers”, 4 March 2020, <https://www.a-list.sg/short-films-for-a-good-cause-by-singapore-filmmakers-the-a-list/>

17. *The Design Society*, “TDS International Women’s Day Special Feature — An Interview with Visual Designer: Clara Lim”, 10 March 2020, https://www.designsociety.sg/design_stories_featured/tds-international-womens-interview-clara-lim

18. Edgar Allan M. Sembrano, “Pandemic effect on heritage conservation”, *Daily Tribune*, 6 June 2020, <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/02/pandemic-effect-on-heritage-conservation/>

19. Hannah Bock, “Neither dusty nor old: Youth come up with fresh ways to document heritage during Covid-19 pandemic”, *The Straits Times*, 8 June 2020, <https://www.straitstimes.com/lifestyle/arts/ neither-dusty-nor-old-youth-come-up-with-fresh-ways-to-document-heritage-during-covid>

20. National Integration Council, “Walks to Remember”, 17 June 2020, <https://www.nationalintegrationcouncil.gov.sg/funding/featured-initiatives/walks-to-remember-shs>

21. Delfina Utomo, “The creepiest haunted places in Singapore”, *Time Out*, 22 June 2020, <https://www.timeout.com/singapore/things-to-do/the-most-creepiest-and-haunted-places-in-singapore>

22. Lynn Wong, “Ritual Adaptations on Telok Ayer: Liturgical Negotiations in a Chinese Temple and a Methodist Church”. *CoronAsur: Religion and Covid-19*, Asia Research Institute, 26 June 2020, <https://ari.nus.edu.sg/20331-23/>

23. Aditi Bharade, “Monkey God to be reimagined in an international design competition organised by Chinatown shop”, *The Straits Times*, 28 June 2020, <https://www.straitstimes.com/lifestyle/monkey-god-to-be-reimagined-in-an-international-design-competition-organised-by-chinatown>

24. Mathew Mathews, Teo Kay Key and Melvin Tay. *Integral - A report on social integration in Singapore for the 10th Anniversary of the National Integration Council*, National University of Singapore, 2020, https://www.nationalintegrationcouncil.gov.sg/docs/default-source/handbooks-and-publications/integral-nic10-report.pdf?sfvrsn=f1e8c025_2

25. Urban Redevelopment Authority, “Remembering 30 years”. In *Skyline*, Issue 12, 2020, <https://www.ura.gov.sg/Corporate/Resources/Publications/Skyline/Skyline-issue12/Remembering-30-years>

BROADCAST MEDIA

1. Mediacorp Channel 8, 晚间新闻, 19 April 2020

MINISTERIAL SPEECHES

1. *Ministry of National Development*, “Speech by Mr Desmond Lee, Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister for National Development, at the 2019 Architectural Heritage Awards”, 21 October 2019, <https://www.ura.gov.sg/Corporate/Media-Room/Speeches/speech19-46>

2. *Ministry of National Development*, “Opening Remarks By 2M Desmond Lee at the Special Plenary Session of the mASEANa Conference” 1 November 2019, <https://www.mnd.gov.sg/newsroom/speeches/view/opening-remarks-by-2m-desmond-lee-at-the-special-plenary-session-of-the-maseana-conference>

SHS's online channels are the primary way we reach out to the general public to fulfil our mission of public education. While emails go out to our subscribing members (a substantial number of whom do not use regularly Facebook or Instagram), social media and Eventbrite reach far more people than our subscribing membership base. The SHS website serves as a repository of materials and information for the work we have done.

1. Facebook

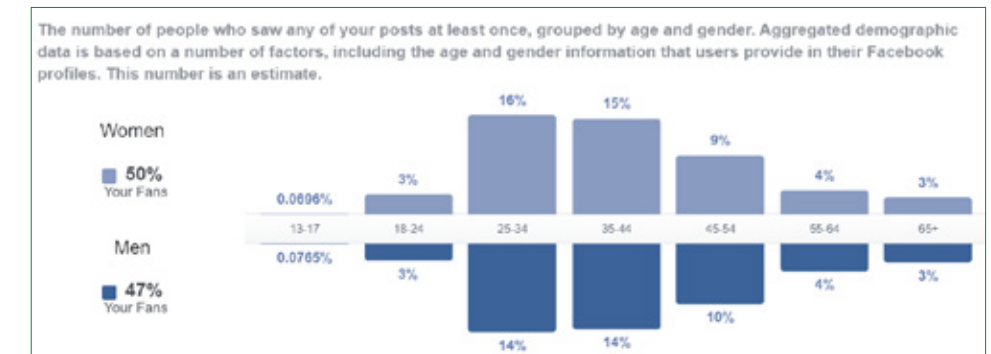
SHS Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/sgheritage>

Started in 2011, the SHS Facebook Page is the key public communication tool through which heritage-related news and events, as well as SHS updates are disseminated. SHS Honorary Secretary Han Ming Guang and a team of interns curate and upload content on a daily basis to inform and communicate with our followers. Where resources permit, we also use Facebook Live to live stream our events to expand viewership reach and documentation.

The SHS Facebook Page has continued to see steady growth in viewership and likes over the past year. The number of likes on the Facebook Page has grown by 7.25% from 13,371 to 14,341 between August 2019 and July 2020.



In terms of the demographics of our Facebook followers, 36% of our Facebook followers are between the ages of 18 to 34. This highlights that not only has our content been able to engage a new generation of heritage enthusiasts, but also a growing consciousness among the younger population of heritage and its impact on Singapore.



Between August 2019 and July 2020, SHS posted a total of 9 events on the SHS Facebook Page to advertise SHS-organised or co-organised heritage events. These events were hosted on both physical and virtual platforms, with over 25,000 unique accounts informed of our events. There were a total of 906 event responses from Facebook users who indicated 'Interested' or 'Going' to these events and a total of 255 ticket clicks recorded on the link to tickets on SHS events. Under the circumstances of Covid-19, Facebook has proven itself to be an effective tool for SHS to continue spreading awareness and capturing the interest of heritage enthusiasts in Singapore through heritage events. Of the 9 events hosted, 2 of them were hosted virtually and saw a positive response from our audience. As the pandemic further unfolds, we seek to bolster our online presence to further our mission of public education in a safe manner.

2. Twitter

SHS Twitter: https://twitter.com/SgHeritage_Soc

The SHS Twitter presence remains complementary to our Facebook engagements and we do not use this platform directly. Our Twitter content directs followers to our Facebook which contain far more information due to the character limit of Twitter. We have a total of 385 followers on Twitter.

3. Instagram

SHS Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/singaporeheritagesociety/>

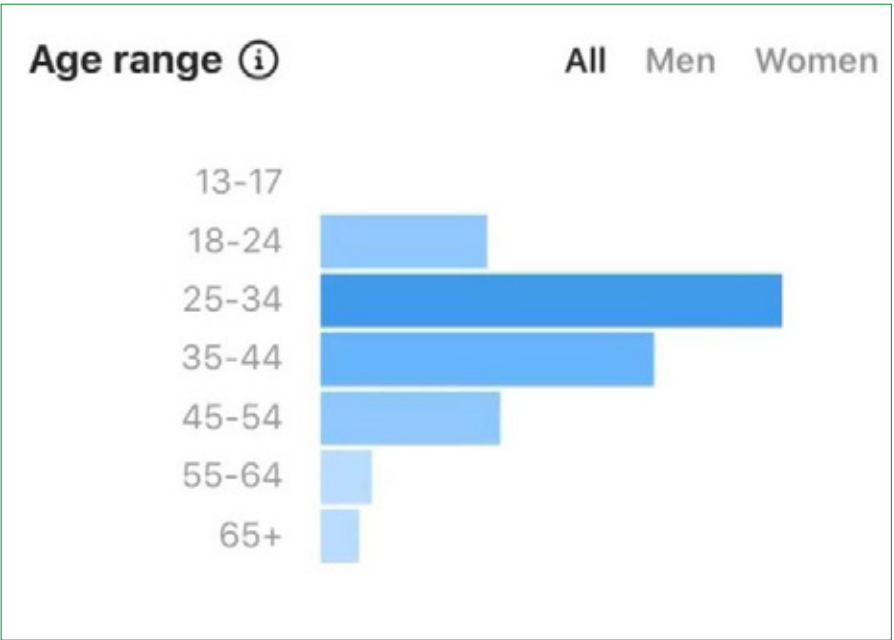
On the SHS Instagram page, we have continued creating unique content to reach a wider audience. Our SHS interns are the creative force behind most of our Instagram

content, documenting our events using Instagram and Instagram Stories.

This includes the Bicentennial Walking Workshops where we have curated a series of Instagram Stories that allow our online audience to experience the various sites featured in the Walking Workshops. For this series of events, we worked with media partners, Our Grandfather Story, where they produced an Instagram Story series for each Workshop and two posts in February 2020. Each story series produced up to 900 profile visits to our Instagram profile and up to 40 new followers.

Our annual International Mother Language Day campaign, where the interns created a series of short clips featuring words of wisdom from various vernacular languages in Singapore, has also received a positive response from our audience.

There was a 65.85% increase in the number of Instagram followers from 984 followers at the start of August 2019 to 1,632 followers in August 2020. The demographics of our Instagram followers reveal that a large proportion of our followers are aged 25-34. This highlights the potential of our Instagram platform to engage a new generation of heritage enthusiasts by offering compelling visual content.



4. Eventbrite

SHS Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.sg/o/singapore-heritage-society-1857396395>

Eventbrite is a ticketing website to broadcast SHS events. For ticketed events, SHS uses Eventbrite as a complementary site to Facebook events function to dispense tickets. Eventbrite has been an effective platform to promote upcoming events and manage event attendees.

In this Financial Year, SHS has hosted one event using Eventbrite, *Food Heritage at Home: An Online Panel of Cooks*. This is the Society's first foray into a fully online session since the onset of Covid-19. It was well-received by the public, with all 151 tickets sold. The encouraging response highlighted the popularity of online seminars and panels in this period of physical restriction. Moving forward, SHS will continue to look into ways to organize engaging online seminars and panels to continue nurturing an interest in heritage amidst the general public.

5. Website

SHS Website: www.singaporeheritage.org

SHS Microsites:

www.singaporeheritage.org/bukitbrownwayfinder

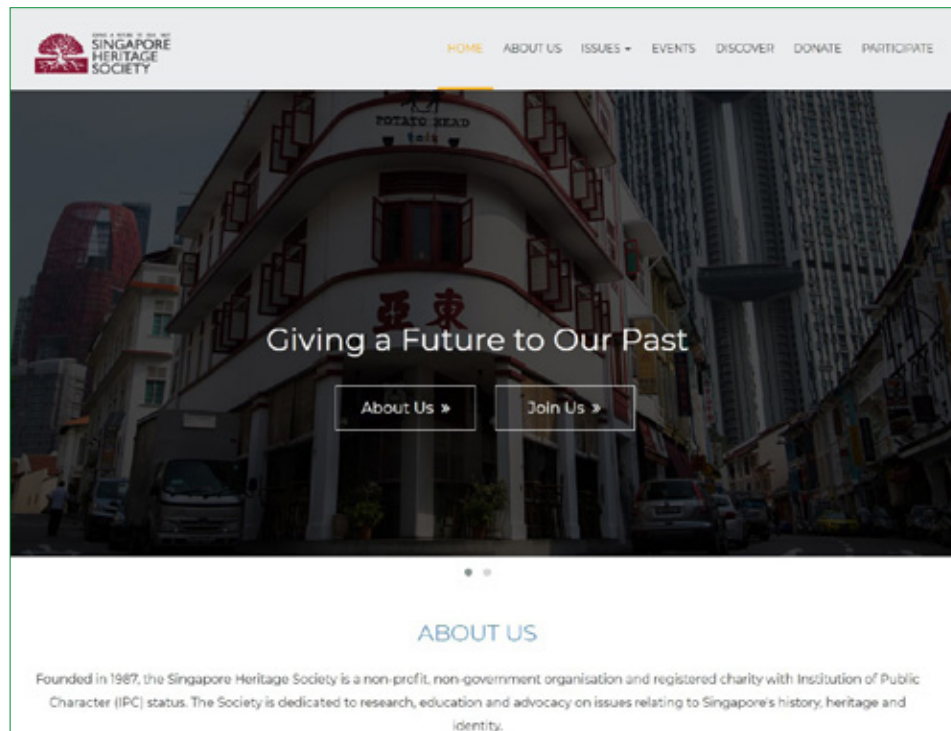
www.singaporeheritage.org/picturingchinatown

www.singaporeheritage.org/railcorridor

SHS maintains a website where we host articles, commentaries, publications and issue-specific microsites. Between August 2019 to July 2020, the SHS Websites (including <http://www.singaporeheritage.org> and the various microsites) have drawn close to 12,000, new users with an average of 1000 users every month. Close to 65% of our new users are acquired through organic search, which highlights continued interest towards the Society and heritage-related issues in Singapore.

As announced previously, a new SHS website continues to be developed by our in-house developers, with content from the existing website brought over and integrated with the new website's design and user interface. The slow process of website migration is due to our limited in-house volunteer manpower with the necessary IT skills, and the importance

of maintaining strict controls for design quality and cyber-security. Below is an image of the landing page of the revamped website.



6. Google Ads

As a registered nonprofit organisation, SHS is a beneficiary of the Google AdGrants program, which offers complimentary advertising credits. As a result, SHS has put up various online advertisements through Google AdWords without having to incur any advertising expenses. Advertisements are essential to cultivate an online presence and increase exposure. In particular, Google Ads drew 173 clicks for the Bukit Brown Wayfinder microsite and 100 clicks for the Singapore Heritage Society website. This is consistent with the trends that the Society has observed in past years.

FUNDRAISING

SHS has continued our long-standing reputation of organising a full year of expert-led events for members and the public. Representatives of SHS were also invited to participate in public events organised by others. Upon invitation, the Society also provides public lectures and tours, primarily to educational and non-profit organisations.

From 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020, SHS organised 9 public events, often with event or venue partners. Of particular note was our series to commemorate the Singapore Bicentennial, of 'walking workshops' to historic places of worship comprising a walking tour, interaction with stakeholders from the historic sites, and a discussion workshop for the participants.

Two government schemes provide increased benefit to SHS in terms of donations.

- SHS is approved by the Ministry of Community, Culture and Youth (MCCY) as an IPC (Institution of Public Character) Charity. This means that donors are able to claim 250% tax relief from their assessable income based on the amount donated.
- SHS is eligible to apply for MCCY's Cultural Matching Fund (CMF), which provides dollar-for-dollar matching grants for private cash donations to registered charities in the arts and heritage sector.

In Financial Year 2020, a total of \$85,003 was raised, a large increase over the previous year's sum of \$19,972. This was the result of one-off events, involving or initiated by external partners, hence it is unlikely that SHS will be able to repeat the fundraising performance of 2020 on a regular basis. The three most important contributing factors were:

- 8th mASEANa International Conference Singapore 2019
This event with high-profile international speakers, held at The URA Centre, attracted individual and corporate donors to support SHS in a substantial way.

2. Community Foundation of Singapore
This organisation is an intermediary to match donors and suitable beneficiaries. In October 2019, CFS approached SHS to learn more about our organisation, and subsequently facilitated a \$10,000 donation to SHS from the Choo-Lim Children's Fund which was seeking to support a heritage charity.
3. National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre (NVPC)'s 15 Shorts project (more details below), which commissioned well-known local filmmakers to produce short films on different causes, and ran a publicity campaign to raise awareness of and donations to 15 selected charities associated with those causes. The scale, budget and reach of NVPC's three-month publicity campaign brought in many new individual donors for SHS.

Fundraising Appeals

1. National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre (NVPC)'s 15 Shorts project

The film *Still Standing*, by local filmmakers Tan Wei Ting and Kirsten Tan, was created as part of the 15 Shorts (www.15shorts.com) project commissioned by the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre (NVPC). This project brought together 15 directors to create films about lesser-known stories of Singapore from the 1970s to 1990s, with each film dedicated to a different charity in Singapore. *Still Standing* was dedicated to SHS, in recognition of SHS' advocacy for conservation of modern built heritage and depicted the story of pioneer architect Tan Cheng Siong's visionary design of Pearl Bank Apartments, as well as the building's eventual redevelopment even as most residents supported voluntary conservation.

First screened at the Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF) on 27 Nov 2019 to a sell-out audience, and subsequently at NVPC's 15 Shorts Grand Finale event on 14 Jan 2020 at the Capitol Theatre. The short film has received over 66,000 views on Youtube as of 30 August 2020. On NVPC's online donation portal, GivingSG, SHS created a fundraising campaign page featuring the short film, with the tagline "Keep our architectural icons alive!", which raised \$2,030 for SHS.

There was also a plan for SHS to organise a film screening and dialogue with Tan Cheng Siong and the filmmakers, with the support of NVPC, but Covid-19 restrictions have forced us to postpone holding the event.



SHS ExCo and Working Team members with *Still Standing* director, Tan Wei Ting at 15 Shorts Grand Finale, held at Capitol Theatre (14 Jan 2020).

2. 8th mASEANa International Conference Singapore 2019

With the assistance of the other co-organisers of this conference, the Docomomo Singapore Working-Group-in-Progress and NUS Department of Architecture, potential individual and corporate donors were approached to contribute to SHS, in support of our work to promote the conservation of modern architecture in Singapore by

bringing in high-profile international experts to speak at this conference.

3. GivingSg's August 2019 focus on heritage

In August 2019, NVPC's online charity giving portal, GivingSG, approached SHS to highlight our fundraising drive for their theme of heritage. In tandem with this, we created an online campaign entitled 'Giving a Future Our Past'. In order to promote the campaign, our volunteers, led by Lynn Wong, crafted a series of nine social media posts, featuring different aspects of SHS's work. Through this experience we learnt the importance of boosting social media reach through paid posts, for which it would be necessary to budget the expenditure for in future.

Below are some of the images the publicity images fundraising campaign on social media:



1. Impact of COVID-19

The pandemic in Singapore worsened in April when the number of infected cases increased, resulting in the implementation of safety measures and the circuit breaker (7 April - 1 Jun). The pandemic impacted a number of SHS' planned activities, including the screening of *Still Standing* by Kirsten Tan which would have coincided with our planned fundraising campaign. After the circuit breaker, other activities continue to be put on hold due to safe distancing measures.

SHS has embraced online tools such as Zoom, GoogleMeet and Skype for internal meetings as well as public events. These have worked well, making attendance much more convenient for our fully-volunteer team, resulting in a higher participation rate for internal meetings.

2. Membership

SHS welcomes all heritage enthusiasts and supporters aged 18 and above to join us as members. Our members believe strongly in SHS's work of speaking up for heritage conservation, and our activities, social media updates and regular mailers help them to stay abreast of current affairs relating to heritage, as well as their knowledge of Singapore history and heritage, helping them to participate more effectively in public discussions on heritage issues. They also enjoy exclusive or priority and discounted access to SHS's activities such as tours, talks and workshops.

These are the categories of members and respective subscription fees:

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| ORDINARY/ASSOCIATE MEMBER | |
| Ordinary Member: Singapore Citizens / PR, 21 years & above | 1-Year Membership Fee: \$60 |
| Associate Member: Foreigners living in Singapore, 21 years & above | 3-Year Membership Fee: \$160 |
| STUDENT MEMBER | |
| Students living in Singapore, 18 years & above | 1-Year Membership Fee: \$30 |
| | 3-Year Membership Fee: \$75 |
| CORPORATE MEMBER | |
| Organisations based in Singapore | 1-Year Membership Fee: \$1000 |

The membership application form can be downloaded at www.singaporeheritage.org/?page_id=72.

As of 31 July 2020, the membership stands at

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| ORDINARY MEMBERS | 160 |
| ASSOCIATE MEMBERS | 21 |
| STUDENT MEMBERS | 9 |
| CORPORATE MEMBERS | 1 |
| TOTAL | 191 |

This is a drop compared to one year ago, where we had 225 fully-paid up members on the 1st of July 2020. The Society will need to look at ways to retain and more importantly attract new members.



SHS President, Dr Jack Tsen-Ta Lee, in group discussions with participants at Bicentennial Walking Workshop 1: "Between skyscrapers & MRT: historic places of worship" (29 Sep 2019)

3. Improved Membership Database

We are currently working on improving our processes for membership registration, renewal and payment. In March 2020, we uploaded the membership roll onto online cloud storage. This allows easier access to the membership database by our secretariat and ExCo, for more efficient updating. This was also done because the Society has been

looking for a suitable Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software to help manage the membership database and this interim step will help to facilitate the implementation of the CRM software once we have acquired it.

In order to secure the membership roll from unauthorized access, the society has created a set of policies that govern who can access and update the membership roll. The policy paper also sets out what the personal data of our members can be used for and what steps the society will do in the event of a data breach.

4. SHS Internship Programme

SHS has been offering internships to Singaporean students and young people aged 17 to 30 since 2015. The internship is a 7-month programme which is offered up to twice a year, with intakes in January and May, for up to 5 interns each time. Selection is a stringent three-stage process, and successful applicants are personally mentored by SHS's Executive Director, Dr Chua Ai Lin. During the internship, they are exposed to all aspects of SHS's work including events management, social media communications, policy issues, interfacing with public agencies and community stakeholders, field research, and aspects of organisational management. SHS has gained a reputation for a strong internship programme and consistently attracts strong applicants.



SHS Interns (Jan-Jul 2020) and Dr Chua Ai Lin, attending an Indian Muslim culinary heritage workshop conducted by Spice Zi Kitchen (22 Aug 2020)

For the January 2020 intake, 4 interns were selected:

- Ang Siew Ching, former Art educator at Junior College and Secondary School level
- Barry Lee, Oxford University, Geography, to enroll in September 2020
- Chelsea Wee, LaSalle College of the Arts, Interior Design, final year
- Nathaniel Tan Wei, National University of Singapore, Geography, third year student

Some key responsibilities of this batch of interns have been:

- jointly running SHS's social media channels on Facebook and Instagram
- conceptualising and producing a series of four videos of words of wisdom in heritage language to promote International Mother Languages Day.
- assisting in conceptualising, liaising with partners, preparations and publicity for online events, "Singapore Heritage Festival: Ordinary Objects with Extraordinary Stories" and "Food Heritage at Home: An Online Panel of Cooks".

The January 2020 batch of interns have performed very well and we are pleased that all four have shown keen interest to continue actively volunteering with SHS.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions on group activities and the consequent impact on SHS's activities, we decided not to call for a second batch of interns in May 2020 as we would not be able to provide a good internship experience for them.

5. SHS Working Team

The SHS Working Team comprises selected graduates of the SHS Internship Programme and a few early-career professionals. They regularly shadow Executive Committee members and assist the ExCo in organising the Society's work, particularly in running outreach events.



SHS Working Team volunteers supporting our Bicentennial Walking Workshop 3: Continuity & succession in Cantonment & Bukit Pasoh, at Kong Chow Wui Koon (24 Nov 2019)

6. Capacity Building

In addition to regularly attending public events relating to heritage management, our Executive Committee officeholders and Executive Director aim to enhance their skills in charities governance and nonprofit organisation management. SHS also actively encourages and supports key volunteers to attend such workshops and seminars. This

| EVENT | ORGANISER | DATES | VENUE |
|--|---|-------------|-----------------|
| Meeting with Corinna Lim, Executive Director of AWARE, to learn from their experience in organisational development, fundraising and income-generation | SHS | 5 Feb 2020 | AWARE |
| Webinar on "Fundraising Online for Charities" | Commissioner of Charities & Singapore University of Social Sciences | 18 Apr 2020 | Online via Zoom |

SHS ExCo members and volunteers met with staff of AWARE, Executive Director, Corrina Lim, and Head of Advocacy & Research, Shailey Hingorani (5 Feb 2020)



knowledge is also acquired through direct interaction with grant-awarding bodies and charities regulatory authorities.

SHS ExCo also deepened our knowledge of the nonprofit sector through the following sessions with other nonprofit organisations and agencies in the sector.

7. Volunteer Matching

The National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre's (NVPC) Centre for Nonprofit Leadership (CNPL) reached out to SHS to introduce a few potential leadership-level volunteers. In CNPL's outreach talks to professional associations, they encountered individuals interested in volunteering for heritage causes. Covid-19 restrictions on group activities have constrained the opportunities for getting to know potential new volunteers and exposing them to SHS's organisational management and strategic activities, but we continue to stay in touch with and await suitable opportunities to do so in the forthcoming year.

8. Search For SHS Workspace

Prior to Covid-19, SHS was actively looking for a physical base to strengthen organisational identity and interpersonal relationships for the sustainability of the organisation. ExCo members met with a few potential venue sponsors and viewed a potential workspace. However, with Covid-19 safe distancing measures in place for an uncertain length of time, we have placed our search on hold for the time being.

As required by IPC Regulations 16(1)(d), SHS's fundraising, expenditure and programmes planned for the following twelve months, from August 2020 to July 2021, are broadly laid out below.

1. Programmes & Activities

We will continue with initiatives currently already underway as well as continue with research, public education and advocacy efforts in our major areas of interest.

1.1. Built heritage

- a. Representation on URA committees: Heritage & Identity Partnership by Dr Jack Tsen-Ta Lee and the Design Advisory Panel (Conservation) by Dr Chua Ai Lin.
- b. Partnership with Docomomo Singapore Working Group-in-progress for documentation and public education activities.

1.2. Historic places of worship

- a. Launch of visual web story by media partners, Kontinentalist, on 3 Sep 2020 with accompanying social media publicity.



SHS Executive Director, Dr Chua Ai Lin speaking at the mASEANa International Conference (31 Oct 2019)

- b. Digitisation of rare liturgical manuscripts at Seng Wong Beo temple, funded by National Heritage Board Digital Project Grant.
- c. Sonic artwork sonic work which contemplates on the conservation of historic places of worship sites, subject to successful application for National Arts Council grant.
- d. Training of facilitators to continue existing research and outreach initiatives.

1.3. Intangible heritage

- a. Continuation of research study on “The evolution of Singapore’s Hawker Culture: street food and changing landscapes”.
- b. Representation on NHB’s Stewards of Singapore’s Intangible Cultural Heritage Award Evaluation Panel by Dr Rizwana Abdul Azeez.
- c. Public awareness activities about heritage languages to celebrate International Mother Languages Day on 21 February 2021.
- d. Running “Heritage Languages of Singapore” Facebook group.
- e. Running “Heritage Singapore Food” Facebook group.

1.4. Bukit Brown

- a. Co-chair for Bukit Brown Work Group, along with NHB.
- b. Advise Work Group on selection, curation and public display of salvaged artefacts.
- c. Maintenance of Wayfinder self-guided trail signages.

1.5. Pulau Ubin

- a. Representation in Friends of Ubin Network, chaired by MND and NParks.
- b. Organising Kawan Ubin activities to revitalise the Ubin kampung community.

- c. Public education programmes involving Ubin islanders, together with partners from Kawan Ubin.
- d. Presenting public education activities for Pesta Ubin/ Ubin Day 2021.
- e. Running “Pulau Ubin” Facebook group.

1.6. Chinatown / Kreta Ayer

- a. Representation in STB’s Chinatown Work Group by Victor Yue.
- b. Panel discussion on a traditional festival popular in Kreta Ayer in the past.
- c. Organise walking tours of Chinatown / Kreta Ayer.
- d. Continue existing cultural mapping initiatives.
- e. Running “Bullockcartwater” Facebook group.

1.7. Others

- a. SHS Internship
- b. Representation on various committees and advisory panel in the public sector, nongovernmental sector, within Singapore and at regional and international levels
- c. “Heritage Explorers” workshops for primary school students, subject to receiving sufficient financial support through grants or donations

2. Organisational development

Plans for organisational development in the coming year include:

2.1. Search for a home for SHS

Subject to the uncertainties of the Covid-19 pandemic, SHS’s long term objective is to find a fixed location for the Society’s meetings and activities.

2.2. Mentoring a young heritage volunteers

Through the SHS internship programme and youth Working

Team, young heritage volunteers are closely mentored to gain deeper knowledge and skills relating to heritage advocacy and nonprofit organisation management.

2.3. Launch of revamped SHS Website

A revamped SHS website will be launched, with gradual addition of new, and archival content. We also aim to train and search for additional trusted volunteers to assist with running out website.

2.4. IT productivity solutions

We plan to improve collaborative working efficiency of our team of volunteers and Executive Committee with greater use of tools such as shared cloud storage.

2.5. Membership Processes

We are currently reviewing membership registration and renewal processes for standardisation, compliance with Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) guidelines, better governance, as well as ease of use for members.

3. Fundraising plans

3.1. Outreach event for potential donors

Postponed from March 2020, and supported by the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre, this event is intended to give potential donors information on the impact of SHS's programmes and activities and an opportunity to interact with SHS ExCo and Working Team.

3.2. Community Foundation of Singapore partnership

SHS is currently in the process of working closely with the Community Foundation of Singapore (CFS) to craft project proposal(s) which CFS will pitch to potential donors.

3.3. Direct appeal to individual donors

4. Expenditure Plans

A. Fundraising expenses

SHS typically does not spend on fundraising activities. Moving forward, we will try to rely on volunteer and pro bono assistance for fundraising, with a small budget for paid social media posts and printing of limited copies of collaterals for potential donors

B. Governance costs

For the forthcoming year, we do not anticipate any increase in our accounting and auditing costs. We will be working towards a more stringent and efficient financial management system to ease our administrative workload as well as complying with the respective government agencies' requirements. We are working on the Commissioner of Charities' recommendations and guides to achieve this.

C. Charitable activities

Nearly all our programmes are free or at minimal cost to fulfil our objective of public education. We are able to sustain this through the hard work of pro bono volunteers and support from our partners in the public and private sectors. Larger projects are funded through government project grants or payment for commissioned work. In all activities the Society has organised, every effort has been made to ensure that each event and project is self-funding.

However, as we increase our community-based work, particularly on Pulau Ubin, we will need to seek additional funds to cover basic expenses such as transport and meals for our interns and volunteers.

We also require to purchase public liability insurance for our public events, and some event venue partners/sponsors require that SHS is covered by public liability insurance before approving the use of their premises.

D. Administrative / overheads

SHS operating costs are gradually rising due to inflation. Moving forward, we anticipate a growing pressure from funds required to efficiently execute SHS's programmes, which have grown in volume, scale and complexity over the years, and depend on a growing pool of core volunteers. Web hosting, as well as online productivity solutions such as cloud storage, and IT services such anti-virus software require paid subscriptions. We intend to tap on the government Charity Council's VWOs-Charities Capability Fund ICT Grant for our IT needs.

Other required operating expenses include bank charges, printing and stationery, postage, storage services for organisational files, transport and refreshments for the Annual General Meeting.

If we are successful in raising sufficient funds to rent a suitable workspace, in tandem with finding a venue partner prepared to offer discounted rental rates, this will be an additional, new expenditure for SHS.

The Executive Committee's role is to provide strategic direction and oversight of Singapore Heritage Society's programmes and objectives and to steer the charity towards fulfilling its vision and mission through good governance. The Executive Committee also organises and supervises the daily activities of the Society and makes decisions on matters affecting its running, assisted by the Executive Director.

1. Term Limits Of Executive Committee President And Honorary Treasurer

To enable succession planning and steady renewal in the spirit of sustainability of the organisation, there are term limits for the following positions on the Executive Committee:

- President - term limit of three terms (six years)
- Hon Treasurer - term limit of two years (four years)

2. Executive Committee Meetings And Attendance

A total of 6 Executive Committee meetings and 1 AGM were held from 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020. The following sets out individual Executive Committee member's attendance at the meetings.

| NAME | POSITION | ATTENDANCE |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Dr Jack Lee | President | 6/6 |
| Dr Chua Ai Lin | Vice-President | 5/6 |
| Yue Seong Swee Victor | Honorary Treasurer | 6/6 |
| Han Ming Guang | Honorary Secretary | 6/6 |
| Dr Natalie Pang | ExCo Member | 6/6 |
| Eliza Pang | ExCo Member | 4/6 |
| Kok Heng Leun | ExCo Member | 4/6 |
| Rizwana Begum | ExCo Member | 6/6 |
| Tony Tan (Resigned January 2020) | ExCo Member | 1/2 |
| Tan Wee Cheng (Resigned January 2020) | ExCo Member | 0/2 |
| Jonathon Poh (Co-opted January 2020) | ExCo Member | 4/4 |

3. Disclosure Of Remuneration Received By Executive Committee Members

No Executive Committee members are remunerated for their Executive Committee services during the Financial Year.

4. Disclosure Of Remuneration Of Staff

Dr Chua Ai Lin, who serves as the Vice-President of the Executive Committee, is contracted to provide services as the Society's Executive Director and received a remuneration of \$18,000 for Executive Director services during the Financial Year. Dr Chua recused herself from all Executive Committee decisions regarding her employment and remuneration.

5. Financial Statements

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 consulting and other ventures.

The Society's Financial Statement for the financial year ended 31 March 2020 are appended.

6. Finance & Funding Policy

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.

7. Reserves Policy

The Society regards its accumulated fund as its reserves. The Society's objective when managing its accumulated fund is to safeguard the Society's ability to continue as a going concern, so that it can continue to provide services for the benefit of its members and other Stakeholders.

The Society monitors its accumulated fund on a prudent basis and it does not utilise any external debt from financial institutions. The capital structure of the Society consists of cash and cash equivalents and accumulated fund.

As of 31 March 2020, the ratio of reserves to recurring operating expenses and ratio of reserves to total expenses including project costs are 6.6 times and 2.8 times respectively. The Society's ratio of cash and bank balances to committed recurring operating expenses is 6.6 times.

8. Conflict Of Interest Policy

All Exco members and ordinary members of SHS are required to make full disclosure of any interests, relationships, and holdings that could potentially result in a conflict of interest. When a conflict of interest situation arises, the member shall abstain from participating in the discussion, decision-making and voting on the matter.