

Singapore
Heritage
Society

Annual
Report

For Year Ended
31 March 2021

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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 2021 to 13 July 2023.

UEN Number

S87SS0042J

Registered Address

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

Auditors

Hoon Tai Meng & Co.

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Highlights of the Year

May 2020

Establishment of the Southeast Asian Cultural Heritage Alliance (SEACHA)

Oct 2020

International National Trusts Organisation (INTO) Incubator Programme on strategic change for heritage organisations

Oct 2020 – Mar 2021

- Digitisation of rare handwritten liturgical manuscripts in Seng Wong Beo temple (estb.1905)
- “Unearthing the Underground” - 3D scanning and documentary about underground grave artefacts from Bukit Brown

Feb 2021 – Feb 2022

“Singapore, the Angelbeek Report and the ‘Donation’ of Empire, 1812-1825” archival research project

Feb – Apr 2021

Bukit Brown outdoor installation participatory design workshops

N.B.: Further details of the above can be found in the sections, “Networking & partnerships” and “Research & advocacy”



Site recce at Bukit Brown as part of the participatory design process.

Message from our President

A warm welcome to the Singapore Heritage Society's Annual General Meeting for 2021 which, unfortunately due to the continuing COVID-19 situation, is to be held online again.

Due to a change in the reporting period from 1 August – 31 July to 1 April – 31 March requested by the Charities Unit of the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, do note that there is some repetition in this report of events mentioned in last year's annual report.

Pandemic-control restrictions imposed by the Government meant it was not convenient for the Society to hold in-person tours and other events. Nonetheless, the Society organised and took part in a number of online events such as the panel discussion titled, Food heritage at Home: An Online Panel of Cooks in May 2020 and the Singapore Heritage Festival in June 2020.

Some relaxation of the restrictions this year enabled me to give the following presentations in person. In February 2021, I spoke about SHS's role at a course held in Yale-NUS College and in March 2021, I gave a lecture at the School of Design and Environment at NUS.

The Society also completed two digitisation projects. The first involved the cataloguing and digitisation of some rare liturgical manuscripts owned by the Seng Wong Beo. The other, involved the three-dimensional scanning of various artefacts recovered from graves in Bukit Brown Cemetery and the production of a documentary. We are grateful to the NHB for funding these projects through its Digital Project Grants.

In February 2021, the Society successfully applied for a heritage research grant from the NHB for a new project entitled Singapore, the Angelbeek Report and the 'Donation' of Empire, 1812–1825. Helmed by Assoc Prof Peter Borschberg (Department of History, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, NUS), Mr Kwa Chong Guan (S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University) and Mr Benjamin Khoo, the project seeks to compile, translate and edit a collection of Dutch documents on the implementation of the 1824 Anglo–Dutch Treaty.

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My fellow Executive Committee members and I have continued representing the Society on various advisory committees established by the NHB, the Urban Redevelopment Authority, and other government agencies and organisations. In particular, I was a member of the Nomination Committee for the Inscription of Hawker Culture in Singapore to the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. In addition, Natalie Pang and I, as members of the board of directors of the Southeast Asian Cultural Heritage Alliance (SEACHA), have been involved in the Alliance's activities, in particular moderating a number of 'Cha-Time' online talks on varied aspects of cultural heritage in ASEAN.

The Executive Committee has spent time considering how it can operate more efficiently and effectively, and has decided to set up three subcommittees: a Governance Subcommittee chaired by me, and an Outreach and Fund-Raising Subcommittee, and a Research and Advocacy Subcommittee currently headed by Jonathan Poh and Natalie Pang respectively as interim chairs. We hope that these subcommittees will help to streamline the Society's functions and activities.

Looking ahead, in the next few years the Society expects to be heavily involved in collaborating with members of the Bukit Brown Working Group, which include government agencies and civil society groups, to develop an open-air installation of grave artifacts in Bukit Brown Cemetery. The Society also aims to make a submission on how heritage should be taken into account in planning Singapore's land use over the next half-century and beyond to the URA for its Long-Term Plan Review. We look forward to sharing details of these activities with you when we are able to.



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. Two elected ExCo members stepped down in January 2020 and Jonathan Poh was co-opted to fill one of the empty positions. We have been able to successfully manage leadership succession, balancing a good mix of experienced and new members on the ExCo. Our four officeholders continued for a second term in their respective offices, and half of the committee comprises new members elected to ExCo for the first time.

Executive Committee

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, Singapore Heritage Society	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)	Assistant Senior Manager, Organisational Excellence Transformation Unit, Office of the President, National University of Singapore	
Dr Rizwana Abdul Azeez	ExCo Member	Independent Researcher	
Mr Kok Heng Leun	ExCo Member	Artistic Director, Drama Box	

NAME	CURRENT APPOINTMENT	OCCUPATION	PAST APPOINTMENTS IN SHS EXCO
Ms Eliza Pang	ExCo Member	Finance Performance Controller ASP, Yunex Pte Ltd	
Dr Natalie Pang	ExCo Member	Senior Lecturer, National University of Singapore	
Mr Jonathan Poh	ExCo Member (co-opted Jan 2020)	Partner of WY-TO and Founder of Provolk Architects	

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

Research & Advocacy

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.

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, "Representation on committees & public sector engagement");
- Participation at government feedback sessions (see section, "Representation on committees & public sector engagement");
- Organising and participating in talks, forums, seminars and tours open to SHS members and the public (see section, "Public Outreach");
- Presenting at academic conferences
- Interviews with the media (see section, "Media Coverage");
- Disseminating information online (see section, "Online Presence");
- Publications for the general public and scholarly audience (see section, "Publications")

The key issues of concern for SHS at this time are:

- Modern architecture
- Bukit Brown
- Pulau Ubin
- Chinatown/ Kreta Ayer
- Historic places of worship
- Intangible Cultural Heritage

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1. 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. Our key partner in this cause is the [Singapore chapter of Docomomo](#) (Documentation and Conservation of Buildings, Sites and Neighbourhoods of Modern Movement), which was formally established in early 2021.

a. Proposed conservation of Golden Mile Complex, October 2020

In 2018, three significant modernist icons Golden Mile Complex, People's Park Complex and Pearl Bank Apartments were at risk of collective sale and demolition, which prompted SHS to release a position paper entitled [Too Young To Die: Giving New Lease of Life to Singapore's Modernist Icons](#) and a series of public outreach events calling for their conservation. Pearl Bank Apartments, was sold en bloc in February 2018, but unfortunately, efforts to conserve the building were unsuccessful and demolition began in May 2019. However, in line with SHS's recommendations, prior to the completion of a collective sale, the Urban Redevelopment Authority [announced](#) on 10 October 2020 that "Golden Mile Complex will be proposed for conservation in view of its historical and architectural significance. A set of planning incentives will also be offered to support the adaptive reuse and commercial viability of the building given the building owners' interest in a collective sale." This marks the first time that a multiple-owner, strata-titled modernist structure of this huge scale has been proposed for conservation, opening opportunities for innovative ideas to rejuvenate modernist built heritage.

b. Publication of proceedings of the 8th mASEANa International Conference Singapore, *Rejuvenating Mid-Century Modern Architecture in Southeast Asia*.

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 8th mASEANa International Conference in Singapore (31 Oct to 2 Nov 2019, at the URA Centre) was organised by the then 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). 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.

Following the conference, 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, the report is available [online](#) and has been reviewed in [docomomo Journal 63 – Tropical Architecture in the Modern Diaspora \(2020\)](#).



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

c. “Modernist 100” project, in partnership with Docomomo Singapore

Also resulting from the 2019 mASEANa conference is the “Modernist 100”, an on-going documentation of the significant modernist buildings in Singapore, “not just in architectural aesthetics but also constructional and environmental techniques, socio-economic processes, cultures, and political rationalities. The quantity and diversity are rooted in Singapore’s short but vibrant history variously as a colonial port city, a post-independent developmental state, and a contemporary global city.” This work-in-progress inventory is [available online](#) as a list, or on a map, at the [Docomomo Singapore website](#).

d. Participation in expert's workshop on post-independence buildings in Singapore, 7 October 2020

Dr Chua Ai Lin, SHS' Executive Director, was invited to attend this online event organised by the Centre for Sustainable Asian Cities (CSAC), School of Design and Environment (SDE) – National University of Singapore to gather views from experts in the field for the research project on “Developing a Decision-Support Tool for the conservation of significant post-independence buildings in Singapore”. The lead researchers for the project are Associate Professor Johannes Widodo and Mr Ho Weng Hin.

e. 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 August 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.

- iii. Architectural Heritage Awards Assessment Committee
Dr Chua Ai Lin, has been appointed as a member for the 2021-2024 cycle.

2. Bukit Brown

Since the announcement in 2011 of a new highway that would cut through Bukit Brown Cemetery, SHS has advocated for thorough historical documentation and research to underpin the proper consideration of heritage in land 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.

a. Bukit Brown Work Group

The Bukit Brown Work Group, formerly chaired by the the Ministry of National Development (MND), is now led by the National Heritage Board (NHB) and comprises representatives from those government agencies as well as the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), and non-governmental groups SHS and All Things Bukit Brown. Since its inception in 2014, the Work Group has worked on proposals from SHS and All Things Bukit Brown (atBB) to safeguard historical artefacts in the cemetery and enhance the visitor experience. Besides producing a self-guided trail ("[Bukit Brown Wayfinder](#)")



Site visit to Bukit Brown by members of the Work Group, 30 Jan 2021.

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in 2017, the Work Group has focused its efforts on salvaging artefacts affected by construction works based on a recommended list compiled by SHS and atBB, and proposed that a curated selection of these be displayed outdoors within open spaces in Bukit Brown cemetery. In the year under review, the Work Group conducted site visits to evaluate possible open spaces for the display, as well as to assess salvaged artefacts currently held in storage, and embarked on a participatory design process for the outdoor installation.

b. Bukit Brown Participatory Design Workshops

SHS and NHB worked together to initiate a participatory design process for an outdoor installation commemorating the history and heritage of Bukit Brown, which would incorporate a selection of artefacts salvaged from the highway construction. NHB appointed [Chemistry](#), a strategic consultancy to design the participatory process and installation. A total of five half-day, participatory design workshops were held from 27 February to 17 April 2021. With representatives from SHS and atBB forming the core participants, three of the workshops included descendants of historical figures buried in Bukit Brown, the former resident of a kampung located within the cemetery, educators and



Bukit Brown participatory design workshop session held at the Asian Civilisations Museum.



Facebook post by Minister for National Development, Desmond Lee, about the Bukit Brown participatory workshops.

students, tour organisers, artists, as well as NHB. As Covid-19 regulations allowed in-person workshops to be held during this period, the sessions were held at the Asian Civilisations Museum. Minister for National Development, Desmond Lee, dropped by one of the sessions to meet participants and encourage further collaboration between the community and government agencies. It is intended that funding will be secured for the NHB-SHS-atBB collaboration to continue to realise the ideas developed during the participatory design workshops.

c. “Unearthing the Underground” project: 3D scans of underground artefacts at Bukit Brown Cemetery

While many know about the documentation of over 5000 exhumed graves at Bukit Brown, less is known about the documentation of around 3,723 underground artefacts which was led by Angela Goh, an archaeologist and physical anthropologist. The work was carried out from 2013 to 2014, with pictures of each item taken from multiple angles and sorted by peg number and general

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type, such as jade bangles, hairpins, bracelets, miniature vessels, coins, and other miscellaneous artefacts. While the earlier documentation was successful in gathering information in huge volumes, this information is primarily stored in Excel sheets or folders in individual hard drives, making it largely inaccessible and/or unknown to the public. Additionally, the visualisation of archival material was primarily static and non-interactive, encompassing an indiscriminate mass of text, tables, and images. In images alone, there were up to 26,188 files that were not sorted into any category. The passive visuals, usually captured as 2D static photographs are also relatively inadequate in terms of using them for further visualisations and public engagement/learning.

Our goals for this project, which was funded by the National Heritage Board’s Digital Project Grant, can thus be summarized under two fundamental objectives:

- i. To explore and expand methods of digital visualisation in order to reduce the impact of the physical loss of archival material post-disposal
- ii. Exploring more dynamic methods for organizing as well as engaging with heritage artefacts

There were two main components of the project: 3D digitisation work of selected artefacts, as well as interviews conducted with academics, activists, caretakers, a Taoist Master and next-of-kin. The work was



Picture of everyday items which were digitised – Pocket watch, perfume bottle and dropper, cigarette holder and reflective of the society in older times.



Photo-capturing setup with the camera mounted on a tripod, while the artefact is placed inside the light box.

carried out from January to May 2021, and other than 3D digitisation of selected artefacts, a short documentary was also produced as a key output of the project.

3. 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.

Covid-19 restrictions have [impacted the lives of residents and businesses on the island](#), bumboat transport to and from the island, while simultaneously increasing interest from the public seeking outdoor leisure activities within Singapore.

a. Friends of Ubin Network (FUN) & Kawan Ubin sub-group

SHS has continued promoting and advocating for the cultural heritage of Pulau Ubin via the [Friends of Ubin Network](#) since its inception in 2014. Chaired by Minister for National Development, Desmond Lee, and led by the National Parks Board (NParks), 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,

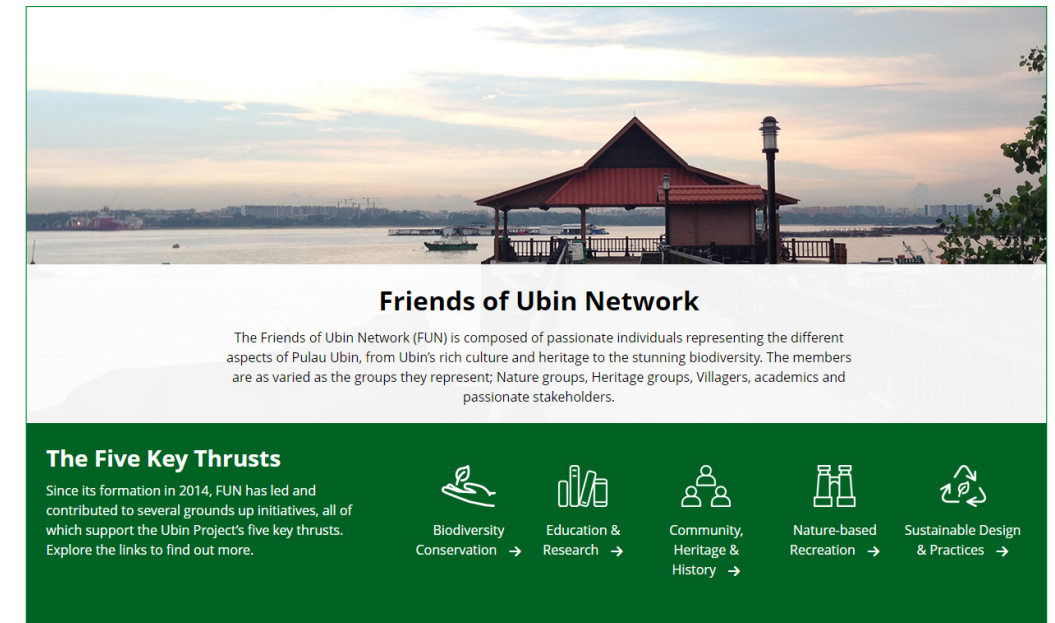
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About the Friends of Ubin Network, from the NParks website.

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educational institutes and individuals. During this time, FUN meetings continue to be held quarterly as online meetings. SHS is the convenor of 'Kawan Ubin', a sub-group under FUN which focuses on community and living heritage issues.

Due to Covid-19, a number of meetings and activities planned under FUN were cancelled. Kawan Ubin continued working with the Community Liaison Team under NParks to monitor the well-being of Ubin residents especially during the circuit breaker, for example, by contacting Ubin residents and their families to inquire how they were coping. One of SHS's Kawan Ubin partners, the Accessible Ubin initiative, [assisted a wheelchair-bound Ubin resident](#) to travel to his medical appointments on the mainland in May 2020. 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, and participated in informal discussions with NParks on possible future uses for uninhabited, wooden kampung houses remaining on Pulau Ubin.

This year, SHS was unable to participate in NParks' annual Ubin Day on 26 September 2020, as it clashed with the Society's Annual General Meeting.

b. Pulau Ubin Facebook Group

The [Pulau Ubin Facebook Group](#) was founded on 12 May 2014 by SHS Executive Committee members Chua Ai Lin and Victor Yue, and jointly managed with nature advocate, Ria Tan, provides a common platform for the public to share and discuss Pulau Ubin related news and information. 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 on travel and safe distancing rules. As of 17 August 2021, there are approximately 6,600 members, almost double the figure of 3,437 members as of 6 Aug 2020, as compared to 2,837 members on 12 August 2019, and 2,607 members in August 2018. With an exponential growth of members in the last year, and correspondingly, increasing moderation needs, the administration team was expanded and currently, the Pulau Ubin Facebook Group is run as a collective effort by heritage and nature advocates who are members of the Friends of Ubin Network. The group can be found at www.facebook.com/groups/pulau.ubin, not to be confused with a number of other Facebook Groups that bear similar names.

c. Pulau Ubin Virtual Heritage Tour

As part of Pesta Ubin 2020, the Singapore Heritage Society (SHS) with Kawan Ubin and National University of Singapore, Department of Architecture organized the Pulau Ubin Heritage Virtual Tour, led by Prof Tan Beng Kiang (English) and Tan Beng Luan (Chinese) via Zoom, with participation from former Ubin residents like Mr Chua Yong Liang. Two iterations of the virtual tour were conducted on 19 and 20 September. The first tour was conducted in Mandarin and Teochew for the current and former residents of Pulau Ubin, and their family members – a small, intimate event which 14 people signed up for. The second tour was conducted in English, targeted at the general public, which received an overwhelming response of 240 registrations.

From over two hundred collected responses, the top three characteristics that tour participants loved about

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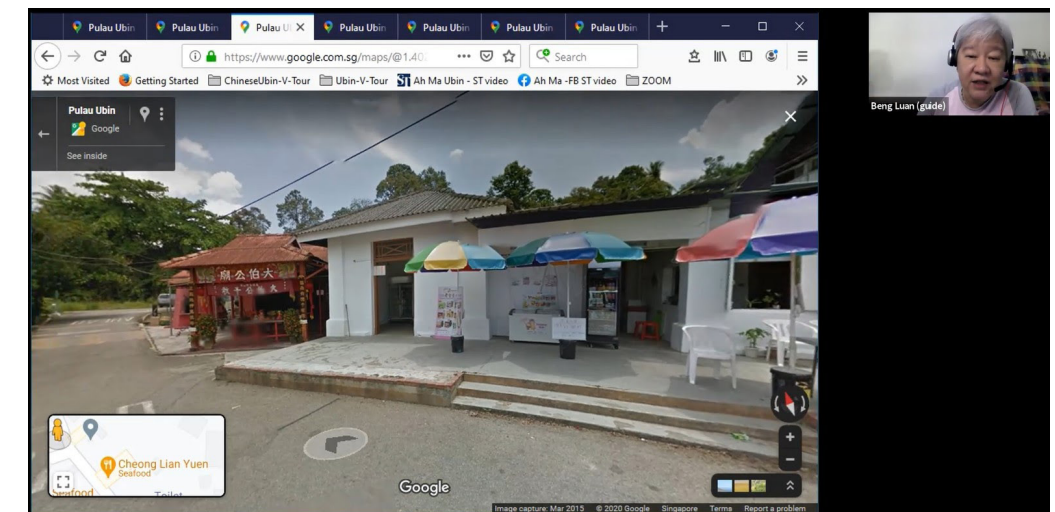
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The Pulau Ubin Virtual Heritage Tour conducted via Zoom, used resources like Google Street View and online references.



Pulau Ubin are the nature, its rusticity and its kampung. The Pulau Ubin Heritage Virtual Tour is part of the ongoing efforts by Kawan Ubin with the long-term goal to highlight the island's heritage through expressing collective memories of the past community life in Pulau Ubin, strengthen cohesiveness by providing opportunities for Ubin families past and present to reconnect with each other and the island, and more importantly, to provide an opportunity for collective envisioning of the future of Pulau Ubin.

4. 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 in our publication,

Rethinking Chinatown and Heritage Conservation in Singapore

(Singapore Heritage Society, 2000; now available as a free PDF on our website). Today, we aim to research and take stock of the changes in the area, build relations with people and organisations in the area as well as relevant government agencies, and create greater public awareness of the cultural assets in the area, to work towards our vision of having heritage, cultural and community stakeholders on the ground play a greater role in shaping the development of Chinatown.

Heavily dependent on tourist traffic, Chinatown's businesses have been particularly hard hit by Covid-19, and even hawker centres and wet markets which primarily serve local clientele have been affected by intermittent enforced closures. A noticeable number of businesses and stalls closed down during this period.

a. Singapore Tourism Board (STB) Chinatown Work Group

SHS participates actively in the network of stakeholders in the Singapore Tourism Board's Chinatown Work Group. Meetings continue to be held online and discussions are focused on how to address the current setbacks and planning ahead.

b. Bullockcartwater 牛车水 Kreta Ayer Facebook Group

Established by Victor Yue, who is a lifelong Chinatown resident and current SHS ExCo member, the [Bullockcartwater 牛车水 Kreta Ayer Facebook Group](#) is a platform for anyone interested in Chinatown to stay abreast of local happenings and connect with each other. There are approximately 1,800 members in August 2021 only a slight increase over the 1,700 members in August 2020.

c. Informal networking with local stakeholders

Even whilst physical gatherings have been restricted, SHS has continued informal communications by meeting in small groups when permitted, or using communications platforms like Whatsapp and Facebook. Among the topics discussed were the impact of Covid-19 on heritage-related businesses and on intangible cultural heritage practices, such as the Chinese 7th Month events which are very significant in the community but have now been

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SHS ExCo member, Victor Yue, shopping for Chinese New Year festive shirt and mask at Mr Abdul Kader's Best Classic Corner stall, in Chinatown Complex during the pandemic (Jan 2021).



scaled down or stopped. Plans to organise a public talk at the Chinatown Heritage Centre in August 2020 – in the vein of the highly-successful event SHS organised there in 2019 – were postponed, and in April 2021, it was announced that the [Chinatown Heritage Centre would be closed indefinitely](#).

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

A two-year research project entitled "Integrating Heritage in Singapore's Urban Development: Research on Historic Places of Worship in Telok Ayer, Tanjong Pagar, and Tanjong Malang" funded by the National Heritage Board's Heritage Research Grant was completed in September 2018, in which we studied questions of sustainability and cultural heritage transmission at 21 sites. Subsequently, additional grants from NHB and the Ministry of Community, Culture and Youth (MCCY)'s Community Integration Fund supported a series of four 'Walking Workshops' which combined walking trails and discussion workshops of the sites, which were held between September and December 2019. Our researchers have continued with public education efforts, as well as maintaining a relationship with the stakeholders at these sites, paying particular attention to urgent issues and how these sites have been impacted by Covid-19.

a. Singapore Heritage Festival: "Ordinary Objects with Extraordinary Stories" online presentation (21 June 2020)

SHS was invited by the National Heritage Board to give a

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



presentation for the fully-online 2020 Singapore Heritage Festival, with the assistance of a media production team engaged by NHB. Project researchers, Lynn Wong, Fauzy Ismail, supported by 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 , for live streaming on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) by NHB.

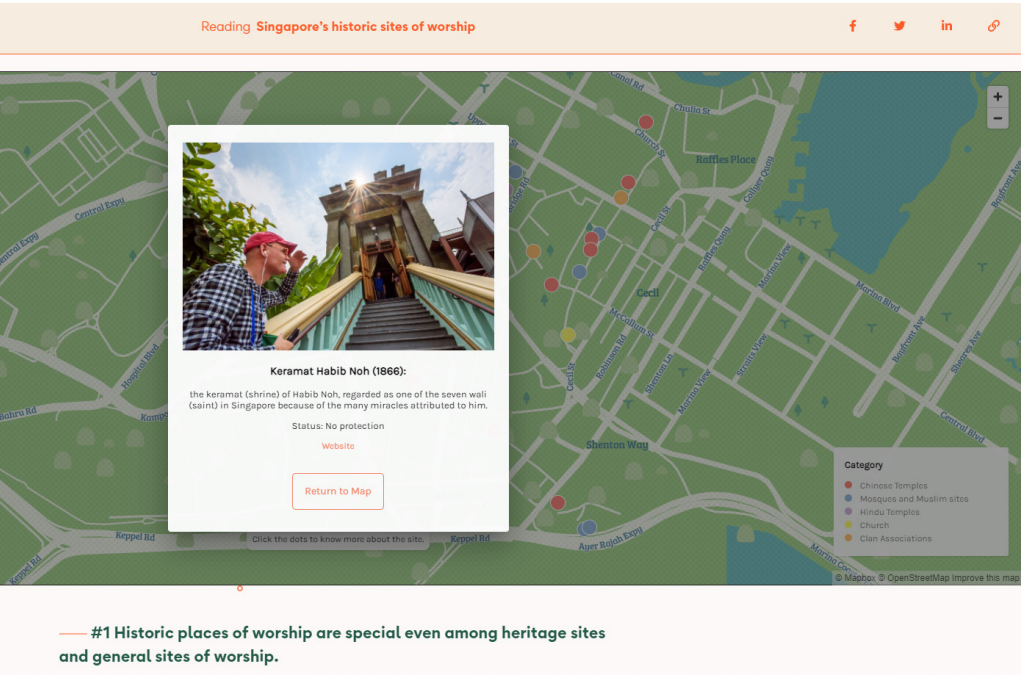
b. Web story by Kontinentalist, “Singapore’s historic sites of worship: Communities in a changing city”

The team behind the Walking Workshop Series worked closely with Kontinentalist, a media company specialising in innovative data storytelling, to distil the key takeaways from the research and workshop discussions into a [web story](#) that combines text with data visualisation, which was published online on 3 Sep 2020.

c. Digitisation of Seng Wong Beo rare documents

In the course of the SHS two-year research project, our team discovered rare historical, liturgical manuscripts at the Seng Wong Beo temple (estb. 1905), which is on a short-term Temporary Occupancy Licence. The

Screenshot of map-based data presentation in Kontinentalist web story.



temple owner invited SHS to document and digitise its manuscripts in the hope that the temple's heritage value would be officially recognised. SHS applied for, and was awarded, a NHB Digital Project Grant, for this digitisation work. From November 2020 to March 2021, SHS commissioned research consultancy, Ethnographica, and



Sample of a historical liturgical manuscript from Seng Wong Beo that was digitised by SHS.

independent researcher, Lynn Wong, who had worked on the original two-year research project and built a strong rapport with Seng Wong Beo, to execute this digitisation project. Deliverables included a written report cataloguing manuscripts that have been located and prioritising at least five rare manuscripts to digitise. SHS is in discussions with the National University of Singapore to make the processed digital images of the manuscripts accessible to researchers on its library portal. SHS will look out for longer-term digitisation grants to support the continuation of this project building upon the greater trust fostered with temple stakeholders from this short pilot.

d. 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), and



Photo posted on Siang Cho Keong temple's Facebook on 5 April 2020 informing devotees about the temple's closure from 6 April to 4 May 2020.

there are plans for ARI to include this article in a book entitled *CoronAsur: Asian Religions in the Covidian Age*.

6. Intangible Cultural Heritage

ICH has come to the forefront of heritage policy in Singapore following the Singapore state's ratification of Unesco's 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 an on-going interest in food heritage, heritage languages, and cultural heritage practices in general, we also highlight the intangible heritage dimension of landscapes and built 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 affected the business of hawker stalls, some of which have moved or stopped functioning. The research team has completed a historical survey of the evolution of hawker culture, and compiled a list of long-standing hawker stalls, some of which originate from hawker centres and locations that are no longer in existence. In addition to a research report, a documentary featuring a selection of these hawker stalls is planned. One of the Ethnographica researchers, Sarah Benjamin, was invited by Lianhe Zaobao to give a talk in Mandarin for their live streaming speaker series on 5 Feb 2021, entitled "[从小贩文化追溯新加坡的过去](#)" (Tracing Singapore's past through hawker culture). Another presentation is scheduled as part of a 2-day, online public workshop, "[The Hungry City: Singapore's Food History in Global Perspective](#)" organised by Yale-NUS College and held in conjunction with the Singapore Heritage Festival in May 2021.

b. “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 SpiceZi Kitchen, a mother-and-daughter-duo who run workshops on 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 SpiceZi Kitchen to do live cooking demonstrations. A lucky winner was randomly selected from the 120 Zoom participants to receive the kolukattai prepared live by SpiceZi Kitchen. The event was extremely popular, with Zoom places fully-registered overnight, and the live video posted on Facebook reached 11,600 people by August 2021. The webinar can be viewed on SHS’s [Facebook Page](#) and [YouTube channel](#). The event was highlighted by Catherine Leonard, Secretary-General of UK-based the International National Trusts Organisation (INTO), of which SHS is a member, in their international webinar “[Building resilience through the pandemic](#)” (28 January 2021).



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

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Research & Advocacy

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Research & Advocacy

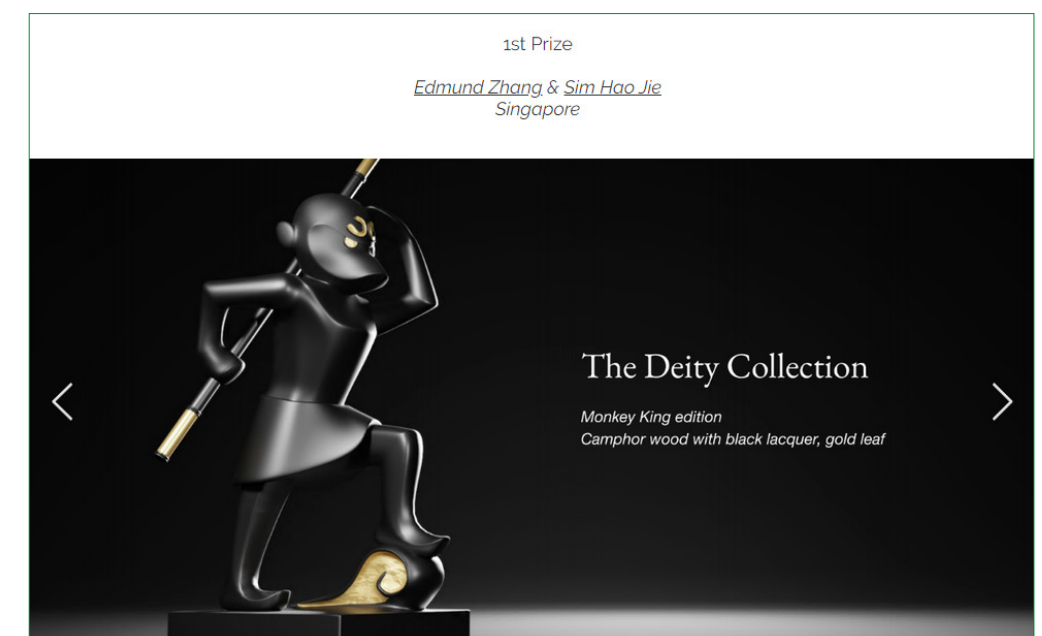
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c. Heritage Languages of Singapore Facebook group

SHS Executive Committee members, Victor Yue and Chua Ai Lin, are founders and administrators of the [Heritage Languages of Singapore Facebook Group](#), which continues to be moderated by SHS volunteers. The Group provides a platform for people to share content on languages of Singapore, the region and beyond. On 31 March 2021, there were 2,022 group members, as compared to 1,749 members as of 4 Aug 2020, and 1,471 members in August 2019.

d. Say Tian Hng Buddha Shop design competition jury panelist

The family-run enterprise, [Say Tian Hng Buddha Shop](#) (estd. 1896), is Singapore’s last Taoist effigy-making shop. In June 2020, they launched an [international design competition](#) to reimagine a statue of the Monkey God for a secular, international audience, with the hope that the competition would help to “reverse the decline of the 124-year-old shop in partnership with the community through the co-creation of a new contemporary product line, so that more non-Chinese audiences around the world can appreciate the stories of these mythological figures - and the timeless values they embody - in exciting new ways.” SHS’s Executive Director, Dr Chua Ai Lin, was invited to join the international jury panel



First-prize winner in Say Tian Hng Buddha Shop’s design competition. (Source: [Say Tian Hng website](#))

and review entries from seven countries. [Winners were announced](#) on 12 September 2020 and the shop is now working with the first-prize winners to turn their design into an actual product.

e. Joint call with Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre for the 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” and the project was completed in March 2021. The researchers will be giving two different public talks in English at SCCC in November 2021, with the objective of raising awareness amongst young people.

In July 2020, SCCC carried out a joint call for the grant together with Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and SHS. There were no applicants from SHS in this cycle.

f. NHB’s Stewards of Singapore’s Intangible Cultural Heritage Award evaluation panel member

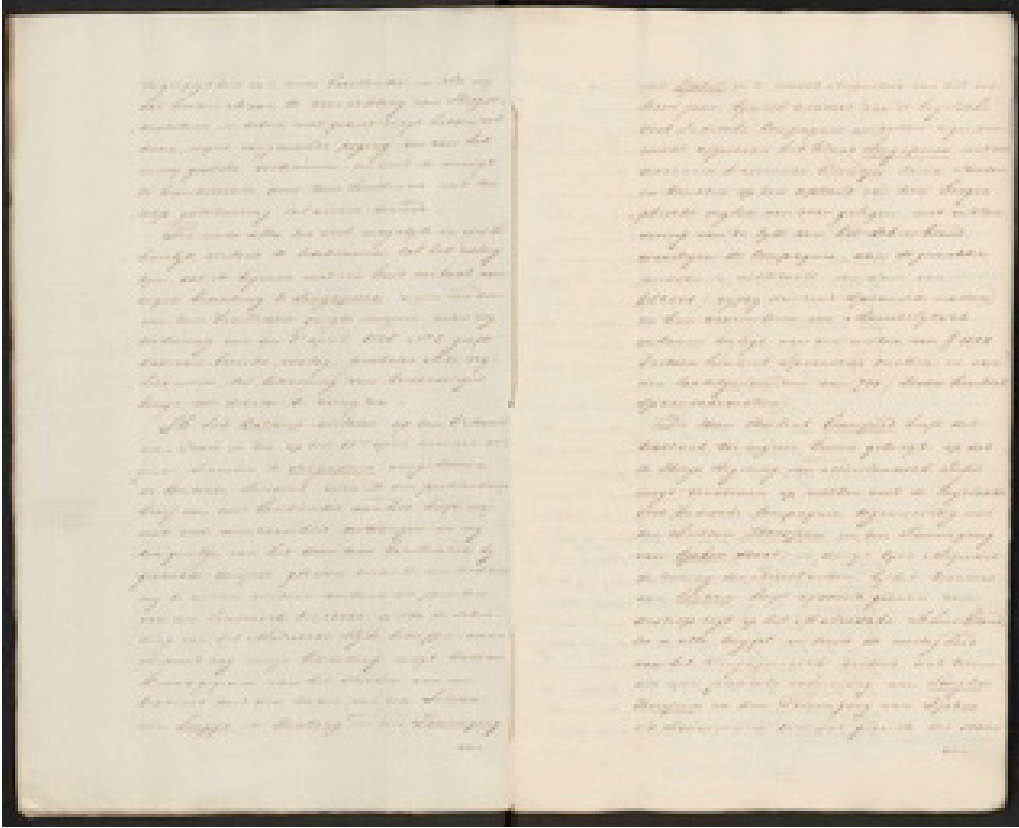
Dr Rizwana Abdul Azeez is SHS’s representative to this panel for the period 8 Nov to October 2022. National Heritage Board launched the Stewards of Singapore’s Intangible Cultural Heritage Award in October 2019 and announced the winners in June 2020.

7. New Historical Perspectives On Early Singapore

SHS supports research on Singapore history, especially that which revises current understanding of the past. In the mid-2000s, SHS supported archaeology excavations and projects, which shed new light on colonial and pre-colonial Singapore.

In February 2021, the Society, with the support of a Heritage Research Grant from the National Heritage Board, embarked on a one-year historical research project, “**Singapore, the Angelbeek Report and the “Donation” of Empire, 1812-1825**” which

promises to provide a new and complete picture to the founding of Singapore in the tumultuous geo-political circumstances of the region between 1819-1824, based on a Dutch archival materials of the mission of the Malay translator and ambassador of the Dutch East Indies Government, Christiaan van Angelbeek. Led by Associate Professor Peter Borschberg, Mr Kwa Chong Guan and Benjamin Khoo, the project provides a new and unexplored angle to the founding of Singapore that has hitherto largely relied on English sources and perspectives. This would not only throw new light on an old and familiar story, the Founding of Singapore, it could potentially transform how this story is understood from a local perspective. Second, this research into the Angelbeek report would provide an unparalleled first-hand observation into the inner-mechanisms and dynastic squabbles of the Johor-Riau empire as it functioned from an outsider’s perspective and allow us to better understand the dynamics of colonial encounter in the early nineteenth century. Third, the Angelbeek would help us illuminate the historical and geopolitical context of the region in which Singapore was once formerly part of and explore the linkages that formerly existed, which has been neglected in the historiography.



Pages from the Angelbeek Report, dated 9 August 1825.

Representation on Committees & Public Sector Engagement

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 Executive Committee, and others which recognise SHS broadly as an organisational participant.

Government Advisory Panels

ORGANISATION	COMMITTEE	TERM OF OFFICE	REPRESENTATIVE
National Heritage Board	National Collection Advisory Panel	1 Sep 2013 to 31 Dec 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
National Heritage Board; National Environment Agency; and Federation of Merchants' Associations, Singapore	Nomination Committee for the Inscription of Hawker Culture in Singapore to the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (Singapore hawker culture was successfully inscribed on the List with effect from 16 December 2020)	1 Aug 2018 to 28 Feb 2021	Dr Jack Tsen-Ta Lee
Urban Redevelopment Authority	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
	Architectural Heritage Awards Assessment Committee	2021-2024	Dr Chua Ai Lin
Ministry of National Development	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

ORGANISATION	COMMITTEE	TERM OF OFFICE	REPRESENTATIVE
National Parks Board	Friends of Ubin	Mar 2014 to present	SHS
	Friends of the Rail Corridor	Oct 2017 to present	SHS
Singapore Tourism Board	Chinatown Work Group	Aug 2018 to present	Victor Yue
	Little India Work Group	Aug 2018 to present	Dr Rizwana Abdul Azeez

Non-Governmental Committees

ORGANISATION	COMMITTEE	TERM OF OFFICE	REPRESENTATIVE
International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)	Expert Member, International Scientific Committee on Legal, Administrative and Financial Issues (ICLAFI)	April 2016 to present	Dr Jack Tsen-Ta Lee
Southeast Asia Cultural Heritage Alliance	Board Member	May 2020 to present	Dr Natalie Pang

Other Public Sector Engagement

In addition to serving on various government advisory panels, SHS ExCo have participated in the public sector engagement activities listed below.

DATE	EVENT	ORGANISER
18 May 2020	Interview on impact of Covid-19 on SHS (online)	National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre
29 May 2020	Updates on Covid-19-related initiatives for the heritage sector (online)	National Heritage Board
20 Jul 2020	Interview on rebranding & envisioning for Singapore Heritage Festival (online)	National Heritage Board
27 Aug 2020	Emerging Stronger Conversation with Minister Desmond Lee (online)	Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

DATE	EVENT	ORGANISER
27 Nov 2020	Discussion on digitalization support for the arts and culture sector (online)	Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth
15 Jan 2021	Museum Landscape Review Engagement Session (online)	National Heritage Board
9 Feb 2021	Feedback on Kreta Ayer Heritage Gallery docent training programme (online)	National Heritage Board
29 Mar 2021	Engagement session on Cultural Matching Fund (online)	Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth



Networking & Partnerships

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 in this Report on “Representation on Committees and public sector engagement”), 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

a. SEACHA – Southeast Asian Cultural Heritage Alliance

SEACHA – short for the Southeast Asian Cultural Heritage Alliance, 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.

At SEACHA’s inaugural panel discussion held on 23 May 2020, about “Conservation Practices amid a Pandemic: Southeast Asian Perspectives” with speakers from six Southeast Asian countries, SHS was represented by ExCo member, Jonathan Poh.

In the past year, SEACHA also began a webinar series entitled “Cha-Time with SEACHA”, where guest speakers are invited to speak about various heritage topics associated with “Building Climate Resilience Through Local Community Wisdom”. These webinars have been insightful in exploring and interrogating the intersection between heritage and climate resilience. SHS ExCo member, Dr Natalie Pang, moderated the webinars on



17 October and 21 November 2020 (see section in this President's Report, "Public Outreach"), and SHS President, Dr Jack Lee, was scheduled to speak at one of the webinars on 24 April 2021.

b. International National Trusts Organisation (INTO)

The [International National Trusts Organisation \(INTO\)](#), was founded in 2007 in the United Kingdom, and today is a diverse network of 85 heritage organisations from 65 territories across the globe. INTO provides a platform for members to "exchange expertise, promote best practice and share resources to increase global capacity for heritage protection." SHS was accepted as a full member of INTO in October 2020.

SHS Executive Director, Dr Chua Ai Lin, attended the annual [INTO Incubator programme](#), which supports heritage organisations seeking to make strategic change. Originally planned as a week-long programme in the UK in March 2020, the programme was converted to a fully-online experience held over four days (28-30 September and 27 October 2020). The programme was based on INTO's handbook, [From Start-Up to Sustainability](#) and comprised case studies, lectures and dialogues with sector experts from the UK, Belgium, Canada and professional exchanges with fellow participants from Africa, the West Indies, Central Europe and the Mediterranean. Alongside several other participants in the INTO Incubator, Dr Chua was subsequently invited to speak on a panel as part of [INTO's annual conference \(20-22 April 2021, held online\)](#).

As a member of INTO, SHS benefits from individually-tailored networking and mentoring organised by the INTO Secretariat. Most notably, [Maggie Morgan](#), an independent management consultant in the heritage conservation sector with 35 years of experience based in the UK, has been providing pro bono advice to SHS on our organisational challenges, in her role as an INTO volunteer, via online consultations. Plans for the second half of 2021 are for SHS to apply for a [TAP-INTO grant](#) to fund a trip by Maggie Morgan to Singapore

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Networking & Partnerships

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Networking & Partnerships

when Covid-19 travel restrictions are lifted, to further her consultancy work with SHS.

2. Local Partners

The table below summarises SHS's local partners who collaborate on, and support the work that we do. 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. Do note that SHS is also represented on a number of national and international advisory panels and public sector workgroups, and these are listed in the section, "Representation on committees & public sector engagement".

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	
Educational institutions				
National University of Singapore, Department of Architecture		1. Publication of mASEANa Conference Report 2. Pulau Ubin virtual heritage tour		
Arts & culture organisations				
Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre (SCCC)		Chinese Arts and Culture Research Grant - joint call		

ORGANISATION	GRANT-AWARDING BODY	PROJECT PARTNER	EVENT PARTNER	VENUE PARTNER
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		
Research organisations				
Ethnographica Pte. Ltd.		1. Commissioned research consultant; 2. Kawan Ubin		
Business entities				
Crop.sg		Graphic design for SHS Annual Reports		
Kontinentalist			Bicentennial Walking Workshops Series - media partner	
Say Tian Hng		Jury panel member for Monkey God design competition		
Swan & Maclaren				Complimentary use of meeting spaces

3. Event Invitations

SHS ExCo members were invited to attend the following events.

DATE	EVENT	ORGANISER
23 & 24 Jun 2020	Tree-planting event at Lim Chu Kang in support of the One Million Trees movement, and and video featuring SHS President, Dr Jack Tsen-Ta Lee	National Parks Board
10 October 2020	Guided tour of Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre “Singapo人” exhibition, by SCCC CEO Low Sze Wee	Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre
20 Feb 2021	Tour of Fort Siloso	National Heritage Board
22 Mar 2021	Official opening of the Rail Corridor (Central)	National Parks Board

Public Outreach

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.

All outreach activities during this period were online events, please click the embedded hyperlinks below to watch the recordings.

1. SHS-Organised Events

DATE	EVENT TITLE	Approx no. of attendees
30 May 2020	Food Heritage at Home: An Online Panel of Cooks Moderator: Dr Chua Ai Lin Speakers: Christopher Tan, Khir Johari, Sarah Huang Benjamin, SpiceZi Kitchen	120 via Zoom 3,600+ views for Facebook live video

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



2. Externally-Organised Events, With Shs Participation

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



DATE	EVENT TITLE	SHS PRESENTER(S)	ORGANISER(S)
23 May 2020	Conservation Practices amid a Pandemic: Southeast Asian Perspectives panel discussion More information about the event here .	Jonathan Poh	Southeast Asian Cultural Heritage Alliance; and Heritage Conservation Society, Manila, Philippines
21 Jun 2020	Singapore Heritage Festival: Ordinary Objects with Extraordinary Stories	Lynn Wong Yuqing & Fauzy Ismail	National Heritage Board
17 Oct 2020	Cha-Time with SEACHA series: Living with Water: Amphibious Architecture & City	Dr Natalie Pang (moderator)	Southeast Asian Cultural Heritage Alliance
21 Nov 2020	Cha-Time with SEACHA series: Local Practices to Strengthen Resilience in Vietnam's Northern Upland - Role of social capital in housing changes to cope with flood and landslide	Dr Natalie Pang (moderator)	Southeast Asian Cultural Heritage Alliance
5 Feb 2021	《新加坡小贩文化的演变》 "Tracing Singapore's past through hawker culture"	黄代元 Sarah Huang Benjamin	Lianhe Zaobao

Live stream talk by Sarah Benjamin, 5 Feb 2020



3. Private Engagements Conducted Upon Request

DATE	EVENT TITLE	SHS PRESENTER(S)	ORGANISER(S)
25 Feb 2021	Talk for the course, "What Stories do We Tell to Change the World? (Re)imagining the City in Singapore"	Dr Jack Tsen-Ta Lee	Centre for International and Professional Experience, Yale-NUS College

DATE	EVENT TITLE	SHS PRESENTER(S)	ORGANISER(S)
26 Feb 2021	Tour of Bukit Brown for the course, “Stories of Ourselves”	Claire Leow & Darren Koh	Centre for International and Professional Experience, Yale-NUS College
27 Feb 2021	Tour of the Rail Corridor for the course, “What Stories do We Tell to Change the World? (Re)imagining the City in Singapore”	Claire Leow	Centre for International and Professional Experience, Yale-NUS College
28 Feb 2021	Tour of Bukit Brown for the course, “What Stories do We Tell to Change the World? (Re)imagining the City in Singapore”	Claire Leow & Darren Koh	Centre for International and Professional Experience, Yale-NUS College
1 Mar 2021	Tour of Bukit Brown for the course, “The Past in the Present”	Claire Leow & Darren Koh	Centre for International and Professional Experience, Yale-NUS College
4 Mar 2021	Dialogue session heritage conservation, for Humanities Scholarship and Programme Symposium 2021	Dr Natalie Pang	Ministry of Education

Media Coverage & Citations

In the past 12 months, SHS was mentioned in the mainstream and online press a total of 27 times, in English and Chinese, and mentioned in at least 2 television broadcasts. SHS was also mentioned in 6 other media platforms, including journals and research publications from the Centre for Liveable Cities, Cultural Connections, and ICOMOS Singapore. Outside of Singapore, SHS was mentioned in articles and academic papers published in National Geographic, the International Journal of Heritage Studies, and the Journal of Comparative Urban Law and Policy.

Print & Online Media

Please click the embedded hyperlinks below in the PDF version of this Annual Report to access the references.

- [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.](#)
- [PRINT,“Saving the Last Taoist Effigy Shop in Singapore With Design”, 12 June 2020.](#)
- [Aditi Bharade, “Monkey God to be reimaged in an international design competition organised by Chinatown shop”, The Straits Times, 28 June 2020.](#)
- [Pei Ying Loh, Chua Ai Lin, Lynn Wong, Fauzy Ismail and Singapore Heritage Society, “Singapore’s historic sites of worship - Communities in a changing city”, Konotinalist, 2 September 2020.](#)
- [Lester Ng, “Pesta Ubin 2020: Celebrating & Remembering Pulau Ubin”, Little Day Out, 8 September 2020.](#)
- [Chantal Sajan, “Heritage activists: Bukit Brown more than just a cemetery; its a living museum”, TODAY, The Straits Times, 12 September 2020.](#)
- [Shereen Tay, “An Archive of Singapore Websites: Preserving the Digital,” biblioasia, 1 October 2020.](#)
- [“为了建地铁线开挖墓地, 这些阴森地方你们知道多少…….” 新加坡眼, 2 October 2020.](#)
- [Hiking The Green Isle, “Bukit Brown Cemetery”, 6 October 2020.](#)
- [Janice Lim, “URA proposes to conserve Golden Mile Complex, offers incentives for redevelopment”, TODAY, 9 October 2020.](#)
- [SgArchi, “Architecture of the Dead, 13 October 2020.](#)
- [Chantal Sajan, “Veteran architect forges Singapore storeys in stone in new book”, The Straits Times, 23 October 2020.](#)
- [ExplorerSG, “The History Behind Bukit Brown Cemetery”, 26 October 2020.](#)
- [Lai Choo Malone-Lee, “Bolder Policy Innovations And A Stronger Push From The Community” Needed To Save Our Modernist Buildings”, Design and Architecture, 27 October 2020.](#)
- [“花式庆万圣, 阴森恐怖的探险之地, 你敢挑战吗”, 新加坡眼, 30 October 2020.](#)

16. [Tay Suan Chiang, "Preserving architectural icons," Business Times Singapore, 30 October 2020.](#)
17. [Ho Puay Peng, "Commentary: How do we decide which buildings are worth conserving?," Channel News Asia, 21 November 2020.](#)
18. [Low Shi Ping, "Modern Built Heritage Conservation Wish List", Design and Architecture, 27 November 2020.](#)
19. [Navene Elangovan, "The Big Read: With Unesco listing in sight, will new breed of 'hawkerpreneurs' rejuvenate or erode hawker culture?," TODAY, 5 December 2020.](#)
20. [Malavika Menon, "Singapore hawkers hope inclusion in Unesco's intangible heritage list will keep sector thriving," The Straits Times, 16 December 2020.](#)
21. [Tessa Oh, "Singapore's hawker culture clinches spot on Unesco's intangible cultural heritage list," TODAY, 16 December 2020.](#)
22. [Malavika Menon, "Hawkers hope Unesco nod will give their stalls a boost", The Straits Times, 17 December 2020.](#)
23. [Toh Ee Ming, "How personal heritage shapes lives", National Geographic, 29 December 2020.](#)
24. ["新加坡的三品年味," 狮城新闻, 20 January 2021.](#)
25. [早报数码, "【早报悦读@NLB】线上讲座直播——黄代元 从小贩文化追溯新加坡的过去," 5 February 2021](#)
26. [Chia Han Keong, "Singaporeans to be engaged to suggest nominees for next UNESCO inscription: Low Yen Ling", Yahoo! News, 8 March 2021.](#)
27. [Ng Keng Gene, "Restoring conserved truss bridges along Singapore's rail corridor to their former glory," The Straits Times, 22 March 2021.](#)

Broadcast Media

1. [8 新闻, "【科技一点通】博物馆线上展览 供国人寓教于乐," 19 April 2020.](#)
2. [Mediacorp Channel News Asia, "Golden Mile Complex to be proposed for conservation, incentives will be offered: URA", 9 October 2020.](#)

Others

1. [Centre for Liveable Cities \(CLC\), "Religious Harmony in Singapore: Spaces, Practices and Communities", 2020.](#)
2. [Jack Lee, "Sense of Place: The Intersection Between Built Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage in Singapore", Journal of Comparative Urban Law and Policy, 2020.](#)
3. [Kevin Tan, "The Business of Heritage in Singapore: Money, Politics & Identity", Journal of Comparative Urban Law and Policy, 2020.](#)
4. [Lim Chen Sian and Rachel Chew, "Heritage in Singapore: Saving History to Build a Nation. ICOMOS-National Museum of Singapore World Heritage Day Symposium.", ICOMOS Singapore, 2020.](#)
5. [Michael Koh and Andy Tan, "Cultural opportunities for liveable neighbourhoods", Cultural Connections Vol V, 23 November 2020.](#)
6. [David Ocón, "Digitalising endangered cultural heritage in Southeast Asian cities: preserving or replacing?," International Journal of Heritage Studies, 7 February 2021.](#)

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Media Coverage & Citations

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Online Presence

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Online Presence

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 regularly use 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>

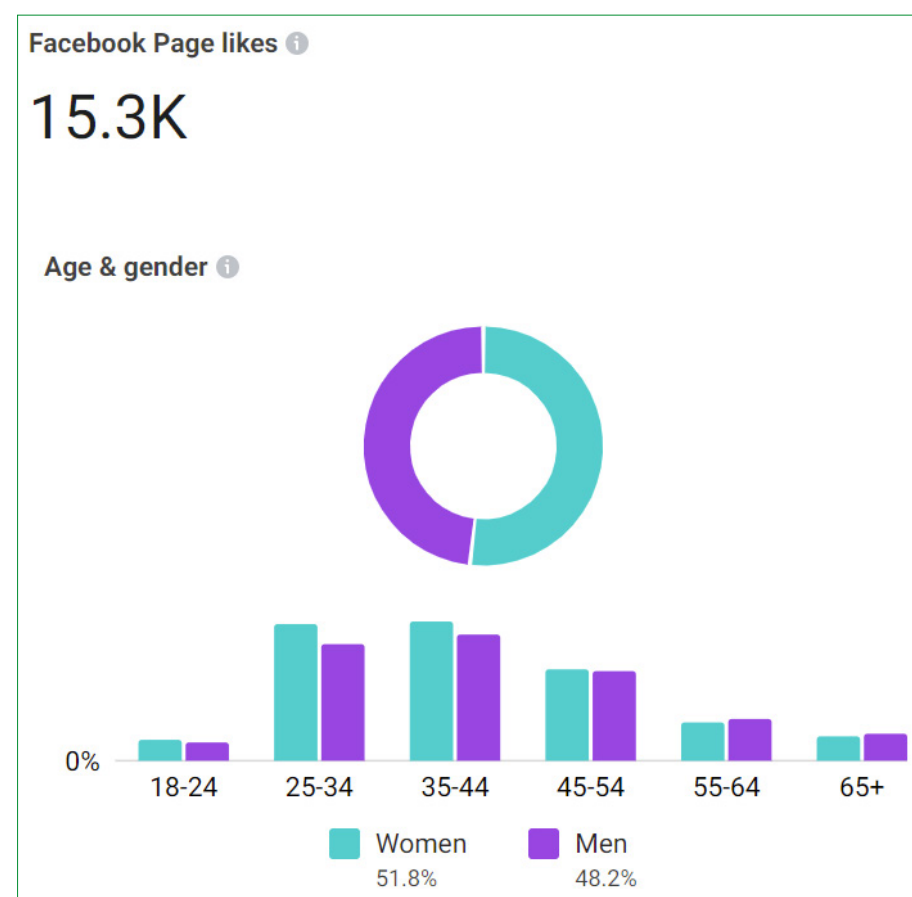
Started in 2011, the SHS Facebook page is a key public communication platform through which heritage-related news and events, as well as SHS updates are disseminated. SHS Honorary Secretary Han Ming Guang and a team of interns and volunteers curate and upload content regularly, to inform and communicate with our followers.

The SHS Facebook Page has continued to experience steady growth in viewership and likes over the past year. The number of likes on the Facebook page has grown by 7.07%, from 14,194 to 15,198, from April 2020 to March 2021



In terms of the demographics of our Facebook followers, our content continues to attract and engage a broad range of audiences from across various age groups. This includes 33.6% of our followers who are aged 18 to 34, highlighting the relevance of our content in engaging young heritage enthusiasts, and

reflecting the increasing consciousness about heritage among younger generations about heritage.



From April 2020 to March 2021, SHS also posted 5 events on the SHS Facebook Page to publicise SHS-organised or co-organised heritage events, all of which were conducted virtually. Despite the Covid-19 circumstances, the Facebook Page was still able to reach more than 200,000 unique accounts to promote these events, and generated strong interest in them with more than 4,000 event responses from users who indicated 'Interested' or 'Going'. The robust response reflects the continued utility of Facebook as a tool for SHS to promote greater awareness of heritage and draw the attention of heritage enthusiasts, and we seek to continue building on this online presence as Singapore transitions to being a Covid-resilient society.

2. Instagram

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

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Online Presence

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Online Presence

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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. With Covid-19 restrictions on events, the SHS Instagram account has been relatively inactive in the past year. Nevertheless, ever since the follower count on Instagram broke 2000 in late June 2021, there has been a steady stream of 5-10 new followers daily. There are now 2182 followers as of Aug 2021 compared to 1632 followers in Aug 2020. This marks a 33.7% increase in followership. A third of our followers are aged 25-34 and two thirds are aged 25-44. That SHS commands a primarily millennial audience on Instagram bodes well for engaging and educating young heritage enthusiasts.

3. Twitter

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

The SHS Twitter presence remains complementary to our other social media platforms and we do not use this platform directly. It is therefore not unexpected that our total of 385 followers has not increased in the past year.

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 it 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. We continue to see growth in the number of visitors to our website. The number of unique users has increased from 12,000 between August 2019 and July 2020 to close to 17,000 between August 2020 and July 2021. More than 60% of our visitors continue to discover our website through organic search, and close to 30% visit our website using our direct URL. Of note, the Bukit Brown Wayfinder microsite garnered more than 30% of the Society's page views last year (the most of any of our microsites), signifying the high level of public awareness towards Bukit Brown and the Society's efforts in raising interest towards the issue.

The Society has been engaging in-house developers and volunteers to manage, enhance and re-develop the existing website, with the view to make our content and resources more easily-accessible by our visitors and members of the public. With a pressing need for increased digitalisation during the Covid-19 pandemic, SHS will reassess how best to improve and adapt our website.

6. Google Ads

As a registered nonprofit organisation, SHS is a beneficiary of the Google AdGrants program, which offers complimentary advertising credits. Since 2015, SHS has put up various online advertisements through Google Ads without having to incur any advertising expenses. These advertisements are intended to increase public awareness towards the Society and some of our prominent initiatives or research areas. We currently have three ads campaigns, each which links to their respective websites - (a) on the Society as a whole (i.e. Singapore Heritage Society's website), (b) on the Bukit Brown Wayfinder microsite, and (c) on the Picturing Chinatown microsite. While we continue to see users redirected from our Ads to our website and microsites, the number of users that clicked our Picturing Chinatown ads

last year has grown three-fold. This suggests that there could be renewed local interest in the history of Chinatown and the surrounding areas, which might be caused by ongoing travel-related restrictions that led to more local tourism, and closure of tourist sites and shops in Chinatown.

Fundraising

Fundraising is necessary because most of SHS’s public outreach events are free or at low-cost in line with our mission to educate the public. Our work in research and advocacy has little potential for cost recovery, and hence the achievements of the Society are only possible through the efforts of volunteers and interns, who generally do not receive any stipend to cover out-of-pocket expenses. While we attempt to ensure that all projects undertaken are self-funding through grants, annual operating overheads, for example, governance and administrative costs which come up to at least \$40,000 per year, require to be funded.

In Financial Year 2021, a total of \$22,615 in donations was raised. This is in a similar range, albeit more than the donations in FY2019 of \$19,972. (The sum of \$85,003 for donations in FY2020 was due to various one-off factors, and thus is an outlier in terms of SHS’s donation trends.)

Of these donations, there were 98 unique donors, of which two were corporate donations, which were the two highest donations at \$3277.40 and \$2000. The two top individual donors also gave \$2000 each. Only 17 of these donors were SHS members (11 Ordinary members, and 6 Associate members who are local residents but neither citizens nor Permanent Residents). There were 4 monthly recurring donors (2 members, 2 non-members) giving monthly sums of between \$10 and \$50.

A breakdown of donations shows that most donations are between \$40 to \$120, with a total of 22 donations falling into these categories.

AMOUNT	NO. OF DONORS
\$1000 or more	8
\$500-\$999	5
\$200-\$400	8
\$100-\$120	12

N.B. For recurring donations, this table uses the total sum donated by a single individual.

AMOUNT	NO. OF DONORS
\$40-\$50	10
\$10-\$20	7

SHS offers multiple methods for donations to be received:

- Cash
- Cheque
- Internet bank transfer
- Credit card (via PayPal)
- PayNow
- Online donation portal, [Giving.sg](#)

The majority of individual donations are received via Giving.sg, which also provides a means for non-members to discover and donate to SHS. The Giving.sg portal also allows the creation of specific fundraising campaigns with targets and finite durations. PayNow is also increasingly popular because of its convenience.



This QR code links to SHS's PayNow providing convenience for donors.

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

- SHS is approved by the Commissioner of Charities as an [Institution of Public Character](#) (IPC). This means that donors are able to claim [250% tax deduction](#) for their donation.
- SHS is eligible to apply for the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth’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.

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 2020). The pandemic impacted a number of SHS’ planned activities, including the screening of *Still Standing* by Kirsten Tan which would have been the focus of our fundraising campaign in 2020. After the circuit breaker, other activities continued 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.

The pandemic has also led the government to encourage charities to digitalise, by converting offline work to function online as far as possible. Webinars, handbooks and new grants have been rolled out to facilitate this.

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
Associate Member: Foreigners living in Singapore, 21 years & above

1-Year Membership Fee: \$60
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](#) from the SHS website.

As of 31 March 2021, the membership stands at

ORDINARY MEMBERS	163
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	26
STUDENT MEMBERS	8
CORPORATE MEMBERS	0
TOTAL	197

This is a drop compared to one year ago, where we had 225 fully-paid up members on the 1st of July 2020.

3. SHS Executive Committee Strategic Retreat

With the previous ExCo strategic retreat having taken place in 2016, the current ExCo -- of which half the members are serving their first term -- decided to hold a retreat from 20-22 November 2020. This comprised discussions via Zoom as well as a field trip to Pulau Ubin. Aside from strategic evaluation of the SHS organisation, the retreat also provided an opportunity for ExCo members to get to know each other better.

It was decided that sub-committees would be established to manage the work of SHS in a more organised and efficient manner. Three sub-committees will oversee the areas of (a) governance, (b) research and advocacy, and (c) outreach and fundraising. Each is to be led by an ExCo member, and additional volunteers with relevant skills and expertise may be invited to join.

4. 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 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 by attending capacity building programmes, both live and by watching [recorded webinars](#) provided by the Singapore government's Charity Portal.

LIVE EVENTS ATTENDED	ORGANISER	DATES
Webinar on "Fundraising Online for Charities"	Commissioner of Charities & Singapore University of Social Sciences	18 Apr 2020
INTO Incubator online programme in strategic change for heritage organisations (see section "Networking & partnerships for more details)	International National Trusts Organisation (INTO), UK	28-30 Sep, 27 Oct 2020

5. 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 once or 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, and other ExCo members. 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.

For the January to July 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:

- a. jointly running SHS's social media channels on Facebook and Instagram
- b. conceptualising and producing a series of four videos of words of wisdom in heritage language to promote International Mother Languages Day.
- c. 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. The next call for interns will be for the May to November 2021 season.

6. 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. Currently the Working Team numbers 27 young people, including former interns from eight different batches, who cross a range of specialised heritage interests, as well as a variety of professional skills.

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.

In terms of meeting spaces, SHS has been fortunate to have been offered support by Swan & Maclaren, one of the oldest architectural firms in Singapore, for adhoc use of meeting spaces in their office located at 137 Telok Ayer Street. Following a meeting with some of their group directors in January 2021, a memorandum of understanding was signed in May 2021, lasting for one year.

9. Digitalisation & IT Solutions

In line with the government's push for charities to digitalise their functions, SHS has been exploring options to improve



Presentation of coffee table book on history of Swan & Maclaren to SHS (L-R: Dr Jack Lee, Dr Chua Ai Lin, Jonathan Poh) by Swan & Maclaren Group Director, Mr Lim Chai Boon (extreme left), 29 January 2021.

organisational processes such as membership database management, accounting, project management, internal communications and email mailers. The iShine suite of sector-specific software solutions via a secure cloud-based platform offered by the NCSS and Singapore Pools is one such option. The challenge is that even at discounted rates, these software solutions come at a significant cost and require long-term commitment of trained personnel, which would raise recurring overheads and strain our limited manpower further. We are keen to improve productivity and efficiency of our backroom operations but will need to find solutions to these issues.

In March 2020, we uploaded the membership roll onto an online cloud storage. This allows easier access to the membership database by our secretariat and ExCo, for more efficient updating. This is also an interim step to facilitate the implementation of a suitable Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software to manage the database in the future. 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 document also sets out what the personal data of our members can be used for and what steps the society will take in the event of a data breach.

In addition to the new cloud-based membership database, we are also piloting the use of Slack, a messaging app for business use, to enable more efficient internal communication, for which the Pro plan (worth \$6.67 USD/mth) is available free to non-profit organisations like SHS.

Governance

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 & 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)
- Honorary Treasurer - term limit of two years (four years)

2. Executive Committee Meetings & Attendance

Please note that the period covered in this Annual President's Report, from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, overlaps with the 12 months covered in the 2020 Annual Report (1 Aug 2019 to 31 July 2020). This adjustment is to bring the President’s Report in line with the period covered by the Annual Financial Statement.

SHS ExCo at the Annual General Meeting, held via Zoom on 26 September 2020 (Top row, L-R: Victor Yue, Han Ming Guang, Dr Rizwana Abdul Azeez; Middle row, L-R: Dr Jack Tsen-Ta Lee, Dr Natalie Pang, Jonathan Poh; Bottom row, L-R: Dr Chua Ai Lin, Kok Heng Leun, Eliza Pang).



Between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021, a total of 5 ExCo meetings were held. These were held on 27 April 2020, 21 July 2020, 30 November 2020, 7 January 2021, and 4 March 2021. The Annual The Annual General Meeting was held on 26 September 2020.

However, it should be noted that in the period between the AGMs on 21 September 2019 and 26 September 2020, as well as between 26 September 2020 and the 2021 AGM planned for 25 September 2021, a total of 6 ExCo Meetings were held in each 12-month period, as required by the SHS Constitution.

Attendance at ExCo meetings by each member during the period covered by this Annual Report are as follows:

NAME	POSITION	ATTENDANCE
Dr Jack Lee	President	5/5
Dr Chua Ai Lin	Vice-President	5/5
Yue Seong Swee Victor	Honorary Treasurer	5/5
Han Ming Guang	Honorary Secretary	5/5
Dr Natalie Pang	ExCo Member	5/5
Eliza Pang	ExCo Member	4/5
Kok Heng Leun	ExCo Member	5/5
Rizwana Begum	ExCo Member	5/5
Jonathan Poh	ExCo Member	4/5

3. Training & Capacity Building for Executive Committee Members

ExCo members attended the following webinars organised by the Commissioner of Charities, and the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth's Charities Unit.

18 April 2020	Webinar on "Fundraising Online for Charities"	Commissioner of Charities & Singapore University of Social Sciences
29 March 2021	Engagement session on Cultural Matching Fund	Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

4. Disclosure of Remuneration Received by Executive Committee Members

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

5. 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.

6. Financial Statement

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 through conducting paid activities and other ventures.

The Financial Statement for the financial year ended 31 March 2021 is appended.

7. 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.

8. 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 funds.

As of 31 March 2021, the ratio of reserves to recurring operating expenses and ratio of reserves to total expenses including project costs are 8.3 times (2020: 6.6 times) and 5.0 times (2020: 2.8 times) respectively. The Society’s ratio of cash and bank balances to committed recurring operating expenses is 11.7 times (2020: 6.6 times).

9. 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 arises, the member shall abstain from participating in the discussion, decision-making and voting on the matter.

The Year Ahead

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Looking forward to the forthcoming twelve months, from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, SHS plans to continue with many of the initiatives and areas of concern mentioned in this year's Report as they are on-going, while some are annual occurrences.

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.

a. Built heritage

- i. Representation on URA committees: Heritage & Identity Partnership by Dr Jack Tsen-Ta Lee, and the Design Advisory Panel (Conservation), and Architectural Heritage Awards Assessment Committee by Dr Chua Ai Lin.
- ii. Partnership with [Docomomo Singapore](#) for documentation and public education activities, including the "Modernist 100" online inventory.
- iii. Content contributor to "[Contested Modernities](#)" exhibition in Berlin (10 to 30 September 2021), organised by the [Encounters with Southeast Asian Modernism](#) initiative.
- iv. Feedback for URA's public engagement exercise (July 2021- July 2022) to review the Long-Term Plan.

b. Historic places of worship

- i. Seek avenues to make publicly available rare liturgical manuscripts from Seng Wong Beo temple.

c. Intangible heritage

- i. Completion of research project, "The evolution of Singapore's Hawker Culture: street food and changing landscapes".
- ii. Representation on NHB's Stewards of Singapore's Intangible Cultural Heritage Award Evaluation Panel by Dr Rizwana Abdul Azeez.
- iii. Public awareness activities about heritage

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- languages to celebrate International Mother Languages Day on 21 February 2022.
- iv. Running "Heritage Languages of Singapore" Facebook group.
- v. Application for the [2021 Jeonju International Awards for Promoting Intangible Cultural Heritage](#).
- vi. Screening of [The Last Artisan](#) and panel discussion about Haw Par Villa for [ArchiFest](#) (October 2021).

d. Bukit Brown

- i. Co-chair for Bukit Brown Work Group, along with NHB.
- ii. Maintenance of Wayfinder self-guided trail signages.
- iii. Construction of outdoor installation, dependent on securing of funds
- iv. Public outreach activities, including lectures and tours.
- v. Launch and dissemination of "Unearthing the Underground" documentary.

e. Pulau Ubin

- i. Representation in Friends of Ubin Network, chaired by MND and NParks.
- ii. Organising Kawan Ubin activities to revitalise the Ubin kampung community.
- iii. Presenting public education activities for Pesta Ubin/ Ubin Day 2021 in September 2021.
- iv. Running "Pulau Ubin" Facebook group.
- v. 'PhotoVoice' project to collect old photographs, anecdotes and oral histories with people who lived or worked on Pulau Ubin in the past and present (June to December 2021).

f. Chinatown / Kreta Ayer

- i. Representation in STB's Chinatown Work Group by Victor Yue.
- ii. Panel discussion on a traditional festival popular in Kreta Ayer in the past.
- iii. Organise walking tours of Chinatown / Kreta Ayer.
- iv. Continue existing cultural mapping initiatives.

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- v. Running “Bullockcartwater” Facebook group.

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g. Others

- i. Completion of research project, “Singapore, the Angelbeek Report and the ‘Donation’ of Empire, 1812-1825”.
- ii. Continuing representation on various committees and advisory panel in the public sector, nongovernmental sector, within Singapore and at regional and international levels.

2. Organisational development

Plans for organisational development in the coming year include:

a. Creation of sub-committees

To assist the work of the Executive Committee, three sub-committees will be set up to oversee the areas of (a) governance, (b) research and advocacy, and (c) outreach and fundraising.

b. Review and revamp of SHS online presence

We will conduct a review of SHS’s website and social media channels, and work on launching an updated website.

c. IT productivity solutions

We will continue to evaluate IT solutions to improve organisational processes, with priority on improving governance procedures, such by adopting specialised accounting software.

d. 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.

The Year Ahead

The Year Ahead

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e. Mentoring 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.

f. Engaging skills-based volunteers

With the assistance of the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre’s Centre for Nonprofit Leadership, we hope to find volunteers with experience and specialised skills in areas such as accounting, law, IT, cybersecurity, fundraising, marketing and communications.

g. 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.

3. Fundraising plans

a. Outreach event for potential donors

Depending on Covid-19 restrictions, we hope to hold an event 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. This was originally planned for March 2020, and was to be supported by the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre.

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

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For the forthcoming year, we are anticipating an increase in our accounting and auditing costs. To help us in tracking projects, as well as project and overhead costs, we need a software accounting system to give us real time snapshots for quick reporting and decisions. This becomes more important as we take on more projects. We will also be working towards a more stringent and efficient financial management system to ease our administrative workload. We refer closely to the Commissioner of Charities' recommendations and guides to achieve compliance with the respective government agencies' requirements.

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

While SHS has made use of online tools for remote working for some time, we have had to adapt to meeting online instead of in person, and this will necessitate expenditure on online conferencing software with a full

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set of features, such as Zoom, for internal meetings as well as public outreach events.

Inflation is also causing a gradual rise in SHS operating costs. 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. This will depend on a growing pool of dedicated volunteers, and possibly even contracting professional services to ensure core functions are carried out to a high standard. Web hosting, online productivity solutions such as accounting software, cloud storage, and 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. With Covid-19 regulations having made it necessary to hold our Annual General Meetings online, there have been savings on costs relating to transport, printing and refreshments for a physical 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.

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Appendix of URLs (Organised By Chapters)

5 Research & Advocacy

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/1464683902_commentary2016_final.pdf

1. Modern Architecture

Singapore chapter of Docomomo
<https://www.docomomo.sg>

a. Proposed conservation of Golden Mile Complex, October 2020

Too Young To Die: Glving New Lease of Life to Singapore's Modernist Icons

<https://www.singaporeheritage.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/SHS-Position-Paper-Too-Young-To-Die-Aug-2018.pdf>

10 October 2020 announcement by URA about Golden Mile Complex conservation

<https://www.ura.gov.sg/Corporate/Media-Room/Media-Releases/pr20-28>

b. Publication of proceedings of the 8th mASEANa International Conference Singapore, *Rejuvenating Mid-Century Modern Architecture in Southeast Asia*.

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
https://issuu.com/hayashilab/docs/maseana-2019_web2.pdf

docomomo Journal 63 – Tropical Architecture in the Modern Diaspora (2020)
<https://www.docomomo.com/journal/dj-63>

c. "Modernist 100" project, in partnership with Docomomo Singapore

Work-in-progress inventory of "Modernist 100"
<https://www.docomomo.sg/modernist-100>

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Docomomo Singapore website
<https://www.docomomo.sg>

2. Bukit Brown

SHS's 2012 position paper on Bukit Brown

http://www.singaporeheritage.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/SHS_BB_Position_Paper.pdf

a. Bukit Brown Work Group

Bukit Brown Wayfinder

<https://www.singaporeheritage.org/bukitbrownwayfinder/>

b. Bukit Brown Participatory Design Workshops

Chemistry

<https://www.chemistryteam.com>

Minister for National Development Desmond Lee's visit to a Bukit Brown participatory design workshop

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=5850750831602477&id=1279122248765381

3. Pulau Ubin

SHS vision for revitalising the Pulau Ubin kampung in forum page letter published in the Straits Times on 20 August 2018

<https://www.straitstimes.com/forum/letters-in-print/residents-of-ubin-critical-in-maintaining-islands-heritage>

Covid-19 restrictions impacting the lives of residents and businesses on the island

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZC-nhfs87T0>

a. Friends of Ubin Network (FUN) & Kawan Ubin sub-group

Friends of Ubin Network

<https://www.nparks.gov.sg/pulau-ubin/friends-of-ubin>

Accessible Ubin's assistance to a wheelchair-bound Ubin resident

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZC-nhfs87T0>

b. Pulau Ubin Facebook Group

Pulau Ubin Facebook Group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/pulau.ubin>

4. Chinatown / Kreta Ayer

Rethinking Chinatown and Heritage Conservation in Singapore (Singapore Heritage Society, 2000; now available as a free PDF on the SHS website)
http://www.singaporeheritage.org/?page_id=3198

b. Bullockcartwater 牛车水 Kreta Ayer Facebook Group

Bullockcartwater 牛车水 Kreta Ayer Facebook Group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/kretaayer>

c. Informal networking with local stakeholders

Chinatown Heritage Centre would be closed indefinitely
<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/chinatown-heritage-centre-closed-indefinitely-stb-taking-over-management>

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

a. Singapore Heritage Festival: “Ordinary Objects with Extraordinary Stories” online presentation (21 June 2020)

Singapore Heritage Festival: “Ordinary Objects with Extraordinary Stories” online presentation (21 June 2020) livestream on Facebook
<https://fb.watch/7t2q51eTDB/>

Singapore Heritage Festival: “Ordinary Objects with Extraordinary Stories” online presentation (21 June 2020) livestream on YouTube
<https://youtu.be/pIWnbOIEY-w>

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

Web story by Kontinentalist, “Singapore’s historic sites of worship: Communities in a changing city”
<https://kontinentalist.com/stories/singapore-religious-heritage-sites-history-and-conservation>

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Appendix of URLs

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Appendix of URLs

e. Documenting the impact of Covid-19

Lynn Wong, “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>

Sarah Benjamin’s talk in Mandarin for Lianhe Zaobao’s livestreaming speaker series, 5 Feb 2021, “从小贩文化追溯新加坡的过去” (Tracing Singapore’s past through hawker culture)
<https://www.zaobao.com.sg/livestream/talk/story20210205-1121478>

“The Hungry City: Singapore’s Food History in Global Perspective” organised by Yale-NUS College and held in conjunction with the Singapore Heritage Festival in May 2021
<https://www.yale-nus.edu.sg/events/lectures-workshops-conferences-seminars/the-hungry-city-singapores-food-history-in-global-perspective/>

b. “Food Heritage at Home” webinar (30 May 2020)

“Food Heritage at Home” webinar on SHS Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=251366699504551&ref=watch_permalink

“Food Heritage at Home” webinar on SHS YouTube channel
<https://youtu.be/D5b76bq1CQI>

c. Heritage Languages of Singapore Facebook group

Heritage Languages of Singapore Facebook Group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/heritagelanguage>

d. Say Tian Hng Buddha Shop design competition jury panelist

Say Tian Hng Buddha Shop
<https://www.saytianhng.com>

International design competition organised by Say Tian Hng Buddha Shop
<https://www.saytianhng.com/designfordeities>

Announcement of winners for Say Tian Hng Buddha Shop's international design competition, 12 September 2020
<https://www.saytianhng.com/competition>

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7 Networking & Partnerships

1. International Networking

a. SEACHA – Southeast Asian Cultural Heritage Alliance

Southeast Asian Cultural Heritage Alliance
<https://m.facebook.com/SEACHA2019/>

b. International National Trusts Organisation (INTO)

International National Trusts Organisation (INTO)
<https://www.into.org>

INTO Incubator programme
<https://www.into.org/programmes-resources/incubator/>

INTO's handbook, From Start-Up to Sustainability
<https://www.into.org/app/uploads/2020/11/INTO-Handbook.pdf>

INTO's annual conference (20-22 April 2021, held online)
<https://www.into.org/into-online/>

Maggie Morgan
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/maggie-morgan-60019451/?originalSubdomain=uk>

TAP-INTO grant
<https://www.into.org/programmes-resources/tap-into-small-grants/>

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8 Public Outreach

1. SHS-Organised Events

Food Heritage at Home: An Online Panel of Cooks
<https://www.facebook.com/145479398828102/videos/251366699504551>

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2. Externally-Organised Events, with SHS Participation

Conservation Practices amid a Pandemic: Southeast Asian Perspectives panel discussion
<https://fb.watch/7vfqUyP29t/>
More information about the event:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1529453903881333>

Singapore Heritage Festival: Ordinary Objects with Extraordinary Stories
<https://www.facebook.com/119575101400327/videos/3460494650656874>

Cha-Time with SEACHA series: Living with Water: Amphibious Architecture & City
<https://youtu.be/SPqR1WeVosU>

Cha-Time with SEACHA series: Local Practices to Strengthen Resilience in Vietnam's Northern Upland - Role of social capital in housing changes to cope with flood and landslide
<https://youtu.be/6Wcu8MNTDkY>

《新加坡小贩文化的演变》
“Tracing Singapore's past through hawker culture”
<https://www.facebook.com/160823460655497/videos/495860701402745>

9 Media Coverage And Citations

Print And Online Media

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<https://www.straitstimes.com/lifestyle/arts/neither-dusty-nor-old-youth-come-up-with-fresh-ways-to-document-heritage-during-covid>
2. PRINT, “Saving the Last Taoist Effigy Shop in Singapore With Design”, 12 June 2020,
<https://www.printmag.com/post/saving-the-last-taoist-effigy-shop-in-singapore-with-design>

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3. 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>
4. Pei Ying Loh, Chua Ai Lin, Lynn Wong, Fauzy Ismail and Singapore Heritage Society, "Singapore's historic sites of worship - Communities in a changing city", Konotinalist, 2 September 2020,
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5. Lester Ng, "Pesta Ubin 2020: Celebrating & Remembering Pulau Ubin", Little Day Out, 8 September 2020,
<https://www.littledayout.com/pesta-ubin-2020-celebrating-pulau-ubin-virtual-festival/>
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<https://www.straitstimes.com/lifestyle/home-design/heritage-activists-bukit-brown-more-than-just-a-cemetery-its-a-living-museum>
7. Shereen Tay, "An Archive of Singapore Websites: Preserving the Digital," biblioasia, 1 October 2020,
<https://biblioasia.nlb.gov.sg/vol-16/issue-3/oct-dec-2020/website>
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<https://www.yan.sg/kaiwomodizhidoa/>
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<https://hikingthegreenisle.com/bukit-brown-cemetery/>
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24. "新加坡的三品年味," 狮城新闻, 20 January 2021, <https://www.shicheng.news/show/934574>
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Broadcast Media

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3. Kevin Tan, "The Business of Heritage in Singapore: Money, Politics & Identity", Journal of Comparative Urban Law and Policy, 2020, <https://readingroom.law.gsu.edu/jculp/vol4/iss1/31/>
4. Lim Chen Sian and Rachel Chew, "Heritage in Singapore: Saving History to Build a Nation. ICOMOS-National Museum of Singapore World Heritage Day Symposium.", ICOMOS Singapore, 2020, <http://www.icomos-sg.org/publications.html>
5. Michael Koh and Andy Tan, "Cultural opportunities for liveable neighbourhoods", Cultural Connections Vol V, 23 November 2020, <https://www.mccy.gov.sg/cultureacademy/researchandpublications/journals/Cultural-Connections-Vol-5>
6. David Ocón, "Digitalising endangered cultural heritage in Southeast Asian cities: preserving or replacing?", International Journal of Heritage Studies, 7 February 2021, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13527258.2021.1883711>

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Online Presence

1. Facebook

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

2. Instagram

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

3. Twitter

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

4. Eventbrite

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

5. Microsites

SHS Website: www.singaporeheritage.org
SHS Microsites:
www.singaporeheritage.org/bukitbrownwayfinder
www.singaporeheritage.org/picturingchinatown
www.singaporeheritage.org/railcorridor

11 Fundraising

Online donation portal, Giving.sg
<https://www.giving.sg/web/singapore-heritage-society>

Institution of Public Character
<https://www.charities.gov.sg/Pages/Charities-and-IPCs/IPCs/Criteria-Application-for-Approval-IPC.aspx#>

Tax deduction for donations to IPCs
<https://www.iras.gov.sg/irashome/Other-Taxes/Charities/Donations-and-Tax-Deductions/>

12 Organisational Matters

2. Membership

SHS Membership Application Form
http://www.singaporeheritage.org/?page_id=72

6. Capacity Building

Recorded webinars provided by the government's Charity Portal
<https://www.charities.gov.sg/Pages/Resource-and-Training/Events-and-Speeches/Webinars.aspx>

14 The Year Ahead

1. Programmes & Activities

a. Built heritage

Docomomo Singapore
<https://www.docomomo.sg>

“Contested Modernities” exhibition in Berlin (10 to 30 September 2021)
<https://www.seam-encounters.net/projects/contested-modernities-exhibition/>

Encounters with Southeast Asian Modernism initiative
<https://www.seam-encounters.net/>

c. Intangible heritage

2021 Jeonju International Awards for Promoting Intangible Cultural Heritage
<https://www.jiapich.org/>

The Last Artisan
<https://www.imda.gov.sg/for-industry/sectors/Media/film/films/the-last-artisan>

ArchiFest Singapore (October 2021)
<https://www.archifest.sg>