

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**

**President Halimah Yacob to launch President's Challenge Memorabilia during Istana Chinese New Year Open House**

Singapore, 15 February 2018 – The Istana grounds will be open to the public on **Saturday, 17 February 2018, from 8.30am to 6.00pm**, in celebration of Chinese New Year.

**Launch of New Series of President's Challenge Memorabilia**

President Halimah Yacob will be launching a new series of President's Challenge (PC) Memorabilia at the upcoming Istana Open House.

A collaboration between President's Office and various VWOs and social enterprises, the new PC Memorabilia showcase artwork of scenes within the Istana and are hand drawn by beneficiaries. During her recent visits to various PC beneficiaries, President Halimah was inspired by how art was able to bring colour and expressions to the lives of the beneficiaries. President Halimah therefore wanted to create this new series of memorabilia to help raise awareness of the social causes as well as give the beneficiaries a greater sense of pride and achievement in their artwork.

"All of us are able to make meaningful contributions to society regardless of our abilities. That was why I invited beneficiaries from various organisations to showcase their talent through art. This also creates a unique opportunity for me to share the Istana with Singaporeans because with every donation made to the President's Challenge, you will get to bring a piece of your fond memory of the Istana back home with you," said President Halimah.

The PC Memorabilia will be available to visitors who make a donation to President's Challenge during the Istana Open Houses. The series of memorabilia includes leather key chains, luggage tags, notebooks, bookmarks, and magnets. Details of the PC Memorabilia series can be found in Annex A.

## Istana Open House Programme Highlights

Visitors will be able to immerse in the Chinese New Year celebrations with a Lion Dance performance by Shan Long Dragon and Lion Dance Troupe, a Chinese Acrobatics performance by Liuqin Troupe of Jiangsu Theatre, and a Wushu performance by Dunman High School. The public can also look forward to music performances by Anderson Secondary School, Woodgrove Secondary School and yIN Harmony. There will also be dance performances by Sheng Yi Dance Group, PA Talents and a contemporary dance item by SOKA.

Other features include a display of invertebrates by Wildlife Reserves Singapore, Chinese calligraphy art activity by The Chinese Calligraphy Society of Singapore, and other art activities by School of the Arts. The programme line-up can be found in Annex B.

Members of the public can choose to sign up for the Nature Guided Walk at the Istana, a collaboration between the President's Office and the National Parks Board (NParks) which will showcase the Istana's flora, fauna and biodiversity. They can also take a guided tour of the Istana main building led by volunteers from the Preservation of Sites and Monuments division of the National Heritage Board and view select function rooms and display of State gifts presented to the President and the Prime Minister by foreign dignitaries.

Visitors can also do a self-guided tour with the help of the "Istana Garden Walk" mobile application, which includes features such as a self-guided Plants Trail to discover 10 types of beautiful plant species in the Istana Gardens and maps of Places of Interest.

The Istana Heritage Gallery (IHG) at the Istana Park (located opposite the main gate of the Istana along Orchard Road) will also be open from 10am to 6pm. At the IHG, visitors can learn more about Singapore's history and heritage. For a self-guided interactive tour of the IHG and the Istana Park, visitors can download the LocoMole mobile application to embark on the Istana Mobile Educational Trails and gain more insights to the lives of our past Presidents, the heritage, flora and fauna of the Istana.

### Admission Details

Entry to the Istana grounds is free for Singaporeans and Singapore permanent residents. All other visitors are required to pay an entrance fee of S\$2 per person. Entry to the Istana grounds is via the main gate at Orchard Road. The nearest MRT station is Dhoby Ghaut.



Additional fees as specified in Annexes C and D are applicable for the guided tours.


## ANNEX A

## Leather Key Chains and Luggage Tags by Personalised Love

Keychains and Luggage Tags are specially designed to incorporate the Istana letterings.

The range of merchandise are designed based on each artisan's skillset – from punching, stitching, edge painting, logo imprinting to packaging. Each process is carried out by the artisans meticulously. The final product is the result of great teamwork by the special needs artisans.


Memorabilia by Personalised Love	Beneficiary
 <p><i>Photo by President's Office</i></p>	<p>Koh Yong Nian, 22</p> <p>Yong Nian has moderate autism and has limited verbal communication but he expresses himself through his craft work. His talent for the leather crafting was only discovered during the training workshops conducted by PLove. It is the hope of his family that Yong Nian is able to realise his full potential through his craft work, bringing joy and happiness to others with the beautiful pieces he produces.</p>
 <p><i>Photo by President's Office</i></p>	<p>Siti Halizah, 21</p> <p>Siti Halizah has mild intellectual disability. Her talent for craft making was only discovered during the training workshops conducted by PLove 3 years ago. Since then, she has worked at PLove as an artisan. Siti has made tremendous improvement in terms of craftsmanship and confidence in the years that she worked at PLove. She is now able to work as an assistant trainer, imparting her knowledge to other special needs trainees.</p>
	<p>Siti Hanifah, 22</p> <p>Siti Hanifah has mild intellectual disability. When Siti was selected to join the PLove Apprenticeship scheme in 2016, she was happy and looked forward to the new environment and new skills. The training in PLove not only gave Siti a chance to discover her passion in leather crafting, she also overcame her psychological and health issues.</p>

Memorabilia by Personalised Love	Beneficiary
 <p><i>Photo by President's Office</i></p>	<p>Batrisyia Nurin Bte Ramdan, 19</p> <p>Batrisyia has ataxic cerebral palsy. Her cheerful attitude is evident through her leathercraft work and she perseveres in her efforts to produce high quality leather products despite using mainly one hand to sew.</p>
	<p>Ambika, 19</p> <p>Ambika has hearing impairment. However it has not stopped Ambika from wanting to share the skills she has learnt at PLove. She has a keen interest in working with children and enjoys being a facilitator for PLove workshops where she has an opportunity to share her skills with children.</p>
	<p>Rajkiran, 19</p> <p>Raj has cerebral palsy. Raj enjoys being a facilitator for the workshops that PLove has conducted for the general public as he gets to share his skills with other people.</p> <p>Raj joined PLove as an apprentice in Jan 2017. He has found his experience in PLove enriching and takes pride in imparting the crafting skills he has acquired during workshops. He values the friendships that he has forged during his apprenticeship at PLove.</p>
	<p>Siti Raudah, 19</p> <p>Siti Raudhah has cerebral palsy. Always ready with a smile, Siti lends a helping hand to whomever she sees is in need. As a member of the school's "Special Arts Club", Siti loves painting and many of her masterpieces have been used for public exhibitions. Though she is triplegic, she has learnt to adapt to using mainly one hand to sew leather craft works. Journeying with PLove has provided her with many great opportunities to increase her social circle and she often looks forward to coming to work at PLove.</p>

Memorabilia by Personalised Love	Beneficiary
<p><b>About Personalised Love (PLove)</b></p> <p>Personalised Love (PLove) is a social enterprise specialising in handcrafted leather artisanal and corporate gifts by artisans with special needs. The leather gifts can be personalised as well as customised to individual and corporate gifting needs.</p> <p>PLove's mission is to empower special needs persons through various empowerment programs and inclusive employment with the objective of maximising the full potential of each individual. It is their desire to celebrate the gifts in each individual, regardless of their disabilities, empowering them as dignified members of society.</p> <p>They currently employ 10 special needs artisans with various disabilities including autism spectrum disorder, mild intellectual disability, cerebral palsy.</p>	

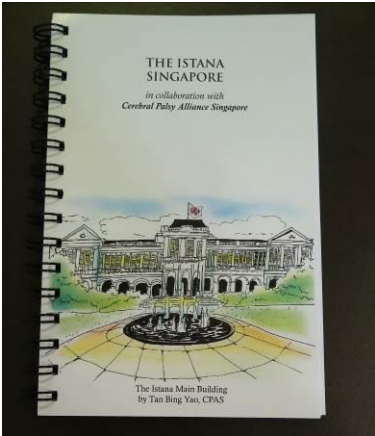
### Fridge Magnet by Club HEAL

A large fridge magnet showcasing the pair of mute swans frolicking in the Istana swan pond. The Istana is a gazetted sanctuary for birds and an ideal conservation of species.

Memorabilia by Club HEAL	Beneficiary
 <p><i>Photo by President's Office</i></p>	<p>Rafeah Bte Md Said, 66</p> <p>Rafeah has anxiety and depression and has been a client of Club HEAL for seven months. She feels that art-making is a therapy that helps to speed up her recovery, boost her confidence and make her feel good.</p> <p>She is very pleased because through this project, she feels she is giving back to Club HEAL. At the same time, it is bringing her closer to the community at large. Rafeah has a deep interest in art and she is very glad that she is able to share her talents, skills and experience in art.</p>
<p><b>About Club HEAL</b></p> <p>Club HEAL is an IPC (Institution of a Public Character) established in February 2012. They reach out to provide quality programmes and services to PMHI (people with mental health issues) and their caregivers. Their approach is three-tiered – helping core beneficiaries, families and caregivers, and the promotion of mental health awareness among the general public.</p> <p>Club HEAL's services include – operating day rehabilitation centres, conducting home visits, providing counselling services for PMHI and caregivers, as well as conducting support group sessions. To date, they have assisted more than 1250 PMHI and their families.</p>	

### A5 Binder Notebook by Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore (CPAS)


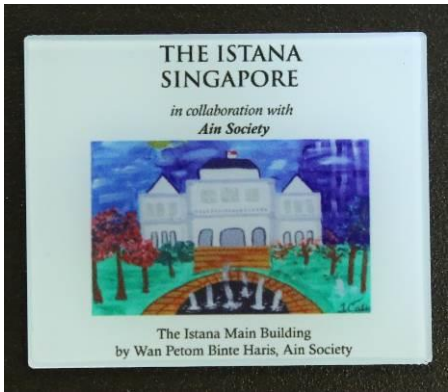
The cover photo on the A5 notebook shows a photo of the Istana Main Building. The Istana ('Palace in Malay') was built by the British Colonial Government to house its Governors. Completed in 1869, it was then known as the Government House.

Memorabilia by CPAS	Beneficiary
 <p><i>Photo by President's Office</i></p>	<p>Tan Bing Yao, 26,</p> <p>Being non-verbal, Bing Yao communicates mostly through sign language. Through art, he has found another way to make bold statements using colours. He is ever eager to keep up with the latest trends. He feels greatly appreciated for his artwork and having the opportunity to be part of this project. The energy and buzz of the city inspire Bing Yao to paint urban landscapes.</p>
<b>About CPAS</b> <p>Established in 1957, CPAS was founded to provide children and adults with cerebral palsy and multiple disabilities with a range of fully integrated programmes and services, aimed at empowering all persons with cerebral palsy to realise their full potential and lead fulfilled, dignified lives.</p> <p>Programmes and services include an Early Intervention Programme for Infants and Children (EIPIC), special education school (CPAS School), sheltered workshop, day activity centre, alumni programme and rehabilitation centre. Allied Health Professionals trained in occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, psychology and social work provide necessary support and therapy to CPAS clients.</p>	



### Bookmark and Small Magnet by AIN Society

The bookmark and magnet showcases the Istana Main Building. The building is similar in architecture to many 18<sup>th</sup> century neo-Palladian style buildings designed by British military engineers in India. It has a tropical layout, surrounded by statuesque columns, deep verandas, louvered windows and panelled doors.

Memorabilia by AIN Society	Beneficiary
 <p><i>Photo by President's Office</i></p>	<p>Soffyan Bin Abdul Halim, 67</p> <p>Soffyan is battling with Skin Cancer and Colon Cancer. He is married with 4 daughters and 4 grandchildren. During his free time, Soffyan writes and draws – he specialises in comics and cartoon drawing</p>
 <p><i>Photo by President's Office</i></p>	<p>Wan Petom Binte Haris, 51</p> <p>Wan Petom is battling with stage 4 Breast Cancer. Mdm Wan Petom used to be a chef before she was taken ill. Mdm Wan Petom has a 7 year-old son who also enjoys art and would accompany her for art events. In her free time, Mdm Wan Petom enjoys singing, playing the ukulele and painting. She is currently preparing a cookbook with traditional recipes so that she can share them with the next generation.</p>
<p><b>About AIN Society</b></p> <p>Ain Society is a 17-year old voluntary welfare organization registered with the Registrar of Society, with an IPC status. They are affiliated to the National Council of Social Service.</p> <p>Since its inception in 2000, Ain Society has benefited more than 28,000 individuals through its developmental, remedial as well as rehabilitative programmes. In their many years of providing social service, they found that many clients are either cancer patients or have family members afflicted with cancer.</p> <p>AIN Society's Serenity Social Service Centre (Serenity SSC) was set up with the focus of helping those who have been afflicted with cancer. The Centre provides an avenue of solace to those affected through guidance on emotional, spiritual and psycho-social support.</p>	

## ANNEX B

### MAIN HIGHLIGHTS OF ISTANA OPEN HOUSE

Time	Activity	Venue
8.30 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.	Display of Invertebrates by Wild Reserves of Singapore	Centre Gate
8.30 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.	President's Challenge Memorabilia and Drinks Booths by NCSS	Centre Gate
8.30 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.	Istana Garden Walk Mobile Phone Application Booth by Republic Polytechnic	Centre Gate
8.30 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.	Snacks and Drinks Booth by NCSS	Near Main Tent
9.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.	Art Activities by School of the Arts	Centre Gate
10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.	Udders Ice Cream Booth	Centre Gate
8.30 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.	Istana Main Building Self-Guided Tour	Ticketing Booth near Ceremonial Plaza
9.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.	Istana Main Building Guided Tour By National Heritage Board	Ticketing Booth near Ceremonial Plaza
10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.	Nature Guided Walk organised by NParks	Ticketing Booth near Ceremonial Plaza
10.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.	Chinese Calligraphy art activity by The Chinese Calligraphy Society of Singapore	Main Tent
11.00 a.m. – 11.05 a.m.	Dance Performance by Sheng Yi Heng Dances Group	Ceremonial Plaza Tent
11.30 a.m. – 11.35 a.m.	Dance Performance by Happy Dance Group	Ceremonial Plaza Tent

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Venue</b>
12.30 p.m. – 1.30 p.m.	Band Performance by Anderson Secondary School	Main Tent
3.00 p.m. – 3.10 p.m.  4.35 p.m. – 4.45 p.m.	Dance Performance “Brilliance!” by Singapore Soka Association’s Sunflower Dance Ensemble	Lawn (Balcony)
3.15 p.m. – 3.25 p.m.  4.15 p.m. – 4.25 p.m.	Chinese Acrobatics Performance by Jiangsu Liuqin Theatre Ltd	Ceremonial Plaza Tent
3.30 p.m. – 3.40 p.m.  4.30 p.m. – 4.40 p.m.	Band performance by yIN Harmony – Multi-Ethnic Music Group	Lawn (stairs)
4.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.	Band Performance by Woodgrove Secondary School Symphonic Band	Main Tent
4.00 p.m. – 4.10 p.m.	Lion Dance performance by Shan Long Dragon and Lion Dance Troupe	Ceremonial Plaza Tent
4.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.	PA Talent’s Roaming Gods of Fortune	Main Tent
4.30 p.m. – 4.40 p.m.  5.20 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	Wushu Performance by Dunman High School	Ceremonial Plaza Tent

## ANNEX C

### FEES FOR ENTRANCE INTO THE ISTANA MAIN BUILDING

The following fees are applicable for the tours of the state room, banquet hall and reception room in the Istana main building:

<b>Singaporeans and Permanent Residents</b>	<b>Unguided</b>	<b>Guided*</b>
Children (4 to 12 years)	\$2.00	\$2.00
Adult		\$4.00
Package for family of four	Not applicable	\$12.00
<b>Others</b>		
Children( 4 to 12 years)	\$2.00	\$2.00
Adult	\$4.00	\$10.00
Package for family of four	Not applicable	\$30.00

\*

### ISTANA MAIN BUILDING GUIDED TOURS

Guided tours are conducted by volunteers from the Preservation of Sites and Monuments division of the National Heritage Board. The tours are limited to 15 persons per group, and depart every 20 minutes from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm. All fees collected will be donated to charity.

## ANNEX D

### FEES FOR NATURE GUIDED WALK AT THE ISTANA

The following fees are applicable for the Nature Guided Walk at the Istana:

<b>Singaporeans and Permanent Residents</b>	<b>Guided*</b>
Children (4 to 12 years)	\$2.00
Adult	\$4.00
Package for family of four	\$12.00
<b>Others</b>	
Children( 4 to 12 years)	\$2.00
Adult	\$10.00
Package for family of four	\$30.00

Guided tours are conducted by volunteers and are limited to between 12 to 15 persons per group, and depart every hour from 10.00am to 4.00pm.  
All fees collected will be donated to charity.