

EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY OF MCCY COS 2025 SPEECHES
Building a Cohesive and Inclusive Community for the Future

mccy
Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth



**BUILDING A COHESIVE AND INCLUSIVE
COMMUNITY FOR THE FUTURE**

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Building a Cohesive and Inclusive Community for the Future

Over the years, MCCY's efforts in supporting and developing the arts, sports and youth, are to build a cohesive and inclusive community.

We will build on our efforts to:

- (i) ensure that Singapore remains a place where everyone can succeed,
- (ii) strengthen a uniquely Singaporean identity and culture; and
- (iii) encourage all Singaporeans to contribute.

One Nation, United and Strong

Fostering Social Cohesion

Deepening multiculturalism and fostering racial and religious harmony

[Update] International Conference on Cohesive Societies (ICCS) 2025

1. The **International Conference on Cohesive Societies (ICCS)** will return for its third edition in 2025, with the theme, “**Cohesive Societies, Resilient Futures**”. The conference will be held from 24 to 26 June 2025 in Singapore, with the ICCS Young Leaders Programme (YLP) held from 26 to 28 June 2025. ICCS is organised by the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) and supported by MCCY.

2. Cohesive and resilient multicultural societies are key to promoting harmony. Singapore's harmony is anchored on the strong cultural identities of our diverse communities, and our multiculturalism thrives because we learn from one another's cultures and forge shared Singaporean experiences. As Singapore celebrates its 60th year of independence in 2025, the ICCS aims to:

- a) Catalyse conversations on multiculturalism and foster hope and confidence for peaceful and harmonious multicultural societies in an increasingly divided and polarised world.

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b) Inspire Singaporeans, including the next generation, to uphold cohesion and take pride in our multicultural society.

3. More than 2,200 participants from over 52 countries have benefitted from attending the ICCS and its programmes since its inception in 2019. ICCS 2025 will involve practitioners; community, religious and youth leaders; academics; and policymakers. **About 800 delegates from more than 30 countries are expected to attend ICCS 2025, with a quarter comprising youths below the age of 35,** underscoring the significance of youths' voices in conversations and solutions to cohesion in multicultural societies.

Broadened focus of ICCS 2025

4. To enhance ICCS' relevance to evolving issues of polarisation and social instability around the world, the conference has been **expanded beyond an interfaith-focused approach to encapsulate the broader scope of multiculturalism.** This edition will delve into three thematic pillars – “Unpacking Multiculturalism”, “Navigating Uncertainty”, and “Forging Societal Resilience” – through plenaries, breakout sessions, and skills workshops that equip delegates with actionable insights.

5. ICCS will feature new practitioner angles and case studies of successes and challenges in community building from different multicultural societies. By facilitating a conducive and inclusive multicultural atmosphere, the conference aims to encourage the sharing of experiences and perspectives on fostering stronger relationships across faiths and communities.

6. ICCS 2025 will also place **greater emphasis on societal resilience** and will equip practitioners through skills workshops on futures thinking, conflict mediation and resolution, principles of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and civic conversational skills.

Formation of ICCS Advisory Panel

7. ICCS 2025 marks the debut of the ICCS Advisory Panel (IAP), formed in July 2024. Comprising eight distinguished academics, community and religious leaders, including ICCS alumni,¹ the IAP advises RSIS and MCCY on strengthening ICCS as the leading platform for dialogue on multiculturalism. It provides input on conference design, inter-sessional events, research focus and international partnerships. The IAP met in October 2024 and February 2025 to refine ICCS 2025's focus on cohesion-building challenges and bridging research with practice. In February 2025, they also met President Tharman at the Istana to discuss ways to deepen Singapore's multiculturalism and religious harmony in a divided world.

Community Experience Programme

8. Consistent with previous editions, ICCS 2025 will also include learning journeys that give delegates a firsthand look at Singapore's approach to multicultural and interreligious harmony. By engaging with local communities and exploring Singapore's diverse neighborhoods, delegates will gain invaluable insights into how social cohesion is fostered and how diverse faith and cultural practices enrich life in a vibrant, multicultural society. Typically held at the end of each day's conference proceedings, these sessions showcase how shared experiences foster harmony in diversity through visits to places of worship, heritage sites, and cultural institutions.

Young Leaders Programme (YLP)

9. Youth participants will participate in both the 3-day main conference as well as the YLP. The YLP has been a flagship segment of ICCS since its inaugural edition

¹ The eight IAP members are: (i) Ms Yeoh Chee Yan, Senior Advisor, MCCY (Chair/IAP), Singapore; (ii) Lord John Alderdice, Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom; (iii) Professor Ashiwa Yoshiko, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology and Global Studies, Hitotsubashi University, Japan; (iv) Mr Goh Sin Teck, Editor, *Lianhe Zaobao*, Singapore; (v) Venerable Dr Chuan Sheng, Vice-Rector (Academic Affairs and Advisor) Buddhist College of Singapore, Singapore; (vi) Professor Katherine Marshall, Senior Fellow, Berkley Centre for Religion, Peace and World Affairs, United States; (vii) Dr Philips J. Vermonte, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Universitas Islam Internasional Indonesia, Indonesia; and (viii) Professor Mona Siddiqui, Assistant Principal for Religion and Society, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom.

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in 2019. It is a dynamic platform for emerging local and international youth leaders (aged 35 and below) to network, ideate and collaborate on initiatives that strengthen social cohesion.

10. **For the first time, 10 youth leaders (alumni of past Young Leaders Programmes and youth programmes such as Young Leaders Cha Cha Cha) will be recruited to join the working committee of YLP 2025.** As part of the working committee, these youths will have the opportunity to curate programmes and topics that they want to engage other youth delegates on, embodying the spirit of “for the youth, by the youth”.

11. Apart from the working committee, YLP 2025 will also feature an inclusive, participatory model where all YLP delegates will have a chance to not only attend, but also contribute to different elements of the programme (i.e., cultural sharing by foreign youth delegates, perform at Forum Theatre sessions). To encourage youth delegates’ involvement and contributions to the YLP, ICCS will also recruit facilitators from the youth delegate pool, who will then facilitate some of the YLP breakout sessions.

Impact of Past ICCS Editions

12. Previous iterations of ICCS inspired participants – both foreign and local – to begin their own projects and community initiatives aimed at promoting interfaith harmony, underscoring the impact that the conference has had.

Regional Projects / Community Initiatives

- **Indonesia:** Inspired by ICCS, Matus Ho of Indonesia’s Leimena Institute hosted their own “International Conference on Cross-Religious Literacy”, showcasing how exchanging ideas and experiences fosters global social cohesion. Since its inception in 2023, this initiative has trained over 8,500 teachers and involved more than 30 educational and religious institutions.

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- **The Philippines:** ICCS-YLP alumna Arizza Ann Nocum returned as a speaker at ICCS 2022 and later developed the Champions for Peace initiative. This pilot programme, launched in 2024, empowers young Filipinos to address social and environmental challenges through peacebuilding and community action, with plans to expand across Southeast Asia.
- **Malaysia:** Shahira Jamaluddin and Ooi Win Wen from Arts-ED leveraged ICCS insights while developing “Kaki Lima,” a strategy board game that reflects everyday community cohesion in George Town. Their work continues as they consolidate 20 years of programming into adaptable resources for local communities, collaborating with other YLP delegates to exchange best practices.

Local Projects / Community Initiatives

- **Singapore:** Yen Sheng Xiang, from ICCS-YLP 2022, spearheaded the *Planting Trees of Harmony* initiative in collaboration with local and Indonesian partners. Launched at Changi Beach Park in 2023, this community-driven project has already seen 50 trees planted, symbolizing interfaith and intercultural unity, and has expanded along the Park Connector Network.

Bringing corporates together to focus on the integration of foreign professionals

[New] Alliance for Action (AfA) on the Integration of Foreign Professionals

1. **MCCY, Singapore National Employers Federation (SNEF) and Singapore Business Federation (SBF) have convened an Alliance for Action (AfA) on the Integration of Foreign Professionals.** Alliances for Action (AfAs) are partnerships that bring together the people, private and public sectors to co-create and implement solutions on important and complex issues.

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2. Co-chaired by Mr Alvin Tan, Minister of State for MCCY & MTI, and Mr Marcus Lam, Honorary Treasurer of SNEF and Deputy Honorary Treasurer of SBF, the AfA brings together 17 representatives from Trade Associations and Chambers (TACs), and corporates from a diverse range of sectors including finance, information and communications technology, sustainability and commodities trading, to explore ways to better integrate foreign professionals into the workplace and community. **The AfA will span from February to September 2025.**

3. Singapore brings in foreign professionals to complement the local workforce and grow our economy. Over the last 10 years, professional, managerial, executive, and technician (PMET) employment grew by 382,000, while the number of Employment Pass (EP) and S Pass holders grew by 38,000. While foreign professionals bring with them skills, perspectives and experiences that help sustain investments and create jobs for Singaporeans, there has been concerns over job competition and the dilution of our national identity and social norms.

4. Foreign professionals live and work among us, many for an extended period of time, and we must foster an environment where our foreign and local workforce mutually understand and appreciate each other's social and cultural norms. By enabling meaningful interactions and friendships between locals and foreigners both at the workplace and in the community, we can strengthen mutual respect and build a more cohesive society.

5. Employers play a critical role in creating an environment where our foreign and local workforce can come together to collaborate in the pursuit of common goals. Our engagements with corporate leaders indicate that businesses recognise this responsibility. They value workplace diversity and are committed to deeper integration efforts – supporting their foreign employees in adapting to local culture and encouraging all employees to foster an inclusive and collaborative work environment.

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6. The AfA has engaged corporate leaders, middle-management and staff from different companies in the past few months to understand their views on integrating foreign professionals. Some preliminary suggestions include stronger support to help foreign professionals not only integrate at the workplace but the community too, such as through corporate orientation programmes that introduce foreign employees to local norms, and corporate volunteering to foster interactions between colleagues and with the larger community. The engagements also emphasised the need for corporates to have HR practices that assure all employees of equal opportunities, and to develop the competencies to foster integration.

7. AfA Co-Chair, Mr Marcus Lam said, “Building an inclusive and cohesive society is fundamental to ensuring Singapore's long-term success. A strong social compact requires businesses to play an active role in integrating talent from diverse backgrounds, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to contribute and succeed. I am pleased to represent the business community in my capacity as member of both SBF and SNEF to strengthen these efforts, creating a more vibrant business community in Singapore. The formation of the AfA on Integration of Foreign Professionals is timely to help us better identify and adopt best practices in workplace integration, and I look forward to working with the wider business community on proposals to help companies implement sustainable and impactful workplace integration initiatives.”

8. AfA members will develop recommendations on improving integration. The AfA aims to share its recommendations in 2H 2025.

Connecting People through Sports

[Update] SG60 ActiveSG Credit Top-Up

1. As part of the Government's continued efforts to encourage sport participation and foster cohesion through sport, **Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents**

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will be eligible for a one-off \$100 SG60 ActiveSG Credit Top-Up when they log in to MyActiveSG+ between 2 June and 31 December 2025.

- a) Existing ActiveSG members will receive the \$100 SG60 ActiveSG Credit Top-Up when they log in to MyActiveSG+ between 2 June and 31 December 2025.
- b) New ActiveSG members who sign up and log in to MyActiveSG+ using their Singpass between 2 June and 31 December 2025 will receive a total of \$200 credits (i.e. \$100 credits from the existing new member incentive scheme implemented in 2014 and the \$100 SG60 ActiveSG Credit Top-Up).
- c) Credits can be used to cover entry fees for swimming pools and gyms, book ActiveSG facilities, and offset fees for ActiveSG programmes.

2. As part of SG60 celebrations, all ActiveSG credits will enjoy a one-off automatic extension to 31 December 2026. Thereafter, all unused credits can be rolled over to the next year (i.e. 2027) if members make at least one transaction in 2026. A transaction is defined as a successful booking of ActiveSG programme or usage of facility (regardless of whether they are free) through MyActiveSG+. We encourage all members to log in early and use their credits.

3. The SG60 ActiveSG Credit Top-Up will help to enhance access to sporting facilities and programmes, and encourage sport participation across community segments. With new facilities such as Bukit Canberra and ActiveSG Sport Village @ Jurong Town, and programmes including ActiveSG Academies and Clubs, Active Health programmes and interest groups, Singaporeans have more options and opportunities to participate in sport.

Uniting people through Sports

[Update] SG60 Programmes (Key Sporting Events) – World Aquatics Championships 2025 and World Para Swimming Championships 2025

World Aquatics Championships - Singapore 2025

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1. **Singapore is the first Southeast Asian country to host the World Aquatics Championships (WCH) – Singapore 2025 (WCH2025)** from 11 July to 3 August at the Singapore Sports Hub and Sentosa, as part of the celebrations for our nation’s remarkable achievements over the years and in commemoration of SG60.
2. The WCH is World Aquatics’ flagship biennial event and is expected to welcome over 2,500 competitors from over 200 national member federations. Spectators can look forward to catching some action across six aquatic sports including artistic swimming, diving, high diving, open water swimming, swimming, and water polo.
3. **As part of preparations for the WCH2025, we are partnering with schools and community agencies to organise engagement activities leading up to and during the Championships to broaden sports participation at all levels and inspire the next generation of sporting talent.** Currently, there are six key engagement activities:
 - a) 25 school roadshows, with opportunities for “meet-the-mascots” and “meet-TeamSG” athletes. The engagement sessions with participating schools will take place from April to May 2025.
 - b) Community roadshows across 9 shopping malls in the city and heartlands. Visitors can look forward to interactive games and activities at these roadshows. These community activations will take place from May to August 2025.
 - c) The “Trash to Treasure” initiative encourages the collection of empty aluminium cans which will be upcycled into medals for elite and masters athletes. This is part of the Singapore 2025 Organising Committee’s aim to be a ‘green’ Championships and incorporate sustainable efforts where possible. An engagement event will be held at PCF Sparkletots Preschool @ Marsiling on 12 March 2025.
 - d) The SG60 Swim Challenge, in partnership with ActiveSG, invites Singaporeans to play a part in marking the 100-day countdown to the

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Championship. Members of the public can form a team and complete 60 laps or take part as an individual to swim six laps daily, pushing Singaporeans to keep fit by encouraging participation in aquatic sports. Those who take register for the SG60 Swim Challenge through the GameOn SG60 web application can also voluntarily contribute and donate to SportCares. These funds will be channelled towards supporting underprivileged children in learning to swim. The SG60 Swim Challenge will be launched at ActiveSG Bukit Canberra on 2 April 2025.

- e) Aqua Ekiden and Confidence Jump, part of GetActive! Singapore, will see corporate and community groups participating in relay swimming in the open waters of Sentosa (Palawan). They may also participate in Confidence Jump and aim to set a mass diving record for SG60. More details will be shared when ready.
- f) Schools and members of the public are encouraged to complete these specially curated initiatives and earn points in the GameOn SG60 web app to redeem rewards such as discounted tickets and merchandise, WCH limited edition premiums, and more. Members of the public who participate are also eligible for the lucky draw. More details about the rewards and redemption will be available in due course.

4. Happening right after WCH2025 is the **World Aquatics Masters Championships – Singapore 2025**, a mass participation event featuring five aquatic sports including swimming, water polo, diving, artistic swimming and open water swimming for competitors aged 25 and above. It is expected to attract approximately 6,000 competitors to our shores, consisting of international and local participants looking to gain experience.

World Para Swimming Championships 2025 (WPSC 2025)

5. **Singapore will host the World Para Swimming Championships (WPSC) 2025, the most prestigious swimming event outside of the Paralympic Games.** Set to take place at the OCBC Aquatic Centre at the Singapore Sports Hub from 21

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to 27 September 2025, the WPSC 2025 celebrates our Team Singapore para-athletes, and seeks to inspire more persons with disabilities to participate in para swimming and para sport.

6. The WPSC 2025 **will attract approximately 600 athletes and 400 team officials from across 60 countries, together with 15,000 spectators.**

7. A dedicated organising team has been set up to focus on delivering a successful WPSC 2025. The WPSC 2025 website (<https://www.sdsc.org.sg/wpsc25/>) has been launched in January this year and ticket sales will commence in March 2025. A 100-day countdown by SwimTogether Singapore will be held in the lead-up to the WPSC 2025, from May 2025.

8. **Hosting these diverse range of world-class events in Singapore not only cements our reputation as a premier destination for international sporting events but also brings economic, social and sporting benefits to Singapore.** Our national athletes can compete alongside the world's best aquatic athletes and gain valuable experience. Additionally, overseas competitors and spectators will boost tourism spending, create job opportunities for Singaporeans and deepen capabilities of our local companies for future events.

9. Hosting these events also benefits the wider society. Through a variety of sport events and community activities which Singaporeans can look forward to spectating and participating in, these supplementary activities may spark an interest in sport and fitness, and inspire our next generation of sporting talent.

We, the People of Singapore
Strengthening our National Identity

Supporting a diverse, high-quality mix of programmes reflecting Singapore's multi-cultural identity

[Update] SG Culture Pass

1. To encourage Singaporeans to show support for our local artists and cultural practitioners, **Singapore Citizens aged 18 and above will receive SG Culture Pass credits worth \$100.**
2. The SG Culture Pass aims to:
 - a) Foster pride and appreciation for local arts, heritage and culture
 - i. Today, we have a diverse, vibrant and high-quality range of cultural programmes, which reflect our unique multi-cultural heritage and distinctive Singaporean identity. Through SG Culture Pass, Singaporeans can discover and experience the rich cultural offerings that define Singapore, and develop a stronger sense of appreciation for our homegrown talents and stories.
 - b) Encourage Singaporeans to show support for local artists and cultural practitioners
 - i. This nationwide initiative aims to break down barriers for Singaporeans to support our local arts and heritage practitioners and groups. This includes cultivating a culture of attending and spending on local offerings. SG Culture Pass will defray ticket costs, and make it more convenient for Singaporeans to discover local cultural offerings on a one-stop platform – the SG Culture Pass website.

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c) Spur the growth of the local arts and heritage sector

- i. Singapore's arts and heritage is something Singaporeans should be proud of and celebrate, especially during SG60. Singaporeans' support of local arts and heritage is crucial to the growth of the sector and our Creative Economy. The SG Culture Pass seeks to nurture a strong domestic audience base for local arts and heritage groups and cultivate a culture of attending and paying for local offerings.

SG Culture Pass Credits

3. The credits can be used to **defray the cost of tickets to attend and participate in various local arts and heritage programmes**. These include performances, exhibitions, experiences such as learning tours and participatory workshops, and other cultural offerings. Purchase of local literary books will be onboarded at a later stage.

4. The SG Culture Pass credits are valid for use **across 3 years, from 1 September 2025 to 31 December 2028, via authorised ticketing providers**.

Eligibility of Programmes

5. MCCY will accept programme applications from registered organisations, collectives and Self-Employed Persons in the arts and heritage sector. The SG Culture Pass supports a variety of ticketed Literary Arts, Performing Arts (Dance, Music, Theatre), Visual Arts, and Heritage programmes. Programmes must involve Singapore Citizens or Permanent Residents playing a key role in the conceptualisation, creation, production, and presentation of the programme. Programmes should be ticketed by SG Culture Pass authorised ticketing partners.

6. Interested programme providers can sign up to participate in SG Culture Pass from 10 March 2025. Please refer to the [MCCY website](#) for more information.

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Who Is Eligible for the SG Culture Pass Credits?

7. All Singapore Citizens aged 18 and above in 2025 are eligible for the SG Culture Pass credits. This is defined as Singaporeans who are:

- a) Born on or before 31 December 2007; and
- b) Singapore Citizens as of 31 December 2024

8. From 1 September 2025, Singapore Citizens can start accessing and utilising their SG Culture Pass credits. More details will be announced subsequently.

STAY INFORMED ON SG CULTURE PASS

MCCY will only disseminate information on our official channels and via SMS through “gov.sg”.

SG Culture Pass credits are available from 1 September 2025. From now till 1 September 2025, no action is required from citizens to claim the SG Culture Pass credits.

During this time, you will **not** be asked to reply to any SMS, click any links, or provide any personal information or banking details to claim your SG Culture Pass credits.

Any website or SMS offering the redemption of credits and/or purchase of event using credits before 1 September is fraudulent.

If you detect any suspicious messages relating to SG Culture Pass or gov.sg, you can

- contact the SG Culture Pass Help Centre at +65 6338 3632, or
- submit screenshots of suspicious text messages via the ScamShield app.

If you are unsure if something is a scam, call and check with the 24/7 ScamShield Helpline at 1799.

Bringing art into the public realm

[Update] Singapore Biennale 2025

1. **Making a return after its last edition in 2022, the Singapore Biennale 2025 returns as part of SG60** with the theme of *pure intention*, inviting the audience to rediscover our city's evolving identity through contemporary art.
2. Taking place from October 2025 to March 2026, Singapore Biennale 2025 invites audiences to explore Singapore's evolving identity by using art to transform familiar public places such as colonial landmarks, green areas and shopping centres, including Fort Canning Park and the Rail Corridor. By weaving art into these lived spaces, the Biennale highlights Singapore's journey through art and architecture, inviting Singaporeans to connect with our histories, and imagine new possibilities for our future.
3. Under NAC's Distinctive City strategic thrust, NAC envisions Singapore as a creative city filled with vibrant spaces inspired by the arts. Singapore Biennale 2025's focus on art in publicly accessible spaces would extend reach and increase audience engagement beyond museum spaces and other traditional exhibition galleries, lowering barriers for audiences and weaving art into Singaporeans' daily lives. The introduction of art into public spaces provides increased opportunities for individuals less familiar with art to cultivate a deeper appreciation.

Bringing art into the public realm

[Update] Bringing Visual Arts into our Public Spaces

1. In 2025, NAC will launch a **new public art programme aimed at bringing art closer to Singaporeans**, encompassing familiar heartland areas, towns, and parks where people live, work, and play. Public art can lower barriers for audiences and weave art into Singaporeans' daily lives. This programme focuses on:

- a) Presenting public artworks/installations for a longer duration, that can potentially become distinctive township markers
- b) Developing Singaporean artists' capabilities in creating meaningful public art
- c) Fostering ownership among site owners and town communities for the public art in their localities
- d) Generating a stronger sense of awareness and appreciation of art among residents through public art.

2. NAC will work closely with artists, curators, arts organisations, and art collectives for the commissioning of public artwork as well as public programmes. These programmes include workshops with residents, public art activations, talks, and sharing sessions that will be designed for the residents and communities to foster greater appreciation for art.

3. NAC is in the process of finalising site locations with various site owners. These locations are largely in the heartlands, including HDB estates and industrial town estates. The first round of five commissions will be launched from August 2025 onwards.

Capturing stories of Singapore's founding generation to inspire the next

[Update] Project Citizens – The First Million by Founder's Memorial

1. Launching in conjunction with SG60 this year, ***Project Citizens – The First Million*** will capture stories of Singapore's founding generation of citizens. Through these stories, Singaporeans are invited to reflect on the shared values upon which our country was built, and how these founding values remain relevant today.

2. The collected stories will be featured at the Founders' Memorial when it opens in 2028, alongside features of our founding leaders. By participating in *Project Citizens – The First Million*, Singaporeans can continue to shape the content and storytelling approach of the Memorial.

3. *Project Citizens – The First Million* will also connect history to contemporary issues that Singapore faces. It prompts reflection on the contributions made by our founding generation, how they rallied together to build a shared identity and shared future, and the values that are foundational to Singapore and how they will take us forward.

4. ***Project Citizens – The First Million*** will be rolled out progressively to the public with three components:

a) Senior Engagement Programme (from Apr 2025)

Seniors are invited to share their stories through volunteer-facilitated activities and conversations. The Founders' Memorial developed the programme in consultation with Agency for Integrated Care and refined it through a pilot supported by Youth Corps Singapore volunteers.

The Founders' Memorial welcomes Singaporeans to step forward to participate by (i) joining the programme as a senior participant and/or volunteer, and (ii) co-organising a session of the programme with the

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Founders' Memorial. The Memorial will provide volunteer training and materials. 700 volunteers have since signed up.

The Founders' Memorial targets to hold 120 runs targeting 3,000 seniors from Mondays to Saturdays over 40 weeks, for 20-30 seniors each time. The following partners are confirmed – Agency for Integrated Care (Active Ageing Centres), People's Association (Community Centres) and National Library Board (Regional and Public Libraries).

b) Pop-Ups island wide (from Apr 2025)

The island-wide pop-ups will be a mass outreach effort to complement the Senior Engagement Programme. Visitors will be encouraged to reflect on the contributions of the founding generation and what being Singaporean means, and share their reflections and stories. The pop-ups will visit 20 locations including libraries, community hubs and SG60 events, and target to attract 850,000 visitors.

c) *Not Mere Spectators* experience (from Oct 2025 to Mar 2026)

The *Not Mere Spectators* experience will be held at the National Gallery Singapore, and targets to attract 100,000 visitors. The experience is a continuation of the Founders' Memorial's efforts to engage the public in the content curation and design of the Memorial, and explores how multiculturalism came to be a foundational value of Singapore.

The experience will include a "Project Citizens" media wall, featuring interviews of seniors conducted by students as part of the Founders' Memorial Student Archivist Project 2024, and a selection of quotes from other senior interviewees from the Senior Engagement Programme. The wall serves as a prototype for the eventual Project Citizens Wall at the Memorial.

Celebrating and safeguarding our rich heritage

[Update] Heritage Activation Nodes

1. **NHB's Heritage Activation Nodes (HAN) initiative is a key part of Our SG Heritage Plan 2.0** that empowers the community to be involved in the exploration and celebration of our heritage, and to provide more opportunities for the sustained, collaborative creation of heritage-related content and projects.
2. This initiative aims to increase heritage touchpoints, empower more in the community to get involved in the exploration and celebration of our heritage, increase the pool of heritage volunteers and build-up their capabilities, and enliven our neighbourhoods.
3. **The first two HANs were launched in Katong-Joo Chiat and Clementi in 2024, with a total physical visitorship of over 9,900 to date.** The HANs showcase the neighbourhood's unique heritage through three complementary strands:
 - a) **Heritage Spaces**, encompassing heritage and cultural infrastructure;
 - b) **Heritage Programming**, including guided trails, workshops, exhibitions, etc.; and
 - c) **Heritage Champions**, comprising volunteers who were involved in various projects and programmes. The pool of volunteers currently has 270 volunteers, with over 90% being first-time participants with NHB.
4. In 2025, NHB will continue working with community partners to grow existing HANs, organise regular programmes in existing HANs, roll out joint Calls for Collaboration to invite more proposals from the community to co-develop heritage programming/projects for the various HANs, and train more HAN Heritage Champions. To date, six projects have been awarded Call for Collaboration funding.
5. **NHB will launch the third HAN in Punggol in April 2025, in collaboration with community organisation OH! Open House**, which is NHB's primary partner for HAN@Punggol. The public can look forward to:
 - a) A co-created Art Activation (April to May 2025)
 - b) A series of cultural engagement workshops (April to May 2025)

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- c) A series of events to recruit and train volunteers in cultural mapping and story-collection/interviews (April to July 2025)
 - d) An open Call for Collaboration (July to September 2025)
 - e) The development of a co-created Neighbourhood Directory (July 2025 to February 2026)
 - f) The organisation of a Community Day (March 2026)
6. More details on upcoming programmes will be published in the coming months at <https://www.roots.gov.sg/han/HAN-Whats-On>.

Celebrating and safeguarding our rich heritage

[New] SG Heritage Business Scheme

1. NHB is piloting a new scheme to recognise and support exemplary heritage businesses that demonstrate historical, community, and cultural significance. **The SG Heritage Business Scheme will be the first government scheme that aims to recognise, drive awareness of, and inspire a greater appreciation and patronage for local businesses on the basis of their heritage qualities.**
2. The scheme will be piloted in select areas, including major conservation precincts like Chinatown, Kampong Gelam, and Litte India, where heritage businesses significantly contribute to place identity. The scheme will be open to local businesses in these areas that have been registered and operating for at least 30 years, and demonstrate community and cultural significance.
3. Businesses on the scheme can receive support to encourage them to sustain themselves, including branding, marketing and consultancy by NHB, and other agencies and partners.
4. The scheme is part of **NHB's Our SG Heritage Plan 2.0 efforts to safeguard Singapore's cultural identity and living heritage, as well as support the wider heritage ecosystem in Singapore.** It will complement existing efforts by NHB, such as the Organisation Transformation Grant and Street Corner Heritage Galleries. to

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promote and support heritage business which have and continue to play a role in enlivening and supporting their communities.

5. The SG Heritage Business scheme is part of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Heritage Businesses, Traditional Activities and Cultural Life – a multi-agency effort to bring together key agencies, community partners and heritage businesses to grow and sustain business and activities that are crucial in ensuring the vibrancy of Singapore’s heritage areas.

6. A call for nominations to the scheme will be issued in the next few weeks, and more details will be announced then.

Realising Diverse Aspirations, Leaving No One Behind

Building an Inclusive society

Bringing arts and sports to our children and youths

[Update] Scaling up Arts Education to Increase Students' Access to Arts Experiences

1. As part of strengthening and extending access to quality arts learning experiences across demographics and at different milestones and life stages, **NAC will scale up efforts on Arts Education throughout 2025 to 2027:**

- a) **Implementing Arts Education Programme (AEP) in all ECDA-supported preschools by 2027** – NAC aims to promote positive first experiences and engagement in and through the arts, increase access to the arts, including students from lower-income or disadvantaged backgrounds, and enhance students' development, including communication and social-emotional competencies.
- b) **Implementing Performing Arts-Based Learning (PABL) for all lower secondary cohorts in MOE schools by 2027** – NAC works with Ministry of Education to encourage students to deepen their appreciation of live music in relation to their music lessons, and cultivate a sense of pride and connection with Singapore's culture and heritage.

Arts Education Programme (AEP)

2. NAC piloted the NAC-AEP for preschools in 2014 to provide quality arts learning experiences to students in government-funded preschools. Under the NAC-AEP for preschools, there is currently a curated selection of over 190 artist-led programmes such as performances, excursions and workshops across six art forms (Dance, Music, Theatre, Literary Arts, Visual Arts and Digital Media) for

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preschools to choose from. In 2024, NAC-AEP (Preschool) reached more than 34,000 preschool students from over 500 preschools.

3. Thus far, funding for preschools has been prioritised towards 5 anchor operators (AOPs) - E-Bridge Preschool, M.Y World Preschool Ltd, NTUC My First Skool, PAP Community Foundation and Skool4Kidz, which currently operate around two-thirds of ECDA-funded preschools. NAC has scaled up access to AEP for preschools by targeting other Partner Operators (POPs), such as Learning Vision, Small Wonder and Star Learners, to reach a wider group of students. In 2025, NAC will onboard 80 new centres by Anchor Operators and 120 new centres by Partner operators.

4. **NAC targets to reach 100% of ECDA-supported preschools (estimated 1,000 preschools, estimated 44,000 students) by 2027.**

Performing Arts-Based Learning (PABL)

5. Jointly developed and funded by Ministry of Education (MOE) and NAC, PABL was introduced as a core learning experience in MOE's Lower Secondary Music curriculum, providing every student with the opportunity to experience a bespoke live music performance in a professional performing arts and cultural venue. PABL will encourage students to develop an appreciation of the connections between classroom learning and Singapore's professional arts scene, and forge a deeper sense of identity, community, and connection with Singapore's arts and cultural heritage.

6. NAC partners MOE to commission orchestras and arts groups to design PABL experiences and accompanying educational resources. For example, SSO, SCO, Esplanade and Metropolitan Festival Orchestra have been commissioned to deliver concert programmes, with plans to onboard more partners from 2025.

7. In 2024, 30% of the lower secondary cohort participated in a PABL experience. **Between 2025 to 2027, NAC will continue working with MOE to**

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progressively roll out PABL to secondary schools, with the target of reaching all secondary schools by 2027.

Other ongoing initiatives for schools

8. Students have opportunities to engage with artists and develop an appreciation of Singapore's cultural identity through various initiatives including:

- a) *Artist-in-School Scheme* which supports sustained partnerships between artists and schools to co-design customized arts learning experiences that deepen students' engagement in and through arts.
- b) Partnering MOE for *Museum-Based Learning*, a core learning experience for primary 4 students in the Primary Art syllabus in the Primary Art syllabus, where students respond to Singapore artworks in local art museums, exploring and deepening their understanding and appreciation of Singapore's artistic and cultural heritage.

Bringing arts and sports to our children and youths

[Update] Expansion of Strategic Partnership Co-Curricular Activity (SP-CCA) to include more sports

1. In partnership with the Ministry of Education (MOE), we are expanding the current Strategic Partnership Co-Curricular Activity (SP-CCA) to include Canoeing from 2025, and Hockey from 2026. Canoeing has been offered through existing ActiveSG Academies & Clubs coaching and resourcing structures from Feb 2025.

2. The SP-CCA is a centralised, non-school-based CCA model co-organised by MOE and MCCY to allow secondary school students to pursue their interest in activities beyond their school offerings and support the development of pathways for sports talents. There are currently two sports SP-CCA: Athletics (introduced in

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2019), and Water Polo (introduced in 2022). Enrolment numbers for SP-CCA Athletics and Water Polo have been steadily increasing since their introduction.

3. We will continue to work with MOE to explore expanding SP-CCA.

Providing convenient and affordable access to public sports facilities

[Update] Sport Facilities Master Plan

1. The **Sports Facilities Master Plan (SFMP)** aims to provide Singaporeans with convenient access to relevant and affordable public sports facilities so that they can enjoy sports as part of a healthy and active lifestyle. Singaporeans will be able to have easy access to a sport facility near their homes, utilise the common spaces provided to participate in sports and connect with others.

2. As part of SFMP, we have **completed 10 Sport-in-Precinct (SIP) facilities to-date, with another 24 SIP facilities in the pipeline, out of which 6 are currently undergoing construction, which residents can enjoy soon.**

SIPs undergoing construction

- a) Keat Hong,
- b) Tampines North,
- c) Pasir Ris East,
- d) Whampoa,
- e) Ulu Pandan and
- f) Chua Chu Kang (Brickland)

3. **3 sport facilities have been renovated and 15 development projects have been completed as part of SFMP.**

Renovated sport facilities

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- a) Choa Chu Kang Sport Centre
- b) Delta Sport Centre
- c) Burghley Squash Centre

Completed development projects

- a) Choa Chu Kang shooting range
- b) Geylang Field
- c) Kallang Practice Track
- d) Kallang Football Hub
- e) Kallang Tennis Hub
- f) Our Tampines Hub
- g) Heartbeat@Bedok
- h) Bukit Canberra
- i) ActiveSG Hockey Village @ Boon Lay
- j) ActiveSG Park @ Jurong Lake Gardens
- k) ActiveSG Sport Village @ Jurong Town
- l) Yan Kit Playfield
- m) Interim softball/baseball facility @ Jurong East
- n) ActiveSG Sport Park @ Bedok North (Bedok interim sports courts @ former Bedok)
Swimming Pool
- o) ActiveSG Gym @ Toa Payoh

Upcoming facilities in the coming years

4. In 2025, residents in **Bedok, Ang Mo Kio and Queenstown** can soon enjoy new sport facilities such as 2 new sheltered basketball courts and 4 open surface courts at the ActiveSG Sport Park @ Bedok North, as well as renovated facilities at Queenstown Sport Centre and ActiveSG Sport Park @ Ang Mo Kio (previously known as Ang Mo Kio Swimming Complex) in their neighbourhood. By 2026, residents in **Hougang** can expect completed renovation works for the Hougang Sport Centre sport facilities, and residents in **Punggol** can expect the opening of

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the Punggol Regional Sport Centre. When completed, the Punggol Regional Sport Centre will comprise a 5,000-seater stadium, a swimming complex, an indoor sport hall, a team sport hall, a gym, fitness studios, sheltered tennis and futsal courts, a water sport centre, and an archery field.

5. Residents near the **Chong Pang Integrated Development** can enjoy facilities such as swimming pools, fitness studios, a gym, and a jogging track, when the facility is completed in 2027.

6. **Toa Payoh residents** can anticipate a new Integrated Development, following the groundbreaking ceremony in January 2025. The development is expected to be ready by 2030.

7. Design is in progress for the future **ActiveSG Sport Park @ Farrer Park**. We are exploring a sport centre with facilities such as a multi-purpose play field, a swimming complex, multi-purpose sport halls and a park zone, as well as the conversion of the former boxing gym building into a multi-purpose community sporting space.

8. In land scarce Singapore, the SFMP will enable more efficient use of resources through the intensification of land and making other public sports facilities accessible. MCCY and SportSG will continue to work with MOE to provide more facilities on top of the current 393 operational facilities under the Dual Use Scheme (as of February 2025), and collaborate with other agencies to meet the evolving needs of the community.

Empowering people of all abilities and ages through sports

[Update] Disability Sports Master Plan

1. The **refreshed Disability Sports Master Plan (DSMP) was launched in November 2024** to enable people of all abilities to engage in sports, be enriched through sports, and be empowered by sports.

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2. DSMP 2024 focuses on three key strategic themes, with partnerships as a key enabler, to raise participation rate of persons with disabilities in disability sports to 70% by 2030. The three key strategic themes include:

- a) Increase **accessibility** to disability sports programmes and activities;
- b) Enhance **awareness** of disability sports and inclusive sports activities;
- c) Fulfill **aspirations** of persons with disabilities who desire and have the potential to do sports at the high performance level

3. **The first five Para Sports Community Hubs (PSCHs) have been set up**, and are located at Pasir Ris Sport Centre (Boccia), Heartbeat@Bedok (Swimming and Table Tennis), Jurong West Sport Centre (Swimming and Para Cycling), Yio Chu Kang Sport Centre (Athletics and Badminton) and Delta Sport Centre (Goalball). PSCHs help to expand opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in sports, from recreational to high-performance levels.

4. The **Enabling Sports Fund (ESF)** will be launched in the second half of 2025. The fund aims to raise \$5 million in public donations by 2030, which the government will match dollar-for-dollar, bringing the total fund to \$10 million. The ESF will provide funding support to encourage impactful community-initiated disability sports initiatives, including regular programmes run by individuals, groups or organisations or one-off activities.

5. The ESF will cover areas such as the purchase of sports equipment, transport support for programme participants and volunteers, and coaching fees. We encourage applicants to submit proposals that promote inclusivity by involving participants of all abilities and engaging the wider community through volunteer participation. One of the signature events supported by the ESF is the Special Olympics Singapore National Games which is held once in four years. More details will be shared when ready.

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6. We encourage corporates and individuals to contribute actively to this Fund and the broader disability sports ecosystem.

Empowering people of all abilities and ages through sports

[New] Frailty Prevention Programme – Bringing preventive health support closer to seniors

1. As part of its Active Health initiative, SportSG is collaborating with the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) to bring the **Frailty Prevention Programme (FPP) directly to seniors in their neighbourhoods through the Active Ageing Centres (AACs).**

2. Through this community-based approach and in support of national initiatives HealthierSG and Age Well SG, the FPP promotes a healthy lifestyle and active sport participation among seniors close to where they live. **This programme seeks to delay the frailty process and allow seniors to build social connections as they age.**

3. The FPP consists of two components:

(i) Combat Age-related Loss of Muscle (CALM) Programme

a) The 8-week CALM Programme aims to raise awareness of the importance of lean muscle tissue in day-to-day functioning amongst seniors. It focuses on exercise, nutrition and sleep to maintain or increase lean muscle tissue and optimise daily function and performance. Seniors are also introduced to the Active Health Labs, ActiveSG facilities and programmes that can sustain their physical activity levels.

b) **CALM was rolled out in batches starting in September 2024, starting with the Queenstown Health District. More than 1,200**

seniors at 54 AACs have since completed the programme.

Based on data from over 400 seniors who have completed CALM, these seniors reported better health behaviours, confidence in maintaining muscle strength, and increased social interaction with others.

c) We aim to double the number of AACs that complete **CALM to about 100 AACs by end of 2025.**

d) After completing CALM, seniors are encouraged to maintain their progress through the CALM maintenance plan, which will be offered in the 12 weeks following the completion of CALM. AACs have the option of choosing between Square Stepping and Aqua Fun Fit in the 12 weeks following the completion of CALM. This helps seniors improve their mobility and strength and build lasting exercise habits for long-term health.

(ii) Adaptive sports at AACs

a) **We aim to provide adaptive sports equipment to about 100 AACs by end of 2025.** This will enable AACs to conduct physical activities for seniors more independently with less reliance on the help of national agencies.

b) Led by SportCares, AACs will be provided with equipment for five adaptive sports: sport stacking, ladder toss, bocchia, disc golf, and seated floorball. AACs can customise components of the programme to the needs of the participants and organise their own adaptive sports competitions as part of their programming.

c) Beyond FPP, adaptive sports have also been integrated into SportSG's Active Exchange (ActiveX) programme. An initiative that brings together children/youths and seniors through sport and

exercise, ActiveX aims to foster intergenerational connections and promote physical activity for a healthier, more connected community. Here, students first teach and lead seniors in modified/adaptive sports, before engaging them in friendly competitions.

Active Health Fitness Trail

4. **Residents living in the Mei Ling precinct within the Queenstown Health District can look forward to the launch of the Active Health Fitness Trail later this year**, as a continued effort to encourage a healthy and sporting lifestyle amongst residents. This collaboration between SportSG and the Housing Development Board (HDB) aims to bring concepts of sport and exercise science to the community.

5. **The Active Health Fitness Trail will feature an exercise path that links up various fitness corners within the precinct to encourage residents to stay active.** It incorporates elements that align with Singapore Physical Activity Guidelines (SPAG) recommendations and features zones and equipment focusing on strength, balance, mobility, and aerobic exercises, signages with health tips and behavioural nudges, and environmental structures such as benches, railings or wall pillars, to create safe and effective exercise environments for seniors. There are also self-assessment stations and measurement tools where seniors can test functional performance, such as their balance and gait.

About Active Health

6. The Active Health initiative was launched in 2017 to empower and motivate individuals to take ownership of their health and well-being, and to build strong social bonds and support through sporting activities. Active Health aims to shift the mindset of Singaporeans towards an "aspiration-mode" of active living by engaging in quality

experience of sports, physical activities and programmes with their family, friends and the community.

7. Active Health provides a suite of programmes in Active Health Labs located within ActiveSG Sport Centres and also leads community exercise programmes such as Discovery Walk In the Park and more recently FPP in AACs. Active Health aims to leverage the local networks and expertise of community partners to extend the reach and impact of its offerings, bringing more residents along their health and wellness journey.

About SportCares

8. Established in 2012 as the philanthropic arm of SportSG, SportCares is dedicated to empowering participants from vulnerable backgrounds, including children and youth-in-need, isolated seniors and persons with disabilities and special needs, by providing them with opportunities to experience the transformative power of sport.

9. Through partnerships across the private, public and people sectors, SportCares remains committed to building a more inclusive and resilient society. Over the past decade, SportCares has reached out to more than 40,000 individuals through sport.

About Active Ageing Centres

10. An Active Ageing Centre (AAC) is a drop-in social recreational centre that extends support to seniors living nearby in the community. It is a go-to point for seniors to have the opportunity to build strong social connections, take part in recreational activities, and contribute to the community as they wish.

11. AACs provide a suite of services which include Active Ageing activities to keep seniors engaged within the community, befriending services for vulnerable seniors who require additional social support and making referrals for Care services when required.

Advancing our athletes to their full sporting potential

[New] Consolidation of NYSI, SSI, and SSP

1. **MCCY will consolidate the Singapore Sport Institute (SSI), National Youth Sports Institute (NYSI) and Singapore Sports School (SSP) into a single entity** and streamline functions they perform for youth and senior athletes into a more integrated and effective youth-to-senior support framework. This will also enhance their service delivery to athletes.

2. This integration will support our vision and plans for the next bound of sporting excellence, as shared by PM at National Day Rally 2024.

3. As part of the Kallang Alive Masterplan, an integrated national training centre in the precinct – the home of TeamSG – will be developed. The SSP will be relocated to Kallang and integrated with the rest of the High Performance Sport (HPS) ecosystem (e.g. sport scientists and National Sports Associations (NSAs)). SSP's mission of providing academic pathways and support to student-athletes will remain unchanged. The move will further strengthen SSP's role as the education arm of the HPS ecosystem by wrapping strong academic support around the ideal daily training environment (DTE) for sporting excellence that we will provide at the home of TeamSG for our national athletes.

4. Beyond infrastructure, we will deepen the capabilities and capacities of our sport science and sport medicine specialists and sport administrators. Support to make sport a viable career will also be strengthened, giving athletes greater assurance on their employability and post-career retirement needs as they pursue their sporting careers.

5. SSI and NYSI will first integrate and form a new sport institute from 1 Apr 2025. The new sport institute will come together with SSP at a later date and more details will be shared, when ready. **The consolidation of SSI, NYSI and SSP will benefit the various stakeholders in the following ways:**

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- a) For athletes and parents: Providing a seamless and comprehensive support system for athletes throughout their sporting journey, particularly during the youth-to-senior transition and across life stages. This will provide assurance that sport is a viable career and encourage athletes to stay longer in competitive sport.
- b) For NSAs: Enabling the strengthening of partnerships with NSAs on athlete and pathway development, and working closely with NSAs to professionalise sport administration and technical capabilities.
- c) For sport specialists: Establishing a core of sport specialists in sport science, athlete life and sport management in Singapore's system and providing multiple pathways for professional development. This allows us to attract and retain the best expertise in the HPS system, and deepen the specialists' capacities and capabilities to give national athletes the competitive edge.

Nurturing the next generation of leaders in the arts sector

[Update] Expanding our arts scholarship for the next generation of Singaporean Artists

1. MCCY and NAC will enhance arts scholarships to support more artistic talents early in their development, supporting them in their career aspirations in the arts sector, and nurturing them as potential leaders of the sector.
2. This enhancement in the arts scholarships will include
 - a) **top-up funding to the existing NAC Arts Scholarship for degree studies;** and

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b) **a new NAC Creative Arts Scholarship for pre-tertiary / diploma studies** offered by School of the Arts, Singapore (SOTA), Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) and LASALLE College of the Arts (LASALLE). The arts scholarships will be extended to meritorious students who may require additional financial support, so that any deserving students may pursue arts education regardless of their backgrounds.

3. The NAC Arts Scholarship will go towards supporting a larger base of deserving undergraduate / postgraduate scholars and pre-tertiary / diploma scholars each year.

4. In 2024, the NAC awarded a total of 13 Arts Scholarships to outstanding individuals pursuing undergraduate and postgraduate studies in various arts disciplines. The NAC Arts Scholarship supports full-time arts and arts-related degree programmes at local and international institutions.

Nurturing the next generation of leaders in the arts sector

[Update] Strengthening and expanding our support for the arts workforce

1. **NAC plans to build on and expand its support for the arts workforce.** Our enhanced arts manpower development strategies aim to address key capability gaps within the arts workforce, support in-demand job areas, and foster career agility and resilience.

2. NAC will roll out a comprehensive suite of initiatives designed to create multiple pathways for professional development, tailored to the diverse aspirations and needs of arts practitioners.

Strengthening Continuing Education and Training – Workplace-Based Training

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3. NAC will enhance Continuing Education Training (CET) opportunities through more industry-relevant training programmes to improve their access to work opportunities and skills upgrading. Through the Workplace-Based Training, participating arts Self-Employed Persons (SEPs) will acquire the relevant skills and work experience for the jobs or tasks that they are trained for.
4. **From 2025, NAC will work with training partners to offer more workplace-based training to address in-demand jobs and skill gaps, augment arts SEPs' access to on-the-job training, and diversify development pathways and networks for arts SEPs.**
5. NAC will facilitate this through the provision of two tracks:
 - a) Arts Apprenticeships, which will prepare SEPs for specific job roles
 - b) Train-and-Attach in Arts programmes, which will develop specific skills and tasks.
6. For a start, NAC will focus on in-demand areas for the Arts Apprenticeships and Train-and-Attach in Arts programmes in the following areas:
 - a) Arts Education;
 - b) Stage and Production Management, Production Coordination; and
 - c) Technical Theatre for Live Performances;
7. Training partners currently include cultural institutions such as Esplanade, and partners such as Backstage Affair and Rainbow Centre.
8. Since 2022, NAC has steadily provided more support for arts SEPs. This includes the launch of Skills Framework for Arts in 2023 to provide clearer

articulation of skills and pathways, and the provision of training allowances to SEPs to offset the opportunity cost for training. Other support also include:

- a) NAC-National Instructors and Coaches Association (NICA) Training Support that provides course fee subsidies and training allowances to self-employed arts educators, reducing financial barriers to professional development.
- b) Capability Development Grant Programme that encourages continuous professional development by covering expenses for workshops, masterclasses, seminars, conferences, residencies and other training opportunities.

Enhanced Arts Resource Hub

9. The NAC set up the Arts Resource Hub in 2019 after extensive consultations with over 370 arts and culture practitioners across disciplines and practices. The ARH aims to enable SEPs in the arts to develop their practices, unlock opportunities, and grow meaningful careers.

This array of initiatives and programmes include:

- a) Professional career development guidance to help SEPs chart out their skills and career progression pathways. ARH IGNITE Mentorship is one example. It was designed for new and emerging practitioners to develop key SEP skills such as entrepreneurship, personal brand management, and project management. The inaugural edition in 2024 paired 20 mentees with 10 mentors from a diverse range of artistic disciplines, including theatre, music, traditional arts and visual arts.
- b) Seminars and digital resources on topics such as intellectual property, copyright and fair use, arts entrepreneurship, financial planning for healthcare and retirement, and more. For instance, ARH collaborated

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with creative director, curator, and producer Jeremiah Choy to create a series of videos, equipping arts practitioners with the know-how to start and sustain their own arts businesses.

- c) Access to co-working and collaboration spaces for SEPs to create, network, and collaborate. These include meeting rooms, a rehearsal studio, a black box, and co-working spaces. Many of these affordable spaces are utilized by younger and less-well-established artists and arts groups to help them kick start their careers.
- d) Expert-led dialogues, peer-to-peer learning and networking sessions to upskill arts SEPs and provide opportunities to build community and meet other SEPs in the arts. For example, Kampung Halloween provided a platform for younger artists to receive guidance from experienced practitioners, developing critical skills, building connections and growing communities of practice. The upcoming panel series in March 2025, Kopi with Kheng, co-created with veteran actress Tan Kheng Hua will feature cross-industry sharing by diverse talents and professionals from the arts and broader creative sectors.
- e) Programmes on care practices for those working in the arts. For example, in 2024, ARH collaborated with arts collective CITRUS Practices on a series of community peer-sharing sessions featuring workshops that shared tools and practices to enhance self-care and well-being among arts practitioners and conversations with experts such as Dr June Sheren, who specialises in Performing Arts Medicine, to share insights on improving mental well-being and physical care.

NAC will **also expand offerings to** include:

- a) Increased access to legal support for arts SEPs through tailored resources including self-help guides and legal templates, as well as Community of Practice sessions facilitated by Pro Bono SG. These will

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cover relevant topics including contract negotiation, licensing issues, and intellectual property rights.

- b) Well-being resources and programmes through partnerships with healthcare professionals and with the support of experts. ARH will develop resources covering topics such as mental resilience and injury prevention for performing artists.

10. Currently, **over 3,400 arts SEPs and freelancers subscribe to the ARH.NAC** will continue to deepen engagement with arts SEPs to improve the support and offerings of ARH.

Celebrating and profiling our Singaporean design talent

[New] Exploring the Establishment of a New Singapore Design Museum

1. **MCCY is considering the establishment of a new Singapore Design Museum.** NHB is currently conducting a feasibility study to determine the suitability of the Old SJI Building, a National Monument, for the new museum.
2. There has been strong public interest in design, as seen from the positive reception from the public on exhibitions such as the Asian Civilisations Museum's (ACM) "Andrew Gn: Fashioning Singapore and the World" and "#SGFASHIONNOW" in partnership with LASALLE College of the Arts; and URA and NLB's "To Draw an Idea: retracing the designs of William Lim Associates - W Architects". #SGFASHIONNOW has even travelled to Seoul and Busan. These exhibitions have enhanced Singaporeans' understanding and pride towards the creativity and innovation of Singapore design, and put our designers and design firms on the world stage.
3. Informal consultations with various stakeholders, including local designers, have highlighted that the Old SJI Building has good potential as the site for this new

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design museum. With SAM establishing itself at Tanjong Pagar Distripark, the Old SJI Building is being considered for repurposing as a new design museum.

4. As a UNESCO Creative City of Design, Singapore is committed to integrating design and creativity into everyday life. Singaporean designers have gained international recognition for driving innovation and making a positive impact on society through their works and projects. **The establishment of the Singapore Design Museum would further showcase the multidisciplinary and forward-looking design from Singapore, relating to the future needs of industry and society.** It would feature the work of top Singapore designers and design firms across various fields, and their connections to Asia and the world.

5. **The new museum is expected to attract both local and international visitors and would complement existing design education efforts,** including programmes at schools such as the University of the Arts Singapore. Since 2023, NHB, SAM, the National Library Board, and URA have been working together on a Design Collection – which currently includes highlights such as an conservation proposal in W Architects' archive adapting Boat Quay shophouses to become a cultural and lifestyle hub; and a dress with decorative buttons referencing the kerosang (jewelled brooches worn by Peranakans) by Singaporean designer Andrew Gn referencing the designer's Peranakan ancestry – which could be featured in the new museum.

6. The Government will provide more details on the establishment of the Singapore Design Museum once the feasibility study is complete.

Building & Owning our Future Together

Seeding a Democracy of Deeds

Encouraging Singaporeans to give regularly to those in need

[Update] Nation-wide Giving Campaign (SGSHARE)

1. SG60 is an opportune time to **encourage more Singaporeans to contribute to supporting communities in need through SGSHARE** (formerly SHARE), a regular giving programme by the Community Chest.
2. MCCY is partnering the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) to **rally each Singaporean adult to contribute either \$60 to commemorate SG60, or make a one-time donation of any amount from \$1 onwards to the Community Chest**, as a gift to the nation.
3. All donations raised through SGSHARE **will go towards supporting social service programmes for children with special needs and youth-at-risk, adults with disabilities, persons with mental health conditions, seniors, and families in need of assistance.**
4. SGSHARE makes charitable giving more accessible and convenient for individuals to commit to regular giving through automated donations such as payroll, GIRO or credit card transfers. Companies who are onboarded onto SGSHARE can encourage their employees to donate regularly from their payroll, to cultivate a heart to care for others.
5. Individuals and corporates are eligible for a 250% tax deduction for donations to SGSHARE. Additionally, **donations to SGSHARE qualify for the SG Gives matching grant which provides dollar-for-dollar matching for donations to programmes under the Community Chest, the Collective for a Stronger Society, and the President's Challenge.** To encourage sustained giving amongst

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large donors, the Government will provide \$1.50 for each dollar donated, for donations with a minimum three-year commitment of at least \$250,000 per year.

6. **Giving.sg, managed by the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre (NVPC), is the appointed platform to receive all SGSHARE donations.** Those who are interested to contribute to SGSHARE can visit <https://www.giving.sg/sq60share> for more information.

Rallying support for the arts and heritage sector through matching fund

[Update] Cultural Matching Fund Top-Up

1. In **FY2025, the Government will top up the CMF by \$100 million** to encourage giving to arts and heritage, bringing the total investment into CMF to \$600 million.

2. The CMF was established by MCCY in 2014, with a sum of \$200 million, to provide dollar-for-dollar matching grants for private cash donations to registered charities in the arts and heritage sector. Since then, there have been 2 top-ups of \$150 million each in 2017 and 2022.

3. The Fund aims to foster a broader-based climate of giving by encouraging more people in Singapore to contribute to Singapore's culture sector, and strengthen sustainability in the culture sector by incentivising charities/IPC's in the sector to diversify income streams via fundraising.

- i. As of 2024, 127 unique arts and heritage charities had applied to CMF at least once, comprising around 80% of all arts and heritage charities.
- ii. Over \$400 million in matching grants has been disbursed to arts and heritage charities since the launch of CMF.
- iii. The number of private donors whose donations are matched by the CMF has quadrupled, from 2,000 in FY2014 to over 8,000 in FY2023.

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iv. CMF has also encouraged smaller and newer arts and heritage charities to undertake fundraising for the first time as part of diversification of revenue streams

4. CMF is a strong signal of the shared responsibility between the Government and the private and people sectors in driving Singapore's cultural development.

5. Qualifying arts and heritage charities/IPC's can apply for the CMF via OurSG Grants Portal. The application window is from 1 Apr to 31 May each year. Application guidelines are publicly available at www.mccy.gov.sg/sector/policies/cultural-matching-fund.

Supporting ground-up initiatives to meet community needs

[Update] Our Singapore Fund – Call for Submissions in SG60

1. **Our Singapore Fund (OSF) supports ground up projects that bring diverse people together** to interact and foster mutual understanding and/or to contribute to meet community needs and the social good.

2. Launched in 2016, the OSF supports active citizens taking initiative to solve ground problems, strengthen community spirit, and contribute to nation-building. The grant provides start-up funding to help citizens to realise meaningful ground up projects which meets community and social needs. Through the OSF, the Government aims to increase citizen participation and ownership to solve social challenges.

3. OSF has supported over 700 citizen-initiated projects, with about \$8m of funding. The projects initiated by citizens cover areas such as building resilient communities and families, enhancing neighbourhoods, encouraging active and healthy lifestyles and developing digital literacy.

4. OSF also supported projects by citizens which reached out to affected vulnerable communities and social groups during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially during the Circuit Breaker in 2020 and Heightened Alert in 2021.

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5. Citizens who wish to organise ground-up projects in the spirit of SG60, to Connect citizens, galvanise them to show Care for one another, and Contribute to the community can apply for OSF funding through the consolidated grants portal, OurSG Grants Portal (<https://oursggrants.gov.sg/>).

Transforming co-ops to extend their reach to the wider community

[New] Singapore Co-operative Movement Centennial (SCM100) 10-year Transformation Roadmap

1. **MCCY, in partnership with the Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF), will launch a consultation with co-ops and relevant stakeholders to co-create a 10-year transformation roadmap**, which aims to expand the social mission of co-ops, and uplift the capability and competency of the sector. **Over the next few months, MCCY and SNCF will engage co-ops and their relevant stakeholders, including youths and industry experts, on the transformation roadmap.** The transformation roadmap will be announced later in 2025.

2. **2025 is a significant year for co-ops in Singapore** – SG60 celebrations, the centennial year of the Singapore co-operative movement, and the International Year of Co-operatives (IYC2025) as designated by the United Nations. In the year of triple celebrations, the Government aims to build on the ForwardSG conversation to strengthen the social compact and capability of co-ops through these engagements.

3. Co-ops have well-addressed some of the social needs within our communities in the last 60 years. For example, Runninghour which was first established as a running club before becoming a co-operative in 2014, has benefitted many individuals as part of its social mission in promoting the integration of persons with special needs through sports.

4. Society and people's needs have also changed over the years. Today, co-ops face greater competition and challenges, which calls for the need for co-ops to strengthen their governance, transform their business to address emerging needs, and extend their reach to the wider community.

Existing Government support for co-ops

5. The **Central Co-operative Fund (CCF)** is a fund under the purview of **MCCY to further co-operative education, training, research, audit, and for the general development of the co-operative movement in Singapore.** The CCF supports the development and growth of our co-operatives through the provision of CCF grants. Under the CCF Grant Framework, co-operatives can apply for the following grants (subject to applicable conditions):

- a) **CCF Development Grant:** To enhance co-operatives' capabilities, governance and operational efficiency
- b) **CCF Training Grant:** To help co-operative officers gain knowledge and relevant skills
- c) **CCF Special Grants:** To provide co-funding for specific schemes and projects
- d) **CCF Basic Support Grant:** To assist co-operatives that are unable to meet standard grant eligibility criteria
- e) **CCF New Co-operative Grant:** To support the initial set-up costs and operating expenses of new co-operatives

Efforts together with Singapore National Co-operative Federation

6. Formed in 1980 as the Apex body of co-ops, the **Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF)** actively promotes the co-op sector by educating and sharing on the **Singapore Co-op Movement (SCM)**, such as through youth outreach at various campuses and local events. It also serves as the collective voice representing the co-op movement on local and international platforms (e.g.

Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Union Forum, International Co-operative Alliance).

7. **MCCY and SNCF work closely on many fronts to support the sector's development, such as providing resources and training opportunities for co-ops.** Some notable initiatives are:

- a) **CCF Support Package:** In 2020 and 2021 during the COVID period, MCCY had provided a 'CCF Support Package' worth about \$1.7 million **to mitigate the financial hardship of co-ops:**
 - i) Waiver of first tier CCF contributions in 2020 and 2021; and
 - ii) One-time grant of \$2,000 to each eligible co-op in 2020.
- b) **CCF Grant Framework:** MCCY and SNCF review and update the framework from time to time, to ensure it remains relevant and meets the evolving needs of co-ops. Various new grants were introduced in the last 5 years to address emerging needs, such as PDPA Grant, Progressive Workplace Grant, Sustainability Grant, and Cybersecurity Grant. **Over the last five years, CCF disbursed about \$3.3 million in grants to co-ops.**
- c) **Training courses:** SNCF organises and administers training courses for the sector, such as the ongoing Mandatory Induction Course (MIC) for credit co-ops. SNCF and MCCY also co-organised briefing and training sessions on recommended governance practices and common pitfalls.
- d) **Empowering Communities Fund (ECF):** The \$1 million ECF is set up by the SNCF and MCCY, with the support from the CCF Committee and the Government. ECF will fund projects by co-ops to drive community initiatives which benefit the vulnerable communities in Singapore. The ECF will be open for applications by April 2025. A co-op may undertake the project on its own or partner with another co-op or other entity. An

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example of a possible project is providing basic health screenings to residents at void decks.

Empower our youths as they navigate an uncertain future

[Update] PA Youth Charter

1. Building on the engagements in the Forward SG exercise, the **FutureYOUth Movement was launched by the People's Association Youth Movement (PAYM) to understand sentiments and aspirations on issues that they resonate with.** This ground-up youth movement provides youth with the opportunity to envision a caring, inclusive and sustainable society for their generation.
2. In the past 15 months, through the FutureYOUth Movement, PAYM engaged widely and deeply through multi-modal engagements – 212 conversations, focus group discussions, engagements and listening posts on three issues that youths resonate with - (a) Mental Health, (b) Racial and Religious Harmony and (c) Sustainability & Environment. This organic ground-up initiative led by youths, for youths, saw deep engagement across diverse youth segments.
3. The FutureYOUth Movement goes beyond the number of voices. It is about the mindset and determination of young people wanting to take charge of their future. The PA Youth Charter reflects the diverse tapestry of dreams and aspirations of youths to build a better Singapore.
4. The launch of the PA Youth Charter on 1 March 2025 serves as a call to action for youths to harness their passion, be active changemakers and drive positive change in their communities. It articulates the consensus and commitments crystallised from 127,000 voices of youth from all walks of life.
5. To support Youth Networks' and youths' efforts to build connections between Singaporeans, PA introduced the new SG60 PA Engagement Grant. The grant amount of \$3,000 serves as a catalyst to spark more community engagement and

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participation. The 95 youth networks from the PAYM will serve as the natural receptacle that like-minded youths and organisations can work with to bring their ideas into reality and drive social change in the local community and neighbourhood.

6. The PA Youth Movement (PAYM) is also committing 1 million volunteer hours this year to spark and nurture community participation and sustain youth-driven projects in the community. PAYM wants to energise and mobilise fellow youths and young organisations to act, to care for one another, the community and their environment.

Giving our youths opportunities to shape our future

[Update] SG60 Youth Engagements and SG Youth Plan

1. In conjunction with SG60, **MCCY and the National Youth Council (NYC), together with partners, are organising a year-long series of engagement sessions for youths** to discuss key issues that matter to youths, connect with others who are just as passionate about making a difference to Singapore, and take action to build our shared future.

2. This builds on various past engagements with youths, the Forward Singapore exercise, as well as the FutureYOUth campaign and Youth Charter. The upcoming engagements will emphasise what youths can do to better the lives of fellow Singaporeans, as well as provide them with the avenues and resources to take action. The engagements will focus on issues that matter to youths, such as:

- a) How we can better support youths to embrace learning beyond grades and succeed in diverse pathways.
- b) How we can support younger Singaporeans in starting families or young parents better.

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- c) How we can empower youths to play their part in creating a caring and inclusive society.
- d) How youths can play a part in advancing causes that they are passionate in, such as the environment and sustainability, as well as mental well-being.

3. As of February 2025, we have obtained more than 16,000 views from youths via face-to-face and digital engagements across a variety of topics, including supporting **diverse pathways of success**, fostering **social cohesion**, encouraging **volunteerism**, and promoting **mental well-being**. Youths expressed their confidence in Singapore's future, with the desire for Singapore to be a society that values different definitions and pathways to success, and one that has strong and caring relationships where people from all backgrounds can live harmoniously. Many also expressed the desire to contribute to social issues and causes to build a caring and inclusive society in Singapore.

4. To reach out to more segments of youths, MCCY and NYC have collaborated with partners to engage youths through different modalities. For example:

- a) Partnership with social enterprises like Growthbeans, where youths learnt techniques to care for their mental well-being through a card game, and shared their views on how to promote and support mental well-being across society.
- b) Collaboration with agencies and community stakeholders such as North East Community Development Council and OnePeople.sg, where youths shared their perspectives and ideas on inter-racial and inter-faith issues in a safe space, and subsequently contribute to the wider community as inter-faith ambassadors to promote social cohesion and unity.

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- c) Using new tools like generative Artificial Intelligence during a focus group discussion involving more than 200 participants to help them visualise how their collective picture of success could look like in the future, and how everyone can work together to make it a reality.

5. SG60 is an opportunity for youths to step forward to create a democracy of deeds. Every youth is invited to participate and contribute ideas at the upcoming engagements. **These engagements will lead to an SG Youth Plan, which is a five-year action plan created by youths, for youths, and supported by the whole-of-society**, so that we collectively do our part for Singapore and fellow Singaporeans. The plan will include:

- i. What the hopes and aspirations of youths are, for themselves and for Singapore.
- ii. How youths, supported with more opportunities, platforms, and resources, can take action to do good for Singapore and fellow Singaporeans.
- iii. How the rest of society can also play a part in empowering youths to be the best versions of themselves.

6. The upcoming engagements and activities will be progressively updated and available for sign-up at www.youthplan.gov.sg.

Past engagements with youths

7. **In 2019, MCCY and NYC engaged and heard from 70,000 youths, and their views and vision for Singapore by 2025 were then crystallised in the SG Youth Action Plan (SGYAP).** Youths hoped that values such as inclusiveness, caring communities, and fairness will be embodied by the society we live in. They also highlighted themes that youths care about and want to make a difference in, such as mental well-being, environmental sustainability, and support for vulnerable groups.

8. NYC subsequently launched the **Youth Action Challenge in 2019** and has **since supported 1,000 youths to lead ground-up projects** to make a positive difference to their communities.

9. As part of the Forward Singapore exercise in 2022 where Singaporeans from all walks of life came together to refresh our social compact for the road ahead, we responded to our youths' desire to work alongside the Government to shape policy recommendations and build our shared future together. **MCCY and NYC launched the Youth Panels in 2023 where 120 youths stepped forward to deliberate together with the Government on policy issues that are of interest to youths.** The Youth Panels have since concluded and submitted their recommendations to the Government. The Government will provide a response to the recommendations in the coming months.