


**Our Symbols,
Our Spirit,
Our Singapore**



“Honouring and respecting our symbols, however, is not something that is achieved only by legal regimes or protecting copyright; we must also cultivate and sustain the strong connection and respect that Singaporeans feel for symbols and songs. All of us have a part to play in upholding our symbols and passing them down to future generations.”

*Mr Edwin Tong
Minister for Culture, Community and Youth
and Second Minister for Law
Response to Parliamentary Question on Safeguarding the use of
our national symbols and national songs, 2021*

04

A Cherished History, A National Identity

How do we visually unite a young nation?

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Acknowledgement

A report by the Citizens' Workgroup for National Symbols (2021)



A CHERISHED HISTORY, A NATIONAL IDENTITY

"They were necessary symbols... since although we were not really independent in 1959 but self-governing, it was necessary right from the beginning that we should rally enough different races together as a Singapore nation."

*Dr Toh Chin Chye
Former Deputy Prime Minister
National Archives of Singapore, 1989*





HOW DO WE VISUALLY UNITE A YOUNG NATION?

From renewing our commitment by reciting the National Pledge, to singing the National Anthem, and hanging the National Flag approaching 9th August; How have the symbols of Singapore become familiar sights and sounds that make us wonder what it means to be a Singaporean?

Our oldest national symbols were unveiled in 1959 before Singapore gained independence, and much has changed in Singapore since. What do our national symbols mean for our Singaporean identity today and how do Singaporeans embrace these symbols as their own?

The recommendations in this report present the different viewpoints and aspirations of people gathered from a nation-wide survey of 1462 persons, and focus group discussions and interviews initiated by the members of the Citizens' Workgroup for National Symbols over early 2021.

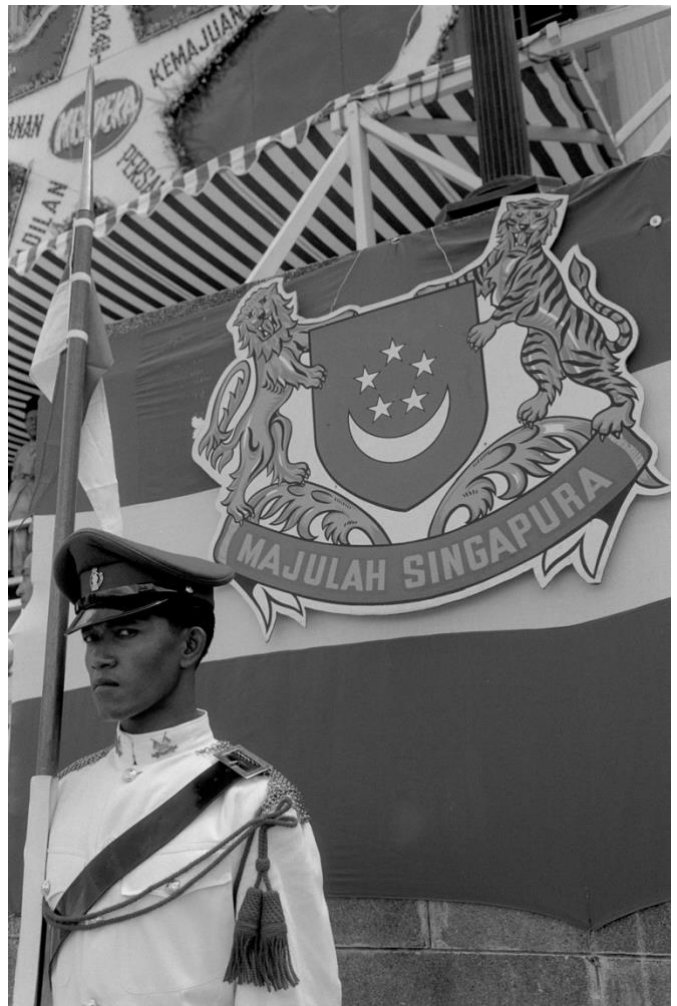
As you go through this report, we hope you will discover and acquaint yourself with the history of the national symbols, reflect upon their values and ideals, and that this will spark new ways of connecting with the symbols that we hold dear.



The first Malayan-born Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Yusof bin Ishak during unfurling of the new State flag at the launch of National Loyalty Week on City Hall steps, 1959. Ministry of Information and the Arts collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



(Top) Display of National Flag as part of street decorations near National Day, 1961. Ministry of Information and the Arts collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



(Right) National Day Parade at City Hall, Parade guard standing at attention, 1961. Ministry of Information and the Arts collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



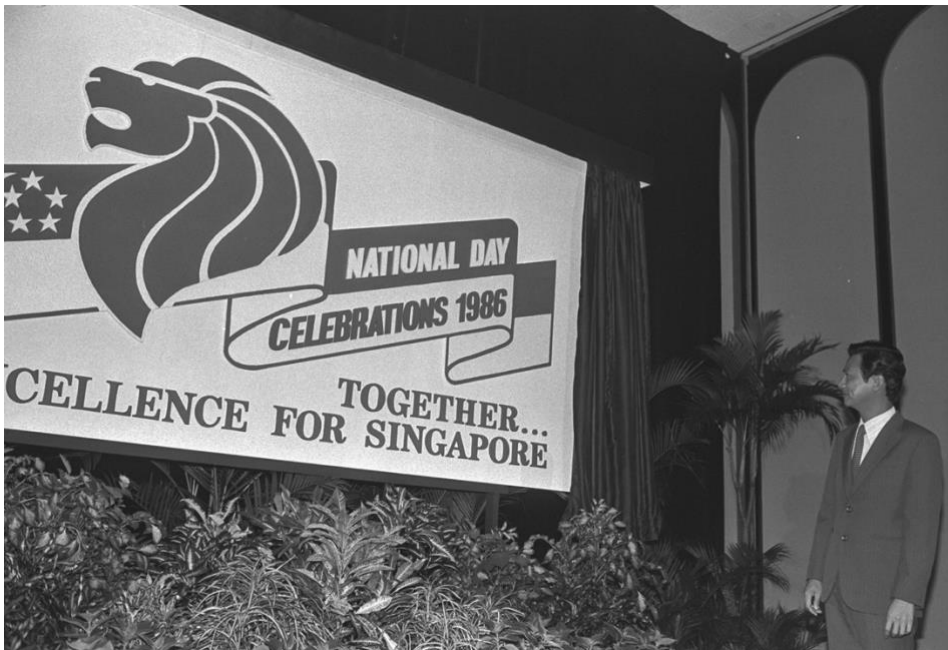
Former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, Former Deputy Prime Minister Toh Chin Chye, and Former Minister for Culture S Rajaratnam at the National Day Parade, 1963. Ministry of Information and the Arts collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



Composer of Singapore's National Anthem Zubir Said playing a piano at his home in Joo Chiat Place, 1967. Ministry of Information and the Arts collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



Pledge-taking ceremony at Beng Wan Primary School, 1978. Beng Wan Primary School Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



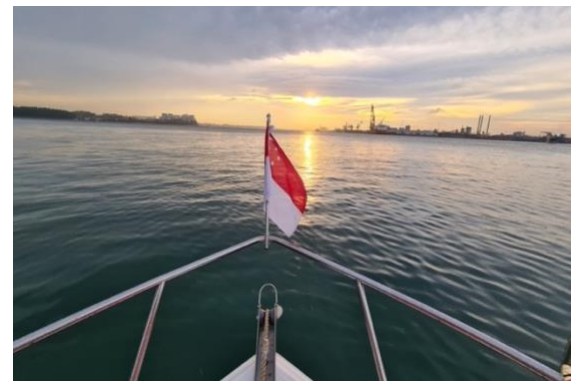
Former Minister for Communications and Information, and Second Minister for Defence Dr Yeo Ning Hong, admiring the Lion Head symbol which he had just unveiled and will be used in the National Day Celebrations, 1986. Ministry of Information and the Arts collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

UNITING PEOPLE THROUGH THE NATIONAL FLAG

Before Singapore unfurled her State Flag at the steps of City Hall at the appointment of the first Malayan-born Yang di-Pertuan Negara (Head of State) Encik Yusof bin Ishak, the British Union Jack was flown over Singapore from 1819 to 1959.

In 1959, the committee led by Dr Toh Chin Chye presented the design of the new flag comprising two horizontal halves - the top red section representing universal brotherhood and equality of Man; bottom white section symbolising pervading and everlasting purity and virtue. The flag bears a crescent moon representing the young nation on the ascendant and the five stars depict Singapore's ideals of democracy, peace, progress, justice, and equality.

The flag flew as Singapore's National Flag on 9 August 1965 as Singapore commemorated her independence from Malaysia, distinctly marking her status as a multi-racial and multicultural, self-governing nation.



"There are few sights as stirring and revealing of our national pride and solidarity as the display of the Singapore flag outside our homes. It's an expression of love and a symbol of our national values."

*Mr Edwin Tong
Minister for Culture, Community and Youth
and Second Minister for Law
Facebook post on flying the Singapore flag after 30
September, 2020*

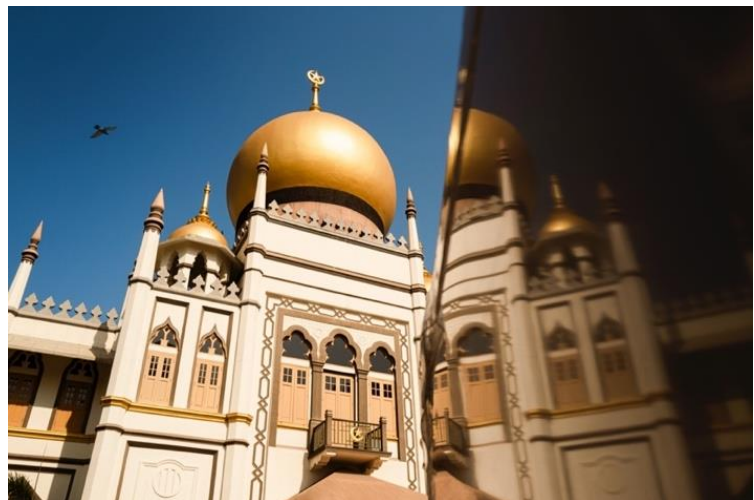
Did you know?

The guidelines to flying our National Flag are relaxed during the National Day celebration period between 1 July and 30 September each year. Flag decals and stickers, posters and other visual images may be displayed freely. This allows Singaporeans to express their love and patriotism for the nation, especially during this period.

“After the swearing-in, I posted a picture on Instagram of myself, President Halimah and Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon. A Chinese, a Malay, and an Indian - only in Singapore. During the F1, one international visitor from Brazil saw the picture and commented on it. He said it was most amazing what we have in Singapore. He could not imagine it happening anywhere else.

*In fact, it is amazing. It shows what Singapore is - multiracial, meritocratic, one **flag**, one people. That is what makes us Singaporean. It is not just resonant rhetoric, or a warm, fuzzy feeling. We have to live it out daily, in little ways and big.”*

*Mr Lee Hsien Loong
Prime Minister of Singapore
PA Kopi Talk on race, multiracialism and
Singapore’s place in the world, 2017*



UNITING PEOPLE THROUGH THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

On 3rd December 1959, 'Majulah Singapura' (*meaning 'Onward Singapore' in Malay*) made its debut and was received with great excitement by the people of a budding nation. It was revised from Encik Zubir Said's original composition for the City Council to commemorate the newly renovated Victoria Theatre.

A timeless production, the Anthem is an elegant composition that encapsulates Singapore's unique and dynamic tapestry comprising people of different cultures, races, linguistic and social backgrounds. The stirring melody accompanied by simple lyrics written in the Malay language tugs at the heartstrings of every Singaporean for the Anthem offers a glimmer of expectation to a better future, rallying a nation of people on their onward march.

Did you know?

'Majulah Singapura' was re-arranged by local composer and Cultural Medallion winner, Mr Phoon Yew Tien on 19 January 2001 in the musical key of F which was deemed 'grander and more inspiring'.





Majulah Singapura

Mari kita rakyat Singapura
Sama-sama menuju bahagia
Cita-cita kita yang mulia
Berjaya Singapura
Marilah kita bersatu
Dengan semangat yang baru
Semua kita berseru
Majulah Singapura
Majulah Singapura

Onward Singapore

Come, fellow Singaporeans
Let us progress towards happiness together
May our noble aspiration bring
Singapore success
Come, let us unite
In a new spirit
Let our voices soar as one
Onward Singapore
Onward Singapore

“It is not easy for me to compose a short and simple song. The words and music of which should contain the spirit, unity and progress of the people of Singapore. It is not a commercial song nor a romantic song. To me, it is a prayer.”

*Encik Zubir Said
Composer of ‘Majulah Singapura’
National Archives of Singapore, 1984*

UNITING PEOPLE THROUGH THE NATIONAL COAT OF ARMS (STATE CREST)

After the 1959 elections, Dr Toh Chin Chye fashioned the design of the National Coat of Arms to incorporate the motif of the National Flag, and a lion and tiger which respectively represent Singapore itself and Singapore's historical ties with Malaysia, supporting each side of the shield. Below the shield is a banner that is inscribed with the nation's motto 'Majulah Singapura' (meaning 'Onward Singapore' in Malay).

Together with the National Flag and National Anthem, the National Coat of Arms was revealed to the public on 3 December 1959 during the installation of Encik Yusof bin Ishak as the Yang di-Pertuan Negara (Head of State).



Did you know?

Our National Coat of Arms follows the English style of Heraldry, a medieval artform that is used to signify and identify an individual or organisation. The current design in use was an interpretation by Mr Joseph Teo, Chief Artist from the Ministry of Culture, later Ministry of Communications and Information.



*Images by Miss Candice Soh
Member of the Citizens' Workgroup for National Symbols*

“What we did not have of course was a crown. You’d find that with the British national crest, they have a crown, because they have a history of monarchy. We were a republic, no crown. So it looks empty. That, from the artistic point of view, something is missing. But what can we replace? Well, the old City Council had the Raffles Crest. I think it was a castle or something like that. And a lion. It did merge with our own ideas of self-governing Singapore.”

*Dr Toh Chin Chye
Former Deputy Prime Minister
National Archives of Singapore, 1989*



UNITING PEOPLE THROUGH THE NATIONAL PLEDGE



When Singapore became independent on 9 August 1965, there was a need to create a daily pledge recitation to promote national consciousness, loyalty, and unity among citizens in response to a time of racial turmoil. Largely drafted by the late Mr. S Rajaratnam, the pledge starts off with 'We', a pronoun which brings the active resolution of a collective Singaporean community to the forefront, committed to the ideals and the aspirations set out in the pledge.

Students began reciting the National Pledge before the start of each school day from 24 August 1966 onwards. Later, the pledge was also translated into Chinese, Malay and Tamil, the three other official languages of Singapore.

Did you know?

The pledge was originally taken by students facing the national flag with their right hands raised above their shoulders. This was so until 11 March 1988 when the First Deputy Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong endorsed the proposal by the Ministry of Defence to create a uniform mode for pledge taking by standing at attention with the right fist over the heart. Soon after, this method of reciting the pledge was implemented in schools on 27 June that same year which “better reflect[ed] the emotional aspect of saying the Pledge”, according to the Ministry of Education.

“When we separated from Malaysia, we were trying to inculcate national consciousness that we are now independent from Malaya. So I thought we need to have something to gel the people together.”

*Mr Ong Pang Boon
Former Minister for Education
National Archives of Singapore, 2007*

**We Are Singapore
1987 National Day Parade Song**

Composer: Hugh Harrison
Lyricist: Hugh Harrison

There was a time when people said that
Singapore won't make it, but we did
There was a time when troubles seemed too
much for us to take, but we did
We built a nation, strong and free
Reaching out together
For peace and harmony

This is my country, this is my flag
This is my future, this is my life
This is my family, these are my friends
We are Singapore, Singaporeans

Singapore our homeland, it's here that we belong
All of us united, one people marching on
We've come so far together, our common destiny
Singapore forever, a nation strong and free

***We the citizens of Singapore
Pledge ourselves as one united people
Regardless of race, language or religion
To build a democratic society Based on
justice and equality
So as to achieve happiness
Prosperity and progress for our nation***

We are Singapore, we are Singapore
We will stand together, hear the lion roar
We are Singapore, we are Singapore
We're a nation strong and free forevermore

We are Singapore, Singaporeans

UNITING PEOPLE THROUGH THE NATIONAL FLOWER

Characterised by the vibrant colours of pink, purple and white, the Vanda Miss Joaquim (pronounced Jo-ah-Kim) is a unique hybrid of the *Vanda hookeriana* and the *Vanda teres* species named in remembrance of its creator, Miss Agnes Joaquim.

As Singapore's first orchid hybrid and the world's first Vanda hybrid, the Vanda Miss Joaquim is a slow-growing flower that thrives in the sunny island climate and blooms throughout the year.

This unique orchid outshone 40 other flower species with 30 orchids among them, and was selected as Singapore's national flower in 1981 for its beauty, hardiness and resilience - qualities that symbolise the *Singaporean Spirit*.



Did you know?

Miss Agnes Joaquim is a second-generation Singapore-born Armenian who is believed to be the first woman in the world to have created an orchid hybrid. Singapore is also the only country with a hybrid as our National Flower – an ode to Singapore's multiracial, multicultural, and multiethnic heritage.

“As the flower most associated with hybrids, the orchid is also a symbol of our multicultural heritage. It is representative of the harmony among our ethnic communities, as well as with our many foreign visitors.”

*Mr Mah Bow Tan
Former Minister for National Development
Singapore Orchid Show, 2006*

UNITING PEOPLE THROUGH THE LION HEAD



*Image by Miss Jacinta Yee
Member of the Citizens' Workgroup for National Symbols*

“To some others, it is a lion that is gritting its teeth, which reflects Singapore’s determination to struggle for success, and thus symbolic of a nation bent on making the very best of whatever resources it has.”

*Spokesman
Ministry of Communications and
Information, 1986*

The Lion Head was introduced as an alternative symbol in 1986 to promote national identity and commitment to the nation. Individuals and corporations may use the Lion Head on promotional materials and products, and national events and campaigns.

The logo, which symbolises courage, strength and excellence, is presented in solid red against a white background. The five Singaporean ideals of democracy, peace, progress, justice and equality are embodied in the five-parting mane.

The lion's tenacious mien reflects the nation's single-minded resolve to face and overcome any challenges.

Did you know?

You can find the Lion Head symbol on our Portrait Series currency notes (1999 - present), as part of the multiple laser images (MLIs) on Singapore’s biometric passport since 2006, and as a mark of officiality as a ‘Singapore Government Agency Website’.



UNITING PEOPLE THROUGH THE MERLION

A unique and beloved icon by Singaporeans and tourists worldwide, the Merlion stands tall at seven locations around Singapore, ready to welcome its visitors to the sunny island state. With the head of a lion and body of a fish, this mythical creature presents a compelling narrative of Singapore's humble beginnings as a fishing village and the sighting of the lion in Temasek (*referencing 'land surrounded by water' in Malay*) by Sang Nila Utama, a prince from Palembang who named the island Singapura (*meaning 'lion city' in Sanskrit*).

In 1964, the Merlion was launched as an emblem for the tourism industry by the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board, later known as Singapore Tourism Board. It is widely used to promote Singapore commercially through tourism and gifted as collaterals to visitors.



Did you know?

Though the Merlion is prominently featured to represent Singapore, it is not one of the national symbols of Singapore. Interestingly, many confuse the Lion Head symbol with the Merlion icon because of their close resemblance.



“The Merlion has been the emblem of the board since its establishment in 1964...As such, over the years, it has become well known through its wide use in the board’s promotion efforts and has come to be identified with Singapore. The Merlion, with its unique and attractive design conceived in Singapore and its romantic legendary associations with our island, can also become the nucleus of a successful souvenir industry.”

*Mr Runme Shaw
Former Chairman of the Tourist Promotion Board
Official installation of the Merlion at the mouth of the Singapore River, 1972*



THROUGH THE LENS OF TODAY

“The symbols are an anchor of Singaporeans’ national identity. I think 60 years on, Singaporeans are still wearing the flag proudly. They are singing the anthem proudly. Right now, our Team Singapore athletes are wearing the flag on their sleeves, proudly representing Singapore, and if they win, they will be on the podium and the National Anthem will be played.”

*Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien
Former Minister for Culture, Community and Youth
60th Anniversary of Singapore’s National Symbols, 2019*



DO OUR SYMBOLS MEAN THE SAME TO US?

For more than 60 years since their introduction, these symbols represent the legacy and heritage of the nation as well as the values, hopes and aspirations of the people.

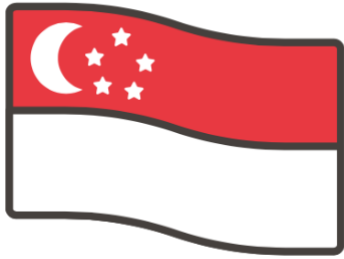
Today, we are in a new era of nationhood. What do our symbols mean for the present generation of Singaporeans? Do they reflect the ideals of an increasingly diverse population? What do people consider as appropriate use of our symbols?

In the following pages, we present the findings gathered from surveys, interviews and focus group discussions comprising participants of various age groups, on their views about our national symbols today.

We also draw attention to other Singapore symbols and icons such as the Merlion, SG50, and Passion Made Possible logo among other local scenes and landmarks. Is there a place for them within the list of Singapore's national symbols?

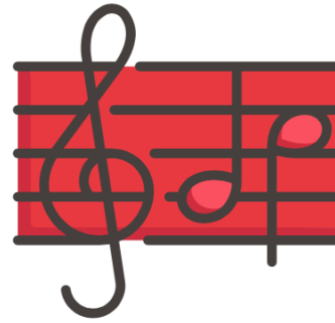






VOICES ABOUT THE NATIONAL FLAG

- Important to Singaporeans and must be displayed properly
- Can be displayed at public and celebratory events e.g. National Day
- Students who participate in National Education related commemorative activities feel a strong sense of pride e.g. marching contingent for school National Day Observance Ceremony
- National Team members feel a strong sense of national pride as they associate the Flag with the support of Singaporeans and are encouraged to give their best for Singapore at the competitions
- Open to displaying the flag on artwork, commercial products, and digital platforms
- Singaporeans are more likely to correct improper physical displays of the Flag than digital ones



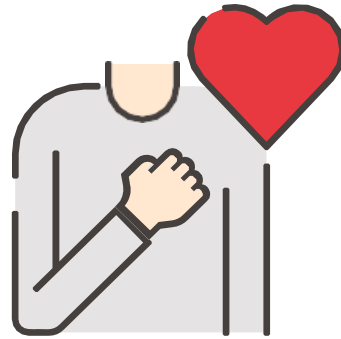
VOICES ABOUT THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

- Lyrics and melody of the National Anthem are equally meaningful
- Education efforts about the Anthem are effective but understanding of its lyrics can be strengthened
- Educators observe that students may not sing the Anthem wholeheartedly at regular morning flag-raising assemblies
- Educators observe that students are proud to sing the Anthem at the National Day Parade and school-initiated mass events
- Visual aids complement the teaching of the Anthem for the students who are hearing-impaired
- Should be played at official events e.g. grassroots, community celebrations rather than at informal occasions



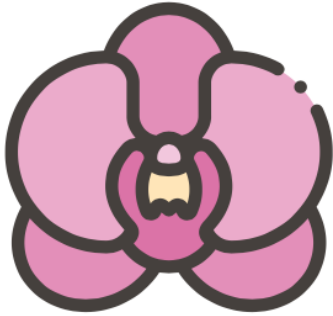
VOICES ABOUT THE NATIONAL COAT OF ARMS (STATE CREST)

- Strong visual association with government institutions and official documents
- Students from the Uniformed Groups, males and new citizens are those who are better able to explain the different parts of the Crest to others
- Considered to be meaningful especially to the older generation who may associate it with the memories of the early founding years of Singapore
- May not offer as much emotional affiliation and pride as a symbol of Singapore
- Open to updating the design of the Crest



VOICES ABOUT THE NATIONAL PLEDGE

- People feel a sense of belonging to Singapore when they hear or recite the Pledge
- Most people can explain the meaning of the National Pledge to other people
- Permanent Residents are less able to explain the meaning of the National Pledge to others
- Strong potential for the Pledge to prompt conversations on national identity and values
- Recognition that the values in the pledge i.e. justice, equality, regardless of race/ language/ religion are universal to all people, including Singaporeans
- Low indication for a need to change the words in the Pledge as the values are still relevant to Singapore today



VOICES ABOUT THE NATIONAL FLOWER

- Commonly associated with multiculturalism, harmony, vibrancy, and resilience
- Least identified with expressing one's love or patriotism to the country
- Other associations include purity, global relations, progress, democracy, equality, and the Garden City tied with its inner beauty and elegance
- Viewed to be most appropriately used for the commemoration of national events e.g. attire, gifts, collaterals
- Suggestions to harness the beauty of the flower include promoting its use through creative expression, artwork and other commercial products



VOICES ABOUT THE LION HEAD SYMBOL

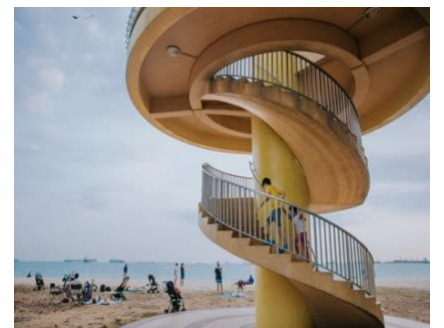
- Invokes a sense of national identity and pride
- More strongly associated with celebratory moments
- Recognised as a form of endorsement
- Strong consensus that it is an icon of quality or excellence for the Singapore brand
- Open to modifying its colour or superimposing an image on it
- Less recommended to alter its shape as it might affect its recognisability



VOICES ABOUT **THE MERLION**

- Most widely recognised symbol by foreigners and tourists
- Most associated with tourism and commerciality to portray a distinctive Singaporean identity
- Also associated with the Lion City and characteristics of good fortune, luck, strength, and courage
- Supportive of its use as a symbol for national celebrations
- Preferred as an outward-facing symbol for an international audience
- Less inclined to using it as a symbol to express love for the country
- Less open to displaying the Merlion outside their house as it is inappropriate
- Less associated with official purposes
- Recommended to explore more versatile and casual use of the Merlion, especially to convey the Singapore branding





THE FUTURE OF OUR SYMBOLS

“National Symbols carry a certain level of sombreness and seriousness - they are tied to our independence and founding fathers. Also, these symbols were adopted by the State and collectively embraced. Moving forward, we need to decide as a country, community and citizen what our National Symbols are.”

Mr Hirman Abdullah

Hospitality Professional

Interviewee for the Citizens’ Workgroup for National Symbols, 2021



WILL SINGAPORE NEED NEW NATIONAL SYMBOLS?



History has given us occasions and events to deepen our sense of national identity and build common experiences as Singaporeans. Our symbols have been a constant feature in these moments whether solemn or casual, quiet or choral. Each of them is intimately weaved into our shared memories, binding intricately the narratives of our island nation, helping us to forge a collective resolve as citizens and residents of Singapore.

Through the various conversations, we hear repeatedly that the traits of a national symbol should be unique and recognisable to its citizens, and should evoke a sense of national pride and emotional affiliation to this nation we call '*home*'. While most reflected their preference for no new addition to the current set of national symbols, there is a call to review how we may strengthen civic knowledge about our existing symbols and icons and revisit their creative licensing to promote confidence in expressing our national identity through them.

The recommendations in the following pages are outlined under four key themes, exploring possibilities to tap on engagements and authentic learning experiences to inculcate citizenship dispositions through reflection. Through active citizenry and abiding by responsible use of our symbols, we hope to inspire a shared sense of mission and willingness to build a common future for Singapore as we realise our individual aspirations through the ideals espoused in our symbols.

SPARK LIVELY DIALOGUES

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE?

Opportunities for meaningful discussions create platforms for people to be actively engaged in conversations to help deepen their appreciation for the symbols as they collectively define their narratives and rethink the significance of the national symbols viz their personal values and national identity.



HOW MIGHT WE DO THIS?

- Engage students in opportunities to reflect, appreciate and express their opinions about the symbols through school experiences
- Facilitate recurring exchanges about the symbols with various community groups as part of public outreach efforts
- Promote workplace conversations at organised functions to associate areas of work with the national values embodied through the symbols
- Involve specialised (e.g. National Team), marginalised, special needs, migrant communities and new citizens in conversations about their application and relevance of the symbols to their daily lives
- Invite public opinion about alternative symbols, icons, landmarks and intangible aspects of Singapore culture to be formally recognised in Singapore through traditional and new media affordances
- Design competition experiences for students and community sectors to present their artistic impressions of our symbols

REIMAGINE SHARED EXPERIENCES

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE?

The values that are expressed through our national symbols become more compelling when we actively engage with them. Empowering citizenship experiences can encourage ownership and uplift communities as we collectively rethink what it means to build a shared and inclusive narrative in the interpretation of our national symbols in nation building.



HOW MIGHT WE DO THIS?

- Reinforce active engagement with the heritage, art and linguistic forms of our symbols in the school curricula
- Leverage on key student development experiences to inculcate shared values and respectful behavior in students' use of the symbols
- Conduct flag-raising assemblies in at least one other official language
- Learn to sing the Anthem and take the Pledge in the communication mode of a special needs community
- Co-create immersive experiences (e.g. heritage and food trails) through collaborations with community partners (e.g. volunteer groups, start-ups)
- Rethink citizen engagement for the special needs community e.g. hand signing for the Pledge and the Anthem at the National Day Parade for the hearing-impaired community
- Affirm citizens who exemplify the values of the symbols, allowing the public to nominate these individuals

ENHANCE PROMINENCE IN THE EVERYDAY

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE?

In the same way that kangaroos are synonymous with Australia, and the tulips to The Netherlands, our national symbols should be easily associated with Singapore, especially in our day-to-day experiences. This will strengthen citizens' sense of national identity and affiliation to the nation as they act as a visible reminder of our commitment towards a shared future.



HOW MIGHT WE DO THIS?

- Increase visibility of our symbols in our surroundings, e.g. in artistic displays and songs, growing our National Flower in community spaces, and dignified and more prominent display of the National Coat of Arms at public institutions
- Incorporate the use of the symbols at more events and activities at tertiary education level, community, workplaces as part of continuing National Education
- Explain the history and values of our symbols on everyday products such as postage stamps, envelopes, and locally manufactured products
- Collaborate with the community to express their artistic interpretations of the national symbols through food culture, fashion, street art and new media
- Have trained ambassadors at road shows, campaigns, national and international events (e.g. “SG Symbols Week”) to increase public awareness of the symbols in the official languages

REDEFINE CREATIVE AND RESPONSIBLE USE

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE?

Our national symbols invoke the authority and dignity of the State, and imbue the business of government as a formal and solemn affair. Every person can do their part to honor and protect the significance of our symbols by encouraging ownership and respectful use within our spheres of influence.



HOW MIGHT WE DO THIS?

- Formalise the recognition of other local icons and landmarks of Singapore e.g. SG Logo, Merlion, The Esplanade, Gardens by the Bay, Changi Airport Jewel and control tower, etc. as a tribute to their place in Singapore's history and role in promoting international recognition
- Consolidate information on the history, guidelines of use and relevant application forms for all symbols and icons of Singapore in a single platform
- Develop a comprehensive e-brand guide of the symbols including the consolidated guidelines of their uses
- Establish a one-to-one exchange programme for damaged or worn-out National Flag
- Guide people on the proper use of the symbols by providing print and digital material in four national languages where applicable
- Guide correct usage of our symbols through pictorial representations and intentionally designed packaging (e.g. indicating which side of the Flag should face out)
- Ease current guidelines on the artistic use of the symbols where possible to inspire greater individual and creative expressions of our love for the nation while ensuring fidelity to the original symbol e.g. allowing various renditions of the Anthem and Pledge, artistic modification to the Lion Head
- Employ the National Coat of Arms for government use only
- Allow the display of the National Flag for only the specified period according to the SAFNA Act, but permit special display periods as a symbol of national solidarity in difficult times
- Provide a one-stop government digital application to report any illegal usage of the symbols

OUR SYMBOLS, OUR SPIRIT, OUR SINGAPORE

What do our findings highlight for the future of our symbols and Singapore?

From charting the histories, aesthetics, perceptions and uses of our symbols, we have learnt significantly about their symbolism and significance – both past and present. The nuances in the lyrics of our Anthem and lines in our Pledge, the visual complexities of our Flag and State Crest, and the creative possibilities for new symbols are just some of the many ways that can be explored to uncover the diverse interpretations of our national identity.

This tiny checkpoint in history surfaces as a repository of Singaporeans' visions and hopes for our symbols to be integrated into the wider national consciousness beyond formal educational platforms. Our national symbols emerged to unite the population in a turbulent era, but moving forward, how can Singaporeans unite to take greater ownership of our symbols and further redefine our national symbols beyond official narratives?

What will be **your role** in shaping our Singapore story?



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Citizens' Workgroup for National Symbols would like to thank everyone involved in this journey of rediscovery about the heritage and significance of our symbols, for your generous contribution and insights have made this report possible.

