

### "Each generation needs to figure out what they want their Singapore to become."

- Sheila Pakir, The Birthday Collective 2017



# Future is Ours

Thrust into independence, we started with little to our name and even less in our favour.

For we had hardly any resources, not even land.

But in one lifetime, we grew from a newly born nation into a bustling city-state.

Our pioneers overcame the odds to attain what we have today. Now, it is up to us to build our nation's tomorrow.

The things that define who we are, the stories about the communities around us that inspire us to be better - these are all ours to create.

And some among us have already pursued ideas that help shape our community.

Through these community projects, we've glimpsed the vision, hopes as well as aspirations we share as a people – and we are inspired by the possibilities.

Everyone can be a part of this, Will you join us?



# Building tomorrow, today

Our home of tomorrow is defined by what we make of it today. Find out what other Singaporeans have done for the community, to help shape the future they want.



# Making a difference together

As a little red dot that punches well above its weight, our story is one that's defined by a pioneering and can-do spirit.

Learn how some of us are seizing opportunities to pursue our passions as we make bold strides towards a common future together.

# Drawing strength from one another

Strength multiplies when it's shared. Find out how we are building a resilient community to face whatever the future may hold.

# Building caring communities

In good times and bad, families and communities are the bedrock of our nation. Discover how some Singaporeans are creating intriguing new ways to help us look out for one another.

# COMPANY

#### Fostering a climate of trust

In a fair and inclusive community, every voice counts. Learn how we are finding ways to create a conducive environment where everyone can speak up and have constructive discussions, even over issues we may not agree on.

## Forging common bonds

As a nation comprised of diverse cultures, harmony is something we should never take for granted. Read more about the innovative approaches our fellow Singaporeans have taken to build the bonds that unite us.

"In our changing society, there are large social needs and gaps that need to be dealt with. It would be nice if all of us could do something."

- Desmond Wong, Constellations



# Making a difference together

We believe that Singapore should be a place for everyone, where our people progress together and achieve our aspirations, however diverse.

All it takes, is a spirit of enterprise to seize opportunities and write the next chapter of the Singapore story.

## Neetthe Farmers KRANJI COUNTRYSIDE FARMERS'

#### Promoting food sustainability and the local farming community.

To help garner awareness and support for the local agricultural industry, the Kranji Countryside Association held a special edition of the quarterly 'Kranji Countryside Farmers' Market'. Its aim was to connect the public with the pioneer as well as next-generation farmers making the most of the land under their charge - which spans less than 1% of Singapore's total land area.

Through the project, Manda Foo wished to showcase the importance of local farmers to our nation's food sustainability. while fostering conversations about Singapore's agriculture and farming practices.

Apart from drawing visitors with the rare chance to see, touch, smell, taste and buy a range of local farm produce and artisanal food products, the market also included an exhibition featuring farms and farmers in the Kranji Countryside, A seminar was also held to crowdsource new ideas and solutions that could better utilise Singapore's limited space for farming.

Beyond highlighting the importance of local agriculture, Manda hopes to showcase the can-do spirit and kampung camaraderie that allow not just a small community of local farmers, but every Singaporean, a chance to thrive.





Tasty, healthy,

"People want authenticity, What we're selling isn't just food, but real purpose." - Manda Foo, Kranji Countryside Farmers' Market



FARMERS COME TOGETHER TO GET THE PUBLIC THINKING ABOUT LOCAL AGRICULTURE,



School of 11 PROJECT:

#### Equipping unlnerable youths with social skills through music lessons.

In addition to picking up a new craft, there are many soft skills vulnerable youths can learn from music classes - as childhood friends Desmond Wong and Travis Minjan came to realise while volunteering at an autism centre.

Keen to make a bigger difference, the two musicians then conceptualised music lessons that doubled up as social-emotional learning sessions for vulnerable youths from homes, social services, as well as autism schools. Through group classes, the youths learnt crucial skills such as self-awareness, relationship management and responsible decision-making.

By giving these youths the unique opportunity to perform at The Esplanade, the duo also hopes to help the larger Singaporean community learn about and connect with the vulnerable. To the team, placing these youths in jobs, or just volunteering to help them, isn't nearly enough - it's the opportunity to be part of a community that is truly vital.

"The experience of community is key to rehabilitation, more so than intervention," said Desmond.



Working towards an inclusive society





PROJECT:

THE DESIGN

CULTIVATION





"Innovation is most valuable when designers get in touch to understand what the community really needs."

- Desiree Ny, The Design Cultivation

#### with the next generation of designers.

Having witnessed how design can serve to either limit or open up new possibilities, a group of students came together and got their fellow youths to explore how community issues can be mitigated through design solutions.

In place of conventional processes that focus on function and aesthetics, the team showed participants how to apply a 'design thinking' approach - one that begins with empathy. They were first required to identify a problem, interview the people who faced it, then create a prototype that benefits or raises awareness for the community's needs.

This unique process brought forth a range of prototypes, from a board game simulating the life and challenges of a foreign worker, to a lightweight food cart that enables entrepreneurship amongst the elderly.

An exhibition showcasing the stories behind the youths' designs was then put together; to let the public learn more, as well as spark conversations about how design can give anyone a role in creating an inclusive society for all.

# Drawing

## Drawing Strength from one Panother

A resilient community is made up of individuals that can count on one another.

But whether it's navigating medical emergencies or winning battles in the psychological and emotional spheres, the grit required to react, support and empower isn't always a given.

Learn how some Singaporeans are helping us to build the strength we need to forge forth – through sharing stories, skills and more.



For third-year medical student Kee Ga Jing, having an efficient healthcare system isn't enough.

"A lot of us are too dependent on the healthcare system. We call 995, and we just wait," said the 21-year-old doctor-in-training.

Her project, 'Code Blue', seeks to increase the number of first aiders within our community. With more trained responders, there is a greater chance that a timely intervention can be made when an emergency situation arises.

As a young person herself, Ga Jing understands that a fun and innovative experience is needed to draw the

attention of her generation, even if they are sharing skills to help the community stand strong.

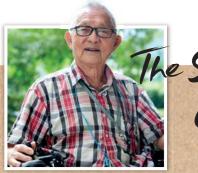
Applying gamification concepts, Ga Jing and her team imparted basic first aid knowledge through scenarios involving a zombie apocalypse and casualty rescue missions.

Recognising the need to build community resilience across the island, the team is working to bring the 'Code Blue' experience to more Singaporeans at community centres, libraries and public spaces.

"A community made up of people with life-saving skills can be more resilient during emergencies."

- Kee Ga Jing, Code Blue





# The strength of MY SINGAPORE LOVE STORY

#### Inheriting grit from our pioneers.

When he became a dad, filmmaker Mohamad Zulkifli (Zul) began to see how important it is to ensure that we pass on the right values to tomorrow's generations. While talking to senior citizens at a nursing home, Zul realised that there's a lot we can learn from our pioneer generation's resilience during the early years of independence.

With his film 'My Singapore Love Story', Zul recounts the touching story of Uncle John, who never gave up hope while fighting as a soldier during World War II – despite the tough conditions and many uncertainties.

Through Uncle John's story, Zul hopes to help Singaporeans uncover and celebrate our past, while showcasing the strength, courage and tenacity of our pioneer generation.





"If no one steps up for the vulnerable, the problems won't go away — they will just become bigger."





# Minding the gaps

#### Helping youths with the lesser-explored tribulations of adolescence.

Having experienced the many struggles of growing up, Mohamad Shaleem, Nurul Salbiah, Nor Sharizal and their friends started 'Youth in Action', a series of programmes dedicated to setting up a support community for youths, where they can look to each other for strength.

To help youths develop social skills, the team organised sports events to inculcate self-awareness, sportsmanship and communication skills, and also ran workshops to address several issues young people face – such as bullying and cyber addiction.

Through their efforts, the team seeks to equip young people with the soft skills they need to fit into society, along with the resilience to overcome setbacks and take on positive perspectives in their everyday lives.









"Being closer to the ground gives us more in-depth knowledge of what people really need. Having these community-initiated discussions are important, as you need to be close to the ground to understand what the people really need."

- Ms Janice Gob, Joint Symposium on The Grand Generation

# Celebrating The Grand Generation

Exploring intergenerational ties and active ageing.

With longer lifespans, better education and the rise of nuclear families, growing old is becoming a different experience from prior generations, especially for the 'modern grandmothers' who are more likely to hold careers till retirement and lead an active lifestyle.

Bringing together academics and active senior citizen role models from various walks of life, Society for Women's Initiative for Ageing Successfully (WINGS) and the new Singapore University of Social Sciences (formerly known as SIM University) organised a 'Joint Symposium on The Grand Generation' to discuss the future of Asia's grandparents.

The participants explored the opportunities and challenges of active ageing, such as lifelong learning, social relationships and emotional wellbeing of the elderly. They also discussed the special roles played by grandparents in keeping the family together and imparting values to the younger generation.



Inspiring and equipping Singaporeans to give.

To advance their community building cause, non-profit organisation BLESS started 'Be A Giver', a social movement that empowers people with opportunities to come together to volunteer and give back to society.

Members of the public got to attend workshops or participate in food trails whenever they contribute towards the organisation's work with rental communities. After picking up skills such as terrarium-making and coding, they 'pay it forward' by volunteering their time for BLESS and other social organisations in the community, or using their newly-learnt skills to conduct workshops for others.

Through this, the project team hopes to promote the spirit of giving - not just through cash contributions, but also in kind, with their time and abilities. Their vision is to grow a community of givers in Singapore that will look out for and serve others who are in need.



difference you can make when you step out and do that something. Every action counts," - Francesca Wah, Be A Giver



Learning new skills.







#### Building cross-generational bonds.

Although Lydia Lok believes that intergenerational bonding is important and impactful, she was unsure about how she could interact meaningfully with seniors at first.

"People had this perception that the elderly were difficult to talk to," said Lydia, "and I was one of those who steered clear initially."

Lydia and her husband Yao Shuo Han felt that Singaporeans sometimes just needed an icebreaker to get started. Therefore, they came up with the idea of using reading as a bridging activity to bring together the young and the old. The project also aims to develop confidence, empathy and EQ amongst our young.

A total of 5 mass reading sessions were held, where young children were invited to read their favourite storybooks to groups of elderly from senior activity centers. These sessions brought much joy to the old folks, who enjoyed the presence of the energetic young children in their midst. The sessions also provided a platform for the elderly to share interesting life experiences.



and present



Good times!

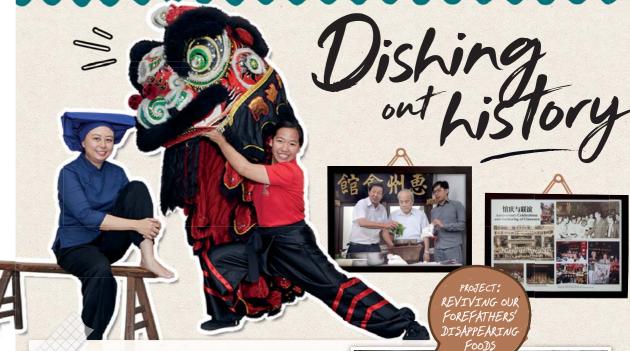






We are a nation made up of people from different origins as well as generations that grew up in vastly different conditions. Amidst our diversity, we share many things in common – our love places and faces, and stories passed down across generations.

In our shared experiences, Singaporeans are discovering new ways to build relationships that



#### Imparting values across the generations.

As heritage enthusiasts Charlotte Lee and Lynn Wong have found, Singapore's obsession with food provides a delicious array of opportunities to tell new stories - or even a few older ones. The duo's project takes a particularly ingenious approach, of using food as a medium to help the younger generation discover their roots.

Fuelled by the belief that elderly clan association members are treasure troves of our past, they embarked on a project tapping into the seniors' knowledge about the lesser-known histories, traditions and customs behind our food.

Spanning four intergenerational cooking sessions, 'Reviving our Forefathers' Disappearing Foods' sought to document and revive our untold food heritage. As youths prepared a selection of traditional dishes, the seniors would guide them along while sharing values and stories passed down by their forefathers.



While every dish was chosen for its cultural significance, some have become lesser-known with the passage of time. These include ai jiao, a traditional Hakka winter solstice staple and tang bu shuai, a Cantonese dish eaten at a festival to honour the hardships of our forefathers.

Lynn, an aspiring film director, also shot a documentary that served up the stories behind the dishes, along with heart-warming interactions across different generations.

Through their efforts, Charlotte and Lynn sought to inspire greater curiosity about our roots and raise awareness of Singapore's clan associations, while encouraging people to talk to their grandparents to discover all that they can learn.

> TWO HERITAGE ENTHUSIASTS WORK TO PRESERVE AND REVIVE OUR DISAPPEARING FOOD TRADITIONS.



take the chance to learn from them before it's gone."

- Lynn Wong, Reviving Our Forefathers' Disappearing Foods

Connecting the community to persons with disabilities.

It all started with a chance encounter, when one wheelchair user asked Dennis Quek for assistance in going to the bathroom. Little did he know, agreeing to the favour took Dennis almost two full hours.

This experience got Dennis thinking about the difficulties Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) might face. After discussing the issue with his friend, Wilson Ang, the duo started 'Wheels@Ubin' together with a bigger team of sports enthusiasts.

For the event's 2018 edition, over 600 volunteers were gathered by the team to help 120 wheelchair users explore the unique rustic charms of Pulau Ubin - one of Singapore's least accessible locations. They even managed to enlist the help of the Republic of Singapore Navy, which provided vessels to take these wheelchair users to and from the island.

The team hopes to create awareness about the accessibility challenges faced by PWDs, and inspire Singaporeans to take things a step further - via helping PWDs to experience what the rest of the community enjoys.





"The more we get different groups of Singaporeans to come together, the more we can empathise with one another."

- Dennis Quek, Wheels@Ubin





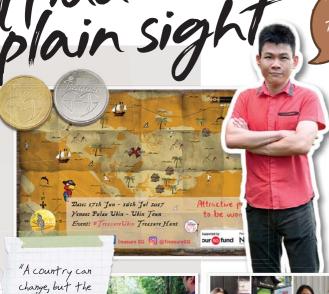
PROJECT: TREASURE UBIN

Uncovering new bonds from the past we share.

that we often overlook.

Through 'Treasure Ubin', participants explored the lesser-known stories of Pulau Ubin, a location chosen for its rustic nature and storied past. The treasure hunt played out in an innovative format, with clues released via a chatbot platform that allowed for live interaction and tracking of

The project's inspiration stemmed from Joseph's passionate belief that we should treasure what we hold dear, before they disappear for good. He also hopes to help grow a deeper sense of belonging amongst the community, as people learn to appreciate the hidden gems in our



Keen to challenge the perception that Singapore offers little to do, Joseph Sng started a novel treasure hunt that had participants uncovering the cultural and historical nuggets

participants' photos and responses.

shared history.



Helping generations love one another better.

How can we love better as one nation? That was the question that drove Singaporean couple. Surai P. Upadhiah and Tiziana Tan to start 'Magic Amber Bus', a project that brought the elderly and youths together.

Having run the social enterprise Air Amber for close to a decade, Suraj hoped to pioneer a new project with a different approach. Rather than getting people to donate or volunteer, he founded a platform where different generations could connect on the same level by creating something together.

First, participants came together for an ice-breaking session, where they got to know each other as well as learn basic filmmaking skills, so that they could create video clips to document their bus journey.

Following that, participants would embark on immersive learning journeys to places of historical significance in Singapore. But it didn't end there - elderly and young participants then shared and contrasted their unique interpretations of each experience, through activities such as clay sculpting and co-creating a documentary video.

"When the elderly and kids came together to work on something they had not done before, they forgot their age difference. They became completely engrossed in their common goal, and everyone just had fun together," shared Suraj.

The couple hopes that this project can help path a way to spark friendships across different groups in the community. To them, building bonds, rather than just giving and receiving, could be the way to elevate community love to the next level.

stories must

remain."

- Joseph Sny,

Treasure Ubin



"When you take the language barriers aside, you will find that at the heart of it, our

> from each other." - Michelle Loh, Poetry Festival (Singapore)

interests and worries are the

same, we are not that different

With 'Regardless of Race' as its theme, the festival focused on navigating Singapore's race relations and explored how living in a multiracial To reflect the diversity of perspectives across

communities, poems were translated into Singapore's four main languages as part of the festival. Fringe events such as workshops, competitions and poetry-music-dance performances helped reach out to a larger audience.

One particular moment on the opening night left an indelible impression on Eric and Michelle. As poems were read in different languages, accompanied with a Chinese flautist playing Indian music, the Indian cleaners and Chinese labourers in the area stopped what they were doing and listened intently. It was a spectacle that reflected their purpose of using artistic explorations to bridge different groups of people.



Creating a sense of inclusiveness through Bags of Love.

Project owners Susanti and Lin Rong Jie started the 'Forward It! SG' project to encourage fellow Singaporeans to do good for others in the society.

Through the project, every \$10 donated from the public provided an elderly beneficiary with a bag of food. The project team also managed to get corporate sponsors to contribute instant beverage packages to the 'Bags of Love'. Volunteers helped pack these bags and distribute them to elderly in need.

During the distribution process, the volunteers also spent time listening to the elderly beneficiaries' life stories. The volunteers, in turn, shared fun technology tips and entertained the elderly with cheerful songs.

Through this project, Susanti and Rong Jie hope to create a greater sense of inclusiveness within the community.







MALAY

MORE THAN JUST

MALAY INDIAN CHINESE OTHERS

A Singaporean husband-and-wife team facilitates the honest discussions our community needs.

For Lewis Liu and Chen Li Yi, witnessing one-sided racist comments online was not something they could simply ignore. It was clear to them that the online chatter was divided into various camps, where no one was listening to each other.

With the firm belief that proper civic discourse on race and racism is important in multiracial Singapore, the couple started 'More than Just'.

Over a series of three dinner conversations, they created safe spaces for people from diverse backgrounds to come together and explore their differences.

Putting his experience as a facilitator to good use, Lewis guided participants through touchy and uncomfortable topics, such as race and racism in Singapore, while exploring what micro-racism is.

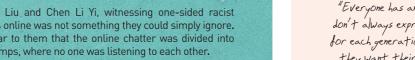
During the sessions, Lewis and Li Yi were surprised by how

"We hope Singaporeans can confront issues graciously. There will always be differences, but we can all strive a bit harder to have proper conversations about them."

Chen Li Yi, More than Just



SILENCE ISN'T ALWAYS GOLDEN, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT STOPS US FROM ASKING THE QUESTIONS THAT NEED ANSWERING.



Through these discussions, participants were invited to share their views and personal stories. While participants may disagree with one another, they were able to do so respectfully and see from one another's perspectives.

honest and curious the individuals would become in a safe and constructive environment. Participants were able to see beyond labels and build trust with people from other ethnicities, with some even continuing their conversations long after the event had ended.







"Everyone has an opinion, but they don't always express it. It's good for each generation to explore what they want their society to be. "

— Sheila Pakir, The Birthday Collective 2017



Sharing what we each hold dear. Inspired by the momentum generated through SG50, a group of friends set out to gather a collection of essays exploring the things that

matter most to Singaporeans.

As part of a multi-year project, the project team hopes to celebrate Singapore's birthday by publishing a new 'Birthday Book' every year.

'The Birthday Collective 2017' compiled 52 thought pieces - in celebration of Singapore's 52<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Based on the theme of 'What Should We Never Forget?', the team sought out contributors from all walks of life to present a diverse range of perspectives from different segments in the community.

Through this book project, the team hopes to encourage Singaporeans to engage in constructive and mutually respectful discussions, all while building trust in our society.

## Building amongst youths

#### Helping youths take ownership of the issues faced by our community.

In a bid to engage and empower university youths to be part of a caring and compassionate society, the 'Let Your Light Shine' team empowered university students to organise a forum for their fellow youths; where they would come together and discuss how they can create solutions to meet our community's needs.

Centred around the theme of 'Social Services - Am I Relevant?', participants discussed the role of Voluntary Welfare Organisations (VWOs) in our society, the challenges they face, and how young people can do their part to help VWOs overcome these challenges.

As the university students got in touch with the VWOs to conceptualise and organise the forum, they were able to take a closer look at the issues that are present in our community, and better understand the roles they can play to shape a more caring society.



"It's about inspiring them to put societ

before self, and going that extra mile to

take on more responsibilities.

- Sharon Chan, Let Your Light Shine

# Hove an idea For Our SA?

What can we do to build more socially inclusive communities in Singapore?

Do you have a project idea to bring our community together, as well as promote our Singapore Spirit and shared values?

How can we support you in this effort and turn your ideas into reality?





#### What is an inclusive society!

It is one where everybody benefits from the progress of the nation. It is one where everyone has a say, a stake and a sense of belonging. And it is one where everyone aspires to do better through their own efforts and feels that he or she has a real chance to move up.

#### Why is this important?

Firstly, and most fundamentally, because we are one family, one Singapore family. Secondly, it reflects what we are: our values and what we stand for...

And thirdly, it is a practical matter: If we are inclusive and work together, then we stand together and succeed. But if not, we will fall apart and fail.

- Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore



