



## Chinatown Heritage Centre in Full Bloom for Triple Celebration in 2019

Singapore, January 10, 2019 – Chinatown Heritage Centre (牛车水原貌馆) is set for a triple celebration in 2019 – marking its 3rd anniversary, Bicentennial Singapore and the Lunar New Year with programmes all year round centred on the theme “BLOOM” (花开富贵 心想狮城).

“BLOOM” (花开富贵 心想狮城) alludes to our vision for an inclusive society where all budding aspirations bloom and bear fruit in Singapore’s City in a Garden. For Chinatown Heritage Centre, heritage and health are also key to wealth.

“BLOOM” (花开富贵 心想狮城) will officially open on 26 January 2019 with an art installation, featuring paintings of commemorative orchids by artist Glacy Soh, which offers a refreshing take on Singapore’s heritage and history.

“Singapore is a young nation that has progressed beyond all expectations, driven by the passion and diligence of her people. I was inspired by the resilience of orchids, and the diversity of hybrids which captures so much of the essence of Singapore,” said Ms Soh.

“The 6 hybrids painted were chosen with the Bicentennial commemoration in mind. I painted Vanda Ms Joaquim which is our National Flower, and the Aranda Lee Kuan Yew in memory of our founding father. I also painted the Vanda Kwa Geok Choo, to represent a powerful woman who stood by Mr Lee. To represent independence and freedom, Paravanda Nelson Mandela was added into the Series.”

“We started counting the Bicentennial from 1819, where Singapore was a British Colony, I painted my favourite Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, the Vanda William Catherine; and still on the theme of British rule, I painted Dendrobium Margaret Thatcher, the Iron Lady, one that I admire, the first Female Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.”

These commemorative orchid paintings will be set in a green oasis of blooms, with paper flowers created by Caregivers Alliance Limited (CAL), in collaboration with Nanyang Polytechnic. Visitors are invited to participate in the installation with their paper flower creations from January to February 2019.

Mr Tim Lee, Executive Director of Caregivers Alliance Limited, said, “The theme of flowers in bloom is a fitting reflection of CAL’s desire to help each caregiver grow in resilience, through learning new skills and meeting others with similar experiences. By nurturing the community of caregivers, CAL hopes to bring about a bloom of empowered caregivers supporting each other. The theme also represents the growth of the partnership between Chinatown Heritage Centre and CAL, which has been beneficial in providing many stressed and burdened caregivers in Singapore a chance to relax and reminisce the past.”

The museum shophouse frontage will also be landscaped to look like a green oasis, to soften the streetscape and enhance its prominence at Pagoda Street. The landscaping concept will be inspired by the historic scenes of vegetable stalls at Chinatown’s street market in the olden days – with vegetables, herbs, fruit and flowering plants growing out of rattan baskets and wooden crates.



牛车水原貌馆私人有限公司

Chinatown Heritage Centre Pte Ltd

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For Accounts pls call 6333 9219 Co Regn. No./GST No. 201526531W

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As a heritage oasis, Chinatown Heritage Centre aims to bring the community together through specially designed and curated heritage experiences that are inspiring, refreshing and also nurturing in terms of wellness and growth for the visitor.

Chinatown Heritage Centre will also work with Edible Garden City to grow edible and medicinal plants at its doorstep, and develop new educational experiences.

Ms Kimberly Hoong, Urban Farmer, Edible Garden City, said "Edible gardens are more than just for harvesting and eating; they also bring opportunities for education and horticulture-based therapy. With the incorporation of several regionally-native plants in the multi-sensory garden, visitors to the Chinatown Heritage Centre will be able to relive the rich natural history of Singapore by touching, smelling and tasting plants that were grown and sold in the past."

Together with Caregivers Alliance Singapore, nostalgia therapy programmes which involves reminiscence, play, art, music and sensory activities will be conducted throughout the year.

This is the first time that nursing students from Nanyang Polytechnic's School of Health & Social Sciences are participating in a collaboration of this nature, integrating health with heritage in their final-year projects that will be showcased at Chinatown Heritage Centre on 26 January 2019.

Ms Bella Tan, Programme Director of Nursing, School of Health & Social Sciences, Nanyang Polytechnic, said, "Health is created largely outside of the health sector. Working on the project with Chinatown Heritage Centre has provided our students opportunities to apply a different lens to see how health elements could be identified and integrated in the community through activities designed to help participants re-connect and reminisce through art and play."

At Chinatown Heritage Centre, the spirit of resilience is celebrated through the stories it tells of early migrants striving against all odds to seek a livelihood and a better life for their families. As a continuing legacy, Chinatown Heritage Centre is doing its part to support the aspirations of Singaporeans who dare to dream and pursue their passion to enliven and grow Singapore's heritage, arts and cultural scene.

On 2 March 2019, architect turned author and artist Francis Wong Hooe Wai will be launching "The Little Bear's New Clothes" - the 3<sup>rd</sup> book in his trilogy about growing up in Chinatown. A talented artist in his childhood, Francis had to give up his ambition to be an artist for an economically stable career as an architect. Now that he has retired, he is pursuing his first love in the arts and will be holding a month-long exhibition of his book illustrations at the Chinatown Heritage Centre. The strong connection with Chinatown has passed down from generation to generation in Francis' family. The stories of his grandfather Physician Ng, his mother Sijing and their living cubicle recreated in the museum shophouse are highlights of Chinatown Heritage Centre's experience.

A series of stories about Singaporeans realizing their passions will be showcased throughout 2019 at Chinatown Heritage Centre's temporary exhibition gallery, as a continuation of the narratives told about Singapore's past at the permanent museum galleries.



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Ms Serene Tan, Director, Arts and Cultural Precincts, Singapore Tourism Board, said, “The Chinatown Heritage Centre has a rich collection of stories about Chinatown’s evolution from a Chinese migrant settlement to today’s vibrant heritage district. We hope that the Centre’s upcoming programmes will inspire the public to explore Chinatown and gain a deeper appreciation of the precinct’s heritage.”

### **What is Chinatown Heritage Centre?**

As the first step to discovering Chinatown, Chinatown Heritage Centre tells the personal real life stories of Singapore’s early migrants who came to seek a livelihood, pursuing their dreams and toiling against adversity to achieve their aspirations in this new homeland.

Based on the dialogues with international visitors, many were unaware of the grit and grime behind the gleam and shine of Singapore’s cityscape. Chinatown Heritage Centre is the only place in Singapore that has recreated the original interiors of its shophouse tenants in the 1950s, offering a rare glimpse into the lives of Chinatown's early residents.

The life journeys of the forefathers continue to be a powerful source of inspiration for generations after – Singaporeans and overseas visitors alike. These stories of hardship, survival and resilience strike a chord and resonate with universal audiences and are still relevant today.

Chinatown Heritage Centre presents an eye-opening experience of the journey of Singapore, providing deeper insights and cultivating greater appreciation of the story and spirit of Singapore – the little red dot that succeeded to survive and thrive against the odds.

### **Who is behind the Chinatown Heritage Centre?**

Built in 2002 by the Singapore Tourism Board, the Chinatown Heritage Centre was officially reopened in 2016, after a year of rejuvenation.

Chinatown Heritage Centre is run by a private museum management team appointed by the STB through public tender. The Chinatown Heritage Centre Pte Ltd is a consortium comprising heritage tourism players Singapore River Cruise, Journeys and Splash Entertainment.

2019 marks the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Chinatown Heritage Centre Pte Ltd. Under its helm, Chinatown Heritage Centre rose up in TripAdvisor’s rankings to become the Top 3 museums in Singapore and Top 25 Museums in Asia in 2018. Chinatown Heritage Centre has also been awarded the Excellence Awards and Travellers’ Choice Awards for 3 years running.

The management’s vision for Chinatown Heritage Centre is to go beyond the traditional conventional idea of a museum - to be a living, breathing museum that is relevant today, making a difference to society through the stories it tells and shaping the history of tomorrow.

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**For full details, please refer to Media Factsheet attached.**



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