



General Information

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The Foundation is an approved Institution of Public Character. A 250% tax deduction is granted by Singapore regulatory agencies for cash donations. Your gift also goes twice as far as all donations are matched dollar-for-dollar by the Cultural Matching Fund.

Foreward

Michael Tay
Founder & Executive Director

As we reflect on the past year, it is with great pride and gratitude that I introduce this Project Impact Report for the Foundation for The Arts and Social Enterprise.

What began as a vision to foster a deeper connection between the arts, business and community in Singapore has grown into a vibrant movement that continues to inspire, engage, and create lasting impact.

Our work, driven by a mission to elevate Singapore's cultural landscape, has always been about more than just promoting the arts – it's about leveraging creativity to address social challenges and forge connections that transcend boundaries. This year has been no different. Our partners, artistes and community collaborators

have witnessed incredible resilience and ingenuity as they navigated challenges and embraced new opportunities. Their stories, which you will read in the following pages, are a testament to the transformative power of the arts.

Through our projects, we have supported emerging and established artistes, brought art into the public sphere, and strengthened the role of the arts as a catalyst for social change. Whether through groundbreaking performances, innovative collaborations, or outreach initiatives that touched



underserved communities, The Foundation has been at the heart of a cultural dialogue shaping a more inclusive and dynamic society.

Our achievements this year would not have been possible without the support of our patrons, partners and sponsors. Your belief in our mission and your commitment to nurturing the arts in Singapore have enabled us to reach new heights. We are also grateful for the trust and dedication of the artists, curators and creatives who continue to bring our shared vision to life.

As we look ahead, The Foundation remains steadfast in its commitment to deepening the impact of our work. We will continue to innovate, collaborate and champion the role of the arts in building a more cohesive, empathetic and culturally rich society. I invite you to join us on this journey as we forge ahead into the future, filled with promise and possibility.

Thank you for your continued support. We hope you are as inspired by the stories and achievements in this report as we are.

MUSIC COMMISSIONING SERIES

World-Premiere of Movements in Time — Artworks from the National Gallery by Cultural Medallion Recipient Kelly Tang



[L to R] Dr Kelly Tang, Composer and Cultural Medallion Recipient; Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat; Chang Hwee Nee, Chief Executive Officer of the National Heritage Board; Michael Tay, Founder and Executive Director of The Foundation



Purpose of Project: This 10-year undertaking will significantly contribute to Singapore's contemporary music, commission major works by Singapore composers, and systemically build up a canon of major Singapore music for the first time. The seven-movement orchestral suite was the first work to be commissioned by The Foundation under its ten-year Music Commissioning Series project.

About the Project: This project will commission a Singaporean composer each year for 10 years to write an original Singaporean major work across diverse genres and types of arts. The plan is for each commission to culminate in a concert of the work within 18 months of the start of the commissioning.

As part of our inclusive agenda to engage the Singapore music world, we will commission different orchestras to perform the concerts. The first half of the concerts will also feature existing Singapore compositions that have yet to be or are rarely staged. The project will be steered by an Advisory Council comprising deeply informed stakeholders from the cultural, social and business domains.

The Foundation commissioned Dr Kelly Tang as the first composer to kickstart the series. Singaporean conductor Prof. Chan Tze Law conducted the premiere with the Singapore Metropolitan Festival Orchestra. Explore further by reading the programme booklet.



Impact: Kelly Tang's concert premiere of *Movements in Time—Artworks from the National Gallery in Time* was staged at the Esplanade Concert Hall on 24 June 2023. Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies Heng Swee Keat, The Foundation's supported artistes, corporate and industry guests and the public were in attendance. The *Straits Times*, *Zaobao*, and *The Business Times* reported on the concert premiere.

"The success of our musicians and artistes is not achieved in isolation; it is the result of the collective efforts of various stakeholders within our arts ecosystem. Arts groups and intermediaries, such as the Foundation for The Arts and Social Enterprise, play a crucial role in nurturing and supporting our local talents," noted Edwin Tong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth & Second Minister for Law.

Further, internationally recognised Singapore composer Benjamin Yeo was commissioned to produce *Education Notes*, a digitally available, student-friendly music appreciation resource for educators, parents and students.



What's Next for the Music Commissioning Series

The Foundation is currently in discussions with the National Gallery Singapore about the potential adaptation of a commission by Kelly Tang, inspired by the Gallery's art collection, for a possible programme in 2025.

The second commission in the Music Commissioning Series is slated for staging in 2025, with Felix Phang selected as the composer. A Berklee College of Music graduate, Phang is a virtuoso on classical violin, trombone, double bass, steel pan, and electric bass guitar, whose compositions merge Asian influences with Western musical traditions. The National Arts Council of Singapore has recognised his contributions, and he has composed for the Singapore Symphony Orchestra. Additionally, Felix leads the intercultural arts organisation Pasat Merdu and offers his expertise as a teacher and mentor at LASALLE College of the Arts.

THE PRODIGY PROJECT

NURTURING OUR NATION'S YOUNG TALENTS

*Setting the Stage to Become the Youngest Pianist in History
to Complete Beethoven's 32 Piano Sonatas*



Purpose of Project: The Foundation's Prodigy Project offers vital funding and support to young, exceptionally talented Singaporean artistes who demonstrate world-class potential beyond their years. We aim to support their lifelong careers in music by providing them with access to resources, education and financial support. Given that prodigies are estimated to be as rare as one in five million children, our mission focuses on strategically investing in young talents to ensure the development of their musical abilities and the fulfilment of their full potential.

About the First Prodigy: At 9 years old, piano prodigy Mikkel Myer Lee made history as the youngest to perform Chopin's 24 Preludes Op.28 at a sold-out concert at Esplanade Theatres on

the Bay, Singapore, in February 2022. Last year, at just 10, Mikkel played Beethoven's Concerto 3 and Chopin's Concerto No. 2 to another sold-out audience alongside the Asian Symphony Orchestra at Victoria Concert Hall.

By age 11, Mikkel once again captivated audiences with both Chopin piano concertos at Esplanade Concert Hall, surpassing Russian Evgeny Kissin's record in 1984 to become the youngest globally to achieve this. In the summer of 2023, Mikkel was also the sole Singapore artiste invited to attend the renowned Verbier Festival Arts Academy; an exception was made as he was too young to participate in the Academy.



The Foundation also provided a platform featuring Mikkel as the opening performance at the premiere of *Movements in Time – Artworks* from the National Gallery by Kelly Tang at the Esplanade Concert Hall on 24 June 2023.

Impact: Recognising Mikkel Myer Lee's exceptional talent and dedication, The Foundation has supported his past performances and will continue supporting his journey to become a world-renowned concert pianist. Through this partnership, Mikkel benefits from access to mentorship, opportunities to perform, and financial support, all of which are designed to nurture his innate abilities and propel his career forward.

What's Next for The Prodigy Project

Setting the Stage to Become the Youngest Pianist in History to Complete Beethoven's 32 Piano Sonatas

The Foundation is actively supporting Mikkel's next concert at SOTA, anticipated for December 2024. This event will kick off an 8-part series spanning 3.5 years featuring all 32 Beethoven Piano Sonatas. The series will kick off in Singapore and extend to concert halls globally. Upon completing the series, Mikkel will become the youngest pianist in history to have performed all 32 sonatas.

UTOPIA REIMAGINED

Enabling Local Artistes to Build and Nurture a Network of Opportunities Otherwise Less Accessible



UTOPIA Reimagined: house by weish

Purpose of Project: To leverage the groundwork laid by the UTOPIA Symphony project and reach out to a younger demographic to engage with the arts, The Foundation's UTOPIA Reimagined Series enables local artistes to build and nurture a network that will open up opportunities that may otherwise be less accessible without The Foundation's support. Future editions of the Series will continue to aim to be more inclusive, with artistes from diverse backgrounds, genres and points in their careers.



UTOPIA Reimagined: These Corners by Coming Up Roses

About the Project: UTOPIA Reimagined saw the commissioning of Singapore contemporary music artistes across genres to write a musical response to the UTOPIA Symphony. Originally conceptualised as a live concert, the project adapted to the constraints of COVID-19 by recording these commissions and releasing them as singles on major digital streaming platforms, elevating the project to new heights and reaching larger audiences.



UTOPIA Reimagined: If You Knew by Dru Chen

Buoyed by the first UTOPIA Reimagined success, the Second Edition brought together a fresh slate of commissioned artistes — Coming Up Roses, Dru Chen, OHMYMEITING and weish. Visual artist and Young Artist Award winner Dr Yanyun Chen was commissioned to create cover art for the four singles. Charlie Lim, who served as executive producer in the previous edition, reprised his role to direct the bigger-picture creative strategy, and collaborated creatively with OHMYMEITING and Dru Chen.

Impact: Beginning February 2023, four music singles were released on major digital streaming platforms. The singles have accumulated over 491,786 streams on Spotify alone. The releases were enhanced with video materials, including music videos and behind-the-scenes footage, to showcase the creative process and document the journey of our musicians to provide insights and learning opportunities for the artist community. You can watch the videos on The Foundation's YouTube channel.

We are committed to channelling the majority of our funds to our projects. In our most recent financial report, 87% of funds raised went directly to supporting our charitable activities.



UTOPIA Reimagined: Silent Sea / 宁静的海洋 by OHMYMEITING

In addition, a new educational aspect has been introduced. Students from LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore Polytechnic and Republic Polytechnic have been invited to observe some of the processes and share their knowledge on social media.

Planning for the third edition of UTOPIA Reimagined is in progress.

UTOPIA Reimagined is a series of commissions by the Foundation for The Arts and Social Enterprise to prompt and inspire a collective vision for the arts. As a part of this project, visual artist Dr Yanyun Chen created Utopia Reimagined, a collection of 4 album artworks.



Dr Yanyun Chen

UTOPIA Reimagined: Silent Sea / 宁静的海洋 by OHMYMEITING



Possession
2023
Charcoal on paper
37cm x 37cm

I've often wondered if our creations would miss us once they have left our hands. Nested within a glass case at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, sits a gu gōng qiú (鬼工球), a "devil's work ball". Described by Ming Scholar Cao Zhao, it alludes to the otherworldly magnificence of such a hand-crafted artisanal object. This free-floating 15-layered concentric ivory sphere, also known as "puzzle balls", left its native shores as an art curio in the 19th Century, purchased by American traders. At its core, the last bone sphere, is a deep darkness. I wonder if it is dreaming of its maker.

UTOPIA Reimagined: If You Knew by Dru Chen



Komorebi Coral
2023
Charcoal on paper
37cm x 37cm

Thin slivers of sunlight between tight walls. Cutting rays and dappled shadows. Light finds its way through crevices and cracks, piercing straight through a concrete jungle. Perhaps, it isn't just about squeezing through to reach the sun, but embedding, emerging, rooting, carrying the whole damn lot of ingrowths—plaster, brick, stone, ivory, clay, forest—along in the walk-towards. We sink our talons into the infrastructure, and dive into the dark abyss; we are a coral colony migrating through space and time, on our way home.

UTOPIA Reimagined: These Corners by Coming Up Roses



Terrestrial
2023
Charcoal on paper
37cm x 37cm

The image of dried, cracked bits of plaster, brick, and clay came to me when I listened to *These Corners* by Coming Up Roses. The harsh inability to dream beyond walls, the hesitance to think a change because it “could mean a world’s been torn”, these are screams of stasis where salvation is the slow traversing across textured terrains of a foundation which remains ever present to lock us in. After all, there is no going outside, so imagination is the touching of raw wounds of walls.

UTOPIA Reimagined: house by weish



Plumed Serpent
2023
Charcoal on paper
37cm x 37cm

At the other side of the world lay a plumed serpent. He is the wind, the guide, the road sweeper of rain gods. He is a foreigner, an invader, a sacrificer, and a guardian. He is K’uk’ulkan. He is the long count, the ups and downs, the cycles. He is of the sky and of the earth, for he flies and he slithers. He has seen the blood, the ghosts, and the screaming through the crevices of rock, ruin, and time.

He spoke to the sun and burnt his tongue. Staring at the sky, he has questions.

PARTNERING
ON DIVERSE
INITIATIVES TO
CHAMPION THE
ARTS SPACE

SUPPORTING
LOCAL ARTISTES
& ARTS GROUP



APSARAS Arts

The Foundation supports dance company Apsaras Arts in its vision to become a driving force for modernising Indian dance in the region and globally. Occupying a distinct niche, Apsaras Arts is renowned for creating new Indian dance repertoires, which are featured at numerous international festivals, more so than dance troupes from India. The Foundation intends to continue working with Apsaras Arts to cultivate new patrons to nurture, develop, and showcase the classic Indian dance industry and the traditional arts talent pool.

Keyana

Singaporean singer Keyana has been making waves in the music industry with her soulful voice and captivating performances. With the support of The Foundation, she has secured a significant career milestone as the opening act for L.A. band Moonchild Starfruit Tour's Singapore debut. It showcased her talent to a broader audience and allowed her to share the stage with the internationally renowned band known for their fusion of jazz, R&B, and neo-soul. The Foundation will continue to work closely with Keyana to develop her career further.



The Straits Ensemble

A musical collective that champions Singapore cultural music exchanges, influenced by the ever-changing global music landscape and jazz sensibilities. With instrumentation that embodies Singapore's cultural sound, The Straits Ensemble navigates the rich tapestry of Singapore's heritage and taps into a global kampung spirit to celebrate diversity. Playing a repertoire of original compositions, reimagined folk tunes and more, the ensemble's range of expression runs from tender nuances to high-energy, driving rhythms. The Foundation invited a select group of patrons to support The Straits Ensemble at The Cool Cats in December 2023, a sold-out performance.



Singapore Clay Festival

This national event is a dynamic platform for clay practitioners, significantly enriching the visual arts scene. It breaks down barriers, enabling clay artists to extend beyond their studio spaces and engage with a broader audience. The inaugural Singapore Clay Festival in 2021 marked the first community-wide celebration embracing clay creatives, held at Enabling Village. Since then, The Foundation has been a dedicated partner, spotlighting the exceptional talent of local clay artists.

The Foundation collaborated with the second Singapore Clay Festival, which took place from 2-5 Nov 2023 at Artspace@Helutrans in the Tanjong Pagar Distripark (TPD). The Festival featured notable attractions such as the Clay Makers' Market, showcasing over 200 skilled clay artists and thousands of creations; the Shaping Clay exhibition; 'RED – Works from Singapore Clay'; and the Singapore Clay Heritage – 'Ng Eng Teng at Studio 106'. Moving forward, The Foundation aims to continue supporting the Festival, the artists and their masterclasses, thereby amplifying recognition of this artistic craft and fine arts.



Southern Methodist University

In an innovative collaboration, students from the Southern Methodist University Cox School of Business utilised their academic knowledge to address real-world business challenges, specifically examining how the Arts contribute to social good within the framework of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG). As an unconventional programme partner, The Foundation served as the business case, uniting eight MBA students and their professors to investigate Singapore's philanthropic landscape and formulate strategic, actionable insights. This cross-cultural educational project culminated in a final presentation in April 2023 in Singapore, demonstrating the students' findings and insights into a comprehensive organisational fundraising strategy.

CHAMPION THE ARTS, MAKE A DONATION

Whether it's partnering with Foundation for The Arts and Social Enterprise on a programme, spreading the word through employee engagement initiatives, or direct financial contributions, you play a vital role in amplifying the impact of the arts as a transformative bridge between business, the community and across generations.

The Foundation is an approved Institution of Public Character. A 250% tax deduction is granted by Singapore regulatory agencies for cash donations. Your gift also goes twice as far as all donations are matched dollar-for-dollar by the Cultural Matching Fund.

Together, we can ignite meaningful conversations, nurture artistic talent, and create a vibrant cultural ecosystem. We invite you to join us in our mission and make a lasting difference through your donation. We are committed to channeling the majority of our funds to our projects. In our most recent financial report, 87% of funds raised went directly to supporting our charitable activities.

Make a direct donation through PayNow to The Foundation (UEN: 201303721C)

