

**MEDIA RELEASE**

*For immediate release*

**NHB'S HERITAGE GRANTS SCHEME CELEBRATES A DECADE OF SUPPORTING  
COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

*With more than 550 recipients supported to date and over S\$15 million awarded, the scheme continues to support grants that delve into varied, lesser-known aspects of our heritage, adding to the richness of Singapore's heritage ecosystem.*

**Singapore, 15 March 2024** – Singapore's heritage is varied and multifaceted, with countless stories waiting to be told. A heritage corner and wall mural documenting the history of a longstanding Hindi educational institution here; a book that explores cultural practices around death in Singapore; and the family recipes of a small but vibrant Indian sub-community are just some of the more than 550 projects supported by the National Heritage Board's (NHB) Heritage Grants Scheme since its launch in 2013.

2 Through its Heritage Grants Scheme, which comprises the *Minor* and *Major Project Grants*, NHB empowers individuals and community groups to contribute to the celebration and documentation of our heritage, which is a key pillar of *Our SG Heritage Plan 2.0*. The projects that result from these grants add to the richness of the heritage ecosystem, and contribute to the documentation of the Singapore story by shining a spotlight on specific, niche aspects of our heritage.

3 The *Minor* and *Major Project Grants* support a wide range of community-led projects across a wide variety of mediums – such as events, publications, exhibitions, podcasts, and more – with the aim of promoting the understanding and appreciation of Singapore's history and heritage. The *Minor Project Grant* supports community heritage projects for up to 50% of total project costs or a maximum of S\$50,000. The *Major Project Grant* supports larger scale projects with the potential to make a lasting contribution to Singapore's heritage landscape for up to 50% of total project costs or a maximum of S\$150,000.

4 Mr Gerald Wee, Director for Education and Community Outreach, NHB said, "At NHB, we believe that heritage belongs to everyone, and we hope to empower the community to spearhead

projects that celebrate our heritage and history. Since its launch a decade ago, our Heritage Grants Scheme has supported myriad projects that have uncovered many valuable snippets of our heritage that may otherwise have remained hidden. Through these projects, our heritage ecosystem has benefitted immensely by becoming more vibrant and diverse, with more individuals and community groups invested in documenting, celebrating, and promoting public awareness of their rich histories.”

5 The Heritage Grants Scheme was launched in July 2013 and has supported more than 550 recipients, with over S\$15 million awarded to date. Some recent highlight projects are:

<b>Project Name and Grant Recipient</b>	<b>Details</b>
<p><b>tHIs is our STORY</b></p> <p>Arya Samaj Singapore</p> <p><i>Major Project Grant awarded in Apr 2022</i></p>	<p>An <b>indoor heritage gallery and outdoor wall mural</b> that document the history of the Arya Samaj Singapore and the Dayanand Anglo-Vedic School (DAV Hindi School). The mural, painted by well-known Singapore artist Yip Yew Chong, is one of the largest in Little India, measuring 36m by 8m and spanning two buildings along Syed Alwi Road.</p> <p>Arya Samaj is a Hindu reform movement that was founded by the ascetic Dayanand Saraswati in the 1870s. The movement has existed in Singapore since 1927 and runs the DAV Hindi School as its education arm.</p>
<p><b>Xin Jia Po Feng Tu Ji: The Annotated Edition</b></p> <p>Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations (SFCCA)</p> <p><i>Minor Project Grant awarded in Apr 2023</i></p>	<p>This <b>publication</b> is an annotated version of <i>Xin Jia Po Feng Tu Ji</i> – a historical record of Singapore’s landscape in the 19th century – with English translations, making it more accessible to modern Singaporeans. The content of the book contributes greatly to the knowledge of Singapore’s landscape in the 19th century, and includes images of Singapore across different time periods for cross-referencing.</p> <p>The original document was written by Li Zhongjue, a scholar from Imperial China who visited Singapore in mid-1887. It provides a non-colonial/Western, Asian perspective on life in Singapore in the late 19th century but is difficult to access as it was written in classical Chinese and without punctuation.</p>

<p><b>Death and the Afterlife: Multidisciplinary Perspectives from a Global City</b></p> <p>Dr Lye Kit Ying</p> <p><i>Minor Project Grant awarded in Apr 2022</i></p>	<p>A <b>publication</b> that aims to offer a multidisciplinary perspective of how individuals and collectives "do" death and interact with the dead. Through case studies of Singaporean Chinese religious communities, the authors examine, map, document, and theorise practices relating to death and the afterlife.</p> <p>Heritage is a significant resource for the shaping of and grappling with diasporic and contemporary Singaporean Chinese identities. The publication delves into Singapore Chinese funerary practices and contributes to existing literature on the evolution of cultural practices in Singapore associated with death.</p> <p>The project is unique in that it is highly visual and one of the few academic publications that showcases research and discussions by scholars and practitioners from multiple disciplines such as sociology, history, community arts, literary studies, photography, etc.</p>
<p><b>The Objects that Made Us</b></p> <p>Amy Sim Kok Eng</p> <p><i>Minor Project Grant awarded in Apr 2022</i></p>	<p>This <b>multi-platform project</b> is unique in its use of stories relating to personal heirlooms to expound on Singapore's history. The project features 20 heirlooms, with their owners and subject matter experts sharing about them on multiple platforms, including podcasts, talks, and an exhibition.</p> <p>Some highlighted objects include a marble-top coffee table, an EP record (i.e. an Extended Play record), and a pair of women's 'lotus' shoes measuring just three-inches long.</p>
<p><b>Heritage Food of the Peranakan Indians in a Chitty Melaka Kitchen</b></p> <p>Peranakan Indian (Chitty Melaka) Association Singapore (PIA)</p> <p><i>Heritage Participation Grant (now renamed as the Minor Project Grant) awarded in Aug 2020</i></p>	<p>This <b>publication</b> aims to document, preserve and promote the culinary culture and heritage of Singapore's Chitty Melaka, or Indian Peranakan, community. The collection of close to 100 Indian Peranakan recipes, from everyday dishes to festive fare, also includes notes on the significance of the recipes in the Chitty Melaka culture and the family memories of contributors.</p> <p>The Chetti Melaka are a small but significant community of early migrants from the Indian subcontinent who have made Singapore their home. They are descendants of Tamil traders who first settled in Melaka during the reign of the Melaka Sultanate in the 15th to 16th centuries, and married local women of Malay and Chinese descent. While they largely retain their Tamil Hindu traditions, the Chetti Melaka have also embraced practices from the Chinese</p>

	and Malay communities, resulting in a unique fusion of cultures.
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6 For more information on NHB's Heritage Grants Scheme, please visit <https://www.nhb.gov.sg/what-we-do/our-work/community-engagement/grants/grants/minor-and-major-project-grants>. To apply for NHB's grants, please visit <https://oursqgrants.gov.sg/>.

7 Please refer to:

- **Annex A** for an overview of NHB's Heritage Grants Scheme
- **Annex B** for quotes by recipients of NHB's Heritage Grants Scheme

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**About the National Heritage Board**

The National Heritage Board (NHB) was formed on 1 August 1993. As the custodian of Singapore's heritage, NHB is responsible for telling the Singapore story, sharing the Singaporean experience and imparting our Singapore spirit.

NHB's mission is to preserve and celebrate the shared heritage of our diverse communities, for the purpose of education, nation-building and cultural understanding. It manages the national museums and heritage institutions, safeguards and promotes intangible cultural heritage, and sets policies relating to heritage sites, monuments and the national collection. Through the national collection, NHB curates heritage programmes and presents exhibitions to connect the past, present and future generations of Singaporeans. NHB is a statutory board under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. Please visit [www.nhb.gov.sg](http://www.nhb.gov.sg) for more information.

**Quotes by recipients of NHB's Heritage Grants Scheme**

Grant Project/Recipient	Quote
<p><b>tHIs is our STORY</b></p> <p>by Arya Samaj Singapore</p>	<p>Dr Rajesh Rai, Life Trustee, Arya Samaj Singapore, said: "The Arya Samaj will soon celebrate its centenary in Singapore. In that context, the development of the organisation's heritage gallery, and the magnificent mural is timely. Collectively the project illuminates the hidden history of a small community, which in its own little way, has contributed to the contours of Singapore's cultural diversity and worked assiduously to ensure the survival of the Hindi language on the island. Support from the grant has allowed us to raise the bar on the quality of the project - allowing us to draw on expert consultants and to commission the renowned artist Yip Yew Chong to paint the mural."</p>
<p><b>Xin Jia Po Feng Tu Ji: The Annotated Edition</b></p> <p>by Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations (SFCCA)</p>	<p>Mr Kua Bak Lim, Chief Editor of the publication, and Chairman of SFCCA Research Committee, said: "The content of this book contributes greatly to the knowledge of Singapore landscape in 19th century. It is also an important source of reference for researchers who are studying in the fields of Southeast Asia and overseas Chinese history. The grant has provided financial stability, allowing us to focus on the content and design making of the book, as well as greater proofreading efforts. The grant process listed the timeline in a clear and concise manner, and specific instructions and clarifications were provided."</p>
<p><b>Death and the Afterlife: Multidisciplinary Perspectives from a Global City</b></p> <p>by Dr Lye Kit Ying</p>	<p>Dr Lye Kit Ying, Grant Recipient, said: "This book provides a timely update to the study of Chinese death practices in contemporary Singapore. This collection aims to not only document the always-evolving death practices in a Chinese diasporic community for posterity, but also to offer theoretical insights into how diasporic groups continue to shape "traditions" in their own ways. We are grateful to have the support of NHB and the <i>Minor Project Grant</i> as it allows us to focus on our research and writing process. The grant also opens up opportunities for passionate individuals to work on meaningful projects."</p>
<p><b>The Objects that Made Us</b></p>	<p>Ms Amy Sim Kok Eng, Grant Recipient, said: "As the name of the podcast suggests, <i>The Objects that Made Us</i> focuses on</p>

<p>by Amy Sim Kok Eng</p>	<p>personal objects that bring out stories of Singapore's past. Through this project, we want to show that history is all around us. It is not only found in museums or recorded in history books, nor is it just about the kings and emperors or marked by political events. With the support of NHB, we've pieced together vignettes of life of ordinary Singaporeans, evoking the sights and sounds of old Singapore and recording stories of how our forebears found their footing as Singapore transformed. We hope these stories will inspire more people to see history in our everyday life."</p>
<p><b>Heritage Food of the Peranakan Indians in a Chitty Melaka Kitchen</b></p> <p>by Peranakan Indian (Chitty Melaka) Association Singapore (PIA)</p>	<p>Ms Merlin Pillay, Member, Peranakan Indian (Chitty Melaka) Association Singapore, said: "It was a wonderful opportunity to shine a light on a lesser-known community among the more well known as the Chinese Peranakans. It created an opportunity for the community to proudly capture oral recipes that have been passed down through the generations for a newer generation, ensuring continuity and legacy. The commitment to delivering the project in stages, the consultation that NHB provided ensured that we were on track. Their support represented commitment to cultural preservation, community engagement and the celebration of Singapore's multicultural heritage."</p>