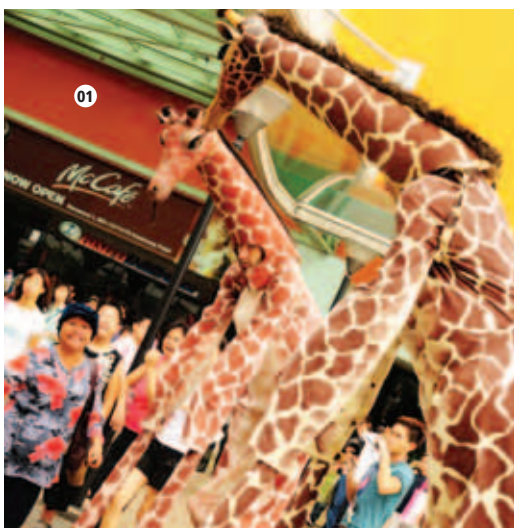


HIGHLIGHTS OF FY 2008/09



01 Arts on the Move, Singapore Arts Festival. 02 South-West District Arts Festival. 03 NAC and the Arts Council Korea signed a Memorandum of Understanding. 04 The 2008 National Indian Music Competition.

April 2008

- NAC launched the Community Participation Grant to fund arts projects which involve members of the community in the creative process.
- Applications opened for the sixth Mentor Access Project which aims to develop emerging writers through mentorship.

May 2008

- NAC and Majlis Pusat co-organised a series of traditional Malay dance workshops conducted by Dr Raja Alfirafindra M. Hum, dance lecturer of Indonesian Arts Institute of Yogyakarta, Indonesia during the month-long Festival Tari Serumpun.
- On 15 May, NAC led a delegation of Singapore writers Edwin Thumboo, Kirpal Singh, Alvin Pang, Ng Yi-Sheng, and publisher Fong Hoe Fang to launch a poetry anthology *Over There: Poems from Singapore and Australia* at the opening of the first Poetry Park in South Perth, Australia.
- The 22nd edition of the Singapore Arts Festival opened with a large-scale outdoor performance, *Water Fools* at the Singapore River. Held from 23 May to 22 June, the

Festival drew close to 600,000 people to its ticketed and outreach shows.

June 2008

- North East District Arts Festival, a NAC-PA MOU initiative, provided a series of platforms for its residents to showcase their talents such as *Dance Xplosion 3!*, *Rocking Good Times 2!*, the North East District Musical and Singapore Arts Street 2008 @ North East.
- South-West District Arts Festival, a NAC-PA MOU initiative, was held from 28 June to 27 July. Highlights included *Singapore Colours Photographic Society ART-tastic Photography Competition*, and weekend creative workshops and performances.

July 2008

- NAC and the Arts Council Korea signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 3 July, in Seoul, South Korea, to encourage artistic development, collaboration and exchange.
- On 5 July, NAC and PERKAMUS co-presented a traditional Malay music workshop and concert, the first of a series of training opportunities targeted at professional and semi-professional Malay music practitioners.



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05 Silver Award recipient for National Arts Education Award 2008, Deyi Secondary School. 06 Windmills of Wonder, Kids' Biennale. 07 Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong who officiated the opening, at Erlich Leandro's Hair Salon, Singapore Biennale.

- Keppel Nights, a subsidised ticket purchasing scheme, was launched on 24 July by NAC and Keppel Corporation. It aims to grow the audience base for ticketed shows through half-priced tickets.
- NAC organised an inaugural seminar for Chinese traditional arts groups titled *Marketing Traditional Arts in a Modern World* on 26 July. This was part of a series of workshops focused on capability development.
- NAC partnered Singapore General Hospital to roll out the Arts for Health programme from 25 July to 12 December. Activities included performances such as *ArtsConcert*, *Puppets Alive2!* and an exhibition *Size Free*, designed by patients with eating disorders during art therapy sessions.

August 2008

- NAC released arts statistics that showed four-fold growth in arts activities in 10 years. Singaporeans and visitors now have 73 arts activities on any day to engage in, compared to 18 a decade ago.
- Nine schools received the 2008 National Arts Education Awards on 18 August from RAdm

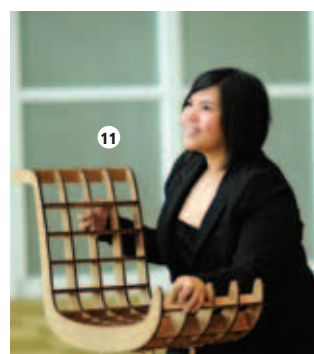
(NS) Lui Tuck Yew, Senior Minister of State (Information, Communications and the Arts).

- Three books by Singapore writers, published under NAC's 50fifty Co-publishing Initiative, were launched at the Melbourne Writers Festival held from 22 to 31 August.
- NAC awarded four arts scholarships and 45 bursaries at the Creative Industries Scholarships Award Ceremony on 22 August.
- NAC-ExxonMobil Concert in the Park – *World of Voices* held on 24 August at Singapore Botanic Gardens, featured the Anderson Junior College choir, VoCollision, beatboxer Zul Mystroe and Singapore Idol Taufik Batisah.

September 2008

- Young musicians competed at the 2008 National Indian Music Competition held from 2 to 6 September.
- The 2nd Singapore Biennale opened under the theme of *WONDER* from 11 September to 16 November. It featured 137 artworks by 66 artists and art collectives from over 36 countries and regions including Singapore. The event pulled in 505,200 visitors over eight weeks.

HIGHLIGHTS OF FY 2008/09



08 Launch of Keppel Nights by Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong. 09 The 2008 National Chinese Music Competition. 10 Paolo W Tamburella – *fei zao* (soap) performance and installation at South Beach, Singapore Biennale. 11 Furniture designer, Abbie Lim, recipient of the Takashimaya-NAC Scholarship.

October 2008

- President S R Nathan conferred the Cultural Medallion on artists Chia Hwee Pheng (Literature), P. Krishnan (Literature) and Iskandar Mirza Ismail (Music) at the Arts Award Ceremony held on 17 October in the Istana. Five promising artists received the Young Artist Award.
- NAC announced the Arts For All – Community Engagement Plan on 11 October. Under the third phase of the Renaissance City Plan (RCP), the initiative aims to bring about deeper engagement and ownership of the arts among Singaporeans.
- On 21 October, the Patron of the Arts Award was given to 291 individual and corporate sponsors for contributing a total of \$37.4 million to the arts in 2007.
- North West District Arts Festival, a NAC-PA MOU initiative, was held from 25 October to 29 November. The two-month arts line-up kicked off with *Salam Lebaran 2008*, a celebration of Hari Raya featuring performances by renowned local and foreign artists.

November 2008

- Central Singapore District Arts Festival, themed *Recycled ArtWORKZ!* was held from 2 to 29 November, under the NAC-PA MOU.
- NAC launched the Arts Creation Fund on 11 November. The second initiative under RCP III provides artists with resources to create distinctive content and grow the body of significant home-grown works.
- NAC organised the second arts professional management seminar, *Professional Production Practices* by Benjamin Ho on 29 November.

December 2008

- Held from 2 to 14 December, the National Chinese Music Competition attracted 500 promising young participants. A new category – Percussion Ensemble, was introduced to provide a competitive platform for aspiring percussionists.
- To foster understanding and dialogue among writers of different language groups, The *Four Languages One Voice: Connecting Singapore Literature* forum was held for the first time on 6 December.



12 La Guardia Flamenca, Arts Where We Eat. 13 The second series of Traditional Malay Music Workshops – Modern Ethnic Music Workshop and Concert. 14 The Arts Community Tours – Community-Sing-Along. 15 Noise Singapore's launch at Suntec City.

January 2009

- On 20 January, a Singapore-France agreement on cultural cooperation was signed in Paris to promote more exchanges in the areas of artist residencies, artistic exchanges in festivals, institutions, community arts events; and a mini-arts festival in Paris.

February 2009

- NAC unveiled its third initiative under RCP III, the International Arts Residency, on 18 February. It aims to support Singapore artists' participation in prestigious residencies overseas and develop hosting entities for international residencies in Singapore.
- On 24 February, NAC and the Royal Academy of Dance announced details of the Genee International Ballet Competition to be hosted in Singapore in September 2009.
- Furniture designer Abbie Lim received the Takashimaya-NAC Scholarship on 26 February.

March 2009

- The Arts Community Tours, part of the Arts For All-Community Engagement Plan, was kicked off on 7 March with an outdoor Community Sing-Along by community music group TCR Music Station in Aljunied Crescent.
- From 5 to 29 March, Noise Singapore culminated in a showcase of works and live concerts at LevelOne@Far East Plaza and an online gallery of works on the Noise website. Nearly 2,000 young artists submitted 11,000 works of music, photography, art and design.
- NAC-ExxonMobil Concert in the Park – *World of Music* showcased Australian folk music quartet, Totally Gourdgeous on 8 March at Singapore Botanic Gardens.
- NAC and PERKAMUS organised the second series of traditional Malay music workshops – *Modern Ethnic Music Workshop and Concert* from 18 to 20 March. Renowned traditional Malay music expert Datuk Suhaimi Mohd Zain (Pak Ngah) shared his experience in positioning traditional Malay music in this modern age.