



APPENDIX: BIOS OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & FESTIVAL DIRECTOR



LEE Chor Lin
Chief Executive Officer, Arts Festival Limited

Chor Lin is currently the Director of the National Museum of Singapore (NMS), and she will take up her new role as the Chief Executive Officer of Arts Festival Limited on 1 July 2013.

Chor Lin has played an active role in developing Singapore's art scene for the past 28 years. She started her career as a curator of Southeast Asian art, and was subsequently appointed as Curator of the Southeast Asian Collection in NMS in 1986. Through her work on the new Collection storage in 1988, she helped to modernise the museum's 100-year old storage. These efforts eventually led to the formation of the National Heritage Board's Heritage Conservation Centre.

In 1995 she was promoted to Senior Curator, Chinese & Southeast Asian Collections, and played a key role in the establishment of the Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM). Chor Lin was instrumental in negotiating a number of significant long-term loans from Hong Kong collectors for ACM's Chinese Gallery. Between 1997 and 2002, she managed both the China and Southeast Asian Galleries at ACM.

In 2002, Chor Lin was entrusted with the task of redeveloping the National Museum of Singapore, overseeing the construction of the museum's extension, regenerating the museum's team, direction and audiences. One key strategy of the Museum's team in the creation of its permanent exhibitions was a broad programme of cooperation with the local arts, creative and academic community: in the years up to its reopening the Museum team worked with more than 300 local theatre practitioners, writers, filmmakers, academics, photographers, visual and sound artists. The National Museum integrated contemporary art, theatre, dance, lectures and films into its presentation of history, including the National Museum Cinematheque, acclaimed for its in-depth retrospectives of important Asian and world filmmakers.

Today, NMS is also the most sought after exhibition venue in Singapore by international museum partners, and has hosted many important exhibitions, such as the Louvre's Greek and Roman sculptures, Kunst Historisches Museum Wien's (Vienna) Egyptian mummies, Italy's Treasures of Pompeii and most recently, Musee d'Orsay's Impressionist masterworks. Chor Lin was instrumental in the development of the Singapore Night Festival in 2008, an event which has become an annual attraction for thousands to experience art and museums in new ways.

Through commissions and partnerships, Chor Lin has also widened the museum's engagement with the community of Singapore artists. Amongst these, T.H.E. Dance Company, Singapore Dance Company, Theatreworks, Checkpoint Theatre and Theatre Practice have actively collaborated with the National Museum, particularly in the development of projects that are rooted in or inspired by Singapore.

Chor Lin was a member of the Global Agenda Council on Southeast Asia at the World Economic Forum in 2010, and in 2011 a member of the International Advisory Board for the presentation of the non-European collections of the Humbolt – Forum, Berlin's newest museum development project.

She holds a Masters in History from the National University of Singapore, and a Diploma in Asian Art from the School of Oriental and African Studies.

Voted number 1 in the *Straits Times Life!* Arts Power List in 2008, Chor Lin is also recipient of the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from France in 2009 and in 2012 Cavaliere, Ordine della Stella d'Italia.



ONG Keng Sen
Festival Director, Singapore Arts Festival

Keng Sen is currently the Artistic Director of Theatreworks, and he will take up his new role as the Festival Director for the Singapore Arts Festival on 16 June 2013.

He is no stranger to the Singapore Arts Festival – as a well-known personality in Singapore’s arts scene, Keng Sen has worked on a total of nine commissioned pieces for the Festival since 1988. Many of his creative works have been presented throughout the world, including at the Lincoln Center in New York City, the Paris Center National de la Danse, the Cocoon Theater in Tokyo and at Panorama Rio de Janeiro. His most recent productions in Singapore include the *National Broadway Company*, *Lear Dreaming* and the *Goh Lay Kuan & Kuo Pao Kun*.

Keng Sen is the founder of the Arts Network Asia (ANA), a network that encourages greater inter-Asian engagement and for Asian artists to collaborate together. ANA was recently recognised by the Ford Foundation, receiving an endowment for its sustained collaboration across borders in the arts and cultures of Asia. Active in the Asian art scene, Keng Sen was also the key person behind the Continuum Asia Project in Luang Prabang, Laos, working with elders and youth there to explore a sustainable developmental intervention through the arts.

Keng Sen has a strong passion for the research and development of the arts. In 1994, he conceptualised The Flying Circus project, a laboratory project that brings together traditional and contemporary Asian artists, as well as other international artists from the fields of visual arts, video, documentary, new media, performing arts, philosophy and literature. He also created In-Transit in 2001, an important annual performing arts festival in Berlin, which he continued as artistic director/curator for, in 2002 and 2003.

Keng Sen’s experience was not limited to the field of performing arts. He also curated and oversaw Insomnia season at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London, as well as the Politics of Fun exhibition at the House of World Cultures in Berlin. Locally, he also curated the National Museum’s Night Festival in 2010.

Keng Sen is the first Singapore artist to have received both the NAC Young Artist Award and the Cultural Medallion, in 1992 and 2003 respectively. A Fulbright Scholar, Keng Sen was awarded the prestigious Fukuoka Asian Arts and Culture Prize in 2010 for his work in Asian contemporary performance.

He holds a Master in Intercultural Performance from Tisch School of the Arts, New York University, and is also an Adjunct Professor with the National University of Singapore, where he started the theatre studies programme in 1992.