

ARTS & AGEING FORUM

# Engaging Seniors in a Digital Era



1 - 13 SEPTEMBER 2020

## SESSION 2

**9 September 2020**

**3:00pm – 4:35pm** (Forum)

**4:40pm – 5:30pm** (Networking via Breakout Rooms)

**The Arts & Ageing Forum** brings artists, social and healthcare practitioners, community leaders and funders to advocate the social value of the arts for seniors, and bring stakeholders together to strengthen networks.

In this edition, speakers will share insights, approaches and considerations taken when engaging seniors in and through the arts in the digital age.



## PRESENTATION 1

### The Virtual Gallery Experience: In conversation with Lee Sze-Chin and National Gallery Singapore

How has COVID-19 transformed the way in which older adults encounter and interact with art and artefacts? Are we undergoing a revolution in the way that we design online art experiences and consume artworks virtually?

Join Sze-Chin and Alicia as they discuss the potential and challenges of their collaboration on the *Virtual Jalan-Jalan @ National Gallery Singapore* programme. They will share how they explored, experimented and co-developed the programme to increase community engagement and improve the well-being of seniors.

#### Speakers

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#### Lee Sze-Chin

Visual Artist and Art Therapist, St Luke's Hospital

**Sze-Chin** is an art therapist, art educator and artist. He has been investigating how immersive new media experiences can promote creative self-expression and encourage mindfulness. Most recently, he has been piloting digital eLearning projects in the community, and for the arts and culture sector.



#### Alicia Teng

Assistant Director, Community & Access,  
National Gallery Singapore

**Alicia** currently heads the Community and Access team at National Gallery Singapore which oversees access initiatives, volunteer management and community engagement. Efforts in engaging seniors include piloting Dialect Tours in 2019, which expanded the Gallery's offering of guided tours to include selected Mandarin dialects. Her 11 years of art administration experience includes marketing, sales and development for the Singapore Arts Festival and partnership development at the Gallery.

## PRESENTATION 2

### Understanding and Creating Context in Arts Engagement

In this presentation, Shiyun will be sharing the process of conceptualising and producing *Say It Louder Teahouse* (大声D茶室/*Warung Cakap Apa*), a podcast channel consisting of various programmes in the vernacular produced during the onset of COVID-19. By identifying and articulating the needs observed on the ground, and persistent social gaps that have worsened since the pandemic, she brought together a team of nine artists and multiple partners on the ground to kickstart a cultural movement to close the intergenerational gap.

#### Speaker

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#### Lin Shiyun

Managing Artistic Director, 3Pumpkins

**Shiyun's** work entails being rooted in the neighbourhood, identifying challenges on the ground and designing creative interventions with artists as well as partners from multiple sectors to deliver social impact. *Say It Louder Teahouse* (大声D茶室/*Warung Cakap Apa*) was one of the first creative projects to engage seniors facing social isolation caused by COVID-19 pandemic.

## PRESENTATION 3

### **At Home Together: Magic Me's intergenerational arts programme during COVID-19**

For over 30 years Magic Me has pioneered intergenerational arts projects with young and older people across east London, UK, involving 1,500 people last year. Since March 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic forced a lockdown for the UK population, Magic Me has worked with our partners and participants to find new ways to meet, to make and to party. Through *At Home Together*, Magic Me artists have designed and led new, inspiring, creative activities which encourage interaction between people and grow intergenerational understanding, while relieving social isolation and loneliness.

#### **Speaker**

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#### **Susan Langford**

Director and Founder, Magic Me (UK)

Building on a career as an artist and designer, **Susan** first joined a community arts project with older people in 1985. She founded Magic Me in 1989, and for over 30 years has led its growth and pioneering intergenerational arts practice and programmes. She has shared expertise and learning through training and consultancy, across the UK and in Ireland, Spain, Korea and Brazil. She is a former committee member of the ICIP (International Consortium of Intergenerational Programmes). She was awarded an MBE by Queen Elizabeth II in 2010.



## Facilitator-Host

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### Sharda Harrison

Artistic Director, Pink Gajah Theatre

**Sharda** is a performer, theatremaker and theatre educator. She graduated from LASALLE College of the Arts with a BA (Hons) in Acting in 2009. She is currently pursuing her MA in arts and pedagogy practice, also at LASALLE College of the Arts. Sharda has acted with a range of local theatre companies as well as international theatre collaborations. In 2013, she founded her own theatre company, Pink Gajah Theatre, which performs mainly fringe works and serves as a platform for artists to create and showcase their own works. Sharda part time lectures at both LASALLE College of the Arts and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. She appears on Television as a co-host for Channel 5's Talking Point.

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