



# Enchanted Town of Memories & Dreams

Reflections on the Community Arts Residency at Taman Jurong by Joanne Lio



NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL  
SINGAPORE

In Partnership With



Taman Jurong Citizens' Consultative Committee



Taman Jurong CACC



# Photography tour & journey with artist

While getting to know the community in fun & meaningful ways, dates for the engagement were being firming up with the different partners. The artist spent the whole of November till mid-December conducting the engagement sessions with the participants. It involved the photography tour as well as the artistic process of creating their artwork for the main art installation.

## Engagement with Participants from Thye Hua Kwan (Taman Jurong)



## Engagement with Participants from Lakefront Residence Neighbourhood Committee (NC)



Parent and children planning their artistic direction for their final piece

# Photography tour & artistic journey with artist



Engagement with Participants from Tasek Jurong Ltd



Engagement with Participants from Taman Jurong Zone F Resident Committee (RC)



Residents busy cutting the photographs to convert them in 3D art pieces



Mother and child collaboration to complete an art piece



Engagement with Participants from SilverACE (Taman Jurong)



Seniors from NTUC SilverACE engaged in the artistic process



Participants' Artworks



# The Final Showcase

Finally, at the showcase, all the participants' contributions were assembled together for the installation by artist Joanne. The installation depicts their imagination, their memories as well as their hopes and dreams of Taman Jurong. Joanne gathered all the interesting personal stories from the community that she had spent time with.

We were honoured by the presence of our Senior Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam.



# Taking time to ponder...

## Some thoughts & reflections by artist & participants

The Community Arts residency ended with a blast together with a successful showcase. Many of the participants have so much to share, so many stories were told. Some of them were so enthusiastic sharing their hopes and dreams for their future in Taman Jurong too. Let us read and enjoy some of their reflections.

### Hopes & Dreams of Taman Jurong



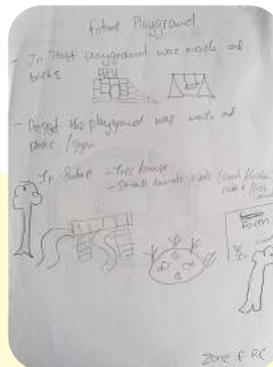
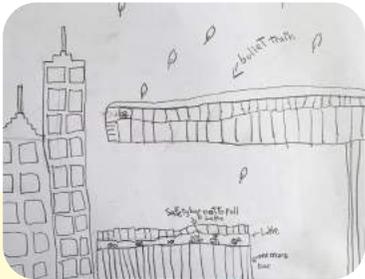
"Today I shared the past of Taman Jurong with my child. I think it is really wonderful for us to know the past so we can enjoy the present. We even discussed about what we hope to have in the future while making this art piece"  
- Participant from Taman Jurong Zone F RC

"I lived here for more than 20 years. I heard many stories about how gangs will fight, people taking drugs and do all the bad things. Now it's a totally new place. But I still hope it will become even better with the community more connected."  
- Participant from Tasek Jurong Ltd, Overcomer

I hope we will have an airport in the west.  
I think having it in Taman Jurong will be great!



We need to have bullet train above the ground so we can admire the scenery like the beautiful lake in Taman Jurong.



- Future
1. Zone - to cinema at Taman Jurong
  2. ART, Singaporean
  3. Industrial - to create work
  4. Big lake - connecting garden & Jurong lake
  5. Better, maybe things, better underground
  6. Playground changes
  7. Vegetable gardening - all residents grow their own vegetables
  8. Run trees, flowers, birds, small animals, feeding animals - the care on the road
  9. No living in houses - more information
  10. Playground for children & adults



"My legs are actually very weak and I can't walk much. But this is the first time I walk around my neighborhood and see so many flowers that are so beautiful. I walked past here daily but I have never paid attention to them."  
- Senior from SilverACE

"This is the first time I hear so many real life experiences of living in Taman Jurong. Although we are friends and neighbors for a few years, this is the first time I see my friend writing so much about the past. Now I know my friend can write so well in Chinese"  
- Senior from Thye Hua Kwan

"Although I lived in Taman Jurong, this is the first time I know so much more about its past. I only heard that Taman Jurong was an industrial area with a lot of factories. I did not know that there were a lot of gangs and undesirable activities."  
- Senior from Thye Hua Kwan

It is my pleasure to make friends with the people in Taman Jurong. I have planned and adopted different methods to introduce more complex processes to the community. Some of the participants found the art processes challenging at first, but with some encouragement from their peers and myself, managed it successfully. It was heartening to see how the participants helped one another, leaving no one behind. It was especially touching when I heard many interesting stories and shared memories of the past. The most heartening part was for me to witness how the different participants spontaneously engaged each other with their own personal stories. It was really enjoyable exchanging perspectives with the local community in Taman Jurong to make relation to their cultural and personal experiences of the space while balancing the progress of the artistic processes and outcome. During this residency, I felt so challenged trying to engage participants from uncertain group. But this was made possible with the support from the staff of Taman Jurong CC. In this new exploration, I have gained to be more adaptable, sensitive and understanding towards the diverse groups of participants.

### Artist's Reflection

