A HISTORY OF ARTS AND CULTURAL POLICIES IN SINGAPORE

SYNOPSIS

Arts and cultural policies have had an underwritten history in the Singapore story. This is not surprising given the top-down emphasis on material success and economic development in the national narrative. However, every material achievement in Singapore has been ideologically underpinned by the idea of an ethnically and religiously diverse society coming together in cultural-political coherence and harmony. It is an idea, which could not have been successfully articulated ideologically without the state’s harnessing of the arts and culture.

Despite the ideological relevance of the arts and culture to Singapore’s nation-building project, the arts and culture have been studied in ad hoc manner by local scholars. The numerous pieces of excellent scholarship, though well focussed, have been issue and period specific.

The Institute of Policy Studies is putting together an edited volume that will provide a comprehensive overview of the trajectory of arts and cultural policies in Singapore. It will identify, contextualise and assess key arts and cultural policies from the late 1950s to the present. Expert scholars and relevant specialists have been asked to produce analytical essays on specific arts and cultural policies, periods or programmes.

To generate feedback and discussion on the volume, this Conference will bring together academics, thought leaders from the arts community, and representatives of public and social organisations interested in issues related to arts and cultural policy development in Singapore. This Conference also aims to foster understanding of the policy choices and challenges the arts and culture face in Singapore.
Conference on  
A History of Arts and Cultural Policies in Singapore  
Monday, 27 October 2014  
Venue: TBC

PROGRAMME  
(As at 3 October 2014)

8.30 am – 9.00 am  Registration

9.00 am – 9.10 am  Opening Remarks  
Mr Janadas Devan  
Director  
Institute of Policy Studies

9.10 am – 9.15 am  Overview of Project  
Dr Terence Chong  
Senior Fellow and  
Co-ordinator  
Institute of Southeast Asian Studies

9.15 am – 10.25 am  SESSION ONE  
Arts and Culture from the 1950s to 1980s

Chairperson  
Mr Tan Tarn How  
Senior Research Fellow  
Institute of Policy Studies

Anti-Yellow Culture Campaign  
Mr Lim Cheng Tju  
Vice Principal  
Orchid Park Secondary School

Culture and Tourism  
Associate Professor Joan Henderson  
Division of Marketing and International Business  
College of Business  
Nanyang Business School  
Nanyang Technological University

Question and Answer Session

10.25 am – 10.55 am  Tea Break
10.55 am – 12.40 pm

SESSION TWO
Arts and Culture from the 1980s to 2000

Chairperson

Mr Arun Mahizhnan
Special Research Adviser
Institute of Policy Studies

Advisory Council for Arts and Culture

Ms Audrey Wong
Programme Leader
MA Arts & Cultural Management
LASALLE College of the Arts

Singapore Writers Festival

Associate Professor Angelia Poon
Deputy Head
Programmes & Teaching
English Language & Literature
National Institute of Education

Substation

Mr Lee Weng Choy
President
Singapore Section
International Association of Art Critics

Question and Answer Session

12.40 pm – 1.40 pm
Lunch

1.40 pm – 3.45 pm

SESSION THREE
Arts and Culture from the 2000s to Present

Chairperson

Dr Terence Chong

Censorship Review Committee

Mr Tan Tarn How

Arts Housing

Associate Professor T C Chang
Department of Geography
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
National University of Singapore
Arts Schools

Mr Shaun Oon
Senior Assistant Director
Enterprise Development
Research and Enterprise Division
Ministry of Trade and Industry

The Arts and Culture Strategic Review Report

Dr Hoe Su Fern
Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies

Question and Answer Session

3.45 pm – 4.00 pm  Closing Remarks

Mr Arun Mahizhnan

4.00 pm  End of Conference and Tea Reception