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PRESS RELEASE

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The Hong Kong Jockey Club Community Project Grant: stART Up Community Arts Project Exhibition promoting inclusivity and accessibility



High-resolution images: <https://bit.ly/4ijUvYy>

(3 March 2025, Hong Kong) The second year of *The Hong Kong Jockey Club Community Project Grant: stART Up Community Arts Project* has brought together artists, local schools and community groups and offered a range of creative and inspiring workshops centred on disability and inclusion. Organised by the Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation and funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, the three-year programme offers accessible arts opportunities for participants of all ages, cultures and abilities, promoting understanding and equality, and expanding perceptions of who can create art and what art can be.

From now until 14 March 2025, a free exhibition of artwork produced during the 2024/2025 edition of this programme is on display at the L1 Artificial Grass Area, D·PARK, Tsuen Wan, from 10am to 8pm every day.

Over the past six months, 15 local artists led over 1,350 disabled and able-bodied participants, students and teachers, and created 9 sets of artwork: *Botanic Touch* tie dye cushions; *The Interspace* galvanised iron model houses; *My Little Story* felt images; *The Dream Landscape* digital drawings; *Embroidered Imagination* mixed media embroidery work; *Harmony in Diversity* fabric wheelchair accessories;

Awakening Inner Positivity ceramic and wooden semi-relief sculpture; and the **Voices Unleashed Music Programme** songwriting, choir performances and recordings.

On the weekends of 1/2 and 8/9 March, visitors can also enjoy free workshops and sharing sessions. The *Embodied Expression* workshops engage participants in blindfold and body language challenges that offer a sense of how blind and deaf individuals experience the world around them. The workshops are free of charge, and on-site registration opens 15 minutes before the start of each session. On 8 March, Deaf artist Heidi Wong leads the sharing session *Dancing in Signs*, offering participants the chance to learn basic sign language, and giving tips on how to communicate with deaf individuals. The sharing session is free of charge. Advance online registration required at <https://bit.ly/3EP51bX>.

On 29 and 30 March, audiences can also enjoy the *Community Dance Blackbox Theatre Performance: Feel:Connect*. Performances are free of charge and take place at TWGHs TungPo Multi-Purpose Hall (Black Box Theatre), San Po Kong. Online registration required at <https://bit.ly/4grXywz>.

Harmony in Diversity – Working with fabric art group Edelweiss, wheelchair users and local students paired up to create vibrant wheelchair accessories from recycled materials. Through lively discussions, participants explored a variety of accessory ideas, shared personal stories, and learned to appreciate their similarities and differences. During the collaborative process, participants explored effective cooperation and made the best of their individual abilities through task sharing and teamwork.

Botanic Touch – Guided by art group Giants Tie Dye, visually impaired students from Ebenezer School explored a selection of plants with their hands and sense of touch, and created tie dye cushion designs based on the experience. They then collaborated with sighted students from Sha Tin Methodist School, who used wax batik techniques to add texture to the cushions. This is the second year that Ebenezer School has participated in our programme. Their teacher, Ms Lam, said that the students' work shows that being blind does not restrict their creativity.

The Interspace – With the guidance of metal craftsman Louud, participants with impaired mobility worked with local students to create 3D galvanised iron model houses without glue, nails or welding. The models represent a collective vision of the ideal home, with the area between the walls offering a space for nurturing connections and a sense of community. Artist Louud said that he was impressed by the confidence that the disabled participants showed when handling tools and their determination to complete their work to a high standard.

Editors' Notes

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Community Project Grant: stART Up Community Arts Project (2024/25)

Exhibition

Date: Now until 14 March 2024

Time: 10am – 8pm

Venue: Artificial Grass Area, Level 1, D·PARK, Tsuen Wan

Free admission. No ticket required.

Weekend Workshops: *Embodied Expression*

Date: 1, 2 and 8, 9 March 2024 (Sat, Sun)

Time: 12nn – 6pm

Venue: Artificial Grass Area, Level 1, D·PARK, Tsuen Wan

Free admission. On-site registration opens 15 minutes before the start of each session.

Sharing Session: *Dancing in Signs*

Date: 8 March 2024 (Sat)

Time: 3 – 4pm

Venue: Artificial Grass Area, Level 1, D·PARK, Tsuen Wan

Advance online registration required at <https://bit.ly/3EP51bX>.

Community Dance Blackbox Theatre Performance: *Feel:Connect*

Show #1

Date: 29 March 2025 (Sat)

Time: 3pm – 4:10pm

Show #2

Date: 29 March 2025 (Sat)

Time: 7:30pm – 8:40pm

Show #3

Date: 30 March 2025 (Sun)

Time: 3pm – 4:10pm

Venue: TWGHs TungPo Multi-Purpose Hall (Black Box Theatre), San Po Kong

Fee: Free admission. Online registration required at <https://bit.ly/4grXyWz>.

Suitable for ages 6 and above. The show runs for 70 minutes and includes a post-show Q&A session.

For more information, visit www.hkyaf.com or [Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#) (@hkyaf).

Embroidered Imagination

Artist: Karen Pow Cheuk-mei

Using the techniques of mixed media embroidery, colour blending and stitching, participants transformed a photo that captured a special moment in their lives. As they stitched and refined their compositions, they gained a sense of confidence and pride in their creation. The series encourages us to believe in ourselves and recognise our potential.



Harmony in Diversity

Artist: Edelweiss

Working in mixed ability pairs, and using recycled materials, six wheelchair participants and students designed and crafted unique, multifunctional accessories that can be used by wheelchair users and able-bodied individuals. Through the creative process, participants explored a variety of ideas, shared personal stories, and learned to appreciate their similarities and differences.



Artist-in-Residence Programme: Awakening Inner Positivity

Artist: Chao Harn-kae

After researching the thought-provoking stories of disabled individuals, participating students created semi-relief ceramic images to illustrate the challenges, achievements and contributions of those who inspired them. The heart-shaped works are designed to promote inclusion for differently abled individuals and encourage the audience to develop a positive mindset and resilience in the face of adversity.



Teachers' Workshop: Awakening Inner Positivity

Artist: Mable Wun Chun-sze

In a special teachers' workshop, artist Mable Wun shared tips on imagery and colouring techniques. Back in their classrooms, teachers helped students research the experience of disabled individuals within our community and around the world, and paint and decorate heart-shaped templates to express their thoughts. This collection depicts unique and inspiring stories that encourage us to cultivate empathy and optimism.



Voices Unleashed Music Programme

Artists: Kessay Chan, Tse Pui-yu, Winky Wong, Venus Chan, Joseph Ho, Sonic Lee, Daniel Lau

Taking inspiration from the stories of individuals with diverse abilities and backgrounds, a group of young songwriters created three original Cantonese songs – *L∞p*, *Uni-senses* and *Silent Embrace*. The songs were arranged by professional musicians and performed and recorded by a mixed-ability choir. The results demonstrate the power of music and collaboration to promote equality and inclusion. The songs are also available on music streaming platforms.



Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation

Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (HKYAF) is a charity that provides access to high quality, non-competitive free-of-charge arts experiences for all young people aged 5 to 25. Established in 1993 by Lindsey McAlister OBE, JP, HKYAF organises inclusive and inspirational projects that reach out to youngsters of all cultures, backgrounds, languages and abilities, and actively creates opportunities for those who are disadvantaged and underprivileged. Each year, HKYAF reaches over 800,000 people through its projects, exhibitions and performances.

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