

## PRESS RELEASE

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### *The Hong Kong Jockey Club Community Project Grant: stART UP Community Arts Project 2019*

## Take a stand against bullying for yourself and each other!



High-resolution photos: <https://bit.ly/2GZ4PoY>

(8 May 2019, Hong Kong) – Many young people in Hong Kong experience bullying at school or among their peers, and the consequences can be devastating. To help raise awareness of this serious issue, *The Hong Kong Jockey Club Community Project Grant: stART UP Community Arts Project 2019* presents 9 groups of original artworks created by local youngsters who have pledged to take a stand against bullying.

Organised by Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation, and funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, *stART UP Community Arts Project 2019* is designed to combat bullying by helping young people reflect on their own feelings and experiences and develop empathy and positive values through a series of artist-led visual and performing arts workshops. The resulting artworks will be exhibited at Youth Square from 4 to 22 May. During this period, free guided tours of the exhibition will be provided to help visitors learn more about the issue of bullying in Hong Kong and how they can help to take a stand.

Since January this year, *stART UP Community Arts Project 2019* has brought together more than 10 local artists and hundreds of students and teachers to create 9 groups of original artworks that explore bullying from different perspectives. The artworks include *A Museum Against Bullying* – a series of installation artworks based on real-life cases, *What It Feels Like to be Bullied* – a series of interactive installation artworks that imitate the sensations of being bullied, *No Bully Zone* – a short film that documents bystanders' reactions during bullying incidents, *“When It Comes to Bullying, I Can...”* – a series of short

animation films that explore different perspectives in bullying incidents, *Bystander* – a short theatre performance that attempts to find a way to overcome bullying, *School Bullying* – a series of photographs inspired by the artist's traumatic experience as a victim, *Be a Defender* – a series of mural artworks that feature positive slogans, and *The Anti-bullying Revolution*, two series of large and small-scale poster designs inspired by the aesthetics of propaganda art.

*A Museum Against Bullying*, produced by creative duo Penguin, features a series of installations based on four real cases dealt with by the Centre for Restoration of Human Relationships. Inspired by the different perspectives of those involved in bullying incidents – the bully, the victim and their families – the installations examine the role of the bystander and ask audiences to reflect on how they themselves have acted or would act. One of the installations was based on the case of a young student who was repeatedly bullied at secondary school. One day, in class, the student tried to defend himself and fight back. But doing so earned him a demerit on his record, while the bullies got away with a minor warning. Having suffered abuse with no one to help him, the boy was also accused of being the perpetrator. The work asks viewers to reflect on how they would have reacted to help him.

To control and silence their victims, bullies use tactics like isolation, exclusion and physical or verbal violence. Taking these tactics as her starting point, local artist Kay Chan created *What It Feels Like to be Bullied*, a series of three interactive devices that allow viewers to experience what it feels like to be a victim of bullying. As viewers approach the first device, a door automatically closes to simulate the uneasy feeling of being isolated. The second device creates a claustrophobic environment that imitates the sensation of being physically attacked. In the third device, voice recordings of verbal abuse are played on repeat at low volume to reproduce the psychological effects of being verbally attacked. By replicating sensations of being bullied, the artist hopes to encourage audiences to be kinder, more compassionate and more empathetic, and to act to help prevent bullying.

Free guided tours of the Youth Square exhibition are available on 11 and 12 May. The tours also include a short theatre performance of *Bystander* that invites audiences to explore bullying from the perspective of the perpetrator, the victim and the silent observer, and to reflect on ways to overcome bullying.

Tour guide places are limited and available on a first come, first served basis. Register here: <https://www.putyourself.in/event/startup-tour>

## Notes to Editors

### ***stART UP Community Arts Project 2019: Exhibition***

Date: 04 – 22 | 05 | 2019

Time: 10am – 7pm

Venue: Y Platform, Youth Square, Chai Wan

Free admission, no tickets required

### ***stART UP Community Arts Project 2019: Free exhibition tours and theatre performances***

School bullying is a sensitive issue to tackle. But there are actions that everyone can take to help prevent it.

The tours include a 20-minute theatre performance of *Bystander*, a short theatre piece that explores bullying from the perspective of the perpetrator, the victim and the silent observer, and asks audiences to look into their hearts and try to find a way to overcome bullying.

Date: 11 – 12 May

Time: 2pm & 4pm

Tour and workshop duration: Approx. 1 hour

Language: Cantonese

Meeting Point: Y Platform, Youth Square, Chai Wan

Online Registration: <https://www.putyourself.in/event/startup-tour/>

**stART UP Community Arts Project 2019 Exhibition Artworks**

***A Museum Against Bullying***

Artist: Penguin

A white shirt, a ruler, rubber bands, a broken tooth... For most people, these are ordinary objects. But for those affected by bullying, everyday objects like this can take on a heavy significance. In *A Museum Against Bullying*, creative duo Penguin has incorporated these items into a series of installations based on four real cases dealt with by the Centre for Restoration of Human Relationships. Inspired by the different perspectives of those involved in bullying incidents – the bully, the victim and their families – the installations examine the role of the bystander and ask audiences to reflect on how they themselves have acted or would act, either by participating in abuse, turning a blind eye, or choosing to take a stand.



***What It Feels Like to be Bullied***

Artist: Kay Chan

To control and silence their victims, bullies use tactics like isolation, exclusion and physical or verbal violence. Taking these tactics as her starting point, local artist Kay Chan created *What It Feels Like to be Bullied*, a series of interactive devices that allow viewers to experience what it feels like to be a victim of bullying. By creating works that simulate bullying environments, Kay hopes to encourage audiences to be kinder, more compassionate and more empathetic, and to act to help prevent bullying.



### ***No Bully Zone***

Artists: Banana Effect (King Wong & Onnie Chan)

*No Bully Zone* is a short film that documents a flash mob performance created by Onnie Chan and King Wong of Banana Effect artist collective and a group of talented teenagers. In the bustling streets of Tsim Sha Tsui, the group performed two versions of a bullying incident – one with a male and one with a female – to investigate how the public would react in different circumstances. The goal was to demonstrate that bullying can happen to anyone anywhere, regardless of gender, age, nationality or body size. When bullying happens around us and we do nothing to stop it, we ultimately help perpetuate the problem and contribute to the terrible consequences. The film asks viewers to reflect on when they should take a stand, and how best to step in and stop incidents of bullying.



### ***“When It Comes to Bullying, I Can...”***

Artist: Alice Foo

Whether it's at school or online, bullying always involves more than one party – not just the bullies and the victims, but also the bystanders. *“When It Comes to Bullying, I Can...”* is a series of short animation films created by a group of young animation designers to help prevent bullying. Led by professional filmmaker Alice Foo, the group shared experiences and ideas, and developed films that explore bullying from the perspectives of the bully, the victim and the bystander. Each film is embedded with its own anti-bullying message highlighting the importance of empathy and self-worth in dealing positively and effectively with bullying incidents.





### ***Bystander***

Artists: Eimear “Mimi” Burns, Boaz Chan, King Wong, Onnie Chan, Vincent Chiu

School bullying is a sensitive issue to tackle. But there are actions that everyone can take to prevent it. *Bystander* is a short theatre piece that explores bullying from the perspective of the perpetrator, the victim and the silent observer, and asks audiences to look into their hearts and try to find a way to overcome bullying.



### ***School Bullying***

Artist: Lean Lui

Bullying can make school days hard for students to endure. It can also have a lasting impact on the lives of those affected. Local photographer Lean Lui was subjected to bullying at school. Using her personal experience to motivate and inspire her work, she created *School Bullying*, a series of photographs that reflect on the incidents that took place. Through the creative process, she was able to express unresolved emotions and let go of the pain of the past. Exploring emotions through the lens of the camera, the series examines the role of the bully and the silent bystander from the perspective of the victim.



### ***Be a Defender***

Artists: Bao Ho, Uncle

*Be a Defender* is a series of mural artworks that use graffiti art to help combat bullying. Created in participating schools by the students themselves, the murals feature positive messages like “Don’t let anyone dull your sparkle”, “Self-love is self-taught” and “Find a way. Not an excuse” to encourage their peers to stand up for themselves and others. The students were introduced to the concepts and aesthetics of graffiti art and created their designs in small-scale on sticker paper. The designs were then enlarged and painted as colourful murals in prominent locations around each school campus.



***The Anti-bullying Revolution***  
**(Large poster designs)**

Artists: Candice Keung, Marka Mak

*The Anti-bullying Revolution* is a series of poster designs that encourage participating students and their peers to develop understanding, acceptance and respect for each other, and to help stop bullying at school. Created in a style inspired by the aesthetics of propaganda art, the posters convey simple, concise messages through eye-catching images, bold outlines and colours, and symbolic groupings of people and objects. During the creative process, the students worked together and collaborated on the design and messaging. The resulting artworks reflect their determination and desire to stop bullying. After this exhibition, the students hope to display their posters at schools to encourage all students to take a stand against bullying.



***The Anti-bullying Revolution***  
**(Small poster designs)**

Artists: Candice Keung

*The Anti-bullying Revolution* is a series of poster designs that encourage participating students and their peers to develop understanding, acceptance and respect for each other, and to help stop bullying at school. Created in a style inspired by the aesthetics of propaganda art, the posters convey simple, concise messages through eye-catching images, bold outlines and colours, and symbolic groupings of people and objects. The resulting artworks reflect their determination and desire to stop bullying at school. To help guide their students through the creative process, teachers in participating schools completed a pre-project teacher-training workshop with artist Candice Keung as part of the programme.



## **About 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.

### **Media Enquiries:**

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