

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Exhibition

Jockey Club “Project Silver” Intergenerational Arts Project Bridging generations through thirteen sets of creative work



High-resolution images available:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/lhrr3jwoy0ydpil/AACruOotw_Zr8rem183EUgGaa?dl=0

(20 February 2023, Hong Kong) In Hong Kong, most households are dual-income families and many children are looked after by their grandparents while their parents are at work. The age gap of around 50 to 60 years between grandparents and grandchildren can sometimes cause misunderstandings and conflict. Yet, loving intergenerational relationships benefit everyone.

The Jockey Club “Project Silver” Intergenerational Arts Project offers opportunities for mixed-generation artistic collaborations that encourage young people and seniors to share their thoughts and learn from each other’s lives and experiences – a process that helps develop closer relationships and mutual respect. The workshops include exciting visual and performing arts activities such as creating wire portraits, making Tai Chi dance performance videos, original radio plays, colourful decorative longevity characters and more.

From now until 26 February 2023, a total of 13 artworks and performance videos produced through these workshops feature in a free exhibition at the Atrium, Level 1, D-PARK, Tsuen Wan. Opening hours are 10am to 8pm. Join us and experience the creativity and passion of our multigenerational participants!

Bridging the generation gap through the arts

Organised by Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation and funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, *The Jockey Club "Project Silver" Intergenerational Arts Project* is a three-year initiative that promotes age inclusivity and creative ageing through the arts. It offers opportunities for cross-generational artistic collaborations to help bridge the age gap in a series of exciting visual and performing arts workshops. The project brings together participants of different ages to enrich the lives of senior members of the community and nurture creativity and understanding across generations.

Thirteen displays of creative work produced by young and senior participants

Between June 2022 and February 2023, a total of 31 local artists and over 1000 elderly residents, students and teachers collaborated on 13 creative projects: *The Art of Getting Along*, four dance pieces inspired by Tai Chi and contemporary dance; *The City Talks*, three radio plays inspired by a cappella songs; *Wire Portraits*, fun portraits shaped from coloured wire; *Paint Dot Mandalas*, a giant collective mandala artwork; *Decorative Longevity Characters*, a wall of colourful lucky paintings; *Treasured Memories: Dioramas*, personal family "memory capsules"; *Art Express: Puppet Performance Experience*, a puppet show performed at local elderly centres; the *"Project Silver" Colouring App*; *Lui Kee Milk Tea*, a short play; *"ArtBeat"*, a digital finger-drumming programme; and *Every Note Counts*, a series of music performances.

Original radio plays tailored for a senior audience

In *The City Talks*, stage actor and playwright Melody Yuen worked with a group of young participants to write and record three short, original radio plays about old Hong Kong. The plays were inspired by three songs from the musical *This Victoria Has No Secrets* by local a cappella theatre company Yat Po Singers, which were also rerecorded by Yat Po Singers, HKYAF's a cappella team RAW and a group of senior singers, and incorporated into the plays. The programme introduced the senior participants to musical skills such as music theory and beatbox and encouraged everyone to sing and practise their new skills together. The young participants were especially impressed by the youthful dedication and perseverance of their senior partners and their ability to master difficult songs.

Tai Chi meets contemporary dance

The four stories in the dance video *The Art of Getting Along* are inspired by the philosophy and movements of Tai Chi. Choreographed by artist Malvina Tam and performed by five intergenerational duos, the pieces reflect the individual personalities of the dancers and their ways of communicating. "I was really excited," said one of the senior participants. "It was the first time in more than 80 years that I'd put on makeup and taken part in a video shoot. I was delighted to learn Tai Chi and dance with the young dancers."

The youth dancers were excited to combine contemporary dance with Tai Chi and happy to find they had lots to talk about with their elderly partners. "What everyone needs is simple: having someone to talk to ... It didn't take long before we felt like family," one shared. Artist Malvina Tam was also impressed by how

eager the participants were to share their opinions. Although they didn't always reach a consensus, the communication remained open and respectful.

Create portraits with metal wire

In the *Wire Portraits* workshop, local artist Violet Shum showed intergenerational participants how to create eye-catching portraits using colourful metal wire instead of brushes. The innovative experience encouraged participants to look carefully at their partner's face, study each other's features and form a meaningful connection as they worked.

After the session, participants shared their enthusiasm for their partner's creative talent and the fact that they had much in common and much to chat about. One elderly participant said that taking part in the activity gave him renewed confidence and made him feel younger again. Overall, participants found their partners caring and helpful, and quickly developed close relationships.

Hong Kong's first colouring app for elderly users

Specially designed for elderly users, the *"Project Silver" Colouring App* features iconic images of old Hong Kong created collaboratively by local youth and elderly participants and five professional artists – ayip, Rick Lo@Rickubic, Angryangry, Onion Peterman and PatPatKate. As the project enters its third year, an updated version of the app, suitable for all tablets, is now available for free download.

The updated app includes more than 160 iconic images covering four themes: Everyday Life, featuring items such as a delivery bike, metal toys and a rice store; Popular Culture and Entertainment, featuring images such as a flea market, mahjong and a Cantonese TV drama; Festivals and Customs, with images of a Hakka unicorn dance, Hong Kong's wishing tree and different types of lucky Lunar New Year flowers; and Remembering the Past, with images of Haw Par Mansion, Kai Tak Airport, neon signs and more. Over the past year, HKYAF teams visited more than 40 elderly centres and held over 60 colouring app sharing sessions to enhance the experience of art and digital technology for elderly users. Participants responded enthusiastically and enjoyed creating artworks using digital technology. As a result of the feedback received, the updated app includes a picture-matching game as a new feature alongside an online gallery that allows artwork to be shared with friends and family, and an option to add background music.

Notes to editor

Jockey Club "Project Silver" Intergenerational Arts Project 2023 Exhibition

Date: From now until 26 February 2023

Time: 10am – 8pm

Venue: Atrium, Level 1, D-PARK, Tsuen Wan

Free admission, no ticket required

For more information about the exhibition, please visit www.hkyaf.com.

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) @hkyaf for the latest updates.

*The works on display are independently produced by the creative teams. The content does not reflect the views or opinions of the Project nor the Funder.

Highlight Displays and Introduction

Jockey Club “Project Silver” – Intergenerational Arts Project 2023 Exhibition

The City Talks

Artists: Melody Yuen, Yat Po Singers, Dominique Chan, Nick Yam, Ng Cheuk-yin, Ivy Hung

What comes to mind when you hear the words “Old Hong Kong”? Is it nostalgic street food like ding ding candy and roasted chestnuts? The neon-drenched streets captured by director Wong Kar-wai? Or the can-do spirit of people born under the Lion Rock?

In *The City Talks*, a group of young participants wrote and recorded three short, original radio plays about old Hong Kong tailored for an elderly audience. The collaborative project was created with the support of local a cappella theatre company Yat Po Singers and inspired by their original musical *This Victoria Has No Secrets*. Working with stage actor and playwright Melody Yuen, participants took three songs from the musical – *Hong Kong’s Top Souvenirs*, *Under the Lion Rock* and *Aunt-Tea* – as the inspiration for their plays. While they worked, Yat Po Singers, HKYAF’s a cappella team RAW and a group of senior singers came together to make recordings of the three songs that were later incorporated into the radio plays. The final full-length radio plays were broadcast at local elderly centres.



The Art of Getting Along

Artists: Malvina Tam, Imelda Cheng, Wong Hing-hang, Allie Siu Pui-ki, Rex Cheng

The four stories in this dance video are inspired by the philosophy and movements of Tai Chi. Performed by five senior participants and five youth dancers, each piece reflects the dancers’ individual personalities and ways of communicating.

During the creation of the stories, participants were guided by choreographer Malvina Tam and Tai Chi instructor Rex Cheng. Working in intergenerational groups, they learned the basic principles and movements of Tai Chi, and combined these with elements of contemporary dance to create choreographies that documented their mutual artistic journey.

While the senior participants learned how to convey emotion through movement, the young dancers gained insight into the philosophy of Tai Chi. Sharing personal experiences and family memories throughout the process, the gestures of their dialogues, interactions and emotional exchanges created ripples that echo through their dances.



Wire Portraits

Artist: Violet Shum

Asked to create a portrait, most of us would pick up a paintbrush or a pencil. But not artist Violet Shum! Her medium of choice is colourful metal wire. Last year, in our *Wire Portraits* workshop, Shum showed pairs of intergenerational participants – one student and one senior – how to create their own eye-catching images. The innovative experience encouraged participants to look carefully at their partner's face, study each other's features and form a meaningful connection by sharing personal stories as they worked.



Decorative Longevity Characters

Artist: Marka Mak

These colourful stylised representations of the Chinese character for longevity – shou 壽 – were painted with acrylic colours by local primary secondary students to share blessings for a long and happy life. Before painting their final designs, they talked with an older family member to find out about their interests and get inspiration for their images. They then decorated the character with images of animals, flowers and birds. Auspicious images like these are popular during Chinese festivals and other happy occasions and are known as *hua niao zi*. In total, participants created more than 300 colourful paintings. Their work is brought together here to form a “longevity wall” collage and wish elderly members of our community a long and healthy life.



“Project Silver” Colouring App

Artists: ayip, Angryangry, Onion Peterman, PatPatKate, Rick Lo@Rickubic

Tailor-made for older users, the “*Project Silver*” Colouring App is designed to encourage creative ageing and combine arts and digital technology in a fun way. The images are created collaboratively by local illustrators and multigenerational participants and inspired by memories of old Hong Kong.



*Some of the photos above were taken before the COVID-19 pandemic. Those taken during the pandemic were done so in compliance with COVID-19 health regulations.

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

Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation

Ms Melody Lau Tel : (852) 2877 2207

Email : melody@hkyaf.com

Ms Rosata Ching Tel : (852) 2214 0266

Email : rosata@hkyaf.com

Ms Josephine Leung Tel : (852) 2877 2625

Email : josephine@hkyaf.com