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The Hong Kong Jockey Club Community Project Grant: stART Up Community Arts Project

Free theatre performances, creative workshops and installations

Exploring cultural symbols around the world through the arts



High-resolution images available:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/oufzgc0b97u7qys/AACnZv4nYIRRqiNkA5UNA_Soa?dl=0

(9 March 2023, Hong Kong) Hong Kong is home to people from different communities. To celebrate the diverse cultures and perspectives that make up our city, **The Hong Kong Jockey Club Community Project Grant: stART Up Community Arts Project** has brought together artists and youngsters to explore different cultural symbols in a series of arts workshops. From now until 25 March, six collections of artworks will be on display in a free exhibition at Youth Square, Chai Wan, open daily from 10am to 7pm.

On 18 and 19 March, the exhibition will also present a *Cultural Day* weekend showcasing artistry and culture from around the world through free live performances and creative workshops. Featured arts include Chinese knotting, South Asian and African crafts, Japanese Wotagei glow stick dancing, and performances of handpan and drumming from Switzerland and Africa. The public can explore the city's diverse cultural landscape over the *Cultural Day* weekend!

Six sets of artworks showcasing unique cultures from around the world

Across cultures, colours, images and words can symbolise different things and take on different meanings, reflecting regional histories, traditions, values and customs, while playing an important role in shaping our thoughts. The theme of this year's ***The Hong Kong Jockey Club Community Project Grant: stART Up Community Arts Project*** – organised by Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation and funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, now in its third year – is cultural symbolism. Between September 2022 and March 2023, 13 artists and over 500 youngsters worked together to explore the similarities and differences in languages, arts and symbols across cultures through a series of visual and performing arts workshops.

The resulting artworks include ***Every Idiom Tells A Story***, carved images inspired by idiomatic expressions around the world; ***Totem and Tales***, creative contemporary totem poles; ***Diagram of Universal Values***, colourful flags decorated with images representing important values; ***Language Kaleidoscope***, decorative typographic relief artworks; ***Portraitsss***, fun and lively ceramic portraits; and ***Voice/Noise***, an immersive multimedia installation integrating sounds collected from our bustling city. The experience offered artists and youngsters insight into other cultures and a new perspective on the unique aspects of the languages spoken in Hong Kong.

Free dance performances and stage readings

During the exhibition period, the programme will also feature free performances of an original dance work and free stage readings. The dance performance *Arcana*, from 16 to 18 March, takes inspiration from the mystic art of tarot. The performance is collaboratively devised and choreographed by HKYAF Founder Lindsey McAlister, Youth Assistant Director Amelie Shih, and 24 dancers aged between 6 and 18. Exploring the symbolism of the tarot deck's Major Arcana cards, the performers move within a retro circus space dressed in stunning attire by French costume designer Lola Clavel.

The *This is Our Neighbourhood* stage readings on 13 March bring together a group of young playwrights inspired by the community stories of their home districts. The three selected scripts to be performed are *Fly Away*, *Geezer*, which depicts three residents and a janitor playing a bizarre game of mahjong in a nursing home in Ngau Tau Kok; *Six Bowls of Rice Noodles – Act 1*, the story of six students talking about their hopes and dreams at a rice noodle restaurant in Tsuen Wan after their DSE exams; and *22°15'N 114°08'E*, the story of a middle-aged man and a homesick young girl quarrelling in the towers of Wah Fu Estate while awaiting the arrival of a UFO. Registration for these free programmes is open now on the HKYAF website www.hkyaf.com.

A free two-day festival of inclusive and creative cultural activities

On 18 and 19 March, the *Cultural Day* weekend will present entertaining live performances and creative workshops designed to embrace the unique histories and characters of our city's different communities. Participants can create blessings for their loved ones through Chinese knotting; explore beautiful crafts from Pakistan, India and Africa; get percussive in Swiss handpan, African drumming and lion dance

workshops; pick up some glow sticks and explore Japanese Wotagei dancing, or practise animal-inspired yoga to calm the mind and body.

All *Cultural Day* activities are free and suitable for ages 5 and above. Online registration is now open at <https://bit.ly/3SDIUYP>. A deposit of HKD\$50 is required for each workshop registration and is refundable in full after attendance. Limited spaces are available on a first come, first served basis. For full programme details and updates, please visit the official HKYAF website www.hkyaf.com, and follow HKYAF's [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages @hkyaf.

Notes to editor

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Community Project Grant: stART Up Community Arts Project

<p>Exhibition</p> <p>Date: From now until 25 March 2023 Time: 10am – 7pm Venue: Y Platform, Youth Square, Chai Wan Free admission, no registration required</p>	<p>Cultural Day</p> <p>Date: 18 – 19 March 2023 Time: 12nn – 5pm Venue: Youth Square, Chai Wan Suitable for ages 5 and above (Except for the Handpan Workshop) Advance registration required at: https://bit.ly/3SDIUYP</p> <p>A deposit of HKD\$50 is required for each workshop registration and is refundable in full after attendance.</p>
<p>“This is Our Neighbourhood” Stage Reading Performance</p> <p>Date: 13 March 2023 Time: 8pm Venue: Y Studio, Youth Square, Chai Wan Language: Cantonese Suitable for ages 10 and above Free admission Advance registration required at: https://bit.ly/3l0ma8k</p> <p>This event runs for 60 minutes including a Q&A session with no intermission.</p>	<p>“Arcana” Dance Performance</p> <p>Date: 16 – 18 March 2023 Time: 7pm Venue: Y Studio, Youth Square, Chai Wan Suitable for ages 6 and above Free admission Advance registration required at: https://bit.ly/3Rhmtbd</p> <p>This show runs for 70 minutes including a Q&A session with no intermission.</p>

Find out more at www.hkyaf.com and follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@hkyaf) for the latest updates.

*The works on display are independently produced by the creative team. The content does not reflect the views or opinions of the project or the funder.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Community Project Grant: stART Up Community Arts Project

Artwork Introduction 2023

Totem and Tales

Artists: Chu Tung-yin and Ho Lok-chung @Chipgoodguy Studio

In the workshop *Totems and Tales*, wood art instructors Tony Chu Tung-yin and Ho Lok-chung worked with over 30 students from two secondary schools to create contemporary totem poles. Taking traditional totem poles from East Asia and South America as their inspiration, students explored the histories and cultures of both regions, and used what they learned to create imaginative work that reflected their own lives and personalities. Chu and Ho also created their own work decorated with futuristic punk-inspired symbols and totemic images familiar to audiences today.



Portraitsss

Artist: Chao Harn-kae

In the workshop *Portraitsss*, ceramic artist Chao Harn-kae worked with 19 students to research the culture of different countries and ethnic groups, and create ceramic portraits in the style of caricatures – exaggerating certain characteristics to make the portraits fun and lively. The students learned a variety of ceramic art techniques, such as wedging, pinching and glazing, and gained a deeper appreciation of different cultures and the many ways of defining beauty.



Voice/Noise

Artists: Alpha Chan Ho-yu, Ian Cheng Yan-chak, B.O. Woo, Lau Sai-wai, Tam Chi-lok, Raymond Cheung King-yip and Herman Lui

The immersive multimedia installation *Voice/Noise* invites visitors to see and hear the city from the perspective of an abandoned building. While seasons come and go, our city's ever-changing soundscape reminds us to appreciate the things around us. Written and directed by Alpha Chan Ho-yu, the work includes sounds collected by 16 workshop participants as they explored the city under the guidance of sound artist B.O. Woo.



Every Idiom Tells A Story

Artist: Violet Shum Ka-wai

Idioms are expressions with non-literal meanings. As they often describe universal experiences, similar expressions can sometimes be found in different languages. In the workshop *Every Idiom Tells A Story*, artist Violet Shum worked with more than 20 students from two secondary schools to create carved images inspired by idiomatic expressions around the world. Looking at idioms with similar meanings, the students explored the potential of the expressions and transformed text into images.



Diagram of Universal Values

Artist: Yoki Lai Miu-chi

In the workshop *Diagram of Universal Values*, artist Yoki Lai worked with young participants to create colourful flags decorated with images representing eight important values – honesty, appreciation, empathy, selflessness, courage, integrity, determination and resilience. Through the creative process, the participants explored different ways of depicting these abstract values, and came up with creative designs that embrace the unique histories and characters of different cultures.



Language Kaleidoscope

Artists: Chao Harn-kae and Karen Pow

In the workshop *Language Kaleidoscope*, artists Chao Harn-kae and Karen Pow worked with a group of ethnic-minority students to create seven sets of decorative typography relief artworks inspired by the phrase “take care” in their mother tongue – Tagalog, Nepali, Bahasa Indonesian, Pakistani, Vietnamese, English and Chinese. Viewed against reflective surfaces, their collective work creates kaleidoscope-like patterns that remind us of the importance of mutual care and support among our city’s different communities.



*Some of the photos above are from activities that took place before the COVID-19 pandemic. Activities that took place during the pandemic were conducted 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.

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