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香港賽馬會慈善信託基金
The Hong Kong Jockey Club
Charities Trust

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jockey Club Community Arts Biennale 2015

Bringing together and uncovering the hidden stories of our community through art
April – July 2015

In the past, physical location played a huge role in defining a community, tying those who lived or worked together into a close-knit group. Modern communication technologies have changed and expanded this. But although no longer confined by geography, communities are still defined by their people.

Taking place from April to July, the **Jockey Club Community Arts Biennale 2015** – sponsored by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust with a funding of some HK\$5 million, and organised by the Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (YAF) – is a platform for 24 local professional artists and thousands of young people to discover and celebrate Hong Kong's communities. Through the process of creating art, people of different ages and backgrounds have come together, uncovering hidden stories of everyday lives. These stories have been transformed into 24 large-scale visual art installations that will be exhibited at Sha Tin Park, Fly the Flyover 01 and Island East ArtisTree.

Since December 2014, preparations have been underway, with professional YAF artists running artist-in-school residences, masterclasses, teachers and community workshops, and over 1,000 secondary and primary students talking to neighbours, discovering the meaning of community, and making art inspired by the stories they have heard. The artwork created for the *Jockey Club Community Arts Biennale 2015* reflects the bonds that have been established – and the importance of being part of a community.

15 professional artists and artist collectives – **Benny Yeung, Carmen Ng, Castaly Leung, Cecilia Ho**, popular graphic duo **Dirty Paper, Eddy Chun**, yarn bomber **Esther Poon, Paul Chan, Ricci Wong, Rik Yu, Smile Maker, Violet Shum**, Canton porcelain painting master **Winus Lee, Wong Chi-yung** and multimedia creative group **Zcratch** – have also created commissioned work reflecting their own perspectives on community. Many chose to collaborate with local craftsmen, highlighting the importance of preserving traditional local handicrafts and folk art and keeping these trades relevant today.

EXHIBITION 1: SHA TIN PARK (16 April – 6 May)

Over 1,000 locals and young people from across Hong Kong work with yarn bomber **Esther Poon** to transform Sha Tin Park's Lek Yuen Bridge into a stunning, large-scale crochet installation, reflecting the collective power of the community. At the same time, young people from The Hub Hong Kong Children and Youth Centre and 70 local youngsters will create a flock of fiberglass pigeons that will 'inhabit' the park during the exhibition. Each pigeon will be inscribed with a message from the young creator to a loved one, in the spirit of one of the oldest forms of communication.





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EXHIBITION 2: FLY THE FLYOVER 01 (7 – 27 May)

Inspired by the saying “Pull up a chair,” hundreds of young people from different Hong Kong communities including secondary school students and ethnic minorities from the area, young people from St. James Settlement To Kwa Wan House of Stories and beneficiaries from Kwun Tong Methodist Social Service have produced chair-themed art to reflect their place in their family and in society. For some the chairs explore identity, potential and dreams, for others they symbolise the opportunity to come together and build a community or reflect their movement between cultures and languages.



EXHIBITION 3: ISLAND EAST ARTISTREE (4 – 24 July, 10am – 8pm)

To celebrate traditional local crafts, groups of young people and professional artists have been collaborating with talented master craftsmen to bring an exhibition that shines a light on some of the Hong Kong's sunset industries. The exhibition will include work inspired by Mr Ren from Sheung Wan's Kwong Wah Printing Company (letterpressing); Mrs Lam of Peng Chau's Chui Kee Porcelain (traditional Canton porcelain painting); Kwai Chung's Nam Wah Neonlight & Electrical Mfy Ltd (traditional neon sign making); effigy master Mr Au Yueng from Sham Shui Po's Po Wah Paper Craft (bamboo making) and the women elders of the walled villages of Lung Yeuk Tau, Fanling.



Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation Founder and Artistic Director **Lindsey McAlister** said, “The *Jockey Club Community Arts Biennale* creates its own community by celebrating life and collective creativity. By taking a fresh look at the communities around us, and encouraging local people to take part, we not only develop new friendships, we also promote an awareness of local history and cultural heritage – things that are crucial for preserving community memories, monuments and traditions.”

A loyal supporter of Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation, The Hong Kong Jockey Club has helped to present a number of diverse and inspiring creative art programmes aimed at nurturing the younger generation's interest in the arts and culture since 1995. Executive Director, Charities and Community of The Hong Kong Jockey Club **Leong Cheung** said, “We believe that giving young people the chance to engage with the history, culture and character of our local communities helps them develop a strong sense of belonging and increase their awareness and interest in the arts. As the Club celebrates its 130th Anniversary this year, we will seek further ways of contributing to the community's long-term sustainability. In the coming three to five years, the Club will have three overarching themes, strategically focusing on helping to build Hong Kong into an age-friendly city, to support sports projects that can create lifelong positive values and hopes, and to channel youth energy into social innovation by supporting more youth development projects to unleash their creativity and bring positive energy to society.”

More than just a platform for artists, the *Jockey Club Community Arts Biennale 2015* is an event that encourages active participation of the community in the artistic process. On Saturdays and Sundays during the exhibition, all exhibitions will include free public workshops to provide information about the work on show and offer audiences a chance to be involved in the creation of true community art!



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NOTES FOR EDITORS

Jockey Club Community Arts Biennale 2015

Exhibitions: Admission free, no ticket required. Suitable for all ages.

Public workshops: Free, 30 mins/session, first come first served.

EXHIBITION 1: SHA TIN PARK (16 April – 6 May 2015)

Workshop	Weave Together	Pigeon Post
Date	18, 19, 25, 26 Apr; 2, 3 May	
Venue	1.30pm – 4.30pm	
Details	Learn to weave and take home your own mini masterpiece.	Sketch your own pigeon to carry your words to a loved one.
Enquiries	2877 2779 / yan@hkyaf.com	

EXHIBITION 2: FLY THE FLYOVER 01 (7 – 27 May 2015)

Workshop	Take a Seat	The Big Chess Game
Date	10, 17, 24 May	
Time	2pm – 5pm	
Details	Explore the concept of space through fun theatre and movement games that incorporate the use of a chair.	Become a chess piece in local graphic art duo Dirty Paper's big community chess game.
Enquiries	2214 0280 / sasha@hkyaf.com	

EXHIBITION 3: ISLAND EAST ARTISTREE (4 – 24 July 2015, 10am – 8pm)

Public workshop details to be announced.

Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation

Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (YAF) www.hkyaf.com is a charity that provides access to high quality, non-competitive arts experiences for young people aged 5 to 25. Since 1993, YAF has been organising inclusive and inspirational projects that reach out to youngsters of all cultures, backgrounds, languages and abilities, and actively creating opportunities for those who are disadvantaged and underprivileged. Each year we reach over 800,000 people with our projects.

Media Enquiries

Anca Chung Tel: +(852) 2877 2625

Amanda Chan Tel: +(852) 2214 0266

Email: anca@hkyaf.com

Email: amanda@hkyaf.com