ArtsWok Collaborative
Developing Community Creatively
Annual Report FY2018
ARTSWOK COLLABORATIVE LIMITED
Annual Report for Year Ended 31 March 2019 (FY18)

ArtsWok Collaborative Limited was set up as a company limited by guarantee on 30.10.2014. It was registered as a Charity under the Charities Act on 29.09.2015.

Unique Entity Number (UEN): 201432448C

Registered Address: Goodman Arts Centre, 90 Goodman Road, Blk B #03-07, S(439053)

Governing Board Members:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Date of Appointment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lee Hing Giap, Justin</td>
<td>Chairperson</td>
<td>25 June 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngiam Su-Lin</td>
<td>Vice-Chairperson</td>
<td>25 June 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ko Siew Huey</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>25 June 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low Patsian @ Nuha Maya Low</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>25 June 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlene Delia Jayamani Rajendran</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>25 June 2016</td>
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Banker: Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited

Auditor: Tassure Asia LLP

VISION

Inclusive communities that allow the full expression of human potential

MISSION

To nurture thriving communities by harnessing the power of the arts to create dialogue, invite social participation and build bridges across difference.
We pilot and produce innovative community-based projects through creative producing; build the arts-based community development field through capability development; as well as share and generate knowledge and practice through research and advocacy.

COMPANY VALUES

1. COLLABORATION: Harnessing strengths and sharing resources through processes that foster mutual respect, shared decision-making, honesty and open communication.

2. EMPATHY: Connecting with others by maintaining an openness, suspending judgement and listening deeply.

3. CREATIVITY: Permitting time and space to play, fail, imagine and experiment.

4. AGENCY: Recognising everyone has strengths and abilities to be agents of change and to be equipped to realise their potential.

OBJECTIVE

The objects of the Charity are as follows:

a. To facilitate change by enabling communities to express identity, concerns and aspirations through the language of the arts.
b. To work with multidisciplinary teams to design and implement arts-based civic engagement projects.
c. To pilot innovative arts programmes in community settings.
d. To convene a community of practice and to conduct networking and training.
e. To conduct research and advocacy in the field of arts-based community development.

POLICIES ADOPTED DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR

There were no new policies adopted during the financial year.
REVIEW OF FY 2018

Staffing

As at 31.03.2019, there were 1 Director, 3 Programme Managers and 1 Communications Executive employed by the Charity.

Activities

<table>
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<th>Implementation Date</th>
<th>Name of Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Creative Producing</td>
<td>Both Sides, Now</td>
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July 2017 and ongoing

The 3-year edition (2017-2019) of this arts-based community engagement project kicked off in 2017 with multiple activities, performances and workshops in two communities – Chong Pang and Telok Blangah. The project is co-presented by Lien Foundation, Ang Chin Moh Foundation, Drama Box and ArtsWok Collaborative, in collaboration with Yishun Health and Montfort Care, with a focus on creating end-of-life friendly communities.
The financial year saw the development of a new participatory theatre piece, *Last Dance* in Telok Blangah and Chong Pang to deepen audience participation and conversations related to end-of-life matters, grief and bereavement. Four artists also worked with seniors in Chong Pang to create artworks that were installed over a few blocks and public spaces in the neighbourhood over close to 3 weeks. Titled *Closer*, the public arts installation attracted audiences from all over Singapore, and docent tours were also provided by the artists and trained volunteers.

A video on *Closer* at Chong Pang may be viewed here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwLppMoppUg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwLppMoppUg)

In Telok Blangah, four artists began working with residents mostly from a particular block with complex needs to create artworks that
will be installed as a Public Arts Installation the middle of 2019. Alongside this, a spatial designer was also brought in to embark on a placemaking initiative at the same block to involve the residents in revitalizing their void deck, to make it more conducive for engagement and community building. This process and the outcome was part of the overall artmaking for the upcoming Public Arts Installation.

FY18 also saw the team developing a toolkit of creative approaches to facilitate end-of-life conversations derived from the project over the past 6 years, and targeted at care workers. This is provided together with accompanying training for staff and volunteers from the care sectors. Pilot training is being rolled out from early January 2019, and will take place with 4 groups of participants spanning health, community and social care.

About 8,000 people have been engaged at the end of the FY, about 200 volunteers trained since 2017, and 63 resident art-makers who participated in the project. The current 3-year edition will end in early July 2019.
January 2018 and ongoing
25 Jul – 29 July 2018

M1 Peer Pleasure Youth Theatre Festival

Our new Artistic Director, veteran actress and drama educator, Jean Ng is helming the festival between 2018-2021, deepening our focus on being a youth theatre festival with a social conscience. Each year will unpack a different social issue with young people creating original work under the mentorship of professionals. This includes a year-long research process on the issue which is designed mostly by the festival, before the work is created and staged at the festival.

The social issue in focus between 2018-2019 is on poverty in Singapore, with participating youth from Anderson Secondary School, Anglo-Chinese School (Barker Road) and The Community Theatre, Beyond Social Services. They embarked on their research process in January 2018, and also with guidance from a Resource Panel of experts put together by the festival.

The research process comprised community walks in rental flat neighbourhoods and visits to households, interviews with persons living in poverty, attending talks by experts, reading, journaling, attending camps and training sessions and so on. Three original
works will be staged at the festival from end July to early August 2019.

In the meantime, for the festival period at the Esplanade in 2018, a series of devising workshops on the issue of poverty was offered to youth, most of whom were Secondary School students. This was facilitated by artists directing the festival plays for 2019, supported by youth participants from the participating groups mentioned earlier. A total of 70 youth across schools attended the workshops.

www.peerpleasure.org
www.fb.com/ppfestival
https://www.instagram.com/m1peerpleasure/

Capability Development

ArtsWok contributes towards capability development for practitioners in the field of arts-based community development. This is mainly in the form of 2 programmes – The Greenhouse Lab, action-learning and incubator programme on arts-based approaches to community engagement and development; as well as The Greenhouse Sessions, a community of practice that meets bi-annually to share practice and resources, network and explore potential collaborations. These programmes attract practitioners across sectors – arts, creative, community, social, health, urban planning etc., including policymakers and funders – interested in interdisciplinary work.

3 November 2018
9 March 2019

The Greenhouse Sessions
We presented 2 The Greenhouse Sessions in FY18 on the topic of Creative Leadership and Re-Imagining Communities, each session featuring different artists and practices with communities.

The Greenhouse Sessions #17 was facilitated by Dr. Charlene Rajendran from the Department of Performing and Visual Arts, National Institute of Education, who also spoke about the importance of play and its relationship to leadership. The practices of 3 artists, Li Xie, Lin Shiyun (Let’s Go Play Outside!) and Koh Hui Ling (Drama Box) was shared by each of them, discussing their work with communities which embodies play.

The Greenhouse Sessions #18 featured the work of Izzaty Ishak, applied drama practitioner and community worker with Beyond Social Services (BSS). She oversees The Community Theatre (TCT) which is a programme under BSS and shared TCT’s methodology working with community members and volunteers who are youth.
Both sessions attracted about 60 practitioners in total, with healthy and honest dialogue, and critical questions asked. Participants enjoyed the experiential workshop components to the sessions where some of the practices shared were grounded for them, including interacting with some of the youth members from TCT for session #18. As usual practice, session reports were created for each session and shared with the wider community of practice.

www.fb.com/thegreenhouseseries

April 2018 – March 2019

The Greenhouse Lab
This capability development programme took place between April 2018 – March 2019 and has evolved to introduce community cultural mapping as a way to understand the needs and assets in a community. We invited experienced community and cultural researcher and practitioner, Janet Pillai from Malaysia to train participants. This resulted in a report focusing on particular aspects of a community at Cassia Crescent, produced by a group of multi-disciplinary practitioners, in collaboration with The Cassia Resettlement Team (CRT).

Phase 2 of the programme then saw us recruiting another group of 10 multi-disciplinary practitioners, mainly arts practitioners who underwent training and mentorship in a design, implementation, monitoring and evaluating (DIME) process, focusing on the same Cassia Crescent community, working from the findings from the cultural mapping report produced earlier. Training was largely provided by Dr. Justin Lee from the Institute of Policy Studies, working together with our Executive Director, and mentorship was provided by ArtsWok.

Phase 3 involved implementing a project designed by participants from phase 2 – the Cassia Kaki project was an 8-week visual and performing arts programme that focused on increasing sociability levels amongst specific demographics of seniors. This took place with residents at a specific block at Cassia Crescent, and apart from The Greenhouse Lab participants, also saw the involvement of 22 volunteers, and the engagement of multiple community organizational stakeholders.
A video on The Greenhouse Lab and Cassia Kaki project may be viewed here: https://youtu.be/k4ln7SHSn_4

Research and Advocacy

June & December 2018

E-newsletter

We launched our inaugural bi-annual e-newsletter in June this year, followed by a second issue at the end of 2018 featuring updates on our flagship projects as well as work by other arts practitioners in the field of community-based arts. The first issue focused on creative placemaking, and the second on community development. This forms part of our efforts at creating more visibility, understanding and legitimacy of the organisation’s work as intermediaries but also the larger field and ecosystem we exist in.

The newsletter is currently largely distributed through our mailing list, including partners, funders and collaborators as well as social media. It is also hosted on our website.

To view the e-newsletters, visit https://artswok.org/archives/
We also launched our inaugural case study in the middle of 2018, focusing on Both Sides, Now and civic dialogue. A second case study was published towards the end of 2018, focusing on creative approaches to civic action and working with communities, and spotlighting the work of the Cassia Resettlement Team. These are the firsts of other case studies to follow, and our contribution to documenting and sharing practice in the field of arts-based community engagement and development, as well as thought leadership.

The case studies were largely distributed through our mailing list, including partners, funders and collaborators as well as social media. They are also hosted on our website.

To view the case studies, visit https://artswok.org/our-work/research-and-advocacy/
ArtsWok is increasingly being recognised for our work as intermediaries and creative producers in the arts and communities field, with invitations to participate in/ facilitate panel discussions. In January 2019, we participated in a panel discussion organised by the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre (NVPC) on arts and communities for a mixed group of stakeholders in the room, including funders (pictured above).

In February 2019, our Executive Director also facilitated a panel discussion with NUS Centre for the Arts focusing on arts and communities as well, which also provided us an opportunity to discuss our work. The latter also provided an opportunity to plug into a network of tertiary students interested in creative approaches to community engagement.

A sharing of our work and the M1 Peer Pleasure Youth Theatre Festival also took place with Singapore International Foundation’s (SIF) Arts for Good Fellows from Singapore and internationally.

Substantial coverage on ArtsWok was provided by Social Space by Lien Centre for Social Innovation in end Dec 2018/ Jan 2019 for their issue on the arts. This was in the form of a written interview article published in print as well as online, and video interview published online (http://tinyurl.com/socialspaceart1).
We are also one of two organisations being studied by researchers from Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) and Singapore University of Social Sciences, as part of a IPS-Tote Board Case Study on approaches to community development in Singapore. A workshop discussion on the case study was held in March 2019 and attended by about 80 people consisting of practitioners, academics, funders and policy-makers. These were individuals largely from the arts, community, social, health and urban planning fields, and this provided a good opportunity to bring our work to a wider audience. There was also interest from the participants to explore how to continue the discussions and collective field-building opportunities that were presented at the session which we are interested to explore further/ plug into. The final case study will be published and distributed during the second half of 2019.

Press

The Straits Times Life!, 4 July 2017
Down Syndrome Students Stage Play about Refugees at Youth Theatre Festival

Berita Harian, 13 July 2017
Without Reason
M1 Peer Pleasure Youth Theatre Festival

TODAY, 8 August 2017
Tapping Theatre’s ‘Magic’ to Discuss Racial Issues

The Straits Times, 21 Oct 2017
Puppets Add Light Touch to Heavy Topics

Lianhe Zaobao Fukan, 21 Oct 2017
The Wind Came Home, Both Sides, Now

The Straits Times, 2 November 2017
Art, Drama make Discussions on Death Come Alive

The Straits Times, Sept 27 2018
Speaking of life and death
The first 6 months of this financial year involved a significant organisational change, with one of the co-directors stepping down from executive duties but who remains on the Board. This move was planned in advance with due notice provided to major stakeholders. In
response, more staff has been hired to meet the human resource needs of the organisation – a Programme Manager with experience in the arts and working with communities and partnerships, as well as a Communications Executive with some experience in writing and working with social media.

**REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATE AND EXPLANATION OF MAJOR FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS**

A financial statement of ArtsWok Collaborative Limited was drawn up for the financial period from 1 Apr 2018 to 31 Mar 2019.

During this time, revenue from grants, donations, earned income and other sources totalled $421,067. Total expenses for FY17 included Administrative Expenses of $281,993 and Programme Expenses of $133,275. The financial year closed with a surplus of $5,799. Together with a surplus from previous years of $82,670, the financial standing of the Charity remains in healthy net surplus.

There are no major financial liabilities.

ArtsWok Collaborative Limited is a National Arts Council Major Company grant recipient for the period from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2021.

**FUTURE PLANS AND COMMITMENTS**

We will be focusing on strengthening our brand and communications in FY2019, to enable stakeholders to better understand what we do as intermediaries and creative producers, and in the arts-based community development field. To this end, we have embarked on a branding exercise with designers, and will also be re-designing and launching our new website by end 2019. The latter is also due to the expansion of our work, and needing a new structure to communicate this effectively.

We are also interested in investing in a space within residential communities to develop a living lab for arts-based community development; to experiment and innovate new approaches to community building and development, as well as civic participation.