

SOTA REMAINS COMMITTED TO NURTURING ARTISTIC LEARNERS FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS

Singapore, 27 July 2020 - The School of the Arts, Singapore (SOTA) celebrates the achievements of its students and graduates online this year. Tapping on videos and social media features, the school community comes together to recognise the grit, passion, and creative spirit of the award recipients amidst the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

The severe economic impact from the COVID-19 pandemic has not spared the arts community. Many artists and creative practitioners face an uncertain future where their livelihoods are concerned. This may create a negative impression on the value of the arts. SOTA is committed to rising above such short term challenges and work to groom future generations of Singaporeans with a strong commitment to the arts. SOTA will persevere in encouraging young Singaporeans to believe in the passionate pursuit of the arts so as to nurture creative citizens for the future.

To keep arts education accessible, the SOTA Endowment Fund was set up in 2019 to address the need for long-term sustainability in providing our students with bursaries, scholarships and other forms of financial assistance. SOTA is honoured to have the support of Dr. Lee Boon Yang as the patron of the SOTA Endowment Fund.

Recently, Dr. Lee contributed a generous donation of \$100,000, which will go a long way in supporting and encouraging youths to pursue their passion for the arts. This is Dr. Lee's second donation to SOTA.

"SOTA is an unique institution in Singapore. It provides young Singaporeans with the opportunity for intensive academic and arts education. However like everything that is rare, it comes at a cost. For some parents with talented children, the cost may be more than they can bear. This is where the SOTA Endowment Fund can make a critical difference. The Fund will be able to support such deserving students and enable them to realise their full potential in both academic studies and the arts.

I am very happy to assist SOTA in her effort to build up an Endowment Fund for this purpose. I am also delighted to be able to make a personal donation to this good cause. I hope to see more organisations and individuals step forward to help make arts education more accessible and join this noble effort to nurture future generations of artists and creative professionals to enrich our society", said Dr. Lee Boon Yang.

SOTA is grateful for Dr. Lee's recognition of the school's commitment to nurture a diverse student population in the arts, regardless of their background.

SOTA alumna Ashley Jane Leow, who received the SOTA Bursary, said, “The financial assistance I received eased the burden on my family as the bursary supported my school fees and materials used for my art form and studies. This was crucial in helping me manage my transfer from studying Theatre to Film in Years 5 and 6, and be able to pay for the IBDP examinations. It also gave me the confidence that my efforts as an artist were being recognised. I am grateful to the donors who believe in a SOTA education and support pursuit of the arts. Their faith for students like me allows me to continue to pursue my passion for film as an IMDA scholar at Emerson College and Paris College of Art. I hope that you will carry on supporting my future juniors through their SOTA education via the SOTA Endowment Fund.”

Find out more about the SOTA Endowment Fund and contribute your gift at <https://www.sota.edu.sg/donate>.

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About School of the Arts, Singapore

The School of the Arts, Singapore (SOTA) is Singapore's first national pre-tertiary specialised arts school with a six-year integrated arts and academic curriculum, leading to the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma or Career-related Programme, for youths aged 13- 18 years old.

Under the ambit of the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY), SOTA offers a dedicated development path for those who have interest and show early talent in the arts, providing a learning environment where both the artistic and academic potential can best be realised.

With a vision to nurture creative citizens for the future, SOTA aims to identify and groom artistic and creative learners who will positively impact Singapore and the world, through a vibrant learning environment that is anchored in the arts.

A school for the future, SOTA embraces a holistic educational philosophy that celebrates experimentation, expression and discovery.

About SOTA Endowment Fund

Arts and culture are integral to Singapore, and arts education is a key catalyst in shaping the future cultural landscape. With a vision to nurture creative citizens for the future who will positively impact Singapore and the world, the School of the Arts, Singapore (SOTA) believes in providing a conducive and vibrant learning environment that is anchored in the arts.

The SOTA Endowment Fund addresses the need for long-term sustainability in providing our students with bursaries, scholarships and other financial assistance. This Fund shall help us to make arts education accessible for all deserving students, especially the less privileged.

Every gift matters. The contribution to this Fund will play a significant role in nurturing our cultural leaders of tomorrow.