

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **The Arts School: A Milestone Development**

**SINGAPORE, 25 January 2006** – The Arts School will present a new education opportunity for our young artistic talents. It will nurture not only future artists and creative professionals, but also professionals in many other fields with passion for the arts.

Guest-of-Honour, Dr Lee Boon Yang, Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts will officiate at the ground breaking ceremony at Kirk Terrace to mark the start of construction works in the development of the Arts School purpose-built premise by award-winning Singapore architectural practice, WOHA Architects.

#### **The Arts School**

Set to open its doors in 2008, the Arts School will be the nation's first independent, pre-tertiary arts school to offer a unique integrated arts and academic curriculum for youths aged 13 - 18.

An initiative by the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts (MICA), the Arts School plugs an existing gap for a dedicated development path at the pre-tertiary level for those who have interest and show early talent in the arts, providing a learning environment where both their artistic and academic potential can best be realised.

Located at Kirk Terrace, the Arts School hopes to tap on synergies with the city's arts and education districts. This will provide opportunities for the school to engage and collaborate with diverse partners in the vicinity - with the education institutions in the Bras Basah area, arts groups and venues, museums, the National Library, and the general public.

For the Arts School students, the classroom will literally be stretched beyond the school's boundaries. Students will be immersed in a motivating and engaging environment with fellow students, teachers and leading practitioners from various arts disciplines.

The Arts School will offer students an enriching experience learning not just the arts, but also literature, languages, the humanities, science and mathematics. It will offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma as a graduating qualification, widely accepted by colleges and universities in Singapore and internationally.

#### **Design and Building**

The landmark campus is designed as a blank canvas with spaces for creative experimentation and reflective thinking. The model for the Arts School is a Laboratory of Creativity, where research is done, creative work communicated – between students, between teachers and students, between the school and the surrounding urban fabric, and between the school and the wider community.

With a site area of 1.06 hectares (which is the approximate size of 1 full-size soccer field) and a total floor area of some 50,000 square metres, the Arts School will include general academic facilities such as classrooms, lecture theatres, science laboratories, computer and multimedia studios. It will also have comprehensive arts teaching facilities such as dance, art and music studios for group and individual lessons and practices, a recording studio, a media centre and technical workshops. On its lower floors, it will have a recital hall, a theatre and a

black box. All these facilities are designed for training and special care has been taken to ensure their flexibility of use and the safety of the students.

The design of the Arts School has taken into account the importance of engaging the community through the innovative architecture and the use of public space. When the school is ready, the public will be able to enjoy the park fronting the school, its theatre café, and the exhibitions and public performances that will be held in the school's concourse. The Arts School will offer generations of Arts School graduates and Singaporeans precious memories and inspiring experiences of this special place.

**Mr Lee Tzu Yang, Chairman of the Arts School Board**

Dr Lee Boon Yang, Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts will announce the appointment of Mr Lee Tzu Yang as Chairman of the Arts School Board. Mr Lee led the Committee that conducted the study which came up with the recommendation to the government to set up an arts school. Among his other contributions, he is also on the board of the Singapore Institute Chamber of Commerce, The Institute of Policy Studies, the National Arts Council, The Esplanade Co Ltd, National University of Singapore Council and the Old Parliament House Limited.

With his passion for the arts and commitment to education, Mr Lee's stewardship in the Arts School will ensure that the school achieves its mission to nurture young artistic talents to their highest level of excellence.

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