Bringing Imagination to Life: A New Generation of Thematic Playgrounds

A military-themed playground with a “military tank” and a ship playground complete with a “double-decker ship” - Check out HDB’s new generation of thematic playgrounds!

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Celebrating a Love for our Flowers and Trees!

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Managing Stray Dogs Humanely

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Bringing Imagination to Life: A New Generation of Thematic Playgrounds

HDB’s playgrounds are well-loved recreational landmarks which have played an integral part in our collective experience of growing up in Singapore. They are an important part of the shared social space in HDB heartlands, helping to bond, and bring families and the community together.

To enhance residents’ experience of these key communal spaces, HDB has begun developing a new generation of thematic playgrounds in its new housing projects. These playgrounds showcase their towns’ history and heritage, inspiring imagination and nurturing an adventurous spirit in children through exploration and role play. Some features also cater to adults, encouraging parents to further interact and bond with their children through play.

Six thematic playgrounds have been completed in Choa Chu Kang, Sengkang, Woodlands, Sembawang, and Toa Payoh. These include two distinctive military-themed playgrounds at Keat Hong Gardens and Keat Hong Mirage, where Keat Hong camp used to be located. The play equipment there has been designed to resemble military tanks, cannons, and watchtowers, allowing children to dive into a world of fantasy. Fathers and grandfathers can also regale their children
and grandchildren at those playgrounds with stories from their National Service days.

At the military-themed playground at Keat Hong, children get to climb and “drive” a “military tank”, or make a quick getaway from “enemies” via a firemen’s pole.

Children can imagine taking command of the seas at a double-decker ship playground at Sembawang.
The neighbourhood was once a naval base with shipyards.

Residents can look forward to more immersive play by 2021, as HDB completes another nine thematic playgrounds in Bukit Panjang, Dawson, and Clementi. Five of these playgrounds will be located in Dawson estate and designed along nature themes, in line with the “Housing-in-a-Park” vision for Dawson. Each thematic playground will be designed with a unique storyline in mind, to better inspire children’s imaginations and develop their creativity.

To celebrate 100 years of playground fun, you can now relive fond memories of our playgrounds and help design the future of play at the “The More We Get Together: Singapore’s Playgrounds 1930 – 2030” exhibition at the National Museum of Singapore. Organised by the National Heritage Board in collaboration with HDB, this exhibition will run until 30 September 2018. See you there!

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Celebrating a Love for our Flowers and Trees!

The month of March was a fun-filled time, with many events and activities for the community to embrace flora, get closer to nature and contribute to Singapore’s living heritage.

Discovering floral art

On 10 March, the premier international garden and flower show Singapore Garden Festival (SGF) was launched. The star attraction at the launch was definitely the world’s largest flower basket! More than 150 community gardeners, volunteers, and students, facilitated by National Parks Board (NParks) staff, gathered to make this Guinness World Record-setting display over 12 days. Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister for National Development Mr Desmond Lee put the final touches for the display, which was showcased at Takashimaya Square (Basement 2) until 11 March.
The world’s largest flower basket at the launch of the Singapore Garden Festival 2018

The festival will be held from 21 July to 3 August 2018! Get your tickets at www.singaporegardenfestival.com, or the SGF roadshows to be held at HDB Hub at Toa Payoh (30 June to 1 July), Orchard Road pedestrian mall (25 May to 29 July) and Northpoint City (1 to 10 June).

**Loving our trees**

In conjunction with the International Day of Forests on 21 March, NParks launched several new initiatives and activities on 17 March to celebrate Singapore’s forests with the community. A key initiative is trees.sg, a website dedicated to trees in Singapore. People can access information on over 500,000 trees on the site, the most extensive urban tree map in Asia!
Another initiative is the new community group, Friends of TreesSg, which aims to bring together all who wish to care for and raise awareness of Singapore’s trees. Led by Dr Easaw Thomas, the group is part of the NParks’ Friends of the Parks initiative, and comprises members from diverse backgrounds. Anyone who is interested can sign up at [www.nparks.gov.sg/contribute/volunteer/volunteer-signup](http://www.nparks.gov.sg/contribute/volunteer/volunteer-signup).

Also launched that day was the new Chinatown Heritage Tree Trail that introduces Heritage Trees and other interesting flora found in Chinatown, one of the oldest historic districts in Singapore. This trail is one of NParks’ many free guided walks to encourage people to explore Singapore’s urban forests and living heritage.

Growing together as one community
On 24 March, some 50 trees were planted during a community tree planting event at Jurong Lake Gardens (JLG) West. Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic and Social Policies, and Advisor to Jurong GRC, and Mr Lawrence Wong, Minister for National Development and Second Minister for Finance, and Chairman of the Jurong Lake District Steering Committee, joined about 180 residents from nine constituencies at the event. It was a great way for the community to contribute towards the development of JLG – envisioned as a people’s garden for families and the community.

Do Your Part in Property Transactions! Complete the Customer’s Particulars Form.

If you are buying, selling, or renting a property with the help of a property agent, one of the first forms your agent will ask you to fill in is a Customer’s Particulars form.

This document is one of the measures property agents need to take to prevent money laundering and counterterrorism financing in Singapore. All agents must get their clients to fill in and sign this form, so that they can verify their clients’ identities and record their clients’ essential particulars.

This is some of the information you will need to provide:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Entities (e.g. corporations or societies)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Name</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You will also be asked if you are the true owner of the property that you intend to purchase or sell. If you are not the true owner, you will have to state the identity of the beneficial owner in the form. The beneficial owner is the person or entity that has an ultimate interest in the property transaction. For example, the beneficial owner of the property could be a company, and the individual could just be the owner “on paper”.

In the event that the beneficial owner is a company, the agent will have to take reasonable measures to understand the ownership of the company and identify the individual who controls the company.

The Customer’s Particulars form is part of the property agent’s checklist for customer due diligence. Property agents have to submit this checklist for all property transactions that they handle to their property agencies.

If you are handling the property transaction on your own, you will not need to fill in a Customer’s Particulars form. However, if you are engaging an agent to facilitate your transaction, do not treat the paperwork as a hassle. Do your part as a responsible customer by cooperating with your agent to complete the form.

Fur-thering Our Cause at Pet Expo 2018!

It was a fun-filled weekend for our furry friends at Pet Expo 2018 — Singapore’s largest pet fair — from 6 to 8 April.

The Municipal Services Office (MSO) joined in the fun to help reach out to visitors about the importance of responsible pet ownership in their neighbourhoods.

At the event, MSO partnered AVA to remind pet owners to pick up their pets’ poo in public spaces, and to keep their animals on leashes when walking them around their estates.

Visitors to MSO’s booth at the event were also encouraged to show their commitment to responsible pet ownership by pledging to be more civic-minded and considerate in handling their pets.
Said Mr Liew Wen Hwee from MSO: “Pet Expo 2018 provides an avenue for MSO to reach out to different sectors of the community. Through such events, we get to interact and raise awareness on what each of us could do to contribute to a better living environment, not just for ourselves but also for our community.”

Happy pet owners at MSO’s booth pledged their commitment to be more civic-minded.
Stray dogs may pose a danger to the public, especially in packs. They may also spread diseases such as rabies (a fatal viral disease that can be passed to humans through the saliva or bite of an infected animal).

AVA has thus been working closely with animal welfare groups and veterinarians on a five-year Trap-Neuter-Release-Manage programme to better manage the stray dog population in Singapore.

Slated to begin in the second half of this year, the Trap-Neuter-Release-Manage programme will involve humanely catching stray dogs and sterilising them. Efforts will be made to rehome as many of the sterilised animals as possible, and those that cannot be rehomed will be released at suitable locations to live out their lives naturally.

The programme has received strong support from several animal welfare groups and from the veterinary community. AVA has been engaging with these stakeholders since June 2017 to seek their feedback and suggestions on the initiative, and 11 animal welfare groups will play crucial supportive and facilitative roles in the implementation of this programme.
“This nationwide Trap-Neuter-Release-Manage effort is a game-changer for street dogs in Singapore, and we are thrilled that this is happening. We are very pleased to see so many stakeholders, including the government, animal welfare groups, and veterinarians coming together with a shared vision and approach to humanely reduce the street dog population,” said Dr Jaipal Singh Gill, Executive Director of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).

Dr Siew Tuck Wah, President of SOSD, also expressed his support for the programme: “In Singapore, various animal welfare groups have carried out sterilisation of stray dogs over the past 30 years, but there has not been a concerted, large-scale effort like this one before. We believe that this will be the turning point for stray animal management in Singapore. This effort proves that our society is evolving into a more compassionate, kinder one which cares not only for its human residents but for its animals as well. We cannot be more excited and more grateful for this initiative!”

Animal welfare groups or members of the public who wish to participate in the programme can contact AVA at 1800-476-1600.

The 11 animal welfare groups participating in this programme are:

- Action for Singapore Dogs
- Animal Lovers League
- Causes for Animals
- Exclusively Mongrels
- Mercylight
- Oasis Second Chance Animal Shelter
- Noah’s Ark CARES
- Purely Adoptions
- SOSD
- Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- Voices for Animals

Back to Highlights

Tripartite Built Environment Career Fair Draws Record Number of Participating Firms

Between 21 and 24 March this year, about 1,000 jobseekers and students attended the Built Environment Career, Education and Training Fair 2018. The Fair was jointly organised by the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) and NTUC's e2i (Employment and Employability Institute).

Now in its 10th year, the career fair is one of BCA’s anchor events to attract and groom Singaporeans to join the built environment sector. It is the result of a tripartite effort by the government, union, and firms to advance the sector through a skilled and competent workforce, as outlined in the Construction Industry Transformation Map (ITM).

At the fair, over 40 participating organisations offered more than 500 job and internship opportunities. This marks the fair’s highest-ever number of participating organisations, which included public agencies, industry firms, institutes of higher learning, trade associations and chambers.

Ms Juslene Aw, Group HR & Admin Manager of KTC Group Holdings Pte Ltd, said the career fair had provided a platform for KTC to brand and attract potential talents to join the company. “It also allows our members to network with the industry partners and gain new knowledge and technologies in enhancing the productivity and efficiency in our day to day work,” she added.
The career fair had also given jobseekers and students the opportunity to engage with professionals and firms from the built environment sector.

“Through the career fair, I gained valuable insights on the direction that the built environment sector is moving towards and this gives me the opportunity to prepare myself well for the future,” said Sridharman Jing Yao Thulasidas, NUS Civil Engineering Year 2 student.

Against the backdrop of the digital economy, rapid urbanisation, and climate change, the Construction ITM focuses on Integrated Digital Delivery (IDD), Design for Manufacturing and Assembly (DfMA), and green buildings. This helps create good jobs and new opportunities for aspiring jobseekers, as seen by the new job positions offered by participating firms.

More details about the event and career opportunities in the built environment sector can be found at [www.buildingcareers.gov.sg/career](http://www.buildingcareers.gov.sg/career).

Nearly 200 professionals from the built environment sector — including developers, builders, architects, engineers, and consultants — attended the Masterclass on Integrated Digital Delivery.
The Built Environment Career, Education and Training Fair 2018 attracted about 1,000 jobseekers and students.

Urban Planning Festival: Involving Our Youth in Shaping Our City

Singapore’s youth had the chance to play city planners at the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA)’s recent Urban Planning Festival (UPF). The festival seeks to raise awareness about the importance of urban planning among our youth.
Launched on 12 April by the Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister for National Development Mr Desmond Lee, UPF is one of URA’s outreach efforts to involve youth in shaping our city. Over three weeks, student participants from more than 35 secondary schools, junior colleges, and polytechnics contributed their ideas through a variety of experiential learning journeys including workshops, talks, and tours.

Besides exposing them to pertinent issues that city planners face today, the event also gave the students a platform to share what shaped their creative solutions on how to make the city better.

Students were able to experience what it would be like to be an urban planner through programmes such as the annual Challenge for the Urban and Built Environment (CUBE) workshop and competition. The latest edition of CUBE saw 16 teams from local pre-university institutions develop concepts to create a more vibrant identity for the Mei Chin estate in Queenstown. Their proposals were then exhibited at the URA Centre atrium.

Other programmes at the Festival included Mass Live Art Jamming with veteran sculptor Mr Sun Yu Li to promote the importance of public art in enhancing public spaces. A Young Modeller’s Workshop and Urban Design Workshops also introduced 3D modelling technologies and urban design concepts to students.

To receive monthly updates about URA’s latest initiatives, please visit ura.sg/subscribe.
A team from River Valley High School, one of this year’s CUBE winners, presents their plans to Minister Desmond Lee and Mr Lim Eng Hwee, CEO, Urban Redevelopment Authority.
Minister Desmond Lee joins students at an art jamming session with artist Mr Sun Yu Li (in black).