



Friends of the Museums (Singapore)
Minutes of the 19th Annual General Meeting
On Wednesday 7 December 2022
At The Salon, National Museum of Singapore

The Friends of the Museums (Singapore) President Millie Phuah presided over the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and called the meeting to order at 10.05 am, and introduced the 2021/22 elected Council members – Susan Fong, Irina Grishaeva, Gisella Harrold, Kim Arnold, Darlene Kasten, and Aditi Kaul. Lee Hong Leng replaced Kwan Min Yee in the interim in Sep 2022.

Since there was no quorum, the meeting proceeded after half an hour at 10.40 am. The President advised that the AGM was only for members of the Friends of the Museums (Singapore), hereinafter referred to as FOM.

Item 1. Vote to approve the minutes of 18th Annual General Meeting held on 8 December 2021

The President asked for the above resolution to be approved.

- Clara Chan moved for the adoption of the following resolution to approve the Minutes of the 18th Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Museums (Singapore) held on 8 December 2021.
- Christine Zeng seconded the motion.

The President opened the floor for any questions regarding the resolution. There were no questions. The membership was informed that as all present had already voted electronically via Absentee Ballot, votes would not need to be taken at the meeting. The results of the vote to approve the minutes of the 18th Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Museums (Singapore) held on 8 December 2021 would be announced at the end of the meeting.

The President's Report

The President highlighted the work and initiatives of FOM in the past year, as per the President's Report that was made available to members prior to the meeting, as follows:

Friends of the Museums, Singapore (or FOM) began in 1978 and was registered as a society in 2004 to support Singapore museums with guiding services. We also offer volunteer and learning opportunities for FOM members and the community at large, with a focus on the history, art and culture of Asia. FOM also organises events, activities and training programmes towards this.

FOM is also a diverse community. Our membership as of 1st November 2022 was 1,297. It currently stands at 1551, with members hailing from over 40 countries.

This last year, 2022, we've been very encouraged to see the gradual and eventual opening up of Singapore after the restrictions of the Covid period.

Museum Programmes

At the heart of FOM's mission is service to the museums, heritage institutions and walking trails. This year, we continued to guide for the following:

1. Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM)
2. National Museum of Singapore (NMS)
3. Indian Heritage Centre (IHC)
4. Malay Heritage Centre (MHC)
5. Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall (SYSNMH)
6. STPI Creative Workshop & Gallery (STPI)
7. Gillman Barracks (GB)
8. URA-FOM Chinatown walking tours in four precincts
9. Malay Heritage Foundation-FOM Kampong Gelam Heritage Trail

There're also a few updates on the museums front:

The Peranakan Museum (or TPM) will reopen in Feb next year and we will resume guiding after re-orientation.

The Singapore Art Museum (or SAM) has been closed for refurbishment for some years now and FOM docents no longer guide there on a regular basis. We look forward to continuing our partnership on an ad hoc basis and building on the relationship forged over the years. I would like to express sincere thanks to the SAM docent community for holding out for so long. We hope you will continue to be engaged in our other Arts cluster offerings at STPI and Gillman Barracks.

Over at MHC, doors closed at the end of October for a refresh which will probably take about two years. Many thanks to our docents for your dedication; FOM will actively engage everyone in the interim.

The 3++ System and Guiding Stats

On Jan 10th 2022, we started guiding again in-person. Hence, the Docent Commitment Points (or DCP) System, which was used for the guiding year beginning April 2021, was discontinued for the new guiding year. In its place is the new 3++ System, where docents may continue to fulfil a minimum of four tours a year to stay active, OR conduct three tours, AND be involved in docent training programmes. Initiated at the height of the spread of the then-new Omicron variant, this scheme allowed those who were still concerned about guiding to pay it forward in the next training programme as well as ensured the sustainability of training as we transitioned away from Covid protocols.

Nationwide, the public health alert was lowered to DORSCON Yellow on the 26th of April, and on 29th August, masks became optional and restriction on group sizes was lifted. The docent community was energised yet again.

This financial year we conducted 2,237 tours for 14,632 visitors. Out of these tours, 388 were conducted by the Japanese docents at ACM and NMS. In addition, FOM docents also guided special exhibitions, such as:

1. Dislocations, at NMS
2. Russel Wong in Kyoto and Batik Kita at ACM
3. Cerita at MHC
4. Sikhs in Singapore: An Untold Story, at IHC
5. Nian Hua : Guardians & Auspicious Art at SYSNMH

Docent Training

Docent training programmes which began again on a hybrid online-in person model in the third quarter of the last year saw 47 new docents freshly minted at the ACM, NMS and IHC this year. In the second quarter of this year, SYSNMH completed training, adding 10 new docents. With the new Japanese docents, the total number of new FOM docents for the year is 70.

In September this year, in-person docent training began at ACM and NMS – the programmes are still in progress and are due to complete in the second quarter of next year. Training will also begin very soon early next year at the IHC, Changi Chapel and Museum, TPM and for the URA-FOM Chinatown Heritage Trails.

Member Activities

Monday Morning Lectures (or MML) shifted from virtual lectures open only to members, to

hybrid delivery. We opened the new season on 5th September with much excitement with an in-person event at the ACM, just like old times. This was a public event. The next MML was delivered virtually only for members. Going into the new year, we intend to continue this alternating model, which meets the preferences of those who have become accustomed to the convenience of attending lectures at home, and those who prefer attending them in-person. It also allows us to draw on speakers from around the globe.

Electronic Media & *PASSAGE*

In our outreach to members, we continue to send out the weekly and monthly electronic Newsletters. The FOM website, FOM's Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts also keep members and the public informed about our activities.

Our flagship publication, *PASSAGE* magazine, underwent a major refresh this year with a new editorial and production team. The decision was also made for *PASSAGE* to go quarterly, instead of bi-monthly. This move will better focus our limited volunteer resources in a sustainable manner, to keep our flagship publication flying for years to come.

Volunteer Recognition and Appreciation

This year, 371 volunteers were invited to attend Volunteer Appreciation Morning or VAM, a unique activity-based event held at the Malay Heritage Centre. 104 members were also awarded service pins: 43 for the 3-year pin, 40 for a 5-year pin, 19 for a 10-year pin, one for a 15-year pin and one for a 20-year pin.

The Salome De Decker Award, given annually by FOM to a volunteer who epitomises hard work and humility, was awarded to Ms Tan Shook Fong for her 19 years of dedicated service to FOM.

Philanthropy

FOM is committed to continuing giving to education through the FOM-National Heritage Board Heritage Grant, which gives our museums' education and programme staff members the opportunity to gain valuable experience at the world's leading museums. For the last two years, the grant was put on hold because of travel restrictions. We will be resuming this grant award in the new year.

NHB Heritage Award

In appreciation of FOM's contributions to the heritage sector, we were honoured as a Supporter, last November, by the National Heritage Board (NHB) at the annual Patron of

Heritage Awards (POHA) 2020. Out of the over 42 Supporter awardees, FOM was the only society so recognised for contributions that have, in the words of the NHB, “helped ensure that important heritage and cultural work - the glue which binds us together - continues to flourish in these unprecedented times”.

Innovation

With the increased use of IT for many of our activities in the last few years, we felt it was time to take advantage of our growing familiarity with IT to see how else we could simplify our operations. So for the first time this year, absentee voting for the new 2022-2023 FOM Council members was done via electronic voting. This was a bold move, made after weeks of testing and discussion. We’ve saved resources, time and effort and become more environmentally friendly.

The Future

With life in Singapore almost completely back to normal and ostensibly out of the shadows of Covid-19, members have been able to enjoy and participate in FOM activities as per normal. We’ve seen a palpable buzz of excitement at FOM events and activities. We’re sad to bid farewell to some of our members who’ve had to relocate out of Singapore, but at the same time, we warmly welcome the new members who’ve joined the FOM family.

Financially, we are healthy, with reserves to ensure a secure future operationally, and we will continue to be cautious with expenditure.

FOM is by the members, for the members. It is always evolving, but the FOM spirit of passion, dedication and generosity, and the strong friendship bonds among members, will keep us going and growing for a long time to come. As we come to the end of our 44th year, we can confidently report that FOM’s future is secure and bright.

Thank you for your contributions and for being a part of FOM!

The President then called on Treasurer Irina Grishaeva to present her report for the financial year that ended 30 September 2022.

Treasurer’s Report

We ended the financial year with a **net surplus** (excess of Revenues over expenses) of **\$10,999**. This is 8% lower than the surplus of \$11,916 in our last financial year (FY21).

While **total revenue** increased by \$17,318 (14%) from \$123,818 in the previous year to \$141,136 in FY22, **total expenses** also correspondingly increased by \$18,235 (16%) from \$111,902 in FY21 to \$130,137 in FY22.

Highlights - Income

- Net surplus from **Museum Activities** increased by \$19,323 year-over-year (YOY). This was mainly due to Docent training programmes and increased number of Corporate Tours.
- This year, the total number of docents (including Japanese Docents) who completed training was 70. The surplus from **Docent Training** went up from \$9,930 to \$29,252 YOY.
- All **Member Activities** decreased, negatively impacting the surplus by \$3,169. We conducted only one **Study Tour**, which gave a surplus of \$300 YOY. We had no Study Tours in the previous year.
- **Membership fees** received over the year decreased by \$5,948 from \$75,069 to \$69,121. At the end of FY22, the total number of active members was 1525 as compared with 1536 at the end of FY21.
- The last tranche (\$3,480) of the **Heritage Participation Grant** we received in Feb 2021. We did not receive any support from the Heritage National Board in 2022.

Highlights - Expenses

- **Management expenses and Volunteer Appreciation expenses** increased by \$7,549, as well as **Office expenses** were up by \$3,531 in FY22 due to an increase in IT expenses.
- **Magazine expenses** were at lower levels at \$22,923 compared to \$32,008 for FY 21 due to reduction in issues per year and copies of the **Passage magazine**.

Balance Sheet

Fees received in Advance for FY21-22 (\$92,148) were higher than for FY20-21 (\$26,733) due to planning for Study Tours and Docent Training in FY22-23. This was also reflected in our **higher Bank Balances** - up to \$778,848 at FY22 from \$668,872 at FY21.

As of 30 September 2022, FOM had **Accumulated Funds** of \$607,202 that were fully backed by **Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the financial year** totaling \$ 778,848.

We were able to add to the accumulated reserves this year. The Council continues to practice financial prudence and find alternative innovative methods of generating revenues. We are committed to ensuring FOM's continued financial viability and astuteness as far as possible.

Item 2. Vote on resolution to approve the Audited Accounts for the financial year ended 30 September 2022

The President asked for the above motion to be approved.

- Hilary White moved the adoption of the resolution to approve the Audited Accounts for the financial year ended 30 September 2022.
- Effie Rigopoulou seconded the motion.

The President opened the floor for any questions regarding the resolution. There were no questions. The membership was informed that as all present had already voted electronically via Absentee Ballot, votes will not need to be taken at the meeting. The results of the vote for the approval of the Audited Accounts of the Friends of the Museums (Singapore) for the Financial Year that ended 30 September 2022 would be announced at the end of the meeting.

Item 3. Vote on resolution to approve the appointment of auditors PlanPartners PAC for the financial year ending 30 September 2023

The President asked for the above motion to be approved.

- Kalyani Kausikan moved the adoption of the resolution to approve the appointment of PlanPartners PAC, or successor organisations, as auditors for the year ending 30 September 2023.
- Tina Sim seconded the motion.

The President opened the floor for any questions regarding the resolution. There were no questions. The membership was informed that as all present had already voted electronically via Absentee Ballot, votes would not need to be taken at the meeting. The results of the vote to appoint PlanPartners PAC, or successor organisations, as auditors for the financial year

ending 30 September 2023 would be announced at the end of the meeting.

Item 4. Announcement of Resolutions vote and Election results for 2022-23 Council members.

With the results of the e-voting ballot tallied, the President invited Durga Arivan, Elections Administrator and Head Teller, to read the results.

1. The Motion to approve the Minutes of the 18th Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Museums (Singapore) held on 8 December 2021 was APPROVED by a majority vote. The motion was passed.
2. The Motion to approve the Audited Accounts of the Friends of the Museums (Singapore) for the financial year ended 30 September 2022 was APPROVED by a majority vote. The motion was passed.
3. The Motion to appoint PlanPartners PAC, or successor organisations, as auditors for the Friends of the Museums (Singapore) for the financial year ending 30 September 2023 was APPROVED by a majority vote. The motion was passed.

Next, Durga Arivan announced the election results for the FOM 2022-23 Council Members.

The following 2022-23 Friends of the Museums Council members were ELECTED by the membership:

Position	Council Member	Vote
President	Millie Phuah	Elected by a majority vote
Vice President	Karen Ng	Elected by a majority vote
Honorary Treasurer	Linda Lim	Elected by a majority vote
Honorary Secretary	Lee Hong Leng	Elected by a majority vote
Council Representative	Charlotte Dawson	Elected by a majority vote
Council Representative	Robyn Lloyd	Elected by a majority vote
Council Representative	Oksana Kokhno	Elected by a majority vote
Council Representative	Michelle Lim	Elected by a majority vote
Council Representative	Rupa Tamsitt	Elected by a majority vote

The President asked if there were any further questions on the business of the day. No

