

Council Nominees 2017-18



PRESIDENT, CLARA CHAN

Clara is a Singaporean and joined FOM in 2009. She was President of FOM in 2016 and 2017. Her journey with FOM began in 2010 when she completed her docent training at the National Museum of Singapore (NMS). Since then, she has also completed docent training at the Malay Heritage Centre (MHC), the NUS Baba House and The National Gallery. Clara now actively guides at these various museums. She is passionate about Singapore's history and heritage and enjoys sharing her knowledge with people. She has taken up many roles in FOM including Co-Head of docent training at NMS in 2011, Co-Head of docent training at MHC in 2013 and 2014. Clara has also assumed other leadership roles in FOM including the development of the inaugural docent training program at MHC in 2013. She was the MHC Coordinator from 2013 to 2014 and Joint NMS Coordinator from 2014 to 2015. Prior to joining the world of volunteerism, Clara was Head of Transaction Management in the Investment Banking Department of a Japanese merchant bank. She holds a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration and a Bachelor Degree in Law (Hons).



VICE-PRESIDENT, MELISSA YEOW

Melissa is a Singaporean and a sixth generation Peranakan. She served as the Honorary Treasurer of FOM from 2015 to 2016. Melissa embarked on a journey to discover her roots, which led her to join FOM's docent training program in 2013. Since then, Melissa has become a docent at The Peranakan Museum, and subsequently took up the roles of Speaker Coordinator and Co-head of Docent Training for 2014-15. She has also guided at The Malay Heritage Centre. A physiotherapist by profession, Melissa has worked in both public hospitals and in private practice. She is currently doing home therapy & rehabilitation for the elderly. A love for singing has prompted Melissa to be part of the Peranakan Association's Choir group, Peranakan Voices. She also performs with Peranakan Siblings in their annual stage plays.



HONORARY SECRETARY, SUSAN FONG

Susan is a Singaporean, joined FOM in 2014 and started her docent training at the Peranakan Museum. She was Co-head of docent training and a member of the Nyonya Needlework research team in 2015 and 2016 respectively. For the past one year, she served as Honorary Secretary of FOM. She also guides at NUS Baba House. Susan has a fashion degree from California and worked as a senior apparel buyer. Besides volunteering actively, she has been running a home clothing business for 12 years. She has a teacher's diploma in ikebana and enjoys pottery and travelling.



HONORARY TREASURER, SOPHIA KAN

Sophia is a Singaporean and joined FOM in 2004. She is currently serving as its Honorary Treasurer. Since 2004, she has also trained as a docent and guided at the Singapore Art Museum, The Peranakan Museum and the National Museum of Singapore. She has also taken on various roles within the docent training teams at these museums. An accountant by training, Sophia has worked as an auditor in an international public accounting firm as well as an analyst in local and offshore banks. She is an active volunteer in the parent support groups of her children's schools.



**COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE - MEMBER ACTIVITIES,
HEATHER MUIRHEAD**

Heather was born in South Africa, of British parents, but is now an Australian. She has been an expat for 24 years, both in Hong Kong and Singapore. She joined FOM in 2009 and has been active in a variety of roles. She started by running the Membership Desk at the Monday Morning Lectures and, since 2012, has been very involved in Explore Singapore! Since 2014 she has been guiding tours for the URA/FOM Chinatown Heritage Trails and for the last 2 years has also run the Docent Training Programme; together with being the Coordinator and Scheduler. She volunteers for the Salvation Army, runs a book group for ANZA and plays mahjong and cards. Heather loves to read and travel. She enjoys history, culture, religions and increasing her knowledge on all of those subjects.



COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE – MUSEUMS, SARAH LEV

Sarah was born in Jerusalem, Israel. She is an active docent at SAM and STPI as well as the National Gallery. Sarah served as the SAM coordinator for two years until 2016 when she took the role of a council representative – museums. Sarah has a BA degree in Geography and Archaeology from the Haifa University and has worked as a government licensed tour guide in Israel. Upon her move to America she continued to work in tourism, specializing in Christian Pilgrimage group tours to the Middle East and Europe. She lived in California for 25 years before moving to Singapore six years ago. Sarah is fascinated by the region's culture and art and enjoys traveling and exploring.



COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE – MEMBERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION, SADIHA SHAHAL

Sadiyah is a Singaporean, she joined FOM in 2014 and now guides at the Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall and the Malay Heritage Centre. She enjoys guiding adult and children alike and look forward to be a trained docent in other Museums too. Upon graduating from the National University of Singapore Sadiyah worked as a current affairs TV producer-presenter with the national broadcaster. She later changed her profession and graduated with Bachelor's Degree and then a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education. Sadiyah also volunteers at a Centre for children life threatening illnesses. Humbled by the strong support she receives from the FOM members for her efforts in Volunteer Appreciation events, Sadiyah feels encouraged to serve her third term in the Council.



COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE - COMMUNICATIONS, GISELLA HARROLD

Gisella is from Germany and became a FOM member, the moment she arrived in Singapore in 1995. In 2010, she once again became an active FOM member, by completing the ACM docent training. Since then, she has volunteered in a variety of leadership roles, including ACM Training Co-head, ACM Coordinator and Overall Co-head of Training. Travelling, cooking, history and the arts are some of her hobbies and through FOM's study tours, she has been able to cover all these areas. She has also co-lead some of FOM's tours. Over the years, she has developed an interest in photography and now often provides photos used by FOM, in Passage and the website.



COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE - MARKETING, ILKNUR YILDIZ

Ilknur is from Austria and joined FOM in 2013. After training as docent at the Singapore Art Museum (SAM) and guiding several exhibitions, she took on the role of Co-Head of docent training there from 2015-16. Before moving to Singapore, Ilknur worked for 21 years in a global IT company in various positions, mainly in change management and training teams. She has a degree in Occupational Therapy, specialising in children and young adults. She also has a degree in Intercultural Conflict Management/Mediation and conducts workshops for institutions in Austria. She is passionate about books and is member of the German Book Club in Singapore. She is currently working on a children's book with her youngest son.