

Project Lucidus 07-29

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Multi-Year

Section 1: Overview

1. Area of Concern

The visually impaired (VI) community in Singapore numbers an estimated 28,000¹ and is expected to expand due to rising ageing population, for it in turn potentially leads to eye illnesses and vision loss². As such, there is a need to increase public awareness on how to properly treat and help the community as the society progresses towards a more inclusive and empathetic environment for the visually handicapped. In addition, since there are only eight³ guide dog teams, the severe lack of public exposure results in a low level of understanding and acceptance towards the guide dogs and their users. Consequently, this leads to numerous cases of discrimination against the teams⁴. Therefore, it is also our concern to raise awareness for the guide dog community.

Our beneficiary, Guide Dogs Singapore (GDS), is a non-profit organization that provides Guide Dogs Programme, Orientation and Mobility Programme, etc. with the aim to empower their VI clients to live safely and independently. The programmes are expensive: it takes \$45,000 to train a guide dog. Since GDS solely depends on donations from corporates and individuals to offer free programmes for their beneficiaries, we identify fund-raising as an important aspect to further help the VI and guide dog community.

2. Challenges Identified

Since greying population would likely expand the VI community, it is vital to increase public understanding and acceptance towards the community, so as to reduce misconceptions and discrimination against the handicapped. Besides many being

¹ More places open to guide dogs, The Straits Times

² BUILDING SIGHT - DESIGN FOR ALL, BCA

³ Many Singaporeans still don't know what guide dogs are, as this lady's account reveals, Mothership

⁴ Guide dogs not welcome in Singapore? Asiaone. Blind man couldn't get into lift because of guide dog, The Pride. Guide dogs at work, Youth.SG

unaware of the roles of guide dogs, the general public also has little knowledge of how to correctly help the VI community. A simple illustration would be that, despite their good intention to provide guidance, many would often startle the visually handicapped when they suddenly grab the latter's arms. Hence, a challenge would be the lack of awareness and knowledge on how to properly help the VI community.

Another challenge would be the lack of funds faced by GDS. Also, the title of GDS often creates misunderstanding that GDS' work only revolves around guide dogs when, in actual fact, it essentially helps the VI community as a whole. Thus, we need to raise awareness for the mission of GDS as well.

3. Underlying Problem

Given that the public lacks the awareness and knowledge of the guide dog and VI community, and that GDS lacks funding for their programmes, how could we increase public understanding and acceptance towards the guide dog and VI community and raise funds for GDS?

4. Plan of Action

GDS explained that they lacked funds for their programmes and that there was a need to expand public outreach to increase awareness for the guide dog and VI community. We wanted something fresh and impactful unlike concerts. Hence, we decided to hold Streets Sales (SS), Bake Sales (BS), Guide Dog Fair (GDF) and Art to Heart Exhibitions (ATH/心艺) to raise funds and awareness for GDS, increasing public understanding that the VI community is as capable as anyone, and spread information on how to appropriately help the community.

We received a sponsorship of \$1600 from Citi-YMCA Youth for Causes and \$5000 from Ascendas-Singbridge.

During June, the HS members were to participate in SS and be in charge of game stations of GDF. In July, we planned Marks & Spencer's BS. Starting from April, we searched up possible venues for ATH, as well as local visually impaired artists and got to meet Cultural Medallion recipient, Ms. Chng Seok Tin; thereafter, we kept in touch with her assistant, Ms. Kim Ong to discuss details for ATH. Ms. Ong also recommended Ms. Tang Junie, a professional organizer of art exhibitions at Very Special Art, to help us with the layout and budget plan. During late July and early August, we planned to expand our networks and reach two other VI artists, Mr. Victor Tan and Mr. Wesley Seah. We planned to gather support from various enabled artists for our cause and invite Senior Minister of State Ms. Sim Ann, Principal of Hwa Chong Institution Mr. Pang Choon How, Director of GDS Ms. Tan Hwei Lan and other VIPs to ATH to maximize our social impact and publicity outside Hwa Chong Institution. Through ATH, we hoped to convey that disability does not mean disabled, thus inspiring and empowering both enabled and persons with disabilities.

Section 2: Implementation of the Plan

Actions and outcomes to date

Date	Actions Taken	Objective(s) and Outcome(s)
April	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contacting and meeting with VI artist, Ms. Chng Seok Tin 2. Regular communications with the artist or her assistant, Ms. Kim Ong 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To plan for ATH Exhibitions.
May to	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposals for ATH Exhibitions 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To raise funds and

<p>June</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Street Sales 3. Guide Dog Fair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Simulation games, such as Blindfolded Escape Room, Guess Items Without Sight and Braille Tutorial ● Busking ● Merchandise Sales 4. Publicity video <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduces how to properly help the visually impaired 	<p>awareness for GDS, as well as increasing understanding and acceptance towards the guide dog and VI community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Raised ~\$2489 ✓ Received ~500 guests
<p>July</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marks & Spencer's Bake Sales 2. Preparation for ATH Exhibitions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contacting and meeting with potential venue holders ● Designing posters and E-invitations ● Procurement of materials needed for workshop activities ● Contacting other VI guests to facilitate the workshop and share their experiences with the visitors ● Expanding networks to contact Mr. Tan and Mr. Seah 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To raise funds and awareness for GDS, as well as increasing understanding and acceptance towards the guide dog and VI community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Raised ~\$105 ✓ Secured Jurong Regional Library (JRL),. ✓ Secured Hwa Chong Cultural Centre Arts Exhibition Hall (HCCC) for free.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Three sculptures from Mr. Tan ✓ Five paintings by Mr Seah.
<p>August</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mini ATH Exhibition at Jurong Regional Library 2. ATH 心·艺 Exhibition at HCCC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Transportation of artworks ● Help from 8 volunteers in setting-up ● Help from Ms Ong and Ms Tang ● Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Simulation Games: Wire Sculptures blindfolded, Calligraphy in the dark, Braille Art ● Sharing sessions by VI guests ● Introduces GDS and how to properly help VI persons 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To showcase works by VI artists. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide a platform for social interactions between the VI community and the public. ● Emphasize that as long as one uses his/her heart, he could achieve greater heights beyond physical or mental barriers. ● Make the public empathize with the VI community. 2. To raise funds and awareness for GDS, as well as increasing understanding and

		<p>acceptance towards the guide dog and VI community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Raised ~\$315✓ Obtained ~250 signatures/words of encouragement from the public.✓ Received ~350 guests✓ Received 48 feedback forms (See Annex 1)✓ Guest of Honour: SMS Ms. Sim Ann✓ VIPs: Mr. Pang Choon How (Principal of Hwa Chong Institution), Ms. Tan Hwei Lan (Director of GDS), Mr. Ando Yeo (Executive Director of SAVH), Mdm. Lim Sue Luan (San Yi Finger Painting Society, Federation of Arts Society, Women Artists Association), Mr. Chuang Shaw Peng(Deputy
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		director of HCAA) Mr. Lim Seng Keong (Secretary of San Yi Finger Painting Society), Ms. Chng, Mr. Tan, Mr. Seah and more.
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Section 3: Project Outcomes

1. Accomplishments

We raised around \$3000 for GDS through Street Sales, Bake Sales, GDF and ATH. Our volunteers doing SS and BS also educated the public on the VI community and our beneficiary. We received a total of about 950 guests during GDF and ATH. We had gathered over 200 words of encouragement on our Wish Walls. We have 561 followers and around 500 likes on Instagram. Ms. Sim, Mr. Pang, Ms. Tan and the guests had interacted with the three artists and other VI guests; Mr. Pang dined with the artists as well; the artists also introduced their works to the guests. The feedback forms at ATH showed overwhelmingly positive results.

2. Reflection on Outcomes

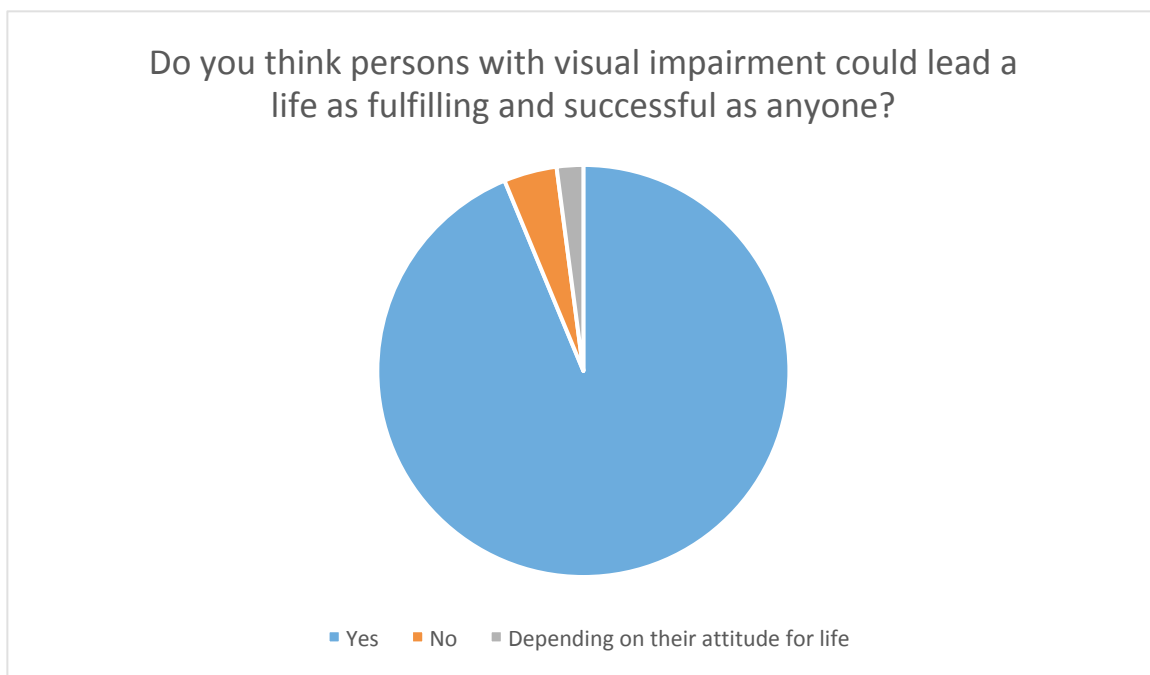
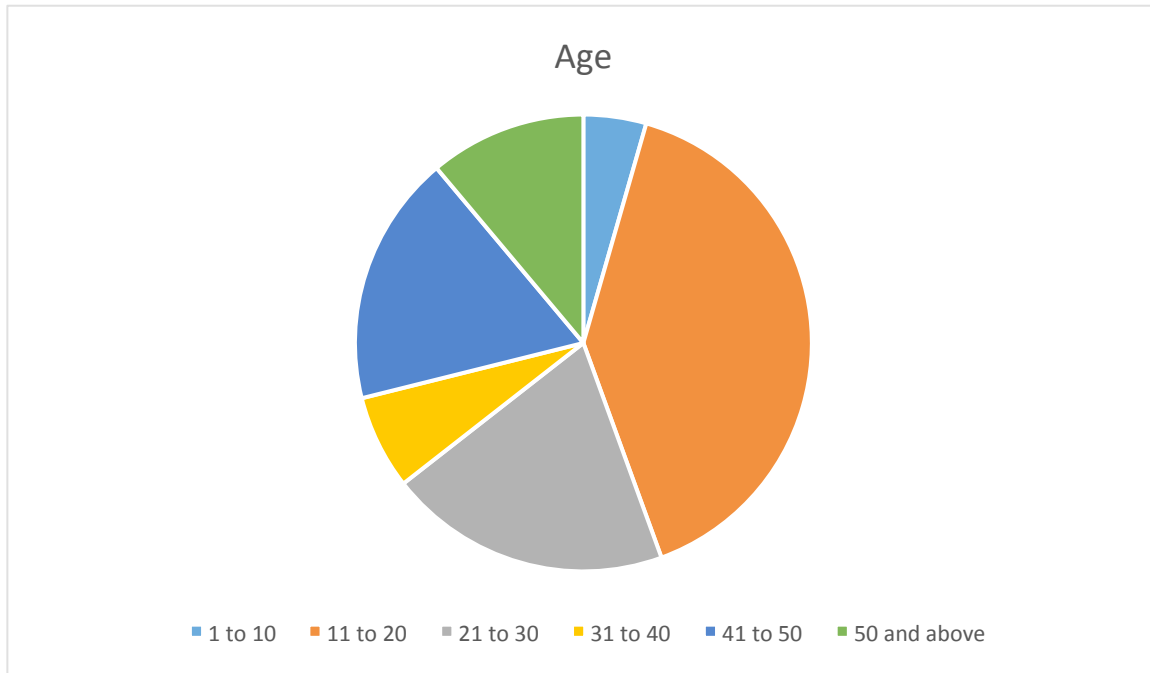
The most important thing is to be grateful to everyone who had helped us along the way. These events were really impossible without their support. Nearing the exhibitions, Ms. Chng once refused to lend us the works due to our inexperience and insufficient planning. But depressed as we were, we learnt to persevere like how we did in April when we were rejected over and over again. Eventually, we made it through with the help of Ms. Ong and all other kind-hearted people and organizations. We were so happy to see the events take shape and how our guests enjoyed them. You cannot touch someone else when you are not touched. We were just amazed by what the VI artists could accomplish.

Many were struck when we explained that the piece in front of them was created by a VI artist. Their kind words revealed their support for the community as well. Now, we are discussing to have a long-term partnership between the artists and Ascendas-Singbridge, so as to keep the thread and ensure the sustainability of the project.

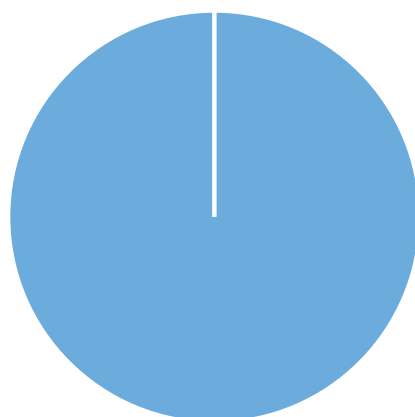
Reference

1. AsiaOne. (n.d.). Guide dogs not welcome in Singapore?. [online] Available at: <http://www.asiaone.com/health/guide-dogs-not-welcome-singapore> [Accessed 15 Aug. 2018].
2. BAKER, J. (2016). More places open to guide dogs. [online] The Straits Times. Available at: <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/more-places-open-to-guide-dogs> [Accessed 15 Aug. 2018].
3. Bca.gov.sg. (n.d.). [online] Available at: <https://www.bca.gov.sg/BarrierFree/others/SAVH.pdf> [Accessed 15 Aug. 2018].
4. Chiam, V. (2016). Guide dogs at work. [online] Youth.SG. Available at: <https://www.youth.sg/Our-Voice/Your-Take/2016/1/Guide-dogs-at-work> [Accessed 15 Aug. 2018].
5. Lim, B. (2017). Blind man couldn't get into lift because of guide dog - The Pride. [online] The Pride. Available at: <https://pride.kindness.sg/blind-man-couldnt-get-lift-guide-dog/> [Accessed 15 Aug. 2018].
6. Tan, J. (2017). Many Singaporeans still don't know what guide dogs are, as this lady's account reveals. [online] Mothership. Available at: <https://mothership.sg/2017/02/many-singaporeans-still-dont-know-what-guide-dogs-are-as-this-lady-account-reveals/> [Accessed 15 Aug. 2018].

Annex 1

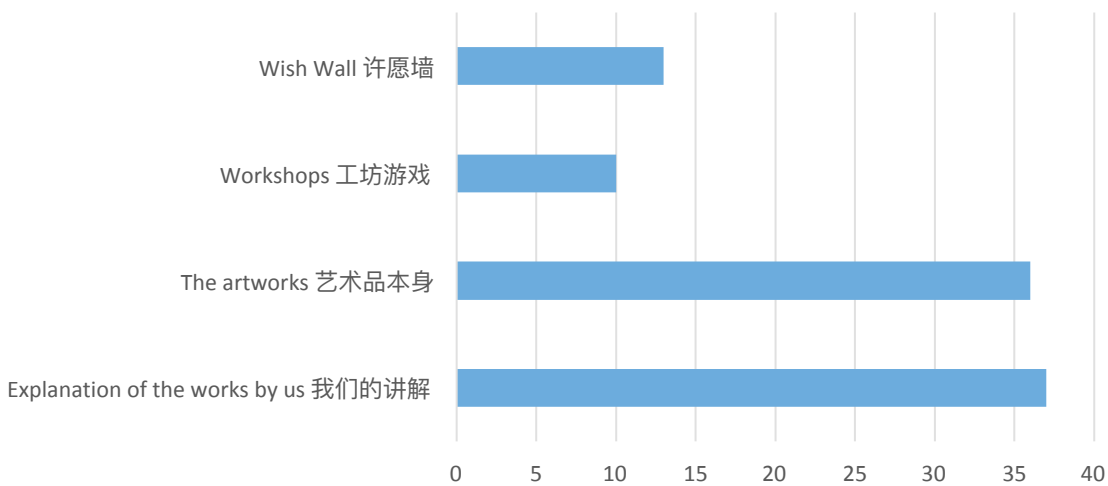


Do you think guide dogs are not pets but important working partners of the visually impaired?



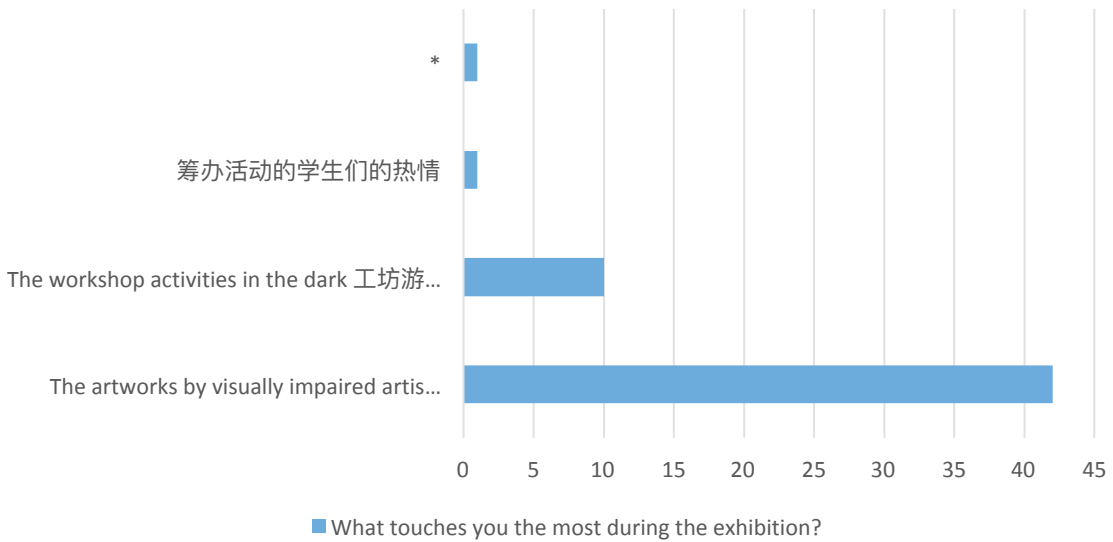
■ Yes ■ No

What do you like about Art to Heart?

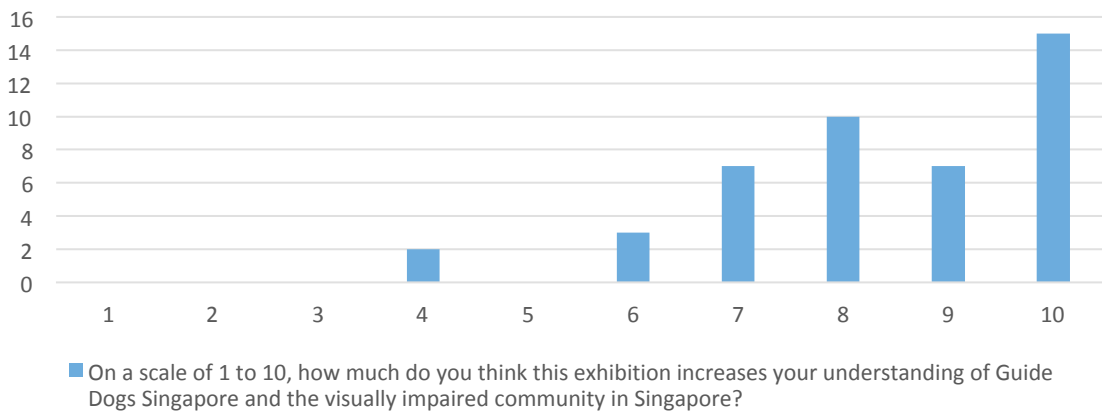


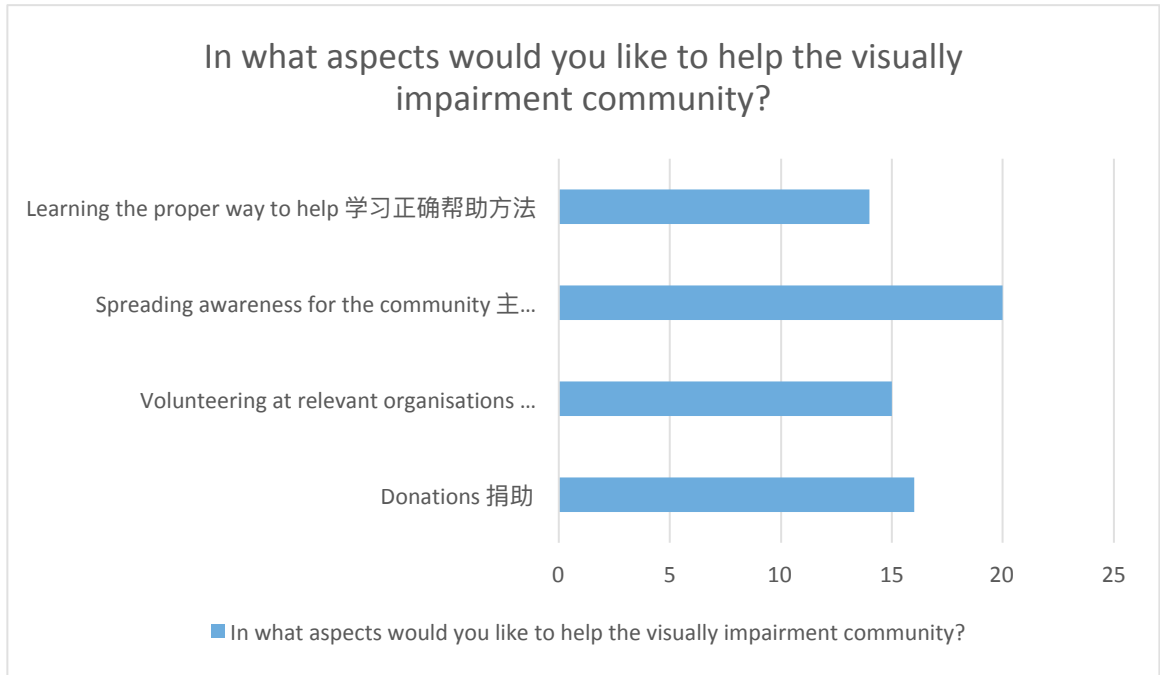
■ What do you like about Art to Heart?

What touches you the most during the exhibition?



On a scale of 1 to 10, how much do you think this exhibition increases your understanding of Guide Dogs Singapore and the visually impaired community in Singapore?





Your thoughts after the exhibition ☺
The artworks show that visually impaired people can work and create art as well as other artists, they even developed their own unique approaches.
good
真心替那些有残疾人士骄傲
感受到盲人的世界里也有光明，向他们致敬
很震撼，也很感动、只要心里充满阳光，明天会更精彩
excellent
只要人人都献出一点爱，世界将变成美好的人间
活着真好
bravo!
I think this exhibition is very informative and very meaningful!
Excellent explanation for art work!
很不错，第一次看这样的画展。
.

quite good

希望以后多举办这类活动

盲人也可以像普通人一样活出人生的精彩。

A very good project led by HCI students, to raise awareness of sight impaired persons.

Keep up Good work

Good collaboration between different parties for a meaningful cause.

There's so much beauty (but also darkness) in the world - I'm honoured to be able to share in others' worlds!

Thank you for the opportunity

Great !

Annex 2



iArtsg – Invest in Inclusive Art
for Artists with Disabilities
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16 August 2018

Re Project Lucidus

Team members: Meng Shiyao, Gao Yening, Qin Yi, Huang Yizhou

Shiyao, my touchpoint at Project Lucidus, first contacted me on 4 May about Project Lucidus. Subsequently, on 30th June onwards, we communicated frequently, along with other team members like Gao Yening.

They kept me abreast of possible exhibition spaces, sought my advice about organising the exhibition as I was their link to Cultural Medallion recipient artist Miss Chng Seok Tin, whom the Team first approached. Miss Chng advised them to approach HCCC for show space. The Team also did a promotion show at Jurong East Library on an earlier weekend.

From my interactions with the Team, I am impressed about their resourcefulness, wide knowledge and depth of empathy.

Despite their regular classes and class assignments, they work on the project late into the night. It must be an exhausting for this small team. Kudos to the team for taking on the project enthusiastically.

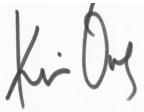
They were considerate of Miss Chng, a visually impaired 2nd generation artist in poor health.

About the opening, of note, the Principal, Mr Pang Choon How and his wife, HCIS Board of Director member Mr Chuang Shaw Peng came, so did the Senior Minister of State Ms Sim Ann. The teachers were so supportive. Bilingual host Yong Xi spoke eloquently at the opening, his fellow students on duty were super efficient.

Families of team members attended the show. However, knowing the enormous effort Team Lucidus made on organising the exhibition, I wish for promotion to and more support from the adults within

and around the Hwa Chong eco-system such as HCI Proed Parent Support Group and neighbourhood residents, neighbourhood committees.

My commendation for an excellent project with heart,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Ong". The signature is written in a cursive, fluid style with some loops and flourishes.

Kim Ong (Miss) Founder iArtsg

Annex 3



artsofvi
Hwa Chong Institution



gao_yening01和其他23位用户赞了

artsofvi 11 August 2018 : 心藝 (Art to Heart)

it was not the scale of the event that made me cherish the moments. The cause of the event and effort of Hwa Chong urged me to accept the invitation to participate in the event.

My honour to be 1 of the 3 blind artist featuring our artwork. It was great to meet Ms Seok Tin for the first time and to catch up with Mr Vicor after several years. I hope there will be more opportunities to showcase the artwork by the blinds.

#artsofvi #wesleyseaharts #painting #chineseink #artsbyvi #artwork #chineseinkpainting #visualarts #inkbrush #calligraphy

您的年龄

Annex 4

Age (45 条回复)

1-10	1
11-20	14
21-30	3
31-40	3
41-50	8
50 and above	5
24 and above	6
13-23	4
1-5	1

您认为视力障碍人士能够像任何人一样活得充实、活得精彩吗？

Do you think persons with visual impairment could lead a life as fulfilling and successful as anyone? (48 条回复)

Yes 是	45
No 否	2
Depending on their attitude for life	1

您认为导盲犬并不是宠物，而是帮助视障人士的伙伴吗？

Do you think guide dogs are not pets but important working partners of the visually impaired? (48 条回复)

Yes 是	48
No 否	0

您喜欢心艺的哪些方面？

What do you like about Art to Heart? (45 条回复)

Explanation of the works by us 我们的讲解	37
The artworks 艺术品本身	36
Workshops 工坊游戏	10
Wish Wall 许愿墙	13

艺术展最触动您的方面？

What touches you the most during the exhibition? (45 条回复)

The artworks by visually impaired artis...	42
The workshop activities in the dark 工坊游...	10
*	1
筹办活动的学生们的热情	1

您认为心艺在多大程度上帮助您更加了解导盲犬协会及视力障碍群体？1为很少，10为很大帮助