

NEWS RELEASE

20 September 2007

THE 3RD CDL SINGAPORE SCULPTURE AWARD IS A DRAW TO YOUNG ARTISTS – EXHIBITION OF WINNING WORKS AT SINGAPORE ART MUSEUM FROM 20 – 26 SEPT 07

As Singapore's cityscape changes dramatically with the addition of architectural icons like The Sail @ Marina Bay, the natural landscape evolves similarly. In time to come, a visit to East Coast Park will mean much more than just leisure and sporting activities; offering all an opportunity to engage with art, in particular a full-sized sculpture – created by the winner of The 3rd CDL Singapore Sculpture Award.

Over 30 exhibits, comprising the winning pieces and selected entries of Singapore's only competition for the sculptural form, the CDL Singapore Sculpture Award, will be on display at The 3rd CDL Singapore Sculpture Award Exhibition. These sculptures were created to reflect the dynamism of human aspirations and complement the natural landscape of East Coast Park, the designated site for the competition.

Jointly presented by Singapore Art Museum (SAM) and City Developments Limited (CDL), the Exhibition showcases the creative works of both established sculptors and budding talents as young as 12 years of age.

It will be held from 20 to 26 September at Singapore Art Museum, and will be officially opened by Ms Grace Fu, Minister of State for National Development on 20 September.

Designed to nurture artistic talent, and promote public awareness and appreciation for this art form in Singapore, the competition also provides participants with the opportunity to create a sculpture for a specific site. Held biennially, the Award also aims to enrich Singapore's sculptural landscape, through the commissioning and installation of the winning sculpture for display.

For The 3rd CDL Singapore Sculpture Award, the National Parks Board (NParks), a new inclusion to the organising committee, offered a site at East Coast Park for the display of the winning sculpture. NParks will be offering suitable public sites amongst its new or existing parks or new park connectors for the winning works of the competition, from this year onwards. This is in line with its vision of enhancing green spaces in our Garden City with works of art.

"The foremost aim of the Award is to cultivate a greater appreciation for this visual arts form amongst the community-at-large. With NParks' partnership and support, we believe that the profile of the sculptural art form can be brought to greater heights. The installation of the winning works from the competition at public parks will undoubtedly render them more accessible to all. Although sculptures are commonly seen in the urban environment, they can be used just as effectively to complement and enhance natural landscapes – and even encourage interaction with park-goers," said Mr Kwek Leng Joo, Managing Director of CDL.

Based on the theme "Aspirations", the pieces encapsulate the vibrant energy and lush landscape of East Coast Park. Drawing upon the essence of Singapore's most popular park as a space of limitless possibilities for youthful expressions, the sculptural forms engage park-goers, adding a dimension of excitement to leisure and play.

If found suitable, CDL will commission and install the winning entry of this competition at the designated site, which lies adjacent to the upcoming Extreme Skatepark (expected to be completed in mid 2008).

According to Ms Peggy Chong, Deputy CEO of NParks, a first-time adjudicator of the Award, "The creativity displayed by the participants of the competition was impressive – the participants created refreshing, unconventional sculptures that would encourage interaction with park-goers. The winning piece captures successfully the idea of having fun at the park, and when installed, will certainly be a talking piece for East Coast Park. In line with NParks' efforts to offer a variety of experiences to meet the diverse lifestyle and recreational needs of park users, this collaboration will provide all visitors to East Coast Park with the opportunity to engage with the arts."

The 3rd CDL Singapore Sculpture Award was launched in February this year, and saw the participation of a significant number of budding young artists as well as repeat participants. Over 40% of the submissions from the Student Category were from youths between the ages of 12 and 14. The youngest participant in the competition is an eight-year-old girl, who was encouraged and inspired by her grandfather, who took part in the last competition.

The competition attracted many professional sculptors and artists, architects, arts lecturers and students, some of whom are Singapore Permanent Residents or those currently working or studying in Singapore. It even elicited the interest of a Swiss tourist, who submitted an entry, after a visit to East Coast Park.

The CDL Singapore Sculpture Award was first initiated and organised by CDL in partnership with Singapore Art Museum, National Arts Council, LASALLE College of the Arts, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Sculpture Square and iPreciation in 2002. Held for the third time in 2007, it has gained the firm support of National Heritage Board and National Parks Board.

Said Mr. Kwok Kian Chow, Director of SAM, one of the Award's founding partners: "For the Singapore Art Museum, our engagement with the public is key, and being able to contribute in some way to enjoyment of public art sculpture in public domain is part of that broadening encompass of the art experience – where art is in everyday facets of life. It is part of the studied, conscious and aesthetical choice that every person undertakes daily as well as part of an individual's inquiry into designs and form that one is confronted with. Siting of public sculptures belies the complex negotiation and working that goes on behind the scenes. For this reason, we recognise the effort of everyone – from the youngest student participant to the established sculptors of the Open category, the organising and working committees for their dedicated and continued belief in this cause."

With positive response from the arts community and education institutions over the years, the CDL Singapore Sculpture Award has certainly established itself as a key competition in the arts calendar. CDL remains committed to supporting the arts and youth development, and together with its partners, will continue to grow this platform for nurturing and supporting artistic talent and creativity.

The winning work of the inaugural competition, *Reed Sculpture*, by Peter Chen has been commissioned by CDL and installed at Robertson Quay, adding to the appeal of the vibrant riverfront district. Plans to commission and install the winning sculpture of the 2nd Award to be sited at the urban park at the upcoming City Square Mall are underway.

THE 3RD CDL SINGAPORE SCULPTURE AWARD EXHIBITION

20 – 26 September 2007

The Glass Hall (Level 1) and Auditorium (Level 2)
Singapore Art Museum

Free Admission

For more information, please contact:

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ANNEX 1:

SCULPTURE SITE – EAST COAST PARK



Near Extreme Skatepark
(to be completed in mid 2008)

TAN WEE LIT –
ALL THE ESSENTIALLY ESSENTIAL
Winner (Open Category)

ABOUT EXTREME SKATEPARK

The new Skatepark will feature a Street Course, a Vertical Bowl and a Combo Bowl, and the three sections will merge seamlessly to form a larger course that would enable extreme skateboarders, inline skaters and BMX bikers to hone their skills and practise their routines for recreation and competition. The course is about 3,000m² in area, the size of 2½ Olympic-sized swimming pools, and both beginners and professionals will be able to enjoy the Skatepark and find features that suit their skill levels. The Skatepark will also be enhanced by spectator seating areas for both daily viewing as well as major competitions.

Developed by National Parks Board (NParks) and Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS), this new facility is in line with NParks' efforts to meet the diverse lifestyle and recreational needs of park users and with MCYS' objectives of creating new spaces for youth expression and engagement and providing an international-standard facility for extreme sports enthusiasts in Singapore.

Whether visitors are looking for a quiet corner or high energy buzz, there will be something for everyone in the parks. This latest addition will be a stunning facility with the sea as a backdrop, and will cater to a growing group of extreme sports enthusiasts. Located close to other sporting facilities such as cable skiing, windsurfing and beginners' inline skating, it will help establish a sports cluster at East Coast Park and will add vibrancy to this high-energy part of the park.