

Marine Barrage Public Art Project Proposal

Introduction

Singapore has 32 rivers and 14 reservoirs. They form an important part of the drainage and water supply system. The Active, Beautiful Clean Water program by PUB will harness the full potential of our water bodies. These reservoirs are kept and maintained by PUB.

In the old days, people were naturally drawn to water and set up their homes near it. However, with urbanisation, big drains and canals were built to channel away rainwater quickly to prevent floods.

PUB now wants to help everyone to reconnect with water and revive a lifestyle where water plays a central role. The Active, Beautiful, Clean water Programme aims to do just that. Chief Executive of PUB Mr Khoo Teng Chye said, 'The ABC Waters program is part of PUB's larger strategic objective to get Singaporeans closer to water and in the process, we hope they will cherish it more and want to take care of our waters by keeping it clean' As a result of this aim, Singapore's drains, canals and reservoirs will undergo transformations into more user-friendly streams, rivers and lakes by 2009, according to national water agency PUB.

Our Prime Minister Lee, in his speech at the ABC Water Exhibition said, 'In the past, we protected our water resources by keeping people away from them; now, we will bring people closer to water so that they will enjoy and cherish it more. Many of our rivers and canals are in or close to the residential heartlands. The waterways are therefore a natural focal point for water-based activities, community events, and other recreational options. By linking up our water bodies and waterways, we will create new community spaces that are clean, pleasant, and bustling with life and activities. We will integrate our water bodies with our parks and green spaces and turn Singapore into a "city of gardens and waters"

The term **public art** properly refers to works of [art](#) in any [media](#) that has been planned and executed with the specific intention of being sited or staged in the public domain, usually outside and accessible to all. The term is especially significant within the art world, amongst curators, commissioning bodies and practitioners of public art, to whom it signifies a particular working practice, often with implications of [site specificity](#), community involvement and collaboration. The term is sometimes also applied to include any art which is exhibited in a [public space](#) including publicly accessible buildings. Interactive public art are designed to encourage audience participation in a hands-on way.

For example, many education and outreach programmes had been initiated for Singapore Biennale 2006, carried out by various Biennale artists. At [City Hall](#) and [Blk 79 Indus Rd](#),

[Takafumi Hara](#) created artworks based on his interviews with the general public and local residents respectively. [Com&Com](#) involved local students in making paintings and drawings of Merlion and Mocmoc (a mythical creature created by Com&Com), while [Learning Site](#) collaborated with a kindergarten at Blk 79 Indus Rd on an art project that involves growing mushrooms!



About our programme

Objectives:

Water: our life force is an interactive public art project that is designed to

- Promote awareness of water issues locally and globally
- General personal reflection towards water
- Spark meaningful, deep conversions among viewers on water issues
- Create new avenues and audience for public art

Clearance from various authorities:

Dunman High School with the support of Public Utilities Board will be applying for grant from National Arts Council to carry out the project. The school would also apply for permission from Nparks and other relevant authorities to install the public artworks

Outcome:

The art students of DHS would paint a few banners to illustrate to the public what are the public artworks we are creating for display. The banners would be about 3 m by 1 m. The complete artworks would be displayed along Geylang on the lamp posts just like the Lamppost art exhibition or on scaffolding structures in different geometry shapes such as the Art Cube. The reflections of the students will be collated and put on display similar to the Dialogue project in US. Photographs of these public art projects are given below.

Public Art Project Committee (Dunman High School)

Mrs Koh Swee Ling (Environment Education Advisor)
Mrs Lim Boon Eng (HOD of aesthetics)
Ms June Loh (SH of Pupil Welfare)
Ms Christine Tan (CIP coordinator)
Ms Joyce Tey (Art Club Teacher & EE committee)
Ms Ho Kar Hui (EE committee)

Public Art Tour

To bring the public art project to the public, the banners would be brought to primary schools, community centres or libraries to engage the community members. They would be invited to paint on the banners according to the various themes such as water pollution, water conservation, water is life, water is precious, sources of water and our waterways etc. As they paint, the facilitators would be asking them to reflect on what they draw and these would be recorded. The reflections would be typed by the facilitators and would also be displayed together with the painted banners.

Time Frame

- Students of Dunman High and Changkat Changi Secondary will research and prepare learning centres from end October 2008.
- Suggested Interdisciplinary learning centres: sources of water, conservation of water, water pollution, water sports and safety, history of Singapore River
- DHS students to make samples of the banner
- The public tour will begin sometime in late January 2009
- Launch of Public Art at Site June 2009

Schools Involved

Dunman High School, Changkat Changi Secondary School, Greenwood Primary School, Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Primary School, Mayflower Primary School, Northland Primary School, Pioneer Primary School, Queenstown Primary School, St Stephen's School, Xishan Primary School and Zhonghua Primary School.

Budget Estimate

Transport : \$ 2000 - 20 trips

Banners : \$4000- 20 pieces (\$200 each)

Paints: \$ 1000

Brushes: \$200

Palette: \$100

Miscellaneous: \$500

Total: \$ 7800

Location of Public Art site

Geylang River (near to Kampong Arang)



The banners would be put on display sometime in June 2009 and would remain at that site for about 1 year. These banners are made of plastic and should be easy to maintain. Nparks officials and Dunman High Students can do some simple maintenance to check that the banners are in good conditions and to replace them if necessary.

Examples of public art in US:



Dialogue



The Color Project A lamppost art exhibit



Art Cube

References:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_art

<http://www.dialogueproject.net/index.shtml>

<http://www.singaporebiennale.org/2006/programme-education-programme.html>

<http://www.colorproject.org/>

<http://www.colorproject.org/>

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Proposal by Mrs Koh Swee Ling

Dunman High School

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