



PRESS RELEASE

NUS' cultural icon refreshed for a new generation

The University Cultural Centre's first major renovation improves the high standard of guest comfort, efficiency and production possibilities

Singapore, 22 March 2018 — NUS' University Cultural Centre (UCC) was formally reopened by NUS President Professor Tan Eng Chye this afternoon, after an extensive renovation.

The six-month revitalisation project is the first in the iconic venue's history. It improves the functionality, production capability and environmental efficiency of the Centre, reinvigorating it for high quality events for years to come.

"The UCC is constantly in the public eye and it is the first impression many distinguished guests have of NUS. We are ever mindful that the venue has the responsibility to uphold NUS' strong reputation for excellence," said Sharon Tan, Director of the Centre For the Arts. "By enhancing the interiors, such as the entrance, the open foyer, flooring and audience seating, we have ensured a standard of quality that our visitors expect of us."

"We have also introduced greater efficiency in operations and productivity through the use of technology. A green roof, along with air conditioning and LED lighting improvements have reduced the building's environmental impact. The addition of motorised fly-bars and upgraded electrical, cabling and security infrastructure means the UCC now requires less energy to run, and productions of all kinds can be delivered in more ways and with fewer people. Most importantly, we are assured of the technical reliability befitting the range of important events that are held here," Ms Tan added. Please refer to [Annex 1](#) for details on key features of the UCC.

Since it was first opened in September 2000, the UCC has hosted all of NUS' Commencement ceremonies and numerous political and cultural leaders, thinkers and well-known artistes and musicians. These include George W Bush, Tony Blair, Kofi Annan, Wole Soyinka, Nana Mouskouri, John Cleese as well as Singapore's Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong.

The UCC was also the venue for the State funeral services for the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's Founding Prime Minister and the late Mr S R Nathan, the sixth President of the Republic of Singapore. A list of notable events and high-profile presenters and performers is included as [Annex 2](#).

Speaking at the opening, NUS President Professor Tan Eng Chye said, “The UCC has hosted many grand occasions and exceptional people. But the value of the UCC to the NUS community goes beyond these signature events. The UCC enriches the NUS community through the opportunities this venue creates for our students to discover, develop and grow.”

As the cultural heart of NUS, the UCC reopening featured performances by NUS Lion Dance, NUS Jazz Band and a wind quintet from NUS Wind Symphony. The venue entrance is framed by large sculptures by Ng Eng Teng and Francis Ng, with further artworks displayed within the revitalised building. These include sculptures, paintings and ceramics by local artists such as Iskandar Jalil, Chong Fah Cheong, Delia Prvacki and Milenko Prvacki.

Historic and current images

Images of the new spaces from and the reopening event and are available at bit.ly/UCCmedia.

Historic images from the opening of the UCC in 2000, or key NUS events that have taken place at the UCC are available on request.

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About the Centre For the Arts (CFA)

Established in 1993, NUS Centre For the Arts (CFA) is a vibrant space for the appreciation of the arts and nurturing of the creative and inquiring spirit. We support student engagement with the arts and the integration of the arts into the life of the University.

We comprise the NUS Museum, NUS Baba House and a Talent and Development arm that oversees 22 student arts excellence groups. Through our myriad of programmes, practices, exhibitions, workshops and outreach, such as NUS Arts Festival and the ExxonMobil Campus Concerts, we enrich the university experience and contribute to the building of knowledge and transformation of students.

For more information, visit cfa.nus.edu.sg

About National University of Singapore (NUS)

A leading global university centred in Asia, the National University of Singapore (NUS) is Singapore's flagship university, which offers a global approach to education and research, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise.

NUS has 17 faculties and schools across three campuses. Its transformative education includes a broad-based curriculum underscored by multidisciplinary courses and cross-faculty enrichment. Over 38,000 students from 100 countries enrich the community with their diverse social and cultural perspectives. NUS also strives to create a supportive and innovative environment to promote creative enterprise within its community.

NUS takes an integrated and multidisciplinary approach to research, working with partners from industry, government and academia, to address crucial and complex issues relevant to Asia and the world. Researchers in NUS' Schools and Faculties, 30 university-level research institutes and centres, and Research Centres of Excellence cover a wide range of themes including: energy, environmental and urban sustainability; treatment and prevention of diseases common among Asians; active ageing; advanced materials; risk management and resilience of financial systems. The University's latest research focus is to use data science, operations research and cybersecurity to support Singapore's Smart Nation initiative.

For more information on NUS, please visit www.nus.edu.sg.

Annex 1: Key features of the UCC

Hall

The hall is a proscenium performance space with a modified horseshoe design and acoustic shelling that delivers optimum sound performance across the whole space. The adjustable orchestra pit makes the space ideal for live performances with, or without, a live accompaniment. Likewise, the venue proportions and updated production infrastructure support high quality multimedia presentations for seminars and ceremonial events.

The hall is notable for being a space with a substantial capacity that nevertheless maintains an intimate feel as no seat is more than 40 metres from the stage.

Maximum capacity:

1,700 over three levels

Key improvements:

- New seating throughout
- New flooring in the stalls
- Updated technical production infrastructure
- New lighting, air conditioning and other guest amenity improvements

Theatre

The UCC Theatre is an intimate and adaptable performance space. Its smaller proportions make it ideal for unamplified performances, yet the extendable stage can also comfortably hold an 80-piece orchestra.

Spread across three tiers, the theatre is the most customisable space in the UCC as the tiered seating can be retracted to create an open space for standing events.

Maximum capacity:

425 over three adjustable levels

Key improvements:

- New seating throughout, including a new seat retraction system
- Updated technical production infrastructure
- New lighting, air conditioning and other guest amenity improvements

Atrium

Nestled between the hall and the theatre, the atrium features extensive glass panelling that connects the comfortable internal space with the natural greenery of the UCC grounds. The design also mirrors the iconic façade of the UCC's main entrance.

This is a new addition to the UCC that will be used for functions, events and performances. The site was previously a courtyard.

Maximum capacity:

120 seated or 220 standing

Ancillary spaces and additional improvements

The UCC's function and support spaces include multipurpose rooms in a range of sizes, a self-contained VIP lounge and dance studio that mirrors the hall stage and that can also be configured for rehearsals or as a performance space for up to 80 guests.

NUS Museum

Located within the UCC complex, NUS Museum is home to three permanent collections of Chinese, South and Southeast Asian art, as well as the largest existing collection of works by late Singaporean sculptor, Ng Eng Teng. Throughout the year, the museum hosts a wide range of engaging and relevant exhibitions, talks and educational programmes.

Exhibitions opening in March 2018

- Rediscovering Forgotten Thai Masters of Photography | co-curated by Manit Sriwanichpoom (15 March – 21 July 2018)
- Crossings | A solo exhibition by Wei Leng Tay (8 March – 31 November 2018)

Annex 2: Examples of Distinguished visitors and events

Date	Event / Distinguished Visitor
Oct 2005	Nana Mouskouri, <i>one of the best-selling music artists in the world</i>
Nov 2006	President George W Bush, <i>then President of the United States of America</i>
Nov 2007	Tony Blair, <i>former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom</i>
Nov 2007	Prof. Richard Somerville, <i>Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Scripps Institute of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego</i>
Feb 2008	Dr Harvey Fineberg, <i>President of the Institute of Medicine and former Provost of Harvard University</i>
2008 and 2010	Dr Paul Volcker, <i>former Chairman of the US Federal Reserve presented twice</i>
Oct 2009	Wole Soyinka, <i>winner of the 1986 Nobel Prize for Literature</i>
Nov 2009	Kevin Rudd, <i>then Prime Minister of Australia</i>
Feb 2010	Kofi Annan, <i>former Secretary-General of the United Nations</i>
Jan 2011	Thomas Friedman, <i>New York Times columnist and three-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize</i>
Jul 2012	David D'Or, <i>award-winning Israeli countertenor</i>
May 2014	John Cleese, <i>celebrated comedian</i>
Mar 2015	State Funeral Service for the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew
Nov 2015	Political philosopher and Harvard University professor Michael Sandel
Aug 2016	State Funeral Service for the late Mr S R Nathan

The UCC has also hosted:

- 12 consecutive National Day Rallies (from 2001 to 2012)
- 8 consecutive National Day Investiture Awards Ceremonies (from 2009 to 2016)
- NUS Commencement ceremonies since 2001
- 13 consecutive NUS Arts Festivals

Annex 3: Key NUS events at the UCC

The UCC is a primary venue for major NUS events, including Commencement and University Awards ceremonies. It also hosts CFA's annual NUS Arts Festival and regular performances from CFA's 22 performing arts groups.

Upcoming events include:

- NUS Dance Synergy's 40th anniversary performance: [#HumansofSynergy](#) (Friday, 23 March 2018 and Saturday, 24 March 2018)
- NUS Wind Symphony's 50th anniversary performance: [InTempo 2018: Celebrations](#) (Sunday, 25 March 2018)
- NUS Halls of Residence's annual dance concert: [Dance Uncensored](#) (Tuesday, 27 March 2018 and Wednesday, 28 March 2018)
- Wednesday, 4 April and Thursday, 5 April, [The City Remembers](#), by Edith Podesta, NUS Stage & NUS Electronic Music Lab

For a complete listing of upcoming NUS performances, please visit cfa.nus.edu.sg/calendar