

# CITIES OF *Love*

AWARDS 2017

## **PRESS RELEASE**

***Embargoed until 19 Jan 2018, 3.00pm***

## **WINNERS OF THE INAUGURAL CITIES OF LOVE AWARDS UNVEILED THE SIX DISTINGULISHED AWARDS WINNERS.**

**Singapore, 19 January 2018** – “Cities of Love” Awards (COLA), officially announced the 24 winners at the Singapore Management University (SMU) today at an awards presentation ceremony. SMU’s submission won the Distinguished Award winner in the COLA Corporate /Environmental Category.

Launched in May 2017, COLA is the brainchild of Tai Lee Siang and Valerie Ang who co-wrote the [book “Cities of Love”](#) in 2016. Lee Siang and Valerie aimed to show how city dwellers can play a part in contributing to the sustainability of cities worldwide. (Please refer to [Annex A](#) for information). Following the publication of the book, both authors felt that more could be done to acknowledge commendable sustainability efforts. Today, most government and business leaders being aware of the issues of climate change have embarked on pre-emptive and corrective measures. COLA aimed to recognise the ground-up efforts amongst unsung heroes, enterprising individuals and corporates, in protecting and environment and to galvanise others to be part of the movement.

Award submissions were assessed by a jury panel comprising corporate leaders and advisors from the arenas of business and sustainability. Under the Social and Environmental categories, award winners were recognised at individual, corporate and group levels. Altogether, 6 Distinguished Award and 18 Merit Awards were presented (Please refer to [Annex B](#) for the Award Jury Panel and list of award winners.)

The 6 Distinguished Award Winners are:

### **Social Category**

- Dr Tan Chun Liang - Urban Greenery Workshops for Primary and Secondary Schools in Singapore
- Temasek Polytechnic, School of Applied Science - Decoding & Preserving Singapore’s Hawker Classic Dishes
- Sport Singapore - ActiveSG, A National Movement for Living Better through Sport.

### **Environmental Category**

- Mariam Mathew - Sungei Ulu Pandan Learning Trail
- Singapore Management University - SMU Grow initiates community bonding and sustainability practices.

- Siow Chin Yee, Ellie Yee, Bryan Lim, Koh Deng Yang, Toh Sing Ru - Back to School

The only recipient of individual/Social category Distinguished Award is Dr Tan Chun Liang. As a research fellow from NUS, trained in architecture, Dr Tan aspires to educate the younger generation in the design of urban greenery. Having found existing knowledge too technical for the younger minds, he devised learning tools such as scientific experiments and model making to enthuse the students to develop keen interest in green design. His determination propelled him to conduct workshops for some 10 schools and more than 200 students.

Temasek Polytechnic, School of Applied Science submitted their 'cookbook' project in an effort to preserve some of best loved Singapore classic hawker dishes thus preserving our unique culinary legacy.

Sport Singapore's submission highlighted the importance of sports as a vital means to sustaining a healthy lifestyle amongst residents of Singapore. The comprehensive vision and masterplan brings social sustainability to a great height unseen in any other societies.

In the Environmental category, Mariam Mathew took on a strong interest to educate the public on Singapore's active, beautiful and clean waterways. With inputs from PUB, she worked with her students to develop outreach materials and conduct education learning trips at Sungei Ulu Pandan site. Inspired by her initiatives, the students also took on roles as "Water Ambassadors" to share with other youths on the broader perspective of water issue.

The last Distinguished Award winner is a group submission by 5 individuals, the "Back to School Programme", an initiative by BCA and MOE. The team of students from different institutes of higher learning took on the role of Green Mark Consultants to help schools with the green mark certification. To date, they have helped a total of 8 schools to attain Green Mark certification in less than 5 months.

SMU GROW, SMU's sustainability movement under the Office of the President was delighted to celebrate its third anniversary with its win in the Corporate/Environmental Category. As a farming initiative located in the heart of the city, SMU GROW was born out of a desire to leave a lasting legacy – to learn, to give and to reconnect with nature.

Mr Tai Lee Siang, Founder and Chair of COLA and Chairman of the World Green Building Council said, "SMU GROW is an exemplary winner who combined passion and mission to enhance experiential learning in sustainability to ensure that students are not only equipped with the right knowledge but also embrace a sustainable lifestyle."

For more information about Cities of Love Award's winners, please visit <http://www.inception.city> or email [candy-tan@inception.city](mailto:candy-tan@inception.city)

### **About “Cities of Love”**

Earth’s environmental problems are far from being resolved. A large part of these are due to ever-growing cities. Despite more efforts are made to improve cities, it has been difficult to change them. One of the fundamental reasons is that people are not motivated to help change their cities. Apathy is now the number one obstacle to positive change. However, there is hope and Love is the antidote.

What you love, you will sustain. Cities of Love aims to urge, persuade and provoke fellow residents of our earth to collectively shape the cities we live in. To achieve this, her residents must again uncover the reasons to love and therefore sustain their cities. To this end, Cities of Love tries to identify the ingredients that could possibly be the reasons for such active love. When a city is filled by the people who love their cities, then we can have a greater chance of advancing towards a better tomorrow. Love is a mighty force to be reckoned with.

#### **Media Contacts:**

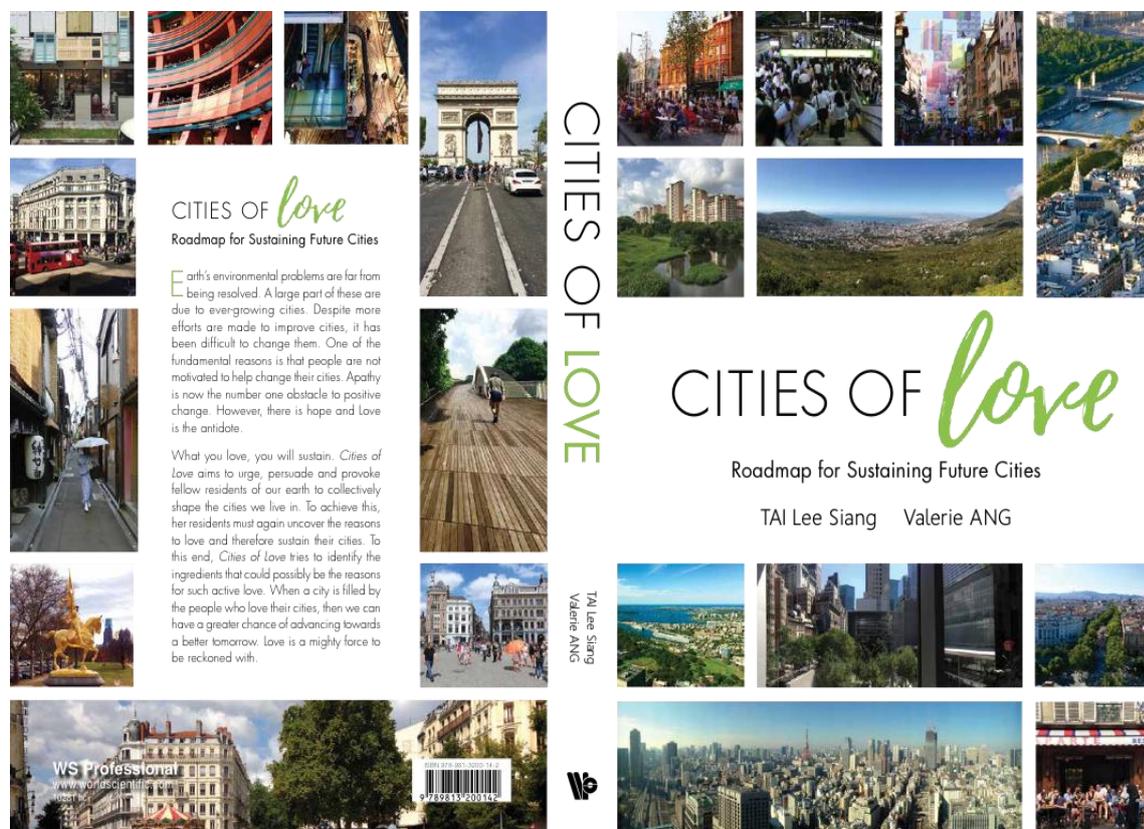
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## About Tai Lee Siang and Valerie Ang, Founders of COLA



Tai Lee Siang practiced as an architect and urban planner since 1990. His key projects won both local and international award and was featured in a URA exhibition “20 under 45” in March 2004. He held the position as President of Singapore Institute of Architects from 2007 to 2009. In 2011, he was elected as President of Singapore Green Building Council. Under his leadership, the first green building product certification scheme in Singapore was established. On the design front, he was elected President of Design Business Chamber Singapore in 2013. He started the Singapore Good Design Mark in 2014. Tai Lee Siang also held the position of Group Managing Director of Ong&Ong Group - a multi-discipline design firm - from 2011 to 2016. He is currently Board Member of Health Science Authority and Board of Trustee of Singapore University of Technology and Design.

Tai Lee Siang is committed to contribute on international front. He was elected as a Board Director in 2013 and Chairman of World Green Building Council in June 2016. Tai Lee Siang continues to lead efforts on the building sector to combat global climate change. Through his work, he has realised the path to achieving long term sustainability is through organisation transformation. Tai Lee Siang currently takes on advisory and consultative roles to business leadership to aid rapid and effective sustainability transformation.

Valerie Ang married Tai Lee Siang in 1989 and has since worked closely with him on various social assistance initiatives. These includes marriage counselling, outreach to teenagers and

assistance to dysfunctional families. After Tai Lee Siang embarked on the sustainability journey with the green building industry, Valerie Ang began to encourage him to take the message to the masses. In doing so, the couple began an in-depth research on how to effectively influence members of public to respond to the need to combat climate change. As part of this study, she advocated an emotive approach to the study of cities and thus giving birth to “Cities of Love” project.

Since 1990s, both authors traveled to as many as 150 cities. They witnessed rapid urbanisation and the impacts on cities in social, economic and environmental aspects. As part of their aspirations to be a catalyst for positive atmospheric change, they embark on a journey to promote “Cities of Love”. They believe in reaching out to citizens to first love their cities and then sustain them out of authentic and genuine response.

## Cities of Love Awards (COLA) Jury Panel and Award Winners

### COLA Jury Panel:

- Mr Allen Ang, GM, Project Management and Sustainable Design, Keppel Land
- Mr Ang Kian Seng, Group Director, Environment Sustainability Group, BCA
- Ms Esther An, Chief Sustainability Officer, City Development Limited
- Dr Mary Ann Tsao, Chairman, Tsao Foundation
- Mr Tai Lee Siang, Chair, World Green Building Council

The 24 awards cover efforts from individual, corporate and group submissions and are divided into social and environmental categories. There are 6 Distinguished Award Winners and 18 Merit Awards.

### COLA Distinguished Award Winners:

Social Category	
<b>Individual</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dr Tan Chun Liang - Urban greenery workshops for primary and secondary schools in Singapore. As a research fellow from NUS, trained in architecture, Dr Tan aspires to educate the younger generation in the design of urban greenery. Having found existing knowledge too technical for the younger minds, he devised learning tools such as scientific experiments and model making to enthuse the students to develop keen interest in green design. His determination propelled him to conduct workshops for no less than 10 schools reaching out to exceeding 200 students.</li> </ol>
<b>Corporate</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Temasek Polytechnic - Decoding and Preserving Singapore's hawker classic dishes. Temasek Polytechnic submitted their 'cookbook' project in an effort to preserve some of best loved Singapore classic hawker dishes thus sustaining our unique culinary legacy. Sport Singapore's submission highlighted the importance of sports as a vital means to sustaining healthy lifestyle amongst residents of Singapore. The comprehensive vision and masterplan brings social sustainability to a great height unseen in any other societies.</li> <li>2. Sport Singapore - ActiveSG - a national movement for living better through sport</li> </ol>
Environmental Category	
<b>Individual</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mariam Mathew - Sungei Ulu Pandan learning trail. Mariam took a strong interest to educate the public on our active, beautiful and clean waterways. With inputs from PUB, she worked with her students to develop outreach materials and conduct education learning trips at Sungei Ulu Pandan site. Inspired by her initiatives, the students also took on roles as "Water Ambassadors" to share with youth on the broader perspective of water issue.</li> </ol>

<b>Corporate</b>	1. Singapore Management University - SMU Grow initiates community bonding and sustainable practices
<b>Group</b>	1. Siow Chin Yee, Ellie Yee, Koh Deng Yang, Toh Sing Ru, Bryan Lim - Back to School Programme, an initiative by BCA and MOE. The team of students from different institutes of higher learning took on the role of Green Mark Consultants to help schools with the green mark certification. Today, they have helped a total of 8 schools attain Green Mark certification in less than 5 months.

#### COLA Merit Award winners:

<b>Social Category</b>	
<b>Individual</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cassandra Ei Lyn Seah - Connect, A senior interaction gadget</li> <li>2. Cassandra Ei Lyn Seah - MatchLink, A multi-sensorial game for people with dementia</li> <li>3. Ashley Ng - Why ID should go green</li> </ol>
<b>Corporate</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wiki Reno Pte Ltd - Wiki Reno mobile application</li> <li>2. Wan Kum Wah Richard - That is the way we show the world</li> <li>3. Sport Singapore - SportCares - A foundation and movement to empower the vulnerable through sport</li> <li>4. St Luke's ElderCare Ltd - Loving our neighbours</li> </ol>
<b>Group</b>	1. Javier Angel Anne Nazareth, Sim Tai Jin, Wibowo Fredy, Lee Yi Rachel, Fakhrul 'Izzah Bin Ahmad Zali, Zalina Sapir, Lim Wei Ling - Farm a Life
<b>Environmental Category</b>	
<b>Individual</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Joanne Koh Phuay Theng - GOL.D Starting from the schools (Green our little red dot)</li> <li>2. Cheah Swee Hock Frederick - Overseas Community Project - Light of Aural</li> <li>3. Terrance Tan - Greenridge Primary School</li> <li>4. Terrance Tan - Marsiling Primary School</li> <li>5. Tan Szue Hann - BCA Skylab</li> </ol>
<b>Corporate</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Systemnix Asia - Soil Chain System</li> <li>2. Ngee Ann Polytechnic - DIY Floating Wetlands</li> <li>3. North West Community Development Council - Green Living @ North West</li> <li>4. Surbana Jurong Consultants Pte Ltd - Sustainable urban solutions</li> <li>5. Gernise Global Pte Ltd - Gernise's journey to true global citizenship</li> </ol>