

ISSUE #39 (14 December 2018)



Welcome to Student Community Engagement's fortnightly update.

Migrant workers are special – they build our homes and they're part of our community but still largely unseen. Unlike lower-income Singaporeans who have safeguards such as government assistance programmes, family service centres, etc, migrant workers are especially vulnerable because they are unlikely to raise grievances and arrive here in debt.

According to the Ministry of Manpower, there are about 1.37 million migrant workers in Singapore as of June 2018. The lure of a better paying job in a wealthy country is a powerful driver of international migration. The attraction has intensified as income differentials among countries continue to grow.

18 December has been designated by the United Nations as International Migrants Day. You may want to approach a migrant worker on the street and wish them well in support of the [#YellowHelmetChallenge](#), or even visit [Migrant Workers' Centre](#) or [Transient Workers Count Too](#) Facebook pages to see if there are activities that you can show your support. Let us continue to appreciate our migrant workers.

Be informed. Be inspired. Be the change.



Articles and Updates

Spreading festive cheer to foreign workers

As part of a month long initiative, members of the public donate 20,000 gifts for project by ItsRainingRaincoats, a ground up initiative started in 2015 after the founder passed by a construction site and noticed a group of workers wearing garbage bags for raincoats. Read [more...](#)

Migrant workers volunteered to clean Pasir Ris Beach

A group of 10 migrant workers volunteered to spent their Saturday cleaning up the beach in Pasir Ris, which garnered the support of National Parks Board. Read [more...](#)

Giving migrant workers a taste of home away from home

Kadir and his friends from Bangladesh had never set foot in an HDB home – until now, with an invitation to iftar with a Singaporean family who believes in giving back. Read [more...](#)

Volunteer Opportunities



SHARE YOUR X'MAS JOY

It is the Christmas season and [SDI Academy](#), a social enterprise that promotes an inclusive society for migrant workers, needs your help as volunteers for an upcoming Christmas gathering. There will be a picnic, games and gift exchange! Let's help make this a fun day out!

Roles include game masters, logistics support, registration support and ushers. Volunteers are required to attend **both** sessions as detailed below:

Pre-Event Briefing

- **When:** 21 December 2018, 7.00 pm
- **Where:** SMU

Actual Event

- **When:** 25 December 2018, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm
- **Where:** Marina Barrage (TBC)

Register your interest at <https://tinyurl.com/sdixmas18>.



PROJECT REFRESH @ TAMPINES

Organised by [Young NTUC](#) and [North East CDC](#), Project Refresh aims to spring clean homes of low income seniors and those seniors who are staying alone.

Volunteers will help in cleaning, decluttering, painting, interacting with seniors, replacement of furniture and decorating homes with Lunar New Year decorations.

- **When:** 20 January 2019, 9.00 am - 6.00 pm
- **Where:** Tampines

Click [here](#) to read more and register your interest. Email your queries directly to nabil@ntuc.org.sg. Last day of registration is **13 January 2019**.



FREE HUGS SG

[Free Hugs SG](#) promotes positive interactions with the migrant community in Singapore. It aims to reduce the expenses of migrant workers and increase their savings through activities such as free haircuts and rescued food redistribution.

Free Hugs SG also rescues food that would have been discarded due to cosmetic reasons and redistribute these rescued food to dormitories on a weekly basis. The team is constantly looking for volunteers (vegetable collectors and drivers with own personal vehicle) to help in their distribution outreach.

Email freehugssingapore@gmail.com or write them a message on their facebook page to register your interest.



Embarking on your own volunteer activity or social advocacy project?

The CoLab4Good Fund seeks to support meaningful ground-up initiatives.

Find out more [here](#).



Upcoming Events



GLOBAL MIGRANT FESTIVAL

From factory worker poets to libraries for foreign domestic helpers, a new festival this weekend aims to draw links among migration, labour and art around the world. The first-ever [Global Migrant Festival](#) provides a platform for broader, critical, human-centric perspectives and dialogues on migration, in context of often vitriolic narratives that have dominated discussions on migration in Asia and across the world.

Catch an array of cultural performances, talks, films and panel discussions involving artists, economic migrants, refugees, academic experts and community advocates from non-profit organisations. The festival, which is intended to be biennial, also coincides with the finals of the annual [Migrant Worker Poetry Competition \(Singapore\)](#), now in its fifth year.

Film Screenings

- **When:** 15 - 16 December 2018, 6.45 pm – 10.00 pm
- **Where:** The Arts House Screening Room
- **Cost:** Free (*registration is required*)

Panel Discussions, Poetry Readings & Performances

- **When:** 16 December 2018, 9.00 am - 6.00 pm
- **Where:** Various locations – Goodman Arts Centre, National Gallery and The Arts House
- **Cost:** Free

Click [here](#) for detailed programme.



FLEA FOR GOOD

Organised by [Adrenalin](#), a social enterprise events agency, Flea For Good is a weekend flea market that provides shoppers and vendors alike with a delightful experience and the opportunity to do good at the same time. A portion of each booth rental will be donated to a charitable organisation.

With their purpose to produce “events with a heart”, Adrenalin is guided by the belief that every event is a unique opportunity to do good. Adrenalin’s social mission extends to employ and train physically challenged, deaf and youth-at-risk as part of its team. Through their events, Adrenalin has employed 100 beneficiaries on a full-time, part-time or project basis.

- **When:** 29 - 30 December 2018, 12.00 pm - 9.00 pm
- **Where:** City Square Mall (180 Raffles Road, Basement 1, Fountain Square, Singapore 208539)

Click [here](#) to find out more.

SAW

SINGAPORE ART WEEK

EXHIBITION: BENEATH TIDE, RUNNING FOREST

Globally, marine biodiversity is under threat – pollution is on the rise and oceanic life is disappearing. Yet, marine life thrives amidst Singapore's busy shipping lanes.

In conjunction with [Singapore Art Week](#), this exhibition is a conscious response to the beauty and ruin of these majestic ecosystems from four local artists. It is also a rallying cry that something needs to be done by everyone before it is too late. Come learn more about these fragile yet resilient ecosystems, and the efforts invested into restoring them.

- **When:** Now - 10 February 2019, 9.00 am - 6.00 pm
- **Where:** CDL Green Gallery (1 Cluny Road, Singapore 259569)
- **Cost:** Free



EARTHFEST 2019

Into its fourth consecutive year, Earth Fest is designed to be sustainable, fun, and inspirational for all ages! It will be bigger and better than before with 130 vendors!

Sustainability is key at this Fest! There will be a food fair of delicious international and new age planet-friendly foods, a Farmer's Market of local businesses with sustainable products, as well as other various opportunities such as talks, challenges, etc. There will be something for everyone and all interests.

- **When:** 20 January 2019, 11.00 am - 4.30 pm
- **Where:** Marina Barrage (8 Marina Gardens Drive, Singapore 018951)
- **Cost:** Free (prior registration is required)

Limited spaces available. Click [here](#) to register your interest.



Others



#YELLOWHELMETCHALLENGE

The [#YellowHelmetChallenge](#) is a campaign by [Labour Arty](#) to foster friendships between Singaporeans and migrant workers. By taking an Augmented-Reality (AR) self-portrait while wearing a yellow safety helmet – we encourage locals to strike up a conversation with foreign construction workers, who constitute part of the 1.4 million total foreign workforce in Singapore.

Through recognising and thanking them for contributing to the cityscape, the campaign aims to build understanding between different communities in Singapore. Here's how you can take part:

1. Go to yellowhelmet.dude.sg to access the yellow helmet filter on Instagram.
2. Take a picture/video of yourself or your friends with the yellow helmet filter. Save it to your phone!
3. Upload onto Instagram or Facebook with the hashtag above and comment how you will pledge to say hello or thank you to a migrant worker. You can also post a fact about migrant workers in Singapore. For example, *Do you know there are over 280k migrant construction workers in Singapore?*

For every post, Labour Arty will contribute \$5 towards festive gifts for migrant workers getting assistance at [HealthServe](#).

What're you waiting for? Join the campaign before it ends on 18 December 2018, in lieu of International Migrants Day.



UPSTART BUSINESS ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME

Organised by The [RICE Company Limited](#), the UPstart Business Entrepreneurship Programme is designed to identify, coach, refine and accelerate budding entrepreneurs and startups. If you have a business idea or aspire to be an entrepreneur, this programme might help guide you in translating your idea into a thriving company.

There are three phases to this 12 month programme: Phase 1 (January – March) Workshops & Coaching; Phase 2 (April – September) Mentorship and Phase 3 (October – December) Acceleration. At the end of Phase 2, there will be The Pitch and selected ideas will receive seed funding, in addition to membership to [Millet World Trading Post](#), a co-working space+ concept.

- **When:** January – December 2019 (workshops* start 9 January 2019 every Wednesday 7.00 pm - 10.00 pm)
- **Where:** 10 Square @ Orchard Central
- **Cost:** \$50 (Refundable upon completion of Phase 2)

*Workshops will be conducted by [Creative Futures Agency](#).

For more details about this programme, email nicolas_wong@milletholdings.sg. Click [here](#) to register your interest. The last day of application is **23 December 2018**.

Student Community Engagement aims to empower students to make a difference through positive social actions. We believe that young people have a critical role to play in building a better world for themselves and the community.

We provide students access to opportunities such as grants for their ground-up initiatives and social entrepreneurship efforts, internships at non-profit organisations, and training programmes to develop community leadership skills. More information at <http://www.ntu.edu.sg/sasd/communityengagement>.

[web](#) | [email](#) | [read our past issues](#) | [manage my subscription](#)

December 2018