



3RD JULY 2022

National Youth Council Celebrates Youth Month with Over 1 Million Youths in July

Partnerships with the private, public and people sectors will be key for more youths to access development and engagement opportunities

Throughout Youth Month in July, the National Youth Council (NYC) will celebrate our youths by collaborating with partners on a series of events and engagements and launch two digital campaigns – *#strongerthenever* and *Find Spark* – to encourage youth agency to drive change in their own lives, communities and beyond Singapore. The month-long celebrations, themed *Stronger Than Ever, Stronger Together*, acknowledge the diverse interests and needs of youth and recognise partners from the public, private and people sectors who are committed to support youth development and engagement opportunities for young people. Over 1 million youths locally and in Asia are expected to participate in both physical and virtual events, and in the digital campaigns launched on Youth Day by Mr Edwin Tong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth & Second Minister for Law. (Refer to ANNEX A for the transcript of Minister's Youth Day message)

Partnerships provide more opportunities for youth

2 Interest in development programmes, such as mentoring and ideation, and development and marketing workshops, have been growing in the past years, even during the pandemic. Youths also increasingly want to have a say in issues that they care about, as evident from the virtual engagements that NYC has pivoted towards in the last two years. Partnerships have thus been key in enabling NYC to develop meaningful engagements and programmes for youth. They extend their expertise, knowledge, resources and networks, and enable NYC to reach out to and empower even more youths.

3 Participation in the Youth Action Challenge¹ (YAC) has increased by 31.5%² in the last three years, from 259 youths leading 57 projects in 2019, to 281 youths leading 75 projects in 2021. Youths are also tapping on grants to lead ground-up initiatives or activities anchored in Somerset Belt. Applications for the Young ChangeMakers³ Grant has remained steady for the past three years at around 200 per year from 2019 to 2021, despite the pandemic. Similarly, Somerset Belt's Realise Your Somerset Project (RYSP)⁴ Season 2 returns in July with an increased participation of 58%, from 31 experimental projects in Season 1 to 49 in Season 2. Digital reach for youth engagement sessions held in 2021 also reached close to 5 million views.

¹ Refer to youthactionplan.sg for more details

² Based on the number of projects at pitch

³ Refer to <https://www.nyc.gov.sg/en/initiatives/grants/young-changemakers> for more details

⁴ The projects range from installations to multi-disciplinary works, the RYSP's unique and experimental programming projects will be mentored and guided by industry professionals and youth leaders and implemented from July onwards

EMBARGOED TILL 3RD JULY 2022

4 Mr Alvin Tan, Minister of State for Culture, Community and Youth, & Trade and Industry said, “This Youth Month, we are going beyond recognising youths who have made contributions to the community. We are also recognising the people and organisations who are committed to help our youths grow and deepen their stake in Singapore. Partnerships widen our networks and ensure our youths have the agency to make a difference. Our partners lend their resources, technical expertise, support and space for our youths to collaborate with peers in and outside of Singapore. I welcome more partners to collaborate with NYC and our youths to be heard, be empowered and be the change for our nation and our future”

Brief on Youth Month’s key events and campaigns

5 3rd July: **Mr Edwin Tong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth & Second Minister for Law**, will share a video message on his Facebook Page on Youth Day to officially launch NYC’s Youth Month celebrations.

6 4th – 7th July: NYC’s YAC partners, Citi Foundation and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), will be organising their annual **Youth Co:Lab Summit** for the first time in Singapore. The Summit showcases youth-led projects and social enterprises across Asia, including Singaporean youths from the last three seasons of the NYC’s YAC. The event will lead up to Season 4 of the YAC, with registration opening in August. **Mr Alvin Tan, Minister of State for Culture, Community and Youth, & Trade and Industry will deliver a keynote speech on 6 July.**

7 4th – 30th July: NYC’s first-stop youth portal, **Youthopia.sg**, in collaboration with Mighty Jaxx, has developed “Spark”, an icon inspired by the five values of the SG Youth Action Plan⁵. The Spark figurine will be launched during Youth Month and youths can win Mighty Jaxx collectibles and limited-edition figurines of Spark on Youthopia.sg weekly. This is the first time Youthopia.sg has partnered a homegrown company that designs and manufactures phygital⁶ collectables and lifestyle products to better resonate with youths.

8 11th July to 10th September: **NYC + ITE Zero Waste campaign**. A Zero Waste design contest, organised by NYC for the first time with the Institute of Technical Education (ITE), is currently underway to encourage conversations on sustainability and zero waste practices students can adopt on campuses. The campaign includes an engagement on Zero Waste in August with ITE students, and youths will be encouraged to participate in the Youth Corps Leaders Programme – NEA Youth for Environmental Sustainability Edition, to lead ground-up initiatives on sustainability.

9 From 23rd July: **NYC and Global Shapers Community (Singapore Hub)** will be collaborating for the first time on a series of National Youth Dialogues (NYDs) to discuss critical issues with young leaders in Singapore. The first dialogue on 23 July will discuss youth views on the “Forward Singapore” agenda. **Mr Alvin Tan, Minister of State for Culture, Community and Youth, & Trade and Industry will be a panellist for the first NYD on “Renewing Our Social Compact.”**

10 24th July: Together with the Singapore Sailing Federation (SSF), Outward Bound Singapore (OBS) will be providing youths the opportunity to sail in an OBS cutter, a 12-crew capacity craft on a 10-15 nautical mile passage race, around the eastern part of Singapore waters at the **Singapore Regatta 2022**. Youths can also participate in a Coastal Clean-Up at East Coast Park, organised with Better Trails. OBS’ partnership with the SFF aims to inculcate

⁵ Refer to [Youthactionplan.sg](https://youthactionplan.sg) for more details.

⁶ Physical collectibles that bridge both the physical and digital worlds

EMBARGOED TILL 3RD JULY 2022

an appreciation of the marine environment and promote good ethics and practices in conserving our environment as part of its 55th anniversary celebrations this year.

11 30th July & 6th August: Somerset Belt Office and Zendyll Collective will be deepening their partnership to launch the inaugural **The Majulah Block Party at Somerset Belt**. There will be a range of industry panel sessions, dance and music showcases from Youth Park to *SCAPE over two weekends. Youths can participate in talks and networking sessions and connect with industry leaders (indie label founders, artist and repertoire managers, musicians, personalities) in the music industry. **Mr Edwin Tong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth & Second Minister for Law, will be the Guest of Honour and participate in a panel discussion with local musicians on 30 July.**

12 Refer to **ANNEX B** for more information on our partners, and Youth Month events and campaigns.

Media Contacts

Tan Li Ling

Manager, Strategic Communications
National Youth Council
TAN_Li_Ling@nyc.gov.sg
9152 5420

Joanne Xiao

Senior Manager, Strategic Communications
National Youth Council
Joanne_XIAO@nyc.gov.sg
9862 2148

Suzanne Walker

Deputy Director, Strategic Communications
National Youth Council Singapore
Suzanne_WALKER@nyc.gov.sg
9873 8181

About the National Youth Council

At NYC, we believe in a world where young people are respected and heard and have the ability to influence and make a difference in the world. Together with our partners, we develop future-ready youth who are committed to Singapore by instilling in them a heart for service, resilience and an enterprising spirit.

Youth Day Message 3rd July 2022
Minister for Culture, Community and Youth
Mr Edwin Tong

Refer to [facebook.com/edwintongSC](https://www.facebook.com/edwintongSC) for a video recording of the message

Happy Youth Month! July is when we recognise and celebrate the youths of Singapore, so this message is dedicated to you, our youths.

This year, we acknowledge your resilience and tenacity in emerging Stronger Than Ever from the pandemic.

I am proud of how our youths have adapted to changing situations, never hesitating to put others first, and stepping up to help Singapore in your own ways.

Some, like student leaders from the Inter-University Network, are working to improve the mental wellbeing of undergraduates in universities. They have recommended for more mental health support and measures to reduce stress on campuses.

Others, like Dr Hamid Razak, a National Youth Council member, are creating opportunities for youths to be mentored based on their individual needs, so they can grow confidently in their chosen areas.

Youth Corps Leader Chan Ming Hui helped persons with disabilities discover and express their emotions as a volunteer. Now, he is studying to be a medical social worker and is committed to care for society's vulnerable.

Throughout July, the National Youth Council will be sharing more of such remarkable stories.

There will be a range of activities lined up too. From industry talks on careers in the music industry, to programmes for youths to lead ground-up initiatives.

I encourage you to seize these opportunities, or to organise your own activities.

Use this time to discover your passions. Be brave in acting on your aspirations. It is you, our youths, who will carry Singapore forward.

Together, we can create a home where we care for one another, and where we have a fair shot at our dreams.

Youth Month Events & Campaigns

Somerset Belt

The Somerset Belt Masterplan is a key project under the SG Youth Action Plan (SG YAP) – a platform for youth to shape their vision for Singapore in 2025. It provides a space for youths to experiment, lead projects they are passionate about and empowers youth to be a force of change.

Season 2 of the Realise Your Somerset Projects (RYSP) returns in July. Media will be invited to attend the pitch sessions where youths vie for up to \$50,000 per project to fund their lifestyle and experimental projects. More details will be shared later.

Other events lined up for July at the Belt include:

1. An interactive Telegram chatbot game based on different imaginations of the Somerset Belt, developed by students from Singapore University of Technology & Design (SUTD), will go live on 1st July;
2. **#somernights** – after-dark programming at Somerset Belt kicks off with two Silent Cinema screenings at the Skate Park in partnership with Cinewav on 2nd July; and
3. The **Rainbow Connection II** installation presented by the Malay Heritage Centre, conceptualised by local artist Lee Yun Qin and co-created with community groups from Brighton Connection will be on display for the whole month of July.

More information can be found at: <https://youthactionplan.sg/somersetbelt/>

Youth Co:Lab Summit

The Youth Co:Lab Summit 2022 in Singapore, co-organised by UNDP and Citi Foundation and in partnership with NYC, serves as a key milestone for the regional youth empowerment agenda by positioning young people and their innovative ideas, front and centre to solve the region's challenges. This year's Summit will showcase past YAC participants and youths from Asia driving their respective ground up initiatives on climate change and inclusivity.

This will be the fourth Summit and the first organised in Singapore in two parts: the Pre-Forum (4-5 July) is open by invitation only while the Main Summit (6-7 July) is open to the public. More information can be found at: <https://www.youthcolab.org/2022-summit>

National Youth Dialogue (NYD) – Renewing Our Social Compact

NYC and Global Shapers Community (GSC) Singapore Hub are organising a series of National Youth Dialogue (NYD) sessions on critical issues with future leaders. The first dialogue on 23 July will discuss youth views on the "Forward Singapore" agenda and frames the conversations that follow. Youths aged between 15 and 35 are welcome to attend the virtual sessions, and details are to be found at <https://go.gov.sg/nyd>.

EMBARGOED TILL 3RD JULY 2022

The Singapore Hub of the GSC is a community of young people under the age of 30 who are working together to address local, regional and global challenges. The GSC (founded in 2011) is an initiative of the World Economic Forum, with a global network of over 10,000 Global Shapers in 440 city-based hubs in more than 150 countries worldwide.

The Singapore Regatta 2022

The Singapore Sailing Federation (SSF) honours Singapore's national maritime heritage with the Singapore Regatta 2022 on 24 July. Beyond sailing, the event aims to build character through sailing, and nurture an appreciation of the marine environment and efforts in coastal sustainability. Youths interested in sailing on the Outward Bound Singapore (OBS) cutter will be briefed on how crew members should work together as a team whilst onboard, the day before the race (23rd July). The cutter expedition and coastal clean-up exercise in the morning with Better Trails, are part of OBS' 55th anniversary celebrations in developing resilient and rugged youths who champion the values of teamwork, diversity and environmental stewardship. Refer to sailing.org.sg for more information about the Singapore Regatta 2022.

Youth Month Campaigns

“Stronger Than Ever” video series

The videos, broadly categorised in three pillars – Trailblazers, Caring for Others and Emerging Resilient – will capture how 17 youths from different walks of life took unprecedented measures to make a difference in their lives and their communities. The videos will be featured at go.gov.sg/strongerthenever.

Find Spark on Youthopia.sg

Youthopia.sg serves as a first-stop portal for the latest news, resources and experiences that matter to youths. To celebrate Youth Month, Youthopia will be hosting Grab vouchers, Mighty Jaxx collectibles and limited edition Spark figurine giveaways. Hints on when the prizes will drop on each platform will be shared on Youthopia.sg and its social platforms.

Website: <https://youthopia.sg>
Facebook: <https://facebook.com/youthopiasg>
Instagram: <https://instagram.com/youthopiasg>