

Summary of Preview Tours at 42 Waterloo Street

(16 April 2021)

On 16 April 2021, NAC invited members of the arts community to two preview tours of 42 Waterloo Street (42WS), to share updates on the renovations of the premise and provide an early view of the refreshed façade and enhanced facilities that will be made available for use. Attendees included Centre 42's management team, Board of Directors and founding members, as well as various arts collectives, organisations, and Self-Employed Persons (SEPs).

NAC shared the background of the development of 42 Waterloo Street as an incubation space for the development of text-based works and playwriting, for Singapore theatre, as well as the formation of Centre 42 and their contributions to these areas. Centre 42 was also invited to share about their programmes and plans with those in attendance, while the Arts Resource Hub (ARH) shared its plans on the ARH's commitment to support arts SEPs through the availing of 42WS facilities.

Some key points covered included:

- Renovations are underway and slated for completion by end-May. Some changes include: a refreshed Black Box with tiered seating, full-length mirrors and dance mats in the rehearsal studio, a multi-use dressing room, a lounge for informal chats, and a modular meeting room.
- Centre 42 will return to their office in the annexe building after the renovations. NAC will continue supporting their valued work contributing towards the development of multilingual text-based works, playwriting, and Singapore theatre, including allocating Centre 42 priority and subsidies in their facilities reservations.
- ARH will also invite Centre 42 and other users of the space to run-in the facilities and provide feedback from June to September 2021.
- In the near term, arts SEPs and ARH subscribers will benefit from the same similar rental rates for spaces that were previously offered at 42WS.

- In addition to managing and maintaining 42WS, ARH will continue to support the professional development of arts SEPs, and to build and expand the arts SEP community and its networks.

NAC will also review the suggestions raised by attendees on facilities and equipment, configurations for outdoor programming, and modular or mobile solutions for the spaces in 42WS; and take them into consideration for implementation where possible. More information about the 42WS facilities will be shared publicly closer to its opening in the second half of this year.

Updates on the Arts Resource Hub @ 42 Waterloo Street

(8 September 2020)

NAC met with Centre 42 and a few arts SEPs on 8 Sep 2020 to provide updates and get feedback on the renovation plans for 42 Waterloo Street. Here are the key points shared:

- As a service provider and key resource in supporting the arts SEPs, ARH continues to focus on organising cross-sector professional development workshops, talks and networking sessions for the SEP community.
- Owing to the COVID-19 situation, the renovation schedule at 42 Waterloo Street (42WS) has been adjusted to take place from Nov 2020. Barring any unforeseen hold-up due to manpower, supply of materials and safety prerequisites, the Hub should be ready for operation by 2nd Quarter 2021.
- Arts SEPs can look forward to:
 - A refreshed exterior of 42WS, with ramps and inclusion of a Persons with Disability stairlift for better accessibility;
 - An upgraded Rehearsal Studio with timber floor, dance mats, full-length mirrors and drapes;
 - A dressing room with changing area, mirrors, tables and lights;
 - Refurnished alcove into a cozy lounge area for free access to ARH subscribers;
 - An enhanced Black Box including re-varnished flooring, dance mats, new sound and lighting consoles, two new projectors as well as video production equipment for digital content creation.
 - Meeting rooms will also be refurbished and made available to arts SEPs and groups for booking.
- ARH will oversee the booking of spaces including the Meeting Room, Black Box and Rehearsal Studio and ensure that they are at affordable rates. The three spaces will be made available to arts freelancers to incubate and present their works-in-progress and small-scale productions (ticketed or non-ticketed).

- C42 will continue to have its office space co-located at 42WS, and have access to book the spaces for presenting and programming artistic works.
- Arts SEPs can continue to subscribe to ARH at no charge for the medium term. Should paid subscription be implemented, the subscription rate will be kept to a minimum with member privileges to offset the subscription amount.
- Select arts groups and collectives may also be invited to help run in the spaces once renovation works are completed in 2Q2021.
- ARH will be planning another engagement session in end 2020 or early 2021 to update the community on the work schedule and arrangements for booking of spaces. If you have suggestions on how ARH can support you and your work, please write to us at artsresourcehub@nac.gov.sg.

Further Update on Arts Resource Hub @ 42 Waterloo Street

(6 February 2020)

Following Arts Resource Hub's last announcement on (ARH) @ 42 Waterloo Street (42WS) on 29 Jan, there have been more developments to share.

- 42WS renovations will take place until the end of 2020/ early 2021.
- The current spaces (i.e. black box, rehearsal studio, library, meeting room) will be renovated with structural improvements and disability access.
- After renovations, the theatre intermediary C42 will return to its office in the annexe building. C42 will continue to have access to the spaces for its core work in supporting artists, practitioners and new work creation.
- Spaces will remain available for all arts freelancers/independent practitioners to use at similar rates.
- The ARH will continue to work on programmes to support independent practitioners. All practitioners will have access to these spaces, as well as co-working and hot-desking facilities at GAC and SAC for meetings and administrative work.
- As the ARH maps out the upgrade of 42WS, NAC will also continue to gather feedback together with the C42 team on the improvements to be made to the spaces.

Update on Arts Resource Hub @ 42 Waterloo Street

(29 January 2020)

The Arts Resource Hub (ARH) is an initiative by the National Arts Council (NAC) to support freelancers in the arts, who make up almost half of the practitioners in the community. Following the launch of the web portal in September 2019 and a series of talks focusing on self-sustainability since November 2019, NAC also launched two spaces at Goodman Arts Centre (GAC) and Stamford Arts Centre (SAC) at the start of the year.

As part of the freelancer support, the pre-war bungalow at 42 Waterloo Street (42WS) was identified as the main site for the ARH as it is in a central location and will better serve the larger arts community. NAC is committed to an ARH with spaces available for the whole community - for rehearsals, discussions and presentations – and support artists and writers in the performing arts, visual arts and literary arts.

In refurbishing the new ARH at 42WS, NAC has been in conversations with the current tenant Centre 42 (C42) since 2018 to understand their needs as they are invited to return to the ARH as a tenant after the refurbishment. NAC is confident C42 can continue to play its intermediary role in the theatre scene in the 42WS premises after the renovation.

Background of 42WS and C42

In 2013, to address the needs of the performing arts landscape, NAC identified the necessity to have an incubation space for the development of multilingual works, playwriting and directing talents for Singapore theatre. The space could also be a centre for research, documentation and discourse, enabling theatre practitioners and the larger community to examine how Singapore theatre has evolved historically and will continue to grow.

C42 was established through an open call in July 2013 conducted by NAC. The intent was to establish a centre for the development of text-based works for Singapore theatre, with the aim to nurture and develop our creative talents in producing

distinctive content. Over the last six years, NAC has supported the company with both subsidised spaces and organisational funding.

42WS Plans

After the six-month renovation of 42 Waterloo Street, which will incorporate structural improvements and disability access, the new facilities will be more inclusive and benefit a wide group of practitioners. NAC will work with C42 to ensure that they will continue to serve the theatre community in their role as a valued intermediary. NAC has therefore renewed its partnership with C42 for another three years.

While the co-working spaces at GAC and SAC can be used by arts freelancers for their meetings and administrative work, the ARH at 42WS will serve a different function for the wider arts community as a multi-disciplinary space. 90% of this 512 square metre compound will continue to serve the needs of arts practitioners as creation, rehearsal and presentation-related spaces, while the remaining 10% will be shared between the ARH team and C42 as administration space. Parts of the current site will also be enhanced with amenities such as air-conditioning for comfort, and a chair-lift to improve wheelchair accessibility to the space.

We appreciate the feedback from the community about our support for the freelance community and the future of 42WS. We are also heartened to have heard from visual artists and literary writers who are looking forward to the new ARH at 42WS. Together, let us make this space better equipped for the future of Singapore's arts scene and inclusive for the whole arts sector.