

PROJECTS FOR HAPPINESS

2014



Application Form (Project No: 023/14)

[Project Name] 鼓舞红树林
(Beat & Dance in Nature- Exploring Mangrove Forest)
[Your Name] ONG LING CUI
[Courses] BACHELOR OF COMMUNICATION
(HONS) PUBLIC RELATIONS

[University/collage] UNIVERSITI TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN
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INTRODUCTION

Providing our children with nurturing environments is more of a challenge in today's world than it has ever been. Many children do not live in homes with yards and gardens to explore or in neighborhoods where they can spend hours playing outside. Even the children who do live in such places often have so many scheduled activities that they have very little time to spend in their yards and gardens. Many children are spending more of their time inside buildings than outdoors at earlier and earlier ages. When children are in school, unless they participate in outdoor sports, they spend most of their time inside.

Kuala Sepetang is a fishing village located in Perak, the town was formerly known as Port Weld. Kuala Sepetang also part of the heritage of mangrove ecosystem. The 40,000-hectare Matang Mangrove Forest was gazetted as a Permanent Forest Reserve in 1906. Today, it is recognized as the best managed sustainable mangrove ecosystem in the world and under care by Perak State Forestry Department.

As children today lack of opportunity exploring the nature environment especially the Matang Mangroves forest, so I would like to propose a program “ **Beat & Dance in Nature - Exploring Mangrove Forest** ”. This program will bring Kuala Sepetang children for the Ecological education in conjunction Performing Arts.

Arts education is an important part of quality education, especially for the Performing Arts, is a combination of physical education and aesthetic education in one, both of which are lacking in our formal educational system. In recent years, a group of artists in the country under the leadership of Director Soon Choon Mee under a project namely "Dan Dan Theatre Production" have organized several "Community Arts Carnival" activities in suburban communities around Selangor. She envisions fostering imaginative, creative and self-confident of our young generation through series of performing arts program; furthermore, her project also aims to build community resources, promote community solidarity, and shape a community rich in arts and humanities values.

Performing arts is considered rare in Kuala Sepetang, in order to bring performing arts closer to Sepetang's, and allow them to enjoy a pleasant atmosphere and content of art performing, we invite a group of passionate artists to share their creativity in this community.

Finally, we will invite their parents and villagers to attend the kids performing Show. This is the most important sharing among kids and parents and also the community.

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PROJECT OBJECTIVES

To cultivate children's sense of rhythm and their body rhythm in response to music, instill self-awareness and encourage children to express themselves through performing arts (drum and dance)

1. Let the children involve in nature and art activities to promote their understanding and caring on their own community;
2. Encourage conservation mind set and be proud of their community/hometown;
3. Strengthen children's environmental awareness via DIY installation art using recycled materials and garbage.

ACTIVITIES AND TASKS

Total of 100 students.

We will invite four dance and percussion artists to facilitate the workshop, lead the children into their familiar mangroves, then struck a dialogue with nature in a quiet environment; through observing nature such as leaves and trees, children's are led to dance with nature.

Each artist will design an activity related to performing art (such as dancing like a leaf, express feeling after listening to the wind rustling, etc.). Children will take turns in each station; at the end children are welcomed to share their experiences and feelings.

“ **Beat and Dance in Nature**” performing show will be done by the kids. Through the performing, they will share their experiences and feelings, Parents through the child stage performances will understanding the significance of this workshop..

Proposed Activities and Time Table :

0800-0830 Registration
0830-0900 Walking into the mangroves
0900-1015 Performing Arts (a) – know the Mangrove
1030-1145 Performing Arts (b) – Beating
1200-1245 Lunch & Rest
1300-1415 Performing Arts (c) - Dancing
1430-1545 Performing Arts (d) – Beating & Dancing
1545-1600 Walking back to the school
1630-1700 Rest and preparation for concert
1700-1830 “ Beat and Dance in Nature” Show
1830 Ending

Introduction on co-organizer and artists.

“Dan Dan Theatre Production”, was founded in 1992 by Soon Choon Mee, formerly it was a theater group with a single objective i.e. production of novel show, but presented in localized touch. They performed numerous times in Malaysia and invited to Japan, Korea, India etc. in 1995. In recent years, this organization is committed to promote performing art into the community, so that more children and community residents have the opportunity to embrace beauty of arts.

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Artists Profile:

SOON CHOON MEE - Art Director

Art Director of "All about Performing Art Project". She graduated from film in drama department of a Taiwan's private Chinese Cultural University. She is a strong believer in theater education for past 25 years. In recent years, Soon is committed to promote community art education, she introduces the concept of community arts carnival and organized a several event such as "City of Culture - 2008 Kajang Community Arts Carnival", "student art work camp" under the canvas of "2008 internal art festival", "Nature kiss-2011 Hulu Langat Community Arts Carnival", "Let love Overflows -2011 Cheras Batu Sebelas Community Arts Carnival", "Discover Serdang -2012 Serdang Community Arts Carnival" and many more.

CHAN HAN FEI - Dance

Art Director of "Flying Dance", she is also an experienced dancer and dance teacher. She has been involved in dance performances since her childhood, including "Solo in Blessing" choreographed by Wong Kit Yaw, "Thousand Hands Buddha" etc. Han Fei also served a number of associations and schools in Sabah as dance teacher and choreographer since 2001. In 2006, she again returned to Kuala Lumpur and collaborate with University of Putra in "Immerse In the Colour of Love exhibition and performances," in 2007 as a director. Chan was invited to participate in the "City of Culture - 2008 Kajang Community Arts Carnival" and "Nature kiss-2011 Hulu Langat Community Arts Carnival".

LOO POH CHOO - Dance

Loo is a veteran choreographer, dancer, dance teacher and a qualified Yoga (Hatha Yoga) teacher. She was serving at the Singapore Art Association as a full-time dancer from 1994-1995. In 1996, Loo won a scholarship to New York School of Dance (Merce Cunningham Dance School). In 1998, as she returned and based in Kajang, she establishes a "Creative Dance Theatre" (Kre Art Dance Theater) in August 1998 and promote dance classes enthusiastically since then.

CHANG WEI LAI - Percussions

Veteran member of Sun Son Theater who participated as a performers and stage designer in many performances such as <echo>, <forgotten paradise>, <Forgotten World>, <When they Drumming>, <Music in Maze-King Leo>, <Wings of Paradise>, <Light. Sound>, <Island of Light and Sound>, <Bash>, < Light and Sound - Classic in a decades>. He directed in theater piece <skewing balance – Drift>, <Secret Path>, <In the Mighty Water>. In 2000 to 2001, he is also one of the dancers in <Tribute to the Flower Gods>, and involved in Headspring Theater as an actor. In 2007, performed in <Disappeared Climb> directed by Wang Wei Ming. During Taipei International Art Festival in 2008, involved in <See You on the Other Side> as an actor, this show was directed by a Malaysian Director, Lim Yao Hwa.

Ah Boy CHEW SOON HING - Percussion

Ah Boy joined hand percussion group in 2001 and became a full-time drummer, he started playing drums since thirteen-year-old, learning hand percussion and synchronizing with body movement over the years. He had participated in a number of large and small domestic and international performances, is a veteran drummer in Hands Percussions, as well as a part-time teacher in Xun Ren Secondary School, Kun Cheng Secondary School, Chong Wen Primary School, Cempaka High School coaching twenty-four Festive Drum.

PROJECTS BENEFICIARIES

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Children in Kuala Sepetang.
Parents and villagers through the concert may understand the important of performing arts.

EXPECTED PROJECT RESULTS

Today, with children's lives disconnected from the natural world, their experiences are predominately mediated in media, written language and visual images. From the outdoor activities through performing arts and exploring Mangroves forest, children can understand the ecological values of mangroves and cultivate them to love their home.

After attending the workshop, we hope children could be equipped with better sensation on arts, able to have a deeper understanding on themselves; they will be brave and able to express their inner feelings. Parents and villagers will appreciate children's artistic talent, they also may aware that caring and loving their home should be cultivated in young children.

In addition, team activities will enhance their coordination with other members, learning how to cooperate and work with other people. Moreover, their sense of rhythm will be improved, and able to embrace beauty of arts.

PROJECT TIMELINE

June – confirmation of the project
July - Planning and work out the details with Dan Dan Theatre Production
August – Meeting with school headmaster & handling out the registration form
September - a sharing session with Kuala Sepetang Community on this project
October – preparation for the program
24 October – “ Beat & Dance in Nature – Exploring Mangrove Forest : The workshop and the show.

BUDGET

Direct Equipment and Supplies: RM300.

Marketing and Event Support: RM4100

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| 1) Rental PA system | RM300 |
| 2) Rental Hall | RM300 |
| 3) Publicity : Banner & leaflet printing | RM300 |

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|--|--------|
| 4) Food for 150 person x RM10 | RM1500 |
| 5) Materials 120 kids x RM 10 | RM1200 |
| 6) Preparation for Arts performance Materials /music instruments | RM 500 |

Professional fees: RM 1700

- 1) Dan Dan Theatre Production 1 x RM 500 = RM 500
- 2) 4 Artist 4 x RM 300 = RM 1200

Miscellaneous: RM 1000

- 1) Artists Travel cost = 2 cars x RM 200 = RM 400
- 2) Accommodation For artists (2 nights) 2 x RM 100 x 3 rooms = RM 600

Total : RM7100

Student Expenses

(Not exceeding 30% of total Expenses) Total = **RM 2900**

Travel: RM 800

- 1) Driving : Kuala Sepetang – Kuala Lumpur 4 times = RM 200 x 4 = RM 800

Lodging: RM 400

- 1) Budget Hotels at Klang Valley = RM100 x 4 = RM400

Communications: RM 900

- 1) Mobile phones (3G data plan) RM 150 per month x 6 months = RM900

Food: RM 800

- 1) Food purchase while traveling RM 50 x 4 = RM 200
- 2) While working in the project RM 100 x 6months = RM 600