

Singapore Bicentennial 2019: Why you should visit Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall  
By Zoey Chow



*A multimedia feature where museum goers can listen to three different memorial songs made for Dr. Sun Yat Sen and read about it.*

In a quiet area of Balestier sits the Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall, the last double storey villa in the neighbourhood which was previously the Southeast Asian headquarters of Dr. Sun Yat Sen's Chinese Revolutionary Alliance. It has since transformed to be a museum which offers fun ways to explore Singapore's contributions to the 1911 Revolution, as well as Chinese culture.

Gazetted as a national monument in 1994, Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall is full of artefacts and exhibits detailing Dr Sun Yat Sen and his supporters' involvement during the Revolution, as well as their impact on Singapore's economy, education and print media.

After the permanent exhibitions in the memorial hall went through a revamp in 2011, the museum boasts multimedia features such as hologram projects, interactive exhibits, and 3D mapping projection.

According to 37-year-old Lu Cai Xia who is the Assistant Curator of Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall, "At Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall, we don't just focus on the revolutionary history, we do focus on culture."

The memorial hall is one of the institutes managed by the National Heritage Board, who has a yearlong line-up of activities to celebrate the Bicentennial.

The Singapore Bicentennial's website states that through this reflection, we as Singaporeans get to "examine how we have responded to, and been part of, regional and global influences and events". It also allows us to "take the opportunity of the Bicentennial to look back and learn from our past."

Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall will be having a special exhibition on photo studios in Singapore, called *Capturing Communities*, in November 2019 as part of the yearlong line-up.

*Capturing Communities* will show how the evolution of the Singapore community through portraits of people from different communities that stepped inside a photo studio to commemorate an important occasion in their lives.

"The idea is to let people know about the cosmopolitan nature of Singapore over the past 200 years as a British colony. Being an exhibition on photographs, we hope to have some Instagram-able spots to attract teens in our exhibition designs," says Ms Lu.

Besides *Capturing Communities*, Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall also hosts four signature events on open house days, where they celebrate different festivals such as Chinese New Year and Mid-Autumn Festival.

The upcoming Dumpling Festival on 1st and 2nd June 2019 will teach the public on the history and story behind dumplings with the help of fun hands on activities such as a make your own dumpling session.

Ms Lu says, "There's not a lot to explore because of the space in Singapore, but if you look at the depth in the time of Singapore, you realize there's a lot more things to learn, to understand, and find out."