

# Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Marina Bay Sands to donate close to S\$600,000 to local charities

*Funds will provide additional support to underprivileged communities ahead of Sands for Singapore Charity Festival*

**Singapore** (1 August 2018) – Marina Bay Sands is set to contribute nearly S\$600,000 worth of funds to help those with special needs and disadvantaged backgrounds in Singapore. The donation comes ahead of the integrated resort's upcoming Sands for Singapore Charity Festival from 24 to 26 August 2018.

Local charities Association for Persons with Special Needs (APSN), Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore (CPAS) and AWWA will each receive S\$160,000 to fund projects relating to education, housing and transport for the underprivileged communities. In addition, the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) will receive S\$100,000 to fund an education bursary to help financially-disadvantaged students who wish to pursue a Bachelor of Hospitality Business degree.

The S\$580,000 contribution is in addition to the funds that the integrated resort will raise during its 2018 Sands for Singapore Charity Festival, which will take place in August at Marina Bay Sands. Since 2013, the Festival has raised nearly S\$20 million for local charities.

### **APSN: Supporting Singapore's first tertiary institute for persons with special needs**

In line with its mission to equip persons with special needs with education, training and support services, APSN is working to roll out the **APSN College and Community (ACC)** – the first-ever higher institute of learning for persons with special needs in Singapore. When introduced, ACC will offer the community the chance to pursue adapted Diploma and Degree programmes created in partnership with overseas universities.

The S\$160,000 contributed by Marina Bay Sands will go towards the development of ACC's curriculum and facility, which will address the current lack of educational and skills enhancement opportunities beyond secondary level for persons with special needs.

It will also set a path to higher education for APSN's existing population of 1,200 beneficiaries across its five schools in Singapore.

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*An artist's impression of ACC.*

Dr Christopher Tay, Chief Executive Officer of APSN, said: “We are deeply heartened by Marina Bay Sands’ support and endorsement of ACC by being one of the first to come onboard this partnership. This is aligned with Social Service Sector Strategic Thrusts (2017-2021) which focus on empowering individuals, families and communities, and a caring, collaborative and impactful social service ecosystem.”

“The set-up of ACC will provide lifelong learning and education opportunities for persons with intellectual disability, as well as specialist staff development and training opportunities to better service the needs of the community. The greater impact would be accessibility to lifelong learning and care for almost 5,000 APSN alumnus, higher education opportunities and sustainable employment pathways for persons with special needs. Marina Bay Sands plays an important role in this ecosystem and we are grateful for their generous contribution towards the cause.”

## **CPAS: Facilitating transportation for the wheelchair-bound**

To enable CPAS to better serve the mobility needs of its physically disabled beneficiaries, the organisation will utilise the funds contributed by Marina Bay Sands to procure a special **hydraulic bus** equipped with dedicated wheelchair spaces.

At present, CPAS is only able to provide transportation to approximately five per cent of its population of students with walking disabilities – limiting accessibility for many of its beneficiaries.

The additional bus will allow CPAS’s current transport provider to cover additional areas that it previously did not have the resources to service. It is expected to serve a population of 60 to 90 users at different points in time, such as to and from the organisation’s centres and external venues for outings and activities.

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## **AWWA: Creating homes for those in need**

Marina Bay Sands' S\$160,000 contribution to AWWA will go towards the organisation's **Transitional Shelter programme** – an initiative which offers temporary accommodation and social work intervention to displaced families.

In addition to helping families achieve stable housing, the programme also focuses on children and youth development through group work interventions to help them tide over this transition period.

The funds provided by Marina Bay Sands will help AWWA provide these families with additional programmes such as family bonding activities as well as a children's programme for kids to engage in activities like games, reading, storytelling and arts.

## **SIT: Building a pipeline of talent**

In addition to its charitable contributions, Marina Bay Sands will support SIT – the first and only autonomous university in Singapore to offer an undergraduate degree in hospitality business – in its education bursary for undergraduates who require financial assistance.

A donation of S\$100,000 from Marina Bay Sands will support eligible full-time Bachelor of Hospitality Business students with up to 20 bursaries each academic year.

Recipients of the bursary will also be offered the opportunity to fulfil their Integrated Work Study Programme (IWSP) with Marina Bay Sands, as part of the integrated resort's commitment to groom and shape young talents for the hospitality industry.

For more information, please visit [www.marinabaysands.com/sandsforsingapore](http://www.marinabaysands.com/sandsforsingapore)

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### **About Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd**

Marina Bay Sands is the leading business, leisure and entertainment destination in Asia. It features large and flexible convention and exhibition facilities, 2,560 hotel rooms and suites, the rooftop Sands SkyPark, the best shopping mall in Asia, world-class celebrity chef restaurants, a theatre and an outdoor event plaza. Completing the line-up of attractions is ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands which plays host to permanent and marquee exhibitions. For more information, please visit [www.marinabaysands.com](http://www.marinabaysands.com)

**Sands for Singapore**, Marina Bay Sands' corporate social responsibility programme, is committed to helping Singapore in meaningful ways. By using our unique resources as well as mobilising our active volunteerism, we aim to create a positive difference in the lives of Singaporeans. Besides working with our designated charities, we further support beneficiaries including those related to youth and education.

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