

Characteristics of Hawker Culture in Singapore

Singapore's nomination documents highlight the following key characteristics of Hawker Culture in Singapore:

- Hawker centres as **community dining** spaces for everyone
- Mastery of skills by hawkers, who are the bearers of **hawker culinary practices**
- A reflection of Singapore's **multicultural society**
- A thriving culture in a highly **urban environment**

Hawker Culture, as practised in Singapore, is a form of living heritage that is an integral part of everyday Singapore life, and a reflection of our multicultural society. With more than 80% of the population visiting hawker centres at least once a week, our hawker centres have become “community dining rooms” – vibrant social and community spaces where Singaporeans of all backgrounds gather at and bond over their shared love for affordable and good quality hawker fare.

Our hawkers and their repertoire of skills are also central to the continued evolution of Hawker Culture in Singapore. Over the years, our hawkers have taken inspiration from our multicultural heritage, adapting dishes to local tastes and context. These culinary traditions and practices have been transmitted across generations, and are testament to how Hawker Culture is truly a living, evolving heritage in Singapore. Such key characteristics make Hawker Culture an important part of our nation's intangible cultural heritage, and are also aligned with both the objective and spirit of the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage¹.

¹ Refer to <https://ich.unesco.org/en/convention> for details on the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, which Singapore ratified in February 2018.