



MEDIA FACTSHEET

Annex H

COMMUNITY IN BLOOM AMBASSADORS

The National Parks Board's (NParks) Community in Bloom (CIB) programme aims to promote a gardening culture among Singapore residents by encouraging and facilitating gardening efforts by the community. It is part of a larger effort to bring greenery and nature closer to the community which goes towards achieving NParks' vision to transform Singapore into a City in Nature.

With ground-up collaboration with gardening interest groups, CIB provides opportunities for people of diverse backgrounds to come together and garden with their neighbours, friends and colleagues. While enhancing interactions and strengthening bonds as a community, it also allows people to enjoy gardening and share gardening knowledge and tips. The programme facilitates the creation of self-help networks among residents, schools and organisations as well as individuals.

There are currently more than 1800 community gardens under the CIB programme. Started in 2008, we now have 95 CIB Ambassadors. More details can be found at www.nparks.gov.sg/cib

Community in Bloom Ambassadors Awards 2022

The CIB Ambassadors Awards recognise exceptional garden volunteers who promote the love for gardening amongst members of the community.

CIB Ambassadors are volunteers who go the extra mile to help others enjoy gardening and nature related activities. They contribute time, effort and resources selflessly to engage the community, and facilitate gardening-based initiatives.

Ambassadors are selected by a panel of judges comprising representatives from NParks, National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre (NVPC), People's Association (PA), and the Singapore Environment Council (SEC).

The selection process was based on the following judging criteria:

Promote love for gardening

- Organised initiatives that resulted in greater awareness towards the benefits of gardening
- Engaged the public on gardening during physical and virtual events

Spread gardening knowledge to the community

- Organised or facilitated physical/virtual gardening seminars, talks or sharing sessions
- Provided gardening tips through digital platforms, webinars, articles, videos, web-based gardening blogs or forums, opening of community gardens for learning, etc.
- Conducted or hosted learning visits to gardens, connected community gardening groups, etc.

Facilitate gardening-based community projects

- Helped community groups in housing estates, schools and organisations to set up their gardening projects by providing guidance, resources, materials, etc.

Positive conduct

- Conducted themselves in a manner that resulted in a sustained positive impact on the gardening movement.

These judging criteria were aligned with the following three main objectives set by NParks for the programme:

1. **Creates more opportunities for gardening** – individuals who are able to explore and establish new areas for growth in gardening, including residential developments, places of worship, Volunteer Welfare Organisations, Allied Healthcare Centres, pre-schools, and corporations among others.
2. **Sustains gardening efforts** – individuals who have good gardening and networking skills, creativity and a love for nature.
3. **Facilitates greater involvement among youth and children** – individuals who are able to form partnerships with schools & educators and heighten the profile of gardening among youth and children.

Recipients of the CIB Ambassadors Awards 2022

The following six ambassadors have been appointed in 2022 as part of Clean and Green Singapore celebrations:

- (i) Ong Joo Heng, Jason (from Toh Yi Community Garden)
- (ii) Chia Yen Ling, Celeste (from Compassvale Gardens RC Community Garden)
- (iii) Fung Kah Wai, Roy (from Tanjong Pagar Spottiswood Park RC Community Garden)
- (iv) Lim Kian Lam (from Mulberry RN Community Garden)
- (v) David Yu (from Boon Lay Zone F RN Community Garden)
- (vi) Hay Qing Hui (from APSN Tanglin School)

Profiles of CIB Ambassadors for 2022

Ong Joo Heng, Jason / Garden Leader @ Toh Yi Community Garden



Jason has been gardening for over 20 years and is one of the garden leaders at the award winning Toh Yi Community Garden. He inspires garden volunteers and residents with his expert gardening skills and knowledge. He is highly skilled in growing both edible and ornamental plants and his horticulture skills were recognised at NParks' Community Garden Edibles Competition and Horticulture Competition respectively. As someone who leads by example on active aging, Jason continues to pick up new skills and knowledge such as different methods of composting, and conducts both physical and online gardening classes for garden volunteers and residents. He has partnered NParks to help grow the gardening movement by conducting numerous workshops, roadshows and gardening events over the last two years. Jason is an engaging gardener who demonstrates how one can age actively by participating in gardening activities and building social bonds within the community.

Chia Yen Ling, Celeste / Garden Leader @ Compassvale Gardens RC Community Garden



Celeste is the garden leader at Compassvale Gardens RC Community Garden and actively promotes the love for gardening through both physical and online engagement programmes where gardeners and residents can pick up tips on how to make the most out of their gardens. She is skilled in corridor and indoor gardening, and provides advice on setting up small indoor gardens and plant corners. She inspires gardeners and residents by posting photos of her plants in the community garden and corridor garden on the 'SG Container Gardening' Facebook group. Celeste also helps foster the '*kampong* spirit' amongst her garden volunteers and residents. Twice a year, she packs seeds for edible plants from her garden and shares them with residents who are new to gardening, to spur their interest in gardening. She restructured Compassvale Gardens RC community garden from using individual plots to a thriving communal edible garden brimming with edibles such as bitter melon, brinjal, chilli, lady's finger, tomato and leafy vegetables.

Fung Kah Wai, Roy / Garden Leader @ Tanjong Pagar Spottiswoode Park RC



Roy is the garden leader at Spottiswoode Park RC Community Garden where he has been gardening for over 5 years. With his friendly and affable personality, gardeners and residents frequently approach him to seek advice on edible plants and gardening issues. Roy manages and engages with over 70 volunteers in the community garden and has created a unique way of reaching out to the garden volunteers and residents through the app 'HOLA', which he developed. He advertises gardening events on the app which allows for participation from more residents, beyond Spottiswoode estate. He has hosted more than 150 visitors to his garden in 2022 and shared on various topics, including vermi-composting and making compost using food waste. Roy is working on making gardening more accessible to seniors in the estate with physical and mobility issues, through vertical gardening systems for edibles.

Lim Kian Lam / Garden Leader @ Mulberry RN Community Garden



Kian Lam has been gardening for over twenty years and is the garden leader at Mulberry RN Community Garden in Fengshan. He leads an active group of over 50 garden volunteers of all ages. In addition, Kian Lam is the Green Ambassador under Fengshan Constituency for the East Coast Plan, and educates residents on sustainability and green issues. Kian Lam is a huge advocate of green practices such as to reduce, reuse and recycle, and encourages residents in Fengshan to participate in events such as tree planting and gardening workshops. With a flair for growing a wide range of edible and ornamental plants, Kian Lam often leads the gardeners to share their harvest with residents. Over the last two years, he has conducted over 20 workshops and sharing sessions (both physical and over Zoom) on composting, plant propagation, and how to produce eco-enzymes using fruit and vegetable waste.

David Yu / Garden Leader @ Boon Lay Zone F RN Community Garden



David is the garden leader at Boon Lay Zone F community garden. With over 5 years of gardening experience, David has made many contributions to promote gardening in community gardens across Boon Lay. Furthermore, as the Lead of the Boon Lay Environmental Workgroup, he has spearheaded grassroots efforts in Boon Lay by leading events organised by the Nature Kakis (a community group of nature stewards that organises nature-related programmes) to raise awareness for biodiversity conservation and tree planting events under the OneMillionTrees movement, and kick starting therapeutic horticulture workshops there. David has activated many gardening spaces in Boon Lay and encouraged residents to take up gardening at allotment gardens, on multi-storey carpark roof decks and along corridors.

Hay Qing Hui / Assistant Instructor @ APSN Tanglin School



Qing Hui works as an Assistant Instructor at APSN Tanglin School. He is passionate about greening and caring for the environment, and encourages his students to reduce, reuse and recycle. Qing Hui led his students to win a series of Community in Bloom Awards, achieving Gold, Platinum and Diamond for the school's gardens over the years. He uses his skills and capabilities to empower and nurture young people with various abilities to embrace gardening to promote wellness. He inspires and encourages students to take up careers in landscaping and gardening, and encourages them to continue learning to boost their self-confidence. In addition to conducting numerous gardening-related workshops within the school, Qing Hui has also conducted workshops at public libraries on plant propagation and terrariums.