



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Singapore shines again at 2012 *La Fête des Lumières*

The Living! Project reinited to represent the Lion City at the renowned festival in Lyon, France

SINGAPORE, 17 DECEMBER 2012 – The Living! Project (TLP), a social enterprise in Singapore that creates positive social behavioural change through collaborative art and community involvement, has once again successfully represented the Lion City at the famed *La Fête des Lumières* (The Festival of Lights) in Lyon, France this year!

The 20 member team from Singapore, consisting of TLP co-founders, Kenny Eng, Allan Lim and Sun Yu-Li, members from the group's artist collective, core staff members, and special needs artists from Singapore-based independent charity, Christian Outreach to the Handicapped (COH), was the only Asian team invited to present a site-specific installation at the festival held between 6-9 December. The festival attracts over 4 million visitors annually.

TLP's entry to the festival this year was 'The Wishing! Tree', a magnificent tree structure that held the wishes of those who came to pay homage to it. In joint collaboration with *Écartés En Cours*, The Wishing! Tree, which was sculpted by reknown artist and TLP co-founder Sun Yu-li and its lighting designed by light architect Vellachi Ganesan, saw over 30,000 visitors over the four-day period.

Visitors to the installation were first invited to walk through a magical flower garden with flora made entirely from milk bottles. The flowers, known as *Thrive*, made its debut at the Luminance! Festival earlier this year at *SCAPE. This community based project was designed by artist Khor Tuck Kuan, and was a fruitful result of a community collaboration between COH, and public and corporate partners.



the
living!
project

Visitors then walked along a double spiral covering the base of the tree, made from 7,000 recycled plastic bottles collected at the Lyon Marathon in October 2012. These bottles were cut into twirls with the aid of special needs students from the Premier Film school, who also collaborated with TLP last year.

This double spiral then lead to the *l'Arbre à Voeux* – The Wishing! Tree, where visitors were invited to write their hopes and wishes on specially printed strips fastened to a weight with LED lights. Eventually, they would dedicate their wishes to the tree by having them hang from the branches. Over the festival period, more than 3,000 wishes were dedicated to The Wishing Tree by festival visitors and the people of Lyon alike, making it the festival's most interactive artwork.

TLP was honoured to once again have H.E. Mr Tan York Chor, Singapore's ambassador to France, grace The Wishing Tree's opening night at the historic Center for Deportation of Resistance (CHRD) on 6th December. The Wishing Tree also received coverage in the French media, like daily newspaper Le Progress, and online media Pluzz (France TV) and Monday Mag.

“The turnout at The Wishing! Tree was an encouragement to us,” said Mr Kenny Eng, co-founder of TLP, “And it was also a reminder of how far we have come on this journey, in our aspiration to show the world that Singapore's art and young artists alike are worthy of being showcased on an international stage. But most importantly, we were able to engage various communities in Singapore and Lyon, like students and special needs youth, to successfully complete our project.”

In addition to the site specific installation, TLP was also proud to have three Singaporean youth artists from the Luminance! Festival showcase their artwork at the festival's student experimentation site, curated by local art school Le Grands Atelier. Youth artists Didier Ng, Karen Mitchell, and student artists from MINUS/NUS had the opportunity to present their art for the first time on an international stage.



the
living!
project

“It was a precious opportunity to have visited Le Grands Ateliers and to have my work exhibited alongside their students’,” said Karen, “Despite the language barrier, [I was] given great support, and I learnt so much. I have definitely benefited from the experience.”

This artist exchange, which also saw three French artists presenting their artworks in Singapore at the Luminance! Festival, marks the start of a long term collaboration with Le Grands Atelier, through an exchange program with the Luminance! Festival, supported by the National Youth Council.

In the coming year, TLP hopes to continue engaging more communities and corporates through innovative and creative projects, to create a positive social behavioural change together.

###

For enquiries about **The Living! Project**, please contact:

Mr Kenny Eng

Co-Founder, The Living! Project

HP: +65 9678 7838

Email: kenny@livingproject.org

For updates, please visit:

<http://www.facebook.com/thelivingproject>

<http://www.facebook.com/thewishingtreebythelivingproject>



ABOUT THE LIVING! PROJECT

The Living! Project fuses community, art and sustainability into original and engaging activities for the greater good.

This social enterprise aims to draw a direct connection between the individual's action with the needs of a sustainable urban city, through the intensive use of recycled materials and community action to create positive social behavioural change.

ABOUT SUN YU-LI, Co- Founder

Mr Sun Yu-Li is one of Singapore's noted artists, and one who has placed Singapore on the world map. The former architect imbues rationale and logic into his artistic thought, leading to distinctive, unique and innovative creations that impress the world's audience.

His latest innovation incorporates LED light into stainless steel sculptures. Because these are made from hand-forged metal sheets, his creations have greater dimensions but are also stronger, lighter and easier to move around. This means that Yu-Li literally brings his art to people.

ABOUT ALLAN LIM, Co- Founder

Mr Allan Lim graduated from Nanyang Technological University in 1999 with a Bachelor of Engineering degree. Since then, he has embarked on a series of start-up projects ranging from microbial research to biodegradable plastics.

Allan, alongside fellow fun-loving personality Jack Ling, established Alpha Biofuels in 2004, with the simple but determined vision to change perceptions about clean energy. The company believes that the individual will be convinced of his/her contribution to making a difference in the world through understanding new perspectives. To engage



the
living!
project

the community effectively in their cause, a series of programmes were developed for easy implementation at home. At its core is the collection of used cooking oil to be turned into clean energy fuels.

In 2005, Allan was awarded the Spirit of Enterprise Award by former President S R Nathan for his enterprising spirit and his efforts in promoting entrepreneurship to the youth.

ABOUT KENNY ENG, Co- Founder

Kenny Eng is the Director of Gardenasia, a nature-based events company that creates nature-inspired lifestyles.

Upon seeing the potential of lifestyle marketing and holistic services, Kenny's foresight and entrepreneurial instincts quickly took over, expanding Gardenasia to manage portfolios ranging from corporate events, kids edutainment and even garden weddings. Today, Gardenasia offers an extraordinary venue space coupled with innovative events that harness elements of nature to create unique experiences for a diverse clientele.

Kenny was awarded the Emerging Young Entrepreneur by E-Global in 2004 and in the following year, he was an Honouree for the Spirit of Enterprise Award. Keeping himself ahead of our changing times, Kenny is also an active member of several organizations which include *SCAPE Co. Ltd, National Youth Council, Kranji Countryside Association, SouthWest CDC and was previously part of the Singapore Youth Olympics Organising Committee.