

LIST OF THEMES FOR EXHIBITION PANELS



1. Costumes (3 Panels)

Clothes, they say, can tell you much about the wearer. And the costumes worn by Singapore's various races do indeed indicate a great deal about their respective histories and cultures. While the traditional costumes of the various races differ greatly in style from one another, they do share some common elements, such as elegance and vibrancy. This theme touches on the origins, form and use of the colourful ethnic costumes unique to each major ethnic group as well as draws connections between them.

2. Traditional Medicine (3 Panels)

Although when it comes to healing the body and mind, all cultures have their own approaches to diagnosis and treatment, they also share many universal medicinal practices. These practices stem from factors relating to the universal human condition and can hence serve as a method of demonstrating the commonalities among the races. The 4 races also share certain commonalities in terms of medical practitioners. The theme of traditional medicine, folk medicine and physical treatments that have been used since immemorial to treat common illnesses and demonstrates that the traditional medicine of the major ethnic groups is based on many shared fundamental principles.

3. Games (3 Panels)

Many of the games and pastimes that Singaporeans of all races play or engage in these days have been handed down generations after generations by their forefathers. While each community has its own unique games and pastimes, many of these recreational activities have a common element: They aim to cultivate closer ties, family bonding and a sense of belonging among the participants. This theme introduces the popular pastimes of the different races while at the same time showing that many of the games we thought were unique to a particular ethnic group are actually played and enjoyed by all.

4. Heroes/Pioneers (4 Panels)

The early pioneers of Singapore came from different parts of the world but they shared similar aspirations and hope. While the pioneers have long since left us, the spirit of philanthropy, mutual help and kinsmanship remains strong. It is now part of the Singapore society. Regardless of race, language or religion, the never say die spirit, sense of selflessness and willingness to do their part for the community continues to thrive among many ordinary Singaporeans. This theme traces the achievements of our early pioneers and highlights the deeds of our present day "everyday heroes" to lead an audience to the conclusion that courage, generosity and compassion are qualities that know no boundaries of colour and gender.

5. Performing Arts (3 Panels)

No matter what the culture is, when it comes to the performing arts; such as dance, operas, and music – discipline is the key to the mastery of the field. Dance movements do have something in common; They often reflect the history, legends, literature and religious values of their respective cultures. This theme touches on the origins, form and music of many dance movements and songs associated with each major ethnic group as well as demonstrating that whatever the origins and forms, on thing cannot be denied; Good music, dance movements know no language or cultural barriers.

6. Weddings (3 Panels)

Hun Yin. Perkahwinan. Thirumanam. Whatever one calls it, marriage remains a cherished institution in Singapore. The wedding ceremony – be it Chinese, Peranakan, Malay, Indian or Eurasian – is a time for much joyous celebration with the radiant bride and happy groom bedecked in colourful costumes and glittering jewellery. While detailing the many rituals and traditions accompanying the marriage ceremonies of the different ethnic groups, this theme eventually reaches the understanding that no matter how a couple say “I DO”, all the races in Singapore share a common belief; That the marriage institution is something to be revered and preserved.

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