

Singapore
Literature
Prize 2020

Press
Release

#WhyWeWrite



as reverie
meditation
love

to reveal
reconstruct
dream new
realities

for awareness
community
those without
a voice

SLP 2020 Shortlist Announced

Awards Ceremony to be Virtual

SINGAPORE, 22 JULY 2020 – A total of **52 works have been shortlisted** for Singapore's top literary award, the much-anticipated biennial Singapore Literature Prize (SLP). For the first time in the history of the SLP, the awards ceremony will be held online via SBC's Facebook and YouTube on **27 August 2020 at 8pm**.

The 52 works are shortlisted in 12 categories, across the three genres of Poetry, Fiction and Creative Nonfiction and four languages of Chinese, English, Malay and Tamil. A total of 47 writers will vie for the top award in the categories, which comes with a cash prize of S\$3,000 and a special plaque. More than half of the writers are shortlisted (30) for the first time, while five will contest in two different categories.

This edition of SLP, which marks the theme #WhyWeWrite, also sees the introduction of a new category: SLP Readers' Favourite. The public is invited to vote online for their favourite shortlisted book in Chinese, English, Malay and Tamil. The winning writers will each receive a cash prize of S\$1,000, with their voters standing the chance to win book vouchers.

In spite of being financially impacted by the pandemic, the Singapore Book Council decided to press on with SLP this year. William Phuan, Executive Director of SBC says, "Amid all the disruption, isolation and anxiety, we believe that books and literature are more vital than ever. It is important to recognise and celebrate the voices of our writers, as well as their contributions and achievements. Not only do their words and stories nourish us, they also challenge us to think critically, inspire us to take a flight of imagination and connect us through a thread of empathy."

SLP 2020 received a total of 224 submissions across the various categories, a 30% increase from 2018 that had 172 submissions. The genres of poetry and creative nonfiction also saw the highest number to date since 2014 when the 12 categories were introduced, with 67 and 85 works respectively. The shortlisted works cover a wide range of topics, and represent different generations of writers.

- Please refer to Annexes A and B for the full shortlist of English works and Annex C for the judging panels.
- More information about shortlisted writers, books and judges in the Chinese, Malay and Tamil categories can be downloaded [here](#).

Singapore
Literature
Prize 2020

as reverie meditation love
to reveal reconstruct dream new realities
for awareness community those without a voice

#WhyWeWrite



Awards
Ceremony
Webcast

27 August
2020
Thur, 8pm

Celebrating
outstanding
literary
works in
Singapore

#WhyWeWrite

In the lead up to the virtual Awards Ceremony, there will be a series of online #AtHomeWithSLP panel discussions based on the theme. The free events will feature SLP's shortlisted writers dealing with thought-provoking topics that are relevant to our times such as home, history, diversity and the role of writers in a crisis.

SLP 2020 Awards Ceremony

Date

27 August 2020

Time

8pm SGT

Venue

Online on Singapore Book Council's [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) Pages

The public can register for the ceremony [here](#).

- For more information, please visit <https://bookcouncil.sg/awards/singapore-literature-prize>.
- More information about the programmes and Awards Ceremony will be added to the website in the coming days.
- For media related enquiries, please contact:
Ethan Leong
ethan@bookcouncil.sg

SLP 2020 English Categories

Fiction

The six works in this category tackle a wide range of topics, from the Japanese occupation to a mythical, futuristic Singapore and Hollywood stars. Four of the six writers are shortlisted for the first time, including Jing-Jing Lee, who became the first Singaporean to be longlisted for the prestigious 2020 Women's Prize for Fiction in the UK. Two are former SLP winners – Amanda Lee Koe (2014, Fiction), and Ng Yi-Sheng (2008, Poetry). The other writers are Akshita Nanda, Clara Chow and Kirstin Chen.

What the judges say:

"We were very impressed by the quality of the writing, as well as the range of subject matter. The diversity of the entries in terms of content and form and the originality of so many of the works was very heartening to note. (They) collectively challenge the notion of what Singapore writing is and should be, and resist narrow definitions... the shortlist reflects how good the writing coming out of Singapore in the last few years has been."

Poetry

Five poets from different generations make up the shortlist, including literary pioneer Edwin Thumboo who surprisingly was shortlisted for the first time. He is joined by two emerging poets Hamid Roslan and Marylyn Tan with their debut collections. The other writers are established poet Jason Wee and two-time SLP winner Yong Shu Hoong.

What the judges say:

"This year's shortlist is a barometer of Singapore's vibrant literary heritage, reflecting a kaleidoscopic sweep through genres and generations. Amid this polyphony, some voices formally committed and others refreshingly revisionary, these stand out because they forge new shapes and invoke vividly the issues which define our times."

Creative Nonfiction

The four shortlisted works span the forms of ethnography, memoir and essay in covering a diverse range of topics, including social inequality and banished books. Three writers – Ashwini Devare, Ng Shi Wen and Teo You Yenn – are contending SLP for the first time, together with Shubigi Rao who is shortlisted again for the second consecutive edition.

What the judges say:


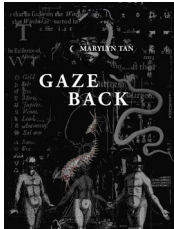

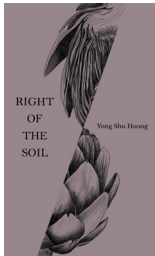
"(They) are compelling in how they use vivid personal stories as a lens through which to interrogate urgent sociopolitical issues or seismic geopolitical developments. Then there is the originality of the material – in some cases, stories are unearthed that have not been told before, and in others, literary flair is juxtaposed with in-depth research and intellectual reflection to create a distinctive authorial voice. Each is an engaging, impactful read; collectively they stretch the boundaries of creative nonfiction coming out of Singapore."

SLP 2020 Shortlists (English Categories)




Category: Poetry

No	Author/Book Title	Biography	Synopsis
1	Edwin Thumboo <i>A Gathering of Themes</i> (Ethos Books, 2018) <div>   </div>	Edwin Thumboo is Emeritus Professor and Professorial Fellow at the National University of Singapore, where he was the first Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. The awards he has received include, the National Book Development Council of Singapore Book Award for Poetry, the South East Asian Write Award, Singapore's Cultural Medallion, the ASEAN Cultural and Communication Award in Literature, the Raja Rao Award and Singapore's Meritorious Service Medal. Poetry Festival Singapore (2015) is his most recent start-up.	<p>This collection contains literary pioneer Prof Edwin Thumboo's latest works. Some highlights include the poems based on biblical characters, something very close to his heart in recent years. Some evergreen works include <i>A poet reading</i> to make this the most collectible set of his published works.</p> <p>The sections are named: <i>Chin</i> (for his wife), <i>Tribes</i>, <i>Togetherness</i>, <i>Cultures</i>, <i>I to I</i> and <i>By Quiet Waters and Words</i>.</p>
2	Hamid Roslan <i>parsetreeforestfire</i> (Ethos Books, 2019) <div>   </div>	Hamid Roslan's work may be found in The Volta, Asymptote, and the Quarterly Literary Review Singapore, among others.	<p><i>parsetreeforestfire</i> is a bilingual book of poetry with Singlish occupying one side of the book, and English on the other. Conventionally such a format allows the reader to learn a new language, but it remains to be seen if translation has successfully occurred, or if the book teaches readers to speak either language. <i>parsetreeforestfire</i> is the product of scrutiny on the languages that poetry is written in.</p>
3	Jason Wee <i>An Epic of Durable Departures</i> (Math Paper Press, 2018) <div>   </div>	Jason Wee is an artist and a writer with two collections of poetry, <i>An Epic of Durable Departures</i> (2018) and <i>The Monsters Between Us</i> (2013). Jason edited <i>Boring Donkey Songs</i> (2017) by the late Lee Wen. His writings are in several art publications, including <i>Love Gathers All</i> , <i>Lines Spark Code</i> and <i>Singapore Eye</i> . His practice straddles architecture, drawing, sculpture and photography. He co-edits the poetry journal <i>Softblow</i> and founded the nonprofit artist-library and residency space Grey Projects in Tiong Bahru.	<p>This new poetry collection records a friendship between two artists formed in the shadow of illness and mortality. Using the <i>renga</i> and <i>haiku</i> as departure points, Wee wrestles with the limits of art and of documentation even as he summons werewolves, ghosts, and other myths. Faced with the inadequacies of witnessing, <i>An Epic</i> moves towards the living in reverse time, opening with obituaries and ending with a renewed beginning.</p>


Category: Poetry

No	Author/Book Title	Biography	Synopsis
4	<p>Marylyn Tan <i>Gaze Back</i></p> <p>(Ethos Books, 2018)</p>  	<p>Marylyn Tan is a linguistics graduate, poet, and artist interested in conditions of alienation and marginalisation. She has performed at the Singapore Biennale, the Singapore Writers Festival, SPEAK., and she has also been featured in various print anthologies, such as <i>Rollercoasters and Bedsheets</i>, <i>A Luxury We Must Afford and Inheritance</i> <i>The Anthology</i>. <i>Gaze Back</i> is her first published book.</p>	<p>What do we expect of an unapologetically female author? What do we expect of consuming art? Should a work be easy and safe?</p> <p>Marylyn's debut volume, <i>Gaze Back</i>, complicates femininity, queerness, and the occult. The feminine grotesque subverts restrictions placed upon the feminine body, the occultic counterpoint to organised religion a means of empowering the marginalised.</p>
5	<p>Yong Shu Hoong <i>Right of the Soil</i></p> <p>(Math Paper Press, 2018)</p>  	<p>Yong Shu Hoong authored five poetry collections, including <i>Frottage</i> (2005) and <i>The Viewing Party</i> (2013), which both won the Singapore Literature Prize. His writing has been published in literary journals like <i>Asia Literary Review</i> (Hong Kong), and anthologies like <i>Language for a New Century: Contemporary Poetry from the Middle East, Asia, and Beyond</i> (2008).</p> <p>Yong teaches part-time at Republic Polytechnic and Nanyang Technological University (NTU). He was writer-in-residence at NTU and was the Presidential International Visiting Scholar at Wheelock College.</p>	<p>The Latin phrase <i>jus soli</i> is an unconditional right to citizenship for a person born within a country. Singapore's nationality law is based on <i>jus sanguinis</i>, where citizenship is determined by one's parentage.</p> <p>Yong Shu Hoong contemplates how individuals are bound to the land where they first set foot, with poems addressing belongingness and birthright by exploring the four fundamental elements.</p> <p>Beyond our earthly lives, is it soil – or another element or dimension – that asserts its right to claim us?</p>






Category: Creative Nonfiction

No	Author/Book Title	Biography	Synopsis
1	<p>Ashwini Devare <i>Lost at 15, Found at 50</i></p> <p>(Marshall Cavendish, 2018)</p> 	<p>Ashwini Devare is a former journalist and author. She has worked for BBC's Asia Business Report and CNBC Asia. Ashwini's latest book <i>Lost at 15, Found at 50</i> is a coming-of-age memoir that chronicles her journey from Moscow to Sikkim to Singapore, against the backdrop of historic political events.</p> <p>Her first book <i>Batik Rain</i> was launched at the 2014 Singapore Writers Festival. Ashwini has a Master's degree in Broadcast Journalism from the American University in the US.</p>	<p>From the Soviet Union's Iron Curtain to Burma's Bamboo Curtain and Sikkim to Seoul, this autobiography follows a young girl's cross-continental journey through her life.</p> <p>By the age of fifteen, Ashwini Devare had lived in six countries. Her globetrotting life continued when she became a journalist.</p> <p>With a front row seat to political developments around the world, Devare chronicles a lifetime of nomadic living.</p> <p>This book is a vibrant reflection by a singular voice on adventure, identity and courage.</p>
2	<p>Ng Shi Wen <i>Hard At Work: Life in Singapore</i></p> <p>(NUS Press, 2019)</p> 	<p>After completing an M.A. in Southeast Asian Studies in 2011, Ng Shi Wen taught anthropology at Singapore's School of the Arts. After the birth of her daughter, she left teaching to focus on her career as a photographer and entrepreneur. Her work can be found at photorikiki.com.</p>	<p>In <i>Hard at Work</i>, 60 people talk about work and life in Singapore. The interviews span age, ethnicity and careers – baristas, Thai disco dancers, tissue vendors, academic ghost-writers and more share their stories. These stories, co-authored by Ng Shi Wen and Gerard Sages, reveal the nation as a place where people from around the world work hard to survive and sometimes thrive. The book offers readers a unique opportunity to look beyond the nation's iconic skyline to explore the diverse experiences of work and life in Singapore today.</p>
3	<p>Shubigi Rao <i>Pulp II: A Visual Bibliography of the Banished Book</i></p> <p>(Rock Paper Fire, 2018)</p> 	<p>Writer, artist and film-maker Shubigi Rao's interests include archaeology, neuroscience, libraries, archival systems, overlooked histories, literature and violence, ecologies and natural history. Her decade-long film, book, and art project, <i>Pulp: A Short Biography of the Banished Book</i> about the history of library destruction has won numerous awards, including the Juror's Choice Award at the triennial APB Signature Prize 2018. The first book from the project was shortlisted for the Singapore Literature Prize for Creative Nonfiction in 2018.</p>	<p>The focus of Shubigi Rao's ongoing <i>Pulp</i> project is the history of book destruction, censorship, and repression, and the book as a symbol of resistance.</p> <p>She travels across the world, filming collections, libraries, archives and subjects that have served as historical flashpoints.</p> <p>This second volume expands on the entangled issues and the complex histories of her encounters.</p> <p>Combining fragments, ephemera and anecdotes, Rao creates an absorbing and powerful composite of the conjoined literary and violent trajectories of our species.</p>

Category: Creative Nonfiction

No	Author/Book Title	Biography	Synopsis
4	<p>Teo You Yenn <i>This Is What Inequality Looks Like</i> (Ethos Books, 2018)</p> 	<p>Teo You Yenn is Associate Professor and Provost's Chair in Sociology at Nanyang Technological University.</p> <p>Over the last decade, she has contributed to public debate through public lectures and media commentaries. Her writings have been published in The Straits Times, Today, Channel NewsAsia and Lianhe Zaobao.</p> <p>For her contributions to igniting conversation on social inequality with the book <i>This is What Inequality Looks Like</i>, she was named a Finalist in the Straits Times Singaporean of the Year Award in 2018.</p>	<p>What is poverty? What is inequality? How are they connected? Why should we try?</p> <p>This book asks readers to pose questions in different ways, and in so doing, to see themselves as part of problems and potential solutions. This is a book about how seeing poverty entails confronting inequality. It is about how acknowledging poverty and inequality leads to uncomfortable revelations about our society and ourselves.</p> <p>And it is about how once we see, we cannot, must not, unsee.</p>

Category: Fiction




No	Author/Book Title	Biography	Synopsis
1	<p>Akshita Nanda <i>Nimita's Place</i></p> <p>(Epigram Books, 2018)</p>  	<p>Akshita Nanda was born in Pune, India in 1979 and has lived in Singapore since 1995. She has a BSc (Hons) from the National University of Singapore and knows what to do with radioactive viruses. She has been in publishing since 2002 and joined The Straits Times in 2007, where she currently writes about the arts. <i>Nimita's Place</i> is her first novel.</p>	<p>In India, 1944, Nimita Khosla yearns to attend university to pursue engineering, but her parents want her to marry. As she accepts her fate, religious upheaval splits the country and displaces her family.</p> <p>In 2014, her granddaughter, molecular biologist Nimita Sachdev, emigrates to avoid an arranged marriage. Arriving in Singapore, she faces rising anger against immigrants and uncertainty about her new home.</p> <p>Two women walk divergent paths but face the same quandaries: who are we, and what is home?</p>
2	<p>Amanda Lee Koe <i>Delayed Rays of a Star</i></p> <p>(Bloomsbury, 2019)</p>  	<p>Amanda Lee Koe was the fiction editor of Esquire Singapore, an honorary fellow of the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa, the recipient of Columbia University's Henfield Prize, and the youngest winner of the Singapore Literature Prize. Born in Singapore, she lives in New York. This is her first novel.</p>	<p>When a photographer captures Marlene Dietrich, Anna May Wong and Leni Riefenstahl during 1928 in Berlin, nobody realises how their lives will reflect the upcoming tumultuous decades.</p> <p>As the story shifts, we also meet a Chinese housemaid attempting to leave the past behind, an obsessive Hollywood auteur and a German soldier involved in a propaganda film. Whom does history remember? This debut about ambition, art, and the political tides of time introduces a mesmerising literary talent.</p>
3	<p>Clara Chow <i>Modern Myths</i></p> <p>(Math Paper Press, 2018)</p>  	<p>Clara Chow is the author of <i>Dream Storeys</i> and <i>Modern Myths</i>. She was an honorary fellow at the International Writing Program in Iowa in 2019.</p>	<p>Figures from Greek mythology take up residence in contemporary Singapore in this collection of stories that explores the pain and dilemma of modern living. What happens when you are doomed to repeat your actions over and over? Or when you have to remake your decisions, knowing that times have changed? What if struggling makes the divine human, and the human divine?</p>

Category: Fiction




No	Author/Book Title	Biography	Synopsis
4	<p>Jing-Jing Lee <i>How We Disappeared</i></p> <p>(Oneworld Publications, 2019)</p>  	<p>Jing-Jing Lee was born and raised in Singapore and graduated from Oxford's Creative Writing Masters in 2011. Her poetry and short stories have been published in various journals and anthologies. Her novella <i>If I Could Tell You</i> was published by Marshall Cavendish and her debut poetry collection <i>And Other Rivers</i> was published by Math Paper Press. Lee's work comes from a wish for lesser-heard voices to be included in the mainstream narrative. She now lives in Amsterdam with her husband.</p>	<p>Japanese troops invade Malaya and Singapore in 1942, ransacking a village, leaving three survivors including a child.</p> <p>17-year-old Wang Di is sent from a neighbouring village to a Japanese military brothel, and her experiences haunt her after decades of silence.</p> <p>In 2000, Kevin overhears a mumbled confession from his ailing grandmother. He attempts to discover the truth, setting unforeseen events in motion.</p> <p>This evocative debut opens a window on a little-known period in history, and introduces a thrilling new writer.</p>
5	<p>Kirstin Chen <i>Bury What We Cannot Take</i></p> <p>(Little A, Amazon Publishing, 2018)</p>  	<p>Kirstin Chen is the bestselling author of <i>Bury What We Cannot Take</i> and <i>Soy Sauce for Beginners</i>. She has received awards from the Steinbeck Fellows Program and the Napa Valley Writers' Conference. Her writing has appeared in <i>Real Simple</i>, <i>Literary Hub</i> and <i>Writer's Digest</i>. She was born in Singapore and is working in San Francisco on a novel about the counterfeit handbag trade. She teaches creative writing at the University of San Francisco and in Ashland University.</p>	<p>The day San San and her brother Ah Liam's lives are forever changed is the day they discover their grandmother taking a hammer to Chairman Mao's portrait. Believing he is doing right by proving his loyalty to the Party, Ah Liam reports his grandmother, setting in motion a terrible chain of events.</p> <p>Against the backdrop of early Maoist China, this captivating tale follows a family as they grapple with the far-reaching consequences of their decisions and their hope for redemption.</p>
6	<p>Ng Yi-Sheng <i>Lion City</i></p> <p>(Epigram Books, 2018)</p>  	<p>Ng Yi-Sheng is a poet, fictionist and activist. His debut poetry collection <i>last boy</i> won the Singapore Literature Prize, which he followed up with <i>A Book of Hims</i>, its spiritual sequel.</p> <p>His other works include <i>Loud Poems</i> for a Very Obliging Audience and a novelisation of <i>Eating Air</i>. He co-edited <i>GASPP: A Gay Anthology of Singapore Poetry and Prose</i> and recently completed his MA from the University of East Anglia's creative writing programme. <i>Lion City</i> is his first fiction collection.</p>	<p>A man learns that all the animals at the Zoo are robots. A secret terminal in Changi Airport caters to deities. A prince falls in love with a crocodile. A concubine is lost in time. Singapore disappears.</p> <p>These are the strange tales of <i>Lion City</i>, the first collection of short fiction by award-winning poet and playwright Ng Yi-Sheng.</p> <p>Infused with myth, magical realism and contemporary sci-fi, <i>Lion City</i> invites you to see Singapore in a new and darkly fabulous light.</p>

SLP 2020 Judges (English Categories)




Category: Poetry

No	Judge	Biography
1	Yeow Kai Chai (Chief Judge) 	Yeow Kai Chai is a poet, prose writer, editor, and former journalist. He has been working in the media for more than two decades as a writer, editor, and reviewer. He has two poetry collections, <i>Secret Manta</i> and <i>Pretend I'm Not Here</i> . He was Festival Director of Singapore Writers festival from 2015 to 2018.
2	Cathy Song 	Cathy Song's award-winning books include <i>Picture Bride</i> , <i>Frameless Windows</i> , <i>Squares of Light</i> , and <i>Cloud Moving Hands</i> . Featured in <i>The Norton Anthologies of Modern Poetry</i> and <i>American Literature</i> , Cathy is the recipient of The Shelley Memorial Award, The Frederick Bock Prize, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, a Pushcart Prize, and the Hawai'i Award for Literature.
3	Lawrence Lacambra Ypil 	Lawrence Lacambra Ypil is a poet and essayist whose work explores the intersection of text and image, cultural memory and identity. He is the recipient of numerous awards including the inaugural Gaudy Boy Poetry Book Prize 2019 for <i>The Experiment of the Tropics</i> , which eventually was a finalist for the Lambda Literary Awards. He has also received the Academy of American Poets Prize and the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards, among others.

Category: Creative Nonfiction

No	Judge	Biography
1	Clarissa Oon (Chief Judge) 	Clarissa Oon is Head of Communications and Content at Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, and a commentator on the arts in Asia. An arts writer and editor, her writing has appeared in essay anthologies and in <i>Mekong Review</i> and <i>ArtReview Asia</i> . She is the author of a book on the history of English-language theatre in Singapore. At Esplanade, she oversees brand and strategic communications and the running of the centre's streaming and archival platform, Esplanade Offstage (esplanade.com/offstage).
2	Eddie Tay 	Eddie Tay's most recent publication, <i>Anything You Can Get Away With: Creative Practices</i> , is a critical-creative work featuring street photography set in Hong Kong and Singapore. He is also the author of four poetry collections, as well as a book on the colonial and postcolonial literatures of Singapore and Malaysia. He is an Associate Professor at the Department of English, Chinese University of Hong Kong.
3	Sarah Churchwell 	Sarah Churchwell is Professor in American Literature and Chair of Public Understanding of the Humanities at the School of Advanced Study, University of London. Her books include <i>The Many Lives of Marilyn Monroe</i> , <i>Careless People: Murder, Mayhem and The Invention of The Great Gatsby</i> , and <i>Behold, America: A History of America First and the American Dream</i> . She was a co-winner of the 2015 Eccles British Library Writer's Award, and was Prospect magazine's Top Fifty Thinkers in 2019.

Category: Fiction

No	Judge	Biography
1	Haresh Sharma (Chief Judge) 	Haresh Sharma is the Resident Playwright of The Necessary Stage. He has written more than 120 plays, including <i>Off Centre</i> , the first Singapore play to be included as a Literature text for GCE 'N' and 'O' Levels. He is a recipient of the S.E.A. Write Award and the Cultural Medallion.
2	Angelia Poon 	Angelia Poon is Associate Professor of English Literature at the National Institute of Education-Nanyang Technological University (NIE-NTU). She is the co-editor of <i>Singapore Literature and Culture: Current Directions in Local and Global Contexts</i> and one of the editors of <i>Writing Singapore: A Historical Anthology of Singapore Literature in English</i> . She has also co-edited <i>Little Things</i> and <i>Poetry Moves</i> , poetry anthologies for use in secondary schools.
3	Anjali Joseph 	Anjali Joseph's first novel, <i>Saraswati Park</i> , published in 2010, won the Desmond Elliott Prize and the Betty Trask Prize, and the Vodafone Crossword Book Award for Fiction. <i>Another Country</i> appeared in 2012, and was nominated for the Man Asian Literary Award. <i>The Living</i> appeared in 2016, and was shortlisted for the DSC Prize.

→ Images of the writers, book covers and judges can be downloaded [here](#).

About Singapore Book Council

The Singapore Book Council (SBC) is an independent charity with IPC status. Established in 1968 to support Singapore authors and literature, SBC aims to Build Our Imagine-nation by developing creativity, imagination, original thought and empathy. Our programmes focus on creative writing, reading, illustration, translation and storytelling. We are committed to developing a multicultural, diverse literary arts sector through our festivals, training workshops and courses, as well as book awards to recognise excellence.

Vision: International recognition for quality, diverse Singapore literature.

Mission: To develop, support and advocate a multicultural literary arts sector.

SBC is currently chaired by Ms Claire Chiang, co-founder of Banyan Tree Hotels and Resorts.

The Book Council develops and advocates Singapore's books and literary arts scene by organising a variety of festivals, including the annual Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC); giving out prestigious awards such as the biennial national award Singapore Literature Prize; supporting community outreach through the #BuySingLit movement; and building professional capacity through our Academy programmes.

Because it all starts with a story.

SBC is supported by the National Arts Council of Singapore under the Major Company Scheme for the period from 2019 to 2021.

→ For more information, please visit <https://bookcouncil.sg>

About Singapore Literature Prize

Established in 1992, the Singapore Literature Prize (SLP) is Singapore's top literary prize, with more than 80 past winners. The prize is a biennial competition open to Singapore citizens and Permanent Residents whose works of fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction have been published in Singapore or abroad during a specified period of time. The work can be published in any of Singapore's four official languages — Chinese, English, Malay, or Tamil.

The award carries a top prize of S\$3,000 for the winner in each of the categories. In addition, the winners will be awarded a special plaque.

SLP has been awarded biennially and awarded to published works in Singapore's four languages since 2004. The award was expanded in 2014 to include categories for the genres of creative nonfiction category and poetry.

Many notable Singaporean writers have won the SLP, including Mohamed Latiff Mohamed, Yeng Pway Ngon, KTM Iqbal, Cyril Wong, Josephine Chia, Amanda Lee Koe and Sonny Liew.

→ For more information, please visit <https://bookcouncil.sg/awards/singapore-literature-prize>