

A Children Arts Training Centre Gets a CAVE to Learn and Apply Technology for the Arts

- The Little Arts Academy's (LAA) new centre will have 'Tech + Arts' modules, and be equipped with a CAVE studio for children to learn to digitalise art making with technology
- CAVE@LAA lets children as young as six learn about virtual reality and 3D production using technology that is typically found only in institutions of higher learning
- LAA students at Northpoint City centre in Yishun for under-served children will learn technology applications in art

Singapore, June 23, 2018 — CAVE, which stands for Cave Automatic Virtual Environment, has been available at polytechnics and universities here, but can now be accessed by children aged six to 12 years old at The Little Arts Academy's (LAA) new campus at Yishun's Northpoint City.

Students at the arts training centre for under-served children supported by the Business Times Budding Artists Fund (BT BAF), can use this technology to visualise, direct and produce shows. They can also use CAVE@LAA to create an immersive art experience.

The CAVE system was first developed by scientists at the University of Illinois to create a room in which a user can have a full immersive virtual reality experience through high end projectors and computers. The CAVE@LAA is an innovative adaption of the original CAVE -- designed to create a teaching-learning environment for children to experience, experiment and create through the use of new technologies like virtual reality, augmented reality, holograms and 360 degrees video.

The CAVE@LAA has been made possible by the support of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC).

The launch of the CAVE@LAA also kicks off a new series of 'Tech + Arts' modules for LAA students to learn creative media technologies. These modules add value to LAA's current arts-based training curriculum in music, dance, theatre and visual arts so that students can incorporate technology in their various arts genres.

Ms Aminah Hussien, Head, Arts and Community of The RICE Company Limited, a not-for-profit arts organisation that manages LAA, says: “The CAVE@LAA and ‘Tech+Arts’ modules bring a convergence of the arts and technology where the students can expand their creative knowledge and harness technology to bring their artistic creations to a whole new level of experience. In this process, we also hope to enable our young to gain a right mindset and the confidence to be part of a future-ready workforce that is constantly disrupted by the use of digital technology.”

Ms Hussien adds that the CAVE@LAA and ‘Tech+Arts’ training will eventually enable children from as young as six years old to direct and produce their own shows incorporating digital technologies. Says Ms Hussien: “The creation of immersive experiences and practical use of technology through resources such as CAVE, are elements which we intend to incorporate more of into our curriculum as well as new training centres.”

Training at LAA is provided without cost to beneficiaries of The Business Times Budding Artists Fund (BT BAF). The Fund provides opportunities for under-served children to develop their interest in the arts regardless of their financial situation.

CAVE@LAA and ‘Tech+Arts’ modules are developed in collaboration with technology partners Metaverse Systems Pte Ltd and IMMERSIVELY Pte Ltd. Mr Aravind Vasu, CEO of Metaverse Systems says: “We are very excited with this opportunity to teach emergent technologies with CAVE@LAA. We will continue to develop new modules and introduce practical applications for the students to showcase their creativity and imagination.”

Shares Mr Alvin Lim, Head of Digital, HSBC Bank (Singapore) : “What made us particularly interested was that this CAVE system is one of the first in the region to be specifically designed, built and made available to younger children to let them experience learning through virtual reality and 3D technology. We wanted to sponsor this project because it not only benefits under-served children from disadvantaged families, which is something that is always close to our hearts, it also helps to nurture a future generation of tech savvy and creative adults. As Singapore has just topped the ‘smart city’ global ranking and is a leader in the Smart Cities Network across ASEAN, we feel that this initiative is particularly timely and beneficial to our young people.”

Says Mrs Clara Lim-Tan, Deputy Chairman, BT BAF: “We are grateful to HSBC for their generosity and support of CAVE@LAA and the ‘Tech+Arts’ modules as this will mark BT BAF’s first step into the world of digital technology. We are cognisant of current and emerging trends in education that are shaping how people learn and are excited about the possibilities and opportunities that CAVE brings. We will continue to stay abreast of such developments to

ensure that the programmes that we design for our beneficiaries remain meaningful and relevant.”

Both the CAVE@LAA and ‘Tech+Arts’ modules will be launched in conjunction with the opening of LAA’s North Campus II at the new annex wing of Northpoint City in Yishun. The North Campus II is established with support from Frasers Property Singapore through the Urban Redevelopment Authority’s Community and Sports Facilities Scheme (CSFS). This is LAA’s second training centre in the northern part of Singapore.

The opening of LAA North Campus II will be graced by Mr Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social and Family Development.

The opening programme will include a demonstration of Google’s tilt brush in a room-scale 3D painting virtual reality application in CAVE@LAA, as well as performances by BT BAF beneficiaries. There will also be an art exhibition of the students’ artworks that feature the use of Augmented Reality.

Members of the media are invited to the official opening of The Little Arts Academy North Campus II, on 23 June 2018 at 9.30am to 11am, at 1 Northpoint Drive, #02-121, Northpoint City, Singapore 768019.

Issued for and on behalf of The RICE Company Ltd

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Event:	<u>The Little Arts Academy North Campus II Opening</u>	
Date/Day:	23 June 2018, Saturday	
Time:	9.30am – 11am	
Venue:	1 Northpoint Drive, #02-185, Northpoint City, Singapore 768019	
Programme	9.30 am	Registration
	10.00 am	Arrival of Guest of Honour, AP Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education & Ministry of Family and Social Development
		Performances by The Business Times Budding Artists Fund (BT BAF) beneficiaries
		Speeches by: AP Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim Mrs Clara Lim-Tan, Deputy Chairman, BT BAF
		VR Showcase in CAVE by BT BAF beneficiaries
	11.00 am	Lunch

The Little Arts Academy

The Little Arts Academy (LAA), managed by The RICE Company Limited, offers a systematic and multidisciplinary arts training for children aged six to 12. The academy is equipped to provide a creative and innovative learning environment for children keen to pursue both Performing and Visual Arts.

The academy emphasises the creation of original works, performance opportunities and development of personal and technical skills through the arts. With a curriculum that focuses on exploration and experimentation for children, the academy strives to be a leading arts training

ground for young people regardless of personal circumstances. LAA first opened its doors on 19 November 2008 and is supported by The Business Times Budding Artists Fund. For more information, visit www.thelittleartsacademy.sg.

The Business Times Budding Artists Fund

Initiated in 2004 and adopted by The Business Times in 2005, The Business Times Budding Artists Fund (BT BAF) originated from a conviction that no child with a strong interest and potential in the arts should be denied the opportunity to develop his or her talents due to a lack of financial resources. Since 2005, BT BAF has reached out to more than 16,000 financially-disadvantaged children and youths, between the ages of six to 19 years old, through a variety of programmes including a structured arts training programme, arts camps, workshops and signature events. BT BAF supports two arts training centres, The Little Arts Academy and 10 Square @ Orchard Central, and is managed by the RICE Company Limited.

The RICE Company Limited

The RICE Company Limited (TRCL) is a not-for-profit organisation that harnesses the potential of the arts to empower lives. TRCL's core areas of expertise lies in providing arts training for under-served children and youth; enlivening places and spaces through placemaking and content creation; and connecting communities through arts and culture.

TRCL currently manages two social funds (The Business Times Budding Artists Fund and Sing50 Fund), five creative spaces (The Little Arts Academy City, North Campus I & II, 10 Square at Orchard Central, The Pavilion at Far East Square, and Temenggong 18/20) and two subsidiaries (Global Culture Alliance and Millet Holdings). For more information, visit www.therice.sg.

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branches (of which 9 are dedicated HSBC Premier Centre) and many locations across the island providing self-service terminals.

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