



Developing Wayfinding Iconic Murals in Neighbourhoods

INTRODUCTION

Singapore's population is ageing rapidly. The number of projected persons living with dementia will continue to increase. It is therefore important that our neighbourhoods incorporate environmental designs that are age- and dementia-friendly to meet future residential needs.

Wall murals using familiar objects can act as unique identifiers to enhance wayfinding and reminiscence for persons living with dementia navigating in the neighbourhood. With more neighbourhoods becoming dementia-friendly, community partners have shown great interest in implementing mural painting projects.

This deck serves as a simple guide for community partners who wish to enhance wayfinding in making their neighbourhood dementia-friendly.

A simple resource that shares quick tips, recommended process and parties involved based on learning and recommendations was developed for community partners who are keen to embark on similar projects.

Note: AIC recommends to embark a more holistic dementia-friendly environment upgrading that goes beyond wayfinding murals (including infrastructure enhancements and signage system) for better outcome for persons living with dementia.

Mural Painting Project Process and Timeline

Project Lead	Expert	Persons Living with Dementia	Volunteers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversee the project and coordinate relevant parties in discussion and implementation Monitor timeline and source for resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise and facilitate the development of mural designs including facilitating focus group discussion/s 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide input on the mural designs Share experience in wayfinding the blocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involve in the painting of murals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grassroots leaders (GRLs)/ Constituency Office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dementia expert (Service Provider) Mural design expert (Artist) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents living with dementia Caregivers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth/ Students Residents Interest Group
<u>Phase 1</u> Planning	<u>Phase 2</u> Consultation	<u>Phase 3</u> Recce	<u>Phase 4</u> Implementation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form a project workgroup and share project objectives, timeline and desired outcome Project workgroup comprises of GRLs/ Constituency Office, professionals (artists, dementia care staff), persons living with dementia and caregivers Develop a project plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage community-at-large for buy-in Recruit persons living with dementia and caregivers to conduct focus group discussion/s to conceptualize a theme and develop mural designs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct walkabout and select the walls and pillars to paint the murals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Painting of murals

Things to Consider When Planning the Project

- Engage community to share with them about the project and seek their buy-in and participation, where possible.
- GRLs/ Constituency Office to identify HDB blocks based on known demographics, such as high proportion of senior residents and where eldercare centres are located nearby.
- Walkabout involving GRLs/ Constituency Office, professionals, persons living with dementia and caregivers to identify strategic spots under the void deck to paint the murals.
- Proposed strategic spots:
 1. Murals can be on external facing walls or on walls under the void deck
 2. External facing walls based on the possible routes that people take to enter the block, e.g. existing walkways and link ways, and where there are no obvious signs to indicate the block number
 3. If it is a long HDB block, include additional murals under the void deck as visual cues
 4. To also identify prominent pillars to paint on
- Artist to provide mural design options for selection by persons living with dementia.
- Involve volunteers, residents and artists in the painting process.

Things to Consider When Developing Murals

- Develop a theme when conceptualising the murals.
- Recommend themes that persons living with dementia can relate to and familiar with, such as neighbourhood heritage and iconic food.
- Murals can help to lift moods and prompt memory.
- Select murals that are simple and easily recognisable by persons living with dementia, ideally not more than 5 colours.
- Complicated murals will confuse rather than help them focus on finding their way.
- Ensure that the block numbers included with each mural is not drawn to be as big as the mural.
- As the dementia condition progresses, persons living with dementia may forget their block number. Hence, the focus should be the mural, and the accompanying number should not compete for their attention and cause confusion.



Kebun Baru DFC

Mural Wayfinding Project at AMK Ave 3 and 4 by Dementia Singapore and Community Partners

These retro-inspired and recognisable murals for the seniors and persons living with dementia serve to help individuals navigate around the neighbourhood and back home. Difficulties in wayfinding, particularly at void decks, was a point brought up by many caregivers and residents during the ground-sensing survey.

These murals are placed strategically on HDB walls with their block numbers so that they can be easily noticed. Murals are colourful and large in size so that they can also be seen from far away.





For more information or to share feedback, please email ccmh@aic.sg