

Lasalle terima derma \$50j dari Ngee Ann Kongsi bina bangunan 12 tingkat

PELAJAR Kolej Seni Lasalle tidak lagi perlu berjalan ke kampus-kampus berlainan untuk menghadiri kelas apabila sebuah bangunan baru bernilai \$50 juta siap menjelang 2025.

Blok 12 tingkat itu akan dibina di atas tapak tanah seluas 6,000 meter persegi bersebelahan kampus McNally Street kolej itu.

Ia akan membantu memusatkan kelengkapan sekolah itu selain menghubungkannya dengan stesen MRT Rochor.

Dalam beberapa tahun, sekolah tersebut terpaksa menyewa kelengkapan kesenian di Winstedt Road, ruang dalam kelas di bangunan berdekatan serta studio dari Mediacorp untuk memenuhi jumlah pelajar yang kian bertambah.

Kampus McNally diperuntukkan untuk 1,850 pelajar tetapi jumlah pelajar kini telah mencecah sekitar 2,700.

Meski tanah itu telah diperuntukkan untuk Lasalle sejak ia beralih ke tapak McNally 12 tahun lalu, pendanaan sering menjadi satu cabaran sehingga Ngee Ann Kongsi mengikrarkan \$50 juta tahun lalu.

Ini merupakan derma terbesar kumpulan Teochew itu dan derma terbesar Lasalle sejauh ini, lapor *The Straits Times*.

Dalam ucapannya semalam, Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Encik Heng Swee Keat berkata adalah bersesuaian kedua-dua institusi bersejarah itu bersatu untuk menyumbang kepada masa depan negara terutama semasa tahun Bicentennial Singapura ini.

"Usaha kerjasama mereka juga merupakan bukti sejauh mana kita telah menyusur perjalanan ini dari sebuah negara Singapura menjadi rakyat Singapura," tambah Encik Heng yang turut mengalu-alukan usaha kumpulan Teochew itu yang



SUMBANGAN BERSEJARAH: Encik Heng (*dua dari kanan*) menyambut baik kerjasama antara Kolej Seni Lasalle dan Ngee Ann Kongsi. (*Dari kiri*) Presiden Kolej Seni Lasalle, Encik Steve Dixon; pengurusinya Encik Peter Seah; dan Presiden Ngee Ann Kongsi, Encik Jamie Teo di kampus sekolah itu di McNally Street semalam. – Foto BH oleh JASON QUAH

menyumbang jutaan dolar kepada sekolah seni yang diasaskan penganut Katolik.

"Ini bukan sesuatu yang sentiasa berlaku di negara lain hari ini, justeru kita perlu menghargainya dan tidak mengabaikannya," kata Encik Heng, yang juga Menteri Kewangan, semasa majlis penyampaian cek di kampus McNally Lasalle.

Adik-beradik De La Salle pertama kali datang ke Singapura pada 1852 untuk mengajar di Institusi St Joseph sebelum membuka beberapa sekolah di Singapura.

Encik Joseph McNally yang memulakan Pusat Seni St Patrick pada 1984 dengan 27 pelajar, yang kemudian menjadi Lasalle.

Kerja-kerja pembinaan bagi bangunan baru itu akan bermula pada 2021 dan dijangka siap dalam masa tiga hingga empat tahun.

Ia akan merangkumi kelengkapan baru seperti dewan kuliah yang dapat memuatkan 300 orang, studio filem dan galeri baru di bangunan bawah yang akan dibuka kepada orang awam.

LASALLE receives \$50m donation to build 12-storey building

Students from the LASALLE College of the Arts will no longer have to walk to other campuses in order to attend classes in 2025. This is when a new \$50 million building is scheduled to be completed.

The 12-storey block will be built on a piece of land of about 6,000 square metres, and is located right next to the College's current McNally campus. It will help consolidate the school's facilities into a single location.

For a few years now, the school has been renting facilities at Winstedt Road, classroom spaces from nearby buildings and a studio from Mediacorp to accommodate its increasing enrolment numbers. LASALLE's McNally campus was designed to house 1,850 students, but the current student population has reached around 2,700.

Even though the land just adjacent to Rochor MRT station had been earmarked for LASALLE since its move to McNally Street 12 years ago, funding for construction remained a challenge.

The Ngee Ann Kongsi's \$50 million donation, the biggest from the Teochew group and the largest received for LASALLE to date, has enabled long-established plans to be realised.

In his speech at the cheque presentation ceremony, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Mr Heng Swee Keat said that it was fitting that both institutions are contributing to the future of the nation, especially in Singapore's Bicentennial year.

"Their collaboration is also a testament to how far we have come along this journey from Singapore to Singaporean," added Mr Heng, who also applauded the harmonious ties between a Teochew foundation and a Catholic order. "This is not something that happens readily in other parts of the world today, and something that we should treasure and never take for granted."

The De La Salle Brothers first came to Singapore in 1852 to teach at St Joseph's Institute, before establishing a few schools in Singapore. One of which was St Patrick's Art Centre, founded by the late-Brother Joseph McNally in 1984. From its initial 27 students, the school has grown from strength to strength to become LASALLE today.

Construction for the new building will begin in 2021 and is expected to be completed in three to four years. It will encompass new facilities like a lecture theatre which can sit 300 people, a film studio and new public galleries at the ground floor level of the building.