

## MEDIA RELEASE

### BCA UNVEILS NEW MEASURES TO PUSH FOR GREATER INCLUSIVITY IN OUR BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- *BCA launches enhanced Universal Design (UD) Mark criteria for evaluating buildings*
- *New “Singapore Standard SS605 – Guide for Age-friendly Homes” to provide guidance on designs for the elderly*
- *Inaugural “Dinner in the Dark Fund Raising Dinner” and “UD Explorers Exhibition” organised as part of Singapore Universal Design Week 2015*

**Singapore, 27 July 2015** – The Building and Construction Authority (BCA) has introduced new measures to champion for a more inclusive living environment in Singapore. Guest-of-Honour Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Minister for Social and Family Development, officially opened the second Singapore Universal Design Week (SUDW) today at the BCA Academy. He shared details on the new measures that will benefit persons of all ages and needs, including the elderly, persons with disabilities and mothers with young children. ***Themed “Shaping an Age-friendly Built Environment”, the week-long event provides a platform for industry professionals and the public to exchange and share knowledge on creating a more inclusive built environment for all.***

#### Enhanced UD Mark criteria (Refer to Factsheet C)

2. BCA has launched a set of enhanced Universal Design (UD) Mark criteria called the UD Mark Version 2.0 (2015), for evaluating UD implementation in buildings. ***The revised standards will set higher UD certification benchmarks and provide an expanded design scope for buildings.*** This include the additional criteria of installing assistive hearing facilities for the elderly with hearing difficulties, and design features for persons with visual disability assisted by guide dogs. The enhanced criteria will raise the bar for UD in Singapore.

3. Introduced in 2012, the UD Mark certification recognises progressive developers and architects who incorporate thoughtful UD features in project developments. Since then, BCA has certified 85 developments with the UD Mark.

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### **Launch of Singapore Standards for Age-friendly Homes** (refer to Factsheet B)

4. ***To further encourage more building developers and architects to apply UD in their projects, BCA collaborated with SPRING Singapore and the Singapore Standards Council (SSC) to launch the “Singapore Standard SS605 – Guide for Age-friendly Homes”.*** This is one of the standards by the Technical Committee on Liveability within Homes and Community, chaired by BCA. The technical committee is appointed by the Silver Industry Standards Committee (SISC), which comes under the purview of the SSC. The standard will provide guidance on specific design considerations that are beneficial to the elderly to enhance their safety, comfort and accessibility at home. These include the provision of grab bars, non-trip flooring and adaptable toilet layout in homes. Following the launch of this new standard, BCA will promote the adoption of this standard through various publicity events.

5. “With Singapore’s rapidly ageing population, SISC hopes to enhance the quality of life for older adults through developing relevant standards to improve their safety, health, mobility and comfort. Older adults spend a significant amount of time in their homes, so one of SISC’s approaches is to focus on shaping the development of an age-friendly built environment. SS605 will help to ensure that design elements are considered to minimise potential accidents in homes, promote personal independence and mobility, and encourage older adults to age-in-place without prematurely having to move to nursing homes,” said Mr Robert Chew, SISC Chairman.

6. Commenting on the new measures rolled out by BCA, Dr John Keung, Chief Executive Officer of BCA said, “BCA is constantly looking for ways to push the envelope for greater inclusivity in our built environment. This is why we are launching the enhanced UD Mark criteria to set higher certification benchmarks for building owners. In addition, the Singapore Standard SS605 will be a useful guide to help more stakeholders go beyond the minimum Code requirements and apply inclusive design principles in their projects.”

### **Inaugural outreach programmes during SUDW 2015** (refer to Factsheet A)

#### *See the World Differently* Fund-raising Dinner

7. For the first time, BCA will be holding a charity event called the “*See the World Differently* Fund-raising Dinner” as part of this year’s SUDW on 30<sup>th</sup> July at Hotel Re!. The proceeds from the table sales will be donated to the President’s Challenge. Guests from the built environment sector will enjoy a full course dinner in complete darkness to experience

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what it means to carry out simple daily activities such as eating without sight. ***This will allow them to have greater empathy for persons with disabilities and better appreciate the importance of friendly features in our built environment.***

### UD Explorers Exhibition

8. This year, BCA also developed the UD Explorers programme to further promote and share with the public on the importance of UD in our surroundings. Between May and July this year, some 500 primary school students attended guided educational tours at selected user-friendly shopping malls in Singapore. The tours highlight various UD features such as ramps, grab bars and wheelchair-friendly toilets that can be found in these malls. Some of the UD-friendly malls include City Square Mall, Changi City Point, Westgate and Vivo City.

9. The students recorded what they learnt from the tours through art. Selected artworks will be showcased in the “UD Explorers Exhibition” at Westgate from 31 July to 2 August during SUDW 2015. Minister Grace Fu, Member of Parliament for Yu Hua Constituency will be gracing the Official Opening as the Guest-of-Honour.

### **Outreach efforts and educational leaflet**

10. ***To engage the public in understanding how an Age-Friendly Built Environment would enhance the quality of life for our seniors, BCA had produced a public education leaflet titled “Shaping an Age-friendly Built Environment”.*** The leaflet is designed with simple-to-understand illustrations and explains concepts on age-friendly design to cater to the elderly’s needs as well as the importance of social graciousness in sharing public facilities. It also highlights specific elder-friendly features such as seats with armrests and gentle staircases with well-designed handrails. The leaflet will be distributed at various community outreach events.

11. BCA’s other outreach efforts include industry conferences and user consultations, as well as public roving exhibitions, to promote greater understanding towards users of diverse abilities and needs, and the adoption of user-friendly design approaches in buildings.

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**Issued by the Building and Construction Authority on 27 July 2015**

### **About Building and Construction Authority**

The Building and Construction Authority (BCA) of Singapore champions the development of an excellent built environment for Singapore. BCA's mission is to shape a safe, high quality, sustainable and friendly built environment, as these are four key elements where BCA has a significant influence. In doing so, it aims to differentiate Singapore's built environment from those of other cities and contribute to a better quality of life for everyone in Singapore. Hence, its vision is to have "a future-ready built environment for Singapore". Together with its education arm, the BCA Academy BCA works closely with its industry partners to develop skills and expertise that help shape a future-ready built environment for Singapore. For more information, visit [www.bca.gov.sg](http://www.bca.gov.sg).

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## **SUDW 2015 - FACTSHEET**

**FACTSHEET ON BCA SINGAPORE UNIVERSAL DESIGN WEEK (SUDW) 2015  
(27 JULY 2015 – 2 AUG 2015)**

- A SINGAPORE UNIVERSAL DESIGN WEEK (SUDW) 2015**
  - B FACTSHEET ON LAUNCH OF SS605:2015 GUIDE FOR AGE-FRIENDLY HOMES**
  - C FACTSHEET ON UNIVERSAL DESIGN MARK VERSION 2.0 (2015)**
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## SUDW 2015 - FACTSHEET

### A SINGAPORE UNIVERSAL DESIGN WEEK (SUDW) 2015

#### Background

The Singapore Universal Design Week (SUDW) is one of the several initiatives undertaken by BCA to push the UD envelope and raise greater industry and public awareness on UD.

#### The Singapore Universal Design Week 2015

The second Singapore Universal Design Week (SUDW) will be held from 27 Jul to 2 Aug 2015 at the BCA Academy, with the theme “Shaping an Age-friendly Built Environment”. Activities held this year aim to engage industry stakeholders on responding to the needs of an age-friendly built environment, in particular seniors, families with young children and persons with disabilities.

The SUDW 2015 will feature these key events:

- UD Conference & Products Showcase
- Design Workshop to explore the best practices in way-finding
- UD Forum
- UD Building Tour to award-winning projects
- “See the World Differently” Fund-raising Dinner
- UD Explorers Exhibition to reach out to school children and the public

#### UD CONFERENCE

Speakers will share their visions and practical application of UD concepts in their various design projects at the UD Conference on 27 Jul 2015. The keynote presentation on Responsible Design will be delivered by Mr Moshe Safdie, a renowned international figure in architecture and urban design and the master architect behind Singapore’s Marina Bay Sands development. The conference will also see a practicing doctor and an occupational therapist share their experiences on how an age-friendly built environment can better prepare for ageing in place at the community level.

#### PRODUCTS SHOWCASE

A products showcase co-located at the conference will allow design professionals, developers and suppliers to network and learn about the various products, technologies and services available in the market. There will be exhibits of innovative products that will enhance the user-friendliness and improve accessibility of the built environment.

#### DESIGN WORKSHOP ON WAY-FINDING

A half-day design workshop to be conducted in the morning of 28 Jul 2015 will explore the design requirements for good way-finding practices from within a building, to its surrounding adjacent buildings and the nearest public transport nodes. Mr Ken Chong, convenor of the Workgroup which developed “SS599:2014 Guide for Way Finding Signage in Public Areas”, will conduct the workshop. Besides sharing knowledge and expertise, the workshop aims to raise awareness on the needs of older persons on way-finding.

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### UD FORUM

The UD Forum to be held on the 28 Jul 2015 aims to get the industry and persons with disabilities together to discuss the needs of persons with disabilities with regards to the built environment. The BCA UD Club members will conduct and lead the discussions.

The UD Forum is expected to broaden design thinking and establish greater commitment to accessibility and UD amongst the participants. Ideas, good practice and details will be documented and published, and given to the participants and distributed at other publicity events.

The UD Forum is preceded by a UD Walk held on 6 Jul 2015, attended by building professionals and representatives from Volunteer Welfare Organisations (VWOs). Through interaction with participants of different abilities at the UD Walk, attendees from the building industry identified and documented good and poor building designs. These findings will form the topics for discussion at the UD Forum.

### UD BUILDING TOUR

The half-day UD Building Tour to be conducted in the morning of 29 Jul 2015 will showcase three award winning buildings (see below for building names). These buildings have not only adopted a user-centric approach in its design stages, they have also carried the practice consistently throughout the buildings' life cycles, into their current facilities management procedures. Industry professionals and developers will see for themselves how important it is to adopt Universal Design features from the design stage and the downstream impact they have.

- D'Leedon (UD Mark – Platinum)
- ITE Headquarters and ITE College @ Ang Mo Kio (UD Mark – Platinum)
- Khoo Teck Puat Hospital (UD Award – Gold)

### “See the World Differently” Fund-raising Dinner

This fund-raising, experiential dinner event on 30 Jul 2015 will reach out to the industry to reinforce the importance of UD in our built environment. Interested industry stakeholders who have purchased tickets to the dinner, will enjoy a full course dinner in complete darkness. The programme aims to encourage guests to rethink their prejudices and stereotypes, to have empathy and appreciate the importance of UD features in our built environment.

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### UD EXPLORERS EXHIBITION

The UD Explorers Exhibition is an outreach programme which aims to educate, enhance awareness and interest of primary school students on the UD features found in their daily lives and their impact on Singapore's built environment. Between May and July this year, BCA worked in partnership with selected shopping malls (see below for participating UD Malls) to host guided UD Tours of their premises to these young UD Explorers. Students will record their observations through art, which will be showcased in an exhibition at Westgate from 31 Jul to 2 Aug 2015.

- 313 @ Somerset (Lend Lease)
- Bedok Mall (CapitaMalls)
- Changi City Point (FrasersCentrepoint)
- City Square Mall (CDL)
- Lot 1 Shopper's Mall (CapitaMalls)
- Vivo City (Maple Tree)
- Westgate (CapitaMalls)

### B FACTSHEET ON LAUNCH OF SS605:2015 GUIDE FOR AGE-FRIENDLY HOMES

#### **Introduction**

Singapore is facing a rapidly ageing population and this has implications to the design of living environments for older people. When people age, they experience changes in their physical abilities and needs. These changes can impact the way they interact with their living spaces at home.

Safety among older adults is also a growing area of concern. According to the Singapore's Trauma Registry Report, 2,341 adults aged 55 and above had minor to serious falls, with 90 of these cases leading to fatalities. Older adults with sustained injuries from falls will also have a compromised quality of life and may have to bear recurrent hospital bills.

Therefore it is important that we consider design guidelines to provide for an age-friendly home environment that help minimise potential hazards and inaccessibility for older people.

The design of age-friendly homes should enhance the quality of life of older people. The older person should be able to enjoy privacy in a comfortable and conducive environment to pursue the type of lifestyle that he/she chooses.

Age-friendly home design takes into account universal design principles and standards for safety and accessibility. It incorporates well-planned features that accommodate people with a range of needs and support in-home care-giving when needed. At the same time, it is essential for the age-friendly home to be connected to the community. This will give older persons the choice to lead an active lifestyle and continue with their various activities with family and friends.

#### **SS605:2015 Guide for age-friendly homes**

The Singapore Standard SS605:2015 provides guidance on the designs and improvements of the home environment to make the home safe and comfortable for older persons. In particular, it addresses the design and adaptation of specific areas within the home to accommodate ageing-in-place. The contents of this standard will be relevant to housing developers, architects, interior designers, renovation contractors, home owners and caregivers in creating an age-friendly living environment.

The guide describes both the key aspects which are essential design features for improving safety and accessibility of the home, and recommended aspects which are design elements that can further enhance the comfort and adaptability of the home for older persons. There is also a comprehensive design checklist to aid in the review of appropriate design considerations for an age-friendly home.

The standard provides definitions of various terms related to ageing, for example, ageing-in-place, impairment, assistive technology, activities of daily living (ADL). It also provides detailed recommendations on each part of the home, for example,

position of grab bars, layout of the kitchen and height of cabinets for easy access by older persons.

### **Standards**

Standards are a set of agreed best practices by key stakeholders which comes in the form of guidelines or specifications. This provides a reliable basis for people to share the same expectations about a product or service.

Standards cover areas such as design, use or performance of materials, products, processes, services and systems. As such, standards help make life easier and more efficient through raising productivity and enabling inter-operability as well as boosting consumer confidence through increasing reliability and safety in the goods or services we produce and use.

Standards also play a strategic role in adding value to companies' brand and facilitating market opportunities by keeping their products and services aligned to industry or international practices and systems.

Singapore standards can be purchased from the Singapore Standards eShop at [www.singaporestandarseshop.sg](http://www.singaporestandarseshop.sg).

### **The Singapore Standardisation Programme**

As the national standards body, SPRING develops standards to meet industry and regulatory needs, through the Singapore Standards Council (SSC), which comprises representatives from the industry, professional bodies, associations, academia and government agencies, as well as the consumers association. SPRING and the SSC also facilitate consensus-building during the development of standards and the general public is invited to comment on the draft standards before they are published.

### **Silver Industry Standards Committee (SISC)**

The Silver Industry Standards Committee (SISC) is one of 12 Standards Committees (SCs), established by the SSC to develop, maintain, promote and facilitate the implementation of Singapore Standards and relevant International Standards. The SCs support key national and industry initiatives to facilitate growth, improve productivity, raise resource efficiency and support safety and social needs. SCs also review and promote Singapore's participation in the development of international standards that are key to Singapore's strategic interest.

The SISC supports active aging in Singapore to enhance the quality of life of the elderly. The SISC also supports initiatives to provide quality of products and services for the elderly, shape the development of an age-friendly built environment and facilitate market access for silver industry products and services. The scope of the SISC covers liveability within homes and community, healthcare and eldercare, nutrition for elderly, and technology for elderly.

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The SISC has set up a working group under its Technical Committee on liveability within homes and communities to draft the new standard SS605 - Guide for Age-Friendly Homes. The members of the technical committee are Ms Goh Siam Imm, Ms Loy Kwee Wah, Ms Jessie Wu, Mr Chan Chee Choong, Ms Diana Chin, Mr Thomas Ho, Mr Jimmy Lam, Mr Lee Boon Seng, Dr Lim Keng Hui, Ms Ivy Lim, AP Tan Teng Hooi, Mr Tan Yit Chuan and Dr Wong Sweet Fun.

### **SPRING Singapore**

SPRING Singapore is an agency under the Ministry of Trade and Industry responsible for helping Singapore enterprises grow and building trust in Singapore products and services. As the national standards and accreditation body, SPRING develops and promotes an internationally-recognised standards and quality assurance infrastructure. SPRING also oversees the safety of general consumer goods in Singapore. As the enterprise development agency, SPRING works with partners to help enterprises in financing, capability and management development, technology and innovation, and access to markets. Please visit [www.spring.gov.sg](http://www.spring.gov.sg) for more information about SPRING Singapore.

### **Singapore Standards Council**

The industry-led Singapore Standards Council (SSC) approves the establishment and withdrawal of Singapore Standards and advises SPRING Singapore, the national standards body, on the directions, policies, strategies and priorities for the Singapore Standardisation Programme.

The Council has appointed 12 Standards Committees to lead standards development and implementation in various functional areas. Under these Standards Committees, various Technical Committees and Working Groups, which comprise representatives from the industry, professional bodies, associations, academia and government agencies, are formed to undertake the preparation of standards. Please visit [www.spring.gov.sg/standards](http://www.spring.gov.sg/standards) for more information on SSC.

### C FACTSHEET ON UNIVERSAL DESIGN MARK VERSION 2.0 (2015)

#### BCA Universal Design Mark

Universal Design (UD) means “design for all” and helps to make our built environment more inclusive. Introduced in October 2012, the BCA UD Mark is a voluntary certification scheme that promotes UD and encourages the building industry to incorporate the principles in their developments and projects. The award recognises developments and projects where developers and architects pursue a design philosophy that enables everyone – the young, the old and persons with different abilities – to enjoy inclusive living in familiar surroundings with their loved ones. This scheme assesses projects at the design stage, facilitating the incorporation of UD at the start of the developments. Once completed, the project development will be awarded a display plaque, indicating one of the four UD Mark ratings: Certified, Gold, Gold<sup>PLUS</sup> or Platinum. For on-going projects, Universal Design Mark ratings will be determined based on design and indicated as Certified (Design), Gold (Design) or Gold<sup>PLUS</sup> (Design).

#### Categories

- Non-Residential (New)
- Non-Residential (Refurbished)
- Residential (New)
- Parks and Public Spaces

#### Judging Criteria

- Process
- User-friendliness
- Design Integration
- Accessibility and Inter-Connectivity
- Safety
- Operations and Maintenance

Year	Total no. of UD Mark Award Winners
2013	26
2014	31
2015	37

### Universal Design Mark Version 2.0 (2015)

1. It is timely to review the criteria and points allocation in each section to align to the new Code standards, and incorporate emerging UD trends and additional UD features. With the revised UD Mark Criteria, we aim to raise the bar on UD adoption in developments.
2. There are four types of rating given to completed projects.
  - a. Universal Design Mark Platinum
  - b. Universal Design Mark Gold<sup>PLUS</sup>
  - c. Universal Design Mark Gold
  - d. Universal Design Mark Certified
4. The revised weightage of points:

Current	New
Gold (65 to 74)	Gold (65 to 79)
Gold <sup>PLUS</sup> (75 and above)	Gold <sup>PLUS</sup> (80 and above)
Platinum (75 and above; panel assessment required)	Platinum (85 and above; panel assessment required)

We also included performance rating descriptions with the objectives stated so as to improve applicants' understanding on the qualitative standards and scoring requirements expected of the different ratings in UD Mark certification.

5. The following are the additional UD facilities and features in the revised UD Mark score criteria:
  - a. In support of healthy living, we included jogging track, walking trails, and openly accessible staircases that are integrated with the principal path of travel so as to promote daily exercise.
  - b. Additional points would be given to developments which provide child-friendly sanitary facilities, kid's club facilities, child care centre, play area for children of various age group and abilities.
  - c. To increase the awareness of the needs of persons with hearing disabilities, we included a new section in the criteria for hearing enhancement features. Developments providing assistive hearing facilities beyond Code will be awarded points.
  - d. To cater to the needs of visually impaired with guide dogs, points would be awarded to developments that provide friendly features or services for guide dogs and the guide dog handler.

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- e. Under Part 4 - Connectivity and Accessibility, we expanded the criteria for lifts and escalators. Points will be given for additional UD features such as seats at lift lobbies, friendly features for the hearing impaired and escalators with safety features (e.g. audio feedback and guard rail).
- f. To improve safety for persons with disabilities along accessible paths, safety considerations such as rounded wall corners, recessed fixtures and wider ramp dimensions will be awarded points.
- g. To encourage building owners to participate in creating awareness of UD, points will be given for educational signage, posters and dedicated exhibition spaces within the building.