Thank you for being an arts volunteer! We hope the Befriender’s Arts Toolkit has provided meaningful ways to engage with your beneficiary. For more ideas, please visit www.nac.gov.sg/BAToolkit.

Places and Voices of Our Neighbourhood
Mapping stories through the arts

Suggested Duration: 1 hour

Acknowledgements

Activity Designed By Moses Sia

With Special Thanks To Boon Lay Youth Executive Committee Lions Befrienders

Filos Community Services Limited Life Community Services Society

NTUC Health Co-operative Limited Thye Hua Kwan Moral Charities

An Initiative By Supported By In Support Of

National Arts Council
Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

SG Cares

Terms of Use: No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the written permission of the publisher. The publisher has made every effort to ensure that the instructions are accurate and safe, but cannot accept liability for any injury or damage to the property arising from them. All rights reserved. Strictly not for sale.
Dear Befriender,

Engaging in arts-related activities provide opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds to come together, share stories and experiences, and form social connections. This Befriender's Arts Toolkit provides befriender volunteers like yourself with simple ideas for art-making activities for home visits. We've designed it to be fun and easy to use, with or without a background in the arts – so that you can focus on engaging the beneficiaries!

“You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation.”

- Plato

About the National Arts Council

The National Arts Council champions the arts in Singapore. By nurturing creative excellence and supporting broad audience engagement, our diverse and distinctive arts inspire our people, connect communities and profile Singapore internationally. We preserve our rich, cultural traditions as we cultivate accomplished artists and vibrant companies for the future. Our support for the arts is comprehensive – from grants and partnerships to industry facilitation and arts housing. The Council welcomes greater private and corporate giving to and through the arts so that together we can make the arts an integral part of everyone's lives. For more information on the Council's mission and plans, visit www.nac.gov.sg

Find us online
www.nac.gov.sg/BAToolkit

Hashtag us
Use #BAToolkit when you share images, connect with fellow befrienders, or do anything related to our activities!
Places and spaces hold memories and connections that shape who we are, and the communities we belong to.

This activity provides opportunities for you to get to know another person better through the stories they tell as they create a map of their neighbourhoods.

The maps are then brought to life as you introduce digital elements like voice recordings. Throughout the process, remember that it is more important to have a good chat than to make a perfect map. Enjoy getting to know each other!

**Key Materials**

You will need:

1. A3-sized coloured paper
2. Small origami paper (around 8cm squares)
3. Glue stick
4. Scissors
5. Markers (different colours)
6. Tablet device (iOS/Android)
7. Suggested app: TinyTap (free app)

**Start a conversation about your neighbourhood**

Get to know each other by talking about the places that you frequent in your neighbourhood. Find common topics by asking about their daily activities. Try to remember what the participant shares. It will be helpful in the next steps.

Create a comfortable space for conversation. Find a steady surface in a well-lit spot to start creating your map.

**Select the background for the map**

Invite them to create a map of their neighbourhood by offering a selection of coloured A3 paper and small origami paper. Offering choices encourages a sense of ownership.

**Create the first landmark – the home!**

Home is where the heart is and where our stories begin. Guide participants in creating a shape that represents their home using small origami paper. Show them how they might fold or cut it. Try not to do it for them, so that they get a sense of ownership of the work.

Observe their response to the activity (e.g. ability or physical challenges). If they struggle with using scissors, try to fold or tear the paper instead. Adjust so they can engage in the activity comfortably.

**Conversation Tips!**

Ask open-ended questions and gently probe to get the conversation going.

Did you go out today (or yesterday)? Where did you go?

How long have you lived here?

Tell me about the places or things you like.

Where do you usually go when you need to buy something?

Notice their choice of colours. You can chat about the colours they like and why they like them.
Not sure what to say? Here are some questions to get things going:

Tell me more about this place.
What do you like about the place?
What can we see at this place?
Why do you go to this place?
Who do you meet in this neighbourhood?

Get creative!
Try different materials, for example use common everyday items like a hair clip to symbolise a hair salon or a toy bus to represent a bus stop.

Be focused!
Keep the tablet out of sight until it is required so they can stay focused on creating the map.

Get ready to take a photo of the map by starting the TinyTap app on the tablet.

Tap on “Create” or “+” to begin.

Tap on the Camera icon:
- choose “Camera” to take a photo of the map, or
- choose “Albums” to search for the picture (if you had photographed the map previously).

Resize the photo (use two fingers) to fit the screen.

To record an audio story:

Use your finger to trace a circle around the landmark and tap on “+” to bring up the record button.

Tap on “Record Tip” to start recording.

Tap on “Record Intro” to start recording.

When done, tap on “Play” to listen to the recording.

Re-record if need be, tap on “Clear Recording” and repeat steps to make a new recording.

Tip!
Be thoughtful when you comment on how the map looks. Remember to praise and commend the effort and stories too.

Masterpiece complete!
The interactive map is now ready! Invite the participant to experience their creation by tapping on the “Play” button to start. Congratulate them on a job well done and thank them for sharing their stories with you.

Tip!
Be thoughtful when you comment on how the map looks. Remember to praise and commend the effort and stories too.