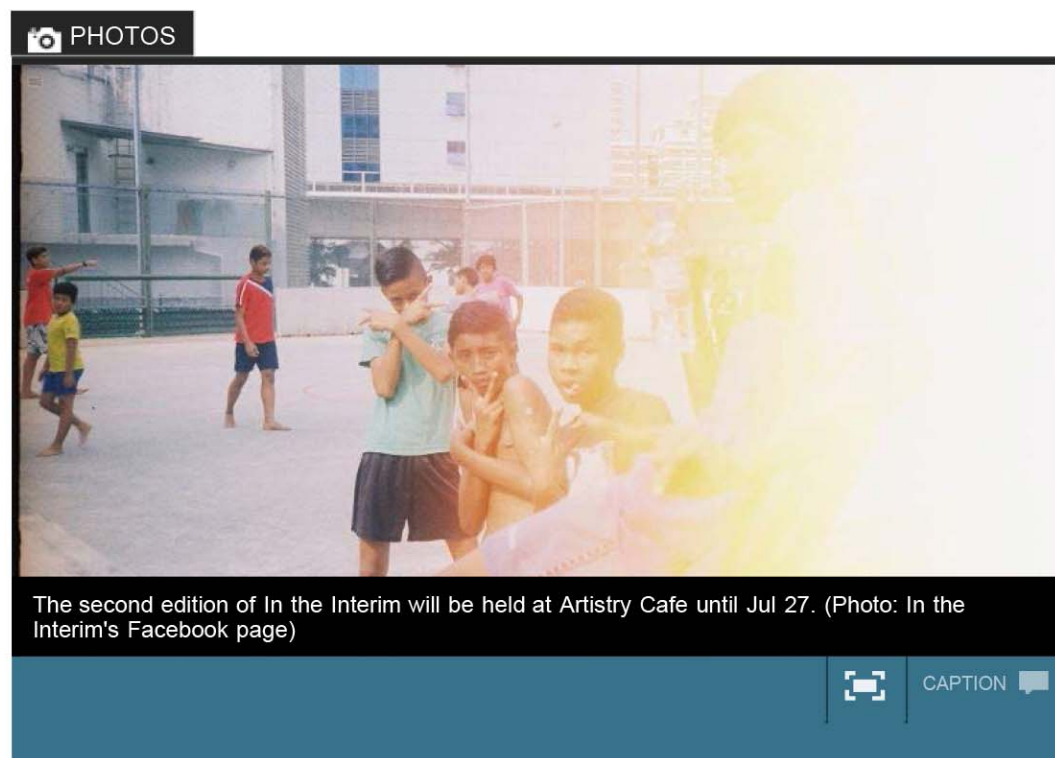


Youths show off another side of Lengkok Bahru through photos

The young residents were put through several courses such as drama, dance and photography before putting up the In the Interim exhibition, whose second edition will run until Jul 27.

By [Syahida Othman](#), Channel NewsAsia

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SINGAPORE: A photo exhibition, called In the Interim, looks into the lives of youths in Lengkok Bahru, a small neighbourhood in Redhill once known for notorious activities such as gangsterism.

Blocks of dingy two-room rental flats, rows of run-down shops and a hawker centre - this is the side of Lengkok Bahru many may have forgotten. It is a neighbourhood where both the young and the elderly make up a substantial part of the community. Despite a notorious past, a sense of warmth envelops the area. Youths like Arash Mohd Yasin and Muhd Asnur Asman spent most of their childhood in the area.

"Lengkok Bahru is not just like a place where the so-called poor people stay. Even though we are poor, we do share our happiness together. Old or young, still the same," said Arash.

Muhd Asnur noted: "We might have a lot of negative things here, gangsterism, fights and stuff. Not a lot of people know that there are a lot of people with good talents in Lengkok Bahru."

And these talents were palpable in the photo exhibition. Together with seven other youths from the neighbourhood, Arash and Muhd Asnur were put through several courses such as drama, dance and photography as part of In the Interim. The outcome: An exhibition that features their identity and aspirations, through film cameras.



Another life story featured in the exhibition is that of Mohammad Rumizan Rasdi. He is an aspiring police officer and soccer player who has lived in Lengkok Bahru for over a decade. Through the project, the 17-year-old learnt to express himself better.

Mohammad Rumizan said: "In photography, you need to be more patient. You have to wait for the time to get nice pictures."

The initiative started in June last year and is organised by a group of graduates from the National University of Singapore, who call themselves Kopitiam Lengkok Bahru. The five-man team, with a background in sociology and industrial design, attempts to bring to light the voices of the "silent majority" through the right tools and guidance.

Said Mohammad Rumizan: "What I want others to know about are our stories, not just my story. What is in their mindset is that people who live in HDB rental flats are bad boys and they have these bad issues, but they are wrong.

"There are not only bad people around here, there are also good people. Sometimes, we help others in life, like old people."

Muhd Asnur said that although Lengkok Bahru is a very small neighbourhood, its residents treat each other the way they would in a "kampung" environment.

"We want to let people know that Lengkok Bahru is not dead," he added.

These young voices will continue to bring life to Lengkok Bahru. The second edition of the photo exhibition will be held at Artistry Cafe until Jul 27.

- CNA/hs