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UOB Conferred Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award

Singapore, 13 September 2005 - United Overseas Bank (UOB) has been conferred the **Distinguished Patron of the Arts** by the National Arts Council for its contribution to the arts.

In 2004, UOB committed a substantial amount of resources to various arts groups, schools, the National Arts Council and the National Heritage Board. More than 50 percent of the sponsorship dollars went to two major musicals: Phua Chu Kang – The Musical and Mamma Mia!. Other major arts sponsorships include the UOB Painting of the Year Competition and Exhibition and The Esplanade's Corporate Patron Donation.

Said Mr Wee Ee Cheong, Deputy Chairman and President of UOB and Chairman of the UOB Art Committee: "We are honoured to receive the highest arts award from National Arts Council. The Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award is testimony to the Bank's commitment in promoting greater interest and appreciation of the arts in Singapore.

"Our sponsorship program is just one way in which UOB plays a role to promote the growth of Singapore's thriving arts scene. In the last 24 years, we have also been organising the highly successful annual UOB Painting of the Year Competition. This prestigious event encourages local artists to persevere in their creative endeavours and accords recognition for the best creative works.

"With the active participation of the community, I firmly believe that Singapore is well on its way of becoming a vibrant city for the arts. UOB will continue to support that development." said Mr Wee.

UOB's Corporate Citizenship Programme

Since 1973, UOB has been helping budding local artists by purchasing their works of art. Through this purchase-support programme, the Bank has, to date, amassed a large collection of works of art totalling more than 1,400 pieces. These paintings are displayed in the Bank's head office at 80 Raffles Place as well as in its network of over 380 offices worldwide.

Launched in 1982, the UOB Painting of the Year Competition recently held its 24th competition in August 2005. The competition is an extension of the Bank's patronage of the arts. Over the last 23 years, the Competition has been successful in garnering good response and extensive publicity for its winners. Hence, the Competition is now regarded as a yardstick in judging the standards of works from amateur and professional artists in Singapore.

In addition to holding an exhibition for award-winning and highly-commended paintings from the Competition, since 1985, UOB also stages a special exhibition featuring works of the winner of the preceding year's competition. The Bank hopes to help local artists gain more recognition for their works and inspire them to achieve even higher standards through such sponsorship.

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