

VOLUNTEER

FAQ

General questions

What is OHM?

Open House Macau (OHM) is a simple but powerful concept: showcasing great architecture for all to experience. Offering behind-the-scenes visits to 50 insightful buildings at no charge, OHM invites everyone to explore and debate the value of a well-designed built environment. OHM will be the first and only Open House initiative to be held in Asia.

Who's organizing it?

The event is curated and organized by [CURB - Center for Architecture and Urbanism](#), together with production and promotion partner [Ponte 9](#), and many other institutions yet to be announced. OHM belongs to [Open House Worldwide](#) family, gathering 40+ initiatives across 4 continents, and summoning over 1 million visitors each year. Open House was founded in 1992 in London by Victoria Thornton and is now one of the most important global institutions for the promotion of architecture. It stands as the world's largest organization dedicated to educating and engaging the public about the best in urban design, architecture, and the critical challenges facing our cities, such as rapid population growth, density, transportation, and the environment.

When will it be held?

Open House Macau will take place on Saturday and Sunday, November 10–11, rain or shine. Parallel programs OHM PLUS, FAMILY and SCHOOL extend the program to a week prior and following the weekend.

Where is it happening?

OHM will include 50 visiting sites and buildings all throughout Macau, mainly located within walking distance from each other. A map will be available at the event's website and also in print version so the audience can design its own itinerary.

How does it work?

Three types of visits will be available: self-guided, accompanied by the event's team / volunteers or commented by specialists. Most sites are registration free and function on a first come, first served basis. OHM SCHOOL, PLUS, and FAMILY programmes will complement site visits' with a number of activities that'll incite all visitors to talk, think about and celebrate the city.

What kind of sites will be available for visiting?

Buildings and sites are carefully selected, according to their unique contribution to the city's culture and fabric. Each site has a special significance: be it architectural design, historic or cultural value, repurposing of space, or unique use of public areas.

Styles / Typologies include traditional Chinese vernacular architecture, Neoclassic, Art Déco, Modernist, and Contemporary buildings. Examples comprise schools, housing complexes, markets, theatres, libraries, piers, museums, government buildings, skyscrapers, hotels, banks, sacred spaces, you name it! There's something for everyone.

Participating sites have the opportunity to show off their exceptional buildings to the public, and explain their history and importance. They view participating in OHM as a way to interact with the community and benefit from publicity and interest in their property. Some of the building owners will even be invited to conduct visits for themselves.

You can check the full building's listing on our [website](#), from mid-September.

Is OHM here to stay?

Undoubtedly! This is the first of a 3-year slot editions.

OHM is taking off 1st edition is great as it is, but our vision goes further to:

- Expand OHM to Taipa, Cotai and Coloane
- Extend OHM SCHOOL, PLUS and FAMILY programmes
- Enlarge the selection of visiting buildings and sites and include more community-based suggestions

- Encourage greater involvement from local and regional architecture and design schools
- Develop knowledge and expertise in the field of Architecture Photography, promoting awards and exhibitions
- Create a digital database of exceptional Macau architecture

And, ultimately:

- Raise awareness to Macau's patrimony and built environment, promoting reflection on its importance as a matter of public interest
- Affirming Macau as a vibrant global capital and a destination for world class design
- Approach citizens to their cities' architecture, raising a collective sense of belonging and a consequential better taken care of urban environment
- Reinforce public perception about the impact of urban culture and architecture on day-to-day living
- Increase recognition of the architects' role in society, as producers of well-designed spaces where living and working becomes an overall positive experience

Volunteer questions

Why Volunteer at OHM?

Passionate about architecture and built environment? Care for transforming your city into a big museum? Enjoy being part of an enlarged family of Macau's enthusiasts?

We are looking for great and wholehearted people to get involved with Open House Macau and take active part of making this weekend memorable for all those involved. We need you to bring a unique and enriching experience to our audience!

The reason OHM can be a free for all event is thanks to a collective taskforce and the engagement of our sponsors, building owners, architects and volunteers. Without the dedicated support of volunteers, producing an event of this size and scale simply would not be possible.

What is OHM Volunteer profile?

You don't need to study or work in architecture to volunteer at OHM. Anyone can join the team! All you need is plenty of enthusiasm to help make the event a success. On the other hand, professionals who volunteer will be able to share their expertise with the visitors and enlarge their contacts' network.

What we're looking for:

- 1 – Great people who love their city and cherish the idea of sharing it with visitors
- 2 – People who believe in the event's mission and enjoy opening doors to building's secrets. Communicating will be a big part of volunteer's role!
- 3 – People who are committed to their responsibilities
- 4 – People who know how to work in a team and are able to follow simple and straight forward instructions from Area Coordinators. Taking tasks seriously is crucial to make sure the event management runs smoothly!
- 5 – People who can manage conflicts if or when they might happen

Please note:

All volunteers need to be +18

At least half of our team should speak English, so international audiences and expats feel as welcome as locals to visiting sites!

How much time do I need to commit?

Volunteers commit a minimum of two shifts (8 hours) at OHM sites or headquarters. Options are: Saturday morning (10am – 2pm), Saturday afternoon (2pm – 6pm), Sunday morning (10am – 2pm), Sunday afternoon (2pm – 6pm). You can also choose to collaborate on multiple shifts on one day or two days. You should arrive to your assigned shift(s) 15min beforehand and remain on site for the duration of your shift, unless otherwise instructed.

There will also be two additional moments of mandatory participation:

- Attend a General Meeting – when you'll find out where you've been assigned, get your badge, t-shirt, soak in an overall briefing and meet your coordinator and OHM staff: November 2nd (around 2h)
- Initial onsite visit – where you'll get to know all about the visiting site you've been assigned, as well as meet its owner and/or team: November 5th – 9th (day tbc)

When you are not volunteering, you are encouraged to take part and visit the other sites participating in OHM, where you can meet your fellow colleagues.

Volunteering prior or immediately after the event will also be very much appreciated. Contact the organization if you're available so we can jointly set a schedule and tasks that best meet your interests.

What are the tasks available?

Our volunteers ensure our visitors have the best possible and memorable experience and may help out with any of the following:

- **Guiding visits** (requires researching one or more buildings and undertaking an initial extended visit with a specialist): lead guided tours to a given building/site, introducing visitors to its history, function and particular architectural features and answering questions at a level for the lay-person. This function applies best for those who are experienced in architecture and know or are willing to know more about Macau's architecture and built environment.
- **Visitors management:** greeting visitors, managing lines, assisting with crowd control during visits, distributing maps, counting how many people visited the site during the shift, asking to complete feedback surveys, and filling in a report (reports should be sent via email right after your shift to your OHM Area Coordinator)
- **Welcome desk:** answering general questions about Open House Macau and available sites, providing practical information and being able to suggest itineraries according to visitors' interests, as well as work actively on promoting the event's social media.
- **Neighborhood support:** serving as runner between different sites within a neighborhood and work closely with Area Coordinators. This may require filling in for volunteers who are no-shows, distributing event guides to site locations throughout the weekend and other necessary support tasks. Support volunteers will move around the city in bicycles, so they should know how to ride and know the city pretty well.

Finally, if you're available for a longer period of time, ranging anytime between July and November, your support is kindly accepted at the Festival's pre-production or post-production stages. Fields available range from production and communication support tasks, distribution, promotion, translations (English to Cantonese), photography, video, etc.

Whatever your role might be, you're expected to:

- Have excellent knowledge of the visitor experience at your assigned building/site and knowledge of other OHM buildings/sites within your vicinity, including their location, opening hours and waiting lines' status, as well as the ability to give more details about the Open House event in general.
- Keep your Area Coordinator informed of your assigned building waiting lines' status and other issues required.

- Liaise and work with building representative/owner at your assigned building to ensure set up and operations are as planned, as well as set up promotional material and hand out information as required for your specific building.

You're also welcome to:

- Be active on social media – facebook, twitter, Instagram, wechat -, sharing OHM posts and posting on our behalf by using #OHM2018, #OHmacau, #ArchitectureBeyondWalls.
- Helping us with promotional material distribution within your neighborhood (let us know if you can do this at the volunteers application form).

Where would I be Volunteering?

You will be assigned a building where you're expected to be during the shift you commit yourself to. The building will be located somewhere in Macau Peninsula (OHM 2018 will be centered in Macau's central district). If you choose so, you might also volunteer at the event's headquarters located at Pier 9 (Inner Harbor).

Do I get to pick my site?

Due to the high volume of sites and volunteers, OHM staff does not have the capacity to field placement requests. Volunteer assignments are based on availability, interest, and accessibility.

How many Volunteers are involved?

We anticipate around +100 volunteers will be involved in OHM 2018. Each site will need minimum of 2 volunteers to assist with public management. If you're applying with a friend, you're welcome to let us know if you'd like to join him/her at the same visiting site (indicate your friend's name at the application form). We'll do our best to try and allocate you together!

There will be a total of 7 Area Coordinators that volunteers will report to. Coordinators are expected to deal with any matter of urgency and report to the Festival's team. Additional staff from visiting sites might also support the event by helping with on-site logistics.

What's in it for me?

By volunteering at OHM, you benefit from plenty of advantages:

- Receive a certificate stating your collaboration with OHM, role played and hours committed

- Get the opportunity to meet others who share your interest in architecture, design, history, and Macau's built environment
- Get prior knowledge of all event's registration-only visits (1 week prior to their announcement)
- Receive a limited edition OHM t-shirt which identifies you as an official OHM volunteer, as well as an OHM promo pack: a notebook, a pencil, a pin and samples/discounts from our sponsors (if applicable)
- Access sites together with a friend (who may not be a volunteer at OHM) without waiting in line – valid for all sites that do not require previous registration, through your priority badge
- Be invited to OHM exclusive opening cocktail and closing party, as well as to a farewell dinner specially prepared for all OHM volunteers. This is a great network opportunity to meet with the organizers of Open House, sponsors, partners and other volunteers, to celebrate the event, and allow us to thank you for your support
- Receive a complimentary Ponte 9 friend membership which provides priority of information on all registration only architecture/design related activities taking place at OHM headquarters throughout the year

Will I be remunerated?

No. Open House Macau volunteer program is a free will architecture education and engagement program designed for all who'd like to commit their time to Macau and to approach citizens to their built environment. The core organization team is composed by professionals who are ultimately responsible for any event outcomes. Volunteer tasks are crucial, but nonetheless, and considering there are no remunerations involved, of moderate responsibility.

I'm interested, what do I need to do next?

Read it all and want to get involved? Submit your application form [HERE](#).

Deadlines:

- First call – August 24th (extended deadline)
Benefit from early-bird advantages: register on our first call and get to choose what building you'll be assigned to as soon as the final selection is settled!
- Second call – October 7th

We'll get back to you, confirming your participation and place/time of the General Meeting. While OHM makes every effort to place all volunteers who apply, due to varying site needs, application does not guarantee placement.