

Community

GET INVOLVED

Cracking the Code

Ziyun Peng finds a place to exchange ideas at hackerspace **Xinchejian**

What is Xinchejian? It's a non-profit hackerspace where people can exchange their ideas and expertise and work on group and individual projects. **How did you get involved?** I was trying to do a music-related project with the open source software Arduino, but was making very little progress, so I searched around and found Xinchejian. David, one of the co-founders, suggested I do a project with an eco-theme and said they had plenty of geeks on board to help. **What's your project?**

It concerns the relationship between humans and nature, or in this case, plants. When the plant is alone, the lights surrounding it are dim, with weak music playing, creating a somewhat sad atmosphere. When someone interacts physically with the plant, the lights become brighter and the music changes. The more time you spend with the plant, the more the music

changes. In this sense, you're building a relationship with the plant. You can also play the plant as an instrument: by touching different parts,

They had plenty of geeks on board to help

you can trigger different notes.

What I love most about this project is that people are not interacting with electronics but with the plant itself. The XCJ guys helped a lot on the circuit design, which I don't think I would've been able to do on my own in such a short time. **What other events does XCJ host?** Workshops on topics like circuit boards, robo-racing, robot building for kids, Arduino and even bees. There's also a meeting every Wednesday at 7pm. ■ **Sophie Friedman**
info@xinchejian.com



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THURSDAY, OCT. 13

Historic Hongkou Tour

Hongkou is the area northeast of the Huangpu, and is one rich in history. A number of writers, intellectuals and dissidents lived here during China's transition to its current form of government, and this tour tells you their stories. There are turn-of-the-century villas and shady plane trees aplenty. You'll also visit a TCM clinic. The tour finishes with an optional lunch and *pingtan* performance, which are not included in the tour cost. Meet at the south gate on the corner of Doulun Lu and Sichuan Lu. ¥300. 10am-12:30pm

Community Center Shanghai >
Jinxu Dong Lu 3382-1770, 5030-3313,
pudongclass@communitycenter.cn

SATURDAY, OCT. 15

Open Mic Afternoon

These open-mic sessions invite you to read poetry, prose, drama, non-fiction, works-in-progress, polished pieces and whatever else you like. The maximum length of each reading is seven minutes, and though the pieces can be sections of a larger work, they must be able to stand alone. Send your 150-word proposal or sample in advance. 2:30pm

The Glamour Bar 6350-9988,
literary-m@m-restaurantgroup.com

Make Opera Masks with Disabled Adults

Head to Sunshine Disabled Home with BEAN and help the home's residents make opera masks. The crafting helps improve their fine motor skills and the one-on-one work improves socialization. 1:15-3:30pm

BEAN beanshanghai@gmail.com,
shanghai.beanonline.org

SATURDAYS, OCT. 15 AND 22

Reading Buddies

Go with BEAN to help small groups of students learn to read kindergarten- and grade-one-level English books. Practice sounding out, pronouncing and defining words. Volunteers will be using books from a BEAN-donated library, but you are welcome to donate additional books too. Please RSVP. 1:15-4:30pm

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SUN., OCT. 16 AND SAT., OCT. 29

Care for Orphans With Cleft Palates

Join BEAN in taking care of orphans who are undergoing cleft palate surgery. Shanghai Healing Home provides a place to live for both pre- and post-op infants with correctable deformities. Volunteers will play one-on-one with the kids and assist in basic facilities

maintenance. Please RSVP to BEAN and let them know whether you prefer child-care or maintenance. 9:45am-12pm

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SUNDAY, OCT. 16

Shanghai's Lilong Culture

This tour introduces you to the development of Shanghai's laneways during the 19th and 20th centuries, where children played, families hung their laundry and old ladies chattered about (few spaces like this remain today). Fanny Hoffman-Loss, a Shanghai housing researcher, will take you through different types of lanes in the former French Concession. ¥300. 10am-1pm

Okura Garden Hotel 138-1892-2040,
cwootliff@shanghai-flaneur.com

Volunteer: Abandoned Animals

BEAN has teamed up with Second Chance Animal Aid (SCAA) to help groom, play with and give some TLC to abandoned cats and dogs. The home is 45 minutes outside of Shanghai, so volunteers will meet beforehand to board the bus. ¥40 for transportation. 9:30am-1:30pm

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Adopt a Grandparent

Gain a surrogate grandparent in China through BEAN's new elder care program. The group is working with five senior centers in Shanghai to bring a smile to residents' faces. Play board games like mahjong, checkers and Jenga and enjoy the seniors' company. No Chinese language skills are required, but an RSVP is. 2:30-4:30pm

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MONDAY, OCT. 17

Yu Garden Culture Tour

Yu Garden is a UNESCO cultural heritage site and an excellent example of Chinese classical gardens. The City God Temple is home to the Chinese Taoist Immortals and a place you can receive your own blessing. Meander through Yu Garden's lanes and little parks with your tour guide, Shanghai native Lily Wang. ¥250, does not include lunch. 9:30am-12:30pm

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BEAN Networking Night

This group of young altruists hosts its monthly networking night. Rabbit Hole is offering BEANren a pizza-and-beer deal and two-for-one drinks as part of an extended happy hour. 7:30-10pm

The Rabbit Hole beanshanghai@gmail.com,
shanghai.beanonline.org



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