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By Nuranisha Abdul Rahim, Channel NewsAsia

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Artist's impression of the new SMU Campus Green. (Image: SMU)

SINGAPORE: The Singapore Management University (SMU) on Friday (May 15) announced it will commit an estimated S\$20 million to give its campus a makeover.

According to the local varsity, the makeover would include a 240-seater amphitheatre, which will act as a stage for the university's students to showcase their talents and engage with the community, as well as a three-storey fitness centre.

Works will start in August this year, and the whole project is expected to be completed by the third quarter of 2017, it said.

Professor Arnoud De Meyer, President of SMU, said the changes are also meant to have students and the public interact in the open concept university in the city centre.

"We need to adjust ourselves a little bit to the new learning needs of our students. Students today do not learn the way they did 10 to 15 years ago, and we need to create a lot more space for experience-based learning, project-based learning," he said.

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"We also hope that the public will come. We try to be an open campus and we hope that the community - people that live around us or that work around us - actually come to the campus and use the facilities that we have on campus. So we want to make this a much more buzzing place here at the heart of the old city centre of Singapore."

- CNA/kk