

Embargo til 19 September 2019, 3.30pm. Please check against delivery

**SPEECH FOR MAYOR LOW YEN LING  
CHAIRMAN OF MAYORS COMMITTEE AND  
MAYOR OF SOUTH WEST DISTRICT  
FOR WECARE ARTS EXHIBITION @ CDC 2019  
ON THURSDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2019 AT WISMA GEYLANG SERAI**

Minister Grace Fu

Fellow Mayors

Ms Rosa Daniel, Chief Executive Officer, National Arts Council,

Mr Desmond Tan, Chief Executive Director, People's Association

Social Service Agency Partners

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon everyone. Thank you OTAI from Ang Mo Kio Family Service Centre (FSC) Community Services for the wonderful performance! I was told that some of the OTAI members are already grandparents or great-grandparents but I can still feel their enthusiastic energy and pride being part of this group. Their positive attitude towards lifelong learning is admirable. They started without any foundation in dance but learnt the ropes quickly under the guidance of the dance instructor provided by the WeCare Arts Fund @ CDC. OTAI has gone on to perform at several public events and the members are having the time of their lives!

2 Today, we are here for the opening of the WeCare Arts @ CDC Exhibition, and the renewal of the WeCare Arts Fund collaboration between the five Community Development Councils (or CDCs) and the National Arts Council (NAC). The pledge of \$1million for the next two

years will ensure our continued efforts to build an inclusive and caring community through arts.

3 2019 also marks 15 years of strong partnership between the CDCs and NAC. The collaboration between the CDCs and NAC started in 2004 when we conceptualised and developed the first District Art Festivals to showcase the work of local artistes and community groups at the district level. Subsequently in 2014, the CDCs and NAC decided to set up the WeCare Arts Fund @ CDC in support of MCCY's efforts to promote an inclusive community through the arts.

4 The NAC has been a valuable partner of the CDCs, providing not only funding support but also professional expertise in the arts landscape. Together, we were able to help make arts more accessible to the community.

5 To date, more than 12,000 people have benefitted from the WeCare Arts Fund. Social Service Agencies (SSAs) tap on the WeCare Arts Fund to engage local artists to develop arts programmes for their beneficiaries. The fund provides the beneficiaries with opportunities to make friends, enjoy themselves learning a new skill and lead more fulfilling lives. *The mother and daughter bond between Mdm Teng, a 99-year old widow, and her daughter who is intellectually disabled was strengthened when they participated in a batik painting workshop funded by the WeCare Arts Fund. The workshop provided the chance for them to bond and help each other as they worked on their paintings, as well as train the daughter's ability to focus her attention.*

6 Arts is a powerful way to engage the community and uplift the lives of the vulnerable. With this fresh \$1 million fund from the meaningful partnership between the CDCs and NAC, we will continue to provide platforms for beneficiaries to learn new skills through various art forms, make new friends and build up their self-confidence.

7 I would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt appreciation to the Social Service Agencies especially Jamiyah Nursing Home, Care Corner Senior Services Ltd, AMKFSC Community Services, NTUC Active Ageing Hub and Montfort Care who are here today, for their strong support for the WeCare Arts Fund @ CDC and for helping us reach

out to their beneficiaries. Thank you also to the artists for their time and patience in imparting skills to the beneficiaries, and for helping to curate and put together this exhibition with the CDCs and NACs.

### **Conclusion**

8 I urge more SSAs to apply for the WeCare Arts Fund so that more participants can benefit from learning new skills and making new friends.

9 Thank you and have an enjoyable afternoon.