

*Embargoed until 27 Jul, 12.30pm. Please check against delivery*

**SPEECH FOR MR FAHMI ALIMAN, MAYOR OF SOUTH EAST  
DISTRICT AND HOST MAYOR  
AT LAUNCH OF ARTSEVERYWHERE@CDC  
ON SATURDAY, 27 JULY 2024  
AT PAYA LEBAR QUARTERS OPEN PLAZA**

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Minister Edwin Tong

Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and

Second Minister for Law

Deputy Chairman of People's Association

Chairman Mayor Low Yen Ling

Mayors Ms Denise Phua and Mr Desmond Choo

District Councillors

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great pleasure and excitement that we are gathered here today for the launch of ArtsEverywhere@CDC.

2            Since the announcement of Our SG Arts Plan last September, the CDCs have established strategic partnerships with our stakeholders to collaboratively bolster and extend our continuous efforts to bring arts to every part of our community.

3            In line with Our SG Arts Plan, we are dedicated to bringing a variety of art experiences to our neighbourhoods. By integrating arts into

the community, our goal is to foster connections, inspire and enrich lives across Singapore. Today's milestone emphasizes our commitment to nurturing a vibrant and inclusive society through the transformative impact of the arts.

## **Cultural Expression and Identity**

4           As a multi-racial society, we are privileged to experience diverse art forms and traditions. Chinese Opera, Malay dance, Indian classical dance, street graffiti, batik painting and many more.

5           By expressing and celebrating our cultural heritage, traditions and unique identities, we preserve and strengthen our sense of belonging and pride as Singaporeans.

## **Promoting inclusivity and diversity**

6           Art is inherently inclusive. Within our community, we have some exceptionally talented local artists from the special needs community, who use art as a means of self-expression and connection.

7           In South East district, we have worked closely with individuals from Art:DIS, a non-profit organisation that serves and create opportunities for persons with disabilities in the arts, to provide them with platforms for showcase their talents and creativity.

8           Recognising and appreciating their talents can encourage empathy in our society, paving the way for a more compassionate and inclusive community.

9            Arts is woven into our daily lives, present in our streets, homes and hearts, speaking a universal language that everyone can understand. For instance, in the South East community, the Geylang Serai Community Arts and Culture Club (CACC) recently initiated an upcycling touch lamp project. The completed lamps will be featured as part of an art installation at our upcoming National Day Heartland event. I encourage everyone to show your support by capturing photos of these masterpieces during the event and to continue embracing the transformative influence of arts in our community.

## **Conclusion**

10           The arts have a unique ability to unite us. The CDCs are committed to complementing national efforts and is in line with our aspirations for Our SG Arts Plan, to build a connected community.

11           ArtsEverywhere@CDC brings arts experiences to communities where they live, work and play. Every month, members of the public can look forward to arts performances, workshops and activities around Singapore, and develop a greater appreciation for the arts through these shared experiences.

12           I am eagerly anticipating the positive impact of ArtsEverywhere@CDC on our communities and encourage all residents to actively participate in the upcoming events and initiatives.

Thank you