

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXPANDED LINE-UP OF PROGRAMMES FOR
ARTSEVERYWHERE@CDC, 30 MAR 2025**

***SPEECH BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR TRADE
AND INDUSTRY MR GAN KIM YONG***

Ms Low Yen Ling, Chairman of Mayors' Committee and Mayor of South West District

Ladies and Gentlemen

1 A very good evening to everyone, and to our Muslim friends, *Selamat Berbuka Puasa*.¹ Thank you for inviting me to join you this evening.

SG60

2 As all of you know, this year marks 60 years of Singapore's independence. It is an opportunity to reaffirm the shared values that have brought us here, and commit to building a better future together.

3 One of these shared values is multiculturalism.

a. Fundamental to this is our respect for different races, cultures, and religions.

b. It means that everyone has the opportunity to fulfil your aspirations, regardless of your background.

¹ Means "Happy breaking the fast", as the speech will be in the evening and Hari Raya is the next day.

- c. More than that, it means we make a conscious effort to appreciate one another's cultures and traditions, and build common spaces to foster deeper connections with one another.
- d. This will help us continue to build a strong and cohesive community.

4 And the arts is an excellent platform to bring people together and promote cross-cultural appreciation.

ArtsEverywhere@CDC

5 This is why the National Arts Council (NAC), the People's Association (PA), and the five Community Development Councils (CDCs) launched ArtsEverywhere@CDC in July last year. We wanted to:

- a. Expand access to the arts for all Singaporeans, by bringing it to our doorsteps, where we live, work and play;
- b. Connect people and build more caring communities through shared artistic and cultural experiences;
- c. And give our artists platforms to showcase their creativity and contribute to our cultural fabric.

6 I am pleased to note that, so far, over 40,000 residents have enjoyed the performances across the five CDCs, including at locations like Heartbeat@Bedok, Toa Payoh HDB Hub, Our Tampines Hub, and Kampung Admiralty.

- a. Here in South West District, there have been performances at Jurong Lake Gardens, Keat Hong Neighbourhood Shopping Centre, and here in SAFRA Choa Chu Kang.
- b. The performances have featured arts groups from different cultures such as Malay traditional drumming troupe NADI Singapura, Chinese traditional ensemble Ding Yi, and the Philharmonic Winds Orchestra. This is a reflection of Singapore's rich traditions and multiculturalism.

7 The response to ArtsEverywhere@CDC has been very encouraging.

- a. Many Singaporeans with previously little or no exposure to the arts have been able to enjoy the performances.
- b. Along the way, they have gained an appreciation for local arts and culture.
- c. And our artists have been able to engage and reach new audiences, and gain many new fans, young and old. Some of these fans have become serial ArtsEverywhere@CDC attendees, following their favourite artists across Singapore.

8 This is testament to how the arts can bring people together, create opportunities for residents to form closer bonds with one another and with their families, and build cohesive and vibrant communities.

9 My appreciation to NAC, PA and the five CDCs for coming together on this meaningful initiative.

Expansion of ArtsEverywhere@CDC

10 In celebration of SG60, we will scale up ArtsEverywhere@CDC in three ways:

- a. First, we will have a wider selection of art forms for audiences to enjoy. For example, there will be puppetry by Paper Monkey Theatre and hip-hop dance by O School, a dance company.
- b. Second, we will expand the number of locations where these performances are held.
- c. Third, we will increase the number of artists and performances.

11 In sum, this means that we can expect double the number of monthly performances islandwide, by over 80 artists and arts groups this year.

12 We hope this expanded lineup of artists, as well as the increased frequency of events, will encourage more residents to attend the performances and show your support for our local arts and culture.

Conclusion

13 Singapore has much to offer in our arts, culture and heritage.

- a. We hope to build a stronger, shared appreciation for the arts with this refreshed ArtsEverywhere@CDC, and also through the **SG Culture Pass** announced in the Budget last month.

14 I hope that Singaporeans and residents will participate in and enjoy our local arts events and activities, get to know more of our artists, and gain a stronger appreciation for them and their passion.

15 At the same time, I hope that these ArtsEverywhere@CDC events will give you an opportunity to connect with your neighbours, and spend quality time with your friends and family.

16 Thank you.

Running Word Count

(excluding headers)

~ 731 words or 5.2 minutes

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