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JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

ARTSEVERYWHERE @ CDC: CELEBRATING SINGAPORE'S MULTICULTURAL HERITAGE THROUGH THE ARTS

Singapore, 4 July 2026 – This year's edition of ArtsEverywhere @ CDC celebrates multiculturalism, with more performances and activities that bring diverse communities together through the arts. The nationwide initiative continues to bring arts programmes into community spaces across Singapore, making the arts more accessible to residents and creating opportunities for them to bond over shared experiences.

2. Jointly organised by the five Community Development Councils (CDCs), People's Association (PA) and National Arts Council (NAC), ArtsEverywhere @ CDC, now in its third year, was held today at Our Tampines Hub, with Acting Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Senior Minister of State for Education, Mr David Neo as the Guest-of-Honour.

3 The event showcased multiculturalism in action, blending dance and music from across Singapore's communities. Inspired by excerpts from Aneka Ragam Rakyat from the 1960s, these specially curated performances by Apsaras Dance Company and Era Dance Theatre, featuring Re Xin Opera Association and The Music Men, reflected our unique Indian, Malay, Chinese, and Eurasian cultural influences.

4 Members of the public also enjoyed a range of fringe activities held alongside the performances, including a photo booth where they could try on ethnic performance costumes, a hands-on workshop to design and build a colourful shophouse model and a roving brass band performing tunes from the 1960s.

A Closer, More Connected Multicultural Singapore

5 To date, the initiative has organised more than 500 performances by larger-scale arts groups and street performers, engaging more than 154,000 residents across Singapore. In a post-event survey, nine in ten respondents agreed that the programmes made their neighbourhoods livelier, while eight

in ten shared that they gained a better understanding and appreciation of cultures and practices different from their own.

6 First announced at Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY)'s Committee of Supply this year, ArtsEverywhere @ CDC will build on its success by introducing more traditional arts and cross-cultural performances that celebrate Singapore's diverse cultural traditions such as dance, music and puppetry. In the coming months, residents will have more opportunities to experience and appreciate the artistic traditions and cultural expressions at new locations including Ang Mo Kio Central Stage, Kovan Hub and Parc Point.

A Stronger, More Thriving Arts Ecosystem

7 ArtsEverywhere @ CDC continues to be an important platform for our artists and arts groups to reach new audiences and showcase their work. With more performances and fringe activities taking place islandwide, ArtsEverywhere @ CDC will create more gig opportunities in the arts industry including for artists, production crew and emcees, contributing to a thriving and sustainable arts ecosystem.

8 More information can be found in the Annexes and images of artists and arts group can be accessed via the QR code below. Residents can also find ArtsEverywhere @ CDC programmes and events near them through a dedicated GoWhere platform at <https://go.gov.sg/artseverywhere-cdc>.

Annexes

Annex A: Spokepersons' Quotes – Mayors, Chief Executive (NAC), Artists and Residents

Annex B: Write up on Performance and Fringe Activities

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**For official photos and speeches by Guest of Honour and Mayor,
please scan the QR code below**



<https://go.gov.sg/arts-everywhere-cd-c-phase-3-media-kit>

About ArtsEverywhere @ CDC

ArtsEverywhere @ CDC brings arts experiences to communities where they live, work and play. Members of the public can look forward to more arts performances, workshops and activities around Singapore, and develop a greater appreciation for the arts through these shared experiences. This initiative is in line with our aspiration for Our SG Arts Plan (2023 - 2027) to build A Connected Society, where our social connections and national identity are strengthened through the arts.

ArtsEverywhere @ CDC was launched in July 2024, and is a collaboration between the National Arts Council, People's Association, and the five

Community Development Councils, and is supported by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, with Catch (catch.sg) as the official arts and culture media partner.

About the National Arts Council

The National Arts Council (NAC) is a statutory board under the Ministry of Culture, Community, and Youth that champions the arts in Singapore. The Council promotes artistic excellence by providing diverse opportunities for artists and arts organisations while expanding access for audiences to appreciate the impact of the arts in enriching lives. By working closely with the arts community and partners, the Council seeks to build a connected society, creative economy and distinctive city through the arts.

About the Community Development Councils (CDCs)

Since 1997, the CDCs have been bridging communities by strengthening social infrastructure, building social resilience and social capital, and promoting a culture of giving back, through the following ways:

- (a) Aggregator of Needs and Resources
- (b) Builder of Capability / Capacity in Partners and Networks
- (c) Connector of Communities

There are five CDCs, namely, Central Singapore, North East, North West, South East and South West CDCs. Mayors of the Districts are Chairman of the respective CDCs. The Office of the Mayors comprises:

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|-----------------------------|---|
| (a) Ms Low Yen Ling | Chairman of Mayors' Committee & Mayor of South West District |
| (b) Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng | Mayor of Central Singapore District |
| (c) Mr Baey Yam Keng | Mayor of North East District |
| (d) Mr Alex Yam | Mayor of North West District |
| (e) Mr Dinesh Vasu Dash | Mayor of South East District |

For more information, please visit www.cdc.gov.sg and www.pa.gov.sg.

End

Annex A: Spokespersons' Quotes

Ms Low Yen Ling (Chinese: 刘燕玲女士)

Mayor of South West District, Chairman of Mayors' Committee

Since it started in 2024, ArtsEverywhere @ CDC has brought quality arts experiences into the heart of our neighbourhoods. It has enlarged our residents' appreciation of the arts as they enjoy performances near their homes amid their daily lives. Our neighbourhoods have also become more vibrant.

In the next phase of the programme, we will bring more performances to even more community spaces. The CDCs, with the support of our partners, will continue to use the power of the arts to bridge communities, bond our people and celebrate Singapore's multi-cultural diversity.

In doing so, we are also fostering a dynamic and innovative arts scene in Singapore and supporting the growth of our local artists and arts workers.

Mr Baey Yam Keng (Chinese: 马炎庆先生)

Mayor of North East District

ArtsEverywhere @ CDC brings the arts into our everyday spaces, making it easier for residents to experience and enjoy. By doing so, we are building a greater appreciation of our local arts groups and artists, and supporting a vibrant and thriving arts sector in Singapore. I invite residents to be part of this, immerse themselves in the arts, and create shared moments with their friends and families.

Mr Dinesh Vasu Dash (Chinese: 迪内希先生)

Mayor of South East District

ArtsEverywhere @ CDC celebrates our multicultural heritage in the most vibrant way possible, best celebrated together. With the arts experiences right in our heartlands and communities, residents get to access arts and get opportunities to connect, learn from one another, and take pride in the rich tapestry of cultures that make Singapore home.

Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng (Chinese: 潘丽萍女士)

Mayor of Central Singapore District

The arts have a special way of bringing people together across generations and backgrounds. Through ArtsEverywhere @ CDC, we are bringing more quality performances into more neighbourhoods; celebrating Singapore's rich multicultural heritage, and creating more opportunities for local artists and arts group to reach new audiences. I urge residents to come with their families and friends, enjoy the beautiful performances, and support our local artistes.

Mr Alex Yam (Chinese: 任梓銘先生)

Mayor of North West District

ArtsEverywhere @ CDC makes art and culture more accessible for residents by bringing performances and activities right into our everyday spaces and neighbourhoods. When residents come together to enjoy these experiences, it sparks conversations, forge new friendships, and strengthen community bonds.

Mrs Elaine Ng (Chinese: 梁宝珠女士)

Chief Executive Officer, National Arts Council

Now in its third year, ArtsEverywhere @ CDC continues to bring the arts closer to communities across Singapore. This year's line-up celebrates the rich multicultural heritage that makes Singapore unique, with performances that invite everyone to come together, discover something new and enjoy the arts in shared moments with family, friends and neighbours. At the same time, the programme creates more opportunities for our artists and arts groups to reach new audiences. We look forward to welcoming everyone to ArtsEverywhere @ CDC in the months ahead.

Artists

Rudy Djoe, Jazz Singer

As a vocalist and band leader, being part of ArtsEverywhere @ CDC has been a truly meaningful experience for me and my band. Every performance is an opportunity to share our music with the community and witness the joy of people singing along, dancing, and reminiscing through songs that have become part of their lives.

I believe this initiative is important because it brings the arts closer to people and reminds us that music has the power to connect generations, spark memories, and strengthen communities.

It has also introduced us to new audiences and opened doors to meaningful collaborations and performance opportunities. We are grateful to be part of a platform that celebrates Singapore artists while enriching the lives of the communities we serve.

A performance may last an hour, but the memories it creates can last a lifetime.

Kavitha Krishnan, Co-founder and Artistic Director, Maya Dance Theatre

The experience has been very fruitful, especially when audience members were able to engage with the performances through our interactive segments. This gave the public a deeper appreciation for the art forms, helping build a more informed audience for artists and arts groups.

Through the project, we had the opportunity to bring awareness of Asian Contemporary dance, driven from traditional dance forms, to new audiences, while sharing segments about art-making by the artists involved gave them insight into the artistic journey.

Featuring diversely abled artists from Diverse Abilities Dance Collective (DADC) was especially meaningful, giving performers the opportunity to confidently perform in close proximity to audiences and improve their stage presence. Audiences, in turn, witnessed talent, capabilities and resilience beyond disability and limitations!

We hope to continue bringing the art-making journey and artistic abilities of the DADC dancers, along with active seniors and the support of the creative

enablers (professional artists), to more districts, and to enhance the audience's perspective of disability arts in Singapore. Beyond an opportunity to showcase talent, the initiative boldly introduced a diversely abled individual to the community; arts gave an identity!

Residents

Mr Chris Lo, Retiree, South East District

ArtsEverywhere has been a wonderful experience for me, as I get to enjoy quality performances right in my neighbourhood! After attending a few sessions, I have grown to appreciate the arts even more and look forward to future ArtsEverywhere sessions.

Ms Sonali Medakkar, South West District

Experiencing ArtsEverywhere @ CDC gave me a new appreciation for the arts when I caught a performance during a neighbourhood Family Day event. I was drawn in by a modern, refreshing take on traditional Indian dance that was engaging and easy to understand. It was a great experience, and today, I gladly encourage other residents to attend and enjoy these cultural events.

Annex B: About the performance and fringe activities

A) About Aneka Ragam Rakyat Reimagined

Journey back to the golden era of Singapore's community cultural concerts. Inspired by the iconic performances that once united communities across the island, this vibrant showcase brings together Malay dance, Chinese opera, Indian classical dance, and Eurasian folk songs in a joyful celebration of our shared heritage.

Come relive the magic of music, movement and storytelling — and make new memories together.

The Aneka Ragam Rakyat Reimagined is a collaboration between two of NAC's Major Companies — Apsaras Dance Company and Era Dance Theatre, led by Cultural Medallion recipients Aravinth Kumarasamy and Osman Abdul Hamid. The programme also features Re Xin Opera Association and Eurasian folk songs by The Music Men.

B) Profile of Arts Groups and Artists

- a) **Apsaras Dance Company** is a Singapore-based Bharatanatyam company that blends the rigorous traditions of the 2,000-year-old dance form with contemporary themes and technology. Drawing from Indian mythology, folklore, and universal narratives, they create productions with broad, cross-cultural appeal. With performances spanning over 40 countries, they are one of Singapore's most internationally recognised arts companies.

- b) Founded in 1992 by Artistic Director Osman Abdul Hamid, **Era Dance Theatre** (EDT) has spent over three decades celebrating and elevating Malay culture through traditional, contemporary, and new creative dance. Beyond performance, EDT also harnesses dance and music as therapeutic tools under the guidance of Executive Director Azrin Abdul Rahim, a qualified psychotherapist — keeping the Malay arts alive, relevant, and deeply resonant in Singapore and the region.

- c) Founded in 2013, **Re Xin Opera Association** is a non-profit dedicated to preserving traditional Chinese opera, specialising in Shanghai Yue Opera and Huangmei Opera. With over 40 members aged 12 to 80, the troupe brings the charm of opera to communities across Singapore — bridging generations and keeping tradition alive.
- d) **The Music Men (TMM)** is a 3-piece band made up of highly regarded musicians in the Eurasian community - Chris Miles (drums/percussion, lead vocals), Jeffrey Pinto (bass, lead vocals) and Adil (lead/acoustic guitars, lead vocals).

C) About the Fringe Activities

a) Drop-in workshop by PLAY!

Drop in and get hands-on as you design and build your very own colourful shophouse model, celebrating one of Singapore's most beloved architectural icons.

PLAY! is an artist collective that curate workshops, performances, and experiences centred around the act of play. Their programmes welcome participants of all ages and artistic backgrounds, encouraging everyone to engage with the world around them with a sense of childlike curiosity.

b) Photobooth by Apsaras Dance Company & Era Dance Theatre

Dress up in performance costumes and strike a pose — just like the stars of the show.

c) New Stream Brass Band

Catch roving brass band performers playing tunes from the 60s as they weave through OTH and engage with audiences along the way.



Established in 2014, New Stream Brass Band is Singapore's first-ever New Orleans style brass band, delivering an electrifying blend of jazz, funk, Latin, and hip-hop with a distinctive local flavour.