



Speech by Mayor Baey Yam Keng

ArtsEverywhere @ CDC on 4 July 2026, at Our Tampines Hub

Mr David Neo, Acting Minister for Culture, Community and Youth,

Fellow Mayors,

Ms Tin Pei Ling, Grassroots Adviser to Marine Parade – Braddell Heights GRC Grassroots Organisations

Distinguished Guests,

1. Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to North East! I am glad to be hosting ArtsEverywhere @ CDC right here at Our Tampines Hub (OTH).
2. Since its launch in July 2024, this initiative has brought art performances into our heartlands — right in the community spaces where residents gather regularly.
3. And that is what makes ArtsEverywhere @ CDC special. It is not about bringing residents to the arts. It is about bringing the arts to residents — wherever they are, whoever they are.
4. One story that captures the impact of ArtsEverywhere @ CDC is that of Mdm Sonali Medakkar, a company director from the South West District. She had never actively sought out arts events. Life was busy — work, family, the usual. Then one day, she came across an ArtsEverywhere @ CDC performance at a community event. She almost walked past. But she stopped.

5. What she saw was a modern take on traditional Indian dance — and it surprised her. She had always assumed traditional Indian dance was similar everywhere and not particularly accessible. That afternoon changed her mind. Today, Mdm Sonali actively encourages her neighbours and friends to attend arts and cultural events.
6. Mdm Sonali's experience is not unique. In a post-event survey, eight in ten respondents said they came away with a better understanding of a culture different from their own. That is the power of the arts. It brings people together in ways that few things can — creating moments of understanding, connection and appreciation across our different communities.
7. And when we better understand one another, we build stronger communities. In the North East, we are home to residents from many races, religions and backgrounds. Programmes like ArtsEverywhere @ CDC give us opportunities to come together as neighbours, experience different cultures, and appreciate the traditions that make Singapore so unique. In doing so, we strengthen the mutual understanding and respect and keep our community united and resilient.
8. As we deepen this initiative, the community can look forward to more performances at more locations near them. We want the arts to become a natural part of the neighbourhood life — accessible, welcoming, and close to home.
9. So, I invite all of you — bring your families, bring your neighbours, and stay for the performances today. You may just find, like Mdm Sonali did, that something surprises you.
10. Thank you, and I wish you an enjoyable afternoon.

403 Words / ~5 mins