

*Embargoed until 30 Mar 2025, 7.45pm (TBC). Please check against delivery*

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MS LOW YEN LING  
CHAIRMAN OF MAYORS' COMMITTEE AND  
MAYOR OF SOUTH WEST DISTRICT AT  
ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXPANDED LINE-UP OF  
PROGRAMMES FOR ARTSEVERYWHERE@CDC  
ON SUNDAY, 30 MARCH 2025,  
AT SAFRA CHOA CHU KANG**

Mr Gan Kim Yong

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry, and  
Adviser to Chua Chu Kang GRC Grassroots Organisations

Mr Jimmy Toh,

Chief Executive Director, People's Association

Mr Low Eng Teong,

Chief Executive, National Arts Council

Distinguished guests;

**Welcome and Introduction**

1. A heartfelt welcome to all residents, partners and guests to South West district's ArtsEverywhere@CDC at SAFRA Choa Chu Kang.

**Impact of AE@CDC – Connecting our Community Through the Arts**

2. When the five Community Development Councils (CDCs), the People's Association (PA), and the National Arts Council (NAC) first launched ArtsEverywhere@CDC back in July 2024,

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our goal was simple: to bring the arts closer to where people live, work, and play.

3. Since then, we have been bringing arts performances to the heartlands almost every month. In a short span of 8 months, the CDCs, PA and NAC have organised over 45 large-scale performances by arts groups such as Brahmastra Ensemble, Ding Yi Music Company, and NADI Singapura across the five districts, turning everyday places into vibrant spaces and engaging over 40,000 residents islandwide.

4. We are heartened to see residents of all ages and backgrounds come together to enjoy, engage, and bond over these shared experiences with their family, friends, and neighbours.

5. A resident under the South West District, 59-year-old Ms Tina Binte Samat, felt that her ArtsEverywhere@CDC experience was particularly memorable. She chanced upon the performance, and the show proved to be more than just an arts event for her. She was captivated by how the show brought together different races and cultures. She met her neighbours at the event and bonded over meaningful conversations about the performances and art. For her, it embodies the spirit of kampung living, and she looks forward to attending more ArtsEverywhere events.

6. This is a testament to how the ArtsEverywhere@CDC can unite people, create meaningful shared experiences, and build cohesive and vibrant communities.

7. According to the National Arts Council's 2023 Population Survey on the Arts, we see the value of arts in bringing communities together:

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- a. Over 8 in 10 Singaporeans agree that the arts and culture help them understand people from other backgrounds better,
- b. Additionally, more than 7 in 10 agree that engaging in the arts and culture draws us closer as a community.

7. These findings reaffirm our belief that the arts enrich our lives by fostering understanding across cultures and strengthening our bond in the community.

### **Celebrating SG60 – Expanding ArtsEverywhere@CDC to More Heartland Spaces**

8. We are encouraged by the residents' support and responses. The CDCs, PA and NAC are committed to expanding this initiative to bring arts performances and activities to more heartland spaces this year.

9. In celebration of SG60, we are happy to share that from April 2025, members of the public can look forward to an enhanced programme line-up. That means more diverse performances across more art forms at more heartland spaces near you, including Bukit Batok's U Square, Canberra Park, and Anchorvale Village, to name a few.

10. Our Guest-of-Honour, DPM Gan will be sharing more later.

11. We will introduce street performances, which often do not need much space or elaborate set-up and equipment.

12. These shows can pop up virtually anywhere, letting residents experience vibrant and varied acts in places such as hawker centres, town plazas, parks. You can look forward to these community spaces coming alive with the arts.

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## **Digital Enhancement**

13. To make it easier for residents to search for nearby performances, I am pleased to announce that the CDCs have partnered with the Government Technology Agency of Singapore to launch our new ArtsEverywhere@CDC GoWhere platform.

14. This simple, user-friendly digital solution exemplifies how technology can enhance local cultural experiences. With just a few clicks, residents can now easily discover nearby performances. Whether you're planning a family outing or simply looking for something special to do in your day, this platform ensures that the arts are always within reach and accessible to all in our community.

## **Building Caring and Inclusive Communities, Connected through Arts**

15. At its heart, ArtsEverywhere@CDC is about people. It is about creating shared experiences, sparking conversations, and fostering community connections.

16. This initiative also gives our local artists a platform to showcase their works and reach new and diverse audiences, with more Singaporeans engaging with the arts.

17. As we look ahead to Singapore's 60th birthday in a few months, we recognise that our nation's journey has been shaped by the shared experiences and values that unite us as one people.

18. ArtsEverywhere@CDC *connects* communities and builds understanding among different generations and cultures. It also shows *care* by making the arts accessible to all and provides a

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platform for our local artists to showcase their creativity and enliven our everyday spaces. It embodies Singapore's unique multiculturalism as we reflect on our shared journey and reaffirm our commitment to building our shared future during SG60.

## **Closing**

19. The strong collaboration between the CDCs, PA, and NAC has made this initiative possible. The CDCs and PA have played a key role in pooling resources, activating community spaces, and fostering greater community participation. We also thank NAC for curating a diverse line-up of performances and activities that enrich the cultural vibrancy of our heartlands.

20. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our partners, grassroots organisations, artists, arts groups and residents for your support towards ArtsEverywhere@CDC.

21. I hope you will enjoy Brahmastra's performance this evening. It features an innovative and interesting blend of East and West. I understand the performance will include both Kathak and Flamenco dancers!

22. I hope to see all of you at the upcoming performances in our heartlands in the coming months. Thank you.