



## press release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Esplanade Chairman Lee Tzu Yang to hand over baton to Lim Ming Yan from 1 Apr 2024**

**SINGAPORE, 27 MAR 2024** – After 21 years of serving The Esplanade Co Ltd, first as a Board Member since 2003 and as its Chairman from January 2015, Lee Tzu Yang will be stepping down on 31 Mar 2024. Lim Ming Yan, current Deputy Chairman of Esplanade and Chairman of the Singapore Business Federation, will assume chairmanship from 1 Apr 2024.

“We thank Mr Lee for his strong and personable leadership of the Esplanade Board and his immeasurable contributions through all 21 years. He has a deep understanding of Singapore’s arts and cultural scene, and hence of the role that Esplanade plays as the national performing arts centre. Mr Lee not only lent his corporate perspectives and networks to help steer Esplanade’s governance and various phases of growth, he also took the time to connect with the management and staff, as well as championed arts philanthropy. We couldn’t have asked for a more supportive Chairman,” said Yvonne Tham, CEO, The Esplanade Co Ltd.

During his tenure as Chairman, Mr Lee supported the accomplishment of key milestones of Esplanade. These included the successful conceptualisation and completion of the new Singtel Waterfront Theatre; Esplanade’s transformation as a digital performing arts centre which leverages on technology to bring its programmes to wider audiences and communities; the deepening of Esplanade’s role in developing industry capabilities through the new Esplanade Academy, as well as getting the organisation back on track post-pandemic. New works that Esplanade have commissioned and produced together with Singapore and Asian artists have also been invited to tour overseas in recent years. He has effectively led the Board, and continuously encouraged constructive discussions and contributions from Board Members throughout these times.

Under his chairmanship, Mr Lee has made significant contributions to Esplanade's development of specialised arts programmes for the underserved communities. These range from songwriting and theatre programmes that enable at-risk-youths to express themselves better through the arts, to intergenerational music and dance programmes that allow the young and old to understand each other's needs.

In addition, Mr Lee also played an instrumental role in ensuring that Esplanade practises the highest standards of corporate governance to protect the interest of our stakeholders. This is key to Esplanade being a recipient of the Charity Governance Award – Special Commendation for Clarity of Strategy in 2016 and 2022, as well as the Charity Transparency Award from 2016 – 2023.

Lee Tzu Yang said, "It's been an incredible journey, witnessing Esplanade's growth in the past 21 years as it brings the joy of the arts to Singapore's diverse communities. The management and staff have been exceptional. It has been a joy to see how individuals and groups have grown their craft, and our alumni continue to make us proud. I have been privileged to work with a succession of outstanding board chairpersons and colleagues on these developments. I have every confidence that Ming Yan and members on the Board of Directors will continue to guide Team Esplanade to achieve greater success."

Turning 22 this October, Esplanade remains committed to ensure the arts is accessible to everyone and to support our next generation of Singapore artists in their creation of content for the international stage.

Lim Ming Yan said, "I'm excited and honoured to be given this opportunity to work with the Board of Directors and management of Esplanade to realise the vision of enriching the lives of our community through the arts. I am thankful that we are not on this journey alone but with the strong support of many stakeholders. Most importantly, I am also grateful for the strong foundation laid by Tzu Yang in his 21 years of service on the Board including nine years as the Chairman."

Please refer to the Annexe for the biographies of Lee Tzu Yang and Lim Ming Yan, and the current list of Esplanade Board Members.

## About Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay

Esplanade is Singapore's national performing arts centre. It hosts a year-round line-up of about 3,500 live performances and activities presented by Esplanade, its partners and hirers. As an arts centre for everyone, Esplanade also creates opportunities for seniors, youth, children and underserved communities to experience the arts. More than 70% of the shows that take place each year at the centre are free for all to enjoy.

Esplanade also brings the arts virtually to audiences in Singapore and beyond, through its diverse range of digital programmes on [Esplanade Offstage](#), an all-access backstage pass to the performing arts and guide to Singapore and Asian arts and culture, with videos, podcasts, articles, quizzes and resources.

The centre works in close partnership with local, regional and international artists to develop artistic capabilities and content, push artistic boundaries and engage audiences. Esplanade supports the creation of artistic content by commissioning and producing new Singapore and Asian work for the international stage. It also develops technical capabilities for the industry nationally.

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay is operated by The Esplanade Co Ltd (TECL), which is a not-for-profit organisation, a registered Charity and an Institution of a Public Character. The Charity Council awarded TECL the Charity Governance Award – Special Commendation for Clarity of Strategy in 2016 and 2022, and the Charity Transparency Award from 2016 – 2023. Esplanade is Singapore's first Dementia-Friendly Arts Venue and a certified Dementia Go-To Point, as well as a guide/assistance dog friendly centre.

TECL receives funding support from Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and its Community Programmes are supported by Tote Board Family, comprising Tote Board, Singapore Pools and Singapore Turf Club.

Visit [Esplanade.com](https://www.esplanade.com) for more information.

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## **ANNEXE**

### **Mr Lee Tzu Yang (李子扬)**

Lee Tzu Yang is Chairman of the Public Service Commission since 2018, and concurrently from 2022 Vice-President of the Judicial Service Commission and the Legal Service Commission. He chairs the boards of the Singapore University of Technology and Design, The Esplanade Company Limited, and currently co-chairs the Founders' Memorial Committee. He graduated from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 1976 and joined Shell in 1979. After working in diverse cultures in different roles, he retired in 2014 as Chairman of Shell Companies in Singapore and was recognised as an Honorary Fellow by the Institution of Chemical Engineers in 2016. He has served the public sector in several capacities including as a past member of the Council of Presidential Advisers. In the arts sector, besides Esplanade, he was the founding chairman of the School of the Arts and co-chaired the Arts and Culture Strategic Review in 2012. He was awarded the Public Service Star in 2005, the Meritorious Service Medal in 2014, and the Distinguished Service Order in 2022.

### **Mr Lim Ming Yan (林明彦)**

Mr Lim Ming Yan is an Independent/Non-Executive Director on the boards of SembCorp Industries Limited, DLF Cyber City Developers Limited and China Vanke Co. Limited. He is also the Chairman of the Singapore Business Federation (SBF), a Board member of Enterprise Singapore, and Singapore Non-Resident High Commissioner to the Republic of Mauritius. In his 22 years at CapitalLand Limited, Mr Lim was President and Group CEO from 2013 to 2018. He was also CEO of The Ascott Limited from 2009 to 2012 and CEO of CapitalLand China from 2000 to 2009. Mr Lim graduated with a first-class honours degree in Mechanical Engineering and Economics from the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom in 1985. He also attended the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School in 2002.

### **Current Board Members of The Esplanade Co Ltd:**

- Mr Lee Tzu Yang, Chairman, The Esplanade Co Ltd (till 31 Mar 2024)
- Mr Lim Ming Yan, Chairman, The Esplanade Co Ltd (as of 1 Apr 2024)
- Ms Yvonne Tham, Chief Executive Officer, The Esplanade Co Ltd
- Ms Janet Ang, Chairman, SISTIC.com Pte Ltd
- Mr Lee Eng Beng, Senior Partner, Rajah & Tann LLP, and Chairman, Rajah & Tann Asia
- Ms Lee Huay Leng, Editor-In-Chief, Chinese Media Group, SPH Media Limited
- Dr Lee Tung Jean, Deputy Secretary (Culture & Sports), Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth
- Mr Lee Woon Shiu, Managing Director, Group Head, Wealth Planning, Family Office & Insurance Solutions, DBS Private Bank, DBS Bank Limited
- Mrs Clara Lim-Tan, Director, Arts Education Branch, Student Development Curriculum Division 2, Ministry of Education
- Ms Lin Diaan-Yi, previously Senior Partner, McKinsey & Company
- Mr Low Eng Teong, CEO, National Arts Council (as of 1 Apr 2024)
- Mr Daryl Neo, Founder & CEO, Handshakes
- Ms Rahayu Buang, CEO, KidSTART Singapore Limited
- Ms Rika Sharma, Head of Agency, Partner & Industry Relations, APAC, Google
- Mr Shekaran Krishnan, Partner, Assurance Services, Ernst & Young LLP
- Mr Sim Hwee Cher, Retired Vice Chair, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
- Mr Suhaimi Zainul Abidin, CEO, Quantedge Capital Pte Ltd