

THE ESPLANADE CO LTD

Photo by Darren Soh



IMPACT REPORT

INCLUSION & WELLBEING

FY2022/2023

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



The global pandemic that we collectively weathered now seems like a distant memory, but today's world is no less uncertain and divided. Tensions lurk beneath the surface of every society, including Singapore. We face the constant challenge of strengthening our peoples' sense of community, belonging and purpose amidst income disparities, cultural differences and ageing demographics. At Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, we believe that the arts are for everyone. All year round we bring diverse communities together through ticketed and free performances in our theatres and public spaces. Our mission as the national performing arts centre is to empower the arts, artists and audiences to imagine and create a future marked by empathy, creativity and courage.

We celebrated our 20th Anniversary in Oct 2022, having built a vibrant arts calendar as one of the world's busiest arts centres. Together with artists as well as community, national and international partners, we have strived for the highest standards of artistic excellence and brought the arts to audiences of all ages, needs and backgrounds. Looking ahead, we have identified three strategic pillars to guide and inform our work, so that we can make the biggest possible difference to those we serve.

This Impact Report gives an overview of our work in the first pillar, Inclusion and Wellbeing, where we seek to deepen engagement with the community including vulnerable youths, seniors and differently abled individuals. The report looks at the outcomes we have achieved and how we measure them, in extending our initiatives on active ageing, mental health, and intergenerational and intercultural participation through the arts.

I thank you for your continued faith and support in all we do as we work together to widen access to the arts and performances.


YVONNE THAM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



In the last two decades, Esplanade has developed a solid foundation of both community and artistic development programmes, entertaining, engaging, educating and inspiring all that we reach. We have been a fixture in Singapore's arts and cultural calendar for local audiences and international visitors alike. Increasingly, we have commissioned and produced more Singapore works and introduced capability development programmes for artists and practitioners. Esplanade also extended its social impact by bringing the arts into vulnerable communities with social service agencies and deepened its youth and volunteer engagement efforts. We worked steadily towards becoming a "Digital Performing Arts Centre" and started a process of digital transformation in the areas of operations, marketing, programming and audience outreach.

After two years of battling Covid-19, FY2022/2023 was a celebratory year marking our 20th Anniversary as well as recovery from the pandemic's impact.

The major easing of restrictions from Apr 2022 heralded the return of many things to the centre – festivals could finally take place in full scale; international acts graced our stage once again; and people of all backgrounds filled our venues and thronged our mall and public spaces with family and friends. We commemorated our 20th Anniversary with *In New Light – A Season of Commissions*, a year-long celebration of performances and activities. The highly anticipated Singtel Waterfront Theatre finally opened its doors to the public and played host to a series of exciting new works featuring Singapore and Asian artists.

We continued to engage and reach audiences beyond the centre with online programmes, demystifying the arts through our virtual venue *Esplanade Offstage*, and engaging vulnerable communities in homes.

The Year in Numbers

In FY2022/2023, Esplanade surpassed pre-Covid levels of activities and attendances registered in FY2019/2020 with the inclusion of digital programmes.

4,562
ACTIVITIES

3,260,515
TOTAL
ATTENDANCE

602
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
ACTIVITIES

12,059
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
PARTICIPANTS



As we continue our growth and development, Esplanade's strategic directions leverage on the foundation we have built while seeking more focused outcomes. **In view of the changing needs of Singapore society and the global landscape, we have identified three strategic pillars for Esplanade to lead in and champion:**

(1) Inclusion & Wellbeing, (2) The Next Generation, and (3) Creative Futures.

Esplanade's objectives are also aligned with the larger outcomes sought by our parent ministry, Ministry of Culture, Community & Youth (MCCY), of having a fulfilled and engaged people, a caring and cohesive society and building a confident and resilient nation.



PILLAR #1 **INCLUSION & WELLBEING**

where the arts are recognised as fundamental to the wellbeing of individuals, to different communities' sense of belonging, and to society's ability to embrace diversity as central to the Singapore identity.



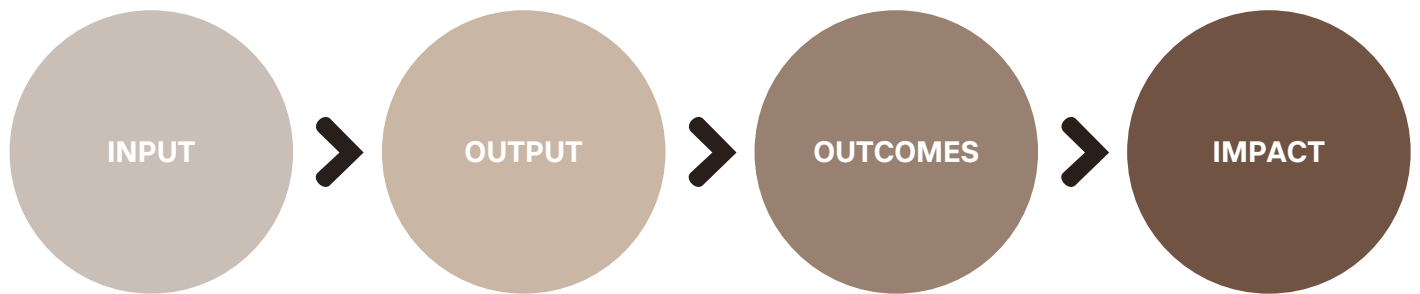
PILLAR #2 **THE NEXT GENERATION**

where the arts and artists are widely engaged in nurturing future generations of imaginative and empathetic citizens, and the aspirations of Singapore's best creative talents are fully developed.



PILLAR #3 **CREATIVE FUTURES**

where the arts and artists are active participants in creatively shaping Singapore's responses to the challenges and opportunities within our region, as well as with technology and climate change.



ABOUT OUR IMPACT REPORT

This year, we publish the first Impact Report on Inclusion and Wellbeing using the IOOI (Input-Output-Outcome-Impact) Method [1].

Through this, Esplanade attempts to better capture the diversity of outcomes achieved and reflect the social impact made over time. Through both quantitative and qualitative measures derived from data collected from programmes and audience surveys, the IOOI method provides an evidence-based approach to connecting the funds and support received to the impact made under each of our strategic pillars.

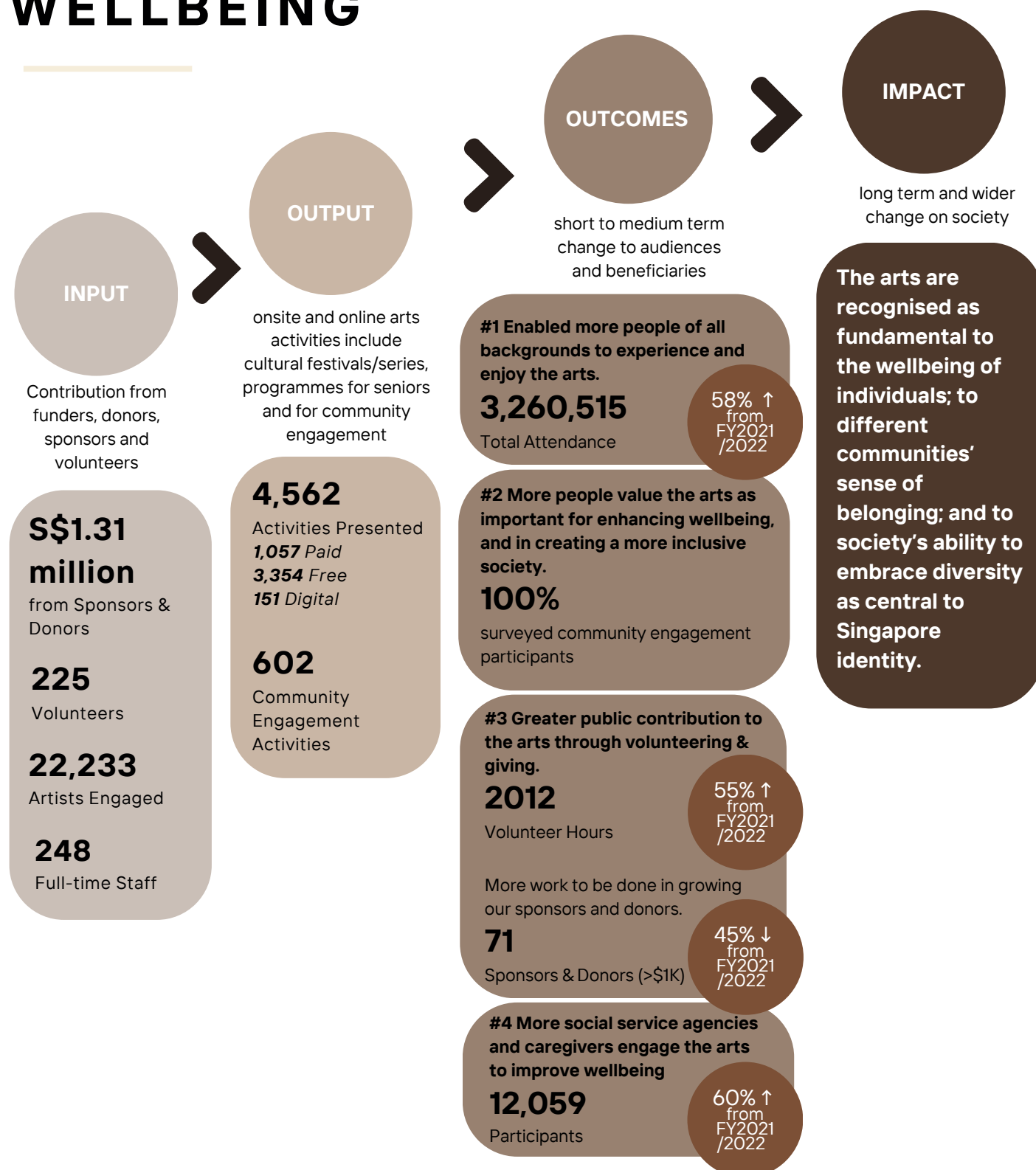
[1] The IOOI Method was developed by Bertelsmann Stiftung as a tool to plan and measure corporate citizenship - <https://www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de/de/publikationen/publikation/did/corporate-citizenship-planen-und-messen-mit-der-iooi-methode>

The IOOI method is a resource-sensitive impact measurement tool that provides a clearer, more linear understanding of how our people, time, and funds have made an impact on society.

This report is developed to strengthen our accountabilities to funders, donors, sponsors and various other partners who give to and share in our vision and mission.

As a Charity and Institute of Public Character, Esplanade also provides full disclosure of our annual financial statement, governance and achievements in our Annual Report.

INCLUSION & WELLBEING



OUR IMPACT IN INCLUSION & WELLBEING

We strive for a society where the arts are recognised as fundamental to the wellbeing of individuals; to different communities' sense of belonging; and to society's ability to embrace diversity as central to Singapore identity.

Esplanade believes in both the intrinsic and instrumental power of the arts as food for the soul, nourishing individuals and bringing together people and communities. That is why Inclusion and Wellbeing is our first strategic pillar. As the national performing arts centre, the impact we have must transcend our programmes and direct beneficiaries. **The change we strive to make is longer-term and wider in scope, on the Singapore society where the arts are recognised as:**



1

Fundamental to strengthening the wellbeing of individuals and communities (be it mental health, sense of belonging and identity), and for a greater appreciation of this role of the arts among Singaporeans and our narrative of Singapore culture.

2

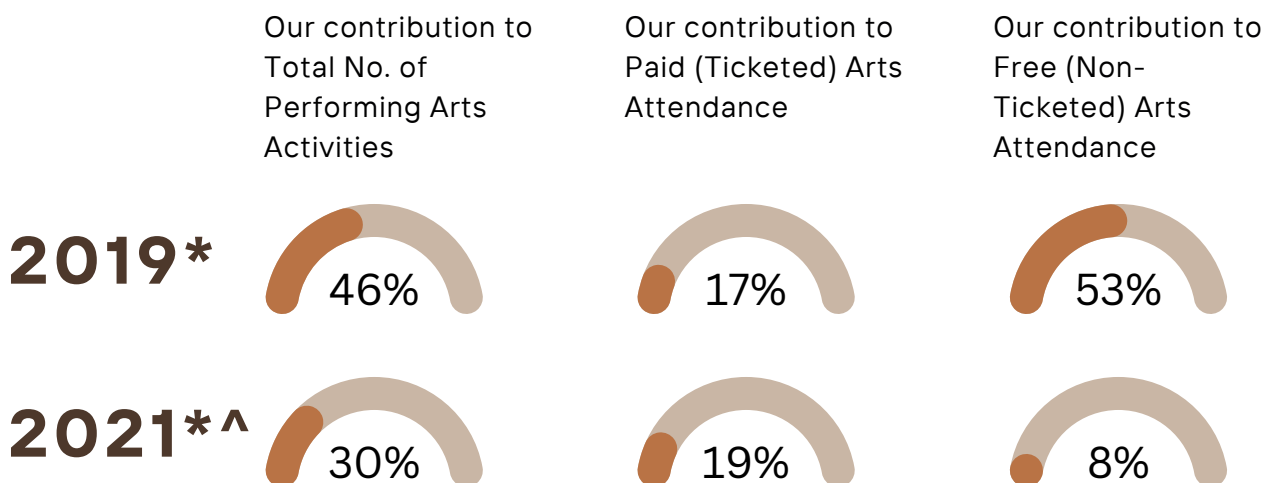
Contributing towards Singapore's transformation and journey into a fairer and more inclusive society, where our ability to embrace diversity is central to Singapore identity.

As a key cultural node, Esplanade can influence this change through the intensity and diversity of thoughtful programming over time and our sustained engagements with various community groups and social service agencies.

HOW WILL WE MEASURE OUR IMPACT?

We will draw references from the annual **Singapore Cultural Statistics** and the biennial **National Arts Council (NAC)'s Population Survey** to monitor the state of the arts in Singapore. The key indicators of long-term impact can be seen in (1) overall arts and culture attendance and participation; and (2) attitudinal responses on appreciation of the arts towards Inclusion and Wellbeing.

Esplanade's programmes account for a significant portion of total arts activities in Singapore contributing directly to perceptions of Singaporeans on the role and value of the arts.



*Percentages calculated based on Esplanade's Activity/Attendance numbers (by calendar year) compared with published numbers from Singapore Cultural Statistics.

^ 2021 marked the second year of Covid with multiple phases of restrictions that limited venue capacities, group sizes and footfall within the centre. Esplanade was not able to present its full slate of free programmes for the public, and when we did, it was with severely restricted numbers compared to what our venues can typically hold. This resulted in a significant fall in our contribution to free (non-ticketed) arts attendance in Singapore that year. With the restrictions fully lifted by mid 2022, we have seen people return and we expect our contribution to the total annual free activities and attendance to also return to pre-COVID levels.

NATIONAL INDICATORS*

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION IN THE ARTS



Overall Arts Attendance in 2022:

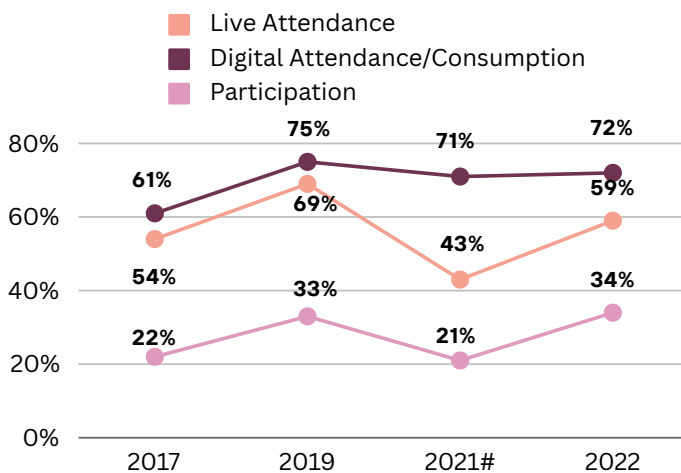
83%



↑ 4% points from 2021

~8 in 10 attended an arts event either digitally or in person

Overall arts attendance (live or digital) was 83% in 2022 - an increase from the previous year and largely driven by higher live attendance. Participation also observed a strong rebound, while the level of digital arts consumption remained stable from 2021.



~7 in 10 attended a digital arts event / engaged with digital arts content



~6 in 10 attended an arts event in person

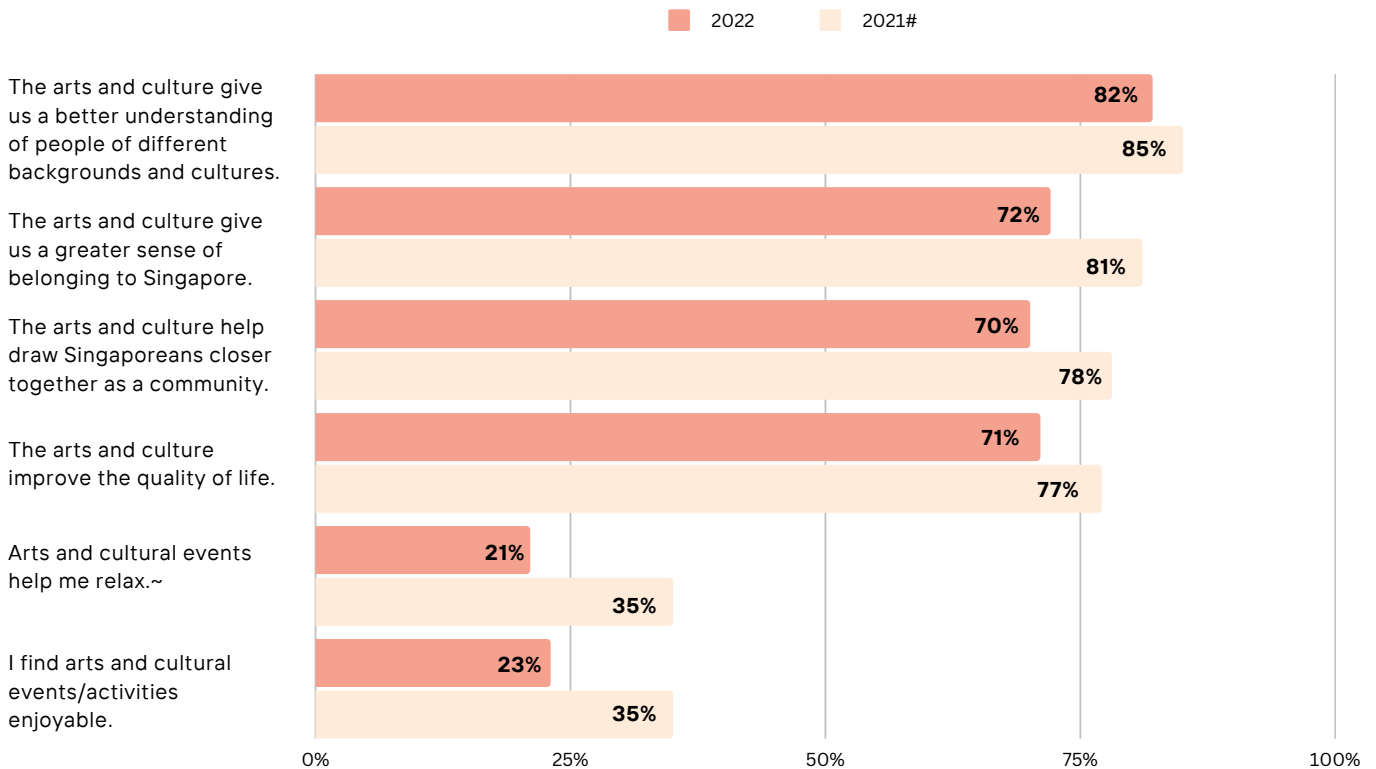


~3 in 10 participated in an arts activity (e.g. workshop, talk, class)

*Extracted from NAC Population Survey 2022. Inclusive of performing arts, visual arts, literary arts, craft, and heritage activities.
#COVID Years - Live/Physical Events were restricted.

PERCEPTIONS TOWARD THE ARTS

Personal appreciation of the arts and culture generally remained high with most Singaporeans remaining positive about the various benefits for the community and country.



All data is extracted from [NAC Population Survey 2022](#). Inclusive of performing arts, visual arts, literary arts, craft, and heritage activities.

#COVID Years - Live/Physical Events were restricted.

~ Responses of arts attendees only in 2021. In 2022, results were gathered from all survey respondents.

Starting FY2023/2024, Esplanade will include these indicators in our programme surveys and publish our findings against the national benchmarks in our Impact Report.





ACHIEVING OUR OUTCOMES

SHAPING PERCEPTIONS, ENABLING ACCESS, BUILDING CAPACITIES

Today, the arts is not fully valued as being an important expression of Singapore's culture and identity. The awareness and appreciation of the arts as intrinsic to an individual's sense of self and the contribution of the arts to quality of life and communities are also not embraced by all segments of society.

At Esplanade, we believe in the transformative power of the arts to enable expressions and connections, to promote healing and ease tensions and bring about better mental and physical wellbeing. This is key, as societies around the world – including Singapore – face increasing cultural, religious, and socio-economic tensions. These tensions, among others, add to the stresses of contemporary living following the Covid-19 pandemic, with more individuals reporting poorer levels of mental health and wellbeing.

To achieve the desired impact for the arts to be recognised as fundamental to our identity and wellbeing, Esplanade is focused on achieving these outcomes:

#1

More people of all backgrounds experience and enjoy the arts

#2

More people value the arts as important for enhancing individual and society's wellbeing, and in creating a more inclusive society

#3

Greater public contribution to the arts through volunteering and giving

#4

More social service agencies and caregivers engage the arts to improve wellbeing



**IMPACT ON
INCLUSION &
WELLBEING**

OUTCOME #1 WE ENABLED MORE PEOPLE OF ALL BACKGROUNDS TO EXPERIENCE AND ENJOY THE ARTS

"An arts centre for everyone" was the vision that Esplanade opened with 20 years ago. We remain committed to this till today, with more than 70% of our annual programmes free every day for people of all backgrounds to experience and enjoy the arts. Our year-round calendar of *Esplanade Presents* programmes is complemented by numerous events and activities by our hirers and partners. After two years of Covid restrictions, we are deeply encouraged by the return of audiences to our physical spaces and the continued engagement through our digital programmes.

TRIPLED IN VISITORSHIP

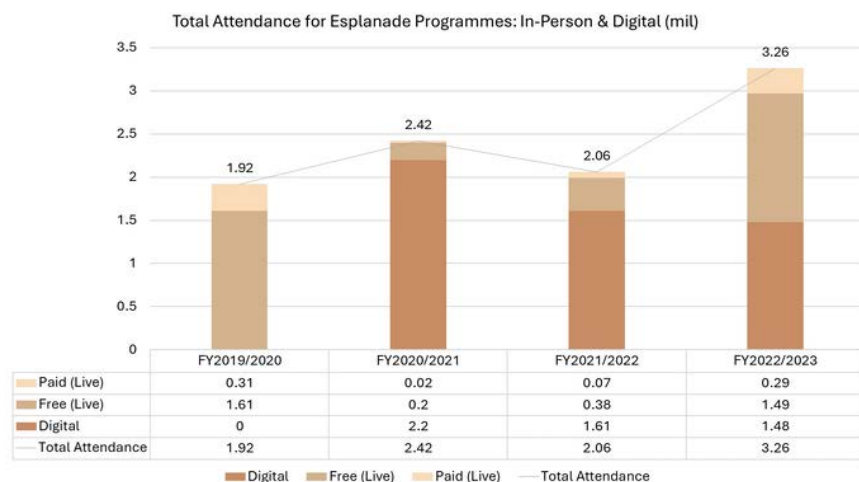
2021: 4.35 MILLION



2022: 15.5 MILLION



WIDER REACH WITH DIGITAL



**3.26
MILLION**

in attendance for both live and
digital activities

58% ↑

growth in attendance from
FY2021/2022

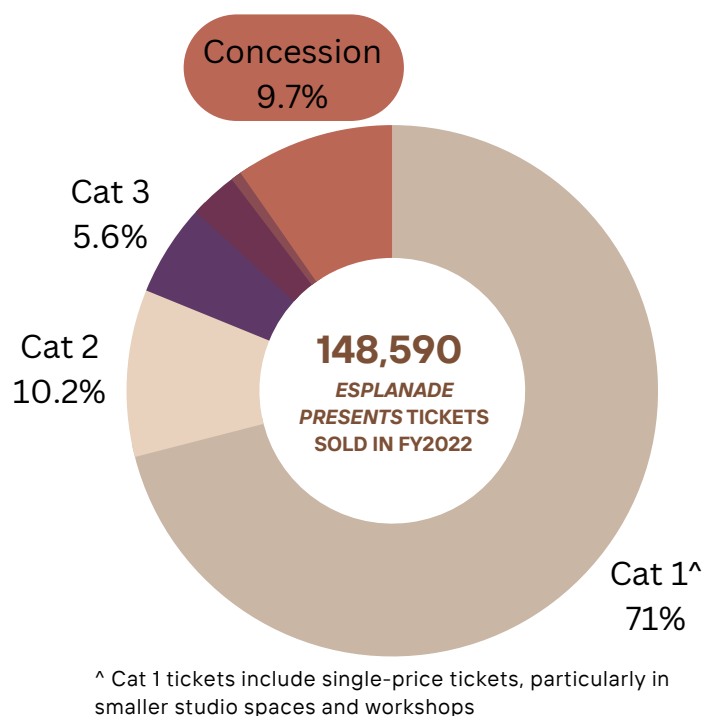
89%

of total attendance in
FY2022/2023 was for free
activities (live and digital)

PAID ESPLANADE PRESENTS PROGRAMMES ARE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

Aside from daily free programmes, we also ensure accessibility for all paid *Esplanade Presents* programmes across all venues.

In FY2022/2023, ~10% of total tickets sold were concession tickets for Students, Full-time National Servicemen, Seniors and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).



HIGH SATISFACTION LEVELS

98%

positive feedback from survey respondents, on social channels and through our interactions with visitors, artists and hirers.

9/10

gave a positive customer satisfaction (CSAT) score to *Esplanade Presents* Programmes



DEVELOPING NEW AUDIENCES



66K

Esplanade&Me* Members in FY2022/2023

57%

Growth in members from FY2021/2022

**Esplanade's membership programme. Free for all to join and receive benefits to performances as well as exclusive access to new experiences and Esplanade mall promotions.*



79%

new web users



44%

growth in online audiences



11%

new social media followers



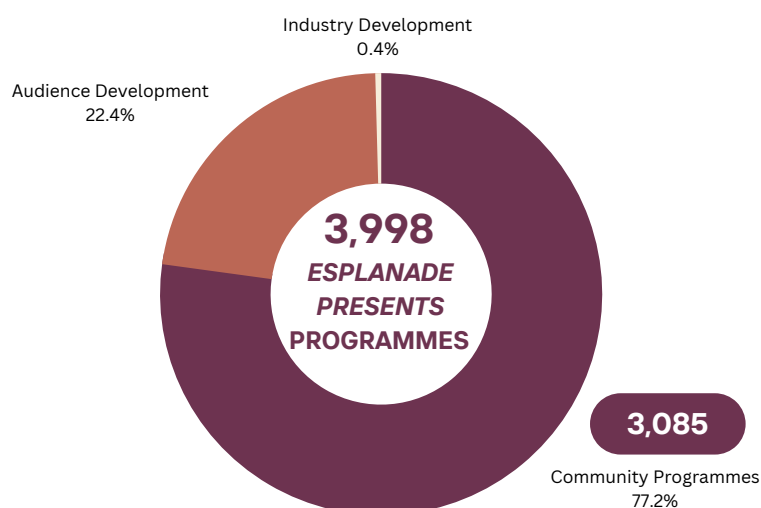
>500K

visitorship to Esplanade.com

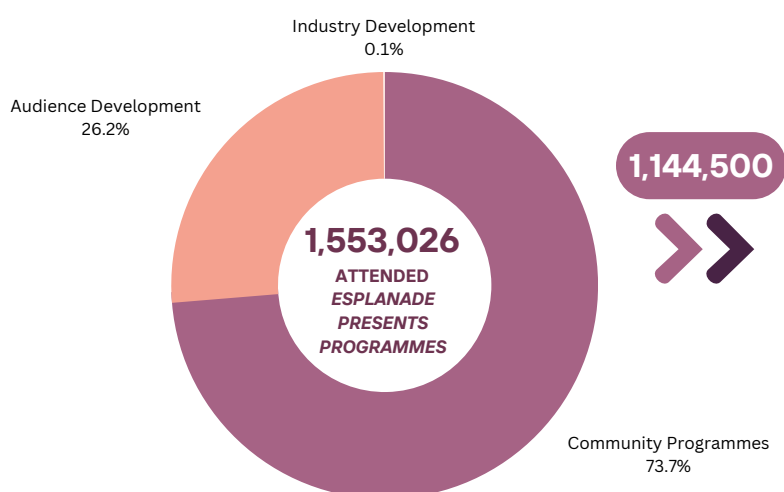
OUTCOME #2

MORE SINGAPOREANS VALUE THE ARTS AS IMPORTANT FOR ENHANCING INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETY'S WELLBEING, AND IN CREATING A MORE INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

Our year-round calendar of *Esplanade Presents* programmes comprises programmes for Community, Audience Development and Industry Development in collaboration with artists and arts groups. Of these, our **Community Programmes - from daily free activities to cultural festivals and series and programmes for targeted communities - most directly contribute towards Inclusion & Wellbeing** (a list can be found [here](#)).



**IN FY2022/2023,
 COMMUNITY
 PROGRAMMES MADE
 UP 77.2% OF
 ESPLANADE
 PRESENTS ACTIVITIES
 AND WERE ATTENDED
 BY OVER 1.1 MILLION.**



61%
 AT FREE/ACCESS FOR ALL PROGRAMMES

21%
 ATTENDED CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

12%
 AT EDUCATION PROGRAMMES FOR THE YOUNG

5%
 TO SENIORS PROGRAMMES

0.5%
 BENEFICIARIES FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
 PROGRAMMES

"My Sunday was made beautiful by this home-grown community orchestra. ...Music is priceless. We should have more of such meaningful programmes that are inclusive and help everyone enjoy orchestral music without paying an arm or leg." – Poon Jian Wei, patron who attended Beautiful Sunday concert, published in The Straits Times Forum

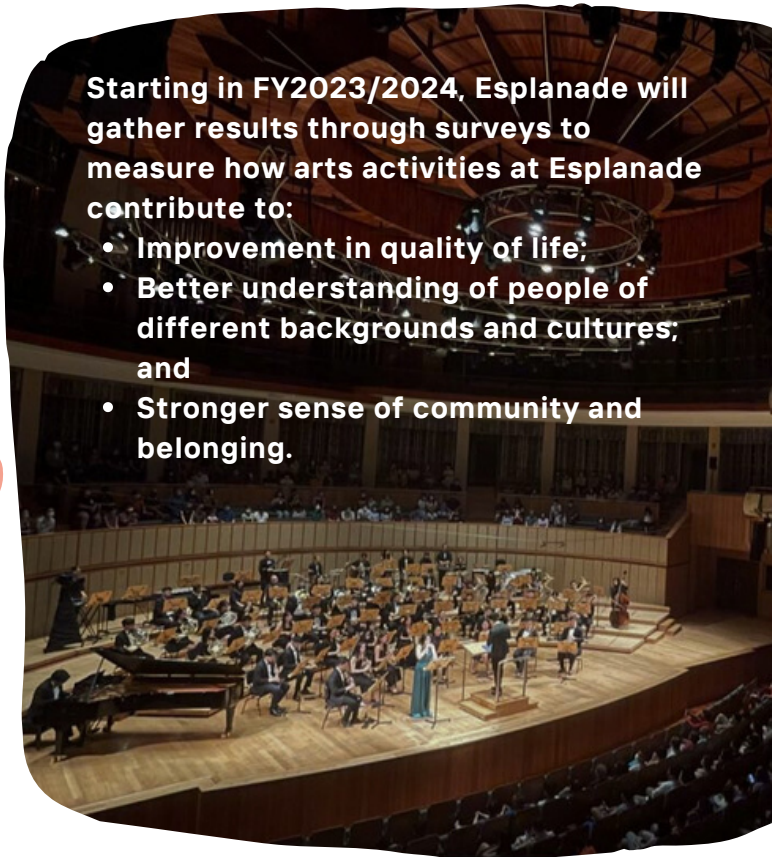
"Thank you for another beautiful season of Tapestry Of Sacred Music! Beautiful line-up of artistes - Invigorating, calming, soulful music ... words can't quite describe what each session evokes. Certainly world class performances!! Staff were an awesome bunch too. Keep the spirit and warm hospitality going... Big big thanks! – patron at A Tapestry of Sacred Music

PARTICIPANTS OF OUR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMMES HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO BE HAPPIER, GAINED CONFIDENCE AND SELF ESTEEM AS THEY LEARN NEW SKILLS, AND THEY ALSO FELT INCLUDED.



Starting in FY2023/2024, Esplanade will gather results through surveys to measure how arts activities at Esplanade contribute to:

- Improvement in quality of life;
- Better understanding of people of different backgrounds and cultures; and
- Stronger sense of community and belonging.



100%

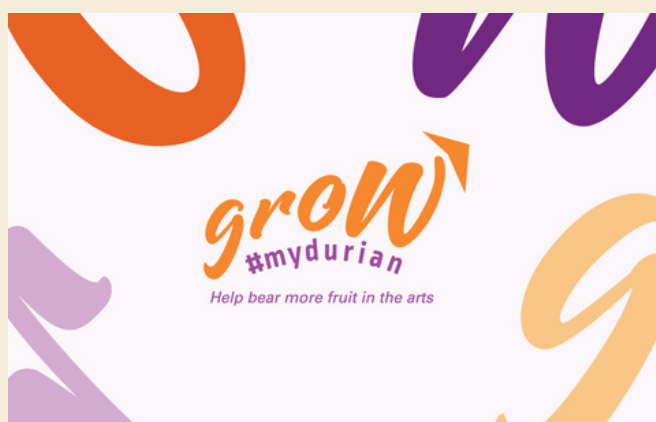
surveyed respondents for community engagement activities:

- look forward to continuing their involvement in arts-related workshops.
- reported positive impact in sensory enrichment; emotional wellbeing; and/ or sense of community and belonging.



OUTCOME #3 GREATER PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION TO THE ARTS THROUGH VOLUNTEERING AND GIVING

In the last decade since we scaled up our Community Engagement work, more people have shared our belief that the arts can touch people in a very special way. **Our volunteers, sponsors and donors have contributed with their time and financial resources to further our drive and leave a legacy of social impact.**

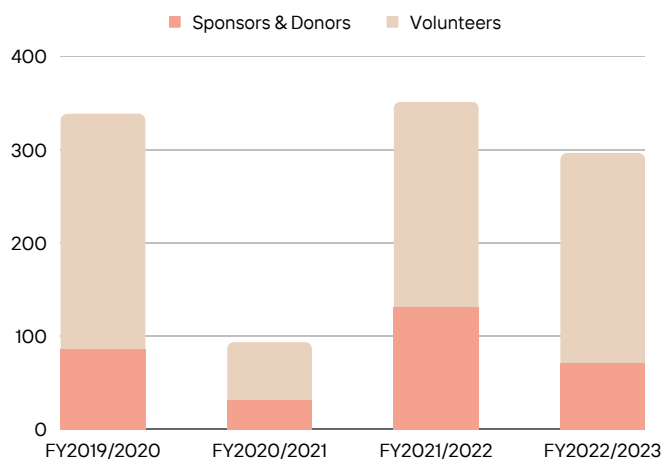


Although giving towards the arts and culture saw an increase in support in 2021 during Covid, it remains significantly lower than many other causes. Corporate giving to the arts and culture was at 11% versus the social service (52%) and community/grassroots (23%) [1]. Similarly, it is a less-supported sector at 1% of Individual giving versus social service (32%) and religious (23%) [2].

Much work remains to be done in strengthening public ownership for the arts. In 2023, Esplanade aims to grow our pool of sponsors, donors and volunteers through more volunteering opportunities, targeted fundraising and greater awareness of legacy building through the arts.

[1] Corporate Giving Study 2021 by National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre (NVPC).

[2] Individual Giving Study 2021 by NVPC.



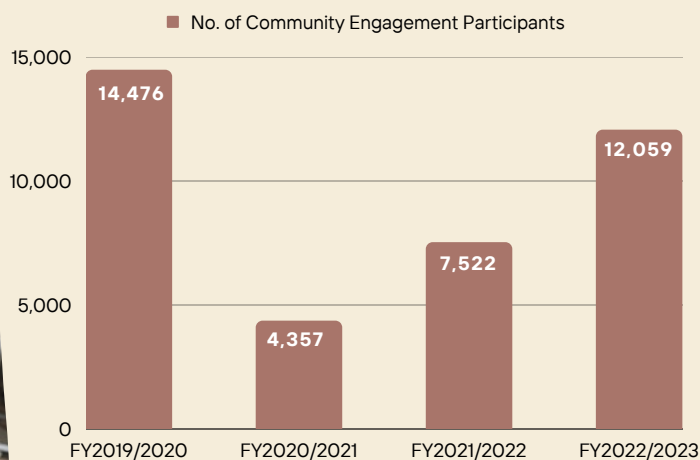
71
SPONSORS 45% ↓
FROM FY2021/2022

2,012
VOLUNTEER HOURS 55% ↑
FROM FY2021/2022

THANK YOU!

OUTCOME #4 MORE SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES AND CAREGIVERS ENGAGE THE ARTS TO IMPROVE WELLBEING

Over the last decade, Esplanade has continually advocated for the arts in communities and has played a necessary role in connecting artists and social service agencies to explore how the performing arts can complement the work of caregivers, therapists, counsellors, and doctors. Our community engagement programmes such as *Theatre for Dreams*, *Sing Out Loud!*, *Dance for Joy*, *Songwriting for Hope* have brought the creative expressions and care to persons living with dementia and their caregivers, children with autism, vulnerable youths, and families as well as women and migrant workers in crisis. The workshops not only provide hands-on experiences for beneficiaries to learn more about the artform, but also to engage their senses through music and movement. More importantly, these workshops serve as a platform for beneficiaries to interact and experience the arts with their peers, creating shared memories and bringing about positive feelings of being included and connected to society.



The growing appreciation of how the arts can better the lives and well-being of beneficiaries during the pandemic has led to increasing requests for us to bring arts programmes into various communities. **In FY2022/2023, there were 12K participants for our community engagement activities, a 60% growth from FY2021/2022.** We also had 27 opportunities through hosted visits, learning journeys and presentations to share about our inclusion and access initiatives with 483 people from the arts and social sectors and beyond.

“.. The act of getting dressed in formal clothes, (being) ushered into the concert hall, from the beginning to the end and (partake in the) live performance of the (Pesta Raya 2022 – FENOMENA) concert have definitely made the residents feel very good, involved and included. Thank you very much for (continuing to share the arts) with us through the digital live concerts in the pandemic years in the pandemic years” – Zaidi, Head of Home, Jamiyah Home for the Aged

“.. I was super happy to see the beneficiaries jump up and dance. It's such an amazing feeling to see pure joy like this, and for the women... to forget their troubles for just one moment and feel the joy of music. For my musicians, I think they didn't realise how important music can be as a way to heal or inspire excitement – it's a nice learning experience for them to perform beyond the typical bars, clubs, hotels and stadiums, and think about their art in a different way.” – Mathilda D'silva, Artist for the Day Out at Esplanade! programme for over 160 women-in crisis beneficiaries

Responding to increasing community needs and social issues, we worked closely with social service agencies (SSAs) to commence new programmes in FY2022/2023:

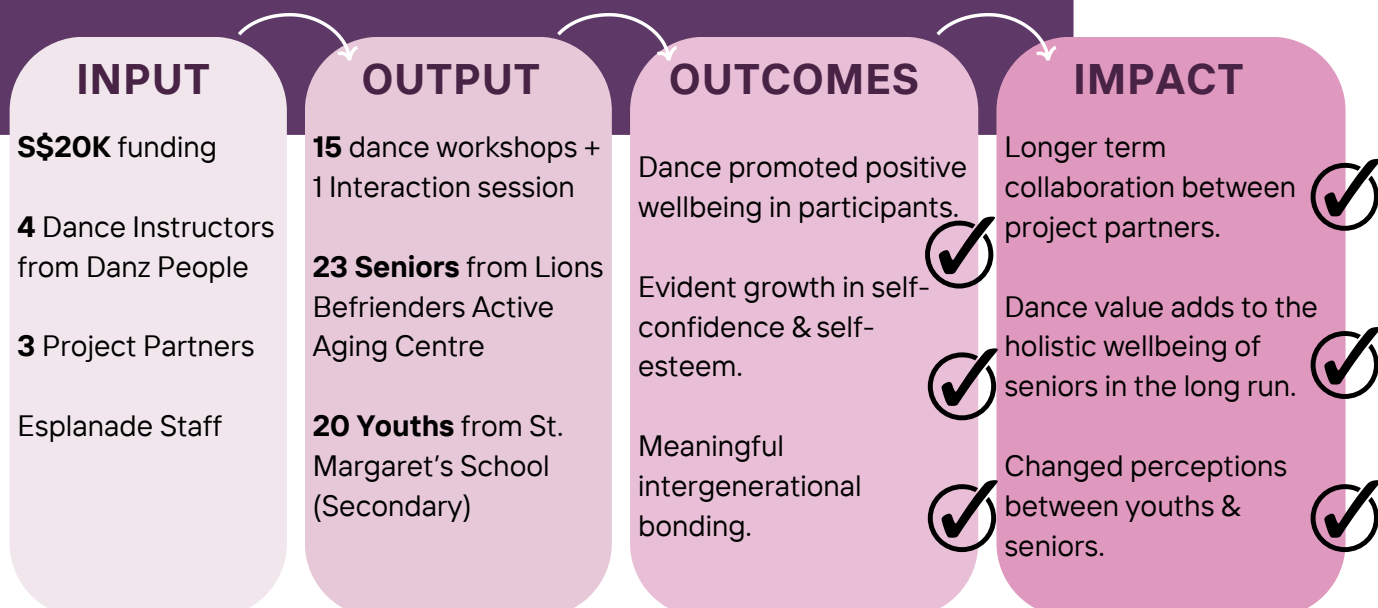
- **A 10-session *Movement Expressions* workshop series for children of all abilities from ExtraOrdinary People Limited, Big Heart Student Care, and other SSAs.** Facilitated by artist Melissa Quek of The Kueh Tutus, participants use movements as an alternative form of expression to acknowledge their inner thoughts, feelings, and personal experiences as they look forward to their hopes and aspirations.
- **Special Day Out at Esplanade! programme for over 160 women-in-crisis beneficiaries from various organisations** such as the Centre for Domestic Employees, HOME Women Shelter, and Daughters of Tomorrow. Themed *Little Moments of Light*, the programme brought respite to these women amidst their challenging circumstances.
- **INTERMISSION | A Performing Arts Well-Being Day, focused on the mental well-being of arts workers.** 19 arts professionals came together to experience the therapeutic benefits of music, dance movement, art, and drama therapy in small group sessions. This programme was co-developed by applied theatre practitioner and counsellor Rose McGowan and facilitated by professional therapists Evelyn Lee, Shi Han Chan, Boo Xu Ning, and Ambre Lee.



CASE STUDY: INTERGENERATIONAL HIP HOP DANCE PROJECT

Dance and music have historically been used as tools for healing and to improve quality of life. Developing a new skill has also been evident in our community engagement work to improving a participant's confidence, self-esteem, and self-efficacy. **Footwork for Community: Intergenerational Hip Hop Dance Project** was developed in 2018 to address the need for cross-generational opportunities involving the performing arts in Singapore, particularly as we face a rapidly aging society. By 2030, almost 1 in 4 Singaporeans will be over 65 years old*.

The project has since seen two well-received runs in 2018 and 2019. To help us in understanding its impact and to ensure that resources are well-optimised to meaningfully achieve our programme objectives, the IOOI Method was used to evaluate the programme in 2022. This case study is extracted from the full Project Impact Report.



*Speech by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at the book launch of *Singapore Ageing: Issues and Challenges Ahead* on 11 Apr 2023

GATHERING INPUT

Esplanade received **funding of S\$20,000** to run the project. A team was assembled comprising **Esplanade staff, 4 dance instructors from Danz People** and project partners: **St. Margaret's School (Secondary), Lions Befrienders Active Aging Centre** and **SHINE Children and Youth Services** which provided social work support and facilitated reflection activities with the youth participants.

DELIVERING OUTPUT

The project involved **23 seniors from Lions Befrienders** and **20 youths from St. Margaret's**. It comprised **15 1.5-hour dance workshops** and a **2-hour interaction engagement** at the project mid-point for both groups to get to know each other better before their joint sessions. Reflection activities were specially designed for both groups to better understand their cognitive and emotional process, sentiments, and experiences throughout the project.

“(I was surprised) that dancing could actually bring so much joy. I have become more confident even though I was initially scared. I felt like it is time for me to trust and appreciate my dancing skills.” – T Sharifa Nur’elieza Angeliena Alhabshi, Youth Participant, St Margaret's School (Secondary)

Over the course of the project, due to health issues for the seniors and scheduling conflicts for the youths, only **21 seniors and 9 youths were able to perform in a private showcase for their families and friends.**



MEASURING OUTCOMES

Dance promoted positive wellbeing in participants

Quantitative results from the survey showed that participants experienced positive and holistic benefits after attending the programme. **For the youths, there was a 12.5% to 25% increase in positive sentiments** towards questions related to their wellbeing. **For the seniors, responses were largely positive** with average rating being above 9 based on a 10-point emotion rating scale for questions related to their wellbeing.

Evident growth in self-confidence & self-esteem

Both groups of participants showed an improved sense of self-confidence and self-esteem after the programme. **For the youths, there was a 50% increment and for the seniors, there was a 12.9% increase** in positive perception of their self-confidence towards dancing after the programme.

Meaningful intergenerational bonding among seniors and youths

During the reflection circle activities, **youths and seniors frequently mentioned that they enjoyed interacting with the other group and that it was their favourite part of the whole programme.** The interaction broke down assumptions each group had of the other. For the youths, they learnt that age is not a barrier when it comes to learning and dancing, and were able to step out of their comfort zones and have courage in learning a new skill. For the seniors, they sought to understand the mindsets and behaviours of their dance partners, and shared their wealth of knowledge with hopes to influence the youths positively. This helped in improving their sense of self-efficacy and they remarked feeling “young and alive” when interacting and dancing with them.



“Dancing has made me feel younger and more confident about myself. I am very happy to have made new friends with the youths and other seniors in this programme. I am keen to join other dance programmes and look forward to more opportunities like this in future.” – Pan Choon Hiong (Diana), Senior Participant, Lions Befrienders Active Ageing Centre @ 150 Mei Ling

ASSESSING IMPACT



Continued collaborations between project partners

Both Lion Befrienders and St Margaret's expressed keen interest to continue engaging with each other directly, **paving the way for new collaboration opportunities.**

Dance value-adds to the seniors' lives for a holistic wellbeing in the long run

The dance choreography helped in improving memory recall work for the seniors, giving them greater confidence in their learning. They also learnt to creatively incorporate the dance movements into their morning workout routines and are eager to explore others that can similarly be applied to their daily workouts. **The project has created new learning opportunities for the seniors, generating benefits for their cognitive, emotional and physical wellbeing.**

Changed perceptions of each other

Through deliberate and facilitated interactions, both groups realised that the other group was easy to communicate and work with, which contradicted their stereotypical impressions. This **paved the way for more meaningful conversations between seniors and the youth to take place and deepen mutual understanding.**



OVERALL PROJECT EVALUATION

The project's immediate outcomes have been observed to bring about longer-term impact to the participants by providing them with a new avenue to improve wellbeing through dance and altering their perspectives of each other so that they may build meaningful connections despite their differences.

Using the IOOI Method, Esplanade was able to better demonstrate these outcomes and impact which helped refine the inputs and outputs to be improved on in the next run.

- First, we recognise a need to increase the number of combined sessions and to introduce group work elements during the workshop sessions.
- Second, we will create opportunities for participants to have creative inputs in their showcase piece to engender a stronger sense of ownership and commitment in the programme.
- Third, we look forward to including a closure session for participants to reflect and share their thoughts on their journey with one another and to bid farewell, as a way of marking the end of their involvement in the programme.

THE WAY FORWARD

In FY2022/2023, we surpassed our pre-Covid levels of vibrancy and engagement with 4,562 activities that reached 3.26M people with a year-round calendar of diverse live and digital programmes for people of all backgrounds. We continued to use different artforms to elevate the wellbeing of vulnerable groups in our society and to create safe spaces where issues of culture, identity and diversity can be explored.

Looking ahead, we continue to deliver meaningful arts experiences through our programmes and explore new ways to strengthen the appreciation and recognition of the role and value of the arts in creating a more inclusive and caring society. We will do this with new programmes and better data collection.

In addition, we look to applying the IOOI Method to the other 2 strategic pillars as we continue to develop The Next Generation and together, shape our Creative Futures.

OUR DONORS & SPONSORS

We thank everyone who has helped us bring joy, inspiration and positive impact to Singaporeans from all walks of life by supporting the arts and Esplanade.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes especially to our Donors and Sponsors whose steadfast belief in our mission and generous support made our achievements in Inclusion and Wellbeing possible.

Alice Koh
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 Asia Ghani Restaurant And Catering Pte Ltd
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 Composers And Authors Society of Singapore Ltd
 Daniel Teo Tong How
 Daryl Neo
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We are grateful to these donors and sponsors who have contributed S\$1,000 and above from 1 Apr 2022 to 31 Mar 2023.

Esplanade also receives grants from the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, as well as support for our Community Programmes from the Tote Board Family, comprising Tote Board, Singapore Pools and Singapore Turf Club.

CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

These programmes celebrate the Chinese, Malay and Indian cultures that make up our multi-racial society and help to anchor our Asian identity. These programmes also bridge barriers and build cross-cultural understanding of our people.



Pesta Raya - Malay Festival of Arts **26 - 29 May 2022**

A time of fellowship and feasting marks Hari Raya Puasa, and shortly after, a four-day buffet of the best Malay arts is served during *Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts*.
29,738 audiences joined us for 73 activities.



Kalaa Utsavam - Indian Festival of the Arts **18 - 27 Nov 2022**

With the Deepavali festivities comes a chance for all to appreciate Indian arts. *Kalaa Utsavam – Indian Festival of Arts* presents a variety of North and South Indian arts, while at the same time, mixing the contemporary and traditional.
95 activities with 71,339 attendees over two weekends.



Huayi - Chinese Festival of Arts **27 Jan - 5 Feb 2023**

Coinciding with the Chinese New Year, this festival presents acclaimed Chinese artists from around the world and has gained a strong reputation for its pioneering spirit.
Drew **70,889 audiences to 102 activities** at centre.



Raga

Often in collaboration with Singapore arts groups, this series brings programmes all year round, covering all genres, targeting different segments within the Indian community. **Over 23 activities, 5,852 people joined us for Raga.**



Pentas

Building audiences for Malay programmes throughout the year, this series **brought in 29,489 people for 47 activities** to experience Malay theatre, music and dance featuring both Singapore as well as regional artists.



Moonfest

A community festival held during the Mid-Autumn Festival, *Moonfest* celebrated traditional Chinese arts through Chinese opera, music, and crafts. Its popular lantern-making workshops and lantern walkabout reached out to community groups of all races. The festival encouraged the appreciation of Chinese arts among audiences of all ages. **The final edition of Moonfest recorded 41 activities which brought in 27,733 audiences.**



in::music

A platform to showcase some of the most inspiring Chinese singer songwriters and bands with their original compositions. **The 4 performances welcomed 381 audiences.**

FREE PROGRAMMES / ACCESS FOR ALL

Esplanade's free programmes ensure that the arts remain accessible to everyone and form the core of our calendar. While some of them are programmes on their own, all festivals have free events as an integral part of the festival.



Baybeats 28 - 30 Oct 2022

Singapore's largest alternative free music festival, *Baybeats*, celebrates youth culture and is held as a hybrid festival annually since 2020. *Baybeats* has become an important platform to showcase homegrown bands and has gained a following from audiences hailing from as far as Australia. **2022's edition saw 35,356 audiences join us in person over 84 activities and another 77,311 audiences tuned in online.**



Voices - A Festival of Song 1 - 4 Dec 2022

Launched in 2013, *Voices* focuses on the art and enjoyment of ensemble singing. The Festival fills the centre with song and brings together a wide range of choirs, show choirs, a cappella groups and other singing communities in celebration of their shared passion for singing. **In its 10th edition in 2022, we welcomed 52,683 people over 57 free performances and activities and 1,710 people for 9 ticketed performances.**



A Tapestry of Sacred Music

Presenting diverse sounds and colours from around the world, this festival brings people together towards understanding and appreciating sacred music, focusing only on its artistic forms without the religious aspects. *A Tapestry of Sacred Music* took place in Apr 2023 and will be reported in FY2023/2024.



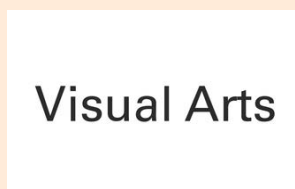
Beautiful Sunday

Held once a month on a Sunday afternoon, *Beautiful Sunday* is a free, by registration only series that showcases the best of our community orchestras and symphonic bands with a popular repertoire ranging from film music to folk tunes. **The 14 performances in 2022 welcomed over 20,499 people to enjoy the music in our Concert Hall.**



Free Programmes at Upper Concourse & Outdoor Theatre

Every evening, Esplanade Concourse showcases talented amateur, semi-professional and professional artists from Singapore and around the world in a series of free performances spanning music, dance and theatre. This extends to the DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade every Friday, Saturday, Sunday and public holiday throughout the year. Esplanade's free programmes are presented along different themes each month, allowing us to bring a diverse range of performances to our audiences, and to work with and support the development of the large pool of Singapore talent who specialise in different types of music styles. Highlights of our free programmes calendar include *Crossing Borders* which is a celebration of the world music genre, *Red Dot August* where we celebrate Singapore arts and artists in the month of Singapore's birthday and *Come Together* at year-end, where our programmes bring our artists and audiences together to celebrate friendships. **793 free performances was attended by 589,643 people from all walks of life.**



Visual Arts

An extensive visual arts programme at our public spaces allows visitors to view and explore art works at their own time. These works are planned by curators who work within an annual theme that complements some of the key festivals at the centre happening at the same time. The main spaces for visual arts are Jendela (Visual Arts Space), Esplanade Concourse, Esplanade Tunnel, the Skylight Cones and Esplanade Community Walls on the third level of the centre.



Guided Esplanade Tours

Extending access beyond programmes and performances, Esplanade organises a range of guided tours to enable participants to take a peek under our famous domes and learn about Esplanade's architecture and history. **144 tours were conducted for 2,047 participants.**

EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

These programmes are for schools and children and form an important strategic focus in introducing the arts to the young. They also emphasise Asian values and help build self-confidence in our next generation. We provide the opportunity for students to express themselves through the arts in our *Limelight* programmes, where we work with quality school bands and choirs to stage performances at the Esplanade. We also organise talks and workshops to introduce the arts to the community and the public.



Octoburst! - Children's Day Celebrations **7 Oct 2022**

We give special focus to the little ones with *Octoburst!* which encourages play and family fun, with free performances and hands-on workshops. **7,042 young ones and their parents/ guardians joined us for 14 activities.**



March On - A Children's Festival **9 - 19 Mar 2023**

Esplanade's new annual children's festival, *March On*, explores relevant issues through music, theatre and dance for children below 12. *March On*'s specially curated programmes delve into relevant issues facing the young of today and place children squarely at the centre of the creative process. **We were joined by 92,416 children, parents and educators for 170 activities at this year's festival.**



PLAYtime!

Aimed at two to six year olds, *PLAYtime!* encourages young children to sing and dance along with the performers in a highly interactive theatrical show. These productions are produced in-house and **we ran three productions for 10,949 little ones.**



PIP'S PLAYBox

A dedicated space for children and families to discover, imagine and play! *PIP's PLAYbox* includes a cosy loft, a roomy arts and craft area, a reading corner filled with books by Singapore writers and illustrators, as well as an outdoor play area. **We welcomed 15,116 visitors to the space.**



Feed Your Imagination (F.Y.I)

An arts education series targeted at students where performances and accompanying educational materials are specially devised for specific age groups in primary and secondary schools. Interactive segments allow students to discover the arts in new ways during the performance and a tour around Esplanade is also included in the visit. **3,419 students took part in 32 programmes.**



LimeLight

Raises the professional standards of high-quality secondary and tertiary school choirs and bands by working closely with the groups to produce their first publicly ticketed performance in our Concert Hall. From selection of repertoire to staging and marketing, Esplanade helps to shape the presentations to a higher artistic quality. **We worked with 5 schools who played to 3,992 attendees.**



Dance Appreciation Series

Organised with the Singapore Ballet, this series targeted at young audiences **welcomed 5,091 people who joined us over 11 sessions to build their appreciation for classical ballet.**

PROGRAMMES FOR SENIORS

Our programmes for the silver-haired community provides opportunities for seniors from all walks of life to engage with the arts and create lasting memories that will deepen their bonds with each other through song, dance, workshops, and more.



A Date With Friends (ADWF)

2 - 5 Mar 2023

Every Mar, we celebrate our seniors with *A Date with Friends* — a festival of free and ticketed performances where celebrated musicians evoke fond memories of yesterday once more. **This edition welcomed 54,241 audiences to reminisce the good ol' days through a mix of 49 concerts, workshops and more.**



Coffee Morning Afternoon Tea

Targeted at retirees, *Coffee Morning Afternoon Tea* is presented at a low ticket cost of S\$15 and takes place one Monday every month at 10am and 3pm. It features mostly evergreen music of the golden years with complimentary coffee and tea provided before each performance. **19 performances welcomed 6,623 seniors to sing and dance with us.**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMMES

We believe that the arts can help build confidence, heal broken spirits and bring people closer. **In FY2022/2023, we worked with artists and social service agencies to organise 602 activities including arts workshops, hostings, flagship projects, and offsite visits that touched the lives of 12,059 beneficiaries in Singapore.** These include vulnerable children and youth, the elderly, persons with diverse needs and disabilities, migrant workers, those marginalised as well as beneficiaries from low-income households.

ARTS & YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

Theatre for Dreams

Centred on the theme of dreams and aspirations, *Theatre for Dreams* hopes to encourage youths to articulate what their goals might be and how they can attempt to realise these goals. It aims to provide a platform for participants to create independently and own the process of creation.

The 9-session programme at the Singapore Boys' Home culminated in a private showcase involving 33 participants including the family members of the youths.

Community Movement Expression Workshops

This single session workshop provides an opportunity for children of all abilities to learn more about emotional literacy through movements. Through this shared movement experience, we hope it also opens up a safe space for connections amongst participants. **10 sessions were held for 162 participants from 10 different agencies.**

Songwriting for Hope

Songwriting for Hope seeks to let youths express their stories through writing lyrics and music, empowering them to turn these into hope for their future over 10 sessions. We hope that this gives the youths motivation, strength and courage moving forward beyond the programme, to make sound decisions concerning their own lives. The programme culminates in a private showcase for their loved ones allow them to share their heartfelt songs with their families and caregivers. **This year, we worked with Bowen Secondary School and our long standing partner, the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) to engage 83 participants including 64 youths and their family members at Singapore Girls' Home.** The project has allowed every batch of troubled youths to share their innermost feelings, stories and hopes for life.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMMES (CONT'D)

ARTS & ACTIVE AGEING

Footwork for Community 2022:

Intergenerational Hip Hop Dance Project

Through our intergenerational Footwork for Community initiative, we bring the young and old together through dance. Intergenerational projects have meaningful social benefits for the participants. On top of learning an art form, we have witnessed heartening exchanges between the young and old. **This year's project between St Margaret's School (Secondary) and Lion Befrienders Active Ageing Centre @ 150 Mei Ling took place over 17 sessions involving 73 participants.**

Community Angklung Workshops

Since its introduction as part of *Pesta Raya* in 2015, the angklung workshops have been very well-received by senior beneficiaries and persons with disabilities. Participants either gain exposure to the instrument over single session workshops or gain a deeper level of engagement with this traditional instrument and get to hone their angklung playing skills through a 5-session option. **45 workshops were conducted in reaching 1,143 beneficiaries.**

ARTS & SOCIAL INCLUSION

When Music Meets Life (WMML)

Since 2016, we have been bringing various musicians out as volunteers to perform for vulnerable communities around Singapore in hospices, hospitals, as well as nursing and welfare homes as part of *When Music Meets Life*. This programme pivoted to take place on Zoom in 2021 - 2022, where we can safely interact with beneficiaries through live music sessions to combat the social isolation that they may be facing during this pandemic and the programme also took place once every two months to meet the demand for the sessions. Now with the easing of Covid restrictions, we have resumed this bi-monthly programme in person. **We reached out to 3,595 beneficiaries through 107 WMML sessions.**

Sing Out Loud!

Sing Out Loud! seeks to provide persons living with dementia opportunities to deepen their engagement with music through vocal singing. Developed together with Dementia Singapore in 2016, we work with AWWA Dementia Day Care Centres with the intention to engage a mix of persons with early onset dementia and mild to moderate dementia. In Mar 2023, we started an intergenerational model of this programme with St Joseph's Home to bring children and seniors together through singing. Caregivers are involved in the programme which culminates in a private graduation showcase at Esplanade where invited family members get to appreciate the strengths and abilities of their loved ones living with dementia. **129 participants were engaged over 18 sessions.**

Community Spoken Word Workshops

Through these workshops, participants experienced how creating a spoken word piece can support self-care and enhance their mental wellbeing through the process of deep reflection and the expression of thoughts and emotions. The workshops were conducted for a range of beneficiaries including Singapore Girls' Home, Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped, Club HEAL, and more. **142 participants joined us for 8 sessions.**

Day Out at Esplanade! 2022

For the first time, **we organised a special Day Out at Esplanade! programme for 164 women in-crisis beneficiaries** from organisations such as the Centre for Domestic Employees, HOME Women Shelter, and Daughters of Tomorrow. Themed *Little Moments of Light*, the programme sought to provide respite to these women to enhance their overall well-being amidst the challenging circumstances they may be facing. The participants were treated to an exclusive music performance by Mathilda D'silva who performed an accessible repertoire of English, Malay, Tagalog and Tamil songs, a guided venue tour, and dinner refreshments by the waterfront.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMMES (CONT'D)

ARTS & CAREGIVING

Community Songwriting Workshops

In recognition of the elevated stress levels brought about by the pandemic, this workshop series was started in 2021 to impart skills in lyric writing and performance while providing opportunities for self care as participants are guided to explore and process thoughts and emotions through songwriting. **7 workshops were conducted for 98 caregivers and healthcare workers.**

Esplanade Academy: Sing Out Loud!

Workshop for Social Service Professionals

Sing Out Loud! Workshop (for Social Service Professionals) is a programme under the Esplanade Academy designed to equip and empower staff of social service agencies with the skills and knowledge to run stimulating and engaging singing sessions for persons with dementia. **This one-day programme drew 28 professionals over 3 sessions.**

INTERMISSION | A Performing Arts Well-Being Day

INTERMISSION is a new programme co-developed with applied theatre practitioner and counsellor Rosemary McGowan, in response to the mental health challenges performing artists may face during the pandemic. The programme aims to create an 'intermission' for artists to better sustain their career, and for their mental well-being. **This one-day programme saw 19 artists and practitioners take part in sessions at various venues around Esplanade, where they used the arts to explore the themes of Reflect, Recharge and Regroup.**

CENTRE-WIDE INITIATIVES

Dementia Friendly Arts Venue

Since 1 Dec 2021, Esplanade has been an appointed Dementia Go-To Points (GTPs). These are touch points within the community that provide information and useful resources on dementia, and link those who need help with the relevant dementia-related services. GTPs also serve as "safe return" points where members of the public can bring persons with dementia to, if these individuals appear lost, and are unable to identify themselves or their way home.

Ticket concession scheme for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)

All *Esplanade Presents* programmes that offer concessions have ticket concessions for persons with disabilities (PWDs), including but not limited to those with developmental, intellectual or physical disabilities. This concession for PWDs can also be utilised by one accompanying companion.

Accessibility features within Esplanade programmes for PWDs

- Aids for hearing impaired including Song Signing, Integrated Signing, and Open Captions at selected performances.
- Relaxed Environments and Calm Spaces for selected programmes.
- Special Seating Arrangements - We accommodate patrons who need accessible seating requirements – including those with mobility challenges and patrons who are blind or have low vision with guide dogs – wherever possible. Wheelchair accessible seating is also available at the venue.
- Priority Lanes - There is a priority lane at Esplanade Box Office and Visitor Centre located at the Mezzanine level of the centre. Besides offering priority access to those who require it, the wider lane affords persons who require a wheelchair more comfort and convenience.
- AA Certified revamped [esplanade.com](https://www.esplanade.com) website.



Esplanade is a charity and not-for-profit organisation. Help us bring the joy and inspiration of the arts to different communities, including the underserved.

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