

# Impact Report

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## Inclusion & Wellbeing FY2023



Photo Credit: Aloysius Lim



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# CEO's Message

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Esplanade entered “adulthood” in her 21st year as the national performing arts centre. In a post-pandemic world, many responsibilities and opportunities emerged out of new habits, needs and aspirations of Singaporeans and the Singapore society. We continued to serve our diverse communities in FY2023 with a renewed sense of energy, responsibility and confidence.

First, we found energy in refreshing several of our key programmes such as *da:ns* and *The Studios* to better engage the next generation of artists and audiences. Second, we renewed our resolve to be an arts centre for everyone with more Relaxed Environment (RE) performances and extending our Community Engagement programmes to improve the wellbeing of even more beneficiaries from vulnerable communities. Finally, we continued to celebrate our rich cultures and support artistic talents with new works especially by Singapore and Asian artists.

This Impact Report gives an overview of our work in championing Inclusion and Wellbeing. In our second year of reporting, there are new measures and tools to demonstrate the impact we have made on Singapore society through our year of programmes for everyone; and outcomes achieved in extending initiatives on active ageing, mental health, as well as 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.

**YVONNE THAM**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



# Our Strategic Pillars

Esplanade has identified 3 strategic pillars that represent our priorities amidst the wide-ranging programmes and diverse communities we serve. They also demonstrate the areas of leadership and impact we aim to make as a national performing arts centre.

## 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 developed.



## Pillar #3 Creative Futures

where the arts shapes Singapore's responses to global challenges and opportunities, through innovation and sustainable practice.



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.



# Inclusion & Wellbeing: FY2023 Highlights

## ENABLING ACCESS TO THE ARTS FOR EVERYONE, REGARDLESS OF BACKGROUND & ABILITIES

Following a celebratory year in FY2022 marking Esplanade's 20th Anniversary and recovery from the pandemic, FY2023 was a year of growth, transition and renewed focus.

**While we remained steadfast in our vision to be a performing arts centre for everyone, we sought ways to support a new generation of artists and to reach new audiences.** With rising geopolitical tensions and the stresses of adjusting to post-pandemic living, we found even greater urgency to provide inspiration as well as points of reflection and connection through the arts. This is especially through free and paid programmes that celebrate our diverse cultures, bring people of different generations and backgrounds together, and examine the challenges of today.

Our revamped Theatre series *The Studios* identified "Land" as our thematic focus for 3 years in response to the geopolitical and environmental challenges of today. *The Studios* also expanded to launch *TRIP*, a new programme to nurture the next generation of theatre directors. We transformed our annual dance festival into *da:ns focus*. The year-round series of five themed weekends allowed greater exploration of genres and communities as well as specific issues such as inclusion and accessibility through dance. We created new experiences by finding new spaces within our centre as part of our annual children's festival - *March On*. *PIP's Trail* was also launched to offer young visitors an opportunity to explore the centre on their own.





Reaching beyond the centre, *Esplanade Offstage* continued to demystify the arts with online programmes. **Reinforcing the importance of the arts in uniting people of all abilities and backgrounds, we pushed on with new ideas. A Ray of Sunshine brought together 150 beneficiaries from various organisations including the Rare Disorders Society Singapore and Brain Tumour Society to our centre to enjoy respite through music.** We also held our first intergenerational edition of *Sing Out Loud!* fostering connections for residents with dementia from St Joseph's Home and pre-schoolers.

FY2023 was a stellar year of giving to the arts at Esplanade. DBS Foundation's donation of S\$3.5 million for the next 5 years enables greater access to the arts with our free programmes at the DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre. We also expanded our pool of sponsors and donors, many of whom graced our second Fundraising Gala Dinner – *One Evening, Infinite Tomorrows* which raised over S\$1.4 million in support of our community engagement and artists development programmes



IN FY2033, ESPLANADE CONTINUED TO ENABLE ACCESS  
TO THE ARTS THROUGH A VIBRANT YEAR-ROUND  
CALENDAR OF INCLUSIVE ARTS AND COMMUNITY  
PROGRAMMES

4,231

Total Activities

636

Community Engagement  
Activities

3,809,486

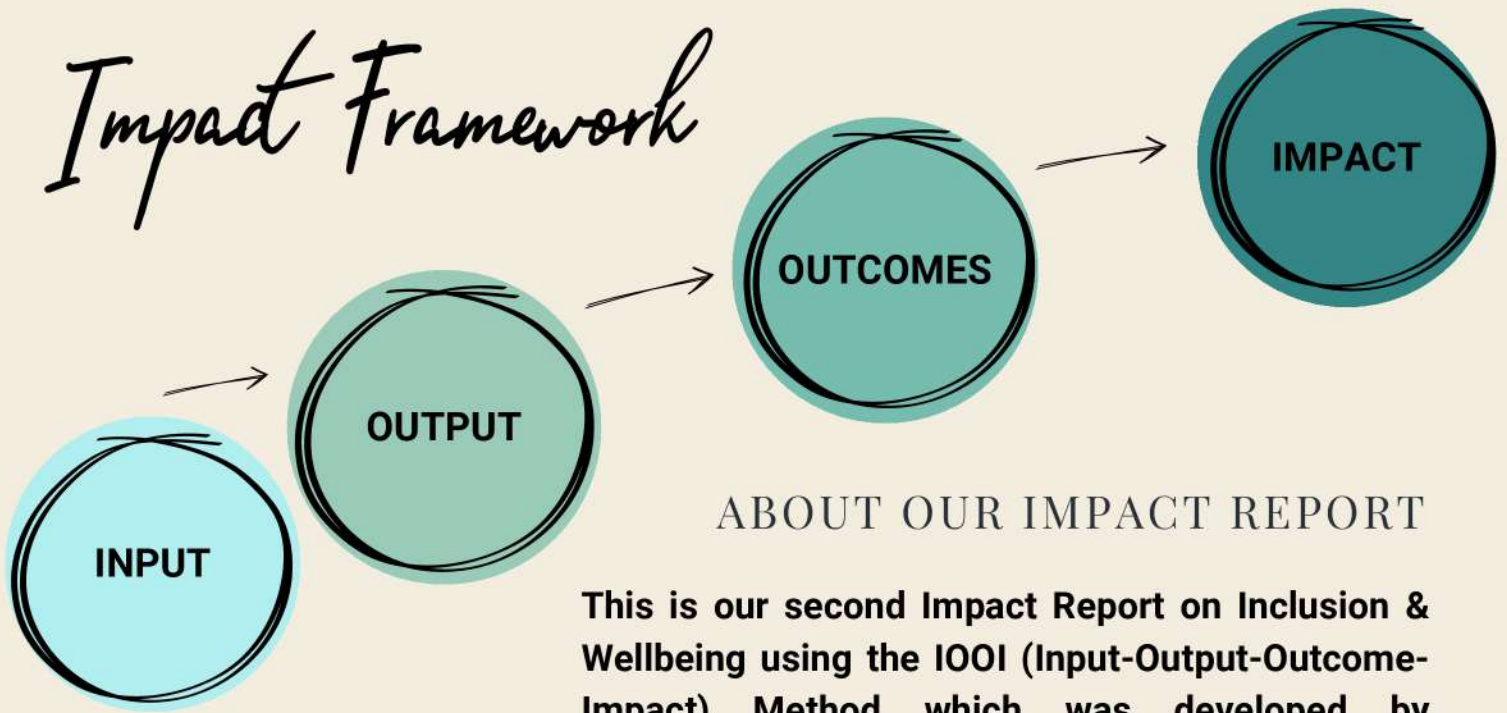
Total Attendance

17,949

Community Engagement  
Participants



# Impact Framework



## ABOUT OUR IMPACT REPORT

**This is our second Impact Report on Inclusion & Wellbeing using the IOOI (Input-Output-Outcome-Impact) Method which was developed by Bertelsmann Foundation to measure impact performance in social enterprises.**

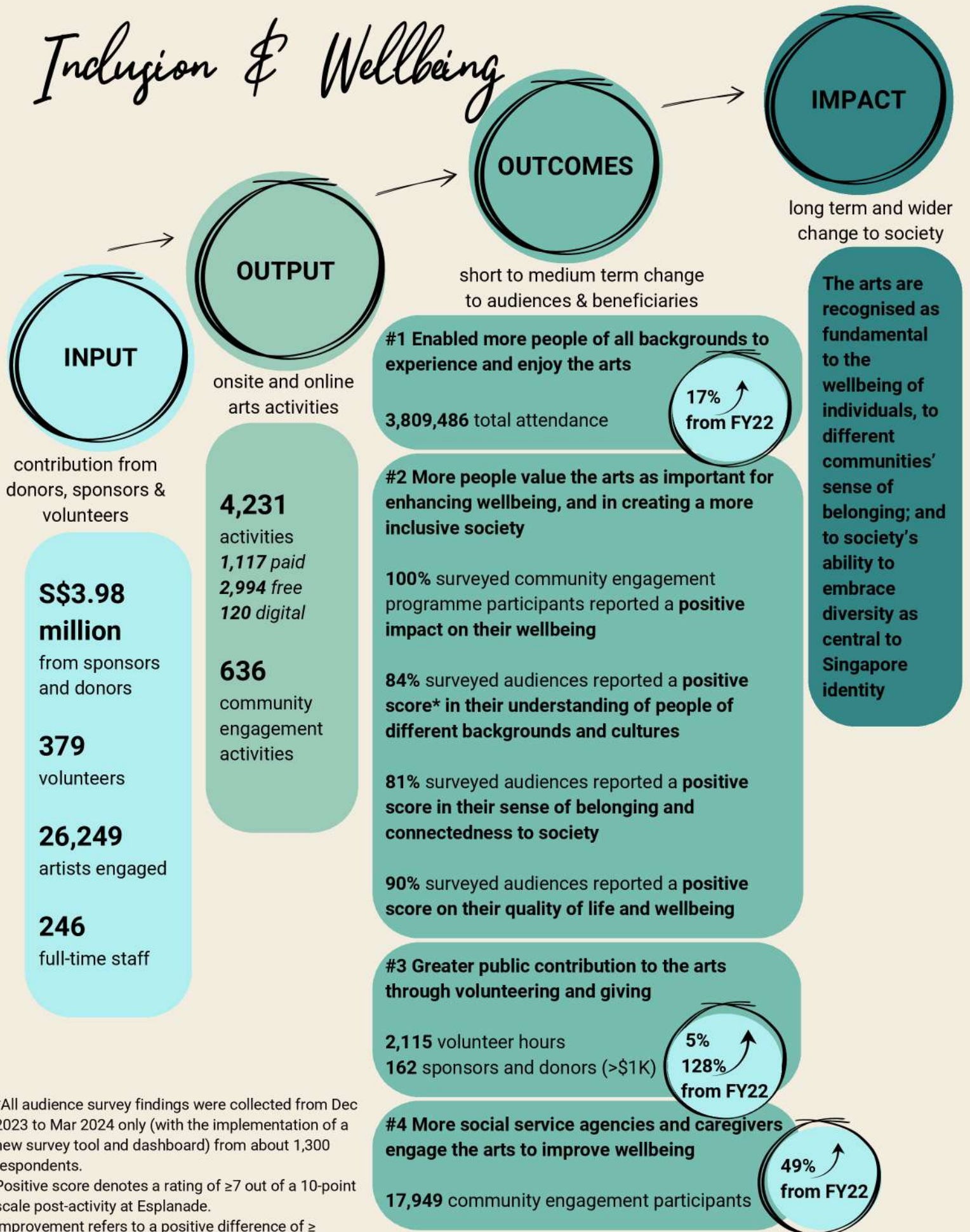
Through this, Esplanade attempts to better capture and demonstrate the diversity of outcomes achieved and reflect the social impact made over time.

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. **Importantly as we continue to refine our impact measurement, the IOOI Method contributes to organisational learning, allowing us to better plan for Input and Output with a view of desired Outcomes and intended Impact.**

This report is developed to strengthen our accountabilities to funders, donors, sponsors and various other organisations 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 on Inclusion & Wellbeing

Esplanade believes in both the intrinsic and instrumental value of the arts in nourishing individuals and bringing together people and communities. That is why Inclusion & Wellbeing is our first strategic pillar.



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As the national performing arts centre, the impact we have must transcend our programmes and direct beneficiaries. The change we strive to make is more far-sighted and wider in scope, to the Singapore society where the arts is recognised as:

1

**Fundamental to improving the wellbeing of individuals and communities** (be it physical and 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 future and journey towards a fairer and more inclusive society**, where our ability to embrace diversity is central to Singapore identity.

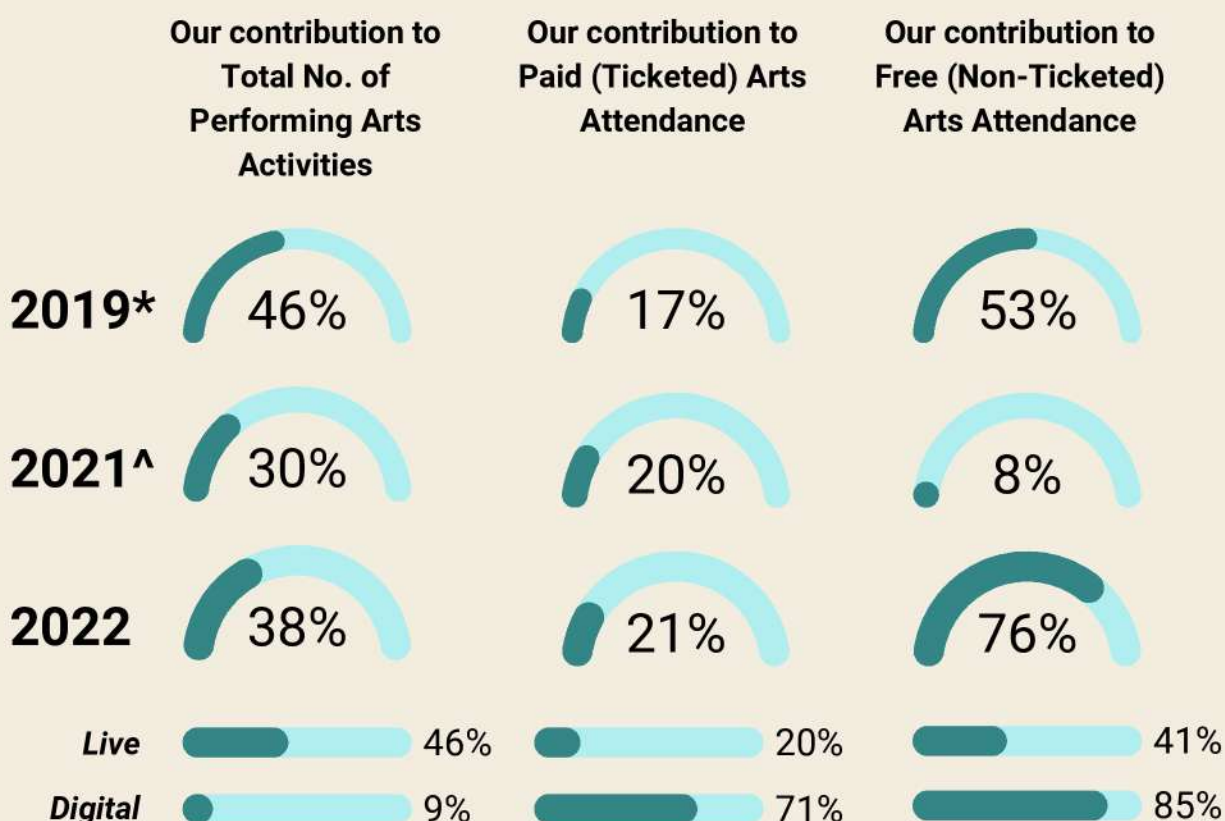
As a key cultural node, Esplanade can influence this change through the scale, intensity and diversity of thoughtful programming over time and our sustained engagements with various community groups and social service agencies.



## Measuring Our Impact on Inclusion & Wellbeing

We 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 and attendances in Singapore – contributing directly to perceptions of Singaporeans on the role and value of the arts.*



\* Percentages calculated based on Esplanade's activity and attendance numbers (by calendar year) compared with published numbers from Singapore Cultural Statistics.

^ Covid – live/in-person events were restricted. Esplanade was not able to present its full slate of free programmes for the public in 2021.



## Attendance & Participation in the Arts

### Esplanade's Findings against National Indicators\*

Overall arts attendance (live or digital) was 79% in 2023 – a decrease of 4% points from the previous year and largely driven by a decline in digital consumption. Participation also observed a decline from 34% to 28%.

#### Overall Arts Attendance in 2023:



**79%** ~ 8 in 10 attended an arts event either digitally or in person



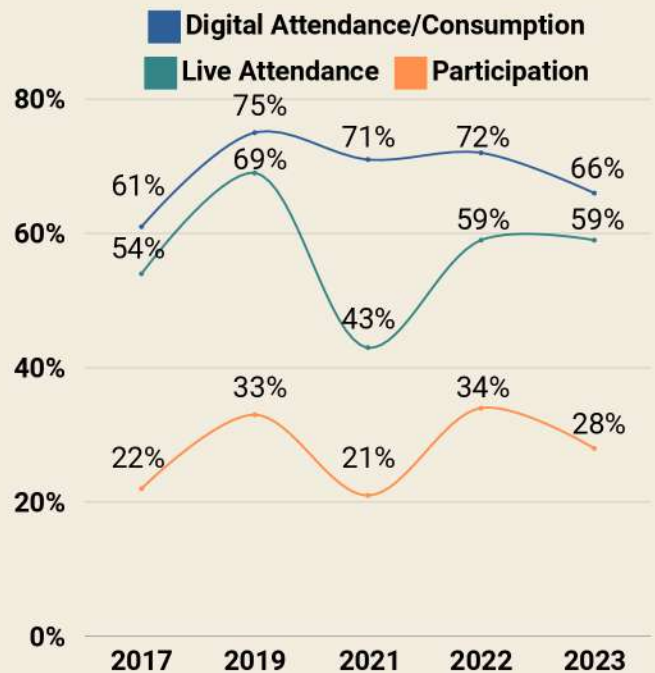
~ 7 in 10 attended a digital arts event / engaged with digital arts content



~ 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 2023, inclusive of performing arts, visual arts, literary arts, craft and heritage activities. 2021 - Covid year. Live/in-person events were restricted.





## Shifting Perceptions of the Arts

### Esplanade's Findings against National Indicators

*While personal appreciation of the arts and culture generally remained high with most Singaporeans, participants and audiences of Esplanade's activities have a higher appreciation of its role and benefits for community, society and wellbeing.*



Proxy  
measures for  
Inclusion

Proxy  
measures for  
Wellbeing

The arts and culture enable ...	2023 National	FY2023 Esplanade
Better understanding of people of different backgrounds and cultures	82%	84% post-activity
Greater sense of belonging to Singapore	77%	81% post-activity for sense of belonging and connectedness to society
Draw Singaporeans closer together as a community	74%	
Improvement in quality of life	75%	90% post-activity for quality of life & wellbeing
Expression of thoughts, feelings and ideas	78%	







# Achieving Our Outcomes

*Shaping Perceptions, Enabling Access, Building Capacities*

Whilst there is an appreciation for the arts and culture by most Singaporeans, it is not always recognised as intrinsic to one's sense of self and identity. The contribution of the arts to quality of life and communities is also not embraced by all segments of society, including individuals and communities.

At Esplanade, we believe in the power of the arts to enable expressions and connections, to promote understanding and bring about better mental, physical and social wellbeing. This is key, as societies around the world – including Singapore – face increasing cultural, religious and geopolitical tensions. These tensions, among others, add to the stresses of contemporary living with more individuals – particularly seniors and youths – 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 contributions to the arts through volunteering and giving.
- 4** More social service agencies and caregivers engage the arts to improve 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 more than 20 years ago. We remain committed to this with more than 70% of our annual programmes free every day for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to experience firsthand and enjoy the arts. Our year-round calendar of *Esplanade Presents* programmes is complemented by numerous activities by our hirers and partners and in collaborations with artists and arts groups.



Whilst *Esplanade Presents* programmes comprises programmes for community, audience and industry development, those for community – 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](#)).

# 93%

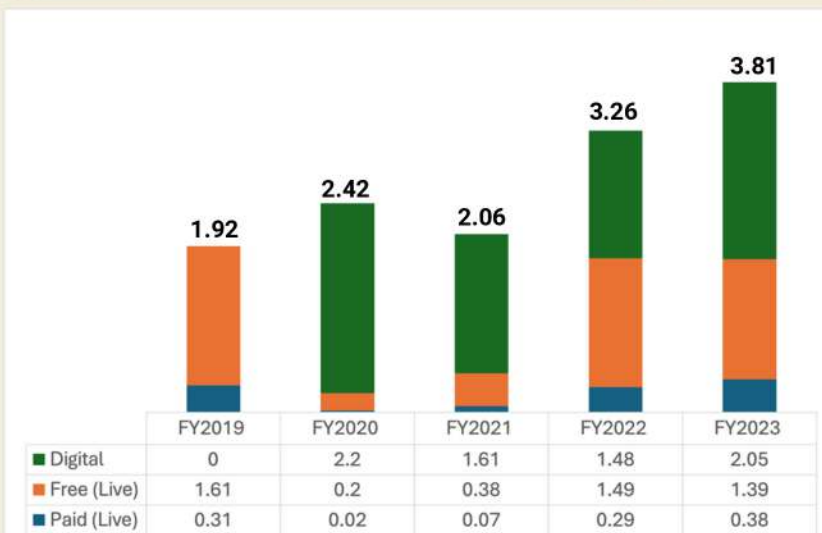
of surveyed respondents agree that **Esplanade brings arts experiences to people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds for a more connected and resilient society**

### INCREASING VISITORSHIP

2021: 4.35 MILLION

2022: 15.5 MILLION

2023: 21.8 MILLION



# 17%

in attendance to live & digital activities

**90%** of total attendance was for free live & digital activities

## > 1.2 MILLION

to community programmes under *Esplanade Presents*



## Paid *Esplanade Presents* Programmes are Accessible to All

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

In FY2023, 16% of total tickets sold compared to 10% in FY2022 were concession tickets for Students, Full-time National Servicemen, Seniors and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).



## High Satisfaction Levels

9/10

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



## Developing New Audiences

90K

*Esplanade&Me*\* members in FY2023

38% ↑

compared to FY2022

\* *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.

19% ↑

in web users compared to FY2022

38% ↑

in online audiences compared to FY2022

11%

new social media followers



## OUTCOME #2

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

### OUTCOME #2

## More Singaporeans value the arts as important for enhancing individuals and society's wellbeing, and in creating a more inclusive society



Attendees of Esplanade's activities have a good appreciation of the impact of the arts on inclusion and wellbeing. Over 60% of those surveyed rated 7 or higher for pre-activity at Esplanade against a scale of 10 on their perception of the value of the arts on community, society and wellbeing.

Further to this, some 1 in 2 reported a further improvement after attending an arts activity at Esplanade, specifically on their quality of life and wellbeing, understanding of diverse cultures and sense of community and connectedness to society.

*The show (PLAYtime!) is so meaningful and relatable to us and our kids. I love that it spreads this message of how being different is what makes them special... These moments were one of the best 45 minutes I had, seeing both my kids so happy and enjoying the performance so much. I am so glad and blessed to have been invited back to this series.*

– Anqi Deng, parent, Shoulders Singapore (support group for families of children with autism and special needs)

**64%** of respondents reported a **positive impact on their quality of life and wellbeing** from attending an activity at Esplanade



**50%** of respondents reported a **positive impact on their understanding of people of different backgrounds and cultures** from attending an activity at Esplanade



**48%** of respondents reported a **positive impact on their sense of belonging and connectedness to society** from attending an activity at Esplanade



\* Average rating for each statement, pre- and post-activity at Esplanade.



### OUTCOME #3

## Greater public contribution to the arts through volunteering and giving

According to the National Giving Study 2023 by the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre (NVPC), the proportion of people volunteering has rebounded to pre-pandemic level and is now at 30% whilst the proportion of people donating at 62% has not changed significantly since 2021. The study also shows that people are volunteering fewer hours and donating less money on average, reflecting financial and time pressures in an uncertain global economy.

Against this backdrop, it is therefore a **testament to the power of the arts in transforming lives and communities** that we were able to garner a **128% increase in sponsors and donors**, a **68% increase in volunteers** and a **5% increase in total volunteer hours** compared to FY2022.



**THANK YOU!**



**162** Sponsors & Donors

**128%** ↑  
compared to FY2022

**379** Volunteers

**68%** ↑  
compared to FY2022

**2,115** Volunteer Hours

**5%** ↑  
compared to FY2022



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

We are ever grateful to our volunteers, sponsors and donors who contributed their time and financial resources to support our work and leave a legacy of social impact.

**DBS Foundation donated S\$3.5 million over 5 years in support of our free programmes at the Outdoor Theatre to help uplift the community and pave the way towards a more inclusive and socially-conscious Singapore.**



**We also received significant support from both local and international volunteer artists who spent time with us at various homes and hospitals, sharing their craft with vulnerable communities through our *When Music Meets Life* programme.**

In March 2024, Esplanade's crown jewel, the Concert Hall was transformed for our second Gala Fundraising Dinner as more than 300 guests helped to raised S\$1.4 million towards more enduring opportunities for the arts to improve and transform lives, and to develop Singapore's next generation of creative talents.





## OUTCOME #4.

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



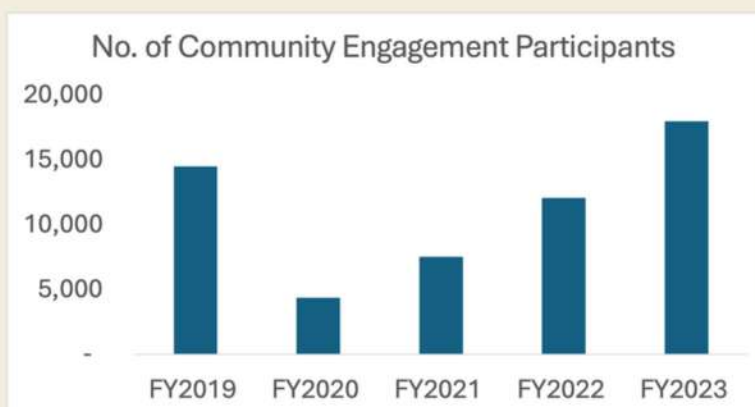
Over the last decade, Esplanade has continually advocated for the arts in communities and has played a necessary role in connecting artists and social service agencies to explore how the performing arts can complement the work of caregivers, therapists, counsellors, and doctors.

Our community engagement programmes such as *Theatre for Dreams*, *Sing Out Loud!*, *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 growing appreciation of how the arts can better the lives and wellbeing of beneficiaries has led to increasing requests for us to bring arts programmes into various communities.*

**In FY2023, there were almost 18K participants for our community engagement activities, a 49% increase from FY2022.**

We also had 32 opportunities through hosted visits, learning journeys, interviews and presentations to share about our inclusion and access initiatives with 965 people from the arts and social sectors and beyond. In FY2022, there were 27 opportunities which engaged 483 people.



**636**

community engagement activities

**17,949**

community engagement participants



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

100%

of community engagement activity respondents reported a **positive impact on their wellbeing** (e.g. increased levels of happiness, confidence, and optimism)

*The (When Music Meets Life) programme was fantastic. It helps boost the mood of our residents and staff. (Live music performances) like these may even help to slow down their cognitive impairment because they are able to see, hear and engage with different types of voices such as low and high notes, and even beatboxing.*

– Imelda Sarkasi, Programme Executive, Jamiyah Home For The Aged (Darul Takrim)

*... it was their first time joining an outing with us as they did not have the transportation to bring their children out and they lacked the time to do so (since they were in and out of clinical settings so often).... Hence, we were very happy when Esplanade said they could arrange transport for these families, which made the outing happen for these families, creating bonding time. The families are very appreciative towards the Esplanade team for all the efforts and they really hope to be able to attend such an outing with Esplanade again.*

– Shirleen Tarn, Manager (Membership & Programmes), Brain Tumour Society (Singapore) on A Ray of Sunshine

In responding to current needs from vulnerable communities, Esplanade launched a new exclusive programme, *A Ray of Sunshine* which brought together 150 beneficiaries from various organisations including the Rare Disorders Society Singapore, Brain Tumour Society, and National University Hospital to our centre to spend time together and enjoy respite through music.





# Sing Out Loud! 2023

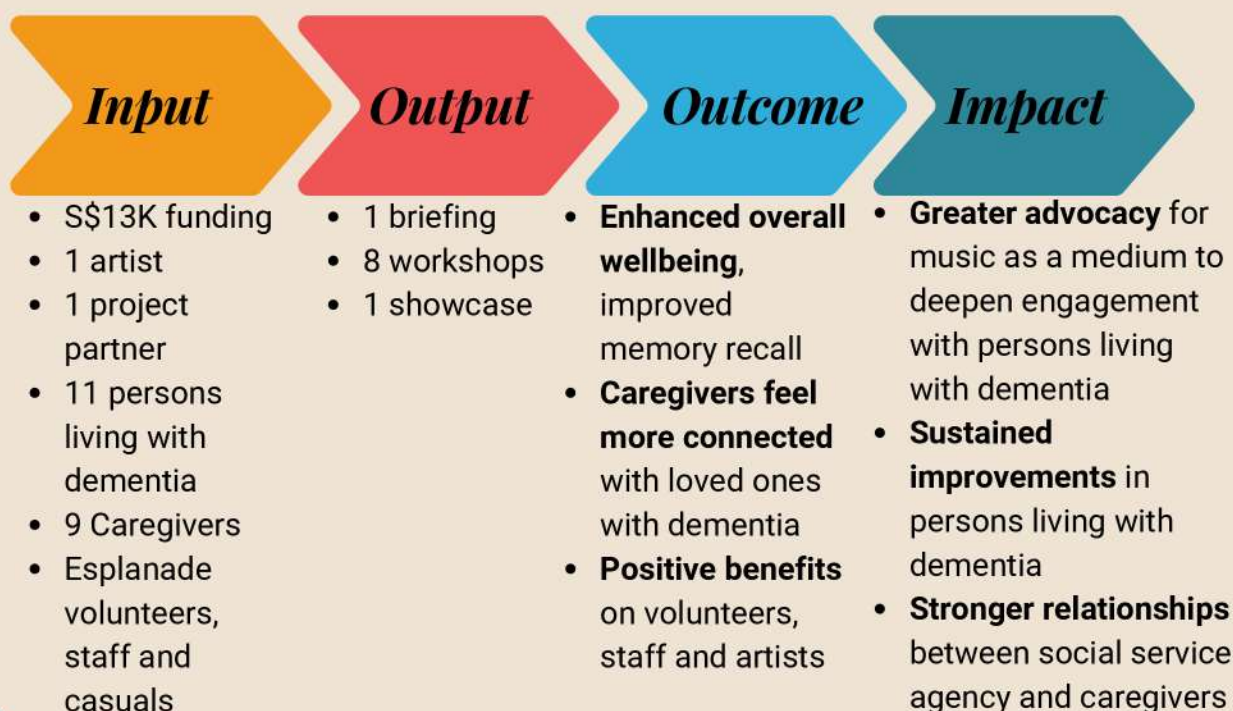


Dementia is a rapidly growing health issue in Singapore due to our rapidly ageing population. However, less is said or known about the positive impact music can have as a powerful stimulus for persons living with dementia to elicit memories and emotions, as well as foster communication, social interactions and positive shared experiences. Musical aptitude and appreciation are also two of the last remaining cognitive abilities in those with dementia, making music a great way to reach beyond the disease long after other abilities have faded.

**Esplanade's Sing Out Loud! was first developed in partnership with Dementia Singapore in 2016. Over time, the programme evolved to include caregivers, offering an alternative avenue for support and respite from the demanding responsibilities associated with caregiving.** This collaboration with AWWA Dementia Day Care Centre (Yishun) marks the third run with the organisation.



To help us better document and understand its impact, and to ensure that resources are well-optimised to achieve the programme objectives, the IOOI Method was used in the programme evaluation. This case study was extracted from the full project impact report.



***It (the showcase) really made me feel closer to our loved ones and undoubtedly unlocked a core memory for us.***

– Daughters and granddaughters of participant

***This is the first experience that my whole family (is) singing together onstage. My mother's memory is not good but (she) can remember she is singing with her grandchildren today.***

– Carrie, Daughter of participant

### GATHERING INPUTS

Esplanade received funding to support the project cost of S\$13K. A team was assembled comprising Esplanade and AWWA staff, artist facilitator Angelina Choo, Esplanade volunteers and casuals.

11 persons living with dementia aged between 65 to 87 participated in the programme which saw strong family caregiver involvement with 9 out of 11 participants having caregivers. There were also more adult children and grandchildren of the persons living with dementia involved together with domestic helpers.



### DELIVERING OUTPUT

A briefing was conducted to inform the Esplanade volunteers on their role with an introduction to dementia and tips on engaging persons living with dementia. Artist facilitator Angelina Choo also took the volunteers through a hands-on experience to familiarise them with the programme.

The programme comprised eight 1-hour workshops at AWWA Dementia Day Care Centre (Yishun). These sessions culminated in a final showcase at the Esplanade Recital Studio involving family caregivers, invited care staff and senior management from Esplanade and AWWA.

## Measuring Outcomes

### 1 Improved Overall Wellbeing & Memory Recall

Caregivers reported a 7% increase in positive sentiments for their loved ones with dementia to their physical, social, and emotional wellbeing, level of arts engagement, sense of self, memory recall, and the propensity to learning new skills. Some caregivers expressed that their loved ones with dementia appeared happier, more confident, and not as temperamental.

This was however, not corroborated by AWWA staff who reported a 8.2% decline post-programme, suggesting that additional unknown factors may have contributed to this outcome which the programme evaluation was unable to identify. Nonetheless, qualitative feedback from AWWA staff indicate that the programme continues to positively influence participants' ongoing involvement in music activities at the centre.

AWWA staff also reported that **7 out of 11 participants showed higher engagement scores\* in the *Sing Out Loud!* sessions, compared to other non-structured music programmes** such as karaoke and music movement activities.

### 2 Improved Connection between Caregivers and Loved Ones with Dementia

Based off the six-item Relationship Closeness Scale developed by Noelker (1996) and Whitlach, et al. (2001), **90% of caregivers rated their relationship with their loved ones with dementia to have either remained stable or improved following the programme.**

Caregivers were also perceived to have a **more constructive view of their loved ones with dementia** with positive words such as "more happy", "enjoy the music", "confident" used post-programme compared to "anxious", "worried", "compliant" etc.

AWWA staff also reported that engagement scores were higher in the presence of a caregiver, particularly when a familiar and close caregiver was involved.

\*using ASEA – a tool developed in Japan to evaluate the extent of positive and negative observations of persons living with dementia's engagement in activities, arousal levels, interactions with others, and affect.



## 3

**Positive Benefits for Volunteers and Others Involved**

**78% of volunteers agreed that the programme allowed them to gain a new perspective with 67% expressing genuine concerns for the beneficiaries.** 67% also agreed that the experience has given them a chance to learn new skills.

**Feedback from AWWA staff reflected a shared sentiment of joy and fulfilment.** Artist facilitator Angelina Choo shared that her involvement in *Sing Out Loud!* since 2016 has been a source of solace during challenging times and has led to a heightened sense of empathy towards the challenges faced by seniors.

## Assessing Impact

**Greater Advocacy on Using Music to Engage Persons Living with Dementia**

1

As dementia remains a significant concern in Singapore, interest in *Sing Out Loud!* from among the social sector has increased. Traction for *Esplanade Academy's* two capability-building workshops developed in conjunction with the programme has also been steadily on the rise since its introduction in late 2020. Showcases held at Esplanade have also attracted interest and attendance beyond the programme partners to the wider social sector including the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC).

**Probable Sustained Improvements in Persons Living with Dementia**

2

AWWA staff reported that 1 participant had exhibited enhanced engagement scores in non-structured music activities a month after the programme concluded. Although just 1 out of 11 who participated in the programme, we are encouraged by this observation as it demonstrates the enduring impact of the programme on those living with dementia.

**Strong Relationships between AWWA and the Family Caregivers**

3

Given AWWA's limited caregiver engagement initiatives, it is hoped that with the positive outcomes and feedback from this edition, they are inspired to enhance support for caregivers and persons living with dementia under their care.





# Charting the way forward




In FY2023, we continued to strive for the highest standards of artistic excellence and worked with artists, hirers and partners to bring the arts to people of all ages, needs and backgrounds with over 4,200 activities that reached more than 3.8 million in attendance. We continued to use different artforms to create safe spaces and elevate the wellbeing of vulnerable groups in our society.

In a year of growth, transition and renewed focus, we launched new programmes and initiatives to further our work in support of a new generation of artists, to reach new audiences and to provide respite for beneficiaries. In addition to this Impact Report for Inclusion & Wellbeing, we also applied the IOOI Method to launch the first Impact Report for our second strategic pillar – The Next Generation.

Looking ahead, we continue to sharpen our measurement tools and data collection and to apply the IOOI Method to our third strategic pillar – Creative Futures.





# We could not have done it without your generous *support.* Thank you!

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.

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Khor Ai Ming	Nina Tan
Kris Foundation	Ong Soh Chin
Kelly See	Ong Su-Chzeng
Keppel Care Foundation Limited	Patek Philippe SEA / GMT Singapore
Kim Suk Hyun	Patrick Tseng





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 Vivian Chua  
 V.K. Rajah  
 William & Mavis Tok  
 Winson Lay Chee Loong  
 Woh Hup (Private) Limited  
 Yap Chee Meng  
 Yvonne Tham  
 Zhang Xinyue

Esplanade also receives grants from the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, and support for its 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 (18 – 21 May 2023)**

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*. **47,108 audiences joined us for 74 activities.**



### **Kalaa Utsavam - Indian Festival of the Arts (17 - 26 Nov 2023)**

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. **82 activities with 38,781 attendees.**



### **Huayi - Chinese Festival of Arts (16 – 25 Feb 2024)**

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 60,502 audiences to 92 activities.**



### **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 29 activities, 8,030 people joined us for Raga.**



### **Pentas**

Building audiences for Malay programmes throughout the year, this series brought in **48,834 people for 55 activities** to experience Malay theatre, music and dance featuring both Singapore as well as regional artists.

## 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 (6 – 8 Oct 2023)**

Singapore's largest alternative free music festival celebrates youth culture. *Baybeats* has become an important platform to showcase homegrown bands and has gained a following from audiences hailing from as far as Australia. This edition saw **74,956 audiences join us in person over 89 activities.**



## APPENDIX B - LIST OF ESPLANADE PROGRAMMES WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO INCLUSION & WELLBEING IN FY2023



### **Voices - A Festival of Song (7 – 10 Dec 2023)**

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. We welcomed **33,648 people over 60 free performances and activities and 1,241 people for 5 ticketed performances.**



### **A Tapestry of Sacred Music (28 Apr – 1 May 2023)**

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. **Drew 42,063 audiences to 56 activities.**



### **Flipside (26 May – 4 Jun 2023)**

*Flipside* celebrates playfulness and creativity through accessible encounters with circus, puppetry, physical theatre, visual theatre and comedy. The festival coincided with the school holidays, offering an exciting range of both free and ticketed programmes for families and curious adults - featuring a mix of Singapore, regional and international artists. **Drew 59,447 people over 76 free activities as well as 1,390 attendees for its 18 ticketed programmes.**



### **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 FY2023 welcomed over 22,468 people to enjoy the music in our Concert Hall.**

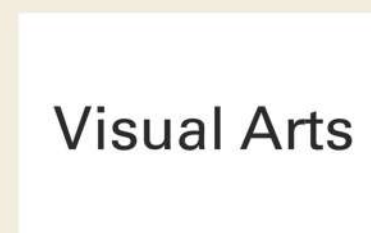


### **Free Programmes at Concourse & DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre**

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. **792 free performances were attended by 623,469 people from all walks of life.**



## **Free Programmes / Access for All**



### **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.



## APPENDIX B - LIST OF ESPLANADE PROGRAMMES WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO INCLUSION & WELLBEING IN FY2023



### 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. **127 tours were conducted for 4,929 participants.**

## Children & Youth 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 young. 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 (6 - 8 Oct 2023)

We give special focus to the little ones with *Octoburst!* which encourages play and family fun, with free performances and hands-on workshops. **5,290 young ones and their parents/ guardians joined us for 12 activities.**



### March On - A Children's Festival (6 - 17 Mar 2024)

Esplanade's annual children's festival 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 68,827 children, parents and educators for 182 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 3 productions with 98 performances for 12,892 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 19,530 visitors to the space.**



### PIP's Trail

A free digital trail for children and families to explore and learn about Esplanade and its various spaces through games, puzzles, and more. **Launched in Oct 2023, the trail brought 1,341 young ones and their caretakers on a journey around Esplanade.**



## Children & Youth Programmes



### **Feed Your Imagination**

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. **11,038 students and educators took part in 76 activities.**



### **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 11 schools who played to 9,526 attendees.**



### **Dance Appreciation Series**

Presented in collaboration with Singapore Ballet, *Dance Appreciation Series* is a ballet education series for children and young audiences. The programme includes both narration and dance excerpts that will educate and excite those keen to learn more about classical ballet. **Over 6 shows, 4,462 children and their families joined us for this series.**

## 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 (1 - 4 Feb 2024)**

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 34,320 audiences to reminisce the good ol' days through a mix of 45 concerts, workshops and more.**



### **Coffee Morning Afternoon Tea**

Targeted at retirees, *Coffee Morning Afternoon Tea* is presented on a Monday every month at 10am and 3pm. It features mostly evergreen music of the golden years with complimentary coffee and tea provided for each performance. **21 performances welcomed 8,582 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 FY2023, we worked with artists and social service agencies to organise **636 activities including arts workshops, hostings, flagship projects, and offsite visits that touched the lives of 17,949 people in Singapore**. Beneficiaries include vulnerable children and youth, the elderly, persons with diverse needs and disabilities, migrant workers, marginalised individuals as well as beneficiaries from low-income households.

### ARTS x YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

- **Theatre for Dreams** uses applied theatre to encourage vulnerable youths to articulate their goals and how they can attempt to realise these goals. It aims to provide a platform for youths to create independently and own their process of creation, using drama as a tool for engagement. **The 9-session programme culminated at Esplanade for the first time in a private showcase involving 62 family members and caregivers of the youths, Ministry of Social & Family Development (MSF) staff and guests.**
- **Songwriting for Hope** seeks to let vulnerable youth express themselves through song. Through the process of lyric-writing and learning how to make music, youths share their personal stories in a safe space, empowering them to turn these into hope for their future. **The programme culminated in a private showcase to share their heartfelt songs with 94 family members, caregivers, MSF staff and guests.**
- **Community Movement Expression Workshops** 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. **12 sessions were held for 250 participants from different agencies.**
- **Community Ocarina Workshops** reached **212 beneficiaries over 10 sessions** and aims to boost confidence and help participants bond through music

### ARTS x ACTIVE AGEING



#### **Footwork for Community 2024: Intergenerational Dance Project**

Through our intergenerational Footwork for Community initiative, we bring the young and old together through dance. On top of learning an art form, we have witnessed heartening exchanges between the young and old. Supported by Tan Chin Tuan Foundation and led by Decadance Co., **this year's programme engaged 20 vulnerable youths from Bowen Secondary School and 20 active seniors from CareElderly@Golden Ginger.**



#### **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. **50 workshops were conducted in reaching 1,510 beneficiaries.**



## APPENDIX B - LIST OF ESPLANADE PROGRAMMES WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO INCLUSION & WELLBEING IN FY2023



### Sing Out Loud!

Seeks to provide persons living with dementia opportunities to deepen their engagement with music through vocal singing. This year, we continued with the 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 culminated 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.

### ARTS x SOCIAL INCLUSION



### When Music Meets Life

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. **We reached out to 4,299 beneficiaries over 81 in-person sessions. In addition, there were 6 exclusive online screenings that reached 4,001 beneficiaries.**



### Little Moments of Light (28 Aug 2023)

We hosted **over 150 women in-crisis beneficiaries from eight organisations** such as the Centre for Domestic Employees, HOME Women Shelter, and Club HEAL to Little Moments of Light, an exclusive programme at Esplanade that seeks to provide respite to women facing challenging life circumstances. They enjoyed an exclusive performance by Rebekah Sangeetha Dorai, followed by a centre walkabout and ended the evening with a catered dinner sponsored by How's Catering.



### A Ray of Sunshine (19 Dec 2023)

A new exclusive programme for children with chronic illnesses and their families, *A Ray of Sunshine* brought **150 beneficiaries from various organisations** such as Rare Disorders Society Singapore, Brain Tumour Society, and National University Hospital to our centre to spend time together and enjoy respite through music. The programme comprised of a music performance by Rino Junior John and Sharon Sum, as well as a range of family-friendly post-show activities.

### ARTS x 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. **1 session in March 2024 was attended by 19 participants.**



### Esplanade Academy: Sing Out Loud! Workshop for Social Service Professionals

A programme under 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 **22 professionals over 2 sessions.**



## **Centrewide Initiatives**


### **Dementia Friendly Arts Venue**

Since 1 Dec 2021, Esplanade has been appointed a Dementia Go-To Point (GTP). 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://esplanade.com) website.
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**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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[www.esplanade.com](http://www.esplanade.com)



EsplanadeSG



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