





# ARTS & CULTURE

YSD supports the development of a vibrant arts community in Malaysia's multi-cultural society, which includes projects and activities in the arts and traditional heritage preservation. YSD sponsors initiatives that encourage the development of arts and culture, and expand the demand for the arts whilst providing the industry with educational opportunities to enhance the knowledge and skills that contribute to the richness of a cultural heritage that is uniquely Malaysian. This includes artistic endeavours that touch on its five pillars. YSD also supports collaborations that provide platforms to promote local arts and emerging artistes to achieve local and international recognition.

The amount committed since 2009:

**RM37.1 million**

The number of ongoing projects:

**10**

The number of organisations supported (FY2023):

**7**

# ARTS ON THE MOVE RETHINKS ACCESS TO THE ARTS

YSD's commitment to promoting inclusivity and access to the arts is reflected through its support for Arts On The Move (AOTM) by Think City. AOTM is a public art initiative showcasing quality Malaysian public arts and cultural activities, such as live performances, public art installations and workshops, to be enjoyed by all commuters who stop by the Pasar Seni MRT Station.

YSD's support for AOTM is aimed at making arts accessible to the public while providing an avenue for talented local artists to thrive in the arts industry. The free-for-all collaborative arts initiative encourages the public to take a break from their hectic schedules to experience and gain a new appreciation for the arts that gives Malaysia her unique identity. The initiative's launch event featured

a performance by the Mah Meri Cultural Village, giving them a platform to showcase their culture to the broader public. The programme has so far featured all kinds of arts, creative, and cultural acts such as Fusion Wayang Kulit, Guzheng Academy, 3T Karnatic Konnexions, TUAL Collective, The Impatient Sisters, and more.

Through Think City's AOTM, YSD has contributed to the building blocks of a thriving creative and cultural district in Downtown Kuala Lumpur by collaborating with various like-minded stakeholders like Mass Rapid Transit Corporation, Kuala Lumpur City Hall, and the Ministry of Tourism and Culture.

“ YSD's support has been instrumental in realising our collective vision of celebrating inclusivity and accessibility to the arts, empowering local artists, and fostering a vibrant creative programme in line with the Kuala Lumpur Creative and Cultural District (KLCCD) Strategic Masterplan. Through this initiative, we have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of arts, bringing joy and inspiration to individuals from all walks of life that commune at the Pasar Seni MRT Station. Our aim is to enrich the communities with a shared cultural experience that resonates for many years to come while connecting culture to transit. ”

En Hamdan Abdul Majeed, Managing Director of Think City







**RM250,000**

COMMITTED FOR 6 MONTHS UNTIL JULY 2023



**3**

MOVING WORKSHOPS ORGANISED



**12**

LIVE PERFORMANCES ORGANISED ON TRADITIONAL ARTS, MUSIC, AND DANCES



**120**

ARTISTS ENGAGED THROUGH LOCAL ARTS AND CULTURE



**2**

VISUAL ARTS INSTALLATIONS COMPLETED



BROUGHT ARTS AND CULTURE TO MORE THAN

**10,000** COMMUTERS AND AUDIENCES

*Dr Yatela emphasises YSD's role in championing accessible arts while empowering local talent.*



*Launched by YB Anthony Loke, Minister of Transport, the public art initiative showcased a curated range of live performances, art workshops, and installation.*







The launch event in February 2023 featured weaving workshops, cultural performances by the Mah Meri Cultural Village, and an art installation by Pamela Tan of Poh Sin Studio.







From Carnatic music to Wayang Kulit, Arts On The Move by Think City showcases a diverse range of cultural and fusion performances that embody Malaysia's inclusive and multicultural heritage.

Clockwise from top left: Fusion Wayang Kulit, Paladin Cello rock band, TUI Collective and 3T Karnatik Konnexions.



Scan to watch the AOTM's launch event recap:





# FROM MARGINS TO SPOTLIGHT: PARASTOO THEATRE REDEFINES REFUGEE NARRATIVES

YSD takes great pride in supporting an inspiring and inclusive project under our sponsorship, Parastoo Theatre, a refugee-founded and led theatre troupe based in Kuala Lumpur. In July 2022, YSD supported the production of ‘And Then Came Spring’ in collaboration with Instant Café Theatre. Led by the visionary theatre director Saleh Sepas, the play focuses on empowering refugees and fostering professional cooperation between refugees and the local community in Malaysia.

Parastoo Theatre utilises the ‘Theatre of the Oppressed’ method to educate, build coalitions, and drive legislative change. By training refugees as actors, producers, and

technicians, the theatre troupe actively engages the underrepresented community in meaningful dialogues, powering a more inclusive society.

In ‘And Then Came Spring’ YSD had supported 15 actors who are refugees from Afghanistan, Syria, Myanmar, and Palestine. For the upcoming production, ‘Red Soil of Kabul’, YSD will be supporting 16 actors who are also refugees, providing them with opportunities for self-expression and self-confidence.



“ We are grateful for YSD’s support of Parastoo Theatre, especially for our latest production ‘Red Soil of Kabul’. With a strong emphasis on human rights, child protection, education, migration, and refugee issues, YSD’s support for this production not only allows 14 newcomers, ranging in age from 9 to 5, to discover their confidence and develop new skills, but it also provides young refugees with a platform and opportunity to learn valuable skills in stage management, photography, videography, and subtitling among others, that will benefit them in the future. Thank you YSD, for making this possible for Parastoo Theatre. ”

Saleh Sepas, Founder of Parastoo Theatre

## And Then Came Spring



- 5 successfully staged shows
- 3 out of 5 shows were sold out
- Garnered 1,000 audience members in July 2022
- 266 free tickets were given to 11 different refugees communities and underprivileged groups in Malaysia to watch the theatre performance through an outreach campaign

## Red Soil of Kabul



- 5 performances
- 985 audience
- 4 out of 5 shows were sold out

Scan to watch Parastoo Theatre’s Introduction video:







Afghan refugee Saleh Sepas (left) and Jo Kukathas, during 'And Then Came Spring' post-show conversation at the Damansara Performing Arts Centre (DPAC).



Scan to watch a snippet from rehearsals for 'And Then Came Spring':



The Parastoo Theatre troupe gave an eye-opening perspective on the lives of refugees in Malaysia.



# REVIVING CULTURAL GEMS TOGETHER WITH UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES

manekNya, also known as Manek-Nyonya, aims to preserve the legacy of Kasot Manek or Peranakan Beaded Shoes, which hold significant cultural value and are a source of pride for the Baba Nyonya community. Unfortunately, this traditional craft is at risk of extinction as there are only a few skilled artisans left with the knowledge and hands-on know-how to make these delicate shoes. By supporting manekNya, YSD strives to ensure that this cultural gem is not lost in the face of modern trends, and that the skills for this delicate art and heritage are acquired and shared with more Malaysians.

The project offers on-the-job Nyonya embroidery training and entrepreneurial skills to single, unemployed, or retired mothers in need of additional income. This provides these women with an alternative sustainable livelihood, contributing to YSD’s intention of promoting long-term impact and sustainability.



YSD’s support is crucial for manekNya as it enables the provision of high-quality beads embroidery training programmes, mentorship, and resources that are otherwise inaccessible to the underrepresented community. Through the 8-week sessions, participants have the opportunity to discover their creative potential, hone their artistic abilities, and improve their livelihoods.

Lee Siew Lin, Project Director



150

POTENTIAL EMBROIDERERS RECEIVED INTENSIVE TRAINING



50

EMBROIDERERS WILL BE HIRED UPON TRAINING COMPLETION



40

TRAINING SESSIONS HAVE BEEN ORGANISED FOR THE EMBROIDERERS





*The participants underwent intensive training to hone their skills in Nyonya embroidery.*



*One of the exquisite artworks created by a highly skilled artisan, Puan Nor Hasimah.*



*The Nyonya beading requires a handmade approach that cannot be replicated by machines.*



*Participants incorporate beads onto modern apparel which acts as a bridge between cultures, tradition, and modernity.*

Scan here to learn more about manekNya:

