

Bridge



**SOUTH WEST
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL**

#3 2025



\$3 VALUE MEALS CLOSER TO HOME

Bringing affordable, ready-to-eat options to residents through a network of vending machines.



“There are many unsung heroes in the neighbourhood who quietly make a difference... They don’t make a big deal out of it. They just do it.”

MDM RAHAYU MAHZAM
Adviser to Jurong East-Bukit Batok
GRC Grassroots Organisations
(Bukit Batok East)



➔ 14 YOUNG TECHNOPRENEUR CHALLENGE 2025

Students develop actionable ideas for a greener future.



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More arts performances in the heartlands.



➔ 22 SKILLSFUTURE FESTIVAL @ SOUTH WEST

Empowering residents to take charge of their training and career paths.

Dear friends,

SG60 is a special milestone for our nation. It reminds us not only of how far we have come, but also of the values of care, trust and support that continue to hold us together.

These values also define the South West District, where we strive each day to build a close-knit and resilient community. For example, Value Meals @ South West, a partnership between the South West CDC and Select Group, has provided \$600,000 in credits for vulnerable residents to obtain affordable, quality meals from conveniently located vending machines. This is also part of our ongoing efforts to lighten the daily expenses of Singaporeans.

In addition, we have encouraged and fostered intergenerational bonding among residents. The Family Bliss @ South West roving roadshows brought parents, children and grandparents together in activities ranging from batik painting to enjoying bouncy castles. At the same time, the ArtsEverywhere @ CDC initiative promoted creativity in the heartlands with workshops and performances in our town centres and community corners.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to helping every resident grow and succeed. SkillsFuture Festival @ South West 2025 brought skills training, career talks, hands-on workshops and job opportunities under one roof, giving residents the chance to take charge of their personal and professional development. Working with 14 SkillsFuture Singapore-supported training partners, we will continue to promote lifelong learning and strengthen career readiness across our community.

Our youths are also stepping up to make a difference. At the Young Technopreneur Challenge 2025, students tackled real-world environmental challenges through Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)-based solutions. Guided by mentors from HP Inc. and Junior Achievement Singapore, they presented their proposals and gained valuable skills and confidence in the process.

As we celebrate SG60, I extend my heartfelt thanks to all our residents, volunteers and partners. Your contributions, big and small, have strengthened our communities, uplifted lives and built a strong, resilient South West District. Let us continue to care for one another, contribute with purpose and stay united as we move forward together.

OUR COMMUNITY, OUR STRENGTH


MS LOW YEN LING
Mayor of South West District



Rakan-rakan yang dihormati,

SG60 merupakan pencapaian yang penting untuk negara kita. Ia mengingatkan bukan sahaja sejauh mana kita telah melangkah, tetapi juga nilai-nilai prihatin, kepercayaan dan sokongan yang terus menyatukan kita.

Nilai-nilai ini juga mendefinisikan Kawasan Barat Daya, di mana kita berusaha setiap hari untuk membina sebuah masyarakat yang erat dan berdaya tahan. Sebagai contoh, menu jimat di bawah program Value Meals @ South West, suatu kerjasama antara CDC Barat Daya dan Select Group, telah menyediakan kredit berjumlah \$600,000 untuk penduduk yang memerlukan mendapatkan makanan bermutu pada harga dimampui daripada mesin layan diri yang terletak di lokasi-lokasi berdekatan. Ini juga merupakan sebahagian daripada usaha berterusan kami untuk meringankan perbelanjaan harian rakyat Singapura.

Di samping itu, kami telah menggalakkan serta memupuk ikatan antara generasi di kalangan penduduk. Pameran bergerak jelajah Family Bliss @ South West menghimpunkan ibu bapa, kanak-kanak dan datuk nenek bersama-sama dalam aktiviti seperti melukis batik dan menikmati *bouncy castle*. Pada masa yang sama, inisiatif ArtsEverywhere @ CDC mempromosikan kreativiti di kawasan perumahan awam dengan bengkel dan persembahan di pusat bandar dan sudut komuniti kita.

Memandang ke hadapan, kami kekal komited untuk membantu setiap penduduk maju dan berjaya. SkillsFuture Festival @ South West 2025 membawakan latihan kemahiran, ceramah kerjaya, bengkel praktikal dan peluang pekerjaan di bawah satu bumbung, memberi peluang kepada penduduk bertindak untuk pembangunan peribadi dan profesional mereka. Bekerjasama dengan 14 rakan latihan yang disokong SkillsFuture Singapura, kami akan terus mempromosikan pembelajaran sepanjang hayat dan mengukuhkan kesediaan kerjaya di kalangan masyarakat kita.

Golongan belia kita juga berusaha untuk membuat perubahan positif. Di Cabaran Usahawan Tekno Muda 2025, para pelajar menangani cabaran persekitaran dunia sebenar melalui penyelesaian berasaskan Sains, Teknologi, Kejuruteraan dan Matematik (STEM). Dibimbing oleh pembimbing daripada HP Inc. dan Junior Achievement Singapore, mereka membentangkan cadangan-cadangan mereka dan dalam proses tersebut, memperoleh kemahiran dan keyakinan yang berharga.

Sambil kita menyambut SG60, saya mengucapkan ribuan terima kasih kepada semua penduduk, sukarelawan dan rakan kongsi kami. Sumbangan anda, besar dan kecil, telah mengukuhkan masyarakat kita, memperbaiki kehidupan dan membina Kawasan Barat Daya yang kuat dan berdaya tahan. Auh kita terus menjaga antara satu sama lain, menyumbang secara bermakna dan kekal bersatu sambil kita maju bersama.

அன்பார்ந்த நண்பர்களே,

SG60 என்பது நமது நாட்டினுடைய சிறப்பு மைல்கல். இது நாம் எவ்வளவு தூரம் கடந்து வந்துள்ளோம் என்பதை மட்டுமல்லாமல், நம்மை ஒன்றிணைத்து வைத்திருக்கும் அக்கறை, நம்பிக்கை மற்றும் ஆதரவின் விழுமியங்களையும் நினைவூட்டுகிறது.

இந்த விழுமியங்களானது, ஒவ்வொரு நாளும் நெருக்கமான மற்றும் மீள்திறன் கொண்ட சமூகத்தை உருவாக்கிட நாம் பாடுபடும் தென்மேற்கு மாவட்டத்தையும் வரையறுக்கின்றன. எடுத்துக்காட்டாக, தென்மேற்கு சமூக மேம்பாட்டு மன்றம் மற்றும் செலக்ட் குழுமத்திற்கு இடையிலான பங்காளித்துவ திட்டமான Value Meals @ South West, எளிதில் பாதிக்கப்படக்கூடிய குடியிருப்பாளர்கள் வசதியாக இடங்களில் அமைக்கப்பெற்றுள்ள விற்பனை இயந்திரங்களிலிருந்து மலிவு விலையில், தரமான உணவைப் பெறுவதற்காக \$600,000 வழங்கியுள்ளது. சிங்கப்பூரர்களின் அன்றாட செலவுகளைக் குறைப்பதற்கான எமது தொடர்ச்சியான முயற்சிகளின் ஒரு பகுதியாகவும் இது உள்ளது.

அது மட்டுமின்றி, குடியிருப்பாளர்கள் மத்தியில் தலைமுறைகளுக்கு இடையேயான பந்தத்தை நாம் ஊக்குவித்து வளர்த்து வருகிறோம். Family Bliss @ South West திட்டத்தின் சாலை ஊர்வலங்கள், பெற்றோர்கள், குழந்தைகள் மற்றும் தாத்தா பாட்டிகளை ஒன்றுத் திரட்டியது. அவர்கள் பாதிக்கப்படக்கூடிய வரையறுக்கப்பட்ட முதல் துள்ளல் அரண்மனைகளில் விளையாடுவது வரையில் பல்வேறு விதமான நடவடிக்கைகளை அனுபவித்து மகிழ்ச்சிடைந்தனர். அதே நேரத்தில், ArtsEverywhere @ CDC திட்டமானது, எமது நகர மையங்களிலும் சமூக கார்னர்களிலும் பயிற்சிபட்டறைகள் மற்றும் நிகழ்ச்சிகளை நடத்துவதன் மூலம் குடியிருப்பு வட்டாரத்தின் படைப்பாற்றலை ஊக்குவித்தது.

எதிர்காலத்தைப் பற்றி சிந்திக்கையில், ஒவ்வொரு குடியிருப்பாளரும் வளரவும் வெற்றிபெறவும் உதவுவதில் நாம் உறுதியாக இருக்கிறோம். SkillsFuture Festival @ South West 2025, திறன் பயிற்சி, வாழ்க்கைத்தொழில் குறித்த பேச்சுக்கள், நேரடிப் பயிற்சிபட்டறைகள் மற்றும் வேலை வாய்ப்புகளை ஒரே இடத்திற்கு கொண்டு வந்து, குடியிருப்பாளர்கள் தங்களின் தனிப்பட்ட மற்றும் தொழில் ரீதியான வளர்ச்சியைப் பொறுப்புடன் மேற்கொள்ள வாய்ப்பளித்தது. ஸ்கில்ஸ்:பியூச்சர் சிங்கப்பூர் ஆதரவு பெற்ற 14 பயிற்சி பங்காளர்களுடன் இணைந்து பணியாற்றி, எமது சமூகம் முழுவதும் வாழ்நாள் முழுவதும் கற்பதை ஊக்குவிப்பதையும், வாழ்க்கைத்தொழிலுக்கு தயார்நிலையில் இருப்பதை வலுப்படுத்துவதையும் நாம் தொடர்ந்து செய்வோம்.

எமது இளைஞர்களும் மாற்றத்தை ஏற்படுத்த முன்வருகிறார்கள். இளம் தொழில்நுட்பத் தொழில்முனைவர் சவால் Young Technopreneur Challenge 2025 இல், மாணவர்கள் அறிவியல், தொழில்நுட்பம், பொறியியல் மற்றும் கணிதம் (STEM) அடிப்படையிலான தீர்வுகள் மூலம் நிஜ உலக சூழ்ச்சித்தொழில் சவால்களைச் சமாளித்தனர். HP Inc. மற்றும் Junior Achievement Singapore ஆகியவற்றின் வழிகாட்டிகளால் வழிநடத்தப்பட்டு, அவர்கள் தங்கள் திட்டங்களை முன்வைத்து, செயல்பாடு குறித்து மதிப்புமிக்க திறன்களையும் நம்பிக்கையையும் பெற்றனர்.

SG60 ஐ கொண்டாடும் வேளையில், எமது குடியிருப்பாளர்கள், தொண்டியர்கள் மற்றும் பங்காளர்கள் அனைவருக்கும் எனது மனமார்ந்த நன்றியைத் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கிறேன். உங்கள் பெரிய மற்றும் சிறிய பங்களிப்புகள் எமது சமூகங்களை வலுப்படுத்தியுள்ளன, அவர்களின் வாழ்க்கையை மேம்படுத்தியுள்ளன, மேலும் வலுவான, மீள்திறன் கொண்ட தென்மேற்கு வட்டாரத்தை உருவாக்கியுள்ளன. நாம் ஒன்றாய் முன்னேறும் அதே வேளையில், நாம் தொடர்ந்து ஒருவர் மீது ஒருவர் அக்கறை கொண்டு, நோக்கத்துடன் பங்களிப்பு செய்து, என்றென்றும் ஒற்றுமையாய் திகழ்வோம்.

亲爱的朋友们，

新加坡建国60周年是我国意义非凡的里程碑，不仅让我们回顾建国以来的成就，也提醒我们铭记团结精神的根源——关怀、信任与守望相助。

这些价值观正是西南社区所秉持的特质。我们日复一日，矢志不渝，建设一个紧密团结、坚韧不拔的社区。以西南爱心优惠餐计划（Value Meals @ South West）为例，西南社理会与胜乐集团（Select Group）合作，向西南社区注入了总额 60 万元的储值积分。弱势居民可以随时从自动贩卖机获取并享用价廉物美的暖心餐食。这也是我们持续为减轻国人日常开支所付诸的努力之一。

此外，我们也积极促进居民之间的跨代交流。西南幸福家庭计划（Family Bliss @ South West）的巡回推广活动让父母、子女与祖辈同堂共乐，通过蜡染绘画、充气城堡等趣味活动增进感情。与此同时，社理会的“艺术处处”（ArtsEverywhere @ CDC）计划则通过在市镇中心和社区角落举办的工作坊与演出，把艺术创意融入邻里。

展望未来，我们将继续助力每位居民的成长，帮助施展所长。2025 西南技能创前程节（SkillsFuture Festival @ South West 2025）汇聚了技能培训、行业讲座、实践工作坊与就业机会，为居民提供一站式的学习与发展平台，让大家有机会掌握主动，积极规划个人与职业前程。西南社理会更与 14 家获得新加坡精深技能发展局（SkillsFuture Singapore）支持的培训伙伴合作，持续推动终身学习，并提升居民的就业竞争力。

我们的青年也在挺身而出，贡献力量。在2025 青年科技企业家挑战（Young Technopreneur Challenge 2025）中，学子们迎难而上，运用科学、科技、工程与数学（STEM）知识提出解决现实环境问题的创新方案。在惠普（HP Inc.）与新加坡青年成就组织（Junior Achievement Singapore）导师的悉心指导下，他们不仅展示创新方案，更在过程中获得了宝贵的技能与自信。

在我们庆祝新加坡建国60周年之际，我谨向所有居民、义工与合作伙伴致以诚挚谢意。你们的每一份付出，不论大小，都在巩固社区纽带、提升民众生活，建设一个坚韧有力的西南社区。让我们携手并肩，继续守望相助、共襄善举，在同心同德中，昂首迈向更加美好的未来。



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Vending machines across the district offer affordable, ready-to-eat meals to residents.

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An opportunity and platform for students to spark ideas for real-world challenges.

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The job fair offered residents a one-stop platform for career advancement.

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The family-friendly roadshow transforms everyday spaces into buzzing pop-up hubs.

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Participants used design thinking to develop real-world solutions for a sustainable future.

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The expanded programme reaches more residents — turning neighbourhoods into vibrant art experiences.

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Fourteen SkillsFuture Singapore-supported training partners offered workshops, industry insights and career advice to help residents upskill and grow.

25 SOUTH WEST CDC X ONEPEOPLE.SG EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING JOURNEY

The interfaith excursion sought to deepen students' intercultural and interreligious understanding of Buddhism.

5 MINUTES WITH...

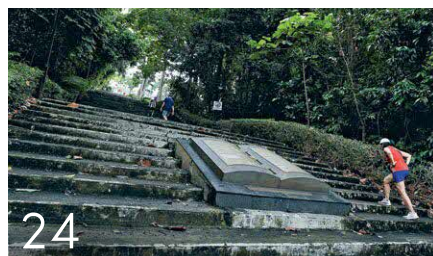
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Adviser to Jurong East-Bukit Batok GRC Grassroots Organisations (Bukit Batok East) shared the experiences that shaped her work as a Grassroots Adviser.

WHAT'S HAPPENING SOUTH WEST

24 PLACES WE LOVE

Six South West spots that reflect our shared history, joys and sense of home this SG60.



>> Bridge

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<https://southwest.cdc.gov.sg/>



How to Claim and Spend your SG60 Vouchers:

- 1** Visit go.gov.sg/sg60v
Select the vouchers that you are eligible for:
\$800 - SG60 Vouchers (Seniors)
\$600 - SG60 Vouchers (Adults)
- 2** Log in with Singpass
Claim your vouchers.
- 3** Receive your SG60 Vouchers link by SMS, from gov.sg
- 4** Select the voucher type and amount you want to use
Show the QR code to the participating merchant to scan.

Where to spend your vouchers:
go.gov.sg/sg60voucher

Spend your SG60 Vouchers at shops with these CDC Vouchers decals:

Visuals are for illustrative purposes only.

SG60 Vouchers are valid till 31 December 2026, giving you more time to claim and spend them!

Scan to Claim your SG60 Vouchers!



go.gov.sg/sg60v

If you do not have a smartphone, Singpass, or need assistance, visit your nearest Community Centre/Club (CC) between 10am and 6pm (except Public Holidays) with your NRIC.

Hotline: 6225 5322 | Website: go.gov.sg/sg60vouchers

Government officials will NEVER ask you to transfer money or disclose bank log-in details over a phone call. Call the 24/7 ScamShield Helpline at 1799 if you are unsure if something is a scam.

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GOOD DEALS MUST SHARE

Celebrating SG60 with our local coffeeshops!

BROADWAY \$1.60 Big Pau deal*	長城 60c for Kopi-O Kosong & Teh-O Kosong*	FoodHub Spend \$6, get a drink for 60c*	Koufu 60c off any 4 dim sum*	欢聚一堂 60c for Kopi-O, Kopi-O, Teh & Teh-O*
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ENJOY THESE SPECIAL DEALS AND MORE!

Let's celebrate SG60 together at our local coffeeshops.
Find out more at sg60.gov.sg

*Terms and conditions apply.

SG 60

FIND OUT MORE!



South West CDC and Select Group bring affordable food options to the community through a new vending machine initiative offering meals at just \$3.

THE SOUTH WEST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (CDC), in partnership with food service provider Select Group, launched Value Meals @ South West, an initiative that brings quality, accessible and affordable meals to residents via vending machines.

The programme, which was launched on 9 March in Teck Whye Crescent, marks an important step in supporting the community. Some 80 vending machines have been installed across the district, offering halal meals at \$3 or less — including sandwiches, wraps, snacks and meals like curry chicken with rice, butter chicken with rice, chicken carbonara pasta and *hor fun*.

Meal varieties will rotate regularly to keep options fresh and appealing. Vegetarian choices are also available, catering to the community's diverse population. These machines operate 24/7, making them especially helpful for residents with busy or irregular schedules by offering convenient and affordable food options.

Speaking at the launch, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry, Mr Gan Kim Yong, highlighted the initiative's role in complementing government efforts to ease financial pressures. "Although inflation is expected to ease, prices remain high and Singaporeans are understandably concerned," he said. "The Government has introduced various support schemes in Budget 2025, but businesses and the community also play a crucial role. Value Meals @ South West exemplifies how we can work together to ensure that no one is left behind."



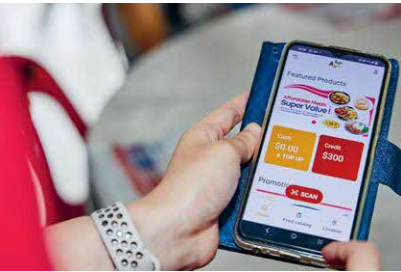
MORE THAN JUST AFFORDABLE OPTIONS
The impact of Value Meals @ South West extends beyond offering affordable food. As part of the partnership, Select Group has sponsored \$600,000 worth of meal credits, which will benefit at least 2,000 vulnerable families in the South West District. These credits will be distributed through the Grassroots Organisations in the district.
For residents like Madam Alina Bte Abdul Rashid, 53, whose husband is undergoing

treatment for leukaemia and is the family's sole breadwinner, the \$3 meals offer significant savings. "We spend \$400 monthly on rent, which forms a huge part of our household expenses," she said. "With these \$3 meals, I estimate we can save around \$50 to \$100 a month. That's a big help."
Similarly, Madam Lim Chwee Lian, 74, welcomed the convenience of the vending machines. "I usually eat out after my Zumba class, so it's great to have an affordable meal

Value MEALS @ SOUTH WEST: AT A GLANCE



- **Quality, affordable meal options at \$3 or less** available from vending machines
- **80 vending machines** located in convenient locations such as HDB void decks across South West District
- **Sandwiches, wraps, pizzas, snacks and meals** such as curry chicken with rice, butter chicken with rice, chicken carbonara pasta and *hor fun*, with regular menu rotations
- **Halal and vegetarian meal options** available
- **Machines operating 24/7**, bringing convenience for all residents
- **\$600,000 worth of meal credits** sponsored by Select Group, to help identified families



- **Meal credits reaching at least 2,000 vulnerable residents** through Grassroots Organisations



option nearby," she said. "It is also helpful for working families who don't have time to cook but still want a quick, quality meal."
Mayor of South West District, Ms Low Yen Ling, emphasised how the initiative aligns with the CDC's mission of building a cohesive, resilient community. "We are delighted to partner with Select Group to bring affordable meals to our residents," she said. "Our goal is not just to lighten their financial burden but also to ensure that even budget-friendly meals remain nutritious and accessible."
Mayor Low added that food safety remains a top priority, highlighting Select Group's strong track record and 30 years of experience in meal preparation and kitchen standards. "By using data insights, we can track which meals are most popular and ensure our kitchens prepare more of these favourites," she said. "This way, we continuously improve meal availability and quality for residents."

A COMMITMENT TO GIVING BACK
For Select Group, the initiative reflects its deep-rooted commitment to social responsibility. Managing Director, Mr Vincent Tan, expressed pride in the partnership. "At Select Group, we believe that no one should have to worry about affording a simple meal," he said. "Partnering with South West CDC allows us to make a real impact by ensuring that quality meals remain accessible to those who need them most."



At the launch, Select Group staff volunteers helped residents navigate the Taste Asia mobile app, showing them how to redeem their sponsored meal credits at the vending machines.
As Singapore marks SG60 this year, initiatives like Value Meals @ South West reflect the strength of public-private partnerships in supporting fellow Singaporeans. DPM Gan captured this spirit best by saying, "This initiative is a testament to the 'Team Singapore' spirit — where businesses, the community and the Government work hand in hand to support those in need. It is through such partnerships that we build a more caring, united and resilient society."
With quality, affordable meal options now conveniently available, residents across the South West District can find comfort in knowing their next meal is always within reach. **B**





This year's Chingay @ Heartlands event celebrated 60 years of Singapore's journey as a united community.

A VIBRANT CELEBRATION OF JOY AND UNITY

The Chingay Parade returned to Chua Chu Kang this year, bringing residents together for a colourful celebration of multiculturalism, community bonding and the SG60 spirit.

THECK WHYE CRESCENT BECAME A LIVELY COMMUNITY CARNIVAL ON 2 MARCH, AS CHINGAY @ HEARTLANDS 2025 BROUGHT SINGAPORE'S RICH HERITAGE, diversity and festive spirit right to the doorsteps of residents in the South West District. This year's theme, *Sparkle of Joy: Food and Fun as One Community*, ties in with SG60, marking 60 years of Singapore's independence. With energetic performances, hands-on activities and vibrant floats, the event offered residents of all ages a chance to enjoy a special day together.

"Being here at Chingay @ Heartlands for the first time with my kids is such a special experience," said Madam Citra Sadon, 37, who attended with her three children, aged nine months to eight years. "It is exciting to see all the floats and performances. The event brings festive cheer to our neighbourhood,

and we are happy to be part of the SG60 celebrations." For families like hers, the event was a chance to bond while exploring different cultures.

Mechanical engineering student Zoe Lee, 21, was drawn to the Singapore Air Force booth and its flight simulator. "It was amazing to experience first-hand how to operate an aircraft," she said. "I also enjoyed the National Environment Agency's recycling booth, where I learnt how to create a cup holder by stitching fabric together."

FESTIVITIES AND FUN AT EVERY TURN

The community celebration was filled with energy, featuring dragon dances and wushu displays by Chua Chu Kang Secondary School students, and percussion performances by ITE College West. Drawing admiration from all ages, the vibrant floats included the Harmony

Circle float featuring musical instruments from diverse cultures, the cheerful POSB float with mascot Smiley the Squirrel and the SG60 Signature float highlighting key moments in Singapore's history.

Grassroots volunteer Mr Ferdinand Ezekiel Francis, 28, who helped organise this year's Chingay @ Heartlands performances, was particularly fond of the *tikam tikam* booth, featuring the local game popular from the 1950s to 1970s. "Although I am not very old, it hits a nostalgic chord," he said. "I grew up watching people play the game, but only really understood it when a senior showed me how to play it at this event."

Another favourite was the Shrink Art booth, where participants created personalised key ornaments from upcycled plastic, celebrating Singapore's multicultural heritage through crafts. "It's cool to see how we can recycle and create something memorable," he added. "It's innovative and a fun way to create lasting tokens." A second-time Chingay @ Heartlands attendee, he liked how the colourful floats showcased Singapore's diverse cultural heritage in such a dynamic way. Mr Ferdinand also shared that he has been volunteering since he was young, as he was inspired by his mother, who was also a grassroots volunteer. "I joined as a volunteer because I wanted to contribute to my community and help make events like Chingay @ Heartlands a success," he said.

Madam Peramaisuari d/o Machaup from the SG60 Tapestry of Joy booth said that their involvement was inspired by the desire to preserve traditions and make them accessible to younger generations. Visitors



Residents participating in old-school local games like five stones and congkak at the various booths.



A uniformed volunteer interacting warmly with a young boy, in a military outfit, at the carnival.

wrote their hopes for SG60 on decorative red papers and hung them on a wishing tree, symbolising shared community aspirations. "Our goal is for visitors to leave with a deeper appreciation for our shared heritage," she added. "When families participate together, sharing stories and creating memories, it strengthens our community bonds."

CELEBRATING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY

Chingay @ Heartlands promoted inclusivity by bringing celebrations directly to residents' neighbourhoods. Mr Gan Kim Yong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry, spoke at the event about Chingay's significance in bringing people closer and strengthening national pride.

He emphasised how such events celebrate Singapore's diversity and encourage community spirit.

Ms Low Yen Ling, Mayor of South West District, also thanked the People's Association, volunteers and organisers for their dedication in making the event possible.

Residents enjoyed a lively lion dance and a vibrant firecracker performance, further adding to the festive atmosphere. This year's celebration also supported Singapore's ongoing bid to have the Chingay parade recognised on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The aim is to ensure Chingay is recognised as a living tradition and to preserve its legacy for future generations.

A GRAND FINALE

The festivities ended on a high note with a dazzling drone show at Bukit Batok East Ave 5, lighting up the night sky in tribute to Singapore's multiculturalism and unity. As colourful floats passed through the heartlands, residents were reminded of how far Singapore has come — and how, by standing together, we can continue building a stronger, more inclusive nation.

Mr Ferdinand wanted people to leave with lasting impressions. "I hope residents take away the importance of looking back at how far we've come in the last 60 years and remember the reasons we have Singapore today," he said. **B**



Children having a delightful time at the bouncy castle.



Residents, young and old, enjoying an energetic Chinese New Year showcase, including lion dance performances.



In a spectacular finale, drones illuminate the night sky at Bukit Gombak, weaving a brilliant snake formation to welcome prosperity in the Year of the Snake.

Relive the Chingay procession in Chua Chu Kang

Chingay @ Heartlands 2025 travelled through local community hotspots and ended at Bukit Gombak.

SG60 Street Party @ Chua Chu Kang (launch point)

Fun Carnival @ Keat Hong

Fun Party @ Brickland

Fun Fiesta @ Hong Kah North

Mini Chingay @ Bukit Gombak (end point)



The inaugural South West Community Inno Lab networking session brought Institutes of Higher Learning, government agencies and partners together.

FROM IDEAS TO COMMUNITY IMPACT

South West Community Inno Lab kicks off its first networking session, bringing together partners and IHLs to drive collaboration and tackle real-world challenges.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN STUDENTS, government agencies and community groups come together with a shared goal? The South West Community Inno Lab is betting on fresh ideas and cross-sector collaboration to develop innovative solutions that address real-world issues.

Held on 12 March at the Ministry of National Development, the first South West Community Inno Lab networking session brought together representatives from participating Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs), government agencies and community partners to spark meaningful collaboration and set the stage for practical solutions to pressing community issues.

Minister for Education and Minister-in-Charge of Social Services Integration, Mr Desmond Lee, likened the initiative to a "garden ecosystem", where ideas flourish like flowers, IHLs and partners act as vital pollinators spreading innovative solutions, and government agencies sustain growth with a "nectar" of funding and resources. "We developed the South West Community Inno Lab to create an ecosystem that facilitates deeper and more seamless collaboration and exchange of ideas, so that we can better tackle issues on the ground," he said at the event.

At the heart of the initiative are 14 community challenge statements covering issues such as barrier-free accessibility, waste disposal, noise disputes and active ageing. These challenge statements will guide IHLs, which will work with government agencies and community partners, to develop interdisciplinary, community-centric solutions that can be piloted, tested and scaled.

SOLVING EVERYDAY CHALLENGES

The networking session opened with an icebreaker, matching participants using themed cards of flowers and butterflies — setting the stage for open, creative conversations. Discussions soon

uncovered shared concerns and ideas for potential partnerships.

One community challenge was the need to improve barrier-free access in the West Coast area, home to 7,000 seniors aged 60 and above. Mr Chan Huang Chung, Chairman, West Coast Neighbourhood Committee, stressed the importance of this work. "We want to improve barrier-free access so that seniors in wheelchairs can reach bus stops and the market more easily," he said. "We're working with Nanyang Technological University on this, and this is our first meeting with them."

The IHLs are also keen to weave these challenges into their academic programmes.



The discussions included how IHL students could help HDB tackle urban challenges.



Through themed flower and butterfly cards, the icebreaker activities inspired the pollination of ideas.

Mr Hon Maode, Assistant Director at Ngee Ann Polytechnic, shared how they plan to involve students in these efforts. "We aim to collaborate with other IHLs and community partners to foster good neighbourliness," he said. "Our students will brainstorm ideas, and based on discussions, we may incorporate these into interdisciplinary and service-learning modules. Depending on the project's needs, students from communication studies or community development could take the lead."

Ms Melissa Sim, Senior Community Relations Manager at the Housing and Development Board (HDB), brought in the lens of urban living and behavioural science and highlighted the need for behavioural nudges. "We hope students can research ways to encourage residents to dispose of bulky waste properly and reduce noise disputes in high-density HDB estates," she said. "By understanding behavioural patterns, we can find practical ways to nudge residents towards better habits."

Mayor of South West District, Ms Low Yen Ling, spoke about the value of interdisciplinary collaboration in solving community issues. She said that the South West Community Inno Lab provides a platform for expertise across the IHLs to come together, allowing for a more holistic approach to problem-solving.

LEADING WITH ACTION

The initiative will culminate in an annual "Summer Harvest" symposium, where the IHLs and community partners will showcase their projects, share learnings and explore opportunities to scale successful pilots for broader impact.

Reflecting SG60's theme of building Singapore together, the South West Community Inno Lab encourages connection, contribution and care, and supports a more resilient, united society powered by ground-up collaboration.

With strong partnerships and shared purpose, it is laying the groundwork for sustainable, community-driven innovation across the South West District and beyond.



Minister Desmond Lee and Mayor Low encouraging cross-sector collaboration.



Many of the group discussions also seeded ideas for community solutions.

JOBSEEKING MADE EASY

At the South West Community Job Fair, jobseekers found a one-stop gateway to career opportunities — where applications, interviews and upskilling came together in a single, dynamic space.



Ms Grace Fu, Adviser to Jurong East-Bukit Batok Grassroots Organisations (Yuhua), Ms Jenny Wee, BBM, and Mr Eric Lue, PBM, from community job portal goodjobs.com.sg, alongside employers and jobseekers at the South West Community Job Fair at Yuhua Community Club.

AFTER LEAVING HIS JOB AS A GRAB DRIVER, Mr Noraizad bin Mohamad Sa'ad, 51, began looking for more stable work. At the South West Community Job Fair organised by the South West Community Development Council (CDC) in partnership with community job portal goodjobs.com.sg and local social enterprise The Social Equity, he felt hopeful. "There will be a job here for me," he said.

Fresh graduate Leong Rui Hong found the variety of career options encouraging. "There's a good, diverse selection of companies here — giving jobseekers like me real opportunities to kickstart our careers," he said.

Held from 3 to 4 April at Yuhua Community Club, the event featured a wide array of roles across various industries, with openings for professionals, managers, executives and technicians (PMETs), as well as non-PMET roles.

Jobseekers could apply and interview on the spot, with some walking away with immediate offers. "We try to hire immediately," said Mr David Liong, a representative from homegrown restaurant chain Astons Group, which offered positions ranging from junior to management level.

MORE THAN JUST JOBS

Alongside recruitment, partner booths at the job fair provided training support



The job fair featured 21 employer booths from across various industries.



Volunteers were stationed around the job fair to offer guidance and advice to residents.



Jobseekers attending the on-site interviews.



Employers engaged with jobseekers to share about available roles, offer advice and conduct on-site interviews.

and career guidance. "We offer a range of WSQ-accredited courses," said Ms Amanda Tan, Marketing Manager of ASK Training, referring to the national Workforce Skills Qualifications system. "Our programmes help individuals and businesses stay competitive in today's fast-evolving job market."

NTUC LearningHub was also on hand to support jobseekers in their career planning. "Our consultants guide them towards careers based on their portfolios," said Mr Yu Renghao, a representative at the booth. "Everyone should upskill to keep up with evolving skill demands and technological advancements."

The South West Community Job Fair drew a diverse crowd, from fresh graduates and mid-career switchers to persons with disabilities and seniors. "As long as they're willing to work, physically fit and able to do the job, we will consider them fairly," said Ms Ong Zhi Yi Zoey, from the Human Resources (HR) team at Fresh Cleaning Facilities Management.

Madam Wong Pei Ling found her current role at a 2022 job fair after a 10-year break to raise her children. She now works part-time as an HR and office coordinator at Hai Sia Seafood, and helped out at the company's booth at this year's South West Community Job Fair. "The company took my resume and spoke to me," she said. "A month or two later, they offered me a position, and I've been with them since." Her job offers flexible hours, including a work-from-home day on Fridays.

That flexibility reflects the company's inclusive employment approach. Mr Alex Tan, Chief People Officer of Hai Sia Seafood, explained that automation of labour-intensive tasks, combined with flexible work arrangements, has created a more accommodative workplace. The company recognises that many candidates, particularly those with family commitments, can contribute effectively during specific times of the week, making part-time arrangements a valuable option for both employer and employee.

The job fair also proved meaningful for volunteers like Ms Grace Ho, Deputy Principal of Hwa Chong Institution. "Career education counselling is a key part of the job — we are preparing youths for the future," she said. "Interacting with jobseekers and employers gives us fresh perspectives and helps us explore future collaborations for students." **B**

SMART support

► go_direct @ South West, an AI-enabled online tool, matches users to relevant job opportunities based on their needs

► Connects employers with candidates in the South West District

Scan the QR code to try it now:





A variety of activities and booths at Bukit Batok Family Day ensured that there was something for everyone.



From kids' train rides and bouncy castles to dental screenings and healthy treats, the activities at the Family Bliss @ South West roadshow brought smiles to residents of all ages.

ON THE MOVE FOR CONNECTIONS AND QUALITY TIME

Family Bliss @ South West takes its roadshow across the district, turning familiar corners into lively community hangouts for residents of all ages.

BETWEEN WORK, SCHOOL AND EVERYDAY ROUTINES, FINDING TIME FOR FAMILY CAN BE DIFFICULT. Family Bliss @ South West hopes to ease that challenge through a series of mobile events that bring families together with activities, services and shared experiences.

Set up in heartland locations across the South West District, these roving roadshows have turned community club compounds and open spaces into pop-up hubs for connection, play and support.

FROM CELEBRATION TO COMMUNITY CARE

On 5 April, Nanyang Community Club was abuzz with families attending the CCC-CDC Education Merit Awards. Just outside the multi-purpose hall, the Family Bliss @ South West roadshow was also in full swing.

Mr Eng Ter Loon, 42, had come with his wife and two children to celebrate his daughter's award, but they stayed on after the ceremony to explore the roadshow. "The activities here are quite

comprehensive, with multiple vendors to engage participants throughout the whole roadshow," he said.

Alongside games for children, the event also offered free intra-oral screenings and on-the-spot assessments by Q&M Dental Group. "We believe dental health education and access should extend beyond the dental chair," said Dr Raymond Ang, the group's Chief Operating Officer. The casual setting, he added, made it easier to connect with residents.

MAKING MEMORIES WITH LOVED ONES

Later that day, the roadshow headed to Bukit Batok SkyPeak as part of Bukit Batok Family Day. There, it took on a carnival-like feel, with attractions such as a photobooth, a bouncy castle, game booths and giveaways catering to all ages.

"There's lots to do here," said Madam Ivy Cai, 38, who came with her mother, children, sister and nephew. "The kids are having lots of fun, and my mum had fun visiting the booths."

For Dathi Subashini Dhakshanya, 13, the outing was a welcome change from digital devices. "At home, everybody's just using their phones and scrolling through social media," she said. The roadshow gave her a chance to reconnect and socialise.

It was also an opportunity to meet new people. "Some of my friends live nearby, so I'm eager to meet them," said Saravanan Mey Varshana, 13, who came with Dhakshanya. "You get to know new people and learn about them, and who knows? In the future, we might become friends," Dhakshanya added.

A MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE FOR ALL

For partners and residents alike, the roadshows were both engaging and rewarding. "The atmosphere has been lively and full of energy, and it's been heart-warming to see families coming together to enjoy meaningful activities, while also taking steps towards better health," said Dr Ang from Q&M Group.

Mr Alvin Fu, Chief Distribution Officer of AIA Singapore, agreed. "We enjoyed celebrating joy and family bonding, and it has been a fantastic opportunity to contribute back to the community," he said. The AIA booth featured fun interactive games that families could participate in together, and volunteers were onsite to share information about the complimentary six months dengue and accident coverage for South West residents and their families.

JR Foods, a Singapore-based food manufacturer, also took part in the event, giving out food samples and jars of vegan mayonnaise. The company owns ready-meal brand Chef-in-Box and plant-based

product line Planteus. "Our line of items was developed with a personal need of providing convenience and safe food at home," said Madam Serene Chia, JR Foods' Marketing Manager. "That way, working parents can work in peace, knowing their family members are taken care of."

Other partners contributed hands-on experiences as well. At the booth run by training provider ADAM, visitors of all ages eagerly tried their hand at flying drones. "We were thrilled to see families and individuals actively engaging with our booth, especially enjoying the drone-flying sessions," said the organisation's Sales and Marketing Manager, Madam Claire Lim. "The enthusiastic participation and feedback have reinforced our commitment to community engagement and lifelong learning."

Family Bliss @ South West will continue making its way around the district, creating shared experiences for families and neighbours. As part of the SG60 celebrations, these roadshows were also featured at National Day Carnivals — staying true to its goal of building bonds across generations. **B**



A booth by training provider ADAM promoted sustainability and eco-friendly practices by distributing seedlings.



Residents eagerly participated in the game booths with their families.



Families exploring the engaging booths and activities at Nanyang Community Club during the Family Bliss @ South West roadshow.

MORE TO *enjoy*

Look out for these at upcoming Family Bliss @ South West roadshows:

- ▶ Batik painting kit
- ▶ Bouncy castles
- ▶ Interactive booth activities

SIGN UP FOR THE FAMILY BLISS @ SOUTH WEST E-CARD — SCAN THE QR CODE FOR UPDATES ON FUTURE ROADSHOWS AND PLANS!





Mayor Low Yen Ling, Mr Koh Kong Meng, Managing Director of HP Singapore, and Mr Tiew Chew Meng, BBM, Chairman of the South West CDC Environment Committee, together with students, partners and judges at the Young Technopreneur Challenge 2025.

FROM GREEN IDEAS TO REAL-WORLD IMPACT

Students in the Young Technopreneur Challenge 2025 apply design thinking to create practical solutions for a more sustainable future.

SINGAPORE'S CANALS INSPIRED MORE THAN JUST A SCENIC ROUTE FOR SECONDARY 2 STUDENT LEE JUNG KYE.

As part of the Young Technopreneur Challenge 2025, he and his team from Bukit View Secondary School (BVSS) set out to develop a sustainability solution — and found one right in their neighbourhood. Their project, Aquavolt, proposes harnessing energy from canal flow using compact, portable hydroelectric generators.

"We spent around 80 hours on the 3D-modelling software and about 72 hours on the physical prototype," said Jung Kye. "We had a lot of technical problems on the last day too, so it was really stressful."

Despite the challenges, the BVSS team clinched the \$3,000 top prize at the Grand Finals held on 26 July 2025. "It was really shocking," said teammate Boddur Chetan Varma, 15, noting it was one of the school's biggest achievements. "We don't even have a creative name — it's just us and our voices," added Jung Kye.

Now in its fifth edition, the challenge is co-organised by the South West Community Development Council (CDC), HP Inc and Junior Achievement Singapore. This year's programme brought together 48 students from eight secondary schools across 13 teams. Participants explored Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) while developing practical skills in design thinking, entrepreneurship and sustainability through bootcamps, workshops and online learning.

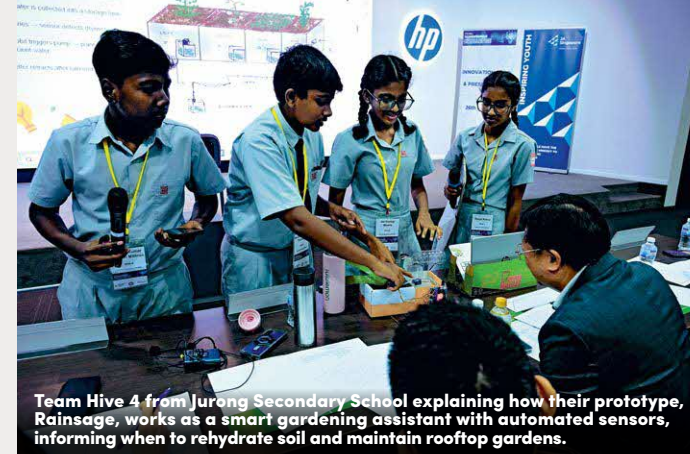
Beyond the winning entry, other innovative proposals showcased creative solutions for sustainable living. One team explored the potential of combining



The judging panel evaluated the top six teams' proposals during the finals, offering feedback and challenging the students' critical thinking through an interactive Q&A session.

Winners OF THE YOUNG TECHNOPRENEUR CHALLENGE 2025

- Champion: **Bukit View Secondary School Infocomm Club**
- First Runner-up: **JV Jags, Jurongville Secondary School**
- Second Runner-up: **TOCR, Clementi Town Secondary School**
- Best Presentation: **Bukit View Secondary School Infocomm Club**
- Best Prototype: **Hive 4, Jurong Secondary School**
- Most Innovative Idea: **JV Jags, Jurongville Secondary School**



Team Hive 4 from Jurong Secondary School explaining how their prototype, Rainsage, works as a smart gardening assistant with automated sensors, informing when to rehydrate soil and maintain rooftop gardens.



Team TOCR from Clementi Town Secondary School, presenting their idea of incorporating biophotovoltaics alongside solar panels to provide clean energy for households and buildings.



Students sharing their ideas and prototypes with judges from HP Inc during the semi-finals conducted in breakout rooms.



Bukit View Secondary Infocomm Club pitching their idea on harnessing energy from Singapore's canals.

biophotovoltaics with traditional solar panels to generate clean energy for homes and buildings. Another promising concept featured a smart gardening assistant equipped with automated sensors to optimise rooftop garden maintenance — helping urban farmers monitor soil hydration levels and care for their plants more effectively.

MENTORSHIP THAT WORKS BOTH WAYS

Throughout the challenge, students were guided by HP Inc staff, who helped refine their ideas and sharpen their pitches. "We guided them to quantify a problem statement and design a relevant, implementable solution," explained Ms Joanne Sta Maria, who volunteered as a mentor to broaden her perspectives by working with people of different ages. She oversaw a mixed-school team comprising students from four different schools.

The experience was just as enriching

for other mentors. "Although they're just teenagers, they're very creative with tech tools — I learnt from them too," shared Ms Christine Chua Jo, who mentored the Jurongville Secondary School team. With her support, the team won First Runner-up for their Eco Tile solution: peel-and-stick algae tiles designed to reduce air pollution by trapping dust particles on HDB walls.

Ms Sta Maria added: "They were receptive to different ideas and open to rethinking their approach, and that's the kind of learning mindset we should all have."

The BVSS team was grateful for their mentor, Mr Jose Maria Gandicela, whose constant encouragement kept them motivated throughout the challenge. "He's one of the nicest guys I've ever met," said Tan Jun Hao Davian, 15. "He was always there for us, and he wanted and believed that our project could win," added teammate Faheem Ahamed, 13. "Because of him, we were passionate to win, too."

SHAPING SINGAPORE'S GREEN FUTURE

In line with SG60's sustainability push, the Young Technopreneur Challenge empowers youths to champion environmental issues while connecting with like-minded peers. "As we continue on this shared journey, every idea that we nurture, every innovation that we develop and every step that we take, builds a more sustainable and resilient Singapore," said Ms Low Yen Ling, Mayor of South West District.

Mayor Low also encouraged teams to take their ideas beyond the competition. "We challenge you to apply for the South West ECo Fund Plus. Tap into the fund to translate your idea into a prototype," she said, pledging the CDC's full support.

The winning team is already thinking ahead. "We're going to implement our idea," said Jung Kye. "Next time I cycle along the canals, I'm going to tell my friends, 'I made this. I did that. We did that.'" **B**



Mayor Low Yen Ling with the judges and the champion team, Bukit View Secondary School Infocomm Club.

GOT A *green* IDEA?

The South West ECo Fund Plus supports youth-led sustainability projects aligned with the Sustainable South West Masterplan. Scan the QR code to learn more!





Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong, Mayor Low Yen Ling, Vice-Chairman of North East CDC, Ms Yeo Wan Ling, and representatives from Central Singapore CDC, North West CDC and South East CDC at the launch of the expanded ArtsEverywhere @ CDC on 30 March.

MORE ARTS PERFORMANCES TO COME IN HEARTLAND VENUES

From now until March 2026, an expanded ArtsEverywhere @ CDC programme will bring the arts closer to 50,000 more residents across Singapore.

STRUTTING DANCERS FROM FLAMENCO FRONTERAS AND THE SINGAPORE INDIAN FINE ARTS SOCIETY opened the festivities with a lively blend of movement and music, accompanied by the rhythmic sounds of instruments like the tabla, oud and guzheng, played by the Brahmastra Multi-Ethnic Ensemble. Their cross-cultural performance, held before dozens of residents, set the tone for the official launch of an expanded line-up of arts showcases in Singapore.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong announced the expansion of the ArtsEverywhere @ CDC programme on 30 March at SAFRA Choa Chu Kang. From now until March 2026, more than 80 artists, street performers and arts groups will stage monthly performances at public and community spaces — from outside MRT stations to hawker centres — bringing the arts closer to where Singaporeans live, work

and play. Around 200 performances are planned this year, nearly three times the number seen in 2024. Residents can look forward to seeing vibrant and varied acts through street performances, a new addition to ArtsEverywhere @ CDC, where artists will transform everyday spaces into stages with minimal set-up, making the arts more accessible to everyone.

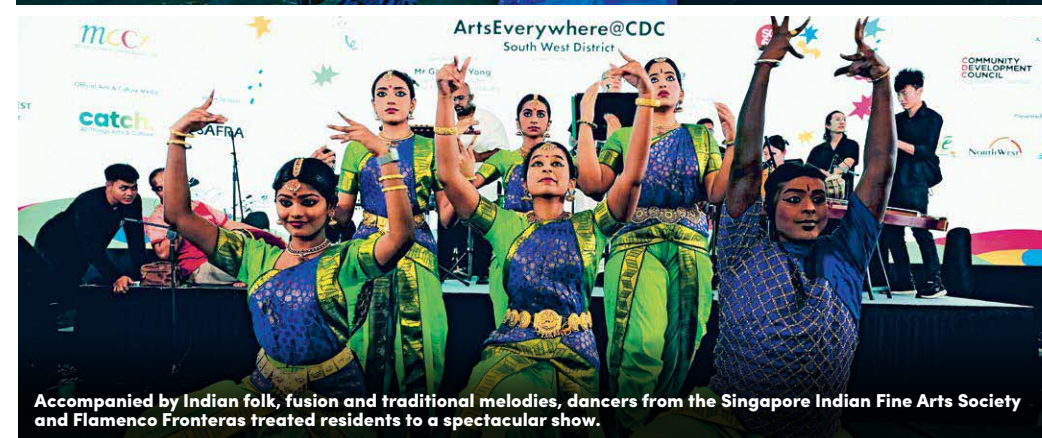
“The arts is an excellent platform to bring people together and promote cross-cultural appreciation,” said DPM Gan. “We make a conscious effort to appreciate one another’s cultures and traditions, and build common spaces to foster deeper connections with one another.”

“This will help us build a strong and cohesive community,” he added.

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE ARTS

A joint initiative by the National Arts Council (NAC), the five Community Development Councils (CDCs) and the People’s Association (PA), ArtsEverywhere @ CDC was launched in July 2024. Since its launch, it has reached more than 40,000 residents through performances held at neighbourhood malls, town centres and other community touchpoints.

As part of the wider SG60 celebrations, the programme is set to expand further across the island, bringing the arts to even



Accompanied by Indian folk, fusion and traditional melodies, dancers from the Singapore Indian Fine Arts Society and Flamenco Fronteras treated residents to a spectacular show.

more heartland spaces and turning local parks and community clubs and centres into pop-up arts and culture venues. Some of the newly added venues include Somme Park, Jurong Central, Canberra Park and Anchorvale Village.

This next phase will also see an even broader mix of art forms and performances by larger-scale arts groups as well as smaller-scale street performers and artists. Audiences can look forward to puppetry shows by Paper Monkey Theatre, hip-hop dance performances by dance company O School and inclusive music showcases by The Purple Symphony. The varied programming is designed to cater to different interests, generations and cultural backgrounds.

Mayor of South West District, Ms Low Yen Ling, pointed to a 2023 NAC study, which found that more than eight in 10 Singaporeans feel the arts help them better understand people from different cultures and backgrounds. “At its heart, ArtsEverywhere @ CDC is about people,” she said. “It is about creating shared experiences, sparking conversations and fostering community connections.”

“This initiative also gives our local artists a platform to showcase their work and reach new and diverse audiences, with more Singaporeans engaging with the arts,” she added.



Singaporeans can look forward to more monthly performances in public and community spaces by street performers and arts groups.

‘WE ARE ALL SINGAPOREANS’

Madam Suzana Sugimin, 59, was among the crowd at SAFRA Choa Chu Kang. “I like the arts. I used to be a dancer,” said the nurse and mother of two, who has a particular love for Bollywood dance. “At these events, I get to know a little bit more about the different cultures that I see around me.”

Clinic manager Shankar Selvam, 32, was there to cheer on her husband, Mr Karthik Ramasamy, who was among the dancers performing that day. “The performances are quite cool. They remind us that no matter how many different cultures we have in Singapore, we are all Singaporeans,” said Ms Selvam, who is also a dancer. “Creating these kinds of events and bringing people together will build bridges between citizens and bring about more understanding of cultural perspectives.”

A STAGE FOR CONNECTION

For many performers, the experience goes far beyond the stage. Mr Niranjan Pandian, creative director of Singapore-based production and arts house Brahmastra, said that taking part in the initiative had been personally rewarding.

“As we performed across neighbourhoods, we felt the warmth, energy and enthusiasm of the community in a way that was truly special,” he added. “It was a heartfelt reminder of how the arts bring artists, organisations and communities together in meaningful ways.”

With its expanded line-up and wider reach, ArtsEverywhere @ CDC is set to spark more of these shared moments in the heartlands — inviting everyone to pause, enjoy and connect through the arts. **B**



Street performers captivated onlookers with mesmerising guzheng melodies, soulful guitar tunes and breathtaking acrobatic displays.



Madam Suzana Sugimin, a nurse and former dancer, said the event helped her learn more about the cultures around her.



← CATCH THE NEXT SHOW NEAR YOU!

Want to find out which ArtsEverywhere @ CDC events are happening in your area? Visit go.gov.sg/artseverywhere-cdc or scan this QR code.

Simply enter your postal code to find upcoming performances near you.



PUTTING THE 'HEART' IN HEARTLAND

Mdm Rahayu Mahzam, Minister of State, Ministry of Digital Development and Information & Ministry of Health, and Adviser to Jurong East-Bukit Batok GRC Grassroots Organisations (Bukit Batok East), shares the personal experiences that shaped her community work during her time as a Grassroots Adviser.

MDM RAHAYU MAHZAM ARRIVED AT HARMONY PAVILION IN BUKIT BATOK EAST AVE 4 AND MOVED EFFORTLESSLY THROUGH A BUSTLING FESTIVE BAZAAR, heading straight for her favourite durian stall. As she navigated the crowd, she greeted residents and chatted with the durian seller with an easy familiarity.

This connection has been built over a decade. Since her appointment as Adviser to the former Jurong GRC Grassroots Organisations (Bukit Batok East) in 2015, she has been a steadfast presence in the community.

She has stood by residents through a global pandemic and has also faced personal struggles, including a miscarriage, raising a son with special needs and her son's critical illness.

In 2020, her son suffered a severe brain infection, underwent surgery four times and was hospitalised for two months. Throughout that time, she stayed by his side, balancing caregiving with work commitments. Zoom meetings and youth dialogue sessions continued from the hospital, with the beeping of medical equipment in the background.

What kept her going through these difficult times? "I have fallen in love with the people here," she said simply.

GROWING UP IN A GIVING FAMILY

When Mdm Rahayu, 45, first took on stewardship of the constituency, she was struck by the warmth of the neighbourhood. "It's a mature

community," she said. "There is this sense of *kampung* spirit, especially among the older generation who have lived here for over 30 years. People here care about one another."

"There are many unsung heroes in the neighbourhood who quietly make a difference: stallholders who buy drinks for cleaners, and neighbours who look out for and collect things for each other," she shared. "I've seen hawkers waive payment from elderly residents, and even witnessed a grassroots leader who personally cared for an unwell elderly neighbour. They don't make a big deal out of it. They just do it."

This neighbourly spirit resonated with Mdm Rahayu, reflecting her own upbringing. Raised in a working-class



A thoughtful Shamah Terrace resident hosted neighbours to a Chinese New Year celebration, featuring a lion dance performance and festive refreshments.

family, she saw her parents, particularly her mother, quietly doing things to uplift those around them.

Her mother, who did administrative work, tutored Mdm Rahayu's friends, took a course in counselling, volunteered for food distribution programmes and even made pasta for a supermarket cashier who had never tried it before.

"The idea of giving back was just sort of embedded in me," she said. Growing up in that environment, Mdm Rahayu naturally gravitated towards volunteer work, starting at 17. Over time, this commitment evolved into a career in public service, where she could make a broader impact.

WITNESSING INJUSTICE

Many know of Mdm Rahayu's background as a respected lawyer before she became a Grassroots Adviser, but few are aware of the personal event that shaped her path.

When she was about eight, her father went missing one day.

"My grandfather was in hospital, and my father went out to buy food," she recalled. "But he never came back. We even called hospitals (to check if he had been in an accident)."

Unbeknownst to the family, he had been wrongly suspected of fraud and arrested. "He returned in handcuffs one morning with the police, who searched the house," she said.

Though later found innocent and released, the ordeal was a painful one for the family.

Even as a child, she grasped the injustice of being wronged. This led her to study law, determined to help others who were wronged and lacked a voice. Legal work and volunteerism opened her eyes to social issues, sparking a passion for public service and the opportunity to create a lasting impact.

Today, as Adviser to Bukit Batok East GROs, she continues to advocate for residents, engaging with them through house visits and community events. "It's a way to check in, understand major grievances — whether related to infrastructure or personal matters — and see if help is needed," she said.

Beyond individual concerns, she and her team have introduced several initiatives aimed at supporting the broader community. Belanja Club in Bukit Batok East is one such programme, providing meal vouchers for residents in need, discounts on household items and support schemes for milk, diapers and food packs.

She is also focused on improving infrastructure, spearheading projects such as lifts for overhead bridges, a covered walkway from Toh Guan to IMM and ongoing upgrades to the community club.

A MOTHER'S PERSPECTIVE

Her advocacy took on a deeper meaning in 2017 when she became a mother to a son with Down syndrome. The experience reshaped her outlook on work and strengthened her commitment to creating a more inclusive society.

"I do what I do now with a lot of passion. But I'm not fixated on position or title. I have (something bigger) in my life," she said.

"Beyond this title, I'm his mother, and that gives me a (greater) sense of purpose — not just as a Member of Parliament, but as a person. He has made me want to champion a better and kinder world, so that people like him (can be cared for) and live with dignity."

She is especially touched by the kindness and compassion shown by the Bukit Batok East community, not only in how they support one another but in the warmth that they extend to her family.

"Residents buy cookies for my son during house visits and remind me to take care of myself," she said.

As she works to modernise the estate and push for social progress, she hopes to strengthen the community and the bonds that connect it. "What's beautiful about this place and the people is the spirit of family," she said. "It has a soul, and I hope that doesn't change."



Handing out mandarin oranges to residents at the market to spread Chinese New Year cheer.

3 LEADERSHIP lessons

As a leader, Mdm Rahayu shares her best advice for women.

#1 STEPPING UP TO THE ROLE

"Taking over as Adviser to Bukit Batok East from (former President) Mdm Halimah Yacob, I knew I had very big shoes to fill. There was some self-doubt. But I have since learnt that leadership requires courage and the willingness to take risks. You have to make your calculations and just do it."

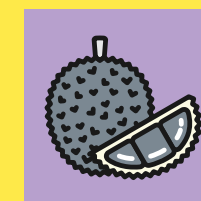
#2 BALANCING WORK AND FAMILY

"You can't have your cake and eat it. Stressing yourself out to have perfect balance at all times is daunting. Instead, size up your situation and figure out what to recalibrate — whether in work or parenting — at that point in time."

#3 LEARNING TO LEAN ON YOUR TEAM

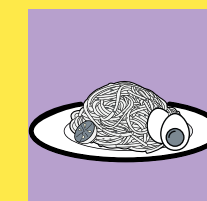
"When my son was hospitalised, many Grassroots Leaders stepped up to support my work. It's all about having a good team."

TOP FOOD INDULGENCES



→ MUST-TRY DURIANS

"The Durian Tree at Blk 277 Bukit Batok East. They have the best durian in Singapore. I like *Mao Shan Wang*, *Black Gold* and *Red Prawn*."



→ GO-TO FOOD STALL

"I love the *mee siam* from Hello Western at Blk 279 Bukit Batok East. I schedule meetings there just so I have an excuse to eat it and meet residents."



→ SIGNATURE HOME RECIPE

"One fancy dish I cook for my family is a simplified Salmon Wellington — salmon with ricotta cheese and spinach, wrapped in ready-made *prata*. It is a foolproof recipe that never fails to impress!"

MEWUJUDKAN KEPRIHATINAN DALAM KEJIRANAN

Puan Rahayu Mahzam, Menteri Negara, Kementerian Penerangan dan Pembangunan Digital & Kementerian Kesihatan, dan Penasihat kepada Pertubuhan Akar Umbi GRC Jurong (Bukit Batok East), berkongsi pengalaman peribadi yang telah mendorong komitmennya untuk membina masyarakat.

CIK RAHAYU MAHZAM TIBA DI HARMONY PAVILION DI BUKIT BATOK EAST AVE 4 DAN BERGERAK DENGAN SELESA MELALUI BAZAR PERAYAAN YANG SIBUK, MENUJU TERUS KE GERAI DURIAN KEGEMARANNYA. Sambil berjalan di tengah orang ramai, beliau menyapa penduduk dan berbual-bual secara bersahaja dengan penjual durian.

Hubungan ini telah dibina selama sedekad. Sejak pelantikannya sebagai Penasihat kepada bekas Pertubuhan Akar Umbi GRC Jurong (Bukit Batok East) pada tahun 2015, kehadiran beliau telah menjadi tanggung dalam masyarakat.

Beliau berdiri teguh di samping para penduduk sepanjang tempoh dunia dilanda pandemik, meskipun beliau sendiri menghadapi cabaran peribadi, termasuk keguguran, membesarkan anak berkeperluan khas dan penyakit anaknya yang kritikal.

Pada tahun 2020, anaknya mengalami jangkitan otak yang teruk, menjalani pembedahan sebanyak empat kali dan dimasukkan ke hospital selama dua bulan. Sepanjang tempoh tersebut, beliau berada di sisinya, mengimbangi antara tanggungjawab penjagaan dan komitmen kerja. Mesyuarat Zoom dan sesi dialog beliau diteruskan dari hospital, dengan berlatarbelakangkan bunyi peralatan perubatan.

Apakah yang membuat beliau terus berjuang melalui masa-masa sukar ini? "Saya telah jatuh cinta dengan para penduduk di sini," ujarnya ringkas.

MEMBESAR DALAM KELUARGA YANG GEMAR MENYUMBANG

Apabila Cik Rahayu, 45 tahun, mula-mula mengambil alih kawasan undi ini, beliau terpesona dengan kemesraan di kejiranan ini. "Ia adalah sebuah masyarakat yang matang," katanya. "Terasa semangat kampung, terutamanya di kalangan generasi tua yang telah tinggal di sini selama lebih 30 tahun. Penduduk di sini mengambil berat antara satu sama lain."

"Ramai wira yang tidak didendang di kejiranan ini, yang telah menyumbang secara senyap: pegerai yang membeli minuman untuk pekerja pembersihan, dan jiran-jiran yang menjaga dan mengambilkan barang untuk satu sama lain," kongsi. "Saya pernah melihat penjaja mengucualikan bayaran daripada penduduk warga emas, malah saya turut menyaksikan seorang pemimpin akar umbi yang secara peribadi menjaga seorang jiran warga emas yang tidak sihat. Mereka tidak heboh. Mereka lakukan sahaja."

Semangat kejiranan ini membuat Cik Rahayu merasa sangat berbesar hati,

kerana ia mencerminkan bagaimana dirinya sendiri membesar. Dibesarkan dalam keluarga kelas pekerja, beliau melihat ibu bapanya, terutamanya ibunya, membantu orang di sekeliling mereka secara senyap.

Ibunya yang bekerja sebagai pegawai pentadbiran, mengajar tuisyen kepada rakan-rakan Cik Rahayu, mengambil kursus kaunseling, menawarkan diri sebagai sukarelawan untuk program-program pengagihan makanan dan juga membuat pasta untuk seorang juruwang pasar raya yang tidak pernah mencubanya sebelum ini.

"Semangat untuk menyumbang semula seperti sudah tertanam dalam diri saya," katanya. Membesar dalam persekitaran sedemikian, secara semula jadi Cik Rahayu tertarik dengan kerja sukarela sejak usia 17 tahun. Lama kelamaan, komitmen ini berkembang menjadi kerjaya dalam perkhidmatan awam, di mana beliau boleh memberi impak yang lebih luas.

MENYAKSIKAN KETIDAKADILAN

Ramai yang mengetahui latar belakang Cik Rahayu sebagai seorang peguam yang dihormati sebelum beliau menyertai politik, tetapi tidak ramai tahu peristiwa peribadi yang telah membentuk perjalanannya.



Apabila beliau berumur kira-kira lapan tahun, bapanya hilang pada suatu hari.

"Datuk saya di hospital, dan ayah saya keluar untuk membeli makanan," katanya. "Tetapi dia tidak pulang. Kami malah menghubungi hospital (untuk memeriksa sekiranya dia telah mengalami kemalangan)."

Tanpa disedari keluarganya, bapanya telah disyaki melakukan penipuan dan ditangkap. "Dia kembali dalam keadaan digari pada suatu pagi bersama polis, yang menggeledah rumah kami," katanya.

Walaupun kemudiannya didapati tidak bersalah dan dibebaskan, pengalaman pahit itu amat menyakitkan keluarga mereka.

Meskipun sebagai seorang kanak-kanak, beliau memahami ketidakadilan apabila dituduh secara silap. Ini membuatnya mengambil pengajian undang-undang, dan bertekad untuk membantu orang yang teraniaya dan tiada saluran untuk bersuara. Kerja guaman dan kesukarelawan membuka matanya kepada isu-isu sosial, mencetuskan semangat untuk perkhidmatan awam dan peluang untuk mencipta impak yang berkekalan.

Hari ini, sebagai Penasihat kepada GRO Bukit Batok East, beliau terus menyokong para penduduk, mendekati mereka melalui lawatan ke rumah dan acara masyarakat. "Ia adalah satu cara untuk mengambil berat, memahami rungutan utama mereka – sama ada berkaitan infrastruktur atau hal peribadi – dan melihat jika bantuan diperlukan," katanya.

Selain keprihatinan individu, beliau berserta pasukannya telah

memperkenalkan beberapa inisiatif yang bertujuan untuk menyokong masyarakat yang lebih luas. Kelab Belanja di Bukit Batok East merupakan salah satu program sedemikian, dengan menyediakan baucar makanan untuk penduduk yang memerlukan, diskaun untuk barangan isi rumah dan skim bantuan untuk susu, lampin dan pek makanan.

Beliau juga fokus untuk menambahbaik infrastruktur, menerajui projek seperti lif untuk jambatan, laluan berbumbung dari Toh Guan ke IMM dan peningkatan yang berterusan kepada kelab masyarakat.

PERSPEKTIF SEORANG IBU

Sokongan beliau membawa makna yang lebih mendalam pada tahun 2017 apabila beliau menjadi ibu kepada seorang anak lelaki dengan sindrom Down. Pengalaman tersebut membentuk semula pandangan beliau tentang kerja dan mengukuhkan komitmennya untuk mewujudkan masyarakat yang lebih inklusif.

"Saya melakukan apa yang saya lakukan sekarang dengan penuh semangat. Tetapi saya tidak hirau tentang jawatan mahupun gelaran. Saya mempunyai (sesuatu yang lebih besar) dalam hidup saya," katanya.

"Di samping gelaran ini, saya adalah ibunya, dan itu memberikan saya tujuan hidup yang lebih besar – bukan hanya sebagai seorang Anggota Parlimen, tetapi sebagai seorang individu. Dia membuat saya ingin memperjuangkan dunia yang lebih baik serta baik hati,

3 PENGAJARAN *kepimpinan*

Sebagai seorang pemimpin, Cik Rahayu berkongsi nasihat terbaiknya untuk wanita.

#1 MENGGALAS PERANAN

"Mengambil alih sebagai Penasihat kepada Bukit Batok East daripada (bekas Presiden) Puan Halimah Jacob, saya tahu saya mempunyai tanggungjawab yang amat besar untuk digalas. Saya merasa sedikit keraguan pada diri sendiri. Tetapi sejak itu saya belajar bahawa kepimpinan memerlukan keberanian dan kesanggupan untuk mengambil risiko. Anda perlu membuat pengiraan dan lakukan sahaja."

#2 MENGIMBANGI ANTARA KERJA DAN KELUARGA

"Anda tidak boleh mendapatkan kesemuanya. Mencari keseimbangan yang sempurna pada setiap masa sehingga membuat diri sendiri tertekan adalah menakutkan. Sebaliknya, pertimbangkan situasi anda dan fikirkan apa yang perlu diberi keutamaan – sama ada kerja atau keibubapaan – pada ketika itu."

#3 BELAJAR BERSANDAR PADA PASUKAN ANDA

"Apabila anak saya dimasukkan ke hospital, ramai pemimpin akar umbi ke hadapan untuk membantu kerja saya. Ia adalah tentang mempunyai pasukan yang baik."

supaya orang sepertinya (boleh dijaga) dan hidup dengan harga diri."

Beliau amat terharu dengan kebaikan dan belas kasihan yang ditunjukkan oleh masyarakat Bukit Batok East, bukan sahaja bagaimana mereka menyokong satu sama lain tetapi juga kemesraan yang mereka huluskan kepada keluarganya.

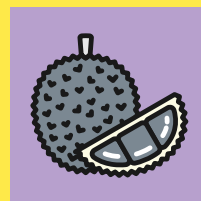
"Penduduk membeli biskut untuk anak saya semasa lawatan ke rumah dan mengingatkan saya agar menjaga diri," katanya.

Sambil beliau berusaha memodenkan estet dan memperjuangkan kemajuan sosial, beliau berharap agar dapat mengukuhkan masyarakat dan jalinan ikatan yang menghubungkannya. "Apa yang indah tentang tempat ini dan penduduknya adalah semangat kekeluargaan," katanya. "Ia mempunyai jiwa, dan saya harap ia tidak berubah."



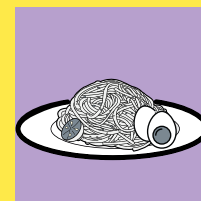
Residents and their feathered friends at the Pets Fiesta in Bukit Batok East, organised by Jade Valley Neighbourhood Committee and Hope For Animals.

MAKANAN PALING DISUKAI



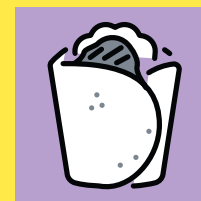
→ DURIAN YANG WAJIB DICUBA

"The Durian Tree di Blok 277 Bukit Batok East. Ia menjual durian yang terbaik di Singapura. Saya suka Mao Shan Wang, Black Gold dan Red Prawn."



→ GERAI MAKANAN KEGEMARAN

"Saya suka mee siam dari Hello Western di Blok 279 Bukit Batok East. Saya menjadualkan mesyuarat di sana supaya saya ada alasan untuk menikmatinya dan bertemu penduduk."



→ RESEPI PILIHAN DI RUMAH

"Satu hidangan menarik yang saya pernah masak untuk keluarga saya ialah Salmon Wellington mudah – salmon dengan keju ricotta dan bayam, dibalut dengan prata yang siap dimakan. Ia adalah resipi kegemaran yang tidak pernah gagal membuat keluarga saya teruja!"



Mdm Rahayu joined residents at harvest festival, Pongal Innisai Maalai, for an evening of music and cultural celebrations.



Mr Desmond Lee, Minister for Education and Minister-in-charge of Social Service Integration, and Mayor Low Yen Ling announced the partnership between South West CDC and 14 SSG-supported training partners, to provide meaningful learning opportunities and better support learners in their upskilling and career development journey.

GAINING SKILLS, BUILDING CONFIDENCE

From food safety and first aid to digital skills, SkillsFuture Festival @ South West gave residents practical ways to take their next step in work and life.

MDM ANNIE NG, 57, UNDERSTANDS THE IMPORTANCE OF FIRST AID. A former nurse who left the workforce due to a spinal injury, she froze when her husband had a heart attack. "I didn't know what to do except to call the ambulance," she said.

Now hoping to return to eldercare, she is keen to pick up the skills she once had. "I want to help others in emergencies," she said, adding that she had previously taken SkillsFuture courses on fall prevention and techniques to feed the elderly.

Mdm Ng was one of thousands of residents who attended the SkillsFuture Festival @ South West from 16 to 19 July 2025 at the Devan Nair Institute



SkillsFuture Festival @ South West spotlighted three key growth sectors: Digital, Care and Green.



Minister Lee and Mayor Low with representatives of the 14 SSG-supported training partners.

for Employment and Employability. Organised by the South West Community Development Council (CDC), the festival brought together various partners including goodjobs.com.sg, The Social Equity, e2i, Lifelong Learning Singapore and SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG). Running alongside the South West Community Job Fair – which offered over 50,000 job opportunities through its physical fair and online portal – 14 training partners at the festival also provided a comprehensive suite of activities under one roof, including hands-on workshops, industry insights and personalised career advisory.

PERSONALISED CAREER ADVICE

With the theme "Explore, Experience and Empower", this year's festival placed greater focus on post-training guidance.



Skills and Training Ambassadors sharing their approach to building residents' confidence in their learning and career journeys after course completion.

Residents had the chance to speak directly with Skills and Training Ambassadors and career coaches to chart their next steps.

Minister for Education and Minister-in-charge of Social Services Integration, Mr Desmond Lee, who attended the event as the Guest-of-Honour on 18 July, said Singapore must now deepen its investment in people. "In the next decade, we must go broader, we must go deeper and we must go higher with our SkillsFuture efforts, so that we invest more intensively in our people, and ensure that we can remain competitive," he said.

Acknowledging the rapid rise of artificial intelligence (AI) and climate change, Mr Lee added: "With the advent of AI, we are concerned about the shape of our future. So, SkillsFuture is more important now than ever before." He also encouraged individuals to take ownership of their training and career paths, with new tools such as the SkillsFuture Level-Up Programme and the Careers & Skills Passport, which support mid-career transitions.

At the festival, Mayor of South West District, Ms Low Yen Ling, announced a new partnership between South West CDC and 14 SSG-supported training partners. About 3,000 residents are expected to benefit from workshops, industry talks, workplace learning journeys and personalised career advisory sessions. "These sessions will offer targeted insights into the growth sectors and help individuals identify their strengths, explore career options and make informed decisions about their future," she said.

FOCUS ON HIGH-GROWTH SECTORS

This year's festival spotlighted three key growth sectors: Digital, Care and Green. Each sector offers promising career paths for residents to explore.

At the Digital booths, residents discovered how AI tools could support content creation. Mr Muhammed Iqbal, Director of AAT Training, which offers courses in AI, data analytics and cybersecurity, said: "Some skills may not seem immediately relevant, but they often come in handy later. Every course is a chance to pick up both tangible and intangible skills."

The Care economy also drew strong interest. At the booth run by first aid training centre Rolling Pineapple, a smart manikin

offered real-time CPR feedback. "We teach essential life-saving skills such as treating burns, fractures and resuscitating someone who is unconscious or choking," said Managing Director, Mr Nicholas Choy. The centre's courses are designed for professionals in fields such as early childhood, security, healthcare and fitness, who are required to refresh their certification every two years.

In the Green sector, residents spoke with trainers from SKILLMASTER about food safety and hygiene. "Our Level 1 course helps home-based businesses get certified by the National Environment Agency, while Levels 2 and 3 focus on internal audit prep and food storage safety," explained its Director, Ms Susan Lim. "The basic course is also a good starting point for those switching to F&B careers."

Employers at the community job fair were also actively engaging with residents. Ms Crystal Ng from TDCX, a global customer experience solutions provider, said: "We're hiring for roles like customer service team leaders and account specialists. Our in-house training helps employees progress from entry level positions to management roles and gain transferrable skills." Her colleague, Senior Director of Talent Acquisition, Ms Lynne Sit, recalled meeting a candidate with experience in both data science and training. "He came with an open mind and had the potential to fit into several of our roles," she said.

At the St Luke's Hospital booth, Talent Acquisition Lead, Ms Amanda Shen, was looking for those with a heart for eldercare.



The South West Community Job Fair ran alongside the SkillsFuture Festival @ South West, offering over 50,000 job opportunities through its physical fair and online portal.

"We're hiring physiotherapists, music therapists and more," she said. "As our hospital is in Bukit Batok, job fairs like this let us connect with residents in the West."

She also shared about a 70-year-old caregiver who had approached her and was encouraged to consider early childhood roles that might suit her nurturing nature.

RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF CHANGE

Some residents came with stories of reinvention. Mdm Jackie Yong, 70, used to work in finance but was retrenched during the COVID-19 pandemic. She later retrained as a security officer through SkillsFuture. "I want to keep working to stay mentally active," she said. While open to both security and administrative roles, she said that she often face age bias when applying for office-based jobs.

Ms Mira Akdar Hussien, 47, was previously a data analyst and is now trying to move into compliance. After a year of unemployment following a company restructure, she recently completed a compliance course. "I passed the final rounds of interviews at two banks but didn't hear back," she shared. "I'm here to get career advice on how to better position my new certification."

SkillsFuture Festival @ South West 2025 demonstrated that learning goes beyond acquiring new skills. It is also about gaining clarity, confidence and support. With real-world exposure and tailored guidance, the festival helped residents take practical steps toward fresh opportunities, no matter their age or background. **B**

SKILLSFUTURE FESTIVAL @ SOUTH WEST AT A glance



► Since 2022, South West CDC has reached close to **15,000** participants.



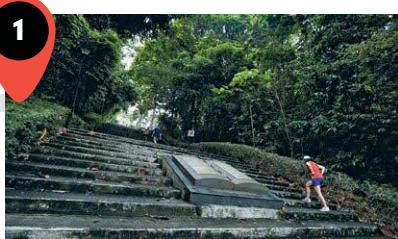
► In 2024, the CDC's SkillsFuture Advice team conducted almost **150** sector-based workshops, reaching about **8,900** participants across the district.

CELEBRATING SG60 IN THE SOUTH WEST DISTRICT

From hawker centres to heritage parks, these six well-loved spots show how far we have come, and why they feel like home.

SG60 IS MORE THAN A MILESTONE — it celebrates the stories, spaces and shared experiences that make our district home. Across the South West, the places where we live, work and play show how history, community and belonging come together. As we reflect on how far we have come, these six treasured spots remind us that home is not just where we live, but where we belong.

SOUTH WEST DISTRICT



For nature, history and reflection

Bukit Batok Nature Park offers a quiet escape for walkers, birdwatchers and anyone seeking green spaces away from the city. The park was also the site of Syonan Chureito, a Japanese World War II memorial. A plaque marks the spot today, as a reminder of our shared past.

Did You Know? The park was created on a disused quarry, and is now home to a reflecting pool, greenery and wildlife.

Open to public access at all times
Nearest MRT station: Bukit Batok



Where fitness meets friendship

Jurong West Sport Centre is popular for its swimming pool, gym and post-workout eateries. It is a place where neighbours come together, building friendships over shared wellness goals and a love for good food.

Did You Know? Jurong West Swimming Complex was the first in Singapore to feature a sheltered Olympic-sized pool.

Open daily, 7am to 10pm
Nearest MRT station: Pioneer



Sharing community simmers and stories

Food hubs like the one at Clementi 448 and Ayer Rajah are the heartbeat of South West. Friendships form over kopi, while generations gather to eat, shop and connect.

Did You Know? After independence, street hawkers were moved into purpose-built markets and hawker centres to raise hygiene and public health standards.

Ayer Rajah Food Centre and Wet Market: Open daily, 6am to 1pm | Nearest MRT station: Clementi
Clementi 448 Market and Food Centre: Open daily, 7am to 9pm | Nearest MRT station: Clementi



From prawn farms to paddle power

Once home to prawn farms in the 1960s, Pandan Reservoir Park is now a green escape for joggers, cyclists and nature lovers. Its calm waters host kayaking, rowing and sport fishing, with mangroves at Sungei Pandan adding to the serenity.

Did You Know? Completed in 1974, Pandan Reservoir is Singapore's largest service reservoir, supplying water to Jurong Industrial Estate and factories.

Open to public access at all times
Nearest MRT station: Jurong East



Our national story, reimagined

The Singapore Discovery Centre tells the Singapore Story through immersive exhibitions and digital experiences. First built to showcase the history of the Singapore Armed Forces, it now adds laser tag and escape rooms — additions that reflect innovation and transformation.

Did You Know? In 2020, it set a record for the longest sheltered walkway with solar panels.

Open Mon to Fri, 12pm to 6pm; Sat, Sun and PH, 11am to 7pm
Nearest MRT station: Joo Koon



A community's story in colour

An art installation by local artist Quek Jia Qi at Bukit Gombak MRT Station Viaduct turns a walkway into a cultural canvas. Supported by the Public Art Trust, it features artefacts from residents and the Hillview Heritage Gallery, photographed and wrapped around the pillars — a nod to neighbourhood pride and memory.

Did You Know? QR codes displayed with the installations link to a digital archive with more on the artworks.

Open to public access at all times
Nearest MRT station: Bukit Gombak



Students from ITE College West with the abbot and organisers at the Experiential Learning Journey to Uttamayanmuni Buddhist Temple.



The students learnt more about the guiding values in Buddhism during the learning journey.

A GUIDED PATH TO UNDERSTANDING

At a Buddhist temple in Chua Chu Kang, students stepped out of their comfort zones and into meaningful conversations about faith and respect.

SOME 45 STUDENTS FROM ITE COLLEGE WEST VISITED Uttamayanmuni Buddhist Temple in Chua Chu Kang for a special school trip.

Organised by OnePeople.sg and South West Community Development Council (CDC), the Experiential Learning Journey on 24 March invited them to experience Buddhism up close — not through textbooks, but by walking through the temple, open dialogue with a monk and seeing religious art with their own eyes.

"I was nervous at first because I was afraid I might accidentally offend someone or do something wrong," said Nur Elisha Binte Abdul Gaffour, 18. "But when we arrived, we were greeted with warm smiles and a welcoming atmosphere. That helped me relax."

The learning journey is part of a wider effort to help youths deepen their understanding of religious and cultural traditions. During the visit, the abbot introduced three guiding values in Buddhism — avoiding harm, doing good and purifying the mind — offering the students a deeper

understanding of Buddhist principles.

The students also saw how art brings religious stories to life. The temple's murals, created by Professor Irving Johnson over nearly a decade, depict scenes from the Buddha's life in intricate detail and gold.

"What I found most interesting was how much time and effort Prof Irving has invested in his artwork," said Elisha. "Each wall tells a different story, which makes the artwork not just beautiful, but also meaningful."

Charmaine Yeo, 17, was struck by how Buddhist teachings relate to personal choices too. "My actions can affect both the people around me and myself," she said. "I wouldn't want my actions to impact another person or myself in a harmful way."

A SHARED SPACE FOR HONEST DIALOGUE

The session followed OnePeople.sg's 3Ps framework — People, Place and Perspectives — which encourages students to meet faith representatives,

visit sacred spaces and reflect on how different beliefs shape Singapore's social fabric.

"These conversations provide a safe space for deeper engagement where participants get to ask difficult questions and clarify misconceptions," said Ms Andrea Tan, Programme Coordinator at OnePeople.sg.

For many students, the visit was eye-opening. "It helped me understand that even though people may believe in different things, we all share common values like respect, kindness and community," said Elisha.

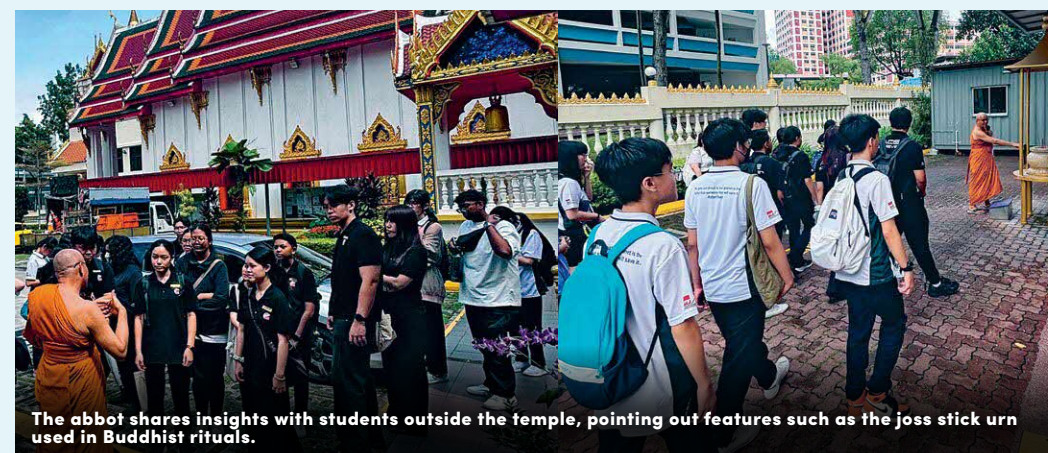
Selvakumar Ilakkiya, 18, shared a similar takeaway. "Visiting places like temples helps us learn values like respect, empathy and tolerance," he said, "which are important for building a more united community."

Since its inception, the Experiential Learning Journey has brought students to eight different places of worship across Singapore.

As part of SG60, OnePeople.sg and South West CDC hope to reach more schools and spark conversations that build intercultural and interreligious understanding across communities. **B**

INSIDE THE experiential LEARNING JOURNEYS

- In conjunction with SG60**, the journeys help youths explore how intercultural understanding supports peace, stability and progress in Singapore.
- Around 300 students** have taken part.
- 8 places of worship** visited so far, including:
 - All Saints' Church
 - Church of St Mary of the Angels
 - Lorong Koo Chye Sheng Hong Temple
 - Maarof Mosque, Baha'i Centre
 - Masjid Ar-Raudhah
 - San Qing Gong Temple
 - Silat Road Sikh Temple
 - Uttamayanmuni Buddhist Temple



The abbot shares insights with students outside the temple, pointing out features such as the joss stick urn used in Buddhist rituals.

Baby Blisscard



Who can Apply?

Newborns must fulfil ALL of the following:

- a) Reside in South West District;
- b) Have at least one (1) parent who is a Singapore Citizen; and
- c) Be under two (2) years old upon application.

To find out whether you are a resident of South West District, go to: www.gowhere.gov.sg/cdc

How to Apply?

STEP 1 Fill in the Baby Blisscard @ South West application form at <https://go.gov.sg/babyblisscard>.

STEP 2 Attach a soft copy of:

- a) Birth certificate of newborn;
- b) Identity card (both sides) of at least one (1) parent who is a Singapore Citizen and a resident of South West District; and
- c) Photo of newborn.

STEP 3 Submit the form.

How will the Baby Blisscard be presented?

Successful applicants will be notified to collect their Baby Blisscards.

Welcome Gift for Newborns!

Receive a limited edition EZ-Link card with a complimentary stored value of \$20

For more details, please contact us at:
Tel: 6316 1616
or email: southwest_cdc@pa.gov.sg

Beware of scammers pretending to be government officials

Government officials will **NEVER** do these things over a phone call:

- Ask you to transfer money
- Ask you to disclose bank log-in details
- Ask you to install mobile apps from unofficial app stores
- Transfer your call to the police

Not sure if you're dealing with a scam?
Call the ScamShield Helpline (1799) for assistance.

Brought to you by

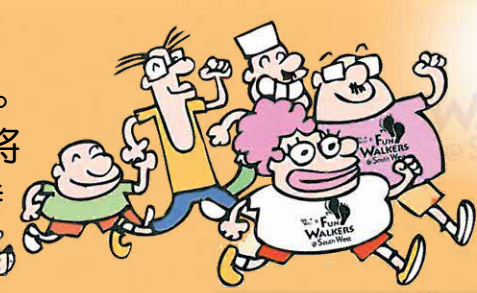
MDDI MINISTRY OF DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT AND INFORMATION

Fun Walkers @ South West

Fun Walkers @ South West is part of the CDC's efforts to foster community bonding and build a healthier South West District.

Fun Walkers @ South West is designed for everyone to participate as a group or individual. You can look forward to regular walking sessions in the community, embark on unique nature trails with your family and friends, and take part in community events.

西南乐乐走是西南社理会通过步行以提倡社区凝聚力及健康社区的活动之一。西南乐乐走是为男女老少而设计的。您将在社区里参加乐乐走活动，并参与独特的步行活动及社理会活动。



If you are keen to join **Fun Walkers @ South West**, please approach your nearest Community Centre/ Club (CC) or Residents' Committee (RC) Centre. Should you have any queries, please contact:

欲知详情，请联络：

South West Community Development Council
西南社区发展理事会

Tel: 6316 1616 Fax: 6316 7250
Email: Southwest_CDC@pa.gov.sg
Website: <https://southwest.cdc.gov.sg/>

SOUTH WEST CAREGIVER SUPPORT FUND

One-time assistance: \$800 to help caregivers with self-care and caregiving expenses



Eligibility criteria:

- Resident of South West District
- Applicant or immediate family member must be Singaporean
- Per Capita Household Income ≤ \$1,500
- Caregiver and Care Recipient must live together
- Care Recipient needs help with min. 3 Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) (washing, feeding, dressing, toileting, mobility) OR has certified permanent disability:
 - Physical
 - Visual
 - Hearing
 - Intellectual
 - Autism
 - Others

How to Apply:

Visit nearest Community Club/Centre

Complete South West Caregiver Support Fund Referral Form with supporting documents

Applications accepted year-round

Documents required:

- Caregiver's NRIC
- Care Recipient's NRIC/Birth Certificate
- Income proof (either ONE):
 - Blue CHAS card
 - Valid MSF ComCare letter
 - Latest 12-months CPF Transaction History for all family members
- Medical documents (either ONE):
 - Proof of needing help with min. 3 ADLs
 - Proof of permanent disability

Contact Us:

✉ South_West_Assistance@pa.gov.sg <https://southwest.cdc.gov.sg/>

Knowing my district

TAKE THIS QUIZ AND STAND A CHANCE TO BRING HOME A LIMITED EDITION SG60 SOUTH WEST CDC TEDDY BEAR

Circle the correct answer.

- What is the objective of the Value Meals @ South West initiative launched in March 2025?**
 - To introduce new gourmet dishes at hawker centres
 - To provide residents with quality, accessible and affordable meal options
 - To support cooking classes for senior citizens
- What is the theme of the SkillsFuture Festival @ South West 2025?**
 - Explore, Experience and Empower
 - Discover the New Future
 - Empowering the Future
- Where was the South West Community Job Fair held from 16 to 19 July 2025?**
 - ITE Jurong West
 - Devan Nair Institute for Employment and Employability
 - Westgate
- Why did students, community partners and government agencies come together at the South West Community Inno Lab Networking Session?**
 - To try out new digital tools for urban planning
 - To celebrate a completed housing project
 - To discuss and co-create solutions for real-world community challenges
- Which of these instruments were played by the performers during the launch of the enhanced ArtsEverywhere @ CDC programme in April 2025?**
 - Electric guitar, bagpipes and steel drums
 - Tabla, oud and *guzheng*
 - Violin, harmonica and ukulele

Complete the quiz and photo puzzle,
take a picture of the page and upload to:
<https://go.gov.sg/swcdcbridge>



Or

Send your entries to us at: **South West CDC,**
Jurong Town Hall Road, #26-06, Singapore 609434.

**If your entry is selected,
you will win a limited edition
SG60 South West CDC teddy bear**



DEADLINE: 31 December 2025

Name: _____

Age: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____

PHOTO PUZZLE

Can you guess which event these photos are from?

(Hint: Flip through the pages of this issue to find out!)



Answer: _____