

Opening Address

by Founder of Singapore Arts Street, Juan Wong (Ms)

Singapore Arts Street 2008 @ North East

22 June 2008, 2:00 pm

Mrs Lim Hwee Hua

Senior Minister of State for Finance and Transport and Member of Parliament for Aljunied GRC

Mr Lee Suan Hiang

Chief Executive Officer of National Arts Council

North East Community Development Council Members

Grassroots Leaders

Distinguished Guests, Ladies & Gentlemen

Good morning

The word "Art" is such a simple word. Just three letters. It is easy to spell and easy to remember. Yet, sometimes people see it as a complicated thing that only some can enjoy and only some can understand. At Singapore Arts Street, we don't believe this to be true. We strongly believe that Art is for everyone.

For this reason, we have strived to keep the event free for all year after year – free space for the artists, and free entry for our guests. We have tried to create an environment where the artists can be unguarded, and the viewers, unrestricted. Today, we have over 100 participating artists and we hope to attract more than last year's 18,000 visitors. It has been a long hard journey.

We are fortunate to have found many like-minded individuals and organizations to accompany us on this journey. I would like to, therefore, thank Mrs Lim Hwee Hua, Senior Minister of State for Finance and Transport and MP for Aljunied GRC, for gracing today's launch. A big thank you also to Northeast CDC, our co-organiser, for their support. We would also like to thank the National Arts Council for guiding us to realize our goal of bringing the Arts to the people. Most importantly, I would like to thank all the artists gathered here today for the faith that you have in us. Your passion has been inspiring and we hope that you'll be with us for as long as Art is loved.

All of you believed in us. Without you, all this would not be possible. We have worked hard to make the third Singapore Arts Street a great event, so, please, enjoy the Art that surrounds us today.

Thank you very much.