

MEDIA RELEASE

DISCOVER TANJONG PAGAR LAUNCHES FIRST INCLUSIVE ECO-PLAYGROUND BY A PILOT BID

Co-creation of the community eco-playground made of upcycled wood was achieved through collaboration across multiple sectors

Singapore, 26 March 2022 – Today marks the official opening of Discover Tanjong Pagar (DTP) eco-playground, Singapore’s first inclusive eco-playground designed and built by a business-led body formed through URA’s pilot Business Improvement District (BID) Programme. The playground is made of upcycled wood from felled old trees. Located at the DTP Community Green – a 17,760 sqft (1,650 sqm) flexible outdoor space bounded by Tras Link, Wallich Street and Peck Seah Street (between Sofitel Singapore City Centre at Guoco Tower and Orchid Hotel), it is designed in collaboration and feedback from critical end-users from Tanjong Pagar such as children, early education practitioners and educators, parents, grandparents and technical specialists.

Launched by Ms Indranee Rajah, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Finance and Second Minister for National Development, Adviser to Tanjong Pagar GRC Grassroots Organisations (Tanjong Pagar-Tiong Bahru) and the DTP team led by Mr Kenneth Li (李本俊), Chairman of Discover Tanjong Pagar, the eco-playground was a result of months of meaningful collaboration and partnership across the private and government sectors as well as the Tanjong Pagar community.

Ms Indranee said, “It is heartening to see how this pilot BID is shaping the Tanjong Pagar precinct into a more connected, vibrant, and sustainable one. The area, which already has a strong ‘live-work-play’ characteristic, is further augmented through placemaking. Despite the pandemic, it has gradually transformed the precinct into a compelling locale that excites people. It sets the stage to create a rich and endearing place and space we can call our own. Today’s eco-playground is one good example.

I welcome the continuous efforts to foster a stronger appreciation and understanding of this precinct, enliven the neighbourhood and create a distinctive district that provides varied experiences. I look forward to Discover Tanjong Pagar’s future plans for placemaking programming and activities for the public.”

Mr Kenneth Li, who is also the Managing Director of Carlton City Hotel (Singapore) (新加坡卡尔登城市酒店董事总经理), said, “Drawing from the diverse demographics and unique elements of this precinct, we strive to build an enhanced live, work and play experience. We envision a Tanjong Pagar with public spaces that serve to strengthen the social and economic networks of the community, seamlessly bringing people and businesses together. In creating an inclusive community, we focused

on the family and how families can come together to watch their next generation develop and grow through exploration. It is this focus on child development that evolved into the playground that we see today. Through our collective vision and placemaking efforts, we hope to forge a deeper sense of ownership for the Tanjong Pagar community as we foster a stronger appreciation and understanding of this amazing precinct.”

Promoting multi-generational learning, imagination and interaction

As part of this innovative collaboration, the pre-school children of Mulberry Learning @ Tanjong Pagar Plaza first shared ideas of their dream playground through classroom drawings. Interviews and surveys with visitors, residents living in the area and people working in the precinct were also conducted before the community decided through a vote, on the final product, which is designed and built by [Roger&Sons](#), a family-run woodworking design studio that crafts bespoke furniture and objects.

With approval and support from the various authorities, the eco-playground has taken shape with its interactive and experiential concept. The structures in the playground are made of upcycled wood from felled old trees. By giving a new lease of life to these trees and promoting zero-waste, this initiative allows the public to learn more about environmental sustainability.

Designed for children with different capabilities, the playground is equipped with a series of logs of differentiated heights or “stepping-stones” on embedded numbered log pieces in the ground to improve their balance and dexterity. To fuel the educational element, a set-up of wooden frames was conceptualised to incorporate sensory and creative expressions. This was actualised through the installation of xylophone made up of recycled PVC pipes for a musical touch, engraved square wood pieces with sign language. Other experiential and learning activities include the two Dynamo Bikes for both adult and children to learn about the conversion of energy generated by pedalling to light up the fairy lights decorating the bikes.

Structures are interspersed within the community green, allowing pockets of green spaces for a multi-generation of visitors, residents, working community and pets to run, play or unwind. The eco-playground has attracted many children as young as toddlers, and families to the area. At night, the area becomes a casual meeting spot for youths and couples. Since its installation, benches have been added to the area to increase seating, and handlebars have been installed onto benches and hexagon seats to enhance accessibility, especially for the elderly.

An artwork by [Kelly Ser](#), a Singaporean artist who used to work in Tanjong Pagar, was also installed at the eco-playground. A part of her "One Degree North" collection - inspired by iconic landmarks and locations around Singapore - the colours in this artwork represent the eight stakeholders coming together to enliven Tanjong Pagar, and the power of collective action to effect and deliver change to their precinct.

For the community, by the community

DTP seeks to actively shape and activate places and spaces close to people's hearts to deepen their connection to the locale and each other. In addition to the play area, DTP has also gathered feedback from property owners, business operators, residents and community groups, and worked together with the authorities to enhance the precinct's pedestrian connections and walkability. For instance, new signalised and raised crossings were added along Tanjong Pagar Road and Tras Street. DTP has also pledged to plant 100 trees in Tanjong Pagar from 2020 to 2025 to make this a more liveable and greener district. So far 40 trees have been planted.

According to the Visitor Satisfaction Survey conducted by DTP in end 2021 with over 300 respondents made up of visitors, residents and those working in the area, 77% agreed that the initiatives by DTP has made the precinct more vibrant and 94% liked the activities and events curated. Mr Li added, "Results from the survey are very encouraging, validating the continuous efforts stemmed from the partnership with our stakeholders, the community and government agencies. From the inception of DTP in 2019, and witnessing it taking root and evolving, this has only spurred us on to grow a stronger ecosystem of partnerships and networks to further the transformation of Tanjong Pagar."

Discover Tanjong Pagar is a collaborative partnership of property and business owners that have come together with a common aim to drive the transformation of this unique precinct. It will continue to advance the next thrust of its placemaking programme centred around the greening of Tanjong Pagar, enhancements to public spaces, pedestrian networks, as well as engaging activities aimed at involving the community and enriching the social fabric of the area. We invite more stakeholders in the area to come on board, with the common driver of passion and love for the transformation of this distinctive neighbourhood.

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About Discover Tanjong Pagar (www.discovertanjongpagar.sg)

Set up in 2019, Discover Tanjong Pagar is one of ten participants of the Urban Redevelopment Authority's (URA) pilot Business Improvement District (BID) programme. Discover Tanjong Pagar is a collaborative partnership of property and business owners that have come together with a common aim to drive the transformation of this unique precinct. Working alongside the public sector and business partners, Discover Tanjong Pagar represents, promotes, and delivers a range of programmes and campaigns supporting businesses and the wider Tanjong Pagar community.

The eight stakeholders of Discover Tanjong Pagar include Carlton City Hotel Singapore by The Carlton Collection, Downtown Gallery by OUE Pte Ltd, Guoco Tower by GuocoLand Singapore, Icon Village by Far East Organization, International Plaza by Tian Teck Group, Oasia Hotel Downtown Singapore managed by Far East Hospitality, Orchid Hotel and Sofitel Singapore City Centre.

FB: @DiscoverTanjongPagarSG; IG: @discovertanjongpagar

About Discover Tanjong Pagar Community Green

Facilitated by URA and Singapore Land Authority (SLA) and supported by NParks and National Environment Agency (NEA), the 17,760 sqft (1,650 sqm) open space has been adopted by DTP since November 2019 so that its members can continue to beautify the community green as well as create opportunities to build and give back to the community that the members have come to know and care for.

In the last two years since the completion of the community green, it has been very popular with office workers, residents and shoppers in its vicinity. During the Singapore Archifest on 25 September 2020, the DTP Community Green hosted pop-up interactive art installations such as "A-Maze" which depict vibrant sketches of Tanjong Pagar by Urban Sketchers. Members of DTP and their children also decorated 30 community chairs that were added to the community green for the enjoyment of the public. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, in place of the community chairs, DTP painted 14 white "hearts", each measuring 2.5m by 2.5m, on the grass at a distance of 1.5m to 2m apart to mark out where people can sit and enjoy nature while staying safely apart. This effort, the first in Singapore, takes inspiration from New York's Domino Park and Queen Square in Bristol, UK. On National Day in 2020, stakeholders in DTP, hawkers, residents and URA also came together to form a huge human heart to pay tribute to frontliners who kept Tanjong Pagar going during the pandemic.

As part of DTP's efforts to beautify and green the area, make the place more welcoming, and help offset some carbon emissions in the environment, DTP pledged to work with other partners and stakeholders to plant a total of 100 trees in the precinct over the next five years from 2020 as a show of support to the One Million Trees movement led by NParks. To date, 16 trees were donated by DTP through the Plant-A-Tree programme by NParks' Garden City Fund, a registered charity and Institution of Public Character (IPC) and 24 trees contributed by Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA).

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ANNEX A

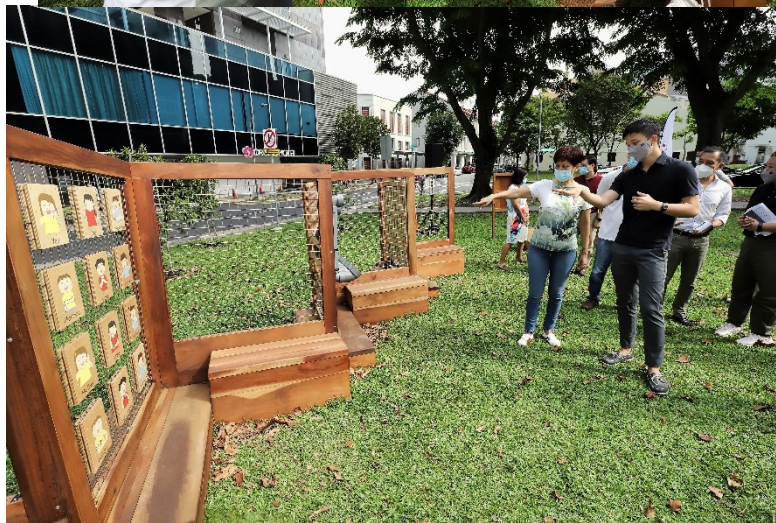
Note to Editor [Download high-res visuals here](#)



Second from right: Mr Kenneth Li (李本俊) Chairman of Discover Tanjong Pagar and Managing Director, Carlton City Hotel Singapore (新加坡卡尔登城市酒店), **(third from right) Ms Indranee Rajah**, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Finance and Second Minister for National Development, Adviser to Tanjong Pagar GRC Grassroots Organisations (Tanjong Pagar-Tiong Bahru), **(fourth from right) Mr Chai Khye Yeien (蔡凯渊)** Co-Chairman of Discover Tanjong Pagar and Area General Manager, Far East Hospitality (远东酒店集团).



View of the eco-playground at the DTP Community Green



Minister Indranee Rajah's viewing of the Creative Wall



Minister Indranee Rajah stopping by the Sensory Path