

MEDIA RELEASE

**Gardens by the Bay welcomes more beneficiaries
to visit its cooled conservatories as Singapore returns to normal**

The number of beneficiary visits is now at more than 70 per cent of pre-pandemic levels, and with the Dorscon status back to green, the Gardens aims to reach out to even more beneficiaries



Beneficiaries from Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore enjoyed a specially organised session at Avatar: The Experience in Gardens by the Bay's Cloud Forest, where they interacted with a 6m tall animatronic mountain banshee and its baby.

SINGAPORE, 24 February 2023 – Close to 22,500 beneficiaries visited Gardens by the Bay under its Gift of Gardens community outreach initiative in 2022, which is about 74 per cent of the number of beneficiary visits in 2019, before the pandemic hit in 2020. With the lowering of Dorscon status from yellow to green and daily life returning to normal, Gardens by the Bay hopes to be able to welcome back even more beneficiaries to enjoy its cooled conservatories for free under Gift of Gardens.

Gift of Gardens provides complimentary access to Flower Dome and Cloud Forest for beneficiaries of social service agencies, and Singapore residents who may not have the resources to visit or are individuals with disabilities.



To date, more than 180,000 beneficiaries have visited Gardens by the Bay under Gift of Gardens since the initiative was launched in 2012. During the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021, the average number of visits from beneficiaries per year dropped to 2,600.

Today, 33 beneficiaries from the Cerebral Palsy Alliance of Singapore (CPAS), accompanied by their caregivers, visited Cloud Forest, where they got to enjoy the ongoing Avatar: The Experience immersive exhibition. Avatar: The Experience is a collaboration between Singapore-based NEON, Disney Location-Based Experiences, and James Cameron and Jon Landau's Lightstorm Entertainment. One of the highlights of the beneficiaries' visit was the opportunity to interact with an animatronic mountain banshee and its baby at a special session organised just for them. The beneficiaries also visited Flower Dome.

One such beneficiary is Thimajit Singh, 32, who was excited to experience the alien environment of Pandora come to life at Cloud Forest. He said, "I love nature and the life-like creatures from the world of Avatar. I hope I can go on more trips like this to be part of the community and meet new people."

CPAS Executive Director Latha Kutty said, "With the lowering of the Dorscon status from yellow to green, CPAS is looking forward to organise more outings and visits so our beneficiaries can experience and participate in a diversity of events and activities, with the help of donations from sponsors and corporate donors."

Executive Chairman and Group CEO of NEON Global, Ron Tan said, "Through our collaboration with Gardens by the Bay's Gift of Gardens, close to 2,000 beneficiaries have visited Avatar: The Experience since it opened at Cloud Forest in October last year. We hope to continue our outreach efforts and play our small part to give back to society. As a Singapore-based company, we are happy and heartened to be able to contribute to the community we live in."

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Hi-res images can be downloaded from <https://bit.ly/41rBcor>.

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About Gardens by the Bay

An integral part of Singapore's "City in Nature" vision, Gardens by the Bay is a national garden and premier horticultural attraction that showcases the best of garden and floral artistry for all to enjoy. Spanning 101 hectares in the heart of Singapore's downtown Marina Bay, it comprises three waterfront gardens – Bay South, Bay East, and Bay Central. Bay South, the largest at 54 hectares, officially opened on 29 June 2012.



Guided by the vision to be a world of gardens for all to own, enjoy and cherish, the Gardens' extensive plant collection, ever-changing floral displays, and myriad of engaging programmes have captured the imagination of many, while its Gift of Gardens community initiative, with Madam Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore as Patron, reaches out to people from all walks of life.

Since opening, Gardens by the Bay has welcomed more than 89 million visitors and garnered numerous international awards including Best Theme Attraction at TTG Travel Awards 2022, a silver for Destinations Building Back Better Post-Covid at the World Responsible Tourism Awards 2021, Best Attraction Experience at the Singapore Tourism Awards 2019, and ASEAN Sustainable Tourism Award presented by ASEAN Tourism in 2018. The Gardens continues to refresh and refine its offerings, to be a place that everyone can enjoy – a garden where wonder blooms.

For more information, visit www.gardensbythebay.com.sg.

About NEON

NEON, formerly Cityneon, is a global leader in creating and producing immersive experiences. NEON enjoys worldwide partnerships with The Walt Disney Company and Marvel Entertainment for *Marvel Avengers S.T.A.T.I.O.N.* and *Marvel Avengers Station: Evolution*, 20th Century Studios for *AVATAR: The Exhibition*, Hasbro for *Transformers: The Experience*, NBCUniversal for *Jurassic World: The Exhibition*, and Lionsgate for *The Hunger Games: The Exhibition*. It also has a partnership with Warner Bros. Themed Entertainment to produce two brand-new, unique global touring-themed art experiences inspired by DC and the Wizarding World, slated to launch in 2023. The Company also partners with the governments of Peru and Egypt for their original artifact IP experiences, *Machu Picchu and the Golden Empires of Peru* and *Ramses the Great and the Gold of the Pharaohs*, respectively, plus authentic artifact tours *Pompeii: The Exhibition*, *Mummies of the World: The Exhibition*, *Victoria the T. Rex* and *Auschwitz. Not long ago. Not far away*. These partnerships have enabled the Group to bring compelling experiences that leave lasting memories to millions of visitors in more than 60 cities to date globally.

For more information, please visit www.neonglobal.com.

About Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore

Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore (CPAS) is a social service agency providing care and services for children and adults with cerebral palsy or multiple disabilities. Formerly known as the Spastic Children's Association of Singapore, CPAS was founded in 1957 and provides early intervention, special education, therapy rehabilitation and clinics, day activity centre programmes, vocational training, and sheltered employment for over 700 children and adults. Driven by our core values of hope, empowerment, aspiration, respect and trust, we aim to empower persons with cerebral palsy or multiple disabilities to realise their full potential and lead fulfilled, dignified lives. CPAS is a registered charity with IPC status and is a member of the National Council of Social Service. For more information, please visit www.cpas.org.sg.