6–30
MAY 2027
www.klfestival.com.my

75 PARTNERS AND 1,400 JOBS: KL FESTIVAL 2027 MAKES THE CASE FOR DOWNTOWN KL

Malaysian companies invited to help build Bridges of Belonging in Downtown KL

KUALA LUMPUR, 24 NOVEMBER 2026 – KL Festival (KL Fest) drew more than 75 partners in 2026, who contributed more than RM6.4million in media and in-kind value. The festival also created more than 1,400 jobs and gigs for artists, producers, designers and crews, nearly double the 800 in 2024. As KL Fest prepares to return from 6 to 30 May 2027, its organisers are inviting Malaysian businesses to come forward early as partners in the economic renewal of the capital's historic core.

Organised by Think City and Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL), with the support of the Ministry of Finance and the Federal Territories Department, the annual city festival was announced today by YB Hannah Yeoh, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories). The 2026 edition drew 140,000 visitors and recorded more than 100,000 attendances. Ticketed shows played to 90% to 100% occupancy, attendees visited an average of four festival activities each, and 96% of visitors said they intend to return.

In announcing the festival, the Minister invited corporate Malaysia to come in as partners, whether by sponsoring programmes, hosting events or helping the festival reach new audiences.

"Culture is not just an attraction. It is an economic engine," said Yang Berbahagia Dato' Mohamed Nasri Sallehuddin, Chairman of Think City. "Kuala Lumpur has the assets. It now has the evidence. What it needs now is more hands."

A more focused festival for 2027

KL Fest is a confluence of creativity, cultures and communities that reimagines Downtown Kuala Lumpur and gives people a reason to keep coming back. The 2027 edition will run for 25 days and targets more than 100,000 attendances, drawing on the 8.8 million residents of Greater KL, and visitors under Visit Malaysia Year 2026/2027.

Programmes will be concentrated in connected areas across Downtown KL, from Dataran Merdeka Heritage Area and Masjid Jamek to Central Market and Petaling Street, with satellite activations in Brickfields and Kampung Baru.

Under the theme **Bridges of Belonging**, the 2027 edition asks what connects people to the city, to one another and across generations. The first confirmed highlights include ***Jogeton***, the community dance celebration, with a new ***Jogeton Junior*** segment for children; ***Gema Kuala Lumpur*****,** two all-women Dikir Barat performance by the River of Life; ***Our Love Song***, a musical theatre journey through the stories that shape national identity, including Negaraku; ***Songs of the Bulbul by British South Asian dancer Aakash Odedra*** (United Kingdom); ***Efectos Especiales*** (Argentina), a free street performance that turns a heritage street into a live film set; the world premiere of ***HuRU-hARa: nUSaNtAra*** by TerryandTheCuz, Thomas Henning and creative collaborators from Australia/Malaysia/Indonesia/Timor-Leste; and ***KataRaya: KL Festival Literature Week***, curated by Pauline Fan, bringing together distinguished literary voices from across Asia and beyond.

There will also be a series of large-scale, public facing programmes that invite people to experience the historic core in new ways. These include ***KL Discovery Race***, a citywide treasure hunt; ***KL Frozen in Time***, a collective photography project capturing the city from multiple locations at one moment; ***KL Builds***, a collaborative effort to recreate the city's landmarks from using recycled materials; and ***KL Beat: The City Marches***, bringing drummers and marching groups from across Kuala Lumpur together in a citywide procession.

KL Fest is a public-private-people collaboration and part of the culture-led regeneration work that Think City carries out alongside DBKL. It is anchored in the Kuala Lumpur Creative and Cultural District (KLCCD) Strategic Master Plan, and supports Visit Malaysia 2026/2027, the aspirations of Warisan KL, and Kuala Lumpur's status as a UNESCO Creative City of Design.

Organisations interested in partnering with KL Festival 2027 may contact kualalumpurfestival@thinkcity.com.my. Further details are available at www.klfestival.com.my.

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About Kuala Lumpur Festival (KL Fest):

KL Fest is Kuala Lumpur's flagship city celebration, inspired by its designation as a UNESCO Creative City of Design and aligned with the Warisan KL aspiration. The festival brings Downtown Kuala Lumpur to life through creativity, cultures and communities, presenting curated local and international performances, installations and public programmes accessible to all. Held across heritage buildings and public spaces, KL Fest transforms historic areas into vibrant cultural destinations. For more information, visit www.klfestival.com.my

About Think City

Think City is an impact organisation established in 2009 to create more sustainable and equitable places for the benefit of all. Our knowledge, skills and strategies focus on urban solutions, the environment, social communities, and the cultural economy. Think City is a wholly owned subsidiary of Khazanah Nasional Berhad (the sovereign wealth fund of the Government of Malaysia). For more information, log on to thinkcity.com.my.

About Warisan Kuala Lumpur

Warisan KL is a national heritage and culture-led urban rejuvenation initiative to revive Kuala Lumpur's soul by restoring and reimagining Kuala Lumpur's built heritage. Its mission is to create a more liveable city while driving growth in tourism, community enterprise and commerce. Launched by YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia, Warisan KL unites government agencies, GLCs, GLICs, private partners, and communities to position Kuala Lumpur as a vibrant hub of heritage, culture, and creativity. For more information: www.warisankl.my.

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