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MAY 2027
www.klfestival.com.my

COME CURIOUS, LEAVE CONNECTED: KL FESTIVAL 2027 RETURNS TO DOWNTOWN KL

25 days of art, culture and community across Downtown KL from 6 to 30 May 2027

KUALA LUMPUR, 24 NOVEMBER 2026 – Heritage buildings, streets, riverbanks and public spaces across Downtown Kuala Lumpur become meeting points for the whole city when KL Festival (KL Fest) returns from 6 to 30 May 2027. First highlights include traditional arts presented by the riverbank, a world premiere and the love song behind Negaraku.

Organised by Think City and Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL), with the support of the Ministry of Finance and the Federal Territories Department, KL Fest is a confluence of creativity, cultures and communities that gives people a reason to keep coming back. This year's theme, **Bridges of Belonging**, explores what connects us to the city, to one another and across generations.

As the city's annual flagship cultural event, KL Fest is a public-private-people collaboration. Programmes run from the Fashion and Textile Area and Dataran Merdeka Heritage Area to Central Market and Petaling Street, with satellite activations in Brickfields and Kampung Baru.

Accessibility remains at the heart of the festival. Most activations are free, ticketed shows are priced to keep the arts within reach, and the Pay It Forward initiative extends access to residents of *Program Residensi Rakyat* (PPR), schools, senior citizen homes and children's homes. Programmes are designed for families, youth, senior citizens, persons with disabilities and visitors from within and outside Malaysia.

The festival was officially announced today at the KL Festival 2027 Announcement & Partners' Reception by YB Hannah Yeoh, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories), who confirmed that KL Fest is an annual city festival, returning to the heart of Kuala Lumpur every May.

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"For one month, KL Festival shows what Downtown Kuala Lumpur could look like all year round: streets full of life, heritage buildings open and in use, local businesses busy well into the evening," said Yang Berbahagia Dato' Mohamed Nasri Sallehuddin, Chairman of Think City.

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.

More programmes, venues and dates will be announced in the lead-up to the festival.

"Bridges of Belonging is an invitation to cross thresholds: to another generation, another culture, another neighbourhood. We are bringing together Malaysian and international artists alongside the communities whose stories they tell. Some traditions are carried forward, some are reimagined, and all of them meet in the streets of the city. Come curious. Leave connected," added Terry Conrad, Producer of KL Fest.

Artists, community groups, cultural organisations and businesses who wish to take part in KL Festival 2027 are invited to get in touch. Organisations interested in supporting cultural access, youth engagement and urban revitalisation are also invited to explore partnership opportunities.

Ticketing details and the full programme will be released at klfestival.com.my and on KL Festival's social media platforms on Instagram and Facebook .

ENDS

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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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