

Chingay goes to the heartland again

Floats to visit 18 estates after Feb 4 parade in Orchard Road; each constituency to join in with own performances

BY LIM WEI CHEAN

RESIDENTS in Ang Mo Kio, Aljunied, Hougang and Jurong will have the Chingay procession brought to their doorsteps during Chinese New Year.

This is the second consecutive year that the People's Association, which is organising the Chingay Parade, is taking it to the heartland in a major way.

Besides the floats, which will go out to 18 housing estates after the Feb 4 Orchard Road parade, each constituency will have its own local performances, ranging from cultural performances such as Malay dance to youth items like breakdance. Some Members of Parliament are expected to attend the heartland events too.

Jurong GRC, which was part of last year's Chingay heartland celebrations, requested to be involved again this year because of popular demand by residents, said Ms Lim Geok Khim, chairman of Taman Jurong Community Club's management committee.

Besides the 200,000 spectators expected for the main parade in Orchard Road, organisers expect more than 60,000 people to join in the celebrations when Chingay goes to the heartland.

There will also be a live screening of the Chingay Parade on large screens in five locations — Toa Payoh Central, Pasir Ris East, Nee Soon Central, Geylang Serai and Choa Chu Kang.

Mr Nah Juay Hng, chairman of the executive committee for this year's parade, said its aim is to let as many Singaporeans as possible get involved in the Chingay celebrations.

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PHOTOS: LIANHE ZAOBAO

MORE THAN JUST FLOATS: Spectators in the heartland will get to view constituency-based performances ranging from Malay dance (top) to breakdance (above, left) and Chinese martial arts (above, right).

Chingay at Ang Mo Kio

- » **When:** Feb 5 to 9
- » **Where:** Ang Mo Kio Town Centre (carpark next to bus interchange)
- » **Programme highlights:** Three nights of float procession through the constituency, mass line dances and local performances such as breakdance items

Chingay at Jurong

- » **When:** Feb 18
- » **Where:** Corporation Drive, Taman Jurong
- » **Programme highlights:** Float procession starting from Bukit Gombak Stadium carpark, street parade including band performances, cultural dances and flying dragon dance involving 450 people

Chingay at Aljunied/Hougang

- » **When:** Feb 12
- » **Where:** Launch ceremony at open field between Hougang Plaza and Hougang Mall, closing ceremony at Kovan Hub
- » **Programme highlights:** Float procession starting from Eunos Petal Garden; plan to set a world record by bursting 2,006 balloons in 10 seconds at the closing ceremony; mass joget dance by residents; and performances by schools and youth groups