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MEDIA RELEASE

A DEDICATED FAMILY ZONE AT GARDENS BY THE BAY

SINGAPORE, 26 November 2022 – Families and couples can now look forward to another space in Singapore to celebrate family milestones and enjoy quality bonding time. The **Family Zone**, at Gardens by the Bay, was officially launched today by President Halimah Yacob. In attendance were Mr Masagos Zulkifli (Minister for Social and Family Development and 2nd Minister for Health), Ms Sun Xueling (Minister of State for Social and Family Development and Home Affairs), Mr Ishak Ismail (Families for Life (FFL) Council Chairman), Mr Felix Loh, (Gardens by the Bay Chief Executive Officer), and more than 500 families.

2. The Family Zone is a legacy project of the Year of Celebrating SG Families (YCF) and symbolises the whole-of-society commitment to a family-friendly Singapore under ‘A Singapore Made for Families 2025’ plan. Developed through a partnership between FFL, Gardens by the Bay, and MSF, the Family Zone spans across Gardens by the Bay’s Active Garden and Silver Garden. It is envisaged to be a family-centric zone where families can gather, spend time meaningfully and strengthen their family bonds through workshops and events organised by partners such as FFL. Families can also celebrate and commemorate different life milestones such as marriage solemnisations.

3. Said Minister Masagos Zulkifli: “Families form the bedrock of our society. They are our first line of care and support when we face challenges. As YCF is coming to a close, it is fitting that we are gathered at Gardens by the Bay to unveil the Family Zone, a legacy project of YCF. This is a symbol of our commitment, beyond YCF, to build A Singapore Made for Families.”

A family-centric zone for every stage of life

4. Singaporean couples looking to solemnise their marriages now have one more location to affirm their nuptials. In addition to the existing premises of Registry of Civil and Muslim Marriages at 7 Canning Rise, the two Registries will also hold solemnisations at the multi-purpose Ficus Room located in Active Garden within the Family Zone – allowing couples the opportunity to mark the first step of their new journey as a married couple and a newly minted family unit.



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5. Fans of Becky Bunny - FFL's mascot which embodies the four core family values of love, care and concern, commitment, and respect - can look forward to an exciting upcoming "Becky Bunny's Adventures Playground" that is targeted to be completed at the end of next year. The playground features four play areas themed to the family values, where families with young children can play and refresh family values at the same time.

6. All families can enjoy an array of activities and programming organised by FFL at the Family Zone. This includes a weekly bouncy castle galore which will be held at the West Lawn every Saturday in December 2022, FFL's signature family picnics which will be held every month from January 2023 onwards. Parents and even grandparents can also look forward to parenting and grandparenting programmes.

7. Mr Ishak Ismail, Chairman of FFL Council said, "It is heartening to see families coming together and spend quality time in this newly designated Family Zone. Indeed, it is noteworthy to recognise the completed circle of family life here. The picturesque Gardens by the Bay is a popular dating spot amongst couples, before transiting to the next stage by solemnising their wedding at the Ficus Room. Families with young children can look forward to the new Becky Bunny's Adventures Playground. Multi-generational families can also enjoy the events and programmes here. By celebrating key milestones in life at the Family Zone, I hope that families can create many fond memories together and reaffirm their commitment to keep the family unit strong. This sentiment is echoed through the Singapore Made for Families 2025 plan, to preserve and strengthen our family core to get a positive ripple effect in the form of a resilient but caring and inclusive society".

8. Gardens by the Bay Chief Executive Officer Mr Felix Loh added, "Over the years, Gardens by the Bay has been the backdrop to many of life's significant milestones. The Gardens was envisioned as a People's Garden for all Singaporeans to enjoy, and 10 years on, this vision continues to drive us to create new experiences and spaces such as the Active Garden to bring people together. As we celebrate our tenth anniversary this year, the Family Zone reinforces our role as a community anchor and what it means to be a People's Garden".

9. For more information, please refer to go.gov.sg/celebratingsgfamilies.

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About Year of Celebrating SG Families (YCF)

YCF is led by the Families for Life (FFL) Council with support from the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) and the Alliance for Action to Strengthen Marriages and Family Relationships (AFAM). It is a whole-of-society movement which celebrates the importance of our families. The YCF logo is based on the design of a tree and celebrates the deep-rooted bonds that families in Singapore enjoy. Presented in the shape of a person with arms outstretched and feet on the ground; the tree signifies the values of strength, stability, rootedness, and the generations that comprise a family. The deep roots represent strong foundations that children need to grow up with. The leaves are in vibrant and colourful hues; each representing the four family values of love, care and concern, commitment, and respect; and highlighting the unyielding shade, protection and care that families provide. Generations to come will continue to enjoy its shade, flowers, and fruits for sustenance.

About Families for Life

The Families for Life (FFL) Movement aims to build strong and resilient families. The FFL Movement rallies like-minded individuals, families and organisations to strengthen family bonds through large-scale events, national celebrations and online digital campaigns. FFL365 offers a suite of complimentary evidence-based parenting and marriage programmes while FFL Parenting is an online repository of localised, research-backed parenting resources. FFL also runs Parent Support Groups, particularly for those with preschool children. FFL@Community brings all these offerings to local communities. Visit <https://familiesforlife.sg> for tips, resources and interesting family activities as well as a wide range of meaningful volunteering opportunities as FFL volunteers.

**ISSUED BY
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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Annex A

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Is there a fee to enter the Family Zone?

Entry to the Family Zone is free of charge.

2. What are the opening hours of the Family Zone? How do I get to the Family Zone?

The opening hours of Family Zone (except for Ficus Room) are similar to the opening hours of the outdoor gardens, which are from 5am to 2am. The public may refer to Gardens by the Bay's website for updated information on the opening hours, any closure dates, and directions for their visit.

About marriage solemnisation at Family Zone

3. How can I apply to hold my solemnisation at the Family Zone?

Couples - where a party is a Singapore Citizen or Singapore Permanent Resident - can file their interest to hold their solemnisation at the Family Zone after submitting their marriage application at www.marriage.gov.sg. Do note the venue is subject to availability.

4. Are there any additional charges for solemnisation at the Family Zone?

There are currently no additional charges for solemnisation at the Family Zone apart from the fees paid to file a marriage application.

5. Will the solemnisation venue at the Family Zone replace the Registry of Civil and Muslim Marriages venue located at 7 Canning Rise?

Couples can continue to choose the Registry of Civil and Muslim Marriages venue located at 7 Canning Rise for their solemnisation. Marriage solemnisation at the Family Zone will be an additional venue and it can be booked based on availability.

6. Why are the solemnisation slots at the Family Zone at Gardens by the Bay only available on Tue, Wed and Thu?

Apart from solemnisation events held at the Ficus Room, the space is also a venue for other family friendly programs and activities.

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7. Can we decorate the Ficus Room before the solemnisation?

If you intend to be solemnised at the Ficus Room, please note that the room has been set up for a basic solemnisation ceremony. You will not be able to re-decorate the room.

8. Are couples allowed to choose their solemniser?

The solemnisation ceremonies at Family Zone are similar to those held at 7 Canning Rise. Hence, the Licensed Solemniser or Kadi will be arranged by Registry of Marriages and Registry of Muslim Marriages respectively.

About Becky Bunny's Adventures at Family Zone at Gardens by the Bay

9. When is the expected completion of Becky Bunny's Adventures Playground?

Becky Bunny's Adventures Playground is expected to be completed at the end of next year.

10. What does the mascot Becky Bunny represent?

Becky Bunny is Families for Life's mascot who personifies the core family values of love, care and concern, commitment, and respect. Bursting with life, Becky Bunny is always ready for adventures. She loves collecting stickers, eating all kinds of kueh, and always puts her family first! She loves to show children how to put the core family values into action.

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Annex B

Location of Family Zone in Gardens by the Bay



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Annex C

Glossary of translated terms

English	Chinese	Malay	Tamil
Year of Celebrating SG Families	欢庆新加坡家庭年	Tahun Meraikan Keluarga SG	சிங்கைக் குடும்பங்களைக் கொண்டாடும் ஆண்டு
Alliance for Action to Strengthen Marriages and Family Relationships	加强婚姻及家庭关系 行动联盟	Perikatan untuk Bertindak bagi Mengukuhkan Perkahwinan dan Hubungan Keluarga	திருமணங்கள் மற்றும் குடும்ப உறவுகளை வலுப்படுத்த நடவடிக்கைக் கான கூட்டணி
Families for Life Council	凝聚家庭理事会	Majlis Keluarga untuk Seumur Hidup	வாழ்வுக்காகக் குடும்பங்கள் மன்றம்
Family Zone	家庭互动区	Zon Keluarga	குடும்ப வட்டாரம்
Gardens by the Bay	滨海湾花园	Taman di Pesisiran	கரையோரப் பூந்தோட்டங்கள்
A Singapore Made for Families 2025	“为家庭而设”2025	Singapura Yang Mesra Keluarga 2025	குடும்பங்களுக்காக செய்யப்பட்ட சிங்கப்பூர் 2025