

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Dahlias and Dragons at Gardens by the Bay's Flower Dome this Chinese New Year**  
*At the Dahlia Dreams floral display, eight dragons greet visitors, including a 15m-long centrepiece two-storeys high that rises amidst a thousand colourful dahlias*



**SINGAPORE, 18 January 2024** – In commemoration of the Year of the Wood Dragon, a dragon that reaches the height of two-storeys at 7m tall and stretching 15m across, rises in the centre of Flower Dome amidst more than 1,000 dahlias of 40 varieties. This dragon is the centrepiece of Gardens by the Bay's Dahlia Dreams floral display, which opens on Friday, January 19.

For the first time, the annual Chinese New Year floral display involved over 30 beneficiaries from Dementia Singapore, made up of persons living with dementia and their caregivers, who came together over the course of a week to create 30 floral arrangements made of preserved hydrangeas, lunarias, and statice in the auspicious colours of red and yellow. These floral arrangements were then incorporated into the body of the dragon centrepiece, forming its "scales".

Such flower arrangement sessions have therapeutic benefits for individuals with dementia, such as cognitive and sensory stimulation, enhancement of motor skills, and bolstering of self-esteem as well as a sense of purpose. It is also an occasion to make precious memories, which is particularly poignant for those with dementia and their loved ones.

Spanning a variety of Dementia Singapore's unique services, these participants are clients of namely the Family of Wisdom enrichment programme, the Voices For Hope empowerment programme and the social service agency's CARA membership programme.



Gardens by the Bay Assistant CEO May Yeo said, “The participation of Dementia Singapore beneficiaries and their caregivers not only added a unique charm to the dragon centrepiece, but we hope we have also provided a beneficial activity to engage them. Chinese New Year is traditionally about family, and it is particularly meaningful how the effort put in by individuals with dementia and family members who are often their caregivers, will in turn contribute to a wonderful experience for visitors and their families to Gardens by the Bay this festive period.”

Dementia Singapore CEO Jason Foo said, “This initiative helps affirm the fact that we all have a role to play in building a more inclusive society. Not only is this a great way to leverage the cognitive benefits of the visual arts for people living with dementia, particularly the natural splendour of floral design, but allowing them to contribute directly to such an important centrepiece is surely as intrinsically rewarding. Ultimately, it should remind those living with the condition that despite dementia, there are many ways to continue living fruitfully. And we hope that fellow members of the public, whom we encourage to be more mindful of dementia and its impact, would subsequently be reminded of their active contribution to the cause.”

### **Dinnerplate dahlias and other lucky blooms**

Gardens by the Bay’s signature dinnerplate dahlias, so-called because some measure up to 25cm in diameter, make a return in the Dahlia Dreams floral display. There will also be dahlias of varied shapes and forms. Varieties of note include:

- ***Dahlia ‘Gloriosa’*** – Lively red petals splashed on a creamy yellow base, resembling the strokes of an artist's brush.
- ***Dahlia ‘Duet’*** – A striking two-toned decorative dahlia with bold purple petals and crisp white tips.
- ***Dahlia ‘Spartacus’*** – A bold, monochromatic decorative dahlia characterised by its dramatic deep wine-red petals.
- ***Dahlia ‘Bodacious’*** – Petals that boast a gradient of sunset orange at the base, lightening to a sunny yellow toward the tips.
- ***Dahlia ‘Kenora Lisa’*** – A delicate, multi-hued decorative dahlia, featuring creamy peach petals from their base, transitioning to blushing soft pink at the tips.

Complementing the dahlias are other Chinese New Year blooms such as celosias, asters, chrysanthemums, cymbidiums, guzmanias, oncidiums, marigolds, pussy willows, hydrangeas, lilies, and camellias.

### **Eight auspicious dragons in Flower Dome**

This year, visitors can look forward to seeing eight dragons in Flower Dome. Flanking the dragon centrepiece are four colourful dragon lantern sets, each symbolising the elements of metal, water, fire and earth, which are deeply rooted in Chinese culture. There is also a pair of dragons captured in mid-dance, embodying the traditional dragon dance performed during Chinese New Year and is believed to bring good luck to people.



Rounding off the dragons is The Bearer of Infinite Blessings, a 6m-tall dragon sculpture specially created by British sculptor James Doran-Webb for the Dahlia Dreams floral display, which welcomes visitors when they enter Flower Dome.

Breathing out smoke and set amidst a water feature, the sculpture is constructed from approximately 2,000 pieces of wood repurposed from dead trees as well as recycled stainless steel and took 9,000 hours to put together. The Bearer of Infinite Blessings symbolises prosperity and renewal this Chinese New Year. After Dahlia Dreams, the sculpture will travel to the United Kingdom to be showcased at the prestigious RHS Chelsea Flower Show by The Royal Horticultural Society in May.

To usher in positivity for all visitors, the floral display also features a scene that interprets the Chinese saying 鱼跃龙门, which translates into “carps leap over the dragon gate”, a metaphor for courage and the pursuit of greatness amidst challenges.

To add to the Chinese New Year festivities at Gardens by the Bay, visitors can look forward to River Hongbao 2024 in the outdoors, which will be returning from February 8 to February 17 for its fourth edition at the Gardens. Highlights include a 140m-long dragon lantern stretched across two Supertrees and suspended 5m above ground at the Supertree Grove, and an 18m-tall God of Fortune.

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### **Dahlia Dreams**

**Date:** Friday, 19 Jan 2024 to Sunday, 17 Mar 2024

**Time:** 9am to 9pm

**Venue:** Flower Dome. Admission rates apply.

Visit [www.gardensbythebay.com.sg/dahlia](http://www.gardensbythebay.com.sg/dahlia) for details.

Hi-res images can be downloaded from: <http://tinyurl.com/DahliaDreams2024>

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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 Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, 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 100 million visitors and garnered numerous international awards including Best Theme Attraction at TTG Travel Awards 2022 and 2023, 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](http://www.gardensbythebay.com.sg).

#### **About Dementia Singapore**

Dementia Singapore was formed in 1990 as Alzheimer's Disease Association to better serve Singapore's growing dementia community, increase awareness about dementia, and reduce the stigma surrounding the condition. As Singapore's leading Social Service Agency in specialised dementia care, Dementia Singapore aims to advocate for the needs of people living with dementia and their families; and empower the community through capability-building, knowledge, and consultancy; as well as deliver quality person-centred care innovations.

For more information, visit [www.dementia.org.sg](http://www.dementia.org.sg).

#### **About CARA**

CARA – which stands for Community, Assurance, Rewards and Acceptance – is a membership programme that serves as a lifestyle and community platform, connecting persons living with dementia and caregivers to an ecosystem of solutions via a mobile application. It aims to provide tailored support, linking users up with benefits and resources related to their care journey.

For more information, visit [cara.sg](http://cara.sg).