



KL FESTIVAL 2026 SPARKS GROUNDSWELL ACROSS DOWNTOWN KUALA LUMPUR

More than 150 events, activations and collaborations transformed the historic core as KL Fest confirms its return in 2027

KUALA LUMPUR, 30 MAY 2026 – KL Festival 2026 (KL Fest) closed today with a clear message: Kuala Lumpur is building more than a festival, it is building a cultural movement. Over 26 days, the festival transformed Downtown Kuala Lumpur into a living stage, presenting more than 80 programmes and 700 hours of performances, installations, theatre, dance and community experiences across heritage buildings and public spaces. With 90 per cent of its line-up free and open to the public, KL Fest made good on its promise: that the capital’s festival belongs to everyone.

Organised by Think City and Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL), with support from the Ministry of Finance and the Federal Territories Department, and powered by Maxis, KL Fest forms part of a wider effort to revitalise Downtown Kuala Lumpur through arts, culture and community activation.

What began as a curated festival programme quickly evolved into something much larger. While KL Fest initially set out with 80 planned programmes, the festival ultimately grew into more than 150 performances, collaborations, activations and community-led experiences as artists, businesses, institutions, cultural groups and communities stepped forward to participate.

The response demonstrated how public investment can unlock significantly wider participation, partnerships, and renewed public engagement with the historic core. KL Fest also nurtured a growing sense of ambassadorship for Kuala Lumpur itself, as thousands gathered to rediscover and collectively experience the city in new ways.

“KL Festival has affirmed its place as Kuala Lumpur’s international city festival, reflecting the kind of city we aspire to build, one that is open, creative, and inclusive, globally connected while remaining deeply rooted in its heritage, cultures and communities,” said Yang Berhormat Hannah Yeoh, Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department (Federal Territories) at the closing of KL Fest.



“I have seen firsthand the energy it generates in our streets, our heritage spaces and our communities, as well as the pride it continues to inspire in Kuala Lumpur’s identity. KL Festival has delivered its vision of bringing some of the best artists practising today to Kuala Lumpur while remaining accessible and welcoming to everyone. I am delighted to confirm that KL Festival will return in May 2027, and I hope the next edition will explore themes of kindness, empathy, unity and hope, reflecting the strength and diversity of Malaysia. As KL Festival continues to grow, we welcome partners, communities, creatives, communities and institutions to come on board early and strengthen Kuala Lumpur’s position as an international cultural platform for Malaysia and the region,” she added.

The closing evening also witnessed the announcement of Asian Music Games (AMG) Kuala Lumpur 2026. Organised by Yayasan Amanah Industri Kreatif Kebangsaan (YAIKK) and sanctioned by the Asian Marching Band Confederation (AMBC), AMG Kuala Lumpur 2026 will be held from 4 to 13 September 2026, bringing together an estimated 7,000 local and 3,000 international participants from nine countries across 105 medal events – in a first-of-its-kind Olympic-style format for music.

“This year’s KL Festival theme, *Memory and Tomorrow*, invited both residents and visitors to experience how memories and culture continue to live and breathe through the city’s artists, communities and people, while reflecting on how Kuala Lumpur’s rich confluence of cultures continues to evolve as it embraces the future. After a month of exciting celebrations and thought-provoking reflections, the Marching Band showcase at Dataran Merdeka by our youth encapsulates our verve for tomorrow, and our aspirations for the continual deepening and growth of the cultural landscape for us and our city, Kuala Lumpur,” said June Tan, Artistic Director, KL Fest.

KL Fest has always pointed towards something larger, a city where creativity, cultures and communities converge, and where that convergence generates lasting value: economic, civic and cultural. Aligned with the national Warisan KL initiative, the city’s UNESCO Creative City of Design designation, and Visit Malaysia 2026, the festival is a marker on a longer journey.

Yang Berbahagia Dato’ Hamdan Abdul Majeed, Managing Director, Think City also said “What makes KL Festival distinctive is that it is deeply embedded within the historic fabric of Kuala Lumpur itself. We worked on bringing life to streets, heritage buildings, public spaces and neighbourhoods as part of a larger effort to reconnect people with Downtown KL. A great city is ultimately shaped by its social spaces, places where people gather, interact and collectively bring the city to life. Ultimately, this is about long-term urban regeneration, where culture becomes a catalyst for public life, social and economic activity, and renewed confidence in the city.”



“The response to KL Fest demonstrates a growing appetite for the historic core to evolve into a more vibrant, liveable and internationally relevant cultural district. We thank artists, partners, communities and visitors who helped shape KL Fest and embraced its vision for the city,” he added.

As the festival comes to a close this weekend, it leaves behind more than just memories. It leaves a stronger belief that Kuala Lumpur’s historic core can continue to thrive as a living cultural heart where heritage, creativity and community remain part of everyday city life.

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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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