

## **My Singapore in 2022**

**A multimedia project will gather information on what people think about politics and governance**

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Imagine a Singapore where men and women do national service - whether as a bomb disposal expert or a teacher in a pre-school. Or imagine a new political party called the Seniors League because "old is the new new".

These scenarios are snippets of a multimedia installation to be held at the National Library Building next week as part of an immersive arts experience. They may sound amusing but they also pose real and probing questions about a future Singapore.

The Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) and local theatre group Drama Box have come together to present and produce a civic arts engagement project called IPS Prism, which will run daily from this Thursday to Nov 14. Admission is free.

It aims to gather information - through the arts - on the attitudes and perspectives that Singaporeans and Singapore residents have on politics and governance.

The arts experience ranges from interactive forum theatre performances to singalongs where popular National Day songs, such as Dick Lee's Home, are rewritten.

Drama Box artistic director Kok Heng Leun, 46, stresses the importance of the arts as a tool for engagement at a media briefing on Thursday.

"The arts always tackles difficult questions. And the way we tackle difficult questions is to put a face to the question, put images, put voices, then put emotions into it so that it becomes relatable to a lot of people," he says.

The IPS Prism creative team comprises Kok, Malaysian theatre educator and practitioner Charlene Rajendran, film-maker Jasmine Ng, associate artistic director of Drama Box Koh Hui Ling and ArtsWok, a company working on arts-based community development.

There are three broad scenarios for the Singapore of 2022 that the Institute of Policy Studies hopes will come alive through IPS Prism. These were mapped out after discussions with nearly 140 people from different sectors.

SingaStore.com envisions a Singapore that is pro-business and pro-growth, where people trust the government to provide them with jobs. In SingaGives.gov, the country settles for lower growth but enjoys more subsidies and greater welfare. And in WikiCity.sg, citizens largely rely on community self-help in the absence of a strong government.

Organisers are hoping that at least 4,000 people will take part in the programmes at the National Library Plaza and Black Box.

Embedded in the activities are three questions: What kind of future do I want? What kind of government do I expect? What is my role in this relationship?

Kok adds: "Asking questions is not enough. You have to turn the audience from passive participants into active participants."

IPS Prism's programmes include informal dialogue sessions and installations that visitors can contribute to in writing. They can even get on stage and take on the roles of characters in a play.

Ms Rajendran, 48, says: "The sense of play is activated. And we really want people to feel a sense of serious play, deep play - play in which you enjoy participation because you realise that there's something at stake."

After their experience, visitors can fill in a survey for researchers from the think-tank to analyse. The findings will help map out people's attitudes towards politics and government. It will be presented as part of the Institute of Policy Studies' annual Singapore Perspectives Conference early next year.

Dr Gillian Koh, 45, a senior research fellow with the institute, says: "We want to aim at a Singapore in 2022 that is adaptive to the changes, that is resilient, that brings us to a point where we can continue to say that we are a nation that coheres."

## **Highlights**

### **Use-less Exhibition**

Visitors get to see a variety of objects and spaces that are useful today but which might just be useless tomorrow. They can add their own objects and statements to this gallery of ideas.

### **Model Politician/Model Person**

What do you think are the qualities required of a Model Politician in the next 10 years? What will it take to be a Model Person in 2022? This interactive installation invites visitors to create the kind of people they want to live, play and work with.

Singapore 2022 Sing-Along-Song Three popular National Day songs will be given a twist - their lyrics will now reflect different scenarios of a future Singapore. Visitors can sing along and add their own words. The singalong takes place at 10.30am, 2.30 and 6.30pm daily.

### **Forum Theatre - "Wouldn't It Be Nice?"**

What happens after a flood, a drought, and a series of power failures? Actors perform a short play and after that, audience members are encouraged to try out better solutions to the problems the characters face. On at 11am, 3 and 7pm daily.

### **Future Screens, Tomorrow Scenes**

Soak up the possibilities of a different Singapore at a different time in this multimedia installation at the Drama Centre Black Box theatre.

### **Chit-Chat Chop-Chop**

In this informal but no less provocative dialogue session, visitors can discuss their hopes and visions for Singapore 2022. Guests include Banyan Tree Holdings founder Ho Kwon Ping, Select Books director Tan Dan Feng and Institute of Policy Studies director Janadas Devan. The sessions are on Nov 10, 11 and 13, at 12.30, 2 and 5pm.

**Go Where?**

At the end of the experience, visitors can fill out the IPS Prism Survey and tell the think-tank their thoughts on how Singapore should be governed in 2022.

For the full programme schedule, go to [www.ips.sg/prism/experience.html](http://www.ips.sg/prism/experience.html)

**View it****IPS PRISM**

**Where:** National Library Building (Plaza and Drama Centre Black Box)

**When:** Thursday to Nov 14, 10am to 9pm daily

**Admission:** Free

**Info:** Go to [www.ips.sg/prism](http://www.ips.sg/prism) or call 6324-5434