



(From left) Sunita, Khalid and his wife Dr Zaitun Abu Bakar looking at handicrafts on display after the launch of KLIAF. A visitor viewing artwork at an exhibition held in conjunction with KLIAF.

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THE arts can help children from the B40 community realise their potential.

Recognising this, DiverseCity — an arts and culture advocacy non-profit organisation — has launched a community outreach programme in several public housing projects (PPR) across Kuala Lumpur.

The programme features activities such as batik printing as well as dance and theatre classes which are being held on weekends for children living in PPR.

The outreach programme is being organised in conjunction with the 5th Kuala Lumpur International Arts Festival (KLIAF).

KLIAF producer Sasya Ahmad Sebi said the outreach programme also featured activities for adults.

"This year, we are focused on five PPRs,

Reaching out through arts

PPR residents benefit from community outreach programme

namely Seri Tioman in Gombak, Batu Muda in Sentul, Putra Ria in Abdullah Hukum, Seri Selangor in Cheras and Seri Hang Tuah in Bukit Bintang.

"There are activities conducted for adults too, such as English and computing classes as well as entrepreneurship programmes for single mothers."

Sasya said the outreach programme would run until November, adding that around 20 children and 30 adults were taking part in

these activities every weekend.

Federal Territories Minister Khalid Abdul Samad, who launched KLIAF at the Intermark Mall in Kuala Lumpur, lauded the effort.

"Through programmes like this, the B40 community can gain new perspectives and break out of the vicious cycle of poverty."

He also lauded the efforts by DiverseCity to organise KLIAF, saying the arts festival would help promote tourism by highlighting the rich

cultural diversity and heritage of Malaysia.

Also present during the launch was KLIAF director Datin Seri Sunita Rajakumar and Intermark Mall marketing director Kung Suan Ai.

Those present were entertained by choral speaking and dance performances by children.

KLIAF will showcase over 50 music, dance, theatre, visual arts and literature activities in more than 12 venues across the city.