

## FACTSHEET: UPDATES ON KAMPONG GELAM DRAFT PLACE PLAN

### The Kampong Gelam draft Place Plan

The Kampong Gelam draft Place Plan was conceived as a blueprint to guide the long-term strategic development of the Kampong Gelam Historic Area<sup>1</sup>. It maps out possible strategies to strengthen four key aspects of the precinct in the long term:

- (i) **Celebrate** Kampong Gelam's unique history, culture and heritage to build a strong precinct identity.
- (ii) **Curate** the tenant mix by supporting traditional trades while attracting new heritage and creative businesses
- (iii) Improve **connectivity** to the area and develop a car-lite precinct that is well-connected to adjacent developments.
- (iv) **Create** and activate public spaces.

The Kampong Gelam draft Place Plan was conceived following the Emerging Stronger Conversations<sup>2</sup> held in end-2020. At the session facilitated by the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), a group of core Kampong Gelam Alliance or KGA members and other Kampong Gelam stakeholders including residents, institutions and heritage businesses<sup>3</sup> discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the precinct. They also brought up ways to leverage Kampong Gelam's unique heritage to enhance its resilience and relevance to each generation of Singaporeans.

Taking the ideas raised into consideration, KGA expanded its membership and progressively developed a draft Place Plan, as a way to overcome the challenges brought about by the pandemic, and set out directions to move the precinct forward in the next five years.

The draft Place Plan focuses on three core values that are representative of Kampong Gelam. Firstly, 'Community' embraces Kampong Gelam's position as a cultural and social space for Malays/Muslim and all Singaporeans. Secondly, 'Respect' calls on all parties to come together as custodians of heritage with mutual respect. Finally, 'Resilience' connects tradition with modernity and continuity with change. These values form the foundation for how the community intends to develop and manage changes for the area.

In the draft Place Plan, KGA proposed a range of possible initiatives to sustain, promote and celebrate the community, culture and heritage and spirit of enterprise of the Kampong Gelam Historic Area. These include organising programmes that add to

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<sup>1</sup> The Kampong Gelam Historic Area comprises the gazetted conservation area, as well as key modern developments around the perimeter of the conservation area. Refer to Annex A for a map of the historic area.

<sup>2</sup> The Emerging Stronger Conversations were launched in June 2020, as part of the Singapore Together movement, to reflect and discuss how to forge a better way forward amid challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

<sup>3</sup> Heritage businesses broadly refer to businesses that have served the local community for decades, as well as younger businesses that offer a skill, craft or knowledge that contribute to Kampong Gelam's social and cultural identity. These businesses, ranging from F&B, textiles, perfumery to antiques, also serve as social spaces that bring the community together

the rich socio-cultural character of the precinct, forging strong partnerships to curate a more ideal tenant mix in the precinct and encouraging a car-lite precinct.

More information on the Kampong Gelam Historic Area draft Place Plan can be found at [www.listeningtokg.org](http://www.listeningtokg.org)

### **Progress and updates on the Kampong Gelam draft Place Plan**

At COS 2022, it was announced that KGA planned to engage the community and public. The ideas and suggestions gleaned would guide efforts to keep Kampong Gelam thriving as a centre of community, culture, heritage and enterprise.

In November 2022, KGA unveiled its draft Place Plan and kickstarted these engagement efforts, with support from URA. An online survey was conducted from November 2022 to January 2023 for the public to share their views on the draft plan, as well as aspirations for and changes they hope to see at Kampong Gelam. They were also invited to send a virtual postcard to share their favourite memories of Kampong Gelam.

KGA also organised four “walkshops” in January 2023, which comprised site walks covering various locations in the Kampong Gelam historic area. Participants held discussions around the four Place Plan themes, and raised a wide range of feedback and suggestions to strengthen the sense of place in the area.

In total, more than 1600 stakeholders and members of public were engaged through the survey and walkshops. Among the results of the online survey:

- Majority of respondents (89%) feel that it is important to continue supporting traditional trades, while attracting new ones to the Kampong Gelam historic area.
- Majority of respondents (89%) are in favour of more initiatives to showcase and strengthen Kampong Gelam’s history, culture and community.
- Close to 80% of respondents see the need for strong local partnerships (among businesses, residents and interest groups) to curate the tenant mix in the historic area.

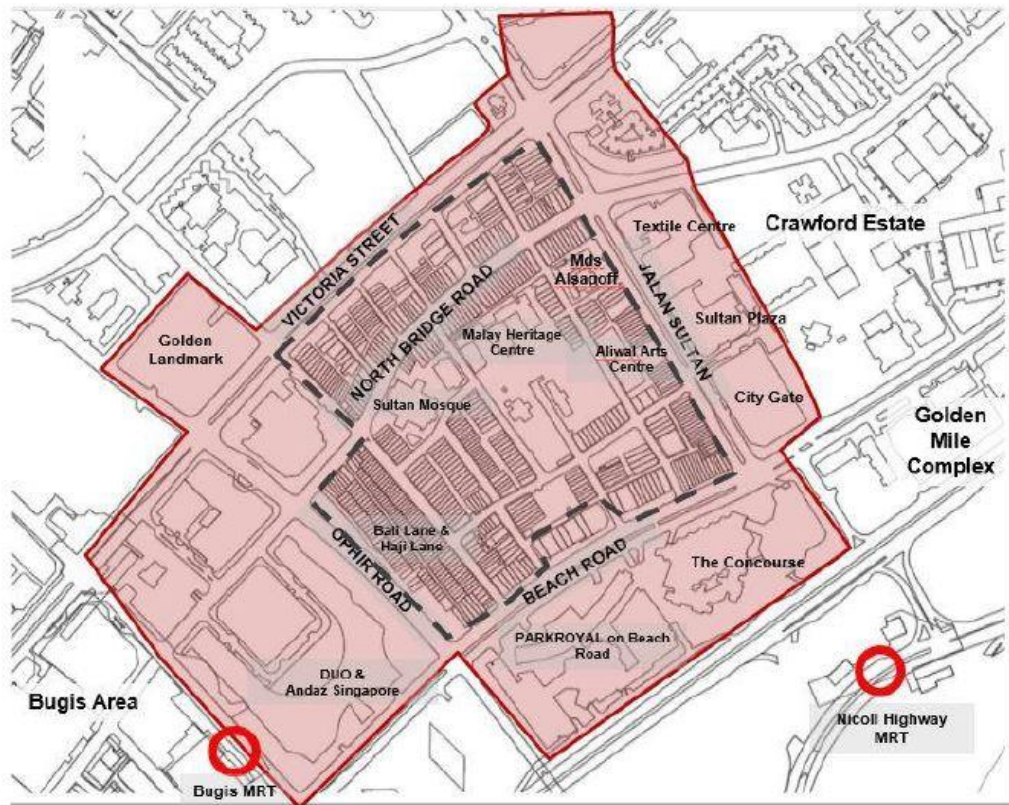
KGA and URA are in the process of studying the feedback in detail, in order to refine and finalise the Place Plan, which will be unveiled in the coming months.

### **About Kampong Gelam Alliance:**



First formed in 2018 and expanded in 2021, Kampong Gelam Alliance (KGA) is a voluntary alliance comprising residents, cultural institutions, business organisations, property owners and hotels in Kampong Gelam. The alliance looks beyond driving the economic growth of the precinct, and aims to also strengthen the cultural, community and social fabric of Kampong Gelam, by developing relevant programmes and projects in partnership with agencies. KGA’s vision is a Kampong Gelam that is anchored on its values, culture and community, and to sustain a neighbourhood that engages, educates and charms people from all walks of life.

## ANNEX A

### Map of Kampong Gelam Historic Area



#### LEGEND

-  Boundary of study area for the Kampong Gelam Historic Area draft Place Plan
-  Boundary of Gazetted Conserved Area