

THE Kuala Lumpur Creative and Cultural District (KLCCD) is set to become a catalyst for creative economies, thanks to a RM20mil injection from the Finance Ministry via Budget 2024.

This aid continues from the RM4mil in awarded grants for KLCCD creative and cultural sectors in the previous year's budget.

The recent allocation was highlighted during the Creative KL Grants Programme and Urban Challenge Award Ceremony graced by Deputy Finance Minister Lim Hui Ying in downtown Kuala Lumpur creative community hub GMBB on Feb 19.

The grants and awards are part of the KLCCD Strategic Masterplan which was crafted in 2019 by community-focused urban regeneration organisation Think City with Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) and the National Heritage Department.

Based on successful creative district models in other countries, the masterplan seeks to improve liveability aspects such as urban greening and social equity.

The masterplan also aims to revitalise historical landmarks and increase arts initiatives such as artisan markets and cultural festivals.

Lim said: "Having engaged with the grantees and witnessed first-hand the dividends in rejuvenating the George Town Unesco World Heritage Site, I am proud of the Finance Ministry's active participation in this programme that hopes to improve the quality of life of the people."

"These investments complement the Madani economic framework, transforming downtown Kuala Lumpur into a

RM20mil boost for KL arts

Budget 2024 funding in grants for innovators to improve city centre liveability



Thirty-two recipients of grants from the Creative KL Grants Programme and Urban Challenge, joined by VIPs during the award ceremony.

"We are now working on the next phase of KLCCD and hope to open the next round of grant applications in March 2024."

Hamdan Abdul Majeed

vibrant, liveable city."

Think City managing director Hamdan Abdul Majeed said, "As the city experiences hollowing out and dwindling repeat visitors, we must create authen-

tic, locally-oriented experiences beyond conventional sites and malls.

"Stakeholders from government agencies, private enterprises, cultural institutions and

local communities are invited to join hands in unlocking the full potential of Kuala Lumpur's Creative and Cultural District."

The Creative KL Grants Programme and Urban Challenge was launched by Think City in June 2023 to improve liveability in the city centre.

The grants programme offers co-investment opportunities involving high quality projects aligned with the KLCCD vision.

The announcement of 32 grantees recognised the stand-out solutions by grand winners Entomal Biotech, Inclucity by Nak Seni, and Genie by

TRYKE Mobility.

These pioneering efforts focus on addressing critical issues such as organic waste management and accessibility for People with Disabilities.

"We are thrilled to have provided an opportunity and platform for innovators to seek funding and public support, crucial for successful implementation.

"We are now working on the next phase of KLCCD and hope to open the next round of grant applications in March 2024," said Hamdan.

For more information, visit thinkcity.com.my.