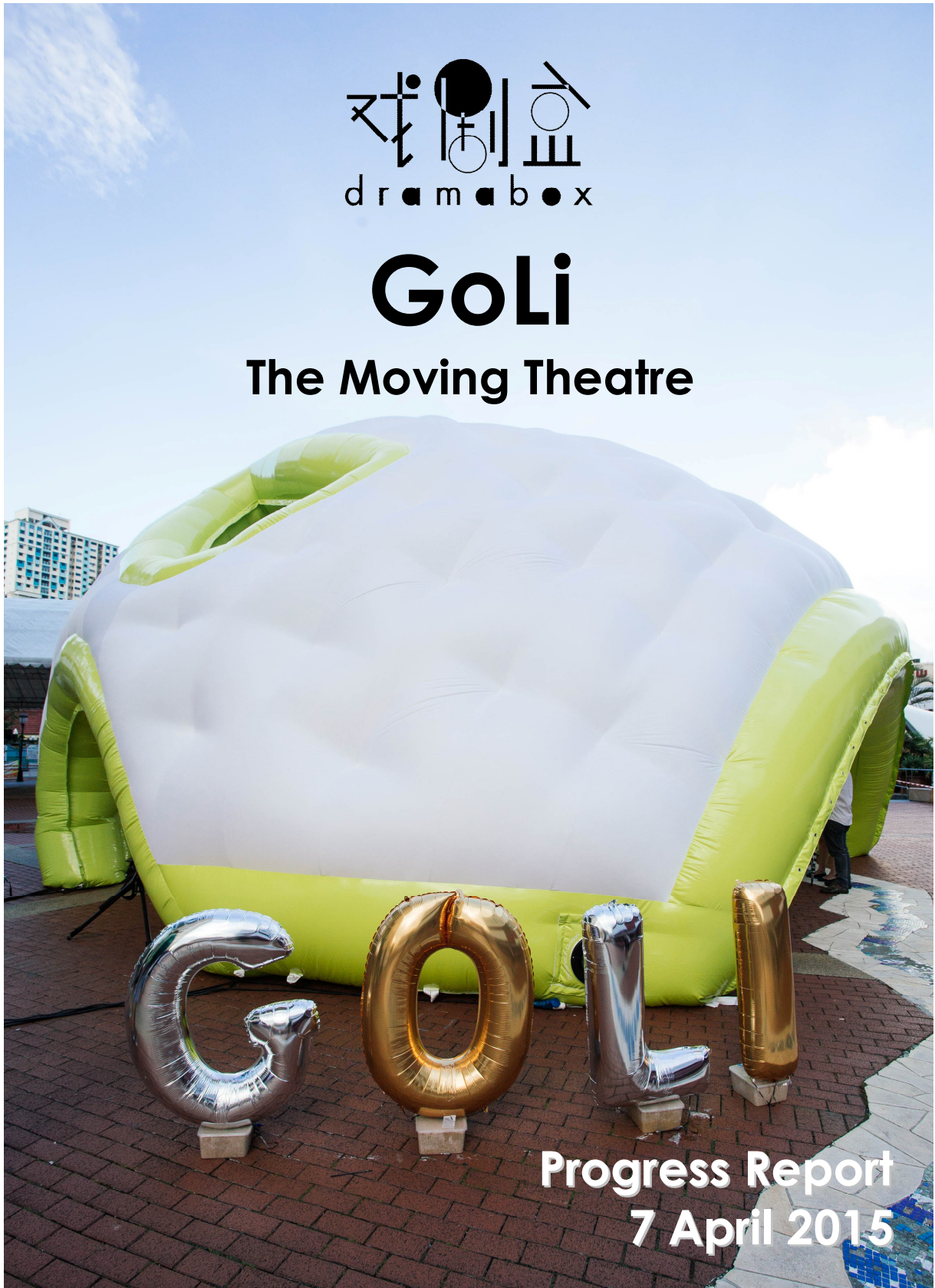
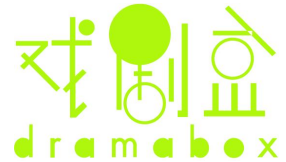


# GoLi

## The Moving Theatre



Progress Report  
7 April 2015



“I have always believed that Theatre should reach out to the people.

Theatre in Community deals with difficult issues in an imaginative way that engages with people, while upholding its aesthetic and artistic value.

The wisdom of the people, their faces and souls are what's behind the theatre we make.”

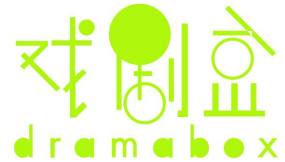
Kok Heng Leun, Artistic Director, Drama Box, Singapore

“It takes a place to build a community, and a community to build a place.

Goli will be a place where people come together to reimagine our public spaces, drawing from our cultural assets, aspirations and potential.

Together, we shall forge identities, build communal memories, transform places, and foster our sense of belonging as a community.”

Koh Hui Ling, Assoc. Artistic Director, Drama Box, Singapore



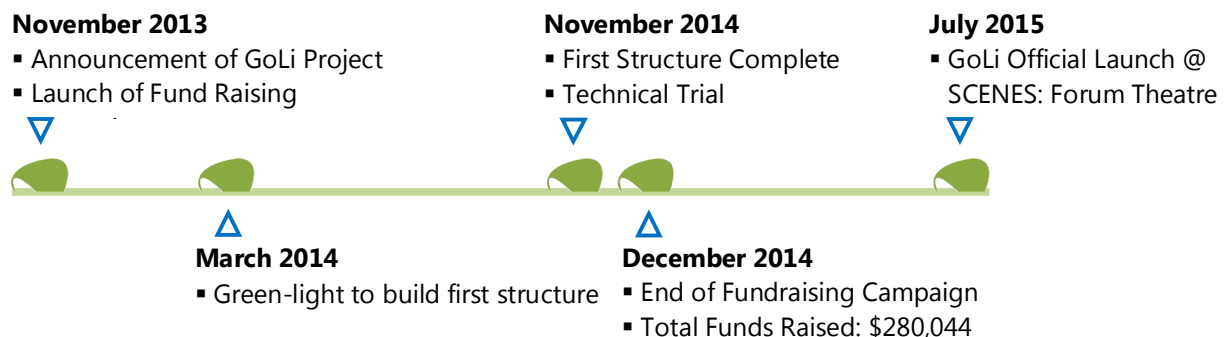
## GoLi's Journey in a Nutshell

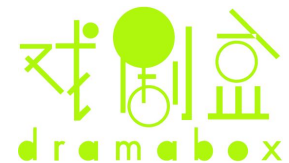
**GoLi – The Moving Theatre** is a ground-breaking project that will transform how Community Theatre can be done in Singapore. When completed, **GoLi** will be the first inflatable pop-up theatre in Singapore, with new possibilities for making Community Theatre dynamic, exciting and enriching for all. Conceived by childhood friends Koh Hui Ling (Associate Artistic Director, Drama Box) and Ting-Ting Zhang (Architect, Atelier Watt), this is a joint initiative by Drama Box and Atelier Watt, to create an aesthetically exciting space for the community to enjoy and participate in artistic work, and a breath-taking architectural design that resonates and dialogues with our communal space.

In November 2013, we announced our plan and launched a fundraising campaign with a target to raise \$400,000 for the **GoLi** Project. By March 2014, we managed to secure enough funds to give the green-light to start the design and construction of the first structure which was completed and arrived in Singapore in November 2014. In the same month, we conducted a technical trial at Toa Payoh Central to explore how it will work with the space, understand how it will fare in our weather, and learn about its technical possibilities. We also took the chance to gather thoughts and wishes for the **GoLi** Project from the public as well as supporters who came by.

At the end of our donation campaign in December 2014, we raised a total of \$280,044. This includes contributions from the people in the community, organisations as well as monies from MCCY's Cultural Matching Fund. Till date, we have spent a total of \$93,530 on the **GoLi** Project.

Moving forward, we plan to officially launch **GoLi** in July 2015 with Drama Box's programme **SCENES: Forum Theatre**, a festival that gathers local and overseas community theatre practitioners, featuring forum theatre and community arts practices, workshops and talks. To this end, we are working on the design and construction of the second structure of **GoLi**, as well as continuing the fundraising efforts towards our \$400,000 target.





## GoLi's Fundraising

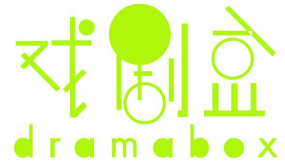
On 7 November 2013, we announced our plans for the **GoLi** Project, and launched a fundraising campaign with a target to raise \$400,000 by December 2014. We hoped to engage different stakeholders of the community to support the project. It is this collective power of the community, corporations and organisations, as well as the government coming together, that we hope will be the spirit and essence of **GoLi**. When the campaign ended, we raised a total of \$280,044.

Stakeholder	Funds Raised (\$\$)
Individuals	68,929
Corporations and Organisations	71,093
Government (MCCY's Cultural Matching Fund <sup>1</sup> , includes approved and pending monies)	140,022
<b>Total</b>	<b>280,044</b>

Below shows a breakdown of our actual and projected expenditure for the **GoLi** project:

Item Description	Actual (\$\$)	Projected (\$\$)
<b>Design, Engineering and Construction</b>		
First Inflatable Structure	68,391	-
Second Inflatable Structure	-	150,000
<b>Shipping and Installation</b>		
First Inflatable Structure	2,732	-
Second Inflatable Structure	-	5,000
<b>Equipment and Other Components</b>		
Lighting and Sound Equipment	-	25,000
Seating	-	15,000
<b>Administration</b>		
Maintenance and Storage	6,271	10,000
Technical Consultation	500	5,000
Marketing and Publicity	7,106	25,000
Local Transportation and International Travel	1,605	5,000
Project Management	5,000	10,000
Administration and Miscellaneous	1,925	6,470
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>93,530</b>	<b>256,470</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>350,000</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Drama Box is eligible for the Cultural Matching Fund set up by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY) on 1 November 2013 which provides dollar-for-dollar (1:1) matching grants for private cash donations to arts and heritage charities and Institutions of a Public Character.



While fundraising efforts towards our \$400,000 target will continue, we are taking a conservative approach to the spending for the **GoLi** Project, bearing in mind that we are ultimately accountable to the stakeholders and supporters of Drama Box. Any funds raised beyond what we finally spend on the **GoLi** Project will be channeled towards the programming costs of future Drama Box programmes housed within **GoLi**. We also re-evaluated our short to medium term needs, and decided to design and construct a total of two inflatable structure for this phase of the **GoLi** Project, instead of the initial vision of constructing three or four structures.

## GoLi's Architecture

**GoLi** designers, William Tan and Ting-Ting (Atelier Watt), are working with a UK based company Inflate ([www.inflate.co.uk](http://www.inflate.co.uk)) to design and construct **GoLi**. Inflate is an award winning design and production consultancy for bespoke inflatable structures. GoLi is projected to have a life-span of about 8 to 10 years, exciting and inspiring Singapore for the next decade.

### The First Structure

By March 2014, we had managed to raise enough funds to give the green-light to start the design and construction of the first structure of **GoLi**. Our original plan was to have the first structure of **GoLi** ready by July 2014, so that we could use it with Drama Box's programme *IgnorLAND of its Time* as a trial run to identify any problems and obstacles so that we could make adjustments for the design and construction of the following structures.

However, we took more time than expected to clarify and implement steps to adhere to the requirements for the deployment of such structures in Singapore as outlined by the authorities. As such, the first structure of **GoLi** was only completed and arrived in Singapore in November 2014.

### Technical Trial

In November 2014, we conducted a technical trial at Toa Payoh Central with the first structure of **GoLi** to explore how it will work with the space, understand how it will fare in our weather, and learn about its technical possibilities. We also took the chance to gather thoughts and feedback for the **GoLi** Project from the public and supporters who came by.

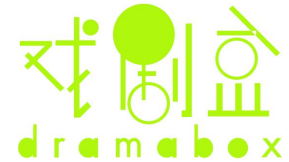


The weather was very favourable for our test trial – sunny during the set-up, showers in the mid-afternoon, clear skies into the evening and night. We also tried out some lighting possibilities in the evening as well as conducted sound tests with our actors to understand the potential and limitations of using **GoLi** with future programmes.

**GoLi** was generally received with interest and delight by the public who came by. They were attracted by its unique design and how it stood out from its surroundings, and felt it emitted a sense of fun and joy. They also had questions about the practical aspects of **GoLi**, such as the locations we plan to bring **GoLi** to, its durability, how it may be used in our future programmes, ventilation and power consumption concerns among others.

### The Second Structure

With the experience of designing and building the first structure of **GoLi**, as well as information gathered from the technical trial, we have embarked on the design and construction of the second structure. We envision it to more than double the size of the first, to accommodate a larger audience and provide possibilities for different configurations of **GoLi** for our programmes. Improvements to the design based on the trial results will also be considered and incorporated, such as measures to prevent leakages in the roof, and larger doors for more ventilation and accessibility.



## GoLi's Programmes

**GoLi** will feature programmes by Drama Box, created by the artists, with the people from the community, for everyone in the community to enjoy. The programmes housed in **GoLi** can take the form of anything ranging from theatre performances, installations, exhibitions, carnivals and festivals. Our unique approach to Community Theatre allows for deep engagement between the audience and the performances invites the audience to actively participate in our work and think about issues discussed through the performances.

Over the last 15 years, Drama Box has been delegating special efforts and attention in developing arts in the community, and is one of the pioneers in promoting arts in the community in Singapore. The main forms of theatre we have been employing are **Forum Theatre**<sup>2</sup> and **Newspaper Theatre**<sup>3</sup>, where we created a safe space for dialogue and exploration of different important issues with the community, including domestic violence, ageing issues, problem gambling, out-of-school-youth, AIDS, migrant workers and many more. We also created a series of site-specific projects, **IgnorLAND**, where we excavate shared memories of a place, and bring unknown or forgotten stories to the people. We have also pioneered a genre of arts-based civic engagement work in Singapore - **Immersive Arts Experience**, to engage the public on important civic issues, and demonstrate the value and potency of the arts and its processes in public life, contributing towards the development of culture and society.

The official launch of **GoLi** will be in July 2015, with **SCENES: Forum Theatre**, a festival that gathers local and overseas community theatre practitioners, featuring forum theatre and community arts practices, workshops and talks.

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<sup>2</sup> Forum Theatre originated from "Theatre of the Oppressed", established by Brazilian theatre master Augusto Boal. The most distinct feature of Forum Theatre is that it turns passive spectators to become proactive "spect-actors" by allowing them onstage to replace actors and change the outcome of a play.

<sup>3</sup> Newspaper Theatre originated from "Theatre of the Oppressed", established by Brazilian theatre master Augusto Boal. Combining Italian Commedia dell'arte, variety shows and family soap opera, the performances caricature current events that affect the people of Singapore, providing a different perspective to reading news.