

# Pedestrian plaza turns a culture hotspot

## Jam Sessions, B-boying Among The Upcoming Performances

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**Chennai:** The Pedestrian Plaza pulsed with the beat of drums on Friday evening as Master Sha took the stage for a pop-up concert that within minutes caught the attention of passersby.

As he got the shopaholics and selfiholics grooving to his beat, Master Sha also set the pace for Pondy Bazaar's newly christened plaza to turn into one of the more culturally happening hotspots in the city.

At least it's what Smart



**ADDING TO ZING:** Drums Circle hosted by Unwind Centre at Pedestrian Plaza on Friday

City CEO Raj Cherubal hopes.

The coming days, he says, will see musicians — young

and old, classical and contemporary — rock the pavement on weekends. "People have suddenly realized the

potential of the plaza," says Cherubal. "We've been flooded with requests to perform. We're hoping this turns

into a great space to showcase talent."

On Saturday, for instance, Madras Inherited is inviting artists to the plaza to "interpret the heritage of T Nagar". Artists will be given an hour each to express themselves on the canvas provided as well as paints, brushes and spray paint cans. At the end of the hour, another artist will take over from the previous one and will get an hour to respond or react to the work," says Anirudh Venkat of Madras Inherited. All the work will also be displayed at a later date, he adds.

"People are warming up to the idea of street performances," says Arjun Madhavan of Unwind Centre, who hosted the Drums Circle.

"We had everyone from children to an 80-year-old try their hand at drumming on Friday. Our idea is to present

'clean' events with no profanity or vulgarity," says Madhavan.

Upcoming events will include jam sessions, poetry readings, open mics, breakdancing and B-boying.

"The local police station is being constantly informed of the events. We are working on streamlining the application process for the performances as we are getting a huge amount of interest," says Cherubal. He adds that plogging events are also being planned.

"We want citizens to take ownership of the plaza," he says.

Feeder services from metro stations to the wi-fi enabled plaza are also up and running.

As the December music seasons rolls in, rasikas, it may be time to look out for kutcheris at the plaza.

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