

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT 主席報告



As I write, the world is a very different place from 12 months ago. Economies and businesses have been rocked, social norms upended, the daily routine of the entire world reshaped. The arts and culture industry, which is so dependent on audience engagement and sharing, has experienced especially tough times. At the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCD or the Authority), we have had to deal with the new reality of social distancing, venue closures and show rescheduling caused by social events and the COVID-19 pandemic. Inevitably, there has been an impact on our operations and programmes.

But WKCD has been fortunate in having highly competent and committed teams who have risen to the challenges of the year. Their exceptional efforts have enabled us to reach a number of significant milestones during this rather unsettling year.

One of the biggest milestones was the launch of **Freespace** in mid-2019, our superb new performing arts venue, bringing Hong Kong a new platform for exploration and experimentation in the arts. The launch of Freespace coincided perfectly with the fully opened **Art Park**, which has proved to be extremely popular as a green 'breathing space' where visitors can relax and interact with arts and culture in the open air. The two venues have created a unique indoor-outdoor arts environment for those looking to immerse themselves in the exciting world of contemporary performing arts.

當我在寫下這篇報告之際，整個世界與一年前相比，經歷了天翻地覆的轉變。經濟波動，營商環境風高浪急，社會常態改弦易轍，世界各地的日常生活亦已經再不一樣。藝術文化產業著重觀眾的參與和分享，正處於特別艱難時期。西九文化區管理局(管理局)亦須面對因為社會事件與2019冠狀病毒病帶來的社會新常態——加強社交距離、關閉場地、節目改期等等，這無可避免地對我們的營運及節目安排產生影響。

可幸管理局有一支精明能幹和盡心盡力的團隊，他們積極應對挑戰，作出卓越貢獻，讓我們可以在這不平凡的一年，創下多個重要的里程碑。

自由空間在2019年年中啟用，是最重要的里程碑之一。這個全新和卓越的表演藝術場地，為香港帶來藝術探索和試驗的新平台。自由空間啟用的同時，與**藝術公園**全面開放完美配合。藝術公園是一個讓遊人喘息的綠色休憩空間，極受市民大眾歡迎，訪客可以在戶外放鬆身心，並與藝術文化互動。自由空間和藝術公園融匯成獨特、室內外並全的藝術環境，讓訪客沉浸在當代表演藝術的精彩世界之中。

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT
主席報告

Not far away, **M+** has emerged as a stunning landmark on the waterfront in the West Kowloon Cultural District (the District). We are excited to be counting down to the opening of this, one of the largest contemporary visual culture museums in the world. Apart from being a new architectural icon for Hong Kong, **M+** is set to transform the city's cultural landscape as an innovative museum and a welcoming space for art-lovers. Over the year, the **M+** team has remained very focused on the preparations for opening the museum through activities that engaged with the local community and international partners alike. There have been continued additions to its precious collections, with outstanding items such as the Archigram Archive that will establish **M+** as a major world-class museum of visual culture when it opens its door to the public next year.

不遠處的**M+**已成為西九文化區(西九)海濱宏偉壯觀的地標建築，是全球規模最大的當代視覺文化博物館之一。**M+**的開幕已進入倒數階段，我們為此感到興奮。作為一所嶄新博物館，**M+**是一個著重藝術愛好者體驗的空間，它不僅是香港全新的建築地標，未來更會改寫香港的文化景觀。過去一年，**M+**團隊仍然專注於透過舉辦多項活動，吸引本地社區和國際合作伙伴的參與，為博物館的開幕作好準備。**M+**亦不斷納入更多彌足珍貴的館藏，包括Archigram檔案等重要館藏，讓**M+**於明年向公眾開放時，躋身世界級視覺文化博物館的行列。



The District represents a major investment in the future of Hong Kong, and increasingly will provide many opportunities for our local arts and culture communities to expand and develop. The intangible social benefits it is bringing to our city are substantial and will flourish as more venues come on stream.

西九是香港未來的一項重要投資，為本地藝術文化界提供更多機會發展和成長，為香港創造無形的社會效益。西九將陸續有更多場地落成啟用，這些無形效益將會與日俱增，愈見顯著。



The **Hong Kong Palace Museum** has begun planning its pre-opening public engagement programmes, revealing some of the new curatorial approaches that will establish it as a world-leading museum of Chinese art and culture when it opens in mid-2022. Elsewhere, construction work has continued steadily on the **Lyric Theatre Complex**, which will showcase the best of Hong Kong and international dance and theatre.

香港故宮文化博物館已著手籌備一系列開幕前的公眾參與活動，並正研究各種新的策展方式。香港故宮文化博物館將於2022年年中揭幕，屆時將成為世界頂尖的中國藝術文化博物館。此外，**演藝綜合劇場**的建築工程正穩步推進，這個場地將呈獻本地以及國際最精彩的舞蹈和戲劇表演。

The **Xiqu Centre**, in its first full year of operations, delivered an extensive and varied array of both classic and boundary-pushing programmes. The enthusiastic audiences it attracted show its positive influence in preserving the wonderful heritage of xiqu, while helping to expand awareness of this unique art form among people of all ages.

戲曲中心剛營運滿一年，期間推出豐富多彩的經典和突破界限的節目，吸引不少熱情觀眾。戲曲中心積極傳承中國戲曲的優秀傳統藝術，並將這種獨特的藝術形式，推廣至不同的年齡層。

The pandemic has shown us that arts and culture are essential parts of people's daily lives. What's more, arts and cultural projects contribute significantly to economic development, especially in the areas of the creative industries and tourism. It is vital, therefore, that we continue to work to establish the District as a place for everyone. The District represents a major investment in the future of Hong Kong, and increasingly will provide many opportunities for our local arts and culture communities to expand and develop. The intangible social benefits it is bringing to our city are substantial and will flourish as more venues come on stream.

經歷這次疫情，我們更加深信藝術文化是所有人日常生活不可或缺的一部分。藝術文化項目更在促進經濟發展中發揮非常重要的作用，尤其對創意產業及旅遊業的貢獻最為明顯。因此，我們會繼續將西九建設成一個屬於所有人的地方。西九是香港未來的一項重要投資，為本地藝術文化界提供更多發展和成長機會，並為香港創造無形的社會效益。西九將陸續有更多場地落成啟用，這些無形效益將會與日俱增，愈見顯著。

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT 主席報告

Nevertheless, we face economic challenges, especially as more venues come into operation and more programmes are offered in the next year or two. The vital next step is to ensure the long-term sustainability of the District. We took a major step towards achieving this with the funding approved by the Legislative Council in March 2020 for the works of the Integrated Basement (IB), and the execution of the Land Grant in April, which mean we can now forge ahead with the commercial development of Hotel/Office/Residential buildings on top of the IB. These buildings will deliver an important source of recurrent income for the Authority.

We are continuing to work with financial advisors and the Government to identify the best means to sustain operations in the District. I would like to thank the Government, my fellow WKCDA Board Members, the members of the Committees, the Subsidiaries and the Consultation Panel and other Panels, for the valuable support they have provided over the past year. My special gratitude goes out to the entire WKCDA team, who have worked tirelessly through these extremely tough times.

We remain on course to achieve our ambitious goals which are designed to support Hong Kong, enrich its people, and make our city a beacon of arts and culture innovation in Asia. To do this, the District will continue nurturing and supporting arts and culture in Hong Kong and beyond, in line with our core mission 'Bringing arts to people and people to arts'.

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Chairman of the Board of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

西九文化區管理局董事局主席

Hong Kong, 8 September 2020

香港, 2020年9月8日

儘管如此，我們正面對著財務挑戰。尤其在未來一兩年，西九將有更多場地投入營運和愈來愈多節目上演。下一步的重任和目標，是要確保西九能夠長遠地可持續發展。立法會於2020年3月批准了綜合地庫工程項目的撥款，同年4月，批地文件亦正式簽立生效，標誌著西九向這個重要目標邁進一大步。我們現在可以推展綜合地庫的上蓋酒店／辦公室／住宅樓宇作商業發展，這些樓宇將為管理局提供重要的經常性收入來源。

目前，我們正與財務顧問和特區政府緊密合作，尋找最合適的方案，讓西九維持長遠營運發展。在此，我衷心感謝特區政府、管理局董事局成員、各委員會及各附屬公司董事局成員、諮詢會以及其他小組的成員，在過去一年提供了寶貴的支持。同時，我亦特別感謝整個管理局團隊，在這種為艱難時期，仍然努力不懈。

我們將繼續向前邁進，致力實現西九的遠大目標，以支持香港的發展，豐富香港市民大眾的生活，將香港締造成亞洲最具活力和創意的藝術文化之都。為此，西九將繼續推動和培育本地以及香港以外地區的藝術文化發展，秉承西九的核心使命，「將藝術帶給市民大眾，加強市民大眾與藝術的連繫」。