

Board of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

West Kowloon Cultural District Authority
Minutes of the Eighty-eighth Board Meeting
Held on Wednesday, 25 March 2020, at 2:30 p.m.
in the Board Room, West Kowloon Cultural District Authority,
Units 608-613, Level 6, Core C, Cyberport 3, 100 Cyberport Road
Hong Kong

Open Session

Members Present:

The Hon Henry TANG Ying-yen, GBM, GBS, JP	Chairman
The Hon Ronald ARCULLI, GBM, GBS, JP	Vice-Chairman
<i>(via teleconferencing)</i>	
Mr Benjamin CHA Yiu-chung	
<i>(via teleconferencing)</i>	
Ir CHAN Chi-chiu, SBS	
<i>(via teleconferencing)</i>	
The Hon Bernard Charnwut CHAN, GBS, JP	
Mr Henry FAN Hung-ling, SBS, JP	
Mr Glenn FOK	
<i>(via teleconferencing)</i>	
Mr Wilson FUNG Ying-wai	
Mr Chris IP Ngo-tung, JP	
Ms Rose LEE Wai-mun, JP	
Dr Hon LO Wai-kiwok, SBS, MH, JP	
<i>(via teleconferencing)</i>	
Ms Dee POON Chu-ying	
<i>(via teleconferencing)</i>	
Ms Winnie TAM Wan-chi, SC, JP	
<i>(via teleconferencing)</i>	
Mr WAN Man-ye, BBS, JP	
<i>(via teleconferencing)</i>	
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP	Secretary for Home Affairs
Mr LIU Chun-san, JP	Under Secretary for Development
Mr Joseph CHAN Ho-lim, JP	Under Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
Mr Duncan PESCOD, GBS, JP	Chief Executive Officer, West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

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Ms Amy TAM

(“WKCDA” or “the
Authority”)
General Counsel,
WKCDA (Secretary)

In Attendance:

Government Representatives

Mrs Cherry TSE LING Kit-ching, JP

Permanent Secretary for
Home Affairs

Mrs Angelina CHEUNG FUNG Wing-ping, JP

Deputy Secretary for
Home Affairs(2)

Ms YING Fun-fong, JP

Project Manager (HAB)

Mr Kirk YIP Hoi-ying

Principal Assistant
Secretary (West Kowloon
Cultural District)

Mr Jerry CHEUNG Chun-yu

Principal Assistant
Secretary for Financial
Services & the Treasury
(Treasury)(I)

WKCDA

Ms Eva KWONG

(via teleconferencing)

Ms Kitty FUNG

(via teleconferencing)

Dr William CHAN

Chief Corporate Services
Office

Chief Financial Officer

Chief Commercial
Officer

Mr Jeremy STOWE

Ms Suhanya RAFFEL

Dr Louis NG

Chief Projects Officer

Museum Director, M+

Museum Director, Hong
Kong Palace Museum

Mr Paul TAM

Executive Director,
Performing Arts

Mr Norman HEUNG, BBS

Administrative Assistant
to Board Chairman

Mrs Grace YEUNG

Senior Executive
Assistant, Legal and
Secretarial Division

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Absent with Apologies:

Mr Leo KUNG Lin-cheng, GBS, JP

Dr KAN Tai-keung, SBS

Open Session with Webcasting

Chief Executive Officer's Report

The Chairman welcomed the public to watch the open session of the 88th WKCDA Board meeting through a live broadcast at the West Kowloon Cultural District (“WKCD”) website.

2. Mr Duncan PESCOD was pleased to start his report by welcoming the new EDPA, Mr Paul TAM. Mr Tam would lead the Performing Arts (“PA”) Division to deliver world-class programmes and oversee operations of the PA venues and facilities in WKCD. He was responsible for steering the strategic planning and sustainable development of these venues and overseeing their business direction, artistic development, venue operations, technical and production, facilities planning and delivery.

3. Mr Duncan PESCOD reported that, on 20 March 2020, the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) Finance Committee approved the funding application for the public infrastructure works including Artist Square Bridge (“ASB”) for WKCD and the remaining works for the district’s Integrated Basement (“IB”). He thanked HAB for securing this approval and for their staunch support for the WKCD project. He also thanked the LegCo members for voting for this important application. With this approval, WKCD now entered a new phase of the development. The construction of the main portion of the IB was the pre-requisite for any topside developments in the remaining sections of the project. The approved funding would make the developments of both cultural and commercial development in this area possible. The commercial development of Hotels Offices and Residential (“HOR”) buildings, in particular, was key to the long-term sustainability of WKCD as this would become an important source of recurrent income for the Authority. Of equal importance, the approval also meant that the Authority could now commence construction of the ASB, which would make WKCD more accessible to the nearby transportation hub located at the Kowloon Station and significantly enhance the connectivity of the district. The Authority would start processing related works for the basement and commence the detailed preparatory work for both the remaining core arts and culture

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facilities and the HOR development packages. This approval was most timely as the Authority had now received the final Land Grant, which had been signed and returned to the Government for final processing.

4. Mr Duncan PESCOD said that, with the combination of the holiday period over the Chinese New Year when the construction industry typically closed down and the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, progress on WKCDA's construction projects experienced a substantial slow-down during February with only a partial return in March, it was anticipated that by early April progress would finally return to the rate at which experienced in January. However, with the latest situation showing a return of coronavirus cases to Hong Kong, the outlook for April was now negative. There might be further negative impacts on the progress of the construction works. The coronavirus pandemic had hit progress on WKCD project. The Authority had encountered problems in two main areas: resources i.e. workers on site, and deliveries of materials because of the supply chain of building material from Mainland China. Most notably, deliveries of material such as concrete to construction site had been badly affected since some of the supply chains in Mainland China were temporarily closed in February.

5. Mr Duncan PESCOD went to report on the progress made in WKCD on various fronts –

(a) **Construction projects**

- (i) Lyric Theatre Complex and IB – The entire B2 base slab to the North and South side of the site would be completed in the weeks ahead. Construction of the superstructure was also gathering pace.
- (ii) M+ – The project was in its final stages of construction. Although the planned date for Occupation Permit (“OP”) had been delayed by several weeks, it was still hopeful of gaining the OP by the end of Q2 2020, allowing the Museum to open 9-12 months afterwards.
- (iii) Hong Kong Palace Museum – The construction was now up to the third of the seven storeys of the building.

- (b) **Art Park and M+ Pavilion** – To ensure public safety and in line with the Government's epidemic prevention efforts, the Authority decided to close some performance venues, and had rescheduled or cancelled some of the performances and activities following the closure. The M+ Pavilion also had to

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be temporarily closed again until 31 March 2020. In the meantime, the Art Park remained open to the public and was proving to be extremely popular.

- (c) **Freespace** – It introduced #LivehouseAtHome, a safe way for audience to enjoy live music at their convenience. From early February, every Friday and Saturday evenings, and Sunday afternoons, Freespace brought an exciting line-up of local music acts streaming live from Lau Bak Livehouse on Freespace Facebook and Instagram feeds. WKCD was one of the first arts institutions in Hong Kong to launch online livestreaming of performances in response to the coronavirus. Since the launch of the #LivehouseAtHome programme in early February, it had live-streamed 40 music performances across seven weekends, reaching more than 86 000 people across Hong Kong and worldwide. The audience could check out Freespace Facebook page and Instagram at home or anywhere to listen to live jazz, alternative, classical or indie music performances. Although the performances had to be suspended for the next few days, these broadcast could be hopefully resumed shortly.
- (d) **Xiqu Centre** – Free performances of traditional Chinese music at the Xiqu Centre Atrium continued. Presented by a changing line-up of invited professional troupes, the programme featured a range of styles – including classical and folk tunes and Chinese opera music – and showcased the versatility of traditional wind, stringed and percussion instruments. Performances took place on 14 and 15 March 2020, by Hong Kong Plucked String Chinese Orchestra and Windpipe Chinese Music Ensemble. Additional online content would be launched in the coming weeks to ensure that even though WKCD venues were closed to help stop the spread of the coronavirus, WKCD was still bringing great PA to audiences through its social media pages.

6. Mr Duncan PESCOD concluded his report by reminding everyone to stay safe, stay in, maintain social distancing, and tune into WKCD's free online archive of wonderful music.

7. Members noted the report.