

# **Consultation Panel of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority**

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For information on  
23 September 2016

WKCDA CP/02/2016

## **Update on the Progress of the West Kowloon Cultural District Development**

### **PURPOSE**

This paper provides an update on the progress of the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) development.

### **BACKGROUND**

2. At the last three Consultation Panel meetings held on 7 September 2015, 19 January 2016 and 22 April 2016 respectively, the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA) updated Members on the progress of the hardware development of the WKCD project, including the Xiqu Centre, the Park, M+, M+ Pavilion, Interfacing Carpark, Lyric Theatre Complex and Public Infrastructure Works (PIW) Main Works. Members noted the visual arts and performing arts events held in the past years and were consulted on the various audience building and capacity building initiatives. Members were also consulted on engagement of youth and the community.

### **HARDWARE DEVELOPMENT**

3. In the past few months, good progress had been made in the design and construction of all Batch 1 and most of the Batch 2 facilities. The key achievements and milestones to date include the following:

#### ***Xiqu Centre***

4. The steelwork for the main theatre was elevated and secured in early May 2016. This means that all of the basic structure of the Xiqu Centre is now in place. The next stage will see the erection of the perimeter steel structures and casting of concrete floors. The contractor started the fabrication of the façade panels early this year and has just commenced installation. We expect that the

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building will be made watertight by the end of the year, which will allow work on the interior to progress without risk of exposure to the elements. We will press ahead with the remaining construction works and target to obtain the Occupation Permit (OP) for the Xiqu Centre in mid-2017 as scheduled.

### ***The Art Park***

5. The Main Works for the Art Park commenced construction in July 2016. The Art Park will be completed in phases, targeting for completion from 2017 to end 2018. To facilitate the construction of the Art Park, the majority of the existing waterfront promenade was closed in July 2016 to synchronise with the development programme. During this construction period, the Nursery Park and the adjoining northern portion of the waterfront promenade will remain open. A temporary extension of the existing pet zone will also be open for public enjoyment soon.

### ***M+ Pavilion***

6. The M+ Pavilion was opened in late July 2016. This is the first permanent exhibition space for the M+ museum within the WKCD. It will be used to showcase smaller-scale exhibitions ahead of the opening of the M+ building in 2019. The inaugural exhibition in M+ Pavilion opened on 9 September 2016, showcasing Tsang Kin-wah's 2015 Venice Biennale return exhibition. Subsequent exhibitions including design objects from the M+ Collection and Hong Kong's Popular Culture are being planned. Going forward, M+ plans to feature a wide variety of exhibits drawn from its growing collection at the M+ Pavilion. This series of exhibition will give visitors a taste of the future museum experience.

### ***M+***

7. The M+ building and the Conservation and Storage Facility will be completed by the end of 2018 for opening in late 2019. Following completion of the foundation works in the third quarter of 2015, the main works for M+ commenced in the fourth quarter of 2015, with excavation and sub-structure works now underway. It will soon be possible to see the tower section emerging from the ground once the major trusses supporting it above the Airport Express tunnel are completed by mid-2017. As the M+ building is located immediately above the existing Airport Express Tunnels, any movement induced from the M+ foundation and building works is a major concern to both MTR Corporation

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Limited (MTRCL) and WKCDA. To safeguard the operation of the Airport Express, monitoring and mitigation measures have been implemented and extreme care has been taken during the execution of the said construction works. WKCDA will continue to maintain close coordination with MTRCL to ensure the safe operation of the Airport Express.

### ***Lyric Theatre Complex (LTC)***

8. The foundation works for LTC and associated Zone 3B basement commenced in January 2016 and are on schedule. The installation of the piles for the LTC and Artist Square foundations is moving ahead smoothly, and 70% detailed design of the LTC has been received and is now being reviewed. The detailed design of LTC is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2016 and construction of the main works is planned to start in the third quarter of 2017. Completion of LTC is estimated to be around 2020/21.

### ***Public Infrastructure Works (PIW)***

9. PIW is fully funded by the Government. Implementation of the PIW is divided into two construction packages. The first construction package commenced in July 2015. The scope of the package comprises an at-grade road south of Nga Cheung Road, lay-bys, water supply systems, drainage and sewage works supporting the Park, Xiqu Centre and the Artist Square Development Area.

10. The second construction package comprises mainly the construction of the Artist Square Bridge (ASB) – a footbridge which connects the MTR Kowloon Station/Elements shopping mall and the Artist Square in WKCD. Design of the ASB is underway and an application to Finance Committee of Legislative Council for funding approval is tentatively scheduled for the first quarter of 2017.

11. In addition, we conducted the technical feasibility study of providing a direct connection from the MTR Austin Station to the Xiqu Centre basement to enhance connectivity. The consultant had submitted their findings on technical feasibility, envisaged construction sequence, programme and cost to WKCDA. Separately, we are working closely with the relevant Government departments on the beautification of the existing subway across Austin Road West to support the opening of the Xiqu Centre.

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## AUDIENCE BUILDING

12. In order to nurture new audiences, cultivate public interest and appreciation of the arts, and raise public awareness of the WKCD project, WKCD has initiated and co-presented a wide array of performances, events, exhibitions, forums and workshops online, at the WKCD site and other locations in Hong Kong throughout the year. Highlights of recent and upcoming events include –

- (a) **Major exhibitions at M+ Pavilion** - From September 2016 to May 2017, M+ will present **Nothing**, a solo exhibition by Hong Kong artist Tsang Kin-Wah, a new commission following the artist's critically acclaimed solo exhibition representing Hong Kong at the 2015 Venice Biennale; **Shifting Objectives: Design from the M+ Collection**, the museum's debut of its unprecedented, ground-breaking design collection, and an exhibition that looks at how women have been represented through the lens of popular culture in Hong Kong since the 1980s. Representing a diversity of disciplines, themes, subject matters, and approaches, this trio of exhibitions will inaugurate an ongoing programme of exhibitions that will make the M+ Pavilion the public home of the museum until the opening of the permanent M+ building in late 2019.
- (b) **Freespace Happening** - Between August 2015 and March 2016, Freespace Happening attracted over 50,000 visitors to the West Kowloon Nursery Park with a variety of free outdoor music and art activities. This September sees the start of our new season running till March 2017, bringing audiences a mix of music, dance, street performances, markets, workshops and more. The first Freespace Happening event was held on 11 September 2016.
- (c) **Rising Stars of Cantonese Opera II** - The "Rising Stars in Cantonese Opera Showcase" was first introduced in 2014 whereby rising stars of Cantonese opera are given a platform to showcase their artistic performance and potential through a competition. As a continuation of WKCD's attempt to nurture young talent through performance, training and cultural exchange, WKCD premiered its first **Rising Stars of Cantonese Opera** in 2015, receiving an overwhelmingly positive response from the audience. This year, under the guidance and curatorship of Mr

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LAW Ka-ying, seven new rising stars with seven other performers who were cast last year performed three full-length productions *Loyal to Love*, *The Lady's Sash* and *The Immortal Zhang Yuqiao* in **Rising Stars of Cantonese Opera II** between 12 and 17 August 2016 at Ko Shan Theatre New Wing.

- (d) ***The Ghost Seller & His Butterflies (Version 80): An evening of two contemporary performances*** - WKCDA presented an innovative double bill of genre-twisting productions - "**The Ghost Seller**" by GuoGuang Opera Company from Taiwan and "**His Butterflies (Version 80)**" by Utopia Cantonese Opera Workshop from Hong Kong on 26 – 28 February 2016. The programme aimed to foster cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan and nurture younger, talented artists and playwrights through joint presentation of new short pieces curated by the younger generation. It also paved the way for WKCDA to develop new repertoire for small venues, and extend its audience base to the younger generation. Apart from performances, The Ghost Seller student matinee and a sharing session were also organised to students and the public respectively.
- (e) ***Big Dance Pledge 2016 (Hong Kong)*** - On 20 May 2016, Big Dance Worldwide Performance Day was held. WKCDA collaborated with local partners and led around 120 participants in a Big Dance Pledge 2016 (Hong Kong), featuring on-site dance at WKCD. The event marked the first Big Dance Pledge performance in Hong Kong, kicking off a series of participatory events that are set to take place. Big Dance Pledge is an international community participatory event that began in 2006 in the United Kingdom to bring people together through dance. The Big Dance choreography for 2016 was done by internationally acclaimed dancer/choreographer Akram KHAN, created for all walks of life and all levels of dance experience, therefore easy to learn and perform. Local dance partners included the City Contemporary Dance Company Dance Centre, The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA), HKAPA Dance Alumni Association, Centre for Community Cultural Development Symbiotic Dance Troupe and Passoverdance.
- (f) ***M+ Screenings*** - M+ Screenings is conceived as an on-going screening programme in a serialised format. M+ Screenings returned in July 2016 with six programmes that examine British artists' films and videos from the post-punk era (1978–85). Featured artists used inexpensive domestic technologies to find new modes of expression, embracing the DIY

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approach of punk and subverting mainstream media images to create fresh dialogues between the self and the world. The July screening is co-organised with the UK-based institutions, LUX (a London-based artist film agency) and the British Film Institute.

- (g) **M+ Sigg Collection exhibition** - M+ held the **M+ Sigg Collection: Four Decades of Chinese Contemporary Art** exhibition from February to April 2016. Featuring around 80 works by 50 artists, this is the first-ever chronological exhibition about the emergence and development of Chinese contemporary art. It offered a glimpse of the collection that will be on display when the M+ building opens. This exhibition was a huge success, attracted more than 40,000 visitors during the period with positive coverage in both local and international media. More than 100 school tours were held in parallel to a series of learning programmes including guided, curator-led, and access tours especially for the visually impaired, which were well received. In addition, special workshops were offered to for teachers.
  
- (h) **M+ Matters** - M+ Matters is a series of public talks exploring various aspects of curatorial, institutional, and museological interests and needs with key players in the field of visual art, design, architecture and moving image. A total of ten episodes of the M+ Matters series have been held since its launch in 2012. The tenth episode “**Confronting Activist Art and Design from a Museological Perspective**” was held in March 2016. In addition, M+ also presented its first international edition of its talks series M+ Matters, “**Copies without Borders: Imitation as Innovation**”, at Atelier Clerici in Milan, on 14 April 2016.

### **CAPACITY BUILDING**

13. Well before the opening of its facilities, WKCDA has been working to enhance Hong Kong’s artistic capacity through initiatives including seminars, workshops, training programmes, internship schemes and collaborative projects. These programmes seek to advance the artistic and professional development of arts practitioners; extend their professional network; facilitate knowledge and cultural exchange; and raise the awareness of different art forms in the community. Recent programmes and initiatives are highlighted as follows

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- (a) ***Exchanges and Collaboration Programmes with The Shanghai Center of Chinese Operas*** - WKCDA signed an agreement with The Shanghai Center of Chinese Operas on 12 July 2016 to establish a long-term partnership covering exchanges in areas such as artistic development and venue operation. The Xiqu Centre and the Shanghai Center of Chinese Operas will take turns to organise exchange activities in the coming three years. Xiqu organisations and practitioners will be invited to exchange views on venue operations, stage technologies, arts administration, marketing and promotion, talent cultivation and production of original works while at the same time, various preparatory works of the Xiqu Centre in the WKCD are underway in full steam.
- (b) ***Xiqu Cultural Exchange Programme*** - In collaboration with the Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong, WKCDA has, since 2014, launched a Xiqu Cultural Exchange Programme that enables young artists to learn from key Xiqu institutions and experts in the region. The second exchange programme was held at Chongqing in which 12 emerging talents visited the Chongqing Chuan Theatre (重慶市川劇院) in October 2015. Participants took part in a series of artistic training and learning sessions on singing technique, acting skills and body movement, etc. WKCDA will continue to organise similar activities in the coming months.
- (c) ***Producers' Network Meeting and Forum*** - Producers' Network Meeting and Forum is the first of its kind in the region organised by WKCDA with two rounds held in May 2015 and May 2016. The Forum aimed at bringing together producers, curators and arts administrators on action plans to improve competitiveness, widen the audience base and expand artistic content with new regional cultural and arts infrastructure expected to come online in coming years. More than 80 local and overseas producers joined the networking meeting over the past two years.
- (d) ***New Works Forum*** - The New Works Forum was organised with a view to enhancing local performing arts developments, as well as providing a platform for Hong Kong artists working across different fields to expand into new areas through exploring innovative ways of creating and performing, while brainstorming on topics around contemporary performances. Three New Works Forums with topics on "**Screendance**", "**Writing Choreographic Process**" and "**Dance Dialogue with Wayne McGregor**" were held from August to October 2015, where internationally

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renowned directors and choreographers were invited to exchange on and share about the art of screendance, choreographic research and methodology, as well as the creative learning resources materials used and developed. Another New Works Forum “**Multimedia and Dance Dialogue - Hiroaki Umeda**” was held in June 2016 where internationally renowned Japanese choreographer/ multidisciplinary artist Hiroaki Umeda was invited to share his unique method of mixing digital technology and dance with local dance practitioners and multimedia artists.

- (e) ***International Workshop Festival of Theatre*** - This inaugural International Workshop Festival of Theatre held in August to November 2015 is part of the longer term capability development of the Hong Kong and regional arts landscape focusing on methodology of contemporary performance. 11 international theatre and contemporary performance makers were invited to share their experience and approaches to performance-making during the period. The Festival featured workshops, public lectures, dialogues with Hong Kong artists and an online archive service giving local theatre practitioners the opportunity to augment their knowledge and skills with leading international theatre and contemporary performance makers. A total of eight sessions with topics ranging from documentary theatre, playwright, dialogue within society, dramaturgy, writing movement, text and dance etc. by arts organisations and artists from Germany, Norway, Indonesia, Spain, Belgium, UK and Switzerland.
  
- (f) ***Overseas Exposures for local Art Group Leaders*** - Since 2013, WKCDA and the Hong Kong Arts Development Council initiated a programme to promote the professional development of local arts groups through providing training for local art leaders. The local art leaders are Sean Patrick CURRAN of Theatre du Pif, dance artist Daniel YEUNG, Even LAM of Jumbo Kids Theatre, Marble LEUNG of Hong Kong Repertory Theatre, and Mo LAI of FM Theatre Power. They were provided with training opportunities at overseas arts organisations, festivals and centres in the United States, Europe and Asia during the period from 2013 to 2015. Third sharing session was held on 11 April 2016 and all five participants shared their learning experience with the local arts sector after the visits. This programme offers our local art leaders valuable opportunities for vision expansion as well as global networking on top of gaining practical skills and knowledge. WKCDA believes that such programmes are important for the future arts development in Hong Kong.

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- (g) **Cultural Leadership Summit** – Since 2011, WKCDA has supported the annual conference organised by the Hong Kong Arts Administrators Association, which brings together experienced international and local cultural leaders to share and discuss important issues of cultural leadership and management relevant to the Hong Kong arts and cultural sector. For 2016, WKCDA supported the summit with the theme on “The Art of Successful Collaboration” held on 31 May – 1 June. Several senior executives of WKCDA spoke in different sessions of the conference to share their views and experiences.
- (h) **M+/Design Trust Research Fellowship Programme** - The M+/Design Trust Research Fellowship programme is an annual research fellowship grant, supported by Design Trust, which aims to support original research projects investigating issues relating to design and architecture in the Greater Pearl River Delta region, and between the region and other parts of the world. Concluding his six-month term as the inaugural (2014-15) M+/Design Trust Research Fellow, Mr FAN Ling, who is an architect and architectural historian from Mainland China, presented the results from his research at the fellowship talk “Power, Economics, and Urban Forms: How Hong Kong Helped Shape Beijing and the Contemporary Chinese City” on 24 November 2015. For 2015-16, Design Trust had expanded the number of fellowship from one to two. The two fellowships were awarded to Mr Joseph GRIMA (architect, writer and researcher from Italy) and Ms Juliana KEI & Mr Daniel COOPER (students of Master of Philosophy from the Victoria and Albert Museum / Royal College of Art History of Design programme in the United Kingdom and Master of Science from the Columbia University’s Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation in the United States respectively). They will be attached to M+ for five and three months respectively in summer 2016 and examine different research topics. At the end of the fellowship, they will produce a paper and hold public talks to share their research results.
- (i) **Research Programmes** - The Artist Research Programme (formerly M+ Visiting Artist Programme) is an on-going and internal programme to bring artists, designers and architects, filmmakers, and other thinkers and specialists to explore potential acquisitions, programmes, and projects in the future, deepening the M+ team’s know-how and expertise. So far seven practitioners, including film makers and visual artists, have participated in this programme. M+ is exploring a list of other potential

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practitioners, which will include digital artists, film makers, and media researchers, to visit and work with the M+ curators in the coming financial year. Museological Research Programme is another integral internal capacity building initiative. Under this Programme, well-established museum practitioners having expertise in different areas are invited to run workshops and training sessions with the M+ team. In November 2015, a visiting curator, Ms Eungie JOO (internationally renowned curator from the United States) shared her experience with the M+ team in museum public engagement and also acted as a consultant on the content, direction and long-term planning for M+'s learning and participatory programmes.

- (j) **M+ Docent Volunteer Programme** - Building on the experience of the M+ Docent Volunteer Programme, which was launched in early 2013 when the first group of 47 museum docents were selected to provide regular public and school tours during M+'s exhibitions. We have recently re-opened the application for the docent programme recruiting docents to join the existing batch in volunteering for exhibitions at the M+ Pavilion.
  
- (k) **M+ and Performing Arts Internship Programmes** - WKCD launched the M+ Internship Programme and Performing Arts Internship Programme in 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively, offering a unique opportunity to those who are interested in developing a career in the arts. Both programmes run on a recurring basis and have two to three intakes each year. Throughout the internship period, the interns work closely with professional staff to gain theoretical as well as practical training in museum practice, arts programming, research, facility design and operations through active involvement in the on-going visual culture or performing arts projects as well as a structured programme of workshops. As of end August, a total of 16 interns (3 in M+ and 13 in Performing Arts) participated in the internship programmes in 2016.

### **YOUTH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

14. To ensure the future arts and cultural facilities in the WKCD will meet the expectations of the public and users, WKCD has been constantly communicating with the public and stakeholders to gather their views and update them on the latest development of the WKCD project.

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### M+ Summer Camp

15. M+ Summer Camp is a youth-targeted initiative. Over four days, young people from different backgrounds explore, experiment, play, and work together in ways that nurture creativity, critical thinking, and confidence.

16. The M+ Summer Camp in July 2015 and July/August 2016 attracted a vibrant group of 100 students for each year from secondary schools to work with and learn from local creative practitioners – in the fields of visual art, design, architecture, illustration, comics, film, writing, and performing arts. Young attendees had a chance to go on a journey of participation and discovery, as well as fostering dialogue by examining artistic practices, creating a dynamic and memorable experience. The M+ Summer Camp offered an extraordinary opportunity to immerse in visual culture.

### M+ Rover

17. M+ rolled out an innovative outreach programme called M+ Rover: Traveling Creative Studio in March 2016 in a bid to raise awareness in the community and schools. The converted container functions as a pop-up space for exhibitions and workshops. M+ Rover emphasises creative collaboration between artists, teachers and students. Participating artists engaged students as co-producers in art making, role play, games and discussion. M+ Rover reached nearly 18,000 students and members of the public through 43 school visits and 13 community sessions between March and July 2016.

18. M+ Rover's exterior mimics that of a spaceship, while its warm interior comprises recycled wood taken from discarded pallets, combining mobility and sustainability. Creative practitioners from art, design, architecture, moving image, and other fields of visual culture are commissioned to lead school workshops.

19. M+ Rover is a tool to prompt students to explore uncharted creative territory. In view of its popularity, M+ is committed to continuing to run the M+ Rover to reach out to more schools and communities over the next year.

### West Kowloon Youth Exchange

20. West Kowloon Youth Exchange is a programme initiated by Consultation Panel (CP) with an attempt to foster interactive exchanges with young people on various aspects of the WKCD development. The first session was organised in July 2015 with WKCD's past interns to gauge their views, as well as to encourage them to organise their own events at the Nursery Park.

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### Culture Mixer

21. The Culture Mixer is another CP initiative to provide a platform for students to meet with the WKCD team to better understand the project and the District. Collaborating with a non-profit organisation, Junior Achievement Hong Kong, the programme consists of two components, namely Culture Mixer Workshop (Workshop) and West Kowloon Xperience Day (Xperience Day) to be held twice in the 2015/16 academic year. The programme welcomes all students and is not limited only to those taking visual arts-related subjects.

22. Two cycles of Culture Mixer had been completed, with the Workshop and the Xperience Day in October to November 2015 and March to April 2016 respectively. A total of 191 students from 30 secondary schools participated in the programmes.

### Nursery Park Tree Tours

23. Ancillary to the opening of the WKCD Nursery Park in July 2015, Nursery Park tree tours have been arranged to introduce the public to the different tree species that will be planted in the future park. As of 3 September 2016, nearly 350 members of the public had participated in the 24 tree tours launched since August 2015. Students from various institutes majoring in landscape architecture are engaged to be the guides of the tree tours and workshops, and volunteers from the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups were engaged to act as Park Ambassadors for the Freespace Happening.

### Youth and Community Engagement Programmes

24. It is the aim of CP to motivate the public to participate in the WKCD project, especially seeking support and appreciation of WKCD from the youth and community and a primary objective to attract more people to come to the WKCD.

25. Three pilot programmes will be organised with Yau Tsim Mong, Wan Chai and Kwai Tsing District Council and their programme partners in the first quarter of 2017 at the WKCD. WKCD will provide a platform for the public to participate in the programme together and stakeholders from different sectors in the community will have an opportunity to interact.

### Stakeholder meetings

26. Communication and engagement with stakeholders take the form of attending local arts and cultural events, giving lectures in different institutions

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and universities, participating in public panel discussions, as well as small group/one-on-one discussions with members of the arts community, and interviews with local and international media.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

27. Members are invited to note the progress and share their views on the WKCD development.

**West Kowloon Cultural District Authority  
September 2016**