

# 立法會 *Legislative Council*

LC Paper No. CB(2)977/11-12(07)

Ref : CB2/PS/2/08

## **Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project**

### **Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat for the meeting on 13 February 2012**

#### **Interim programmes and activities in the West Kowloon Cultural District before the commissioning of Phase I facilities**

#### **Purpose**

This paper provides background information on the interim programmes and activities in the West Kowloon Cultural District ("WKCD") before the commissioning of Phase I facilities, and summarizes the views and concerns of members of the Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project ("the Joint Subcommittee") on the subject.

#### **Background**

2. On 4 March 2011, the Board of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority ("WKCDA") announced its selection of City Park ("CP") designed by Foster+Partners as the preferred Conceptual Plan Option ("CPO") on which the Development Plan ("DP") for WKCD was to be based. WKCDA unveiled the proposed DP for Stage 3 Public Engagement ("PE") exercise conducted from 30 September to 30 October 2011. Taking into account the views collected during Stage 3 PE exercise, WKCDA finalized the DP and submitted it to the Town Planning Board for consideration on 30 December 2011. According to the Administration, as shown in **Appendix I**, the first batch of facilities expected to be commissioned around 2015 will be part of the Great Park with its outdoor performance facilities, followed by the phased completion of other arts and cultural facilities starting from 2015.

3. At its meeting on 11 July 2011, the Joint Subcommittee received a briefing from the Administration and WKCDA on the broad direction of the interim programmes and activities in **Appendix II** to be held on the WKCD site before the commissioning of Phase I facilities. According to WKCDA, the proposed programmes and activities had been presented to a task force of the Harbourfront Commission on 31 May 2011 and were generally well received. In formulating the concrete plans for various interim programmes and activities, WKCDA would review the adequacy of supporting public infrastructure, pedestrian and vehicular accessibility, environmental feasibility as well as the interfacing issues between the proposed interim uses and Phase I construction work.

### **Members' views and concerns**

4. Matters relating to interim programmes and activities to be held in WKCD before the commissioning of Phase I facilities were discussed at the Joint Subcommittee meetings in January and July 2011. Members' views and concerns are summarized below.

#### Interim programmes and activities

5. Members generally expressed support for WKCDA's plan to utilize the vacant portion of the WKCD site for organizing interim programmes and activities. Nevertheless, some members considered that the proposed interim programmes and activities in Appendix II were rather general and might be insufficient. WKCDA should at least stage five to six large-scale activities on the WKCD site every year up to the launch of Phase I facilities in 2015 to get people familiarized with access to the site. In view of the limited activities to be organized on the WKCD site before mid-2012 and the shortage of performing venues for local artists, WKCDA should consider inviting such artists to organize activities on the site in the interim.

6. According to WKCDA, it had been working on a series of interim programmes and activities on the WKCD site and would report to the Joint Subcommittee on the details when available. As WKCDA would apply for temporary use of part of the WKCD site for the next three years before the commissioning of Phase 1 facilities, some large-scale activities were expected to be launched by 2012. The Hong Kong International Jazz Festival (organized by the Hong Kong Jazz Association) in October 2011 and the Cantonese Opera performance (organized by WKCDA in collaboration with a local art group) in early 2012 were among the activities that could be organized

within a shorter period of time.

7. Noting WKCDA's plan to organize outdoor music performances on the WKCD site, members called on WKCDA to pay attention to the possible noise pollution caused by such performances, take appropriate noise abatement measures to minimize disturbance to the neighbourhood, and communicate with the District Council ("DC") concerned in this regard. WKCDA assured members that it would communicate with the DC concerned and ensure that appropriate measures would be taken to minimize the environmental impacts of its outdoor performances.

#### Temporary facilities

8. Concern was raised about the estimated cost of the temporary facilities for the proposed interim programmes and activities and whether the cost would be recovered. There was a view that the admission fees should be kept low to attract more audience. In the Administration's view, the construction cost of temporary facilities would depend on the scale of the interim activities and programmes. With a view to attracting more people to visit the WKCD site, the admission fees for such activities and programmes should not be too high. The Cantonese opera to be held during the 2012 Lunar New Year would be performed in a temporary traditional theatre made of bamboo, which could help promote the appreciation of the Chinese cultural heritage.

#### Improvements to the WKCD site

9. Concern was expressed about whether interim measures would be taken to improve the pedestrian and vehicular access to the WKCD site. According to the Administration, HAB had been liaising with WKCDA and relevant Government departments, such as the Transport Department and Highways Department, to improve the connectivity between WKCD and the neighbouring areas.

#### Nurturing of arts professionals and audience building

10. Some members were worried that upon the launch of Phase I facilities, Hong Kong might still lack sufficient arts professionals/administrators and audience. They considered that audience-building and nurturing of arts professionals required not only the efforts of the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") but also its collaboration with other government departments such as the Education Bureau ("EDB"). The Chief Secretary for Administration, who was the Chairman of WKCDA, should be hands-on in facilitating the collaboration

among various government bureaux to promote arts education in schools. To demonstrate its commitment to the promotion of arts and culture in Hong Kong, the Government should also earmark a certain percentage of its recurrent expenditure for the development of cultural software every year.

11. On the Administration's plan to attract audience from places outside Hong Kong (e.g. the populous Pearl River Delta), there was a concern whether the populous regions on the Mainland could help build a strong audience base for WKCD, in view of the problem of under-attendance for arts and cultural programmes there. Members also noted that with the support of the former Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") of WKCDA, the elements of arts education had been incorporated into the three CPOs. There was a worry about whether WKCDA would continue to attach importance to arts education after the departure of the former CEO.

12. According to the Administration, HAB had all along been maintaining close liaison with EDB in nurturing arts professionals and cultivating audience base. The development of cultural software would be supported by three pillars, viz. strengthening the arts education for youngsters and adults, enriching the contents of arts and cultural programmes, and broadening the audience base. The Administration had also been stepping up efforts to enlarge the audience base through arts education. For instance, \$22 million had been allocated to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") to support student participation in arts education activities for developing youngsters' interest in arts and culture. To tie in with the new senior secondary curriculum, LCSD had implemented various new programmes, such as "A Journey on Learning the Arts for New Senior Secondary Students" and "Arts Experience Scheme for Senior Secondary Students". The Creative Learning Unit under WKCDA would promote arts education in collaboration with EDB and schools.

### **Latest development**

13. During the Chinese New Year 2012, WKCDA launched a Cantonese opera programme cum exhibition on the Canton Road side of the WKCD site. Six Cantonese opera performances with ticket price at \$10 each were staged by the Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong, and two free programmes (viz. an exhibition on contemporary artworks inspired by Cantonese opera and an open-air cinema for screening of five Cantonese opera-related Hong Kong cinema classics) were presented by M+ from 19 to 24 January 2012. According to WKCDA, it would continue to organize more programmes and activities, whether on or off the WKCD site, to build audience and nurture

talents.

### **Relevant papers**

14. A list of the relevant papers with their hyperlinks at the Legislative Council's website is in **Appendix III**.

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
8 February 2012

**Proposed Timetable for WKCD Facilities Completion**

<b>Phase</b>	<b>Target Completion Year</b>	<b>Key Facilities and Venues</b>
<b>Phase 1</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>	Arts Pavilion
		Great Park (Early portion of the Park)
	<b>2015-2017</b>	Xiqu Centre (Main Theatre, Tea House and Arts Education Facility)
		Free Space (with Music Box) and Outdoor Theatre
		Centre for Contemporary Performance (3 Blackboxes and Arts Education Facility)
	<b>2017-2020</b>	M+ (Phase I)
		Lyric Theatre
		Medium Theatre I
		Music Centre (Concert Hall, Recital Hall and Arts Education Facility)
		Mega Performance Venue **
		Exhibition Centre **
		Musical Theatre **
	<b>Phase 2</b>	<b>Beyond 2020</b>
Great Theatre		
Medium Theatre II		
Xiqu Small Theatre		

\*\* Subject to alternative funding options.

Source: LC Paper No. CB(2)385/11-12(05)

### **Organization of interim programmes and activities in the West Kowloon Cultural District ("WKCD") before the commissioning of Phase I facilities**

#### Overall objectives

- (a) Utilizing the WKCD site before commissioning of the Phase 1 facilities and providing opportunities for outdoor and/or indoor events;
- (b) Raising public awareness of the future uses of the site;
- (c) Bringing people to the site so that they will be familiar with access to the site and reinforcing the message that WKCD is developed for all the people of Hong Kong with their different backgrounds and interests;
- (d) Acting as incubators for developing and nurturing talents in performing arts and visual culture, plus associated venue management and other ancillary professional/technical skills;
- (e) Piloting the integration of software building with hardware development in response to public expectation; and
- (f) Providing the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority with a foretaste of running a site with mixed cultural and commercial activities, and balancing the two to achieve a financially sustainable and viable operation for WKCD.

#### Proposed programmes and activities

- (a) *arts exhibitions, performances and display of WKCD Information at the Arts Pavilion*: Building structure in the form of a pavilion could be put up in WKCD for arts exhibitions and performances well before the completion of permanent venues to provide a communication platform among artists, performers, students and general public of both visual and performing arts background. Landscaped open area for outdoor performances and a WKCD

information centre could also be incorporated.

- (b) *outdoor and/or large scale activities at open site(s)*: WKCDA was exploring a range of outdoor arts and cultural activities including such as public art installations/exhibitions; outdoor music festivals; music, dance and drama performances; rehearsals, educational programmes and school activities. WKCDA was also exploring the feasibility of organizing an outdoor Cantonese Opera performance over Chinese New Year 2012 on the Canton Road side of the WKCD site. Part of the land in WKCD would also be used for commercial activities, such as wine and dine festival, commercial branding events, etc., so as to generate sufficient revenue for WKCDA to manage and run the WKCD site, and to fund arts and cultural programmes on the site before the commissioning of permanent facilities in WKCD.

*Source: LC Paper No. CB(2)2297/10-11(02)*

## Appendix III

### Relevant papers on Interim programmes and activities in the West Kowloon Cultural District before the commissioning of Phase I facilities

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project	16.4.2010 Item II(b)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>
	14.1.2011 Item III(c)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>
	11 July 2011 Item I(c)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>

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