

**立法會**  
***Legislative Council***

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**Panel on Development and Panel on Home Affairs**

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

**Background brief**

**Purpose**

This paper provides background information on the West Kowloon Cultural District ("WKCD") project and gives a brief account of the work and recommendations of the former Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project ("the former Joint Subcommittee") set up under the Panel on Development and Panel on Home Affairs ("the two Panels") during the Fifth Legislative Council ("LegCo").

**The West Kowloon Cultural District project**

2. The WKCD project is among the 10 major infrastructure projects announced by the then Chief Executive in his 2007 Policy Address. The project aims at developing the 40-hectare WKCD into an integrated arts and cultural district to meet the long-term infrastructural and development needs of the arts and cultural sector in Hong Kong. The project is implemented by the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority ("WKCDA") established under the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority Ordinance (Cap. 601), which was enacted on 3 July 2008. On 4 July 2008, the Finance Committee ("FC") approved the provision of a one-off upfront endowment of \$21.6 billion (in

2008 Net Present Value ("NPV")) to WKCDA to implement the WKCD project.<sup>1</sup>

3. After conducting a three-stage public engagement exercise, WKCDA selected in March 2011 the "City Park" conceptual plan prepared by Foster + Partners ("F+P") as the preferred option for developing into a Development Plan for WKCD. According to F+P's concept, WKCD will feature, among others, a waterfront park and an integrated basement where all vehicular traffic, parking and loading/unloading facilities will be put underground, so as to free up space for arts and cultural use and create a pedestrian-friendly environment at the ground level.

4. In July 2013, the Administration advised the former Joint Subcommittee that, in view of the additional features proposed in F+P's design, such as a large integrated basement, arts education facilities and green initiatives, and the significant escalation of construction costs, WKCDA would adopt a pragmatic approach to implement the WKCD project along the following principles: (a) rigorous cost containment of individual facilities to a level as close to the recommendations of the Consultative Committee on the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities of WKCD as possible;<sup>2</sup> (b) emphasis on content rather than form of these facilities; and (c) early delivery of the waterfront park as well as some arts and cultural facilities for public enjoyment.

5. In July 2015, FC granted a funding approval for carrying out the first and second stages of the design, site investigation and construction works of

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<sup>1</sup> On 4 July 2008, FC approved a one-off upfront endowment of \$21.6 billion (in 2008 NPV) per the recommendations of the Consultative Committee on the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities of WKCD to implement the WKCD project. The upfront endowment was intended to cover the capital costs of the WKCD project, with broad breakdown as follows: (a) design and construction of various facilities (\$15.7 billion or 73%); (b) major repair and renovation of various facilities (\$2.9 billion or 13%); (c) collection costs and related costs for M+ (\$1.7 billion or 8%); and (d) planning of WKCD and project management (\$1.3 billion or 6%).

<sup>2</sup> Following the discontinuation of the Invitation for Proposals process for developing WKCD in February 2006, the then Chief Executive appointed in April 2006 the Consultative Committee on the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities of WKCD to re-examine and re-confirm, if appropriate, the need for the core arts and cultural facilities in WKCD as well as the financial implications of developing and operating these facilities. The Consultative Committee submitted a [recommendation report](#) to the then Chief Executive in June 2007.

the integrated basement in WKCD, at an estimated cost of \$2,919.5 million in money-of-the-day prices.

6. Under the latest implementation approach adopted by WKCDA, the facilities in WKCD will be delivered in three batches. The facilities to be delivered in Batch 1 and Batch 2 include, among others, the waterfront park (with the M+ Pavilion (previously called Arts Pavilion)),<sup>3</sup> Freespace (including an Outdoor Stage and a Black Box), Xiqu Centre, M+ and Lyric Theatre Complex ("LTC"),<sup>4</sup> which are planned for completion in stages starting from the second half of 2015 to around 2020. Batch 3 facilities comprise venues such as Music Centre, Great Theatre and Musical Theatre. The latest completion timeframe of major WKCD facilities is set out in **Appendices I and II**.

### **The former Joint Subcommittee**

7. In both the Fourth and the Fifth Legislative Councils, a joint subcommittee was set up under the two Panels to monitor the implementation of the WKCD project. During the 2015-2016 session, the former Joint Subcommittee deliberated the following issues:

- (a) Planning and development of the core arts and cultural facilities and other associated facilities
  - Implementation programme of the core arts and cultural facilities
  - Implementation of the integrated basement
  - Development of the Xiqu Centre
  - Development of M+
  - Development of LTC
  
- (b) Cultural software development
  - Respective roles of the Administration and WKCDA
  - Arts education and audience building
  - Nurturing of local artistic talents

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<sup>3</sup> The temporary Nursery Park was open in July 2015.

<sup>4</sup> According to WKCDA, the current design of LTC includes a 1 450-seat Lyric Theatre, a 600-seat Medium Theatre (previously called Medium Theatre II) and a Studio Theatre with 200+ seats (previously a 250-seat Black Box Theatre in the Centre for Contemporary Performance).

- (c) Pedestrian accessibility within WKCD and connectivity between WKCD and its neighbouring districts
  - Pedestrian accessibility within WKCD
  - Pedestrian linkages between WKCD and its neighbouring areas
  - Public transport facilities/services (including marine transport services) for WKCD
  - Provision of parking spaces in WKCD
- (d) Financial situation and arrangements for the WKCD project
  - Adequacy of the upfront endowment
  - Financial management for the WKCD project
  - Alternative funding sources and arrangements
- (e) Role and functions of the Consultation Panel ("CP") of WKCDA
- (f) Governance and management structure of the WKCD facilities
- (g) Management of public open spaces ("POS") in WKCD

8. Details about the deliberations on the above areas are available in the report of the former Joint Subcommittee submitted to the two Panels on 13 July 2016 ([LC Paper No. CB\(2\)1905/15-16](#)).

#### Recommendations of the former Joint Subcommittee

9. In the aforesaid report, the former Joint Subcommittee recommended that the Administration/WKCDA should:

##### *Planning and development of the core arts and cultural facilities*

- (a) continue to expedite delivery of the core arts and cultural facilities in WKCD for early public enjoyment, and make their best endeavour to accelerate the development of the area around the Artist Square into a "mini-WKCD" by around 2020;
- (b) continue to liaise with the MTR Corporation Limited to ensure early release of the relevant work sites for the implementation of the WKCD project;
- (c) draw up a concrete timetable for the implementation of the Batch 3 facilities as early as practicable;

*Cultural software development*

- (d) in preparation for the commissioning of the facilities in WKCD, WKCDA should continue to organize a wide array of programmes to enhance public awareness, groom arts talents and build audiences;
- (e) enhance collaboration among various government bureaux/departments to promote arts education in schools and at community level;
- (f) organize activities to introduce the concept and vision of M+ to the public so as to encourage audience participation and raise public awareness of M+;
- (g) strive to recruit local arts experts and museum professionals who are familiar with local arts and culture to support the development of M+;
- (h) provide more opportunities for local arts talents to take part in the WKCD project, so that they will be able to benefit from the transfer of knowledge and expertise from the foreign talents engaged in the project;
- (i) strengthen the training of arts administrators and facility management professionals to meet the manpower demand arising from the phased commissioning of the WKCD facilities in the next few years;

*Pedestrian accessibility within WKCD and connectivity between WKCD and its neighbouring districts*

- (j) provide environmentally friendly shuttle service in WKCD and consider providing appropriate facilities to enable visitors to access WKCD by cycling;
- (k) make available sufficient and appropriate barrier-free facilities at the pedestrian connections for WKCD;
- (l) ensure that the design of the pedestrian facilities (e.g. subways and footbridges) connecting WKCD with its neighbouring areas will be coherent and match with the artistic and cultural ambience

of WKCD, and consider providing appropriate spaces at the pedestrian subways concerned for young local artists to display their artworks;

- (m) make available direct and convenient pedestrian links to connect WKCD with the major transport nodes, the adjoining developments and the nearby districts;
- (n) ensure that the planned transport infrastructures for WKCD and the road improvement works for the West Kowloon Reclamation Development area will be completed in good time to tie in with the commissioning of the WKCD facilities;
- (o) consider providing berthing/landing facilities and marine transport service (such as water taxi/ferry service) to enhance the marine accessibility as well as the tourism appeal of WKCD;
- (p) provide adequate parking spaces and lay-bys for coaches in WKCD;

*Financial arrangement for the WKCD project*

- (q) continue to exercise stringent control over the cost in developing various facilities in WKCD without compromising the overall functions and quality of the facilities;
- (r) enhance the transparency of the cost estimates of the project and report regularly to the LegCo on the expenditure and financial situation of the WKCD project;
- (s) devise concrete plans/strategies and take forward initiatives for seeking donations/sponsorships for the WKCD project and fostering a philanthropic culture in the community, while taking heed of the public concern about the granting of naming rights of the WKCD facilities;
- (t) work out the alternative financial arrangements for taking forward the development of the Batch 3 facilities and Mega Performance Venue/Exhibition Centre as early as possible and report to the LegCo;

*Role and functions of CP of WKCDA*

- (u) ensure that the operation of CP of WKCDA will serve as an open platform for engaging stakeholders and members of the public in an ongoing, systematic and transparent manner, with a view to striking a proper balance among various interests and building consensus on major matters relating to the development of WKCD and the work of WKCDA;
- (v) gauge and take into account the views of young people and enlist their support for the WKCD project;

*Governance and management structure of the WKCD facilities*

- (w) carefully devise the facility and artistic partnership framework for the performing arts venues in WKCD such that both major and small arts groups will be provided with the opportunity to become partners of the venues;
- (x) enhance the co-ordination between WKCDA and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in optimizing the usage of venues for Xiqu performances and the nurturing of young artists and the building up of audience for the Xiqu Centre;
- (y) ensure the effective monitoring of and control over the operation of M+ under the new governance structure (i.e. the establishment of M+ Limited and a collections trust) and that the work of M+ and M+ Limited will be subject to monitoring by the LegCo;
- (z) safeguard artistic freedom and curatorial independence of M+;

*Management of POS in WKCD*

- (aa) adopt a relaxed and flexible approach in managing the Park and other POS in WKCD to facilitate public enjoyment; and
- (bb) provide opportunities for street performers to stage their performances in WKCD.

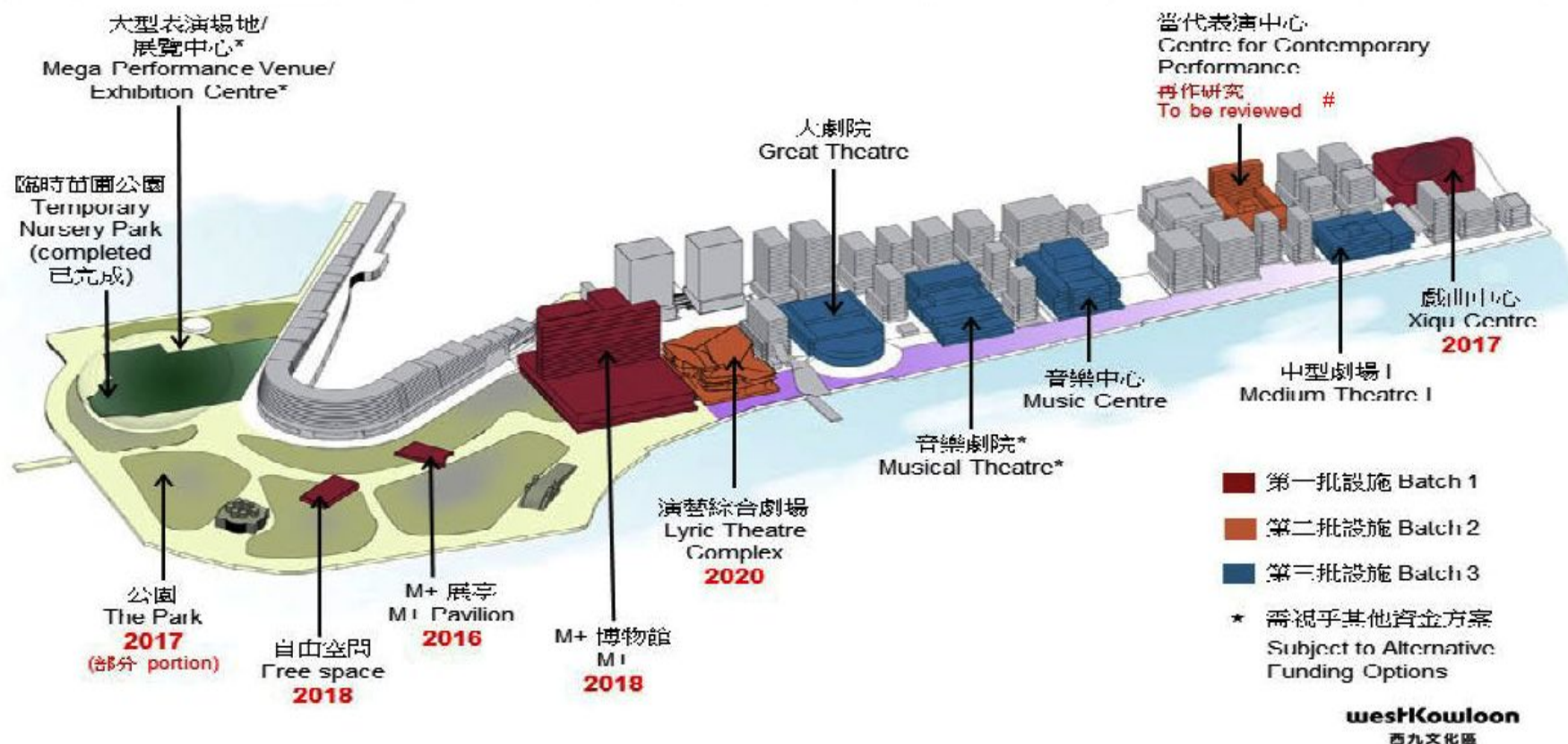
10. The former Joint Subcommittee also suggested that, as the WKCD project was still in progress and the Batch 1 and 2 facilities would be completed in stages for commissioning in the coming few years, if necessary,

the Sixth LegCo might form a dedicated subcommittee to continue to monitor the implementation of the WKCD project.

Council Business Division 1  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
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## 西九文化區設施(第一及第二批)預計完成時間表 Completion Timeframe of WKCD (Batches 1 and 2) Facilities



# Due to the advancement of the Medium Theatre II and one black box theatre from the Centre for Contemporary Performance to the Lyric Theatre Complex

資料來源: [立法會CB\(2\)1576/15-16\(01\)號文件](#)

Source: [LC Paper No. CB\(2\)1576/15-16\(01\)](#)

**Phasing of major West Kowloon Cultural District facilities under  
the pragmatic implementation approach in June 2013  
(as modified in 2016)**

<b>Batch 1 facilities</b> (Target completion by 2018)	<b>Batch 2 facilities</b> (Target completion by around 2020)	<b>Batch 3 facilities*</b> (Target completion beyond 2020)	<b>Not phased*</b>
Xiqu Centre (including Tea House)	Lyric Theatre Complex (including one Medium Theatre and a Studio Theatre) <sup>@</sup>	Musical Theatre <sup>^</sup>	Mega Performance Venue/ Exhibition Centre Complex <sup>^</sup>
Freespace (including Outdoor Stage and Black Box)	Centre for Contemporary Performance <sup>#</sup> (including two Black Boxes)	Great Theatre	M+ Phase II
M+		Music Centre (including Concert Hall and Recital Hall)	Xiqu Small Theatre
Park  Temporary Nursery Park <sup>**</sup>		Medium Theatre I	
M+ Pavilion (previously called Arts Pavilion)			

\* Subject to alternative funding options

<sup>^</sup> Development proposed through some form of public-private partnership

<sup>@</sup> The revised approach to advance the Medium Theatre II and one black box theatre from the Centre for Contemporary Performance to become the Lyric Theatre Complex was reported to the former Joint Subcommittee on 23 March 2015 (via [LC Paper No. CB\(2\)1066/14-15\(04\)](#))

<sup>#</sup> Target completion date to be reviewed

<sup>\*\*</sup> Completed in July 2015

Source: [LC Paper No. CB\(2\)1576/15-16\(01\)](#)