

For discussion on  
11 May 2018

**Legislative Council**  
**Panel on Development and Panel on Home Affairs**  
**Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the**  
**West Kowloon Cultural District Project**

**Update on the development of Xiqu Centre**

**PURPOSE**

This paper serves to update Members on the latest development of the Xiqu Centre.

**BACKGROUND**

2. Located at the junction of Canton Road and Austin Road West, the Xiqu Centre is designed to be a world-class platform for the conservation, promotion and development of Cantonese opera and other genres of xiqu (Chinese traditional theatre). The Xiqu Centre not only houses facilities for performances (notably a 1 050-seat Grand Theatre and a 200-seat Tea House Theatre) but it will also provide a focus within the West Kowloon Cultural District for important work on the development of new repertory, research, education, training and exchanges, as well as professional development programmes to help nurture young talent.

3. The prime objective of the Xiqu Centre is to encourage the development of all forms of Chinese opera in Hong Kong, in particular Cantonese opera which was included in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2009 following a joint application by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao SAR governments via the Central Government. The opening of the Xiqu Centre will be conducive to developing a locally-rooted xiqu network that has a regional impact with an important role in international arts development.

## **PROGRESS OF BUILDING PROJECT**

4. After the ground-breaking ceremony in September 2013, the foundation works of the Xiqu Centre were completed in late 2014, following which the main superstructure works commenced in December 2014. The structure is complete and installation of the curved fins to cover the facade of the building is also complete. Building services installation has been completed throughout the building.

5. The occupation permit (OP) was obtained in April 2018. The next stage of work will focus on completion of the fit-out of the Grand Theatre, including the fine tuning of the theatre rigging system and the orchestra lift pit, with a view to practical completion of the facility in the third quarter of 2018. The Xiqu Centre dedication ceremonies will take place by the end of 2018 as planned, with the Stage Dedication Day and Open Days scheduled to take place in the fourth quarter followed by the formal opening in the first quarter of 2019. Details of the opening arrangements are set out below. Recent construction photos taken within the Xiqu Centre are at **Annex 1**.

6. We have also obtained the Legislative Council Finance Committee's funding approval at its meeting on 27 April 2018 for the provision of a direct Austin Road pedestrian linkage system between Xiqu Centre and the MTR Austin Station and the beautification works for the existing pedestrian subway across the junction of Austin Road West and Canton Road. Connectivity and walking environment to Xiqu Centre will be greatly enhanced.

## **XIQU CENTRE OPENING SCHEDULE**

7. The Xiqu Centre will have programming activities covering four categories, namely (a) performances (WKCDA productions, partnerships and venue hiring), (b) cultural exchanges, (c) new creations, and (d) learning and participation.

8. Upon practical completion of the Xiqu Centre in third quarter of 2018, it will take about four months for pre-opening preparation, including operational and technical setup, training of staff and testing of different facilities/ equipment, to be followed by

test events in preparation of the Stage Dedication Day (開台日) and Open Days (開放日).

9. The opening schedule of the Xiqu Centre (**Annex 2**) is divided into two stages. The opening plan will include:

- Stage Dedication Day and Open Days in the fourth quarter of 2018

Upon completion of technical testing, a Stage Dedication Day will be planned for public participation with traditional rituals and excerpt performances by The Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong (香港八和會館) to mark the start of use of the Grand Theatre in accordance with the customary practice of the sector. The Stage Dedication Day will be followed by one week of Open Days to allow members of the public to see for themselves both front and back of house operations. The open house activities which will include venue tours, short performances in the Tea House Theatre; introductory learning and participation programme in the rehearsal rooms; xiqu seminars in the Seminar Hall; and exhibition at the Atrium. Retail/dining/entertainment (RDE) facilities will also be in full operation. Following the Open Day week, there will be a short period of final preparations ahead of the formal opening.

- A three-month Opening Season will start in the first quarter of 2019

An official Opening Ceremony will be held, to be followed by opening performances by Yam Pak Charitable Foundation (任白慈善基金). Thereafter, WKCDA will present Cantonese opera performances by the Hong Kong Cantonese Opera Chamber of Commerce (香港粵劇商會). The Opening Season will be concluded by a series of performance from award-winning artists from the Mainland, the renowned Plum Blossom Award Art Troupe of the Chinese Theatre Association (中國戲劇家協會梅花獎藝術團).

In addition, performances of Cantonese opera (粵劇), Cantonese music (粵樂), Cantonese songs (粵曲) and other traditional performances will be presented at the Tea House Theatre. Rehearsals and workshops will be held in the rehearsal studios while xiqu film screenings and xiqu 101 seminars will take place at the Seminar Hall. Other programmes including performances/ demonstrations/ exhibitions at the Atrium, guided tours and backstage tours will also be organised. An overview of the Opening Programmes is at **Annex 3**.

10. Other WKCDA-produced special programming will be staged throughout the opening year. The facilities at the Xiqu Centre will be open for programmes to be arranged by hirers after completion of the opening season in the first quarter of 2019. Members were briefed on the Performing Arts Venue Hiring Policy in the meeting of the Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project on 20 December 2017.

### **ADVICE SOUGHT**

11. Members are invited to note the latest development of the Xiqu Centre including its opening schedule.

**West Kowloon Cultural District Authority**  
**May 2018**

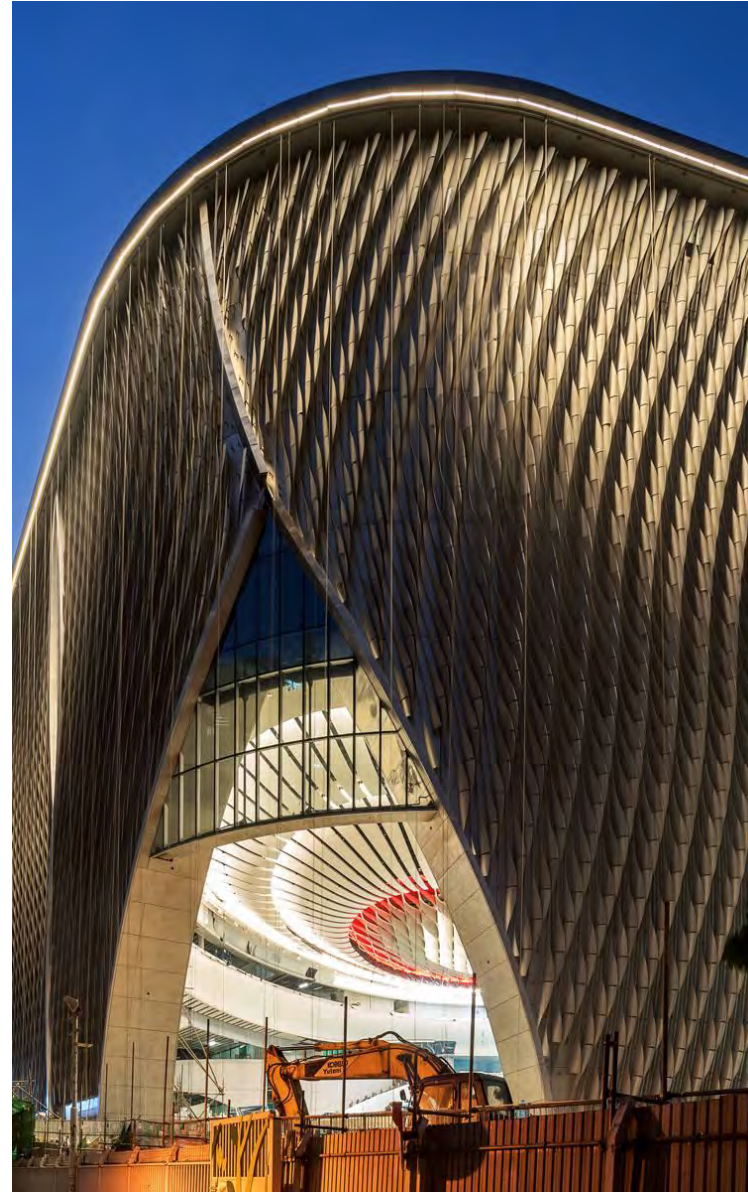
戲曲中心外觀  
**Exterior of the Xiqu Centre**



戲曲中心中庭  
**Atrium of the Xiqu Centre**



戲曲中心正門  
Main Entrance of Xiqu Centre



戲曲中心開幕計劃  
Xiqu Centre Opening Schedule

實際竣工後一至四個月（約  
2018年第三季）  
1-4 months from  
Practical Completion  
(around 3rd quarter of  
2018)

開幕前  
**Pre-opening**

- 營運安排、訓練和  
測試 Operations  
setup, training  
and testing
- 技術安裝、訓練和  
測試 Technical  
setup, training  
and testing
- 活動測試 Test  
events



實際竣工後第五個月（約2018年  
第四季）  
5th month after Practical  
Completion (around 4th  
quarter of 2018)

開台日和開放日  
(共八天)

**Stage  
Dedication Day  
and Open Days  
(8 days)**

- 香港八和會館帶來開台  
例戲和粵劇折子戲巡禮  
Traditional rituals and  
excerpt performances  
by The Chinese Artists  
Association of Hong  
Kong
- 公眾節目，各樓層開放  
Public programmes for  
all levels and  
audiences



實際竣工後第六個月（約2019年  
第一季）  
6th month after Practical  
Completion (around 1st  
quarter of 2019)

開幕季（三個月）  
**Opening Season  
(3 months)**

- 西九製作節目  
Programmes presented  
by WKCDA



實際竣工後第九個月（約  
2019年第二季）  
9th month after  
Practical Completion  
(around 2nd quarter of  
2019)

- 租用節目 Open to  
programmes from  
hirers
- 其他西九主辦的開  
幕年特備節目 Other  
special  
programmes for  
the opening year  
presented by  
WKCDA



戲曲中心開幕節目概覽  
Overview of Xiqu Centre Opening Programmes

	大劇院 Grand Theatre	茶館劇場 Tea House Theatre	排練室 Studio	演講廳 Seminar Hall	中庭及其他部分 Atrium and other areas
開台日和開放日 (2018 年第四季) Stage Dedication Day and Open Days (4th quarter of 2018)	- 香港八和會館帶來開台例戲和粵劇折子戲巡禮 Traditional rituals and excerpt performances by The Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong	- 介紹場 (60 分鐘) Introductory performances (60 minutes)	- 教育及拓展入門課程 Introductory learning and participation programme	- 戲曲講座 Xiqu seminars	- 展覽 Exhibition - 場地參觀 Venue tours - 零售／餐飲／娛樂設施投入營運 Retail/ dining/ entertainment facilities in operation
開幕季 (2019 年第一季) Opening Season (1st quarter of 2019)	- 開幕典禮 Opening ceremony - 任白慈善基金開幕演出 Opening performances by Yam Pak Charitable Foundation	- 茶館節目 (90 分鐘)：粵劇、粵樂、粵曲、古曲 Regular Tea House programme (90 minutes): Cantonese opera,	- 排練和工作坊 Rehearsals and workshops	- 戲曲電影放映 Xiqu film screenings - 戲曲 101 講座 Xiqu 101 seminars	- 演出／示範／展覽 Performances/ demonstrations/ exhibitions - 戲曲中心導賞 Guided tours - 後台參觀 Backstage tours

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 香港粵劇商會粵劇演出 Cantonese opera performances by the Hong Kong Cantonese Opera Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>- 中國戲劇家協會梅花獎藝術團演出 Performances by the Plum Blossom Award Art Troupe of the Chinese Theatre Association</li> </ul>	<p>Cantonese music, Cantonese songs, traditional music</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 特備節目（待定） Special programme (to be confirmed)</li> </ul>			
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