

For information on
18 June 2012

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

Progress Update on Design Competitions

PURPOSE

This paper serves to inform Members of current status in respect of design competitions for the implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) project.

BACKGROUND

2. In the Consultative Committee recommendations made in 2008 (CC Case), the core arts and cultural facilities (CACF) selected for design competition were the Xiqu Centre, M+ and Concert Hall / Chamber Music Hall.

3. The idea of conducting design competition is supported by the community as per views expressed during the Public Engagement (PE) exercise and by the LegCo Joint Subcommittee.

4. The West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA) has engaged a Procurement Strategy Consultant (Consultant) to analyze, select and recommend a procurement strategy for delivery of the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities (CACF), Other Arts and Cultural Facilities (OACF) and Retail, Dining and Entertainment (RDE) facilities to be provided in the WKCD. Among other things, the Consultant has been tasked to

advise a strategy in respect of conducting design competitions for the WKCD project.

JUSTIFICATIONS FOR ADOPTING DESIGN COMPETITIONS

5. The LegCo Joint Subcommittee has suggested that the WKCD should conduct more detailed studies on the proposed performance venues and international design competitions should be launched for iconic facilities to obtain the best designs.

6. The Hong Kong Institute of Architects has also recommended that it is in the best interest of the WKCD to involve international architectural talents through open competitions, with a view to shaping the WKCD into a dynamic district with world-class designs.

7. The idea of adopting design competitions for the WKCD was also well-received by the public during the PE exercise.

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY CONSULTANT

8. The Consultant has critically reviewed various criteria (including visual significance, public expectation, programme implication, need for creative and innovative design, international reputation and world-class standard and attractiveness to design expertise) in respect of the CACF.

9. In line with the CC Case, the Consultant considers that Xiqu Centre, M+ and the Concert Hall / Chamber Music Hall (now renamed as the Music Centre) are suitable venues for design competitions. In addition, the Consultant has also suggested including the Pavilion, the Centre for Contemporary

Performance (CCP) and the Lyric Theatre for design competition.

10. Having considered the recommendations made by the Consultant, the WKCDA has decided to adopt a prudent approach, and has selected the Xiqu Centre as the first CACF for design competition. The lessons learnt will serve as a useful reference for subsequent competitions.

11. While Xiqu Centre, M+ and the Pavilion have been chosen as the first batch of venues for design competitions in 2012-13, the design competitions for the CCP, Lyric Theatre and the Music Centre would be undertaken as the second batch around 2013-14 tentatively. Taking into consideration the development programme of the venues, the proposed timetable of these competitions is as follows –

Venue	Proposed time of design competition
Xiqu Centre	2012
M+	2012-13
Arts Pavilion	2012-13
Lyric Theatre	2013
Centre for Contemporary Performance	2013-14
Music Centre	2014

PROGRESS OF DESIGN COMPETITIONS

Xiqu Centre Design Competition

12. Having considered the various modes of design competition, the WKCDA has adopted the “One-stage Open Project Competition” mode for Xiqu Centre as recommended by the Consultant. The Consultant has drawn experience from competitions undertaken by other arts and cultural projects and established rules for design competition.

13. Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) was issued in March 2012. A total of 54 submissions were received before the deadline and have been assessed by the WKCDA, with the support of an Independent Professional Advisor, who is responsible for helping the WKCDA to prepare for and supervise the conduct of the competition. ICAC has also been consulted in particular in relation to the issue of conflict of interests.

14. A Steering Committee (SC), Jury Panel and Technical Committee have been set up. Results of the EOI assessment, which have been considered and endorsed by the SC, are being considered by the Development Committee and then the Board of the WKCDA. The EOI shortlist is expected to be announced in late June 2012.

M+ Design Competition

15. Based on the interim review of the Xiqu Centre design competition, the WKCDA, subject to the approval by the Board, intends to adopt the “One-stage Open Project Competition” mode for the M+ design competition. Preparation work has started, and the current plan is to launch a request for EOI for M+ design competition in the third quarter of 2012. The WKCDA aims to appoint the winning design team in the second/third quarter of 2013 for completion of the M+ Phase I project by 2017.

Pavilion Design Competition

16. As regards the Pavilion, the participation of designers from both newer and established practices and from universities is anticipated. A “Two-stage Open Project Competition” mode would be adopted to provide an ideal opportunity for younger designers to take part in the competition. This competition mode allows the WKCDA to obtain innovative design ideas from a wider spectrum. The

competition for the Pavilion located in the Park will start in early 2013.

WAY FORWARD

17. The design competition for the Xiqu Centre is in good progress and the design competition for the M+ and the Pavilion will commence shortly. The WKCDA will continue to learn from the on-going competition process and work out the timing and the mode of design competitions for the Music Centre, Lyric Theatre and the CCP, so that these venues can be completed on schedule.

West Kowloon Cultural District Authority
June 2012