

For information on
23 April 2013

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

The Park Development in the West Kowloon Cultural District

PURPOSE

This paper informs Members of the latest progress of the park development in the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD).

BACKGROUND

2. The Park will be the first to be conceived as a cultural destination. The sculpted terrain, with abundant planting, will provide a new green open space in the heart of the city and a vibrant venue for music, dance, theatre, art exhibitions and some outdoor cultural programmes. The design process of the park will be challenged to maximise the greening opportunities involved and integrate innovative green ideas in the park design. These arts and culture elements will be set within a landscaped setting with site specific features along the waterfront and all ancillary buildings and amenities provided for an urban park setting.

3. Phase I of the Park (see **Annex 1**) will provide about eight hectares of landscaped public open space at the headland area of the WKCD. Arts and culture elements to be provided in the Park include:

- **Freespace:** A prime venue for contemporary music of different scales and genres that is integrated into the landscaping of the Park. Occupying a gross floor area (GFA) of 6 500m², Freespace will include a theatre with flexible space for the presentation of music, interdisciplinary performances and multimedia presentations closely related to music for an audience from 450

to 900 people, an online Digital Venue that will complement the physical venue as an independent platform for all forms of digital and new media art projects, a Music Box integrated with a bar and a café and intended for the presentation of mainly local live music to an audience of 150 to 300 people and an Outdoor Stage designed for daily music events for an audience of 200 people.

- **The Lawn:** Leisure grass-covered area capable of accommodating 6 000 to 10 000 people for outdoor events.
- **Arts Pavilion:** The space will function as small scale exhibition and event space with a combined GFA of 600m².
- **Sculptures and Installations:** Space will be specifically designed throughout the Park for art installations and sculptures. The chosen design team will collaborate with artists from the early stages of the design in order to fully integrate permanent large-scale contemporary art into the design of the Park. There will also be temporary exhibitions. The selection of artists will be guided by the Management of M+, Hong Kong's future museum for visual culture in WKCD, who will also be responsible for the curatorial oversight of all visual art in the Park.

PARK DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS

4. Seven design teams were selected in November 2012 after the Expression of Interest Exercise. Six teams submitted their Technical and Fee Proposals by the deadline on 28 December 2012 (listed below).

- Cook Robotham Architectural Bureau and VOGT Landscape
- Dennis Lau & Ng Chun Man with Grimshaw, West 8 and ACLA
- Diller Scofidio + Renfro, with Olin and Urbanus
- Grant Associates / Wilkinson Eyre / WSP
- Gustafson Porter / Michel Desvigne Paysagiste / Foster + Partners
- James Corner Field Operations

5. The West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA) is in the process of assessing the submissions and targets to engage the

selected design team in the second quarter of this year. Phase I of the Park is targeted to open by phases starting from around 2015.

BYLAWS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PARK

Powers to make Bylaws

6. Section 37(1) of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority Ordinance (the Ordinance) (Cap. 601) empowers the WKCDA to make bylaws for one or more of the following purposes:

- (a) for the regulation, operation or management of arts and cultural facilities, related facilities or ancillary facilities; and
- (b) for the conduct of all persons within any premises, buildings, structures, facilities or land (including public places) which the Authority holds or manages, whether within or outside the leased area.

7. Section 37(2)(c) of the Ordinance provides that all bylaws made by the WKCDA are subject to the approval of the Legislative Council.

Objectives of the Proposed Bylaws

8. It is anticipated that when the Park opens, it will become a popular location for families and the general public and for the presentation of arts and cultural activities by the WKCDA and other arts and cultural organizations, with high public patronage. It is therefore necessary for the WKCDA to make bylaws so that it is able to manage the Park properly and to ensure the comfort and safety of the public using the Park. The WKCDA intends to achieve the following purposes:

- (a) to provide proper management of the Park and arts and cultural facilities within the Park, as well as dining and refreshment facilities therein, and to afford safe and convenient access by the general public;

- (b) to avoid causing inconvenience or nuisance to other Park users by authorizing the WKCDA or its agents to manage certain conduct of visitors to the Park;
- (c) to provide for the effective use of the Park by the WKCDA and other community and commercial groups and organizations to conduct concerts, exhibitions and festivals and other arts and cultural activities which may be ticketed and for the handling of lost property found in the Park; and
- (d) to provide for proper management of car parking facilities, and for the management of cycling activities in the Park.

9. The proposed bylaws will be prepared with reference to the bylaws governing the operation of well-known local and overseas parks and cultural areas. The WKCDA's intention is to ensure that the proposed bylaws are not excessively restrictive in a way that would inhibit enjoyment of this important public facility. The WKCDA is mindful that the proposed bylaws should be of an appropriate level of sophistication and consistent with modern day practices while maintaining an appropriate level of power for the management of the Park and ensuring that local practice and values are taken into account.

10. To tie in with the target completion date of the Park in around 2015, the WKCDA aims to table the proposed bylaws in the Legislative Council in the legislative session of 2013/14 and Members will be consulted beforehand when more details of the proposed bylaws are available.

West Kowloon Cultural District Authority
April 2013

Indicative Phasing Plan for the Park Development



Anticipated Phase I



Anticipated Phase II