

For information on
10 June 2013

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

Communication and Co-operation with the Arts Community

PURPOSE

This paper informs Members of the communication and co-operation between the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA) and the arts community.

BACKGROUND

2. At the Joint Subcommittee meetings on 23 April 2012, Members discussed WKCDA's communication and co-operation with the arts community in the development of the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD). This paper serves to update Members on this matter.

PUBLIC AND STAKEOLDERS ENGAGEMENT

3. To ensure that the future arts and cultural facilities in the WKCD will meet the public's and users' aspirations, WKCDA has conducted discussions with the public and stakeholders to collect their views and from time to time updated them on the latest development of the WKCD project.

4. WKCDA conducted a total of 87 stakeholder engagement meetings with 91 arts and cultural groups/institutions during the three-stage Public Engagement Exercise from 2009 to 2011. In addition, WKCDA has, over the years, organised a number of roundtable discussions, public forums, talks and informal meetings with individuals or small groups of stakeholders from the arts sector.

More than 70 discussions were held with more than 70 arts and cultural groups/institutions since 2010.

CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS IN RELATION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

5. WKCD has embarked on the design competitions for the landmark facilities in WKCD. Subsequent to the approval of the draft WKCD Development Plan by the Chief Executive in Council on 8 January 2013, WKCD targeted to commence the construction works in stages starting from 2013.

6. The development of Xiqu Centre may serve as an example to illustrate WKCD's efforts in communicating and co-operating with the arts community. Following the launch of the Xiqu Centre Design Competition in March 2012, WKCD organised regular meetings with the Xiqu stakeholders from March to April 2012 so as to update them on the progress and incorporate their views in the design process. Competition workshops were also held in July 2012 when the shortlisted design teams could consult the stakeholders directly. Visits were arranged for the shortlisted design teams with the company of stakeholders to local Xiqu venues, as a way to foster their understanding of stakeholders' and venue operation requirements.

7. Further progress update meetings with the Xiqu sector were held from December 2012 after the winning architectural consultant of the Xiqu Centre was announced. WKCD and the design team have continuously consulted the stakeholders and sought the advice from arts organisations both locally and abroad to modify the schematic design and develop the detailed design from January 2013 to present (see **Annex**). As an iterative process, the discussion will continue throughout the implementation process of the project.

8. Apart from Xiqu Centre, WKCD launched the design competition for M+ which aims to select the best concept design as well as the design team. The winner of this competition will be announced in 2013. WKCD will undertake a continuous effort in engaging the arts community during the hardware development process.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS

9. To complement the hardware development, WKCDA has moved to formulate strategy of software development for our future venues. The presence of partners, particularly in terms of artistic and/or educational ones, within WKCD will add to the vibrancy and character of the entire district, as well as providing potential to enhance the brand of individual venues with which the partners are associated. WKCDA has been actively engaged in direct discussions with local arts groups for the development of a partners' framework, which will be mapped out based on various factors –

- Existing provisions in Hong Kong;
- Users' requirements of relevant arts groups;
- Sector development needs of various art forms;
- Mode of governance for various venues; and
- Management and operations framework for venues and district-wide services.

10. Ideally, the strategic partnership between WKCDA and each potential partner should take into account the specific needs, interests and development strategies of the performing arts groups and how each performing venue should be used in the most optimal way to promote the development of the relevant art forms as well as the overall arts sector. WKCDA will continue to maintain dialogue with the performing arts community, and explore with them potential co-operation opportunities to foster the organic growth of WKCD and local arts community at large.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE ARTS COMMUNITY IN ORGANISING INTERIM PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

Performing Arts Department

11. The programming directions of the Performing Arts Department in the interim period would mainly be promoting artistic and professional development, audience development, and governance and organisational development. Since 2010, WKCDA has been organising and supporting various interim programmes in co-operation with the performing arts community.

a) West Kowloon Bamboo Theatre (January 2012, January to February 2013)

12. To raise public's awareness of the site of future Xiqu Centre and arouse interest in Cantonese opera, WKCDA organised the first West Kowloon Bamboo Theatre project in 2012. An 800-seat bamboo theatre was set up at the junction of Canton Road and Austin Road West to offer an array of activities to the public. The event, held in the Lunar New Year period, is considered as one of the WKCDA's annual flagship events. In collaboration with the Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong, West Kowloon Bamboo Theatre 2012 has offered Cantonese Opera performances, education activities, exhibition and film shows for seven days. The project received an overwhelming response with around 12 000 visitors and tickets for Cantonese Opera performances were sold out swiftly.

13. After a popular debut in 2012, the project has its second run in 2013. The festival length was tripled to three weeks across the Lunar New Year 2013. While Cantonese Opera performances were still the main focus, the programme included Chinese dance, contemporary music and a capella performances. The theatre itself had a make-over to incorporate a festive Bamboo Theatre Fair with nearly 50 organisations showcasing everything from traditional crafts to festive snacks. The winning Xiqu Centre design model was also exhibited for the first time. The three-week event attracted more than 100 000 visitors, nearly ten times more than the year before.

b) Freespace Fest (December 2012)

14. Apart from continuing the success of the West Kowloon Bamboo Theatre, WKCDA also built another annual flagship event Freespace Fest in December 2012 to explore the meaning of open space to arts and cultural activities in the WKCD. More than 20 000 audiences participated in the weekend event at the West Kowloon Waterfront Promenade with music, dance, outdoor performances, arts installations, other collaborative and public-initiated programmes co-curated by cross-disciplinary artists and arts organisations.

15. Going forward, WKCDA will continue to test new components, which will gradually enhance the diversity and variety of the upcoming installment of the West Kowloon Bamboo Theatre and Freespace Fest, and widen the scope of co-operation between WKCDA and the arts community.

c) Other partnership programmes

16. Save for the flagship events, the Performing Arts Department of WKCDA has also launched a series of partnership programmes in collaboration with the arts community –

Project name	Partner organisation	Period
Advanced Cultural Leadership Programme	The University of Hong Kong in association with Clore Leadership Programme, United Kingdom	2011, 2012, 2013
Cultural Leadership Summit	Hong Kong Arts Administrators Association	June 2011, May 2012, May 2013
Overseas training/research programme for leaders from local arts groups on future arts	Hong Kong Arts Development Council	2012 to 2015

Project name	Partner organisation	Period
development in Hong Kong		
Festive Drums for a Roaring New Year	Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra	February 2013
Capacity building for inclusive arts programmes	British Council, Hong Kong Arts Administrators Association	March 2013

M+ Department

17. From early 2012, WKCD has started organising and producing different visual art and culture events, activities and programmes to achieve its three main objectives, namely audience building, capacity building and awareness building. WKCD strives to encourage communication and co-operation with the visual arts community, as well as promoting the development of creative professionals in Hong Kong through different programmes and activities presented locally and internationally.

a) Self-Initiated Programmes and Collaboration with Local Related Institutions

18. Since 2012, a series of visual culture exhibitions and events in different parts of Hong Kong as well as at the WKCD site has been organised. During May and June 2012, M+ organised the Mobile M+: Yau Ma Tei event and presented six newly produced exhibitions by Hong Kong artists. The Mobile M+: INFLATION!, an exhibition of large inflatable sculptures held from 25 April to 9 June 2013, is M+'s first large outdoor exhibition. M+ has commissioned local artists to create works especially for these exhibitions. Through these medium and large size exhibitions, M+ produces, presents and communicates works of different local visual culture artists to the public as well as to the international arts community, and hence assists in their professional development. All exhibitions are accompanied by extensive educational events that involve collaborations with many

local art practitioners. For example, the Mobile M+: INFLATION! exhibition has programmes that collaborated with the Hong Kong New Music Ensemble, professors and students from the Academy of Visual Arts of the Hong Kong Baptist University, as well as other local artists, architects, musicians, designers, composers and performers. In the second half of 2013 and the coming 2014, M+ plans to organise a medium-size exhibition which features Hong Kong visual culture, as well as another large outdoor event.

19. WKCDA also welcomes collaboration with different local arts and cultural organisations to produce quality and innovative projects. For example, the Song Dong: 36 Calendars exhibition held in January to February 2013 was collaboration between WKCDA and Asia Art Archive in organising an exhibition on the Chinese artist, Song Dong. From June to November 2013, WKCDA and the Hong Kong Arts Development Council will jointly present a Hong Kong artist, Lee Kit, in the 55th Venice Biennale.

20. M+, through these self-initiated exhibitions and collaborations with other local related organisations, will not only promote Hong Kong visual culture, but also develop co-operation strategies and working relationship with the local arts community.

b) Workshops, Symposiums and Public Forums

21. Each year, M+ hosts or collaborates with related professionals or institutions on symposiums, workshops and public forums, with the objective both to listen to stakeholders' views as well as to explain the developing vision for M+. So far, M+ has organised two public forums in April and November 2012 as a way to communicate with the public and the arts community. In December 2012, M+ has organised one Asian Design Symposium and one Ink Art Symposium, which were followed by one symposium on China's Museum Boom in March 2013. Through these workshops and symposiums, local and international scholars, museum professionals and experts as well as local arts community are brought together to present new research, debate different aspects of visual culture, and discuss issues relating to the future development of M+. The workshops and symposiums will connect local research with international networks, and enhance WKCDA's communication with

relevant professionals and arts community locally as well as internationally.

c) Community Outreach

22. Besides the official programmes and events, members of the M+ team are regularly invited to give guest lectures in different institutions and universities. They also attended hundreds of arts and cultural events in Hong Kong, joined numerous public panel discussions and adjudicating panels, as well as actively participated in the intellectual discussion about contemporary culture on all levels.

**West Kowloon Cultural District Authority
June 2013**

Meetings with the Arts Community on Xiqu Centre

Further to the announcement of Bing Thom Architects and Ronald Lu & Partners being the architectural designer of the Xiqu Centre on 10 December 2012, WKCDA has been conducting progress update meetings with the Xiqu sector, other stakeholders as well as arts organisations locally and abroad as follows –

Date	Details
10 December 2012	Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong
22 December 2012	Academic exchange meeting for architectures of Chinese Traditional Drama
2 to 4 January 2013	Accessibility workshop co-organised by WKCDA and Arts with the Disabled Association Hong Kong
9 January 2013	Cantonese Opera Advisory Committee
14 January 2013	Meeting with the designers, members of the Jury Panel and Technical Committee for the Xiqu Centre
14 January 2013	Front of House design evaluation and discussion of the Xiqu Centre with the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts
22 January 2013	Leisure and Cultural Services Department and venue managers
23 January 2013	Zuni Icosahedron
26 January 2013	Hong Kong Association of Theatre Technician and Scenographers
20 February 2013	Meeting with the designers, members of the Jury Panel and Technical Committee for the Xiqu Centre
20 March 2013	Meeting with the designers, members of the Jury Panel and Technical Committee for the Xiqu Centre