

For discussion on
23 March 2015

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

Update on the development of Lyric Theatre and
Artist Square Development Area

PURPOSE

This paper serves to update Members on the progress of Lyric Theatre and Artist Square Development Area (ASDA) and seek Members' views on the proposed Lyric Theatre Complex.

BACKGROUND

2. At the Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the WKCD Project (Joint Subcommittee) meeting held on 28 May 2014, Members were informed that the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA) proposed to develop the area around Artist Square, comprising M+, Lyric Theatre, other arts and cultural facilities (OACF), retail/dining/entertainment (RDE) facilities as well as office/residential developments, into a mini-West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD). This area, referred to as the ASDA, will form a precinct supported by a balanced mix of various land uses to facilitate "destination building" in the early phased development of the WKCD and build vibrancy in the vicinity of M+. The core arts and cultural facilities (CACF) in the area are targeted for completion by around 2020.

LYRIC THEATRE

3. At the Joint Subcommittee meeting held on 28 March 2014, Members were informed that each of the

Performing Arts (PA) venues in WKCD will have a clear and focused art form and Lyric Theatre will be a 1 200-seat venue for use by a wide variety of performing arts events including drama and musical performances, with a focus on dance as its artistic positioning.

4. In May 2014, consultancy services were employed for the design and administration of the construction of the Lyric Theatre. In parallel with the design process, WKCD has also initiated a review of the PA venues to achieve design efficiency and synergy in future operation.

5. As a result of this review, the option to combine more PA venues with the Lyric Theatre has been explored. A series of meetings with stakeholders including relevant major performing arts groups have been undertaken to update the groups on the potential of integration and re-prioritisation of various PA venues, in particular the option to enhance the range of facilities to be provided in Lyric Theatre. The modification of the facilities framework for PA venues was warmly received by the groups.

6. For the Lyric Theatre, the reconfiguration involves some of the facilities previously included in the Centre for Contemporary Performance (CCP) and Medium Theatre II (MT II). Location of these facilities is shown in **Annex 1**. The focus for the enhanced Lyric Theatre, tentatively known as Lyric Theatre Complex, includes:

- (a) **Lyric Theatre:** Increasing the seat capacity of the dance-focused Lyric Theatre from 1 200 to 1 450 with installation of digital projection equipment for film screenings as a proactive response to the request from the film industry;
- (b) **Medium Theatre and Studio Theatre:** Adding two theatre-focused units, i.e. a 600-seat Medium Theatre (previously MT II) and a Studio Theatre with 200+ seats (previously a 250-seat Black Box Theatre in the CCP) to the site, therefore advancing their delivery from after 2022 to around 2020;
- (c) **Resident Company Centre:** Maintaining the

Resident Company Centre (RCC) with a full range of professional rehearsal, communal and supporting facilities serving as a powerhouse for creativity dedicated for long term dance development; and

- (d) Keeping the artistic positioning of the 1 450-seat Lyric Theatre as dance-focused and the 600-seat Medium Theatre and 200+ seat Studio Theatre as theatre-focused. All these facilities may also be used for other art forms.

7. The CCP and MT II are originally planned to be built above the West Kowloon Terminus of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, providing four theatres with 600, 400, 250 and 150 seats respectively. With the implementation of the Lyric Theatre Complex as proposed in paragraph 6 above, the land parcel originally planned for MT II will be used for providing a 400-seat and a 150-seat theatre-focused Black Box Theatre with RCC. Consideration is being given to the future use of the CCP site for OACF or other uses.

8. The redesign of the Lyric Theatre Complex including parking, loading/unloading and pick-up/drop-off provisions is underway and completion of the venue is expected to be around 2020. The reconfiguration of the Lyric Theatre Complex is shown at **Annex 2**.

ARTIST SQUARE DEVELOPMENT AREA

9. With the approval of planning application to increase the overall gross floor area (GFA) in the WKCD, efforts have been made to optimise the total GFA and mix of uses in the ASDA to achieve a better critical mass. In the heart of ASDA, the Artist Square will become a vibrant gateway to the WKCD. It will be a meeting place for visitors, and will create an environment to foster artistic collaborations and promote public participation in the art and cultural activities. The square will adopt a highly flexible setup suitable for street performances and outdoor events and exhibitions, such as red carpet ceremonies and art events.

10. In order to create a sense of place for the general public and to bring vibrancy to ASDA, the design team for the Park has been commissioned to carry out the open space design for ASDA, including the Artist Square and associated promenade. The scheme design is currently underway and completion of the public space is expected around 2020.

11. Schematic design for OACF, RDE and office/residential developments within ASDA is being prepared and their business case will be reviewed accordingly.

DISCUSSION

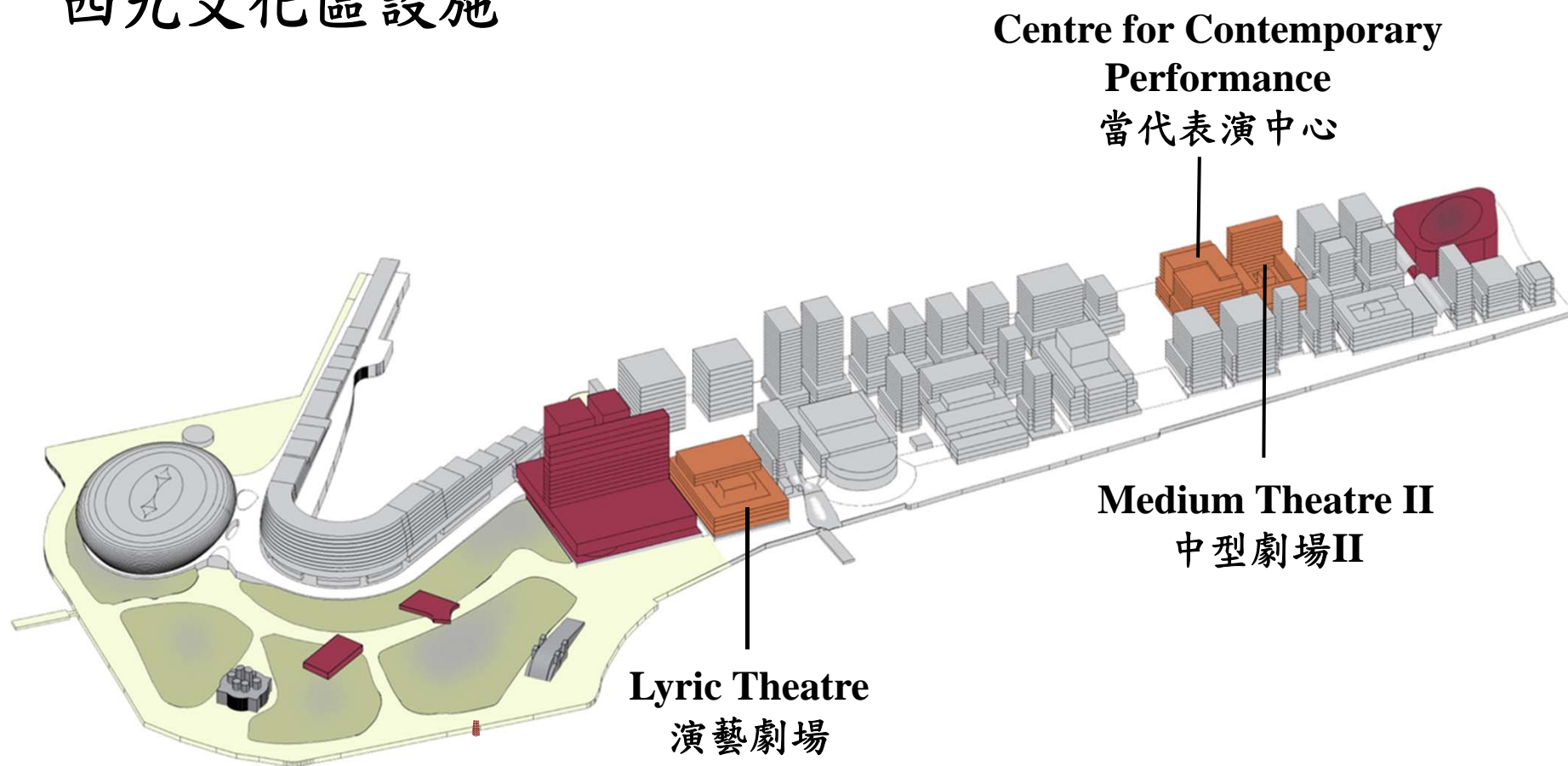
12. Members are invited to note the implementation progress of the Lyric Theatre and ASDA and to provide comments on the proposed Lyric Theatre Complex.

West Kowloon Cultural District Authority
March 2015

West Kowloon Cultural District Facilities

西九文化區設施

附件一
Annex 1



Legend 圖例

- Batch 1 Facilities
第一批設施
- Batch 2 Facilities
第二批設施

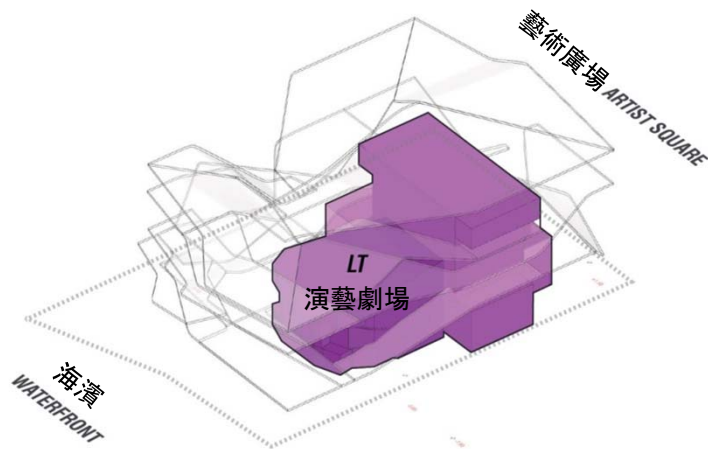
方案比較 Scheme Comparison

演藝劇場 (原方案)

Lyric Theatre (Original Scheme)

演藝劇場 (1 200個座位)

Lyric Theatre (1 200 seats)



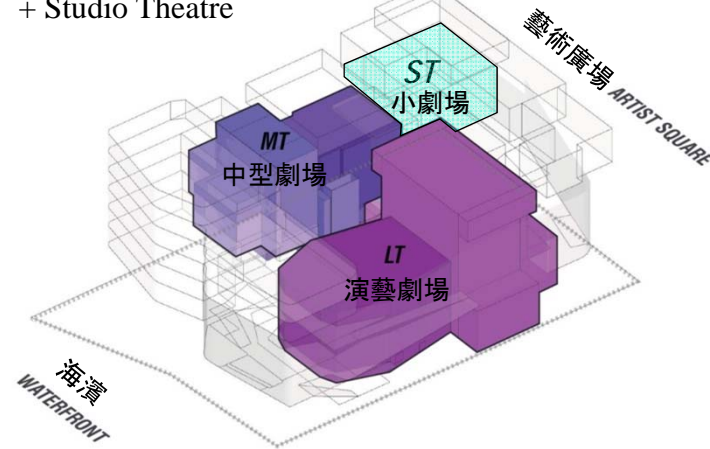
演藝綜合劇場 (現方案)

Lyric Theatre Complex (Current Scheme)

暫名 Title to be confirmed

演藝劇場 (1 450個座位)+中型劇場+小劇場

Lyric Theatre (1 450 seats) + Medium Theatre
+ Studio Theatre



此乃初步方案，建築設計仍需進一步深化。
Preliminary scheme only and architectural design needs to be further developed.