

For discussion on  
21 June 2016

**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 M+**

**PURPOSE**

This paper provides an update on the development of the M+ project.

**BACKGROUND**

2. M+ is a new museum for visual culture in Hong Kong within the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD). Its mission is to focus on 20th and 21st century visual culture, broadly defined, from a Hong Kong perspective, the perspective of now, and with a global vision. In order to realise its vision and mission, M+ needs to develop on four fronts: to build a team; to build a collection; to build a museum building and to raise awareness through inventive pre-opening programmes.

3. Since the last update to the Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the WKCD Project (Joint Subcommittee) in May 2015, the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA) has made significant progress on the M+ project. This paper sets out the progress of M+ in terms of construction of the museum building and work done in order for M+ to achieve its vision and mission.

**CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS OF THE MUSEUM BUILDING**

4. Following an international design competition, the Swiss architectural firm of Herzog & de Meuron, in joint venture with Hong Kong-based TFP Farrells and Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong, was selected to design and administer the M+ building project. Design

work on M+ has been completed and the Main Works Contract has commenced with the museum building now emerging from the site. The design consultancy services commenced in September 2013 and will continue through to the completion of the building project.

5. The M+ building and the Conservation and Storage Facility to be completed in the second half of 2018 for opening in 2019, will provide approximately 60 000 square metres in gross floor area. Comprising a horizontal block at the lower levels and a vertical building on top of it, the M+ building sets to create an iconic presence for M+, and Hong Kong, on the WKCD site overlooking the Victoria Harbour. The horizontal building will house exhibition spaces and galleries with a learning centre, a moving image centre, museum shops and cafes, creator's studios and back-of-house functions whereas the vertical building will house a research centre, a curatorial centre and retail/dining/entertainment facilities on the top floors.

6. Following completion of the foundation works in the third quarter of 2015, the main works for M+ commenced in the fourth quarter of 2015, with excavation and sub-structure works now underway. As the M+ building is located immediately above the existing Airport Express Tunnels, any movement induced from the M+ foundation and building works is a major concern to both MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) and WKCD. To safe guard the operation of the Airport Express, monitoring and mitigation measures have been implemented and extreme care has been taken during the execution of the said construction works. WKCD will continue to maintain close coordination with MTRCL to ensure the safe operation of the Airport Express.

7. The following key statistics as in May 2016 show the current progress of the construction works:

- 523 870 man-hours have been completed with no reportable accidents to the end of May 2016;
- Excavation Works – 76% completed;
- Pile Caps – 22% completed;
- Lower Basement Slab – 38% completed;
- Main Works Contract workers on site – 119 supervisors and 327 labourers

## **PROGRESS ON SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENTS FOR M+**

### **Opening of M+ Pavilion**

8. Given the lead time to complete the museum building, as an interim measure, the M+ Pavilion, to be open by end of July 2016, will be used to showcase smaller-scale exhibitions ahead of the opening of the M+ building in 2019. The winning design was made by the team of young Hong Kong architects, VPANG architects ltd + JET Architecture Inc + Lisa Cheung.

9. The inaugural exhibition in M+ Pavilion is scheduled to open in September 2016, showcasing Tsang Kin-wah's 2015 Venice Biennale return exhibition. Subsequent exhibitions including design objects from the M+ Collection and Hong Kong's Popular Culture are being planned. Going forward, M+ plans to feature a wide variety of exhibits drawn from its growing collection at the M+ Pavilion until the opening of the main M+ building in 2019. This series of exhibition will give visitors a foretaste about the future museum experience.

### **Major pre-opening events and exhibitions**

10. In preparation for the opening of M+, WKCDA has been organising pre-opening programmes to enhance public awareness, engage young people, build audiences and enhance capacity. Major initiatives are highlighted in the following paragraphs.

#### ***M+ Rover***

11. M+ rolled out an innovative outreach programme called M+ Rover: Traveling Creative Studio in March 2016 in a bid to raise awareness in the community and schools. The converted container functions as a pop-up space for exhibitions and workshops. M+ Rover emphasises creative collaboration between artists, teachers and students. Participating artists engaged students as co-producers in art making, role play, games and discussion. M+ Rover has already visited 40 schools and made 9 community visits as in June 2016. M+ Rover targets to visit a total of 46 schools and make 12 community visits by July 2016.

12. M+ Rover's exterior mimics that of a spaceship, while its warm interior comprises recycled wood taken from discarded pallets, combining mobility and sustainability. Creative practitioners from art, design, architecture, moving image, and other fields of visual culture are commissioned to lead school workshops.

13. M+ Rover is a tool to prompt students to explore uncharted creative territory. In view of its popularity, M+ is committed to continuing to run the M+ Rover to reach out to more schools and communities over the next year.

### ***M+ Summer Camp***

14. M+ Summer Camp is a youth-targeted initiative. Over four days, young people from different backgrounds explore, experiment, play, and work together in ways that nurture creativity, critical thinking, and confidence.

15. The M+ Summer Camp in July 2015 attracted a vibrant group of 100 students from secondary schools to work with and learn from ten local creative practitioners – in the fields of visual art, design, architecture, illustration, comics, film, writing, and performing arts. Young attendees had a chance to go on a journey of participation and discovery, as well as fostering dialogue by examining artistic practices, creating a dynamic and memorable experience. The M+ Summer Camp offered an extraordinary opportunity to immerse in visual culture. The programme will be organised again in 2016 and recruitment is ongoing.

### ***M+ Screenings***

16. M+ is promoting moving image with its M+ Screenings. This is returning in July with six programmes that examine British artists' films and videos from the post-punk era (1978–85). Featured artists used inexpensive domestic technologies to find new modes of expression, embracing the DIY approach of punk and subverting mainstream media images to create fresh dialogues between the self and the world. The July screening is co-organised with the UK-based institutions, LUX (a London-based artist film agency) and the British Film Institute.

### ***Mobile M+: Live Art***

17. In December 2015, M+ presented Mobile M+: Live Art, a series of cross-disciplinary public performance art events and exhibitions which took place at eight different locations around the city and was intended to explore aspects of ‘liveness’ in contemporary art.

18. The show expanded the definition of the work of art from a static object to a situation, where the main medium is the artist or performer’s body and looked to voice, breath, movement and physical effort as channels of artistic expression. This series included ten artists of different generations from Hong Kong and South China, as well as Korea, Singapore and the United States.

### ***M+ Sigg Collection Exhibition***

19. M+ held the M+ Sigg Collection: Four Decades of Chinese Contemporary Art Exhibition from February to April 2016. Featuring around 80 works by 50 artists, this is the first-ever chronological exhibition about the emergence and development of Chinese contemporary art. It offered a glimpse of the collection that will be on display when the M+ building opens. This exhibition was a huge success, attracted more than 40 000 visitors during the period with positive coverage in both local and international media. School tours were held in parallel to a series of learning programmes including guided, curator-led, and access tours especially for the visually impaired, which were well received. In addition, special workshops have been designed for teachers.

### **M+ Governance Structure**

20. As reported previously to this Joint Subcommittee, the governance and museological independence of M+ would be enhanced through the establishment of a subsidiary company wholly-owned by WKCDA. With its own Board of Directors the M+ Museum Limited was incorporated on 14 April 2016. The establishment of the M+ Museum Limited would enhance curatorial and museological independence while ensuring proper responsibilities for the overall administration policies and accountability will remain under the auspices of WKCDA.

21. Furthermore, an M+ Collections Trust will be set up shortly to hold the M+ Collection with a view to separating the legal and beneficial ownership of the Collection and protecting it from possible inappropriate deaccession in the future. A company limited by guarantee will be established to serve as the corporate trustee of the M+ Collections Trust. The trust arrangement will provide clarity over the institutional relationship, management responsibilities and accountability of WKCDA, M+ Museum Limited, and the corporate trustee.

### **Collection and acquisition**

22. There are over 5 000 works and objects now in the M+ Collection, of which over 1 300 works and objects are from Hong Kong, covering visual arts, design and architecture, and moving images. To establish art historical, cultural, and conceptual connections between Hong Kong and other Chinese works and international works, the collection also includes important works from Asia and the rest of the world, making the collection already singular and incomparable in the region and in the world and truly global. A set of acquisition policy for M+ is in place which is available for public information at WKCDA's website. It will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

23. Current holdings include a wide range of media: paintings, photography, installation, objects, architectural models, drawings or studies, printed matter, and electronic media.

### **ADVICE SOUGHT**

24. Members are invited to note the progress on the development of the M+ project.

**West Kowloon Cultural District Authority**  
**June 2016**