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by fax and email

20 December 2016

Ms Joanne Mak
Legislative Council Secretariat,
Legislative Council Complex,
1 Legislative Council Road,
Central,
Hong Kong
(Fax: 2509 0775)

Dear Ms Mak,

Avenue of Stars and Tsim Sha Tsui East Promenade

In response to the letter from Hon Tanya Chan dated 28 October 2016 on the Avenue of Stars (AoS) and Tsim Sha Tsui (TST) East Promenade, our written reply is as follows.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) has plans to revitalise the cultural facilities and public open space of the TST waterfront area by stages, including the Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong Space Museum, Hong Kong Cultural Centre and Salisbury Garden. Among these facilities, the Hong Kong Museum of Art is undergoing a three-year expansion and renovation work.

AoS and TST East Promenade (the Promenade) have always been accessible to the public as public open space. Taking into consideration that the bridge structure of AoS was built more than 30 years ago in 1982, and due to natural wear and tear as well as the ageing facilities of the bridge deck, it is necessary to carry out repair and improvement works to meet the needs of visitors and operational requirements. In consultation with the relevant District Councils and stakeholders, LCSD accepted the proposal to implement the TST Waterfront Revitalisation Plan (the Plan) in collaboration with the current management organization of AoS. To further enhance public engagement and deepen the public understanding of the Plan, LCSD launched a public engagement exercise from September to November 2015 to collect public views. The majority of the respondents supported enhancement and beautification of the waterfront area but wished to have fewer structures to be built on the Promenade so that people can stroll on a more spacious area and enjoy an unobstructed view of Victoria Harbour. Respondents also expressed the wish to shorten the period during which the area had to be closed for renovation. In this regard, LCSD decided to revise the design of the Promenade by adopting a simple design and maintaining the area as a public open space primarily for passive amenities.

On 27 February this year, LCSD briefed the Yau Tsim Mong District Council and the Harbourfront Commission's Task Force on Harbourfront Developments in Kowloon, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing (Task Force) on the above revised Plan. Thereafter, LCSD reported the views collected during the public engagement exercise and presented the enhanced design of Salisbury Garden to the Task Force on 9 March. The Task Force raised no objection to the Plan and agreed to implement the revitalisation works of the Salisbury Garden.

In response to the comments expressed by the public, the architect has refined the design of AoS. On 9 September, LCSD conducted a design workshop to consult the stakeholders for further enhancement of the design of the AoS. On 22 September 2016, the revised design of AoS was presented and approved by the Yau Tsim Mong District Council and the Task Force.

Under the revised Plan, enhancement works for the Salisbury Garden are being carried out and it is expected to be re-opened in the second quarter of 2017. The bridge deck of AoS is now under repair and improvement. The revitalisation works of AoS, including the addition of green features and outdoor seating, will commence upon the completion of the bridge deck repair works in early 2018. The entire project is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2018. The Promenade will remain as a public open space primarily for passive amenities. Apart from a food and beverage outlet currently managed by LCSD, no additional structure will be built. Basic improvement works including the refurbishment of railings and floor tiles and upgrading of ancillary facilities such as the provision of additional parking spaces for coaches and a new toilet block will be carried out in early 2019.

Upon the completion of the project, the facilities will be re-opened for public use. The Salisbury Garden and AoS will be transformed into an even more diversified and vibrant public open space with a rich cultural ambience for arts performances and programmes, and achieve synergy with the Hong Kong Cultural Centre in close proximity as well as the renovated Hong Kong Museum of Art to be re-opened in 2018. The Promenade will remain as a public open space primarily for passive amenities.

We are much obliged for the concerns raised. LCSD will continue to work with the Harbourfront Commission and Yau Tsim Mong District Council to improve AoS and TST East Promenade for the enjoyment of members of the public and tourists alike.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Elaine Yeung)

for Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

c.c.

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