

For discussion on  
13 June 2017

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

**Update on the Development of Lyric Theatre Complex**

**PURPOSE**

This paper serves to update Members on the progress of the development of the Lyric Theatre Complex (LTC).

**BACKGROUND**

2. At the Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project (Joint Subcommittee) meeting held on 23 March 2015, Members were informed that the originally planned 1 200-seat Lyric Theatre would be enhanced by increasing its seating capacity to 1 450 and incorporating two other performing arts venues into a single complex, the LTC, with a view to achieving design and operational efficiency as well as advancing the provision of the Medium Theatre (previously Medium Theatre II) and Studio Theatre (previously a Black Box Theatre in the Centre for Contemporary Performance).

**UPDATE ON HARDWARE DEVELOPMENT**

3. The LTC will be a centre of excellence showcasing the best of Hong Kong and international dance and theatre productions, both large and small-scale. The complex includes a 1 450-seat Lyric Theatre, a 600-seat Medium Theatre and a 270-seat Studio Theatre. The LTC will also provide retail/dining/entertainment (RDE) facilities for visitors and audience which will bring vibrancy to both the LTC and its surrounding area, in particular the Artist Square Development

Area. The LTC, located in Zone 3B of the integrated basement (IB Zone 3B) in the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD), will sit alongside the M+ Building and be accessible via the Artist Square and the waterfront promenade. A plan showing its location is at **Annex 1**.

4. Located at the southern side of the Artist Square, the LTC is easily accessible from the nearby MTR Kowloon Station, the Elements shopping mall and the basement road (drop off area) below the Artist Square. The proposed Artist Square Bridge will provide a pedestrian link between the MTR Kowloon Station/the Elements shopping mall and the Artist Square in WKCD across Austin Road West with further connections to the Art Park and the harbourfront for visitors to enjoy the waterfront promenade. Upon commissioning of the Artist Square Bridge, the public and tourists will have easy access to and from the LTC.

5. Internally within the LTC, the various theatres and RDE facilities in the Complex are strategically connected with an indoor central and universally accessible spine with spacious corridors and natural light from the roof skylight leading the visitors towards a panoramic view of the Victoria Harbour along the spine. The LTC will be a unique building in Hong Kong along the waterfront. The foyers, the terraces and the public roof decks offer visitors an invaluable public space overlooking the waterfront promenade and the opportunity for holding a variety of events and performances outside the stages. Artist Square will be enriched by the Resident Company Centre (RCC) housed at the northern side of the LTC where the rehearsing performers therein will be seen by the public at the square.

6. The RCC, being a pioneering centre for the exploration and development of dance and cross-disciplinary collaboration, serves as a home for dance companies and artists in Hong Kong as well as a creative laboratory, meeting place and performance space for artists from around the world to explore collaboration and present works that will inspire artists and their audiences. Major facilities to be provided in the RCC include eight dance rehearsal studios and a rehearsal hall.

7. The core functions of the RCC are:

(a) Training, rehearsals and auditions;

- (b) Creation: creative laboratory, exchange, research;
- (c) Performance space and screenings; and
- (d) Learning and participation programmes: workshops, master class, artist talks, work-in-progress informal showing, artist salon, etc.

8. The design consultant of the LTC has submitted the final detailed design which is now under review by the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA). The updated conceptual computer-aided illustrations of the LTC are shown in **Annex 2**.

9. On site, the foundation works for the LTC and IB Zone 3B commenced in January 2016. All piling works and Excavation and Lateral Supports (ELS) works (Stage 1) were physically completed in early May 2017. The overall progress of the Foundation Works Contract is generally on schedule. ELS works (Stage 2) at the northwestern corner of the site is underway and is scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2018.

10. To take forward the development of the LTC, WKCDA has to tender out two main construction works packages – L1 and LTC (L2) in tandem. Works Package L1 mainly includes the ELS works (Stage 2 – remaining area), pile caps and the IB substructure and superstructure to receive the LTC (L2); while Works Package LTC (L2) mainly includes the construction of the LTC as described in paragraph 3 above, promenade, open space at Artist Square, district cooling system, integrated basement, underground road and other public infrastructure works. Under a parallel tender arrangement, the L1 contract has been tendered out in February 2017 with a tender return date at the end of June 2017. The award of L1 contract is subject to the funding approval of the Legislative Council Finance Committee (FC) for the third stage of construction works of the IB (which was discussed at the Joint Subcommittee meeting on 29 May 2017 and Members had no objection to our submission to the Public Works Subcommittee for consideration). Assuming that funding application is approved by FC within the current legislative session, WKCDA

expects that the L1 construction works will be awarded and commence in September 2017 for completion in December 2019.

11. As for the Works Package LTC (L2) for the construction of the LTC, WKCD intends to tender it out in September 2017 for award in March 2018. Actual construction works of the LTC (L2) is scheduled to commence in mid-2019, which is 15 months after the award of contract because LTC (L2) construction works cannot commence until L1 contract has completed construction within the site area of LTC (L2) contract. Early award of LTC (L2) in March 2018 is necessary to allow the LTC (L2) works contractor sufficient time to prepare interface coordination drawings, order long lead materials and make statutory submissions for the contract. The LTC is expected to be completed around 2021.

12. As mentioned above, the commencement of the LTC construction works is subject to the completion of the IB Zone 3B, which in turn is subject to the availability of Government funding for the IB Zone 3B and the associated Public Infrastructure Works (PIW) within this legislative session. Any delay to the funding approval of L1 works package will have serious impact on both L1 and LTC(L2) works contracts in terms of cost and programme, thus deferring the completion date of the LTC.

## **ARTISTIC POSITIONING**

13. The vision of the LTC is to support artists from diverse disciplines and cultures to jointly explore and create works, share creative experiences, promote global collaboration, support learning and innovation, and execute good dance and theatre works. The primary programming focus of the LTC as a whole will be dance, theatre and small-scale musicals, with a secondary focus on opera, children's, family and education programmes from a range of art forms for all ages. The Lyric Theatre will focus on dance as its artistic positioning, while it will also house a wide variety of other performing arts events including musicals, opera and film premieres. The Medium Theatre and Studio Theatre will focus on theatre. Providing a platform for commissioning and producing original new works and having them touring to major arts venues outside Hong Kong is also

one of the major focuses of the LTC. The co-existence of the three theatres in the LTC will foster cross-disciplinary collaboration and activate the space in the long run.

## **SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT IN PERFORMING ARTS**

14. To prepare for the opening of the LTC and the RCC, WKCDA has been conducting an array of programmes in 2016-17 and 2017-18 to foster professional development and capacity building. Programmes focusing on the areas of dance and theatre are highlighted below.

### **Cultural Exchange and Creation**

15. WKCDA signed a Memorandum of Understanding on dance exchange and collaboration between Hong Kong and Finland with three Finnish dance institutions, namely Dance Info Finland, Zodiak - Centre for New Dance, and Dance House Helsinki in November 2016, to launch a three-year residency exchange programme. The programme will run from 2016-17 to 2018-2019 and consists of six separate exchange trips with each lasting for around two weeks.

16. Titled *Creative Meeting Point: Hong Kong x Finland*, this three-year residency exchange programme is a collaborative programme that offers dance artists in Hong Kong and Finland opportunities for artistic dialogue and exploration with international dance practitioners in their home regions. It allows the six participating artists to do reciprocal residency exchange in both Helsinki and Hong Kong during major arts festivals and events in both cities, offering them with meaningful exchange opportunities with different artists from different disciplines. It also aims to support artistic research and development, promote work-in-progress development and help realise possible co-productions between Hong Kong and Finland. Two exchange trips under this programme have already taken place so far. In November and December 2016, three dance artists from Hong Kong visited the Nordic region while in March 2017, three Finnish dance artists visited Hong Kong under this exchange programme.

17. In addition to collaborating with the Finnish dance institutions, WKCDA collaborated with Dancehouse in Melbourne to launch the second residency exchange programme for dance artists in March 2017. Titled *Creative Meeting Point: Hong Kong x Australia*, this programme offers six residency exchanges between Australia and Hong Kong from 2017 to 2019. Also aiming to foster artistic dialogue and exploration, and encourage artistic research and development, the programme supports dance works co-produced by Hong Kong and Australia. It will help showcase local dance artists on a global stage.

18. WKCDA has been actively identifying collaboration opportunities with different cultural organisations within and outside Hong Kong. Apart from the residency exchange programmes with Finland and Australia, WKCDA is currently working to establish further collaboration and exchange arrangements with arts institutions in other places. WKCDA targets to set up cooperation arrangements with four to five cultural institutions from different countries by 2021.

### **Producers' Network Meeting and Forum**

19. In May 2017, the third edition of the *Producers' Network Meeting and Forum* took place with closed-door meeting and public forum focused on co-production planning and networking strategies. During the four-day meeting and forum, leaders from organisations dedicated to co-production and joint network collaboration had shared their experiences: presenting case studies, analysing key success factors and exploring collaboration possibilities.

### **New Works Forum**

20. The New Works Forum is an ongoing programme series organised with a view to enhancing local performing arts developments, as well as providing a platform for Hong Kong artists working across different fields to expand into new areas through exploring innovative ways of creating and performing, while brainstorming on topics around contemporary performances. Three New Works Forums were held in 2016.

21. In June and October 2016, New Works Forums on

*Multimedia and Dance Dialogue – Hiroaki Umeda* and *Multimedia and Dance Dialogue – Su Wen-Chi & Wu Chi-Tsung* were held and internationally renowned choreographers and artists were invited to exchange on and explore the interplay between dance and new media. Another New Works Forum on *Choreographer & Composer Lab* was held in November 2016 which provided a platform for choreographers to work with composers from different background.

## **WAY FORWARD**

22. To prepare for the opening of various arts and cultural facilities in WKCD, WKCDA will continue its efforts in developing cultural software. WKCDA will also look into developing the plan for the operation of the RCC and organise learning and participation activities to enhance participants' appreciation skills on artistic programmes of different types for the LTC and other facilities.

## **ADVICE SOUGHT**

23. Members are invited to note the progress of the development of the LTC.

**West Kowloon Cultural District Authority**  
**June 2017**

附件一 Annex 1

演藝綜合劇場的位置圖 Location Plan of Lyric Theatre Complex





附件二 Annex 2

從維港所見的夜景 - 南面外觀  
**Night View from the Harbour - Exterior of South Facade**



從藝術廣場所見的日景 - 北面外觀  
**Day View from the Artist Square - Exterior of North Facade**



演藝綜合劇場的剖面透視圖  
Sectional Perspective of Lyric Theatre Complex

