

**立法會**  
***Legislative Council***

LC Paper No. CB(1)1105/16-17(04)

Ref : CB1/PS/2/16

**Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of  
the West Kowloon Cultural District Project**

**Meeting on 13 June 2017**

**Updated background brief on the development of Lyric Theatre Complex**

**Purpose**

This paper provides background information on the development of Lyric Theatre Complex ("LTC"), and a brief account of the views and concerns expressed by members of the Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project ("the Joint Subcommittee") in the 2016-2017 legislative session and the former Joint Subcommittee formed in the Fifth Legislative Council ("LegCo").

**Background**

2. The Administration and the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority ("WKCD Authority") announced in June 2013 that to address the funding gap of the West Kowloon Cultural District ("WKCD") project, WKCD Authority would adopt a pragmatic approach to implement the project with the planned facilities to be delivered in three batches. Lyric Theatre is among the Batch 2 facilities and the second major performing arts ("PA") venue to be provided in WKCD after Xiqu Centre. In March 2014, WKCD Authority advised the former Joint Subcommittee that each of the PA venues in WKCD would have a clear and focused art form and Lyric Theatre would be a 1200-seat venue for use by a wide variety of PA events including drama and musical performances, with a focus on dance as its artistic positioning.

## Lyric Theatre Complex

3. In March 2015, WKCDA informed the former Joint Subcommittee that the Authority had proposed to modify the originally planned 1 200-seat Lyric Theatre to LTC by enhancing the design of the planned facilities as well as incorporating some of the Batch 2 facilities, such as Medium Theatre II and a Black Box Theatre in the Centre for Contemporary Performance ("CCP"), to advance their provision. The key components of LTC included the following facilities:

- (a) **Lyric Theatre:** Dance-focused Lyric Theatre with 1 450 seats with installation of digital projection equipment for film screenings as a response to the request from the film industry;
- (b) **Medium Theatre:** Theatre-focused Medium Theatre with 600 seats (previously called Medium Theatre II, a Batch 2 facility);
- (c) **Studio Theatre:** Theatre-focused Studio Theatre with 200+ seats (previously a 250-seat Black Box Theatre in CCP, also a Batch 2 facility);
- (d) **Resident Company Centre ("RCC"):** RCC with a full range of rehearsal, communal and supporting facilities for art groups serving as a powerhouse for creativity dedicated for long term dance development; and
- (e) **Retail, dining and entertainment ("RDE") facilities.**

4. According to WKCDA, the reconfiguration of multiple performing venues in one single complex would not only achieve design efficiency and synergy in future operation, but would also advance the completion of the originally planned Medium Theatre II and one of the black box theatres in CCP by at least two years from after 2022 to around 2020. A conceptual computer-aided illustration of LTC is in **Appendix I**.

5. As advised by the Administration,<sup>1</sup> the area around the Artist Square, which included M+, LTC and some office sites on top of the integrated basement at Zones 3A and 3B (referred to as the Artist Square Development Area ("ASDA")) would present a good opportunity for early development into

---

<sup>1</sup> [LC Paper No. CB\(1\)819/16-17\(03\)](#)

a "mini-WKCD". With target completion date by around 2021, ASDA would form a precinct supported by a balanced mix of land uses including core arts and cultural facilities, office, other arts and cultural facilities and RDE facilities. In December 2016, WKCDA advised that foundation works for LTC and the surrounding basement below the Artist Square had started in January 2016. WKCDA would tender out the main works for LTC in 2017. Subject to funding approval by the Finance Committee ("FC") of LegCo for the construction works of the relevant part of the integrated basement under LTC,<sup>2</sup> construction works of LTC were expected to be completed in around 2021.

### **Major views and concerns expressed by members**

6. Issues relating to the development of LTC were discussed at various meetings of the former Joint Subcommittee in 2015 and 2016. The major views and concerns expressed by members are summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

#### Reconfiguration of performing arts venues

7. Some members questioned whether the reconfiguration of PA venues in one single complex was attributable to the delay in releasing the relevant works areas on the WKCD site by the MTR Corporation Limited for the construction of CCP and Medium Theatre II, and whether the PA community had been consulted on LTC.

8. WKCDA advised that the reconfiguration of PA venues sought to deliver as many arts and cultural facilities as possible for public enjoyment within the available budget and planning constraints. Extensive consultation had been conducted with the relevant major PA groups on the proposed three-theatre model for LTC and no objection had been raised by the groups. On the future mode of operation of the three theatres in LTC, WKCDA advised that it would invite local dance companies to become Resident Partners of LTC, which could have priority access to the three theatres in LTC

---

<sup>2</sup> A funding proposal on "Implementation of the Integrated Basement for West Kowloon Cultural District" ([LC Paper No. CB\(1\)819/16-17\(03\)](#)) was discussed at the meeting of the Joint Subcommittee on 21 April 2017. The proposal was, however, not supported by the Joint Subcommittee. Subsequently, the Administration submitted a revised funding proposal ([LC Paper No. CB\(1\)987/16-17\(02\)](#)) for discussion at the Joint Subcommittee's meeting on 29 May 2017. The Joint Subcommittee raised no objection to the Administration's submission of the revised funding proposal to the Public Works Subcommittee for consideration.

and participate in the operation of the venue. WKCDA would continue to solicit views from relevant PA groups with a view to mapping out a business model most suitable for LTC.

9. Some members sought clarification on whether the three black box theatres originally planned to be built in CCP would be scaled down and whether there was any other plan for the land parcel originally planned for CCP. Some members enquired whether WKCDA would explore the feasibility of constructing some of the Batch 3 facilities (e.g. Music Centre, Great Theatre and Musical Theatre) on the original CCP site.

10. WKCDA advised that there would be no reduction in the total seating capacity of the theatres in CCP and Medium Theatre II. The previously 600-seat Medium Theatre II and 250-seat Black Box Theatre in CCP would be moved to LTC, while the land parcel originally planned for Medium Theatre II would be used for providing the other two black box theatres (with 400 and 150 seats respectively) originally planned to be built on the CCP site. As the land parcel originally planned for CCP was above the West Kowloon Terminus of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link and having regard to the high acoustic requirements for the venues for musical performance, it was not appropriate to build such venues on the original CCP site. Consideration was being given to the future use of the CCP site for other arts and cultural facilities and other uses.

#### Artistic positioning

11. Noting that LTC would comprise a dance-focused theatre (i.e. Lyric Theatre) and two theatre-focused units and that Lyric Theatre could also be used for film screening and a wide variety of PA events in addition to dance performances, some members queried whether such arrangements ran counter to the original plan of WKCDA that each of the PA venues in WKCD should have a clear and focused art form so as to create a strong identity for the venue concerned. Members also enquired how the artistic positioning of Lyric Theatre with its focus on dance would be reflected in its programming policy and venue hiring policy.

12. WKCDA advised that LTC would provide more options for both dance performance groups and other PA groups to organize events of different scales. The model of a "shared theatre" (i.e. theatre-units for different art forms sharing the same complex) was well-established and had been adopted in many parts of the world. Such a model could maximize the venue functionally, achieve more efficient use of space and resources, and provide the audience with a wider range of choices in PA events. Lyric Theatre

would remain to be dance-focused in that the design of the venue would create a strong identity for that art form and its facilities would cater mainly for the needs of dance performances. In addition, priority would be given to dance performances in its venue hiring policy and more resources would be allocated for dance-related programmes and activities.

13. Some members considered that the Administration/WKCDA should fine-tune the respective positioning and facility framework of LTC and the East Kowloon Cultural Centre ("EKCC")<sup>3</sup> so as to ensure that they would complement rather than competing with each other in terms of target audience and hirer.

14. WKCDA advised that while EKCC was intended to be a cross-district cultural venue serving mainly the local communities and the local arts and cultural groups especially those in the East Kowloon region, WKCD would provide a cluster of major arts and cultural facilities, including LTC, for the staging of world-class performances by arts and cultural groups from around the world. EKCC and LTC should be able to complement each other in meeting the demand.

#### Audience building

15. Some members expressed worry that upon the opening of LTC, there might not be sufficient audience for the arts and cultural performances to be staged at the venue. They asked how WKCDA would enhance the utilization of LTC after its opening.

16. WKCDA advised that it would strive to enhance the quality of the productions to be staged at LTC to enhance its appeal to audience. Apart from building the interest of local audience in LTC, WKCDA would also develop new audiences coming from the Mainland and other parts of the world given the proximity of WKCD to various major transport nodes. Besides, WKCDA would bring in a resident company at LTC to activate the venue and to support and collaborate in the programmes initiated by WKCDA.

---

<sup>3</sup> On 15 July 2015, FC approved a funding of \$4,175.7 million in money-of-the-day prices for the construction of EKCC. According to the Administration, EKCC, located at the junction of Ngau Tau Kok Road and Kwun Tong Road, was designed to meet the needs of the East Kowloon communities for suitable facilities for staging performances by district cultural groups, local organizations, schools as well as PA groups for the benefits of the residents in the catchment areas. The development of EKCC would help alleviate the acute shortage of PA facilities particularly at convenient locations. Construction of EKCC is expected to be completed in 2020. More information about EKCC is available in [PWSC\(2015-16\)9](#).

WKCDA was confident that the demand for the PA facilities in LTC would be more than enough to support the operation of the venue.

#### Crowd dispersal arrangement

17. Noting that LTC could altogether house an audience of 2 250, some members expressed concern about the crowd dispersal arrangements in the event that performances at the three theatres ended at the same time. WKCDA advised that according to the technical assessment on traffic and pedestrian flows conducted by its consultant and taking into account the experience of local PA venues with similar audience size, WKCDA was confident that the crowds could be dispersed efficiently from LTC even if events in the three theatres ended at the same time. Besides, the start and end times of events staged in the three theatres in LTC could be staggered to facilitate crowd dispersal.

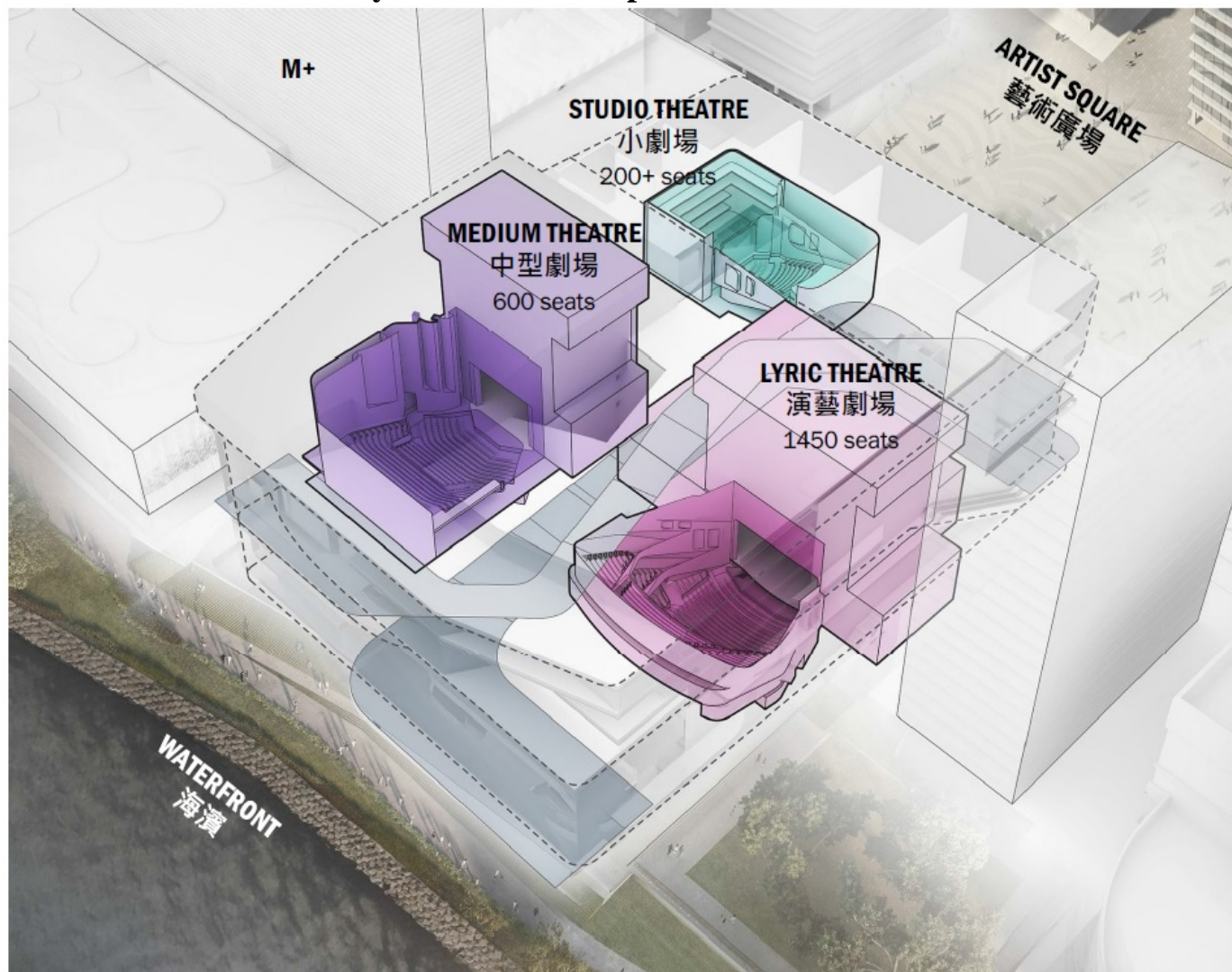
#### **Latest development**

18. At the meeting of the Joint Subcommittee to be held on 13 June 2017, the Administration and WKCDA will brief members on the progress of development of LTC.

#### **Relevant papers**

19. A list of the relevant papers on the LegCo Website is in **Appendix II**.

演藝綜合劇場立體示意圖  
Lyric Theatre Complex 3D illustration



資料來源：[立法會CB\(2\)1766/15-16\(01\)號文件的附件](#)  
Source: [Annex to LC Paper No. CB\(2\)1766/15-16\(01\)](#)

## Appendix II

### Development of Lyric Theatre Complex

#### List of relevant papers

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Paper</b>
Former Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project	23.3.2015 (Item II)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>
	7.7.2015 (Item I)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>
	24.11.2015 (Item II)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>
	30.5.2016 (Item II)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>
	21.6.2016 (Item I)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>
Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project	20.12.2016 Item III	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>