

For discussion on  
20 July 2018

**Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs**

**Use of Public Open Space Managed by  
the Leisure and Cultural Services Department**

**Purpose**

This paper briefs Members on the use of public open space managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD).

**Background**

2. LCSD currently manages over 1 500 parks and playgrounds of varying sizes, providing leisure and recreational facilities such as parks, gardens, children's playgrounds, sitting-out areas, football pitches, basketball courts and fitness areas. These venues seek to meet the diverse leisure and recreational needs of the community and promote a healthy lifestyle and sport for all. These venues are governed by the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap.132) and its subsidiary regulation to ensure that activities in the pleasure grounds are conducted in a safe and orderly manner.

**Use of Public Open Space**

3. LCSD is committed to enhancing the variety and vibrancy of public pleasure grounds for public enjoyment. To address the demand of the community, LCSD has made active efforts to enhance existing facilities in recent years. Major examples are highlighted in the ensuing paragraphs.

***“Universal Play” Design***

4. At present, LCSD manages 640 outdoor children's playgrounds and children's play rooms in 35 indoor sports centres. LCSD adopts “universal play” concept in planning for play equipment with a view to providing inclusive, interesting and innovative play equipment to cater for the needs of children of different ages and abilities. Children irrespective of their abilities can play together in inclusive playgrounds and acquire different skills to help the balanced development of their mind and body. To strengthen the appeal to children, themes and popular play facilities such as climbing frames, slides and swings, will also be included in the playgrounds as far as possible. All the facilities must meet internationally recognised safety standards. In designing facilities for individual venues, LCSD and the relevant works departments will consider topographic features, site area and circumstances and views of the District Councils concerned, etc.

5. To usher in brand new design concepts, LCSD, in collaboration with the relevant works departments, adopted the winning design of the Inclusive Play Space Design Ideas Competition as a prototype to build an innovative inclusive playground in Tuen Mun Park as part of a pilot scheme (outline conceptual design plan at **Annex A**). Through the open competition, the community was engaged in the design process, including the design professionals and students, who in turn gauged the views of the users and the district community in the process. The winning design, featuring the elements of water and sand, and incorporates fun components and themed facilities for children of different ages and abilities, now forms the blueprint of the new playground. Through sand, water, light and shadow, play equipment that sways and spins, climbing frames and movable parts for knocking and touching, children can enjoy the fun while taking on challenges according to their abilities, interact with each other, accept challenges in a controlled play environment and explore the world around them. The playground is expected to open for public use in the third quarter of 2018. LCSD will evaluate the feedbacks on the pilot project together with relevant works departments, to see how the experience gained from this project can be adapted or adopted when planning for new park projects or modernizing existing venues. LCSD will continue to liaise with concern groups and the district community on the design and play equipment.

### ***Community Build Playgrounds***

6. Apart from organising activities in public parks to add to the fun and enjoyment for park-goers, LCSD has facilitated non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to organise activities in public parks to enhance play experience for children. In collaboration with the Playright Children's Play Association (Playright) and relevant NGOs, a 3-year (between September 2017 and August 2020) "Community Build Playground (CBP)" project has been rolled out at four major parks on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and New Territories. CBP is a brand new concept which allows children partner with their parents to create their own playground by using simple tools and to explore the parks through imagination and cooperation. The target participants are kids aged from 3 to 12. Both physical and mental fitness can be enhanced through CPB as children will become more physically active and also relieve stress as well as anxiety in the community.

7. Under the CBP project, LCSD acts as a venue provider and provides all necessary logistics support to Playright and relevant NGOs. The first CBP has been implemented at Tai Po Waterfront Park since September 2017 with encouraging responses. The second CBP has been kicked-off at Lai Chi Kok Park since May 2018. Activities are organised bi-weekly on Friday and Saturday afternoon. Photos of these CBPs are at **Annex B**. The third and fourth CBPs will be organised in the parks on Hong Kong Island and in New Territories in 2019 and 2020. LCSD will continue to collaborate with NGOs for organising activities in public parks to enhance play experience for children.

## *Pet Gardens*

8. LCSD has all along adopted a proactive approach to address the demand of dog owners for more pet gardens by designating specific areas in parks as pet gardens after obtaining the support of the respective district councils and the local community. The number of pet gardens managed by LCSD has increased from 19 to 48 between 2010 and June 2018. Apart from basic facilities such as sitting-out area, pets' latrines and water points, some pet gardens are provided with facilities such as pets' play equipment, shower area and lawns (photos at **Annex C**). Pet accesses are also provided in eight parks (including six venues provided with pet gardens) to meet the needs of the public. LCSD plans to provide three new pet gardens in 2018 and 2019, and will continue to identify suitable venues in existing or planned parks for the provision of additional pet gardens to cater for the demand of dog owners.

## *Lawn and Thematic Planting*

9. LCSD continues to provide more multi-purpose lawn of relatively large size in different parks and gardens for public enjoyment. The number of parks and gardens managed by LCSD with large lawn areas has increased from 39 to 51 between 2010 and June 2018. Some large lawn areas like those in the Tamar Park, the Jordan Valley Park and the Yuen Long Park are particularly popular as outing places, especially during weekends and public holidays. Members of the public are welcome to have picnic, play games or just lie down and enjoy reading books under the sun (photos at **Annex D**). Most of the lawn areas are not fenced off so as to allow easy access by members of the public. LCSD plans to provide three new parks and gardens with large lawn areas in 2018 and 2019.

10. In view of growing public interest in flower appreciation, LCSD will continue to promote thematic planting to highlight the character of the parks for public enjoyment. The Yellow Pui in Nam Cheong Park and the Camel's Foot Tree and Cherry Blossom in Hong Kong Velodrome Park are the hot spots for visitors during their flowering in spring. A dedicated webpage, "Blossoms Around Town" (<http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/green/blossoms.html>), has been created not only to introduce common flowering trees and special ornamental plant species in LCSD parks but also provide timely information for the public to appreciate the flower blossoms in different seasons.

## *Variety and Vibrancy of Activities in Parks*

11. To enable the community, particularly the children and their parents, to experience the vibrancy and joyous atmosphere of public parks, LCSD provides a variety of creative activities like the "Storm the Park" series, featuring frisbee playing, orienteering, fitness exercises, flower viewing and sketching, water fun, model car and even camping. The fun-filled recreation and sports programmes provide a unique experience for the community to enjoy these interesting activities in the parks. In addition to organising creative activities, LCSD also encourages families to use various park facilities actively, thereby energizing public parks. For example, parents are encouraged to bring their toddlers outside and have fun on a 3-wheel

scooter or tricycle in the parks. Furthermore, in response to increasing community demand for more venues for young children to play balance bikes<sup>1</sup> (photos at **Annex E**), LCS D plans to implement a trial scheme of opening up suitable parks for casual use by balance bike riders. Under the scheme, one park in each of the 18 districts provided with flat wide open spaces and where there is community demand will be opened up for children aged below 5 to play balance bikes under the supervision of adults. The scheme is expected to commence in August 2018. LCS D will evaluate the feedbacks on this pilot scheme by early 2019 to assess whether more parks could be open up for balance bike activity.

## **Promoting Public Art in Public Open Space**

12. One of the missions of LCS D is to promote arts and culture in Hong Kong through nurturing local artists and building audience. In recent years, LCS D has been adding an arts and culture dimension to our public open spaces and pleasure grounds. Major examples are set out in the following paragraphs.

- (a) ***City Dress Up***: To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Hong Kong Museum of Art (HKMA) organised a public art project, “***City Dress Up: Blossoming Stairs***” which decorated outdoor staircases in different districts of Hong Kong. Images were selected from the Museum collection to decorate 20 staircases in different locations from March 2017 to the end of 2017, with rotation of displays for each season (images of staircase at **Annex F**). In addition, LCS D has joined hands with guest curatorial teams to launch a public art project - “***City Dress Up: Seats · Together***”. 20 sets of public artworks in the form of aesthetically appealing and functional furniture have been displayed at 20 LCS D venues across the 18 districts, such as parks, waterfronts and sitting-out areas (photos of some artworks at **Annex G**) since July 2017. These artworks, specifically made to echo with the environment and the characteristics of the particular locations / districts, will be displayed till July 2020 for a period of 3 years. A series of fringe activities including workshops, community storytelling sessions and performances are co-organised by LCS D, the artist groups and relevant NGOs during the period of display to foster interactions among local communities from different backgrounds.
- (b) ***Hiring Out Venues for Artistic and Cultural Activities***: Apart from the arts and cultural events organised by LCS D, LCS D has facilitated various non-profit-making organisations in showcasing public art or organising cultural and educational programmes at the leisure venues. Notable examples include *Event Horizon Hong Kong*, *Lumieres Hong Kong* and

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<sup>1</sup> A balance bike is a training bicycle that helps children learn balance and steering. It has no pedals and is not driven by power. The riders are required to walk the bicycle while sitting in the saddle. Balance bike activity is found popular locally among toddlers usually aged 5 or below. At present, balance bike activity is allowed in 16 outdoor cycling tracks and children’s cycling areas under the management of LCS D.

*Harbour Arts Sculpture Park*, which broaden public access to art, provide a platform for local artists to showcase their artworks and help beautify the environment (photos of some artworks at **Annex H**).

## **Way Forward**

13. We will continue to enhance the design, vibrancy, ambience and safety of our venues for public enjoyment, taking into account the views of the community and striking a fine balance between the competing demands and diverse interest of different users.

**Leisure and Cultural Services Department**  
**July 2018**

# Enhancement Project for the Children's Playground at Tuen Mun Park

## Conceptual Design Plan



Southern Portion  
Theme : Reptile Fun

Northern Portion  
Theme : Water Lily Park



# Enhancement Project for the Children's Playground at Tuen Mun Park

Southern Portion

Reference:



Reptile Fun



# Enhancement Project for the Children's Playground at Tuen Mun Park

## Concept Plan – Southern Portion



## Reptile Fun



# Enhancement Project for the Children's Playground at Tuen Mun Park

Northern Portion



Water Lily Park



Reference:





# Enhancement Project for the Children's Playground at Tuen Mun Park

## Concept Plan – Southern Portion



## Reptile Fun



Community Build Playground

(i) Tai Po Waterfront Park



(ii) Lai Chi Kok Park





**Pet Garden**

(i) Pets' play equipment



(ii) Shower Area



(iii) Lawn



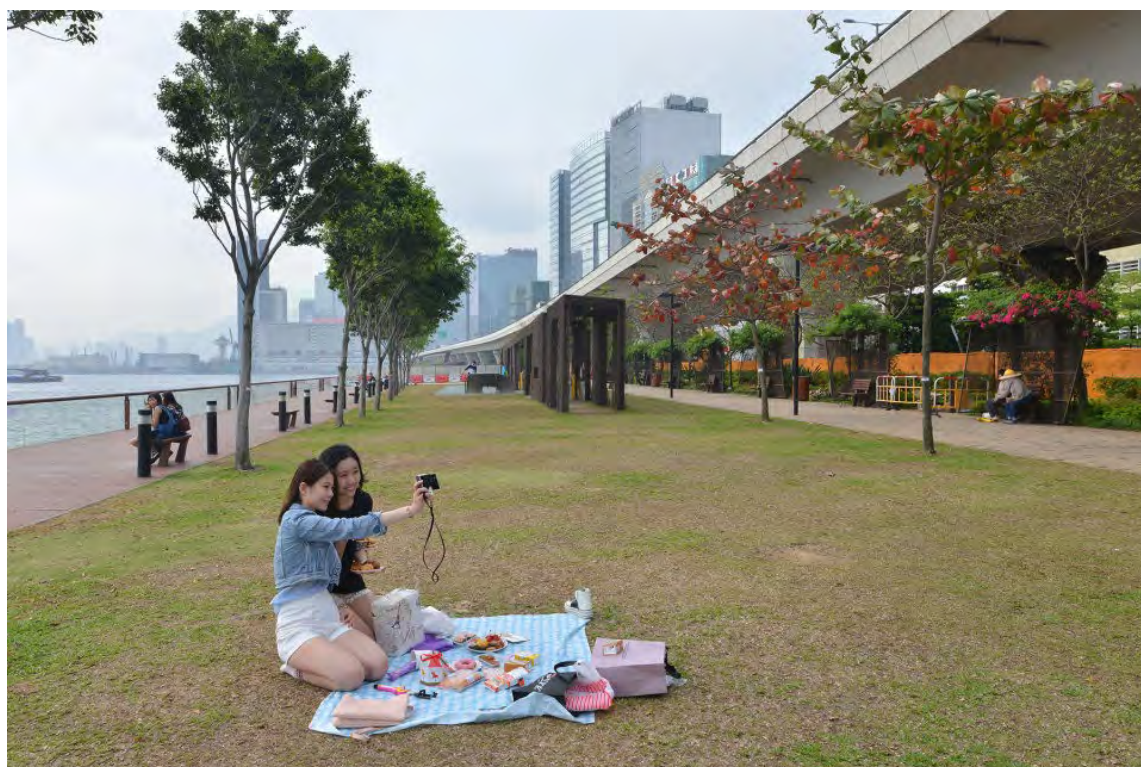


**Large Lawn**

(i) Tamar Park



(ii) Kwun Tong Promenade





(iii) Kai Tak Runway Park



(iv) Tai Po Waterfront Park





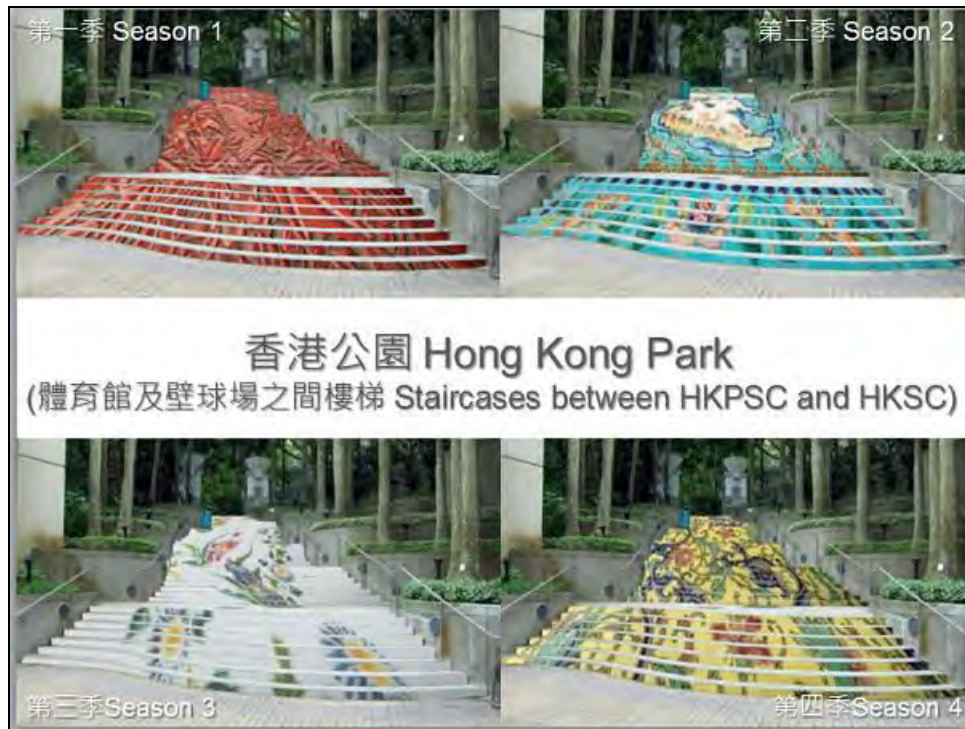
**Balance Bike**



## “City Dress Up: Blossoming Stairs”

Below are images of a selection of 9 among the 14 staircase venues:

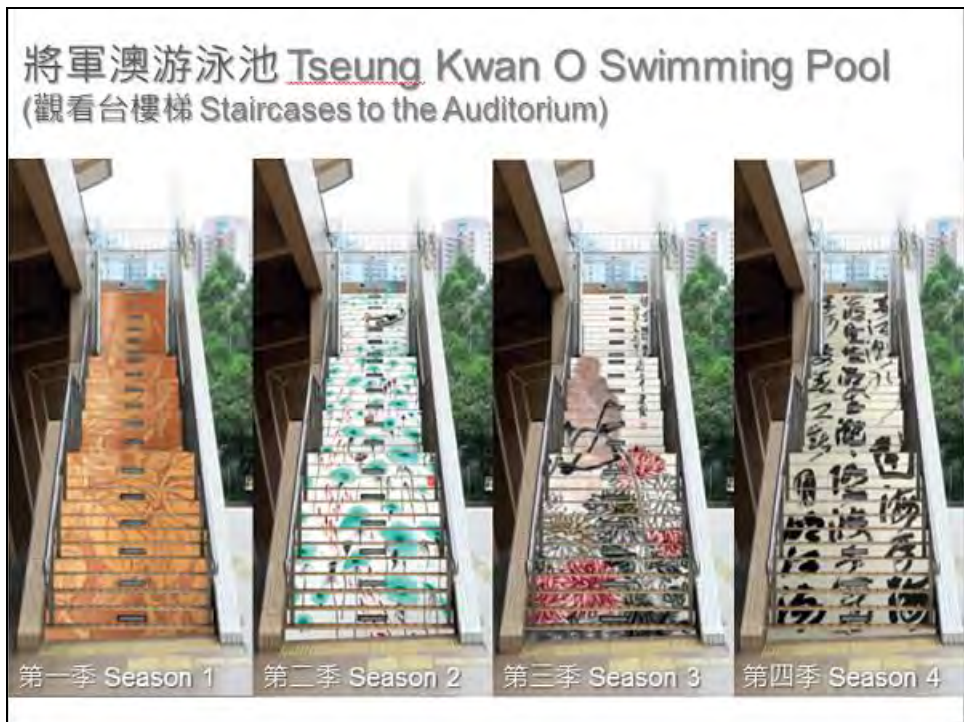
### 1. Hong Kong Park



### 2. Shatin Town Hall

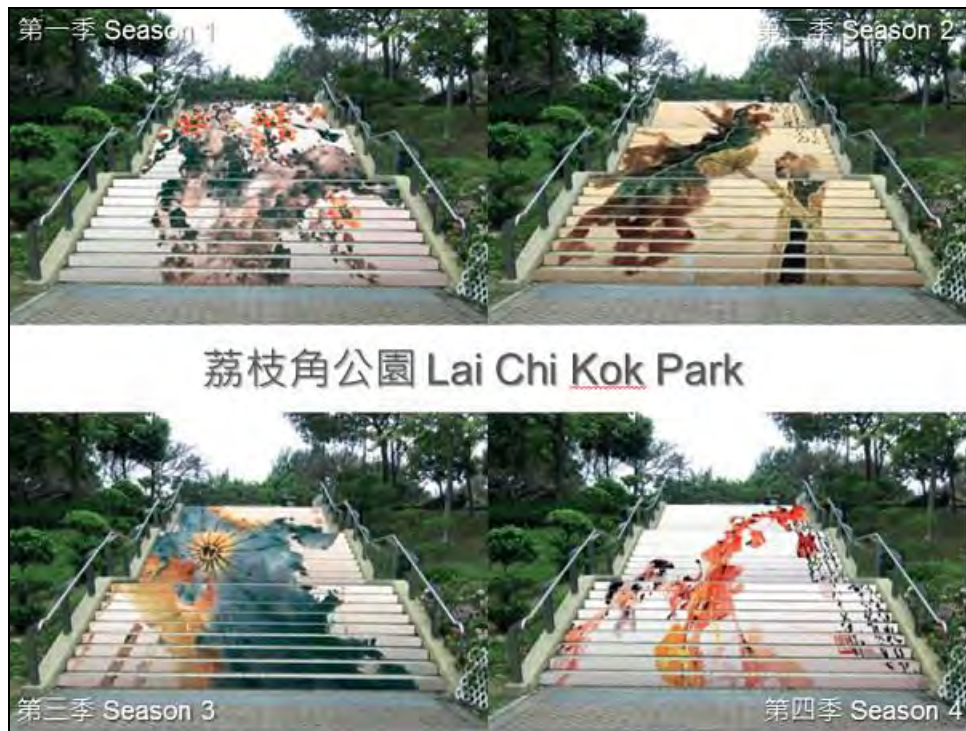


### 3. Tseung Kwan O Swimming Pool





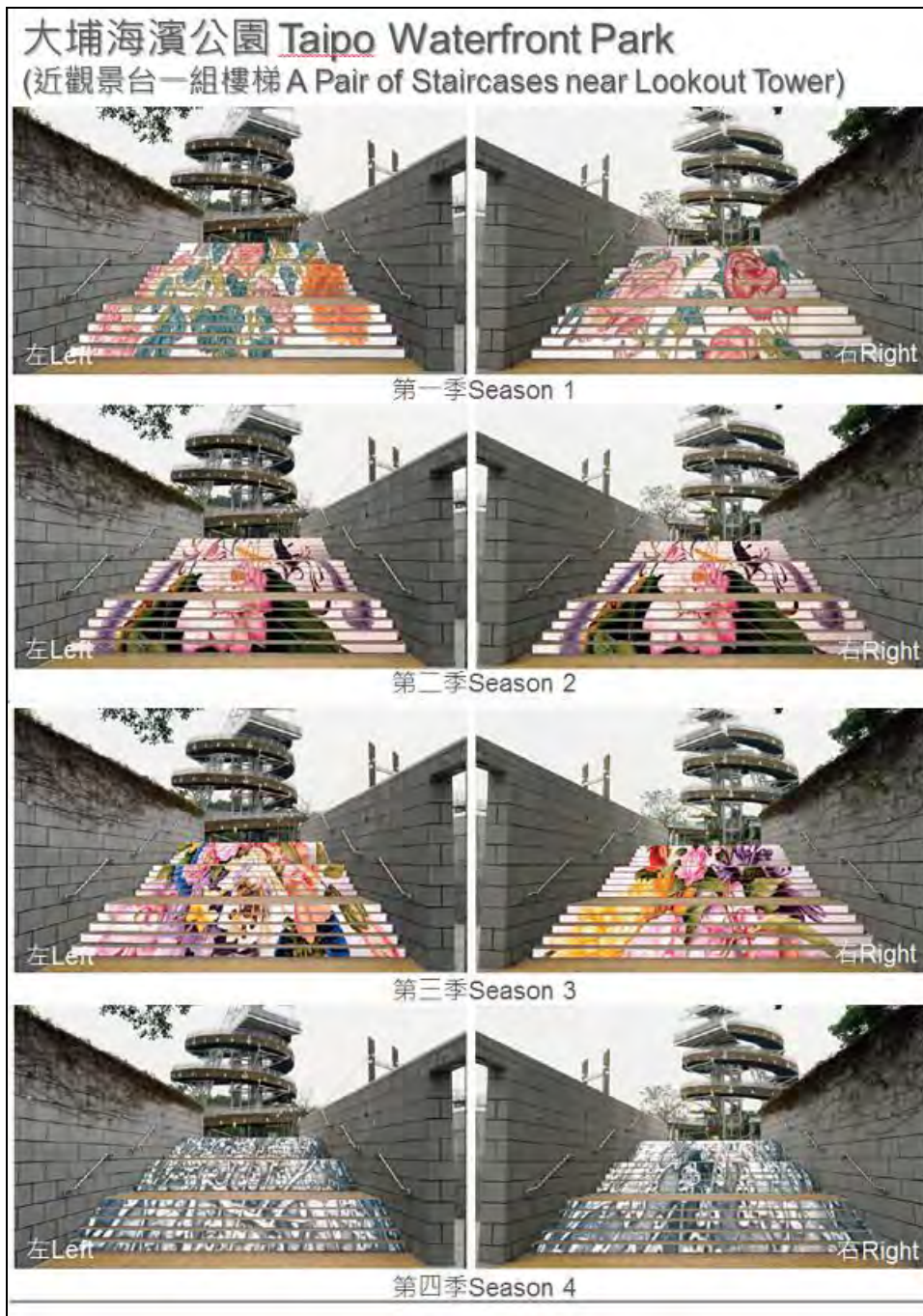
#### 4. Lai Chi Kok Park



#### 5. Tin Fai Road Sports Centre



6. Taipo Waterfront Park





## 7. Tuen Mun Park



## 8. Tuen Mun Cultural Square



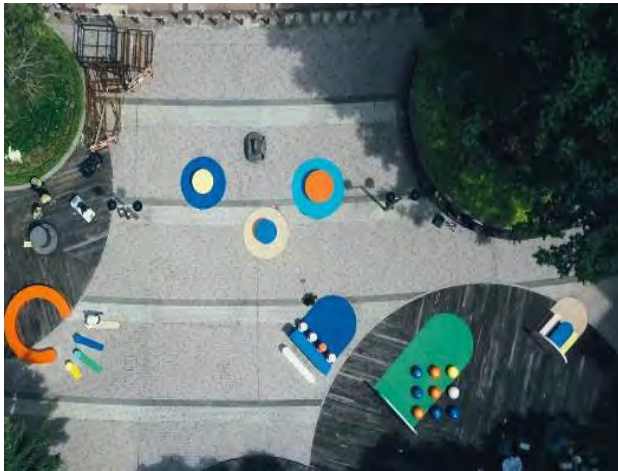


9. Hong Kong Cultural Centre



“City Dress Up: Seats · Together”

(i) Mody Road Garden



(ii) Central and Western District Promenade - Central Section



(iii) Happy Valley Recreation Ground





(iv) Clear Water Bay Second Beach



(v) Morse Park



(vi) Gloucester Road Garden





(vii) Tsuen Wan Park



(viii) Kowloon Tsai Park



(ix) Tsing Yi Promenade



(x) Central Pier Waterfronts



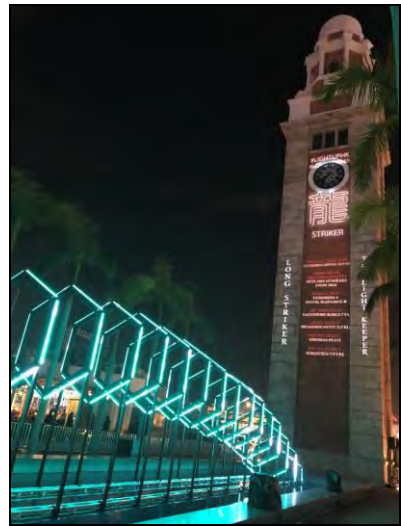


## Hiring Out Leisure Venues for Artistic and Cultural Activities

### 1. Event Horizon Hong Kong (視界 香港)



## 2. Lumieres Hong Kong (光·影·香港夜)





### 3. Harbour Arts Sculpture Park (藝遊維港)

