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

Meeting on 29 April 2019

Updated background brief on the development of Lyric Theatre Complex

Purpose

This paper provides background information on the development of the 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") on the subject.

Background

2. The Lyric Theatre was originally planned to be a 1 200-seat venue for use by a wide variety of performing arts ("PA") events including drama and musical performances, with a focus on dance as its artistic positioning. It was among the Batch 2 facilities to be provided in the West Kowloon Cultural District ("WKCD").¹ In March 2015, the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority ("WKCDA") proposed to increase the seating capacity of the Lyric Theatre and incorporate it with two other PA venues to a single complex, i.e. LTC. Under the proposal, LTC will comprise a 1 450-seat Lyric Theatre with installation of digital projection equipment for film screenings, a 600-seat Medium Theatre (previously the Medium Theatre II ("MTII")), and a 270-seat Studio Theatre (previously a 250-seat Black Box Theatre in the Centre for Contemporary Performance ("CCP")). LTC will also provide retail/dining/entertainment facilities. A Resident Company Centre ("RCC") with eight dance rehearsal studios and a rehearsal hall will be housed at the

¹ A table on the batching, status and target completion dates of the major WKCD facilities is available in Annex 2 to [LC Paper No. CB\(1\)559/17-18\(01\)](#).

northern side of LTC. A conceptual computer-aided illustration of LTC is in **Appendix I**.

3. According to WKCDA,² 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 MTII and one of the Black Box Theatres in CCP. The coexistence of the three theatres in LTC would also foster cross-disciplinary collaboration and activate the space in the long run.

4. To take forward the development of LTC, WKCDA tendered out two main construction works packages, i.e. L1 and LTC (L2), in tandem. The Works Package L1 mainly includes the remaining excavation and lateral supports works (Stage 2), pile caps and the integrated basement substructure and superstructure to receive LTC (L2). Commenced in January 2018, the L1 works are targeted for completion by the third quarter of 2020. The Works Package LTC (L2) mainly includes the construction of LTC, promenade, open space at the Artist Square, district cooling system, integrated basement, underground road and other public infrastructure works. The LTC (L2) works contract was awarded in November 2018. According to a press release of WKCDA in November 2018, LTC is expected to be completed by around 2023.³

Major views and concerns expressed by members

5. The major views and concerns of members of the Joint Subcommittee on the development of LTC are summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

Reconfiguration of performing arts venues

6. Some members asked whether the reconfiguration of PA venues in one single complex was due to the delay of the MTR Corporation Limited in releasing the works areas of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link ("XRL") that were within the WKCD site for the construction of CCP and MTII. They asked whether the PA community had been consulted on the mode of LTC.

7. WKCDA advised that the reconfiguration of PA venues sought to deliver as many arts and cultural facilities as possible for public enjoyment

² Sources: LC Paper Nos. [CB\(2\)1766/15-16\(01\)](#) and [CB\(1\)1105/16-17\(03\)](#)

³ Source: [Press release](#) of WKCDA on 27 November 2018

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.

8. 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. the Music Centre, Great Theatre and Musical Theatre) on the original CCP site.

9. WKCDA advised that there would be no reduction in the total seating capacity of the theatres in CCP and MTII. The previously 600-seat MTII and 250-seat Black Box Theatre in CCP would be moved to LTC, while the land parcel originally planned for MTII 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 XRL 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.

Operation mode and residency arrangement

10. Some members enquired about the future operation mode of the three theatres in LTC and how WKCDA would enhance exchanges and collaborations between local arts groups and resident companies from overseas through the operation of RCC. Some members sought details about the residency arrangement of LTC, including the policy of selecting the resident companies, and whether these companies would be appointed on a rotation basis.

11. WKCDA indicated that it would invite local dance companies to become Resident Partners of LTC, which would be provided with the administration, rehearsal and other supporting facilities in RCC, have priority access to the three theatres in LTC and participate in the operation of the venue. Residency at LTC would be in principle a long-term arrangement with an opt-out mechanism. Besides, WKCDA had been identifying collaboration opportunities with different cultural organizations outside Hong Kong to foster artistic dialogue and exploration, and would continue to solicit views from the arts community with a view to drawing up a residency arrangement that was most suitable for LTC.

Artistic positioning

12. Noting that LTC would include, among others, a dance-focused theatre (i.e. the Lyric Theatre) while the venue could be used for film screenings 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 the Lyric Theatre with its focus on dance would be reflected in its programming policy and venue hiring policy.

13. 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. The 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.

14. 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")⁴ so as to ensure that they would complement rather than competing with each other in terms of target audience and hirer.

15. 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

⁴ On 15 July 2015, the Finance Committee 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](#).

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

16. 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.

17. 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 resident companies at LTC to activate the venue and to support and collaborate in the programmes initiated by WKCDA. WKCDA was confident that the demand for the PA facilities in LTC would be more than enough to support the operation of the venue.

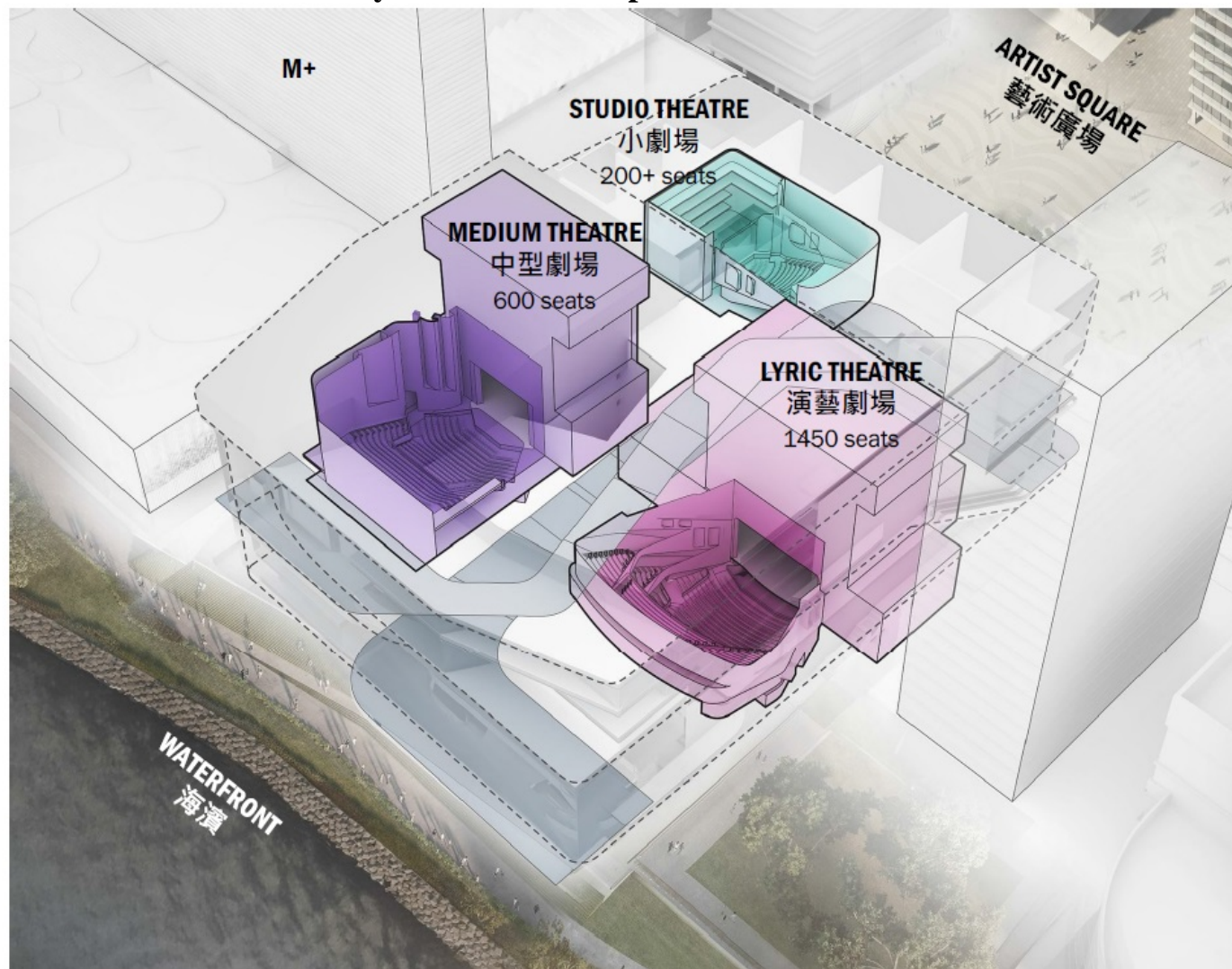
Latest development

18. At the meeting of the Joint Subcommittee to be held on 29 April 2019, the Administration and WKCDA will update members on the latest development of LTC.

Relevant papers

19. A list of the relevant papers on the Legislative Council 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\(01\)](#)

Development of Lyric Theatre Complex

List of relevant papers

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Former Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project formed in the Fifth Legislative Council	23.3.2015 Item II	Agenda Minutes
	7.7.2015 Item I	Agenda Minutes
	24.11.2015 Item II	Agenda Minutes
	30.5.2016 Item II	Agenda Minutes
	21.6.2016 Item I	Agenda Minutes
Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project	20.12.2016 Item III	Agenda Minutes
	13.6.2017 Item III	Agenda Minutes
	6.11.2018 Item III	Agenda Minutes