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

Meeting on 6 January 2020

**Updated background brief on the development of cultural software for
the West Kowloon Cultural District project**

Purpose

This paper summarizes the major views and concerns expressed by members at meetings of the Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project ("the Joint Subcommittee") on the development of cultural software for the West Kowloon Cultural District ("WKCD") project.

Background

2. Under section 4(2) of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority Ordinance (Cap. 601), the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority ("WKCDA") is required to perform its functions in ways which aim to achieve various objectives including, among others, cultivating and nurturing local talents in the arts (including local artists), local arts groups and arts-related personnel; encouraging wider participation by the local community in arts and culture; and promoting and providing arts education to the local community.

3. In preparation for the commissioning of the arts and cultural venues in WKCD, WKCDA has been organizing a series of programmes to develop the capacity of arts and cultural sector, groom arts talents, build audiences and engage the community and young people. A list of the major capacity building initiatives and public programmes undertaken by WKCDA from January to December 2018 is given in **Appendix I**.

4. To tie in with the development of WKCD, the Administration and its collaborators (such as the Hong Kong Arts Development Council ("HKADC") and the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts ("HKAPA")) have also adopted a multi-pronged approach in promoting cultural software development in Hong Kong through arts programme development, audience building, arts education and grooming of talents.

Major views and concerns expressed by members

5. The major views and concerns expressed by members on the subject at meetings of the Joint Subcommittee are summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

Roles of the Administration and the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

6. Some members were concerned about the delineation of responsibilities among WKCDA, the Administration (in particular the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB")) and its collaborators in the development of cultural software. Some members considered that the Administration should play a leading role in the planning and promotion of cultural software development for the WKCD project and allocate more resources for promoting cultural software development in Hong Kong. They also called for closer collaboration between HAB and WKCDA to re-align the existing public arts and cultural facilities to complement the WKCD project.

7. According to the Administration, there was a differentiation of roles between the Government and WKCDA in arts and cultural development. WKCDA placed more emphasis on artistic merits with a view to staging world-class performances at WKCD venues, whereas the Government was committed to providing affordable cultural services for the wider community. While WKCDA would continue its efforts in developing cultural software for the WKCD project and the local cultural sector as a whole, the Government would continue working closely with WKCDA to take forward relevant initiatives. In recent years, the relevant funding allocation under HAB had been increased for implementing a range of initiatives for enhancing cultural software development in Hong Kong. Such initiatives included provision of various performance venues operated by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD"), subvention to arts organizations, such as HKADC and HKAPA, injection to arts development funds (e.g. the Cantonese Opera Development Fund), and different forms of support to arts groups, budding artists, etc.

Arts education and audience building

8. Members called on the Administration to enhance collaboration among government bureaux/departments in promoting arts education in schools and in the community. They also urged WKCDA to provide training programmes for arts teachers and deliver more engagement programmes at the district level as well as for schools and different groups of people. Noting WKCDA's plan to establish an arts school within the WKCD site through public-private partnership ("PPP") arrangements, members asked about the relevant details.

9. The Administration advised that HAB had joined hands with the Education Bureau to promote arts in schools and tertiary institutions. For example, arts education was one of the eight Key Learning Areas of the school curriculum for primary and secondary levels; under the new senior secondary curriculum, students could choose arts education as elective subjects; and various arts activities (e.g. the School Culture Day Scheme) were held at schools under the School Arts Education Scheme. LCSD had also rolled out the Community Cultural Ambassador Scheme to support arts groups to stage performances in the community as well as other different schemes to foster collaboration between arts groups and schools.

10. WKCDA advised that arts education, including the important elements of training the trainers, audience building and community engagement was among the key on-going initiatives of WKCDA. To this end, it had organized various engagement programmes targeted at different groups, including inviting disabled groups to participate in *Freespace Happening*, partnering with the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups in youth engagement activities, providing training programmes for arts teachers in pre-schools, primary and secondary schools, and organizing the outreach programme of *M+ Rover* for schools, public housing estates and community centres. At the district level, WKCDA had joined hands with District Councils under the *Crossover Lab Initiative* to showcase the distinctive arts and culture of each district.

11. On the proposal of establishing an arts school in WKCD through PPP, WKCDA advised that relevant details such as the levels, types and funding modes of the courses offered by the proposed arts school were being considered. WKCDA would consult the public and members of the Joint Subcommittee before taking forward the proposal.

Nurturing of local arts talents and arts-related personnel

12. Some members were concerned if there would be sufficient arts professionals/administrators in Hong Kong to meet the manpower demand in

tandem with the phased delivery of WKCD facilities. They urged the Administration and WKCDA to enhance the nurturing of local arts talents, and strengthen the training of arts administrators and facility management professionals. Some members considered that more opportunities should be given to local arts talents to take part in the WKCD project (e.g. engaging them in designing WKCD facilities) and benefit from the knowledge and expertise of the foreign talents engaged in the project.

13. The Administration advised that apart from various arts administration programmes offered by local tertiary institutions and internship/training opportunities provided by different arts groups and organizations, the Government had provided an additional funding of \$150 million from 2013-2014 to 2017-2018 to enhance the training programmes for arts administrators run by LCSD and HKADC. Such programmes covered local/overseas internships/attachments, scholarships for local/overseas arts or cultural Master's degree or professional training programmes, and in-service training for arts leaders and LCSD staff in charge of relevant duties. In view of the positive feedback received from the arts and cultural sector on the initiative, the Chief Executive announced in her 2017 Policy Address the provision of an additional funding of \$216 million from 2018-2019 to 2023-2024 to continue the support for the training of arts administrators.¹

14. WKCDA further advised that it had been collaborating with local/overseas universities and alumni groups, including signing a Memorandum of Understanding with HKAPA in 2018, under which WKCDA and HKAPA would develop collaboration in areas including performances, lectures and talks, workshops, seminars, co-productions, festivals, community engagement projects and professional development initiatives. It had also launched the first Hong Kong Young Architects & Designers Competition in 2017 for the design of the Competition Pavilion (previously named as Temporary Pavilion),² and intended to organize a similar design competition in around end-2019 or 2020. Moreover, WKCDA had always tried to recruit locally with 90% of its staff members coming from Hong Kong. Notwithstanding this, it would bring in talents from other places to help fill the gaps in the skills required for the WKCD project, and facilitate the transfer of knowledge to local talents. In addition, WKCDA would bring overseas artists to present their works in Hong Kong, thereby providing a platform for artistic inspiration and exchanges for local arts professionals.

¹ Source: [LC Paper No. CB\(2\)368/17-18\(01\)](#)

² "Growing Up" by New Office Works was the winning pavilion design in the competition.

15. Some members considered that the six-month M+ internship programme was too short for the interns to gain experience in museum practice. According to WKCDA, the duration of the internship programme had been further extended from six months to one year. During the internship, interns would work closely with the M+ team on multiple projects to gain practical and theoretical training in museum practice.

Support for arts groups

16. Some members urged the Administration to increase the subvention to HKADC to strengthen its support for budding artists and small- and medium-sized arts groups. Expressing concerns that many local arts groups and arts practitioners were no longer able to operate in industrial buildings due to rental increases in recent years, members urged the Administration to make available more arts space in various districts.

17. The Administration advised that the Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme ("ACDFS") was introduced in 2011 to support large-scale and cross-year arts and cultural initiatives/activities proposed by promising arts groups and arts practitioners.³ LCSD had also increased its funding support for young artists and small- and medium-sized arts groups to stage performances in LCSD's arts and cultural programmes and activities. Moreover, additional funding from HAB was provided for HKADC to launch the ADC Arts Space Scheme, under which arts space was provided for new and budding artists at concessionary rates.

18. Some members urged WKCDA to support small- and medium-sized arts groups by introducing a concessionary charging rate for hiring WKCD venues. WKCDA advised that a two-tier venue charging approach comprising a base hiring fee and a percentage share of box office income would be adopted for ticketed events. Under this approach, small- and medium-sized performing companies might be able to stage productions of longer duration through financial risk-sharing with WKCDA.

19. In supporting small-sized and minority arts groups, WKCDA positively encouraged street entertainment to take place within the district, and had established the Street Performance Scheme, under which more than 500 Street Performance Permits had been issued as at January 2019.

³ ACDFS calls for applications on an annual basis and provides funding support to innovative and impactful proposals that contribute to the objectives of capacity development of arts practitioners, arts groups, art forms and/or the arts sector; programme/content development; audience building; and arts education. A provision of around \$40 million is to be disbursed under the Ninth Round Funding Exercise of ACDFS closing on 3 January 2020.

Blueprint and targets for cultural software development

20. Some members requested the Administration and WKCDA to jointly map out a blueprint for the development of cultural software of Hong Kong to complement the WKCD project. They considered that the blueprint should provide details on, among others, the mode of governance of the arts and cultural institutions in Hong Kong; the respective roles of and the coordination between LCSD and WKCDA in cultural software development; the implementation of arts education in/outside schools and the targets to be achieved; strategies and targets for audience building; measures for strengthening the capacity of local arts groups; ways for promoting exchange with the arts and cultural communities in the Mainland, Asia and beyond.

21. Some members considered that the Administration and WKCDA should set key performance indicators ("KPIs")/specific targets for the development of cultural software, including quantifiable targets on the number of visits made to public museums by primary/secondary school students, the number of arts talents trained by HKAPA, and the number of arts critics nurtured in a certain period of time, etc.

22. WKCDA indicated that it had drawn up a set of KPIs to evaluate its performance and had reported the KPI results to the WKCDA Board annually. The set of KPIs focused currently on the delivery of the WKCD project, and would be refined to cover evaluation scopes like audience number and programme arrangements following the shift of the focus from project development to operation.

Latest development

23. At the Joint Subcommittee meeting to be held on 6 January 2020, the Administration and WKCDA will brief members on the latest state of play of the cultural software development of the WKCD project.

Relevant papers

24. A list of the relevant papers on the LegCo website is in **Appendix II**.

Appendix I

Major capacity building initiatives and public programmes undertaken by the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority from January to December 2018

Programme/Initiative	Date/ Period	No. of Participants/ Beneficiaries
<i>Capacity building</i>		
Producers' Network Meeting and Forum (PNMF)	18 to 21 May 2018	Over 300 participants
Creation for Freespace		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dance in Alternative Space 	22 Jan to 3 Feb 2018	Over 100 participants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choreographer & Composer Lab 	9 to 24 Apr 2018	3 choreographers and 3 composers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Is Stage: From Text to Space 	Jun to Aug 2018	Over 300 participants
Creative Meeting: Hong Kong x Barcelona	2018 to 2020	4 artists from Hong Kong and Spain
Our Death Won't Hurt Anybody – freely inspired by the Art of War by Sunzi	6 to 8 Jul 2018	Over 200 audience
internationale tanzmesse nrw 2018	29 Aug to 1 Sep 2018	Over 100 participants
Hong Kong International Black Box Festival	11 Oct to 3 Nov 2018	Over 3 000 audience
M+ / Design Trust Research Fellowship programme	Ongoing	2 fellows
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018-2019 		

Programme/Initiative	Date/ Period	No. of Participants/ Beneficiaries
<i>Internship and volunteer programmes</i>		
WKEDA Summer Internship Programme • 2018 summer	Ongoing	30 interns
Performing Arts Internship Programme • 2018	Ongoing	31 interns
M+ Internship Programme • 2018	Ongoing	10 interns
M+ Docent Volunteer Programme	Ongoing	106 docents
Xiqu Centre Tour Docent Programme	Ongoing	160 docents
<i>Audience building</i>		
'Farewell My Concubine' (New Adaptation) staged at the third edition of Spring for Chinese Arts (華人 春天藝術節) in Beijing	20 to 21 Apr 2018	Over 600 audience
'Farewell My Concubine' (New Adaptation) staged at the China Cultural Centre Theatre in Singapore	21 to 22 Sep 2018	Over 400 audience
Samson Young: Songs for Disaster Relief World Tour	9 Feb to 6 May 2018	Around 9 200 visitors
In Search of Southeast Asia through the M+ Collections	22 Jun to 30 Sep 2018	8 430 visitors
Noguchi for Danh Vo: Counterpoint	16 Nov 2018 to 22 Apr 2019	Around 5 920 visitors (as at 3 Jan 2019)
M+ Live Art: Audience as Performer	1 to 3 Jun 2018	Around 720 audience
M+ Screenings: Beneath the Pavement	11 to 13 May 2018	Around 600 audience

Programme/Initiative	Date/ Period	No. of Participants/ Beneficiaries
M+ Screenings: Southeast Asia Moving Image Mixtape	18 to 23 Sep 2018	Around 630 audience
Haunting Images: Live Cinema by Lim Giong	26 to 27 Oct 2018	Around 450 audience
M+ Screenings: The Film Life of Ann Hui	8 to 16 Dec 2018	Around 1 240 audience
M+ Matters: Post-1949 Visual and Material Culture in China	5 Jul 2018	Around 100 participants
THE ARTIST TALK TO END ALL ARTIST TALKS – OR, THE STRUGGLE SESSION CONTINUES!	31 Aug 2018	Around 200 participants
M+ Matters: M+ Data Design Hackathon	31 Aug to 1 Sep 2018	Around 30 participants
M+ Matters: Art and Design in the Digital Realm	1 Sep 2018	Around 160 participants
M+ Matters Keynote: Building Louvre Abu Dhabi	7 Dec 2018	Around 220 participants
M+ booth at Art Basel Hong Kong	29 to 31 Mar 2018	Around 17 200 visitors
Wikipedia Edit-a-thon on Women in Art	30 Mar 2018	Around 27 participants
Wikipedia Asian Month: Edit-a-thon on Exhibition Histories	24 Nov 2018	Around 30 participants
Open Up: Museum Learning in the 21st Century Talk Series	Jan to Dec 2018	N/A
Public Lecture entitled 'The Palace Museum in the Global Cultural Context'	27 May 2018	Around 130 participants

Programme/Initiative	Date/ Period	No. of Participants/ Beneficiaries
Freespace Happening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 to 9 Sep 2018 • 14 Oct 2018 • 11 Nov 2018 • 8 to 9 Dec 2018 	Sep 2018 to Mar 2019	Over 7 000 participants Around 4 500 participants Over 6 000 participants Around 4 800 participants
Park Tours and Workshops	Ongoing	N/A
<i>Public, Community and Youth Engagement</i>		
Crossover Lab Initiative 2018-2019	Ongoing	N/A
WE Dance	Sep 2018 to Mar 2019	N/A
West Kowloon 101 Series	Ongoing	Over 1 500 enrolments in 2018
M+ Rover <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feb to Jun 2018 	Ongoing	Around 30 000 participants
M+ Summer camp 2018: far out	12 to 15 Aug 2018	101 secondary school students

Source: Annex 1 to [LC Paper No. CB\(1\)418/18-19\(01\)](#)

**Development of cultural software for
the West Kowloon Cultural District project**

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	24.11.2014 Item II	Agenda Minutes
	19.5.2015 Items I & II	Agenda Minutes
	17.7.2015 Item I	Agenda Minutes
	14.12.2015 Item II	Agenda Minutes
Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project	20.12.2016 Item III	Agenda Minutes
	21.2.2017 Item III	Agenda Minutes
	13.6.2017 Item II	Agenda Minutes
	20.12.2017 Item I	Agenda Minutes
	11.5.2018 Item III	Agenda Minutes
	14.1.2019 Item I	Agenda Minutes
	1.4.2019 Item III	Agenda Minutes
	29.4.2019 Item III	Agenda Minutes