For discussion on 8 April 2021

Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs

Leisure and Cultural Services Department Online Programmes and Improvement Works during the Epidemic

Purpose

This paper briefs Members about the online resources on a onestop platform launched by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and the facility improvement works carried out at LCSD venues during the pandemic.

Background

- 2. Since its outbreak, COVID-19 has been spreading rampantly. To align with the measures implemented by the Government to tighten social distancing, many recreation, sports, arts and cultural activities and performances have been cancelled or postponed, and LCSD venues temporarily closed, so as to reduce the risk of transmission in the community.
- 3. In view of this, the LCSD established a special one-stop platform, i.e. the Online Resources Centre. By integrating existing online resources of the department, the platform provides members of the public access to arts, cultural, sports and recreation programmes any time while staying at home to fight the pandemic and boosts their interest and knowledge in these disciplines. Meanwhile, the LCSD has taken a series of anti-pandemic measures at its venues amid the pandemic, and has advanced or expedited enhancement works for upgrading venue facilities during their closure to align with the social distancing measures, with a view to bringing new experience to venue hirers and members of the public upon the reopening of the venues.

LCSD's Online Resources

- 4. During the pandemic, many performances originally scheduled to be held in situ at various performance venues had to be cancelled or postponed. In this connection, the LCSD launched a one-stop Online Resources Centre in April last year to integrate existing online resources. Members of the public can view cultural and arts programmes any time from the comforts of their homes regardless of the constraints of space and time. For example, members of the public can access to the Hong Kong Museum of Art Collection Databank to see the museum's collections online (screenshot at Annex I). To assist arts groups, venue partners, production teams, subvented arts and sports organisations which suffered severely due to the closure of LCSD venues under the pandemic, the LCSD offered employment and job opportunities to them by inviting these organisations, cultural and arts practitioners and freelancers to assist in the production of new programmes for the Online Resources Centre.
- 5. The online programmes of the one-stop Online Resources Centre are well-received. Launched in the summer of 2020 in place of the International Arts Carnival which was cancelled due to the pandemic, the WeWeWebWeb Carnival is a platform which offers children and their families a wealth of online cultural programmes. The WeWeWebWeb Carnival commissioned 14 local arts groups and artists to produce 96 episodes of programmes covering music, drama, puppetry, dance, musical, magic and so forth, which recorded nearly one million page views. A screenshot of the WeWebWeb Carnival platform is at Annex II. The International Arts Carnival 2021 will continue to present newly created performance programmes for parents and children online alongside in-situ performances.
- 6. Since the New Vision Arts Festival originally scheduled to be held in the autumn of 2020 was cancelled due to the pandemic, the LCSD set up the online performance platform "ReNew Vision" and actively commissioned local and overseas artists to work in partnership to create new online works that combine technology and arts. Five new programmes with a total of 31 episodes were produced, recording over 680 000 views. While the 2018 New Vision Arts Festival recorded an attendance of around 75 000, the number of views of the new programmes shows that online

resources can reach out wider. As such, the New Vision Arts Festival to be held between October and November in 2021 will include new online works that combine technology and arts in addition to in-situ performances.

Edutainment Channel

- 7. In view of the overwhelming response to the Online Resources Centre, the LCSD rolled out the Edutainment Channel, a one-stop online learning platform, in December 2020 to enhance the Online Resources Centre. The Edutainment Channel, which offers information on culture and leisure, combines education with entertainment. Contents of the Channel will be updated every Friday to keep members of the public abreast of the latest developments in arts, culture, recreation and sports.
- 8. The Edutainment Channel, with its vast resources grouped into six categories (museums, reading, performing arts, sports, horticulture and greening as well as major parks with animal collections), provides numerous videos on online exhibitions, performances and sports demonstrations. Also included is information on the promotion of online reading and flora and fauna of LCSD's major parks. For a clearer layout of the wide range of resources, materials are further grouped into sub-categories according to their content and nature to allow members of the public to select and browse their favourite items more conveniently. A screenshot of the Edutainment Channel is at Annex III.

101 Academy

9. Apart from the programmes in the above six categories, the Edutainment Channel features a new 101 Academy. In this modern society where lifelong learning and self-enhancement are promoted, while there is abundant information available, many people do not know how to start with. The 101 Academy series provides a systematic introduction to basic knowledge in popular culture, arts, science, recreation and sports, horticulture, mammals, birds and even reptiles to members of the public to arouse their interest in these disciplines. The 101 Academy also enables the public to acquire relevant background knowledge before visiting exhibitions, participating in cultural and entertainment activities and

watching sports events, so that they can enjoy and appreciate cultural, entertainment, recreation and sports activities from different perspectives.

"Music, Theatre and Art Appreciation 101" Series

10. As for arts, the 101 Academy launched the "Chinese Music" and "Theatre" Series — "Chinese Music a Click Away" and "TheatreScope" in the first. The "Art Appreciation 101" Series was also uploaded to provide a systematic introduction to basic concepts of classical, eastern and western arts to members of the public in an in-depth yet easy-to-comprehend manner to enhance their interest in art appreciation. In addition, curators showed up in the programmes to introduce ways to appreciate art treasures such as paintings, calligraphy, sculpture and ceramics, building a closer relationship with the audience. The 101 Academy series to be uploaded in future will gradually extend to a wider variety of contents such as science, intangible cultural heritage, conservation and astronomy. Appreciation programmes of other types of art, including Western orchestra, dance, opera and musical series, will also be rolled out in phases to introduce ways to appreciate various art forms to the general public.

"Storytelling 101" Series

11. Professional voice actors and drama instructors were invited to introduce storytelling skills, demonstrate how to tell a story and lead children to engage in their roles. Members of the public can immerse in the stories and enjoy the fun of story reading together from the comfort of their homes.

"101 Appreciation of Literature" Series

12. The "101 Appreciation of Literature" will be launched on the Edutainment Channel in the hope of cultivating public interest in literature through the online platform. The series mainly consists of fiction on various themes, including Chinese classics, detective, science, romance, growth of youths and Hong Kong stories, in which authors and cultural intellectuals will be invited to share their reading experience and perspectives. "A Moment of Tang Poetry" will also be produced, in which scholars will explain in an easily understandable manner the development, style and form of Tang poetry, and appreciation of the works.

"Learning Sports 101" Series

13. The sports series of the 101 Academy introduces the basic knowledge of different sports by means of demonstration videos, which include explanation of competition rules and specific characteristics of various sports by elite athletes in person, with a view to deepening public understanding and interest in various sports. By way of the videos, members of the public can access recreational and sports resources and explore new scope of knowledge from the comfort of their homes. The 13 sports demonstration videos launched in the first stage are squash, distance run, tennis, basketball, golf, badminton, table tennis, volleyball, rugby, football, swimming, hiking and social dance. Sports demonstration videos in the next stage will include other sports in the Tokyo Olympics, such as cycling, sailing, etc. Other sports that are popular in Hong Kong will be introduced in due course.

"Learn About Animals 101" Series

14. During the pandemic, to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and safeguard the health of the animals of the Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens (HKZBG), the mammal section of the HKZBG was temporarily closed. As such, the educational "Learn About Animals" video series was produced to give an introduction about the endangered species in the Gardens, including mammals, birds and reptiles, featuring their daily lives. During the closure of the section, parents and their children can explore interesting living habits of the animals and acquire more knowledge about animals by watching the videos at home. It is hoped that the importance of wildlife conservation can also be advocated, with a view to safeguarding and promoting biodiversity in Hong Kong.

"Horticulture 101" Series

15. The Horticulture Classroom videos of the "Horticulture 101" Series provide easy-to-understand introductions and demonstrations on various horticultural subjects to facilitate the public to acquire knowledge of horticulture and household greening, etc. anytime and anywhere through the online platform so as to enhance their understanding of horticulture and greening.

16. As members of the public have to stay at home as far as possible to fight the pandemic together, we have produced a series of season-specific videos to provide information about the common flowering trees in Hong Kong, including their species, flowering conditions and popular viewing spots, so that people can enjoy the view of lush greenery and blooming flowers anytime at home to maintain connections with nature. A screenshot of Appreciation of Flowers 101 is at Annex IV.

Vis-à-vis+01

- In addition to the "101 Academy" series, the Edutainment 17. Channel also launched the "vis-à-vis +01" series to create interactive experiences by means of internet technology, allowing a greater number of participants to join activities and lectures, and visit exhibitions from the comfort of their homes via the internet, free from the limitation on the number of persons allowed in the venues. Since last December, we have been offering interactive museum programmes such as online exhibition tours and lectures, live streaming of astronomical events and field visits to historical sites, art theatre and workshops. Examples include watching meteor shower with curator of the Space Museum, guided tour on Renaissance Art exhibition by curator of the Museum of Art, presentations on local history, culture and customs by historians. An interactive performing programme titled "Vocal Workout" will soon be rolled out, in eight episodes the celebrated music director Chiu Tsang-hei and vocalist Alex Tam will explain the secrets of how to sing well, and provide a stepby-step guide to voice manipulation, effective vocal expression and storytelling. The programme also comes with two live stream performances, featuring demonstration and an interactive Q&A session. Online activities can expand our audience by freeing us from the limit on insitu participation i.e. around 100, and increase the number of participants to over 1000. Aside from live streaming, some of these interactive programmes are recorded for subsequent viewing to reach a wider audience.
- 18. Apart from the above-mentioned cultural and entertainment programmes, the Online Interactive Sports Training Programmes were launched in early 2021 to enable the public to participate in physical activities regularly at home amid the pandemic. A total of 11 sports programmes, including tai chi, aerobic dance, fitness exercise, "Body-mind

Stretch", parent-child fitness, fitness exercise for children, fitness yoga, "Hip Hop Dance", badminton, table tennis and tennis are provided for participation by the public through an online platform on an interactive basis, with a view to encouraging the public to participate in physical activities daily and develop a healthy lifestyle, so as to build up body immunity and maintain physical and mental health.

19. As at the end of February 2021, nearly 500 videos have been uploaded to the LCSD Edutainment Channel of the LCSD with the total number of views being about 1.5 million. To broaden the reach to viewers, the LCSD uploaded the videos of 101 Academy to Youtube channel. In addition, the Art Appreciation 101 series under 101 Academy is also released on the social media platforms of different museums in parallel. Some performance shows of the Edutainment Channel such as WeWeWebWeb Carnival are also broadcast on the dedicated websites and Youtube channel.

Social Media Platform of the LCSD — LCSD Plusss

20. On top of the ongoing promotion of the LCSD Edutainment Channel via the internet, newsprints and publications, the LCSD also launched the LCSD Plusss Facebook³ and Instagram⁴ pages on the social media platforms and introduced mascots, namely Enggie Pup and Artti Kitty in December last year to disseminate latest information about the department and upload related videos from time to time so as to enhance communication with the public. The LCSD Plusss will continue releasing a variety of interesting information such as LCSD's Snapshots, LCSD's Check-in spots, the LCSD' Ever (e.g. the first park ever opened), etc. to attract more public attention. The post about the Inclusive Parks for Pets released on the LCSD Plusss on 4 February is at Annex V.

Online Hong Kong Flower Show 2021

21. Under the new normal brought by the pandemic, apart from launching the Edutainment Channel, the LCSD also actively makes use of the internet to serve the public. This year, the LCSD presents virtually a unique Hong Kong Flower Show 2021 (Online Flower Show). The event

³ http://www.facebook.com/LCSDPlusss

⁴ http://www.instagram.com/lcsdplusss

features the Rhododendron, often considered "a great beauty in the flower kingdom", as the theme flower and "City of Flowers, City of Love" as the theme. Screenshots of the Online Flower Show's webpages are at Annex VI. From 19 March to 19 April, members of the public can get themselves a new experience by enjoying the Online Flower Show comfortably at home, including appreciating exquisite garden plots, a Theme Flower Display and Tulip Display at designated parks across 18 districts; viewing interesting animation introducing the legend of the Rhododendron, demonstrations by dedicated persons on flower planting, flower appreciation and flower photography tips; and playing interactive games designed for children. Other features include WhatsApp stickers for downloading and sharing selfie photos with family and friends. Highlights of the Online Flower Show will continue to be broadcast on the Edutainment Channel for the public to enjoy from the comfort of their homes.

Improvement Projects of LCSD Venues

- 22. In view of the pandemic, LCSD venues have to be temporarily closed to minimise the risk of public transmission. All recreational and cultural venues have to undergo thorough cleansing and disinfection before they are re-opened, with additional anti-epidemic equipment, so that venue users can engage in sports and cultural activities in a safe and hygienic environment. The LCSD has also advanced and expedited a number of enhancement projects during the closure of the venues to upgrade the venue facilities, with a view to bringing a new experience to hirers and the public when the venues are re-opened. In keeping with the growing trend of online programmes, appropriate equipment has been installed to prepare for the development of Art Tech.
- 23. On cultural venues, the LCSD carried out refurbishment or replacement works at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Hong Kong City Hall, Ko Shan Theatre, Sha Tin Town Hall, Kwai Tsing Theatre, Hong Kong Coliseum, Hong Kong Space Museum, etc., for facilities such as toilets, foyers, VIP lounges, stage installations and systems, Space Theatre and installation of electronic display panels. During the closure of the Hong Kong Science Museum, Hong Kong Museum of History, Hong Kong Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre/Sam Tung Uk Museum and Hong Kong

Film Archive, opportunity was taken to renew the permanent exhibitions and carry out improvement works to air conditioning systems for better air quality in these venues. During the closure of libraries, in addition to the checking, repair and maintenance of various facilities, other works such as beautification, minor improvement or upgrading of different scales were carried out with regard to the actual circumstances and availability of resources. Works included replacement of carpets, lighting installations, false ceilings, mural paintings and CCTV equipment; cleaning or replacement of air conditioning systems and refurbishment of walls; provision of power sockets for study rooms/reading tables; and replacement/procurement of library furniture or equipment such as bookshelves, newspaper/magazine racks, reading tables, computer tables and chairs, as well as children library facilities for some libraries. Photos taken prior to and after some of the works are at Annex VII.

- 24. The twin-track approach adopted for online and in-venue performances has become a new normal. We have enhanced the broadband network facilities of our performance venues to provide high-speed and secure data transmission services to support live streaming or recorded performances of arts groups, and installed and expanded WiFi networks in the major and ancillary facilities of these venues. Over the past year, performance venues equipped with optical fibre broadband facilities increased from less than 20% to 70%. Also in the past year, many of the LCSD performance venues procured 4K resolution multi-media projector, 4K pan-tilt-zoom camera, camera remote controller and related digital equipment for live streaming, immersive sound system, digital sound console and LED moving lights to support visual art creations of arts groups that incorporate arts technology as well as live streaming or video recording.
- 25. The upgrading works of recreation and sports facilities included replacement of parts of play equipment, pads and mats in some children's play rooms/playgrounds; replacement of fitness equipment and mats in fitness rooms, reflooring of activity rooms/dance rooms/arenas in some sports centres; refurbishment of toilets and changing rooms, squash courts, tennis courts, football pitches, basketball courts, jogging tracks and roller skating rinks, etc. in some venues; replacement of elderly fitness equipment in outdoor leisure venues, benches, rain shelters in parks, etc. The swimming pools also underwent a number of improvement works, including

improvement/replacement of equipment in filtration plants; refurbishment of toilets and changing rooms, etc.

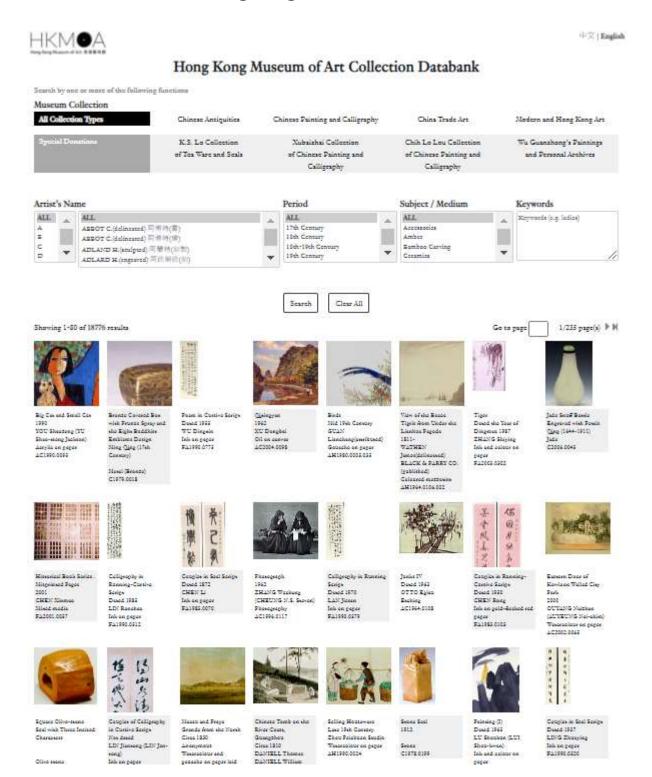
- Besides, improvement works were carried out in the Hong Kong Stadium, Hong Kong Coliseum and Queen Elizabeth Stadium during the closure period to upgrade both indoor and outdoor facilities. The works include refurbishment/replacement of facilities and equipment relating to building services, such as lighting, ventilation and air-conditioning systems, retractable seating platform, CCTV, display system, lift and escalator, as well as outdoor planter, flag pole, barrier-free measures, etc. in the surroundings so as to enhance the overall environment of the stadia and see them reopen with a new look. Photos taken prior to and after some of the works are at Annex VIII.
- 27. While the pandemic has been going on for over a year now, the LCSD will continue fighting against the pandemic with members of the public, keeping abreast of the times and providing the public with the services they need under the new normal amid the pandemic.

ADVICE SOUGHT

28. Members are invited to note the content of the above-mentioned paper.

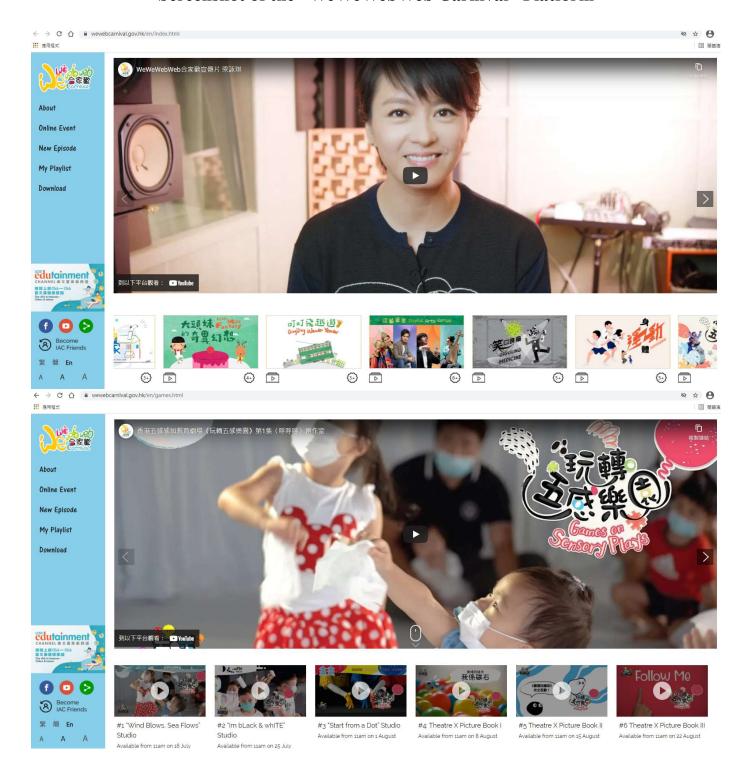
Home Affairs Bureau Leisure and Cultural Services Department April 2021

Screenshot of the Hong Kong Museum of Art Collection Databank



Annex II

Screenshot of the "WeWeWebWeb Carnival" Platform



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Screenshot of the Edutainment Channel



101 Academy



Reading



Sports



Major Parks with Animal Collections





Horticulture and Greening Major Parks with Animal Collections

Museums



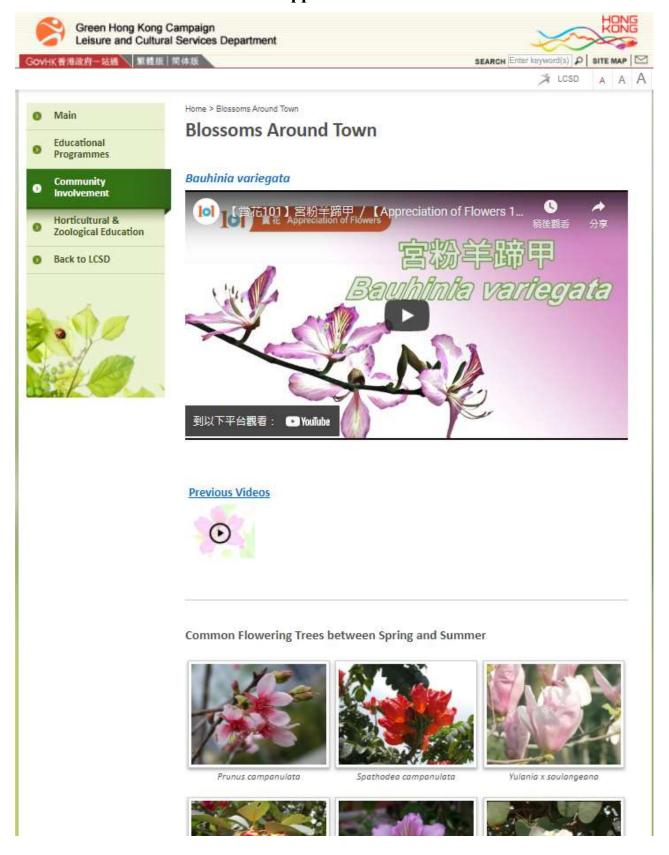
Performing Arts



Horticulture and Greening

Annex IV

Screenshot of "Appreciation of Flowers 101"



A post about Inclusive Park for Pets on the "LCSD Plusss" pages on 4 February



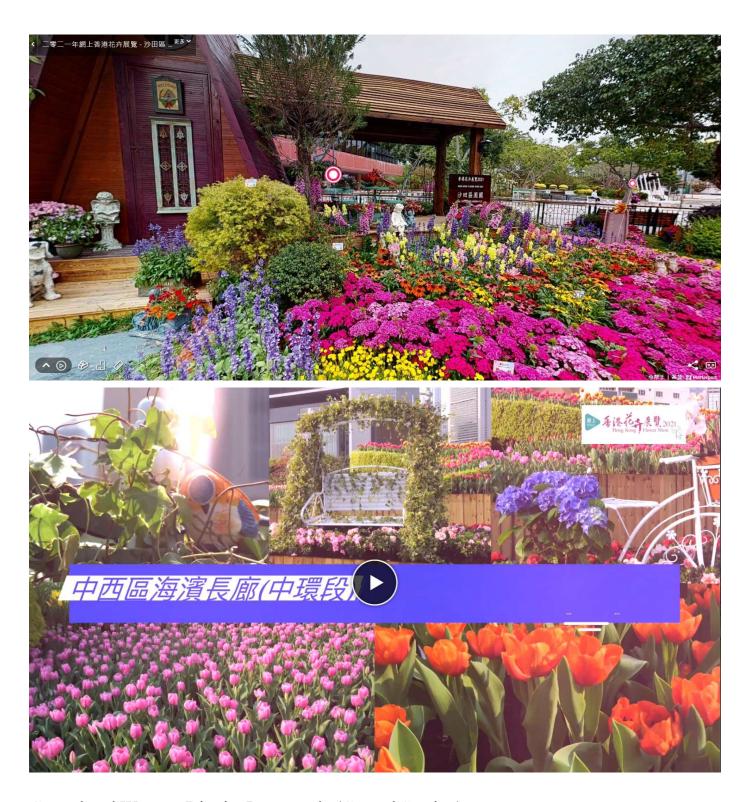
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Annex VI

Screenshots of Online Flower Show







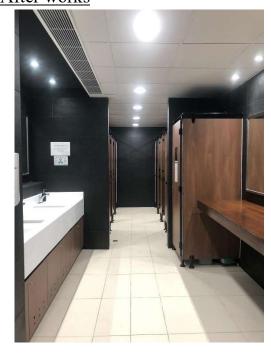
Central and Western District Promenade (Central Section)

Hong Kong City Hall

Prior to works



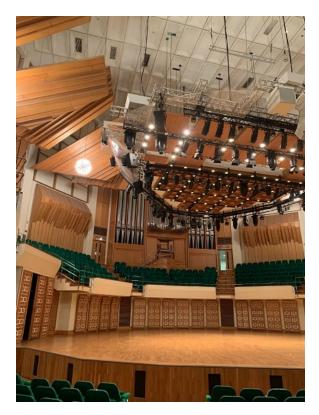






Hong Kong Cultural Centre

Prior to works





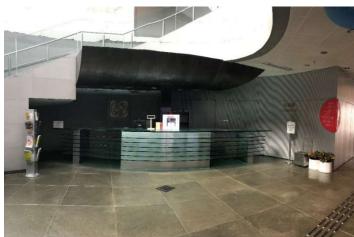
After works



Ko Shan Theatre

Prior to works









Kwai Tsing Theatre

Prior to works





Sheung Yiu Folk Museum – Graphic Panels Gallery

Prior to works





Aberdeen Public Library

Prior to works





Annex VIII

Hong Kong Stadium

Prior to works





