

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)1007/20-21
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the Administration)

Ref : CB1/PS/2/20

Panel on Development and Panel on Home Affairs

**Joint Subcommittee to monitor the implementation of
the West Kowloon Cultural District Project**

**Minutes of meeting held on
Monday, 1 March 2021, at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room 2A of the Legislative Council Complex**

Members present : Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH (Chairman)
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP
Hon MA Fung-kwok, GBS, JP
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP

Member absent : Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP

Public officers attending : **Agenda items III and IV**

Mrs Cherry TSE LING Kit-ching, JP
Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Ms Kinnie WONG Kit-yee
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (2)

Ms YING Fun-fong, JP
Project Manager (Home Affairs Bureau)

Agenda item IV

Mr Samson LAM Sau-sang
Deputy Project Manager (South)
Civil Engineering and Development Department

Mr Edmund CHAN Ping-wa
Chief Engineer (South 2)
Civil Engineering and Development Department

**Attendance by
invitation**

: Agenda items III and IV

Mrs Betty FUNG, JP
Acting Chief Executive Officer
West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

Agenda item III

Mr Paul TAM
Executive Director, Performing Arts
West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

Mr Kingsley JAYASEKERA
General Manager, Marketing and Customer Experience
West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

Ms Alison FRIEDMAN
Artistic Director, Performing Arts
West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

Ms Lisa TSANG
Head, Venue Operations (Performing Arts)
West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

Ms Naomi CHUNG
Head of Xiqu, Performing Arts
West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

Agenda item IV

Mr Jeremy STOWE
Chief Projects Officer
West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

Mr NG Ying-chuen
General Manager, Engineering Services
West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

Clerk in attendance: Ms Connie HO
Chief Council Secretary (1)2

Staff in attendance : Mr Keith WONG
Senior Council Secretary (1)2

Ms Christina SHIU
Legislative Assistant (1)2

Action

I Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting

Members noted that no information paper had been issued since the last meeting on 18 January 2021.

II Application for late membership

(LC Paper No. CB(1)568/20-21(01) — Letter dated 19 February 2021 from Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung)

2. The Chairman invited members to consider Mr Kenneth LAU's application for late membership of the Joint Subcommittee. As members present had no objection to Mr LAU's application, the Chairman said that Mr LAU's application for late membership was accepted by the Joint Subcommittee.

III Update on the progress of development of performing arts and venue operation of the West Kowloon Cultural District

(LC Paper No. CB(1)608/20-21(01) — West Kowloon Cultural District Authority's paper on update on the progress of the promotion and venue operations of performing arts in the West Kowloon Cultural District

LC Paper No. CB(1)608/20-21(02) — Paper on the development of arts and cultural software and operation of venues in the West Kowloon Cultural District prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (Updated background brief))

3. The Joint Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

IV Implementation of the infrastructure works for the West Kowloon Cultural District, Phase 1 Fourth Construction Package and improvement of connectivity of the West Kowloon Cultural District with its neighbouring district

(LC Paper No. CB(1)608/20-21(03) — West Kowloon Cultural District Authority's paper on improvement of connectivity of West Kowloon Cultural District with its neighbouring district and implementation of the infrastructure works for the West Kowloon Cultural District, Phase 1 Fourth Construction Package

LC Paper No. CB(1)608/20-21(04) — Paper on the implementation of infrastructure works for the West Kowloon Cultural District ("WKCD") and connectivity of WKCD with its neighbouring districts prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (Updated background brief))

4. The Chairman reminded members that in accordance with Rule 83A of Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Council, they should disclose the

nature of any direct or indirect pecuniary interests relating to the subjects under discussion at the meeting before they spoke on the subjects.

5. The Joint Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

6. The Chairman concluded that members supported the Administration's submission of this funding proposal to the Public Works Subcommittee for consideration.

V Any other business

Visit to the West Kowloon Cultural District

7. The Chairman informed members that at the invitation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority ("WKCDA"), the Joint Subcommittee would conduct a visit to the West Kowloon Cultural District ("WKCD") on Monday, 29 March 2021 to better understand the latest development of the WKCD project. The Chairman advised that non-Joint Subcommittee members would also be invited to participate in the site visit.

(Post-meeting note: Members were invited vide LC Paper No. CB(1)632/20-21 on 2 March 2021 to join the visit. Members who participated in the visit were informed of the detailed arrangement of the visit vide LC Paper No. CB(1)695/20-21 on 24 March 2021.)

Date of the next meeting and items for discussion

8. Members noted that the next meeting would be held on Monday, 3 May 2021, from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm to discuss the following items proposed by the Administration:

- (a) Update on the financial situation of WKCD; and
- (b) Update on the development of M+.

(Post-meeting note: The agenda for the meeting on 3 May 2021 was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)634/20-21 on 2 March 2021.)

9. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:23 pm.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
16 June 2021

Panel on Development and Panel on Home Affairs

**Proceedings of meeting of the Joint Subcommittee to Monitor
the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project
held on Monday, 1 March 2021, at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room 2A of the Legislative Council Complex**

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action required
Agenda Item I – Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting			
000816-000840	Chairman	No information paper had been issued since the last meeting on 18 January 2021.	
Agenda Item II – Application for late membership			
000841-000944	Chairman	Acceptance of Mr Kenneth LAU's application for late membership.	
Agenda Item III – Update on the progress of development of performing arts and venue operation of the West Kowloon Cultural District			
000945-003350	Chairman Administration West Kowloon Cultural District Authority ("WKCD")	Briefing by the Administration and powerpoint presentation by WKCD on update on the progress of the promotion and venue operations of performing arts in the West Kowloon Cultural District ("WKCD"). [LC Paper Nos. CB(1)608/20-21(01) and CB(1)635/20-21(01)]	
003351 - 003843	Chairman Mr Vincent CHENG WKCD	Noting that the performing arts venues of WKCD would gradually re-open in mid-March 2021 upon the relaxation of social distancing measures in the light of the stabilized COVID-19 pandemic situation, Mr Vincent CHENG enquired about: (a) the overall arrangements for reopening of WKCD performing arts venues, including the number of venues to be reopened and the target attendance rate of live performance programmes staged in such venues; (b) whether WKCD would continue to launch online programmes and initiatives upon resumption of live performance programmes in WKCD venues; and (c) how WKCD would promote integration of arts and technology ("Arts Tech") in Hong Kong, which had become a new trend in global arts development. WKCD responded that: (a) based on the assumption that the social distancing measures would be gradually relaxed in the coming 12 months, the seating capacity of performing venues in WKCD would increase to 50% in April 2021, 75%	

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		<p>from July to December 2021 and back to full capacity by January 2022 as the impact of the pandemic subsided. Therefore, the estimated average seating capacity for WKCD performing arts venues in the 2021-2022 financial year would be around 75%;</p> <p>(b) WKCDA was confident that given the prolonged closure of venues amid the pandemic, the attendance rate of live performances could reach the maximum seating capacity of the concerned venues upon their reopening following the relaxation of social distancing measures; and</p> <p>(c) WKCDA had been all along promoting the application of Arts Tech in its arts and cultural programmes. For instance, WKCDA was one of the pioneer arts and cultural organizations in Hong Kong to launch digital programming in response to venue closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Given that it was the overall development strategy of WKCD to launch online programmes and initiatives in parallel with live performance programmes, WKCDA would continue to develop online platforms for delivering WKCD programmes in the future.</p>	
003844-004407	Chairman Mr Frankie YICK Administration WKCDA	<p>Expressing support for WKCDA to further promote online arts performance programmes and initiatives which could help facilitate audience building, Mr Frankie YICK urged WKCDA to step up publicity and promotion in this regard. Mr YICK also enquired whether the new WKCD mobile app would provide:</p> <p>(a) real-time transportation information for visitors to commute to WKCD from different districts across the territory; and</p> <p>(b) booking service for water taxi tickets in its ticketing function to provide convenience for users and facilitate the relevant operators in vessel deployment.</p> <p>WKCDA responded that:</p> <p>(a) the WKCD mobile app would be equipped with a wayfinding function to help visitors navigating to different venues and facilities within WKCD; and</p> <p>(b) WKCDA would consider providing booking function for water taxi in the mobile app as suggested by Mr YICK, subject to confirmation with the Transport Department on the delivery mode of the service.</p>	

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		<p>On development of Arts Tech, the Administration advised that it would promote the use of big data analytics by arts groups to analyze the feedbacks collected from audiences of live performance programmes with a view to identifying target audiences and formulating effective promotion strategies to facilitate audience building.</p>	
004408 - 005023	Chairman Mr Kenneth LAU WKCDA	<p>Mr Kenneth LAU's views and concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) whether WKCDA would provide financial support for local arts and cultural practitioners whose income had been significantly affected by the pandemic to help sustain their living; (b) how WKCDA could improve its financial situation amid closure of venues due to the pandemic; and (c) referring to the "#LivehouseAtHome programme" which had reached about 110 000 online viewers globally in six weeks' time, WKCDA should step up publicity and promotion work in respect of its online programmes, with a view to boosting the number of viewers. <p>WKCDA responded that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) WKCDA had set up the "Arts Relief Scheme 2020" with a total funding of HK\$3 million to provide time-limited support to the arts and cultural practitioners affected by the pandemic. The scheme was funded by the senior executive team of WKCDA who had made a voluntary deduction of 10% of their monthly salary during the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, and donation from the Chairman of the WKCDA Board; (b) online arts programmes and performances organized by WKCD were well received by the public. The number of viewers of some pay-per-view online performances had even exceeded the seating capacity of the relevant venues (i.e. 50% of the total seating capacity under the social distancing measures) where the performances were supposed to be held live; and (c) donation was one of the main sources of income for WKCD when most of the performing arts venues were closed during the pandemic. In view of this, WKCDA planned to organize more fund-raising campaigns in the near future. 	

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005024 - 005655	Chairman WKCDA	<p>The Chairman suggested that WKCDA should strengthen promotion strategies on popular social media platforms on the Mainland, such as WeChat, and invite famous Hong Kong artists to participate in the relevant promotion work with a view to building audiences on the Mainland.</p> <p>WKCDA responded that:</p> <p>(a) with the use of online streaming during the pandemic, WKCD's performing arts programmes were able to reach audiences from around the world, including those from the Mainland, which could help promote the branding of WKCD; and</p> <p>(b) in view of the great potential of the Mainland market, WKCDA planned to launch a new e-commerce platform in the Mainland for audiences and customers to purchase tickets of arts programmes and WKCD's souvenirs and cultural merchandises. One option being explored by WKCDA was to partner with well-developed e-commerce companies in the Mainland in establishing the new platform to promote programmes and activities of WKCD.</p> <p>In response to the Chairman's enquiry on the details of the fund-raising campaigns to be organized by WKCDA, WKCDA advised that:</p> <p>(a) donations from individuals, commercial sponsorships and foundations, in support of specific arts programmes and initiatives were the three main sources of donation income for WKCD; and</p> <p>(b) in anticipation that live performances by overseas arts performers at WKCD could be launched in end 2021 upon gradual relaxation of international travel restrictions, WKCDA would actively solicit commercial sponsorships for such performance programmes. It also planned to launch a new campaign to solicit donations from individual donors in April or May 2021.</p>	
005656-010422	Chairman Mr MA Fung-kwok WKCDA Administration	Referring to the Administration's initiative in promoting Arts Tech in Hong Kong as announced in the 2020 Policy Address, Mr MA Fung-kwok enquired about the plans to be implemented by the Administration and WKCDA for promoting the development of Arts Tech, in particular those for nurturing of local talents. Mr MA also considered that more resources should be allocated in this	

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		<p>regard.</p> <p>WKCDA responded that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) both M+ and the Hong Kong Palace Museum ("HKPM") would incorporate multimedia technologies in some of their exhibitions to offer a new experience to visitors; (b) WKCDA would seek funding to invest in more cutting-edge Arts Tech hardware to be installed in WKCD performing arts venues, such as the Xiqu Centre, the Lyric Theatre Complex and Freespace, to facilitate the application of technology in performances. WKCDA would explore the application of Arts Tech in programmes and performances through collaborations with the local innovation and technology ("I&T") sector; and (c) WKCDA would cooperate with higher education institutions and arts organizations to nurture more local talents in the area of Arts Tech. <p>The Administration advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the Chief Executive announced in the 2020 Policy Address that relevant policy bureaux had set aside a total of \$100 million under funds or schemes of their respective purview (including the Arts and Sport Development Fund, the Innovation and Technology Fund, the Film Development Fund and the CreateSmart Initiative) for application by individuals or organizations to implement projects that integrated technology and arts; the Administration would also organize events to engage the arts and I&T sectors to facilitate exchange and collaboration between the two sectors. WKCDA, as a key partner in promoting Arts Tech, would also be invited to take part in the events; (b) the East Kowloon Cultural Centre, which was scheduled for opening by 2023, would be a major venue for promoting Arts Tech at the community level. The Administration would also examine the feasibility of upgrading the hardware of existing Government's performing arts venues to enable the staging of programmes and performances with the application of Arts Tech in such venues; and (c) the Administration would brief the Panel on Home Affairs ("HA Panel") on the initiatives for promoting 	

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		the development of Arts Tech in Hong Kong in the second quarter of 2021.	
010423-010819	Chairman Mr Vincent CHENG WKCDA	<p>Mr Vincent CHENG enquired about the measures to be implemented by WKCDA to build audiences on the Mainland. He suggested that WKCDA should enhance the presence of WKCD programmes on the Mainland through popular social media platforms, such as WeChat.</p> <p>WKCDA advised that it would collaborate with the Hong Kong Tourism Board in launching a campaign in the fourth quarter of 2021 to promote the comprehensive arts and cultural visiting experience offered by WKCD to overseas and Mainland tourists, in particular those in Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.</p>	
010820-011514	Chairman Mr MA Fung-kwok Administration WKCDA	<p>Mr MA Fung-kwok's views:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) hardware development, nurturing of local talents and funding for research were the three core elements in promoting the development of Arts Tech in Hong Kong. The current amount of funding of \$100 million set aside by the Administration for the said purpose was far from sufficient; (b) the respective relevant bureaux should designate a certain percentage of their recurrent operating expenditure dedicated to the promotion of Arts Tech, and the Administration should draw up a specific three to five year's plan in this regard; and (c) being the core arts and cultural infrastructure in Hong Kong that equipped with latest facilities, WKCD should be a pioneer in demonstrating the integration of arts and technology. <p>The Administration responded that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the funding of \$100 million set aside by the Administration was designated for application by individuals and organizations to implement initiatives that aimed at promoting the application of Arts Tech. The Administration considered the size of the funding appropriate at this initial stage, and would continue to allocate resources for nurturing of talents and supporting research in Arts Tech-related areas through other channels; (b) the Administration would serve as a facilitator through matching arts groups with the I&T sector in promoting the development of Arts Tech; and 	

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		<p>(c) more details on the Government's initiatives in promoting the development of Arts Tech in Hong Kong would be provided to Members of the Legislative Council when the Administration briefed the HA Panel on the subject in the second quarter of 2021.</p> <p>WKCDA advised that WKCD had the vision to play an important role in respect of promoting Arts Tech development in Hong Kong. Nonetheless, given the tight financial position of WKCDA, the Authority would not be able to allocate substantial amount of financial resources at this stage.</p>	
011515-011704	Chairman Administration WKCDA	<p>The Chairman enquired whether visitors of museums in WKCD could enjoy virtual tour guide services via the WKCD mobile app.</p> <p>WKCDA responded that there would be audio guided-tour services at M+. WKCD would also develop a District mobile app using latest technology. The Administration supplemented that some museums managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department also provided visitors with virtual tour guide services via QR codes and smart phones.</p>	
Agenda Item IV – Implementation of the infrastructure works for the West Kowloon Cultural District, Phase 1 Fourth Construction Package and improvement of connectivity of the West Kowloon Cultural District with its neighbouring district			
011705-013433	Chairman WKCDA Administration	<p>Briefing and powerpoint presentation by the Administration and WKCDA on (a) improvement of connectivity of WKCD with its neighbouring districts; and (b) implementation of the infrastructure works for WKCD, Phase 1 Fourth Construction Package. [LC Paper Nos. CB(1)608/20-21(03), CB(1)635/20-21(02) and (03)]</p>	
013434 - 014500	Chairman Mr Vincent CHENG WKCDA Administration	<p>Mr Vincent CHENG expressed support for the funding proposal, in particular the proposed construction of the Southern Landing Facility ("SLF") which could help enhance the connectivity of WKCD. In this connection, Mr CHENG enquired about:</p> <p>(a) the consideration of the Administration in providing the said new landing facility in WKCD; and</p> <p>(b) the reason for the high construction cost of the proposed SLF.</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action required
		<p>The Administration explained that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) with the opening of several new WKCD venues such as M+ and HKPM in the near future, it was envisaged that the demand for public transport services would continue to increase. The provision of SLF at WKCD would enhance the overall connectivity of WKCD, and provide an alternative for visitors to commute to WKCD by water transport, including visitors from the Hong Kong Island who wished to avoid road traffic congestion, in particular during evening rush hours; and (b) the waterway near the southern coast of WKCD was a major navigation channel towards the China Ferry Terminal in Tsim Sha Tsui. To avoid affecting the marine traffic of the said waterway, the proposed SLF could not be constructed by extending the pier deck structure into and above the sea just like a typical public pier, and was required to be built at the coast of WKCD, thereby incurring extra construction cost for modification of the existing seawall. The temporary diversion of underground pipe lines of the site and provision of barrier-free facilities for SLF had further increased the construction cost. <p>The Administration and WKCDA supplemented that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the proposed SLF could supplement land transport and could help improve the overall accessibility of WKCD with the provision of different means of public transport; and (b) locating at the southern coastal part of WKCD, the Lyric Theatre Complex, HKPM, M+, Freespace and the Art Park were at a distance away from MTR Kowloon Station in terms of walking distance. Upon completion, the proposed SLF would be one of the calling points of water taxi which would facilitate visitors' access to the above venues by water transport and help expedite visitor flow during peak hours. 	
014501-014933	Mr Frankie YICK Administration WKCDA	<p>Mr Frankie YICK supported the construction of SLF and the provision of water taxi service at WKCD. To help facilitate visitor flow at WKCD, he suggested that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) green minibus services should be enhanced by adding new routes connecting WKCD and major public transport interchanges in the nearby districts; and 	

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		<p>(b) the WKCD mobile app should provide package ticketing service which covered the purchase of tickets of both WKCD programmes and water taxi; and a reservation function for taxi service.</p> <p>WKCD advised that the WKCD mobile app would serve as an one-stop platform providing multiple services such as wayfinding and mobile ticketing services.</p> <p>Expressing support for the funding proposal, Mr Frankie YICK enquired whether the design of SLF was subject to the restrictions of the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance (Cap. 531).</p> <p>The Administration advised that while it was necessary for the Administration to take into consideration the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance in planning for the project, the main reason for SLF to be constructed at the coast of WKCD was to avoid causing disruption to the busy waterway towards the China Ferry Terminal.</p>	
014934-015450	Chairman Administration	<p>Expressing concern about the utilization rate of the proposed SLF, the Chairman enquired about the comparison of the construction cost of the proposed project and that of a typical public pier at outlying islands.</p> <p>The Administration advised that:</p> <p>(a) the total construction cost of the proposed SLF was around \$140 million, which included construction of the main structure of SLF (around \$70 million), modification of the existing seawall (around \$50 million), and construction of a mechanic lift and ramp (around \$20 million); and</p> <p>(b) taking the reconstruction of Pak Kok Pier on Lamma Island as reference, the construction cost of the said project was about \$73 million, which was comparable to that of the main structure of the proposed SLF (i.e. around \$70 million).</p> <p>The Chairman concluded that members supported the Administration's submission of the funding proposal to the Public Works Subcommittee.</p>	
Agenda Item V – Any other business			
015451-015602	Chairman	The Chairman informed members of the visit to WKCD on 29 March 2021.	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action required
		Date of the next meeting and items for discussion.	

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
16 June 2021