

Harbourfront Commission

For discussion
on 28 January 2021

HC/04/2021

Progress Report from Task Force on Water-land Interface and Harbourfront Activation

REPORTING PERIOD

This progress report covers the period from April to December 2020, where one Task Force meeting and one site visit cum briefing had been conducted.

MEETING HELD AND THE MAJOR OUTCOME, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Twenty-first Meeting – 30 September 2020

2. The Task Force discussed the public engagement approach for future projects to be taken forward by the Harbourfront Commission (HC). Specifically, the Harbour Office sought steer from Members on the strategy to engage a wider community in activating the harbourfront; as well as the benchmark of community engagement in incorporating users' experience during the design stage of priority harbourfront projects in particular those to be implemented under an incremental approach. Two partners of HC were also invited to share with Members their well-tested public engagement experience in building and enhancing the harbourfront –

(a) Introducing Citizens to the Harbourfront amidst the Epidemic: a Sharing and Reflection by Walk in Hong Kong

Walk in Hong Kong shared with Members the experience on their recent collaboration with HC in launching online virtual tours along the Victoria Harbour, allowing participants to walk with their guides from the comfort of their own homes. The virtual tours had been very well received by the public and also had attracted a lot of media coverage over a sustained period, raising public interest in the harbourfront.

(b) Experience Sharing on Community Engagement for the Project “Open Space at Eastern Street North”

ArchSD and One Bite Design Studio briefed Members on their recent community engagement experience under the Eastern Street North Project. The on-site public engagement exercise was launched to introduce the project to existing users and gather their views, so as to facilitate and enhance the detailed design of the site.

3. Members were supportive of the public engagement strategy, which enabled co-creation by public and the Government in activating the waterfront. Specifically, members appreciated the experimental approach to solicit users’ feedback in developing harbourfront areas, as well as the suggestion of empowering community stakeholders to activate the waterfront promenade and bring vibrancy to the waters of the harbour in future.

VISIT

4. A site visit cum briefing to the East Coast Park was conducted in relation to the Design Competitions for “Victoria Harbour” Word Art and Harbourfront Public Furniture on 15 July 2020. In line with HC’s vision to bring more people to the harbourfront and to engage the community on harbourfront development, the two competitions were proposed to invite talents to participate in the beautification of the harbourfront in order to enhance its uniqueness and attractiveness, as well as to increase the community’s sense of belonging to the harbourfront -

- (a) the “Victoria Harbour” Word Art Competition (WA Competition) aimed to invite proposals on creating an iconic “Victoria Harbour” Word Art for placing at the East Coast Park Precinct north of Watson Road to enhance its vibrancy; and
- (b) the Harbourfront Public Furniture Competition (PF Competition) would invite proposals on designing and producing interesting public furniture for decorating Hoi

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Fai Road Promenade, as well as the Watersports and Recreation Precinct and Pierside Precinct in Wan Chai and enhancing visitors' experience.

5. Subsequent to the visit cum briefing, proposal submissions for the two design competitions were invited between 24 July and 4 September 2020. By the deadline of 4 September 2020, near 100 submissions were received for both competitions. The selection panel, comprising representatives from the Development Bureau and HC (the latter including co-opted members of the relevant District Councils), met in September and early October 2020 to select the winning proposals for the two competitions respectively. The winning entries of the two competitions were announced on 23 October 2020. An iconic word art installation and 20 units of public furniture designed by the public would be placed at various locations on both sides of Victoria Harbour progressively.

6. As the agenda items for the twenty-first Task Force meeting and the proposed locations for installing the winning word art and furniture are located at promenades in Hong Kong Island, Members of the Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island were also invited to the above two events.

PAPER CIRCULATION

7. The following paper was circulated to Members during the period –

- (a) TFK/C01/2021 – Proposed Multi-storey Logistics and Port Back-up Developments in Kwai Tsing.

Secretariat

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