

# **Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island**

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For discussion  
on 5 May 2015

TFHK/07/2015

## **Signature Project Scheme in the Eastern District: Eastern District Cultural Square**

### **PURPOSE**

This paper is to inform Members of the detailed design of the Eastern District Cultural Square (“the Square”) at Tam Kung Temple Road under the Signature Project Scheme (“SPS”) in the Eastern District.

### **BACKGROUND**

2. The Eastern District Office (“EDO”) and the Architectural Services Department (“ArchSD”) briefed the Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island (“Task Force”) on the conceptual framework of the Square at the Task Force meeting held on 15 September 2014. Task Force members noted that the Eastern District Council (“EDC”) decided to pursue the construction of the Square under the SPS, with an aim of enhancing the permeability and connectivity of the Aldrich Bay waterfront area comprising the Aldrich Bay Promenade (“ABP”), Tam Kung Temple and the surrounding; as well as revitalising the waterfront and creating a new and holistic waterfront experience to attract more visitors. The Square will utilise the currently idling waterfront site, a temporary car park and part of the existing ABP and turn it into a public open space with outdoor performance capabilities. Task Force members were supportive of the EDC’s proposal and would like the project team to take it forward as early as possible. The project team was invited to inform Task Force

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members when the detailed design was available.

3. The proposed project scope of the Square endorsed by the EDC and presented to the Task Force in September 2014 is reproduced at **Annex A** for easy reference. As explained at the last Task Force meeting, the ArchSD is the works agent for the project and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”) will manage the Square upon its completion.

### **THE SQUARE**

#### *Detailed design*

4. In preparing the detailed design for the project, the ArchSD has taken into account the views and suggestions made by the EDC. The key concepts of design underpinning the Square are “cultural context” and “connectivity”. For “cultural context”, due consideration to respect the cultural background of the area including Tam Kung Temple, Tam Kung Parade, Tuen Ng Festival, etc. has been made. For “connectivity”, due consideration has been paid to the fact that the Square is located at the prominent junction of Tam Kung Temple Road, Tung Hei Road and Oi Lai Street, abutting part of the ABP and the waterfront, with pedestrian tunnels and an at grade crossing connecting to the Shau Kei Wan and Sai Wan Ho areas. The Square, when constructed, will have several entrances to the existing promenade and park facilities which will enhance its connectivity with the above features.

5. Preliminary detailed design proposed by the ArchSD is attached at **Annex B**. The key components include:

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- (a) an outdoor performance stage with canopy;
- (b) a square with a spectator area and a platform;
- (c) an entrance plaza with external public exhibition / activities area; and
- (d) sitting-out areas with greeneries.

The performance stage in the southern portion of the Square which faces the sea can host various events, such as carnivals, performances, etc. and it is planned that supporting facilities will be available at the back stage. On the other hand, the platform at the far north of the Square fronting the sea would be used mainly for leisure. Indeed, the performance stage and the platform can be used by the public as part of the open space when they are not booked for events subject to the legislation and the regulation enforced by the venue manager, i.e. the LCSD. In fact, the organisers which hire the Square for events in future have to provide the relevant seating arrangement if necessary. The seating capacity for the Square is about 1,000.

6. The performance stage and the platform as well as some inter-connecting areas are proposed to be covered by canopies. The design of the performance stage canopy is to recapture the spirit of sailing and traditional Chinese architecture roof form and to manifest the traditional form in a modern way. The entrance plaza with external exhibition / activities area, which is adjacent to Tam Kung Temple, is located close to the access from pedestrian tunnels and an at grade crossing. The external exhibition area, to be managed by the LCSD, can host art displays and exhibitions organised by local organisations and schools. Sitting-out areas are provided for some sedentary activities, such as reading and

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Tai-chi. Vegetation in the southern part will be retained as far as possible. Thematic planting will be adopted to add trees and shrubs with pink and red flowers, such as *Rhododendron* and *Hibiscus*, to create a sense of welcoming. Subject to the technical feasibility, we may consider to allow the public to enjoy the promenade by phases prior to the completion of the entire project.

### *The Neighbourhood*

7. The EDC has proposed to beautify the neighbourhood of the Square to enhance a coherent appearance with the Square and to improve the accessibility between the Square and Tam Kung Temple. The EDC has therefore invited the Administration to consider repaving part of the Tam Kung Temple Road and improving the railings outside the Tam Kung Temple. Relevant Government departments will, subject to the availability of funds, further study the EDC's proposal. Other related proposals including beautifying the pedestrian tunnels connecting the Square and Shau Kei Wan Main Street East will be further explored subject to views of the community, the EDC and Government departments.

### *Management of the Square*

8. The Square, upon its completion, will be managed by the LCSD. Subject to the views of the EDC, the opening hours of the Square is proposed to be in line with the nearby ABP, i.e. 24 hours daily. The performance stage and the platform may be booked for events from 0700 to 2300 hours daily. The external exhibition area of the Square may also be booked and used by organisations or schools for art displays and exhibitions. Apart from these reserved/booked uses, the general public can use this open space for enjoyment, as long as they do not violate the Pleasure Grounds Regulation (Cap. 132BC) under the Public Health and Municipal

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Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) and meet other operational requirements to be set out by the LCSD in due course.

### **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

9. The EDC has engaged the public throughout the process of implementing the Square, from the choice of this project as the SPS in the Eastern District to ongoing publicity of the Square. The EDC held a colouring and drawing competition, featuring the theme “The Eastern District Cultural Square in My Mind”, from December 2014 to January 2015 for kindergarten and primary school students in the Eastern District. The response was overwhelming and around 400 pieces of artwork were received. Featuring the prize winning drawings of the competition, the EDC produced a range of promotional souvenirs to distribute to the public to publicise the SPS.

10. The EDC also updated the community on the latest progress of the project. The EDC invited local organisations, district representatives as well as the public to a briefing session held on 23 April 2015 to brief them on the design and latest development of the Square. The briefing session was attended by about 80 people including representatives of the local organisations, EDC members and the public. At the briefing session, the public generally supported the provision of the performance stage and the platform. They expected that there would be supporting facilities such as changing rooms for the performers. The idea of thematic planting to create a sense of welcoming was supported. There were also suggestions to design more sitting-out areas for the elderly and the families.

11. Further to the briefing session, representatives of the project team of the EDO will meet with Area Committees of the

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Eastern District and local organisations during their regular meetings in May to June 2015 to brief them on the design of the project. So far, there is general support for the project by the public and the local community. The EDC will continue to publicise the project and engage the public and local community in the process.

### **WAY FORWARD**

12. The EDC endorsed the project content and the preliminary detailed design at its meeting held on 23 April 2015. The Administration is preparing the detailed drawings and the works estimates of the project and will seek the funding approval of the Legislative Council once the preparation works are ready. The tendering and construction works of the Square would commence once the funding is approved.

### **VIEWS SOUGHT**

13. Members are invited to express their views on the latest progress set out above.

### **ATTACHMENT**

**Annex A - Project scope of Eastern District Cultural Square**

**Annex B - Preliminary Design of the Square**

**Eastern District Office  
Home Affairs Department  
May 2015**

**Project scope of Eastern District Cultural Square**

- (a) Works component:** construction of an outdoor performance stage with canopy and a square; provision of loading and unloading bay; external public exhibition / activities area; sitting-out area with benches and rain shelters; extension of waterfront promenade from the adjacent ABP; provision of other facilities (e.g. perimeter fence, landscaping, floor paving, park lighting, etc.); and re-provisioning of transit nursery bed.
- (b) Non-works component:** consists of the community engagement and publicity programme. The EDC will organise a wide range of activities to publicise the project and engage the community.

### Signature Project Scheme in Eastern District – Eastern District Cultural Square 社區重點項目計劃(東區) – 東區文化廣場

Preliminary design - Site plan  
初步設計 - 總平面圖





**Signature Project Scheme in Eastern District – Eastern District Cultural Square**  
**社區重點項目計劃(東區) – 東區文化廣場**

Aerial Views  
鳥瞰圖



**Signature Project Scheme in Eastern District – Eastern District Cultural Square**  
**社區重點項目計劃(東區) – 東區文化廣場**

Artist impression of the Cultural Square (day view)  
文化廣場構思概念圖 (日景)



Artist impression of the Cultural Square (night view)  
文化廣場構思概念圖 (夜景)

