# Large Scale Events on the Harbourfront

# The Clockenflap Perspective

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MAGNETIC ASIA







#### INTRODUCTION TO MAGNETIC ASIA

- A Hong Kong based company employing over 30 people
- Launched Clockenflap in 2008. Now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, it attracts over 35,000 people which generates over 80,000 visits to the harbour front
- Launched Ticketflap in 2012, and grown it to be one of the top 3 ticketing companies in HK, servicing a broad range of the biggest indoor and outdoor events in Hong Kong.
  - Rugby 7s
  - Formula E
  - Taste
  - Arts Central
  - Jockey Club







#### INTRODUCTION TO MAGNETIC ASIA

- Launched Your Mum in 2010, a regular series of international music shows featuring the best of new,
  established and legendary musicians
- 2014 we launched Neon Lights festival in Singapore
- 2017 we are launching Sonar Festival in Hong Kong. Sonar is from Barcelona and attracts over 100,000 people each year with 50 instances globally.













# OBJECTIVES OF THIS PRESENTATION

- Share some of our event insights
- Share our 8 years of experience of working at WKCD and Central
- Share our view of the venue needs and approach (Venue park concept)
- Share our proposed ideal Event space in Central
- Identify venues on the waterfront
- How a future Harbour Front Authority could benefit the growing events industry







#### WHAT IS CLOCKENFLAP

- · Hong Kong's largest music and arts festival, recognized for its cultural significance
- 150 bands from all over the world including over 60 local bands and 20 regional bands
- Over 35,000 attendees
- 21% tourists, of which 80% are from China
- 70% of survey respondents state they are Hong Kong Chinese
- Multi discipline arts content, including performance, film, installation and new media arts
- Family friendly
- World class F&B







#### GLOBAL EVENTS INDUSTRY GROWTH

- Total worldwide entertainment and media revenues will rise at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.1% over the coming five years, from US\$1.74trn in 2014 to US\$2.23trn in 2019. [PwC]
- Spending on live music ticket sales and cinema box office will rise at a combined global CAGR of 4.7% to 2019, outpacing overall consumer spending at 2.9%. In China, box office revenues will rise at a CAGR of 15.5% [PwC]







#### HONG KONG EVENTS INDUSTRY GROWTH

- No data exists about the event industry in Hong Kong
- Anecdotal evidence shows growth inline with global trends and probably on the upper end of the scale
  - Central Harbourfront has events all the time
  - Venues are increasingly harder to book
  - Ticketflap did 2 events in 2012 now we do 2 a day
- The industry needs real data
- The potential is enormous as we are sophisticated city surrounded by a few billion people







#### CHANGING LIFESTYLES IN HONG KONG

Based on our own market research (panel of 1000 HK Chinese people representing diverse demographic).

- Greater demand for experiences beyond retail therapy
- Strong interest in events especially food and music
- Strong desire to be outside
- At the weekend people want immersive experience to take them away from their homes and forget long stressful work weeks







# CLOCKENFLAP @ WKCD

- First instance was in 2011 when operated by LCSD
- Years 12,13,14,15 saw exponential growth and ever more use of the available land
- Amazing views
- Immersive experience as in the city but out of the city

#### Challenges

- WKCD is hard to get lots of people away quickly and safely without causing road congestion.
- Ever changing land availability was hard to plan
- Hard to get future dates secured until quite late







#### **Achievements**

- No noise complaints which was due to significant noise mitigation work and investment
- Everything ran 100% on time even though we experienced the worst weather in 9 years
- The artist feedback was almost entirely "amazing audience", "best festival we've played", "amazing city", "impressive organisation" .....
- Fantastic reviews and overwhelming positive coverage from local, regional and international media







#### Advantages

- Incredible experience to be in heart of the city and experiencing an event of that scale
- Incredible 360 vista
- Crowd Safety due to massive egress routes
- Convenience of access to the site and public transport options
- Higher profile due to passing footfall and visibility







#### Challenges

- Securing 4 different venues from 4 different landlords
  - LCSD
  - Lands Department APO
  - Wheel operator
  - CVM
- Maintaining public access through the festival site.
- Road closure
- Huge additional costs due to the use of a new venue and the resulting unknowns
- Vendor imposed Central tax
- Limited set up time due to high demand for the site and limited







#### Challenges cont...

- Government agencies had an outdated view of crowd management practices but weighed in very heavily on suggestions and requests.
- Securing dates more than 12 months in advance is still a problem which effects our programming.







Events on the harbour front show off Hong Kong in a way no brochure can

- Commercial entities invest lots of money to transform the venues into impressive spectacles with 1000s of people
- TV Coverage
- Live video streaming
- Social Media Attendees and contributors
- Performers interviews reach 10s of millions







We propose that there should be a permanent Central venue

It should be open to the public as a park when no events are being held but closed during events.

This model always faces the challenge of how to make it work as a park when an event is on. It does not need to.

- Over 50% of HK land mass is open space
- Over 70% of residents live within 400 meters of park or country side
- Only 6 to 8 months a year are suitable for large events due to typhoon risk
- Global precedent is extensive







- Commercial or government the landlord must be independent and motivated to do events
- The experience of CVM and WKCDA (post 2014) are both very positive as they have a clear pro-event agenda. They have to book events.







Event selection body to mitigate the problems of greater demand than supply

- Currently events get policy support from a variety of government entities which is necessary to unlock government venues.
- It would be simpler and fairer if an event body existed with representatives from TC, HC, HAB, DB, InvestHK that could review applications for and then issue policy support.
- Those with event body policy support could apply to use the venue park.
- Rental fees could be waived based on various factors.







- Basic infrastructure needs
  - Limited permanent structures
    - Toilets
    - High load foundations for stage structures
    - Entrance
    - Perimeter lighting
  - Power
  - Water/drainage/grease traps
  - Consideration of fencing, signage, site lighting
  - Recycling provisions







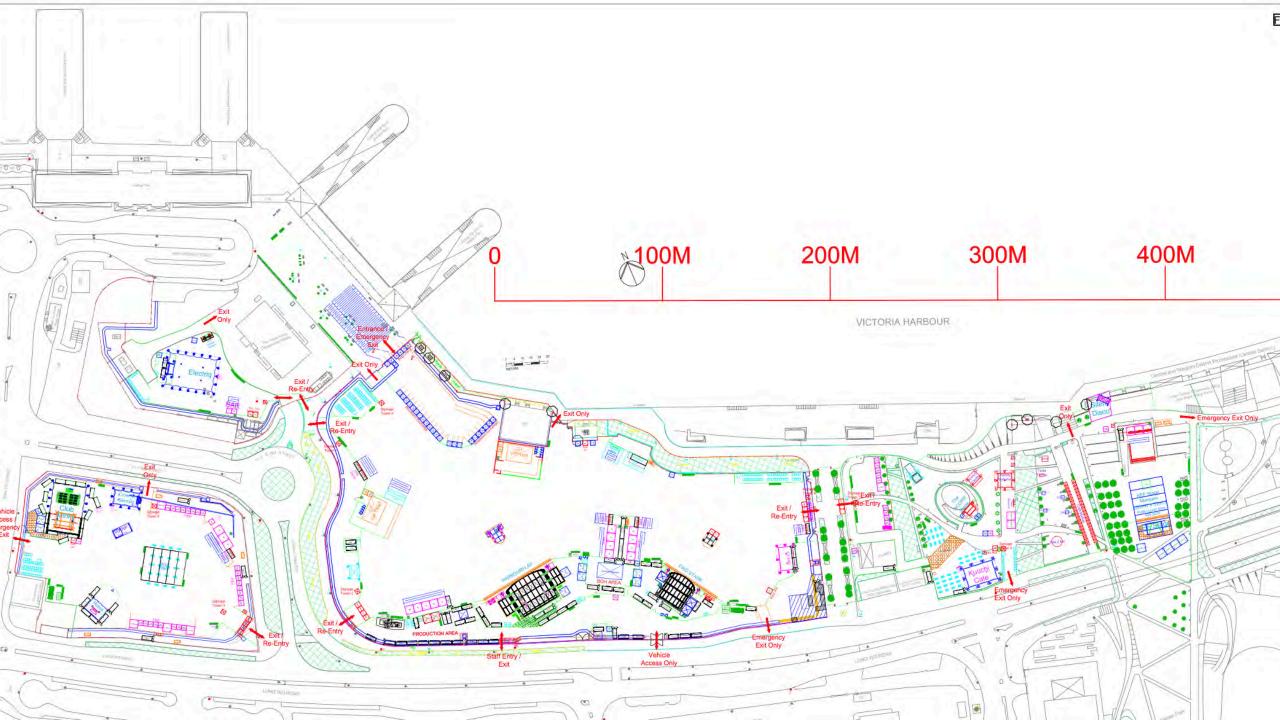


#### THE IDEAL CENTRAL VENUE

- Multiple connected spaces which have broken site lines to give an event character and enhance discovery.
- Stretch from IFC walkway to Tamar Park.
- Large concrete open spaces such as the big circle at WKCDA with grass surrounding
- Where there is grass there should be a venue supplied covering system which can be used if desired to minimize damage in high foot fall areas.
- Connected to the water front but still allow public outside of the event to access the waterfront 100% of the time
- Possible to rent all or small parts
- Booking priority is given based on a scoring system which is public and fair, and this should not be the biggest payer gets priority.
- Have basic infrastructure but no permanent structures beyond sensibly placed covered areas for rain/sun?









### **OTHER VENUES**

- Roof of Central ferry piers
- North Point pier
- Quarry Bay Promenade + park
- Under Island Eastern Corridor
- Western District Public Cargo Pier







# HARBOURFRONT AUTHORITY INFLUENCE ON THE EVENT INDUSTRY

- Ensure there are venues to do events
- Promote the benefit of events and take a firm stance on why events are good for Hong Kong's growth, community and global standing
- Promote only the highest quality events that offer broad appeal
- Put in place a sensible hirer mechanism for all event spaces that are government owned





