

Task Force on Harbourfront Developments in Kowloon, Tuen Wan and Kwai Tsing

For discussion
on 22 January 2013

TFK/04/2013

Provision of An Art Square at Salisbury Garden, Tsim Sha Tsui

PURPOSE

This paper outlines the proposal to create an art square at Salisbury Garden, being the first phase of Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)'s strategic plan to re-energize the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Complex (HKCCC).

BACKGROUND

2. The HKCCC, a cultural hub on the Tsim Sha Tsui (TST) waterfront, comprises the Hong Kong Space Museum (opened in 1980), the Hong Kong Cultural Centre (1989), the Hong Kong Museum of Art (1991) and the Salisbury Garden (1997) under the management of LCSD. The Complex provides venues for staging performances, arts exhibitions and space programmes, as well as outdoor performances (e.g. at the piazzas of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre). The open space of the Complex and the adjacent Avenue of Stars (AoS) (2004) are highly popular tourist destinations. The waterfront environment at TST has been further enhanced after the completion of the TST Promenade Beautification Project in 2006. The site map of the HKCCC and the venues therein is at **Annex 1**.

3. Most of the venues and facilities in the HKCCC have been opened for more than 20 years and their design and aesthetic appearance may not live up to modern-day expectations. To enliven this important cultural hub of Hong Kong, LCSD has mapped out short-term and long-term plans to improve and renovate the major facilities in the Complex by phases. The aim is to enhance the accessibility, attractiveness and vibrancy of the Complex and the waterfront area, as well as enlivening this central part of the Hong Kong's harbourfront. The objective is to re-energize the usage of the Complex facilities. Ultimately, we aim to provide a diverse, inspiring and engaged cultural environment at the waterfront for Hong Kong people and tourists to visit and enjoy.

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SHORT-TERM PROPOSAL

Phase 1 - Creation of An Art Square at Salisbury Garden (2013)

4. The Salisbury Garden (location and photos at **Annexes 2 and 3**) was opened in 1997 in conjunction with the adjoining private development by New World Development (NWD). The public open space was gazetted as a Civic Centre under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap.132) and has since been managed by LCSD. Currently, the Garden provides passive leisure amenities with planters and soft-landscape, etc.

5. The Salisbury Garden sits right between the Salisbury Road/Nathan Road in the south and the Museum of Art (MA)/AoS in the north. The planters, fountain and soft-landscape in the Garden however greatly reduces the visibility and accessibility of MA and AoS. They also take up a precious piece of land in front of the Museum which could otherwise be used for active art and cultural activities.

6. LCSD thus proposes to convert the Salisbury Garden into an active, dynamic and exciting open space as well as a vibrant venue for visual arts, music, performances and other outdoor cultural and leisure programmes. Key design parameters of the renovation project include:

- (a) Use of a modern and sustainable design;
- (b) Enhanced pedestrian accessibility from Salisbury Garden and AoS;
- (c) Creation of a visual corridor to the harbourfront/AoS/MA from Salisbury Road/Nathan Road;
- (d) Natural shading, greening and grass areas;
- (e) Increased vibrancy of the Garden by staging art and cultural activities for public enjoyment regularly;
- (f) Making available flexible space for art installations and staging music and other performances;
- (g) Improvement of the signage system to the facilities on the TST waterfront;
- (h) Attaining harmony with the neighbouring developments including the renovation of the MA and the New World Centre by NWD.

7. LCSD plans to carry out the renovation works in two phases. The Phase 1, covering the western part of Salisbury Garden fronting the MA, will necessitate the removal of the planters and soft-landscape in the Garden and turn the site into a new Art Square for presentation of

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thematic art installations and sculptures by Hong Kong artists. The works will commence in early 2013 for completion in late 2013. Scope of the Phase 1 project comprises:

- (a) Provision of new paving to create an attractive and dynamic environment for the new Art Square;
- (b) Removal of the Roman-style portal at the entrance of the Garden and the covered walkway linking to the public car park to create a visual corridor from Nathan Road to MA and the harbour;
- (c) Re-landscaping of planting areas and removal of planters to create an open space for dynamic arts programmes such as art installations, sculptures, cross-media presentations, performances and events;
- (d) Provision of special artistic features such as “Carpet of Artists’ Quotes” to enhance the artistic ambience;
- (e) Provision of a lawn (Green Carpet) for public enjoyment of the harbour view in a tranquil and serene setting; and
- (f) Installation of new directional signs to improve pedestrian accessibility to nearby major buildings and areas.

8. The new Art Square will showcase primarily the artworks created by Hong Kong artists, whose artistic cultivation is rooted in the Chinese cultural tradition and mingled with contemporary western elements, reflecting the unique identity of Hong Kong as a melting pot of the cultures of the East and the West. The artworks will also reveal the artists’ perspectives of city life and societal issues. The Art Square will provide an open platform with unique curatorial programming and the art installations will be replaced regularly to ensure versatility and diversity. Plans are in hand to commission established Hong Kong artists to create works for an inaugural display with curatorial themes derived from Chinese tradition, city and the nature, contemporary vision and modernity to be opened in early 2014.

9. The new Art Square at Salisbury Garden will also form the forecourt of the MA, which will undergo a major renovation to enhance the Museum’s positioning and branding as the leading visual arts museum in the region. Details are set out in paragraphs 13-15 below.

10. Schematic layout of the new Art Square at Salisbury Garden is at **Annex 4**.

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Phase 2 (2016 onwards)

11. Phase 2 of the renovation will cover the eastern part of Salisbury Garden (the space behind the entrance to the underground mall of NWD). The design and use of this space will be carefully mapped out taking into account the detailed design for the MA (see paragraphs 13-15 below) and the suggestions from NWD. Initially, we intend to provide more sun shading and green spaces of tranquility and leisure at the open space. A large grass lawn will be created for relaxation and leisure, and for holding outdoor events and performances. We will ensure that the overall design of both phases of Salisbury Garden renovation will be carried out in a holistic manner.

12. LCSD has consulted the Art Museums Advisory Panel, its visual arts expert advisors, and members of the art community on the proposal. All expressed strong support to the renovation project since it will create greater accessibility to Hong Kong art for the public. The Phase I renovation will start in early 2013 for completion in late 2013 with the opening of the inaugural art display in early 2014.

LONG-TERM PLANS

(a) Renovation of Hong Kong Museum of Art

13. The MA was opened in 1991 as a major municipal museum of visual arts in the region with the mission of promoting Hong Kong art. It has a gross area of 17,500 square meters with seven galleries providing a total display area of around 7,000 square meters and other ancillary facilities. After 20 years of intensive usage, the facilities are aging and falling short of the exhibition needs of MA which is staging an increasing number of exhibitions. While the MA and other cultural venues in the HKCCC adopt a uniformed design and colour scheme, the museum architecture is not spectacular and does not stand out as a cultural landmark at the waterfront.

14. Plans are in hand to improve and facelift MA's facilities and appearance. The scope of the project includes the provision of a new iconic entrance lobby, a multi-function hall, new galleries for exhibitions, exhibition-related storage and a new staircase at the waterfront. The existing café and bookshop will be relocated to the ground floor, while the facades of the museum will be face-lifted to provide a modern and dynamic outlook. Upon completion of renovation, the gross floor area of exhibition galleries and ancillary

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spaces will increase by around 2,600 square meters. The MA will become a distinctive landmark on the TST waterfront with better accessibility, visibility and user-friendly facilities.

15. The Architectural Services Department is developing the detailed schematic design for the MA renovation project, which will be ready for consultation with members in early 2013. Subject to the availability of funds, the renovation will commence in late 2014 for completion in mid- 2017.

(b) Renovation of Hong Kong Cultural Centre

16. The Hong Kong Culture Centre (HKCC) was opened in 1989 and has been the premier cultural venue in Hong Kong for top quality performances, commanding a 100% usage rate. Owing to heavy usage, no major renovation has been carried out in the past 20 years. To maintain HKCC as the prime performing arts venue in the territory, and to tie in with the overall ambience and enhancement of the future TST waterfront comprising the renovated MA and Salisbury Garden, it is necessary to upgrade the facilities of HKCC to better support the arts community and for enjoyment by the public at large.

17. The enhancement of HKCC will blend in with the renovation of the Salisbury Garden, the MA and AoS with a view to re-energizing the entire TST waterfront. It will also improve the connectivity and accessibility of HKCC with its neighbourhood. We will work out the scope of the renovation project in 2013.

COORDINATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

18. The re-development of the former New World Centre by NWD adjoining the HKCCC is under way. LCSD has been in close liaison with NWD to exchange information on the development plans for the premises under our respective purview, with a view to achieving a coordinated design for the various elements on the TST waterfront.

ADVICE SOUGHT

19. Members are invited to note and comment on LCSD's renovation plans for the HKCCC.

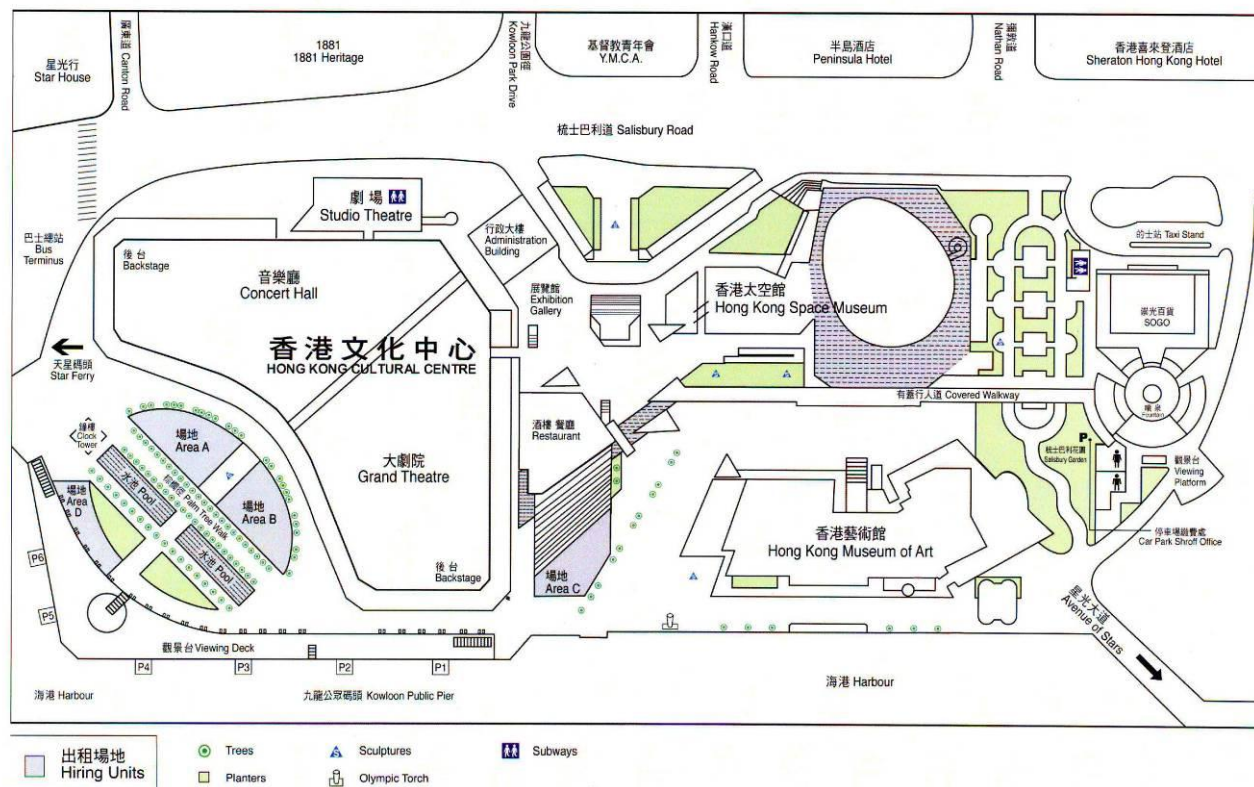
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**Leisure and Cultural Services Department
December 2012**

Site Map of Hong Kong Cultural Centre Complex

香港文化中心位置圖
Hong Kong Cultural Centre Site Map



Locations of Phase I & II Renovation

Salisbury Garden

(梳士巴利花園第一期及第二期改建工程範圍示意圖)



Photos of Salisbury Garden

(梳士巴利花園現狀圖片)





Schematic Layout of the Art Square at Salisbury Garden
(梳士巴利花園藝術廣場設計示意圖)

