

# **Task Force on Harbourfront Developments in Kowloon, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing**

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For discussion  
on 15 March 2018

TKF/01/2018

## **Updates on the Avenue of Stars**

### **PURPOSE**

This paper serves to update Members on the progress of the renovation of the Avenue of Stars (AoS).

### **BACKGROUND**

2. At its meeting on 22 September 2016, the Task Force on Harbourfront Developments in Kowloon, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing (Task Force) indicated general support for the revised design of AoS, which has incorporated most comments from Members and relevant stakeholders. The New World Development (NWD) engaged the world-renowned urban designer and landscape architect practice James Corner Field Operations (JCFO) to revitalise AoS. JCFO was also invited to renovate the neighbouring Salisbury Garden (SG) so as to ensure holistic transformation of the Tsim Sha Tsui Waterfront as an attractive, accessible and vibrant waterfront with rich cultural ambience and an unobstructed view of the harbour.

### **SALISBURY GARDEN**

3. SG was officially re-opened on 8 December 2017 and is now under the management of LCSD. The iconic design by JCFO is based on the principles of holistic planning, energizing the harbour, enhancing public enjoyment, increasing waterfront accessibility and promoting sustainable development. It received extensive and positive media coverage, and has quickly become a favourite spot for both local residents and visitors to enjoy the view of Victoria Harbour.

4. Apart from JCFO, SG also features the lighting design from Speirs+Major, the famed British lighting architect. The washroom was designed by LAAB and the wooden benches by One Bite. Both companies were founded by young Hong Kong architects and are winning increased recognition both locally and internationally for innovation.

5. The elliptical lawn offers visitors a place to relax and is also a venue for occasional celebrations and performances while thoughtfully placed trees offer shade for the comfort of visitors. The tropical lush

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and sculptural 'garden walls' visually engage and delight visitors. The seating steps offer visitors a place to rest while enjoying the view and the adjacent event roof/platform shaded by the elliptical trellis provides additional seating as well as space for special events.

6. At night, SG turns into a calm space celebrating the beauty of Hong Kong Island skyline. Pedestrian areas are lit discreetly, the lawn edge sits on a halo of perimeter light while landscape features are revealed with a gentle complement of light. Idiosyncratic features, such as sculpted green planters and a matrix of digital lights set within green walls add to the setting and texture of SG. All light sources are LEDs mounted with weatherproof and marine resistant enclosures.

7. The revitalised SG has become a more inviting public space for local residents and visitors. The synergistic cross-over of internationally-acclaimed architects and their talented young locally-born counterparts has made SG a much-loved public park and a popular leisure destination.

### **AOS**

8. The revised design of AoS, developed by the JCFO design team and supported by the Task Force, has incorporated the comments collected during the year-long consultation with various stakeholders including the public engagement exercise held from September to November 2015. The revised design has also fully manifested the principles of harbour planning emphasizing holistic development, promoting sustainable development, energizing the harbour, enhancing public enjoyment and increasing waterfront accessibility.

9. On the sustainability front, the design team aims to achieve SITES certification which is a rating system for innovation and sustainability performance of projects with or without buildings (including streetscapes, landscapes, plazas and parks). To this end, every detail of the revitalised AoS project – from the materials used, their colour palette, as well as the ability of the project design to support sustainable operations in the future – has been reviewed and areas of enhancement identified wherever possible.

10. AoS handrails will be made from an environmentally friendly material, made from a mixture of rice husks, common salt and mineral oil. This bio-based wood substitute contains no wood at all while giving the appearance, warmth and feel of wood with better durability, which is resistant to salt-water and UV and can withstand pest

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infestation and fungal decay.

11. The light-coloured materials used, including pre-cast concrete tiles with recycled glass content, will contribute a lesser degree to urban heat island effects than the darker materials used previously. The design of the porous trellis with a misting system and climbing green has been optimised to allow cross-ventilation while providing shade to enhance visitors' comfort in the summer.

12. Echoing SG, AoS will adopt a naturalistic planting style. The section of AoS close to SG will be adorned with tropical mix planting. Perennial mix planting will be used further into the centre section. Hedge planting will be adopted for the section close to the eastern side. The carefully curated planting scheme will provide shade as well as visual diversity to visitors.

13. Apart from incorporating more design features to promote sustainability, the design team has collected further comments from the stakeholders in the Hong Kong movie industry following the last Task Force meeting. Having considered their views, water features will be used to offer protection to the statues of the movie stars instead of mills barriers. This arrangement is considered to be more aesthetically pleasing and will reduce visual obstructions to visitors wishing to take photos with the sculptures. The new display of sculptures and handprints will reinforce AoS's tribute to Hong Kong's film industry. Digital solutions that show photos and information of the artists will not only enhance visitors' experience but also offer a better appreciation of the development of the Hong Kong movie industry.

14. AoS repair works are in steady progress, although the time-line has been delayed mainly due to installation of additional monitoring system and more extensive scale of repair at all crossheads upon requests by respective government departments. Coupled with inclement weather that affected construction work, re-opening of AoS will be slightly postponed from the fourth quarter of 2018 to no later than February 2019 if construction schedule can remain intact.

15. In the meantime, we are making preparation for the re-opening of AoS. The revitalised AoS should continue to demonstrate the success of Hong Kong's movie industry as well as serve as a platform to showcase local culture and creative talent. As such, in addition to the movie content to be displayed at the revitalised AoS, the merchandise of mobile carts and kiosk will promote local culture and creativity. They will provide an opportunity for local brands and entrepreneurs to

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display their works and engage with clients of diverse profiles, both local and overseas.

16. One of the key steps ahead is to select operators of the mobile carts and kiosks based on the selection principles of openness and equal opportunity. An open tender system will be adopted and the operators will be selected based on the merchandise content, financial offering and proposed business plan. Sustainable procurement guidelines would be incorporated in the tendering process in respect of the kiosks, mobile carts, vending machines and other amenities. Priority would be given to tenderers that commit to using reusable or biodegradable utensils, and to offering natural, organic, vegetarian, healthy and fair trade products. After re-opening of AoS, organization of public green tours will be explored to encourage sustainable living. Recycling bins will be set up while the number of trash bins will be minimized to promote “take your litter home” initiative. Water fountains will be installed and no bottled water would be sold at the mobile carts and vending machines operated at AOS.

17. Noting Members’ concern on the connectivity of AoS with its neighboring areas, signage has been designed to facilitate wayfinding while ensuring a holistic approach, making reference to signage implemented by the Hong Kong Tourism Board and strategically adopting the same signage design as the Hong Kong Cultural Centre and SG. Simple design language, coupled with easily recognizable visual icons representing landmarks, will provide a useful, intuitive guide for the public and visitors to navigate and explore the Tsim Sha Tsui area.

18. Since AoS will likely become a popular place for festivity and other special celebrations, the Police and LCSD have been engaged to review and assess potential scenarios and work out crowd management plans for high-traffic days to ensure public safety. The comfort and safety of members of the public and overseas visitors who seek to enjoy the revitalised AoS, have always been the design team’s foremost priority. No effort will be spared to ensure that visitors can enjoy Hong Kong’s exciting and vibrant festivals and spectacular celebrations safely.

### **WAY FORWARD**

19. We are in full gear to work towards the completion of the AoS project and will continue to work closely with the Harbourfront Commission to realize our vision to transform the Tsim Sha Tsui

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Waterfront as a vibrant, attractive and accessible place with rich cultural ambience for local residents and visitors to enjoy.

**Leisure and Cultural Services Department  
New World Development Company Limited  
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