

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

For discussion  
on 14 February 2017

TFK/02/2017

## **The Development of Hong Kong Palace Museum in the West Kowloon Cultural District**

### **PURPOSE**

This paper contains information on the proposed Hong Kong Palace Museum (“HKPM”).

### **BACKGROUND**

2. The proposed development of HKPM in the West Kowloon Cultural District (“WKCD”) will be a unique collaborative arrangement between the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (“WKCDA”) and the Palace Museum under which the exquisite collection of the Palace Museum will be loaned to HKPM for display on a long-term basis and in a more in-depth and comprehensive manner. The building of a new world-class museum dedicated to the display and interpretation of artefacts from the renowned Palace Museum is a significant addition to the cultural fabric of WKCD. Being the second major museum in WKCD, HKPM will enhance the cultural offering and greatly increase WKCD’s attractiveness as a cultural destination. Focusing on traditional Chinese culture, HKPM will add to WKCD’s diverse mix of programmes and activities, thereby enabling it to attract visitors of all ages and backgrounds, both locally and from outside Hong Kong.

3. Sitting across the Art Park from M+, HKPM will complement M+ as a museum of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century visual culture, allowing visitors to explore in close proximity arts and culture of both the contemporary and the ancient. It will also reinforce WKCD’s cultural offering of traditional Chinese art, with the Xiqu Centre located at the eastern end of WKCD focusing on performing art (Chinese opera) and HKPM at the western end

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showcasing precious artefacts and artworks of the Palace Museum. The WKCDA is confident that the development of HKPM will give the WKCD project an immense boost and reinforce its status as an international cultural hub. The location and the rendering of HKPM are shown in **Annexes A and B** respectively.

4. Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) on the development of HKPM with the Palace Museum on 23 December 2016, the WKCDA is conducting a public consultation exercise, which, includes an exhibition at the City Gallery in Central to introduce the HKPM project and its design concepts to the public and to solicit their views on the project.

### **PLANNING & DESIGN OF HKPM**

5. In view of the stringent security, temperature and humidity control requirements for displaying the valuable artefacts of the Palace Museum and the need for high-quality facilities to enhance visitor experience and to support educational programmes, the plan is to develop HKPM as a standalone, purpose-built venue with good connectivity with other parts of WKCD.

6. The Board of the WKCDA endorsed the appointment of Rocco Design Architects Limited as the design consultant for the HKPM project, having regard to the proven expertise and experience of Mr Rocco Yim and his team in the design and execution of museums of a similar nature and scale, good understanding of the vision of WKCD, and of Chinese art and culture. The formulation of the design concept makes reference to a schedule of accommodation (**Annex C**) that lays out the key functions required of HKPM.

7. As an arts and cultural facility, HKPM is a use that is always permitted under the approved WKCD Development Plan

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(“DP”)<sup>1</sup>. The WKCD DP was prepared with full regard to the Harbour Planning Principles (“HPPs”). Under the DP, not less than 23 hectares of public open space is to be provided on the 40-hectare site of WKCD. The design of WKCD adopts a “City Park” concept with the Art Park being the focal point of the western end of the district and serving as a green hub not only for WKCD but also for Hong Kong as a whole. An active waterfront lined with a mix of arts and cultural venues, restaurants, cafes, bars, arts pavilions and teahouses etc. will bring life and vibrancy to the waterfront.

8. The planning and design of HKPM also adhere to the HPPs and their details as set out in the Harbour Planning Guidelines (“HPG”). As stated in HPG, “uses to promote vibrancy and diversity and to enhance public enjoyment such as open space, retail, dining, recreation (including marine-based recreation), leisure, cultural and tourism facilities are encouraged to be developed along the waterfront”. HKPM, an art and cultural venue displaying the Palace Museum’s exquisite collections, is set to become a popular cultural destination for both locals and visitors, thereby drawing people flow to and enhancing the vibrancy of the western end of WKCD fronting the harbour. Moreover, by adding another world-class museum showcasing traditional Chinese art alongside M+, a contemporary art museum, to the district, HKPM will enhance the **diversity** of visual arts culture in WKCD.

9. The design of HKPM will capitalise on the excellent **site settings** (**Annex D** refers) to foster interaction between the museum building and its surrounding environs, and to bring about further enhancement of the public domain. Its design and architecture will be a reflection of Hong Kong’s contemporary culture and fits in well with the ambience of WKCD. At the same time, through unique and bespoke spatial and formal propositions,

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<sup>1</sup> The draft WKCD DP was approved by the Chief Executive-in-Council in January 2013 under section 9(1)(a) of the Town Planning Ordinance (Cap. 131).

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it will pay homage to the identity of the exhibits and provide an interactive environment for their appreciation by the public.

10. On top of exhibition galleries, HKPM will provide a lecture theatre, education facilities for learning and interpretation activities, a restaurant, a book/souvenir shop and open space within the building, thus introducing space for recreation, leisure and retail/dining. In addition to indoor galleries and facilities, HKPM will provide attractive outdoor event and open space where performances and entertainment activities can be staged to liven up the prime harbourfront and to maintain a strong sense of openness. The above design concept has taken full account the **land use planning considerations** put forward in the HPG.

11. The proposed construction floor area of HKPM of about 30 000m<sup>2</sup> and building height of 50mPD will fully comply with the development restrictions of the relevant sub-zone on the WKCD DP, ensuring a **development density and building height** that is commensurate with the harbourfront setting.

12. The development of HKPM will strengthen the **connectivity** of the area as pursued under the HPPs. Besides providing public open space and greenery for public enjoyment in this harbourfront setting, the elevated walkway connecting the public square in front of HKPM directly to the Avenue and the Artist Square to the east will create a complete WKCD artery reaching out to the surrounding and enhance the vibrancy and pedestrian links to this westernmost area of WKCD. The HKPM project will be in harmony with the adjacent environment with direct connection and **integration** with the Art Park under construction, and the waterfront promenade going through the site. The connection and interaction between HKPM and the open space network of WKCD is illustrated in **Annex E**.

13. HKPM is being carefully designed to align with the future Exhibition Centre to its north and the U-shaped hotel and office site to its east. Both will be placed at the edge of their respective

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site in order to maximise the building separation and provide public open space in between, thus enhancing permeability along the waterfront. At the same time, the building disposition at the adjacent U-shaped site will be carefully reviewed to allow a visual linkage between HKPM and the Avenue. HKPM together with the adjacent facilities such as M+ Pavilion (already opened), Freespace<sup>2</sup> (to be opened in 2018) and the future Exhibition Centre to its north (to be developed through public private partnership) will form a cluster of visual and performing art spaces within a nice stroll in the Art Park. The design concepts have strongly adhered to the **urban design considerations** as set out in the HPG.

14. In developing the detail design for HKPM, the various considerations in the HPG will be continuously adhered to as appropriate and the HPPs will be respected.

### **OPERATION**

15. HKPM is not a branch museum of the Palace Museum but a major arts and cultural facility of WKCD. It will be a Hong Kong museum featuring the art, culture and history of the Palace Museum using Hong Kong's unique and creative curatorial approach. The Palace Museum will provide collection items to HKPM for display in its galleries on a long-term basis but will not be involved in the daily operation and management of HKPM. A wholly-owned subsidiary company will be set up by the WKCD for HKPM which will have its own board of directors, staff, and curatorial policy.

16. In line with WKCD's strong commitment to learning and interpretation activities, as well as accessibility initiatives, HKPM will have educational facilities to allow it to organise extension

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<sup>2</sup> The Freespace consists of a 450-seat black box theatre and an outdoor venue that can accommodate up to 10 000 spectators.

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programmes such as talks and seminars as well as provide hands-on education activities for children and the youth.

17. The HKPM project will provide opportunities for the development of home grown talent in the areas of curation, conservation and education. Linked to the project will be training opportunities and internships, to ensure that HKPM can nurture and develop the right professional staff, and the creation of job and learning opportunities for young people in Hong Kong.

### **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

18. The public consultation exercise, which started on 11 January, includes physical and online exhibitions introducing the design vision and positioning of HKPM in WKCD. The public are invited, both at the exhibition and online, to provide comments and suggestions on the development of HKPM, in particular its design and operation, as well as the focus of its exhibition and educational programmes. In addition, consultation sessions with the stakeholders in the professional groups and the art, culture, and history circles have been organised in January and February 2017.

19. All comments collected during the public consultation exercise will be analysed and presented to the Board of the WKCD for consideration as they consider the way forward for this important project.

### **ADVICE SOUGHT**

20. Members are invited to comment on the development of HKPM, particularly on the planning and design aspects as outlined in paragraphs 5-14 above.

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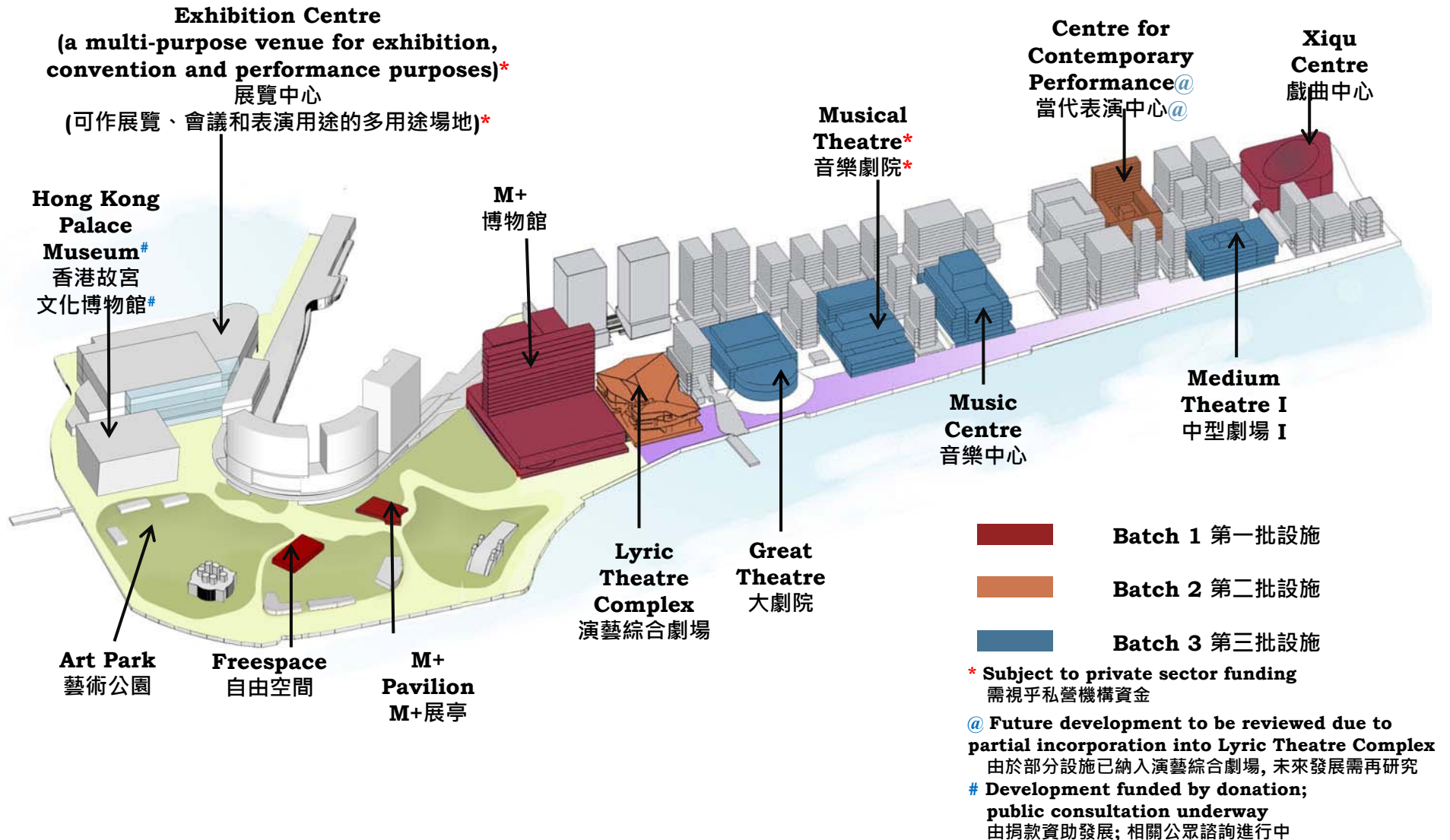
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**West Kowloon Cultural District Authority  
February 2017**

# Location of the Hong Kong Palace Museum

## Annex A





# Rendering of the Hong Kong Palace Museum

## Annex B



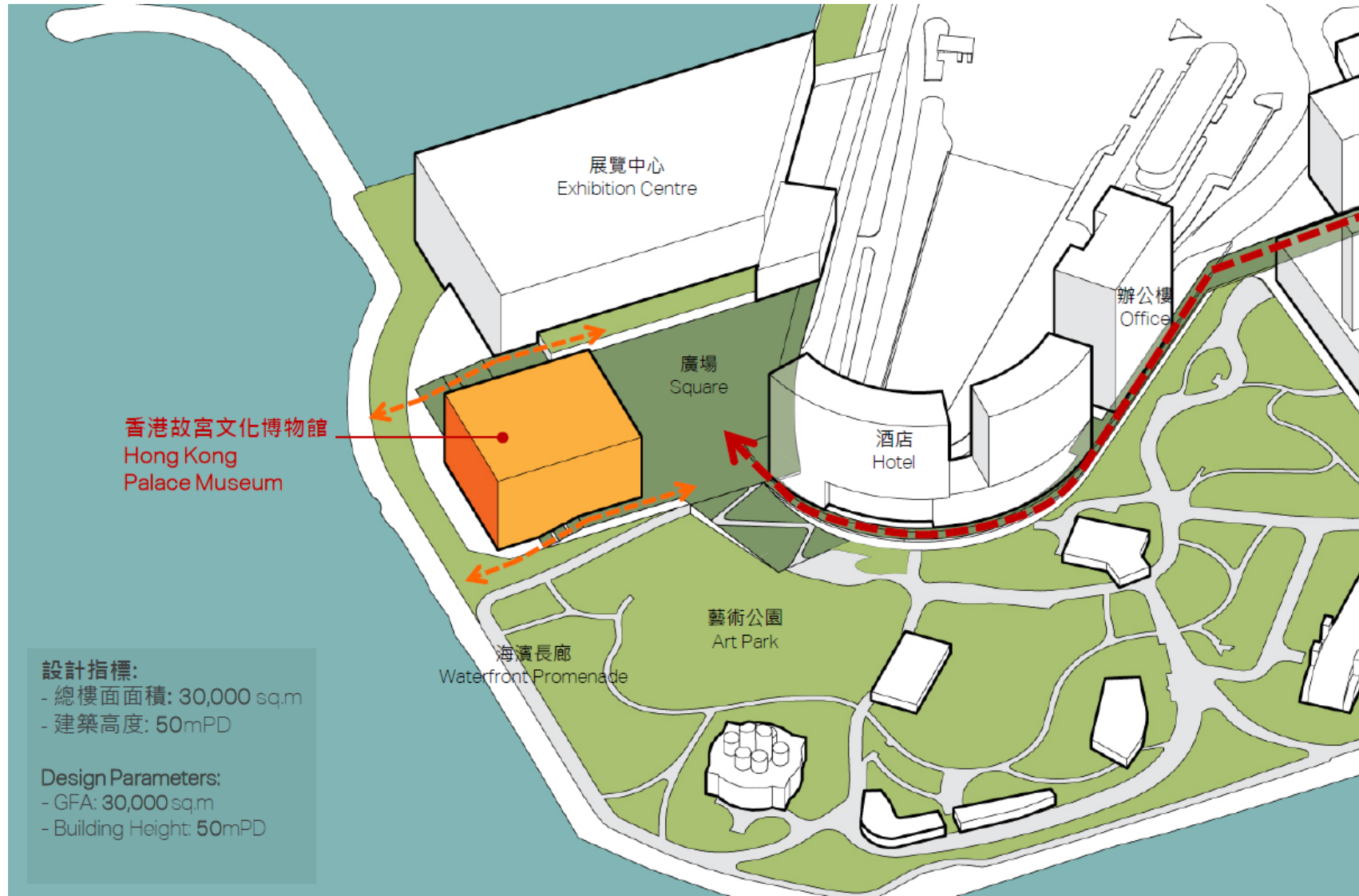
**Draft Schedule of Accommodation for  
Hong Kong Palace Museum**

<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Usage</b>
Exhibition Galleries	Specifically themed on painting and calligraphy, ceramics, imperial treasures, as well as the architecture of Palace Museum (PM) and its challenging conservation and renovation over the years. A gallery will particularly be dedicated to using multimedia technologies to highlight the architectural wonders and collections of PM
Thematic Exhibition Galleries	Dedicated to organising thematic exhibitions (for a period of 3-6 months) on the art, history and cultural collections of PM, or large scale exhibitions on loan from overseas. The collections from local collectors can also be showcased in this exhibition space
Classrooms/Activities Rooms	Providing a variety of interactive and participatory educational activities for young people to enhance their appreciation of Chinese culture. Science popularisation facilities promulgating the research conducted by PM in areas of art, history and science, such as the conservation of artefacts or the architectural renovations of PM over the years
Lecture Theatre	Holding public lectures and seminars
Entrance Lobby	Serving as main entering and gathering point for visitors, providing essential front-of-house facilities (e.g. box office, cloak room, etc.), and venue to stage small-scale exhibitions, ceremonies and functions
Bookshop/Souvenir	An outlet for PM's cultural merchandise

Shop	which may include stylish bookshop/souvenir shop with cultural displays
Restaurant	To provide an enjoyable place for visitors to eat, rest and socialize in the museum
Office	Working space for staff
Acclimatization Room	To serve as the transition room for valuable artefacts to adjust to new storing or displaying environments
Exhibition Preparation Room	To serve as working space for unpacking, temporary storage, inspection, registration, conservation and preparation of artefacts before being displayed in the exhibition galleries
Workshops	Carpentry, metal and electronics workshops (for multimedia exhibits, display setup and environmental decoration of galleries)
General Storage	For storing exhibition materials (e.g. casing, packing materials, etc.), inventory items (e.g. publication, merchandises, equipment, etc.) and miscellaneous materials for the operation of the museum (e.g. documents, stationery, furniture, stanchions, etc.)
Others (e.g. toilet, changing room for front-line staff, etc.)	

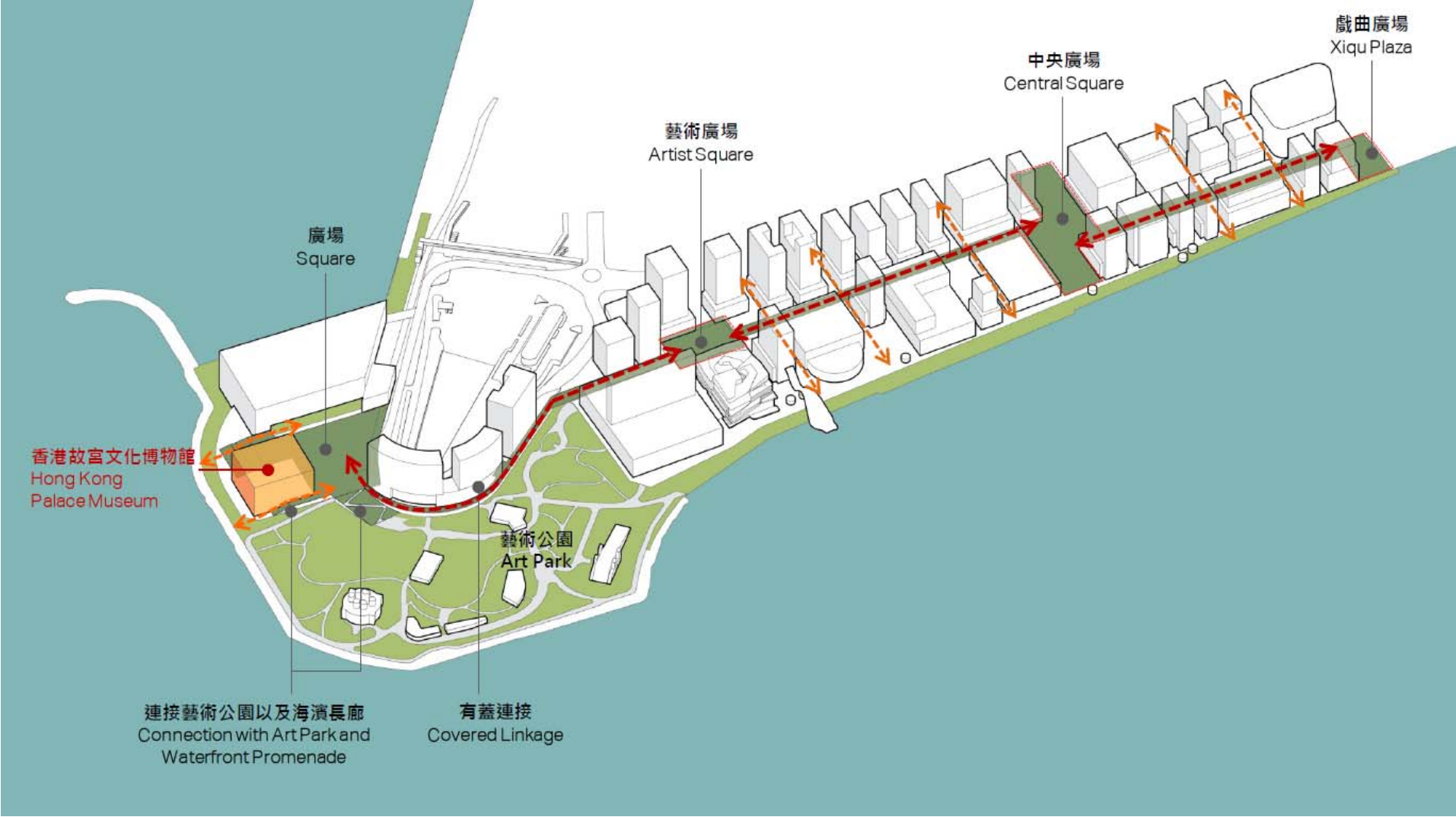
# Site Settings of the Hong Kong Palace Museum

## Annex D



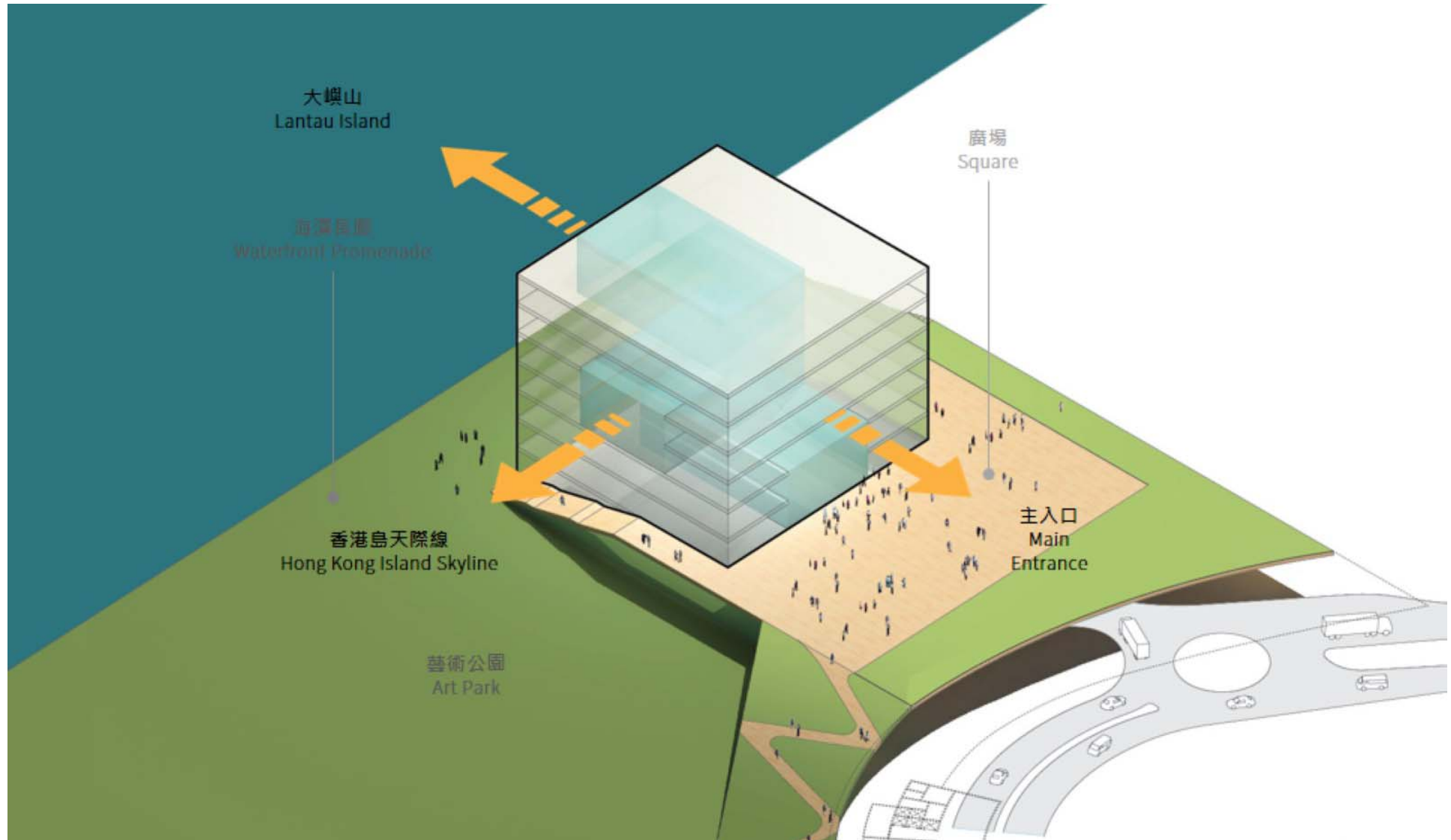
# Relationship between the Hong Kong Palace Museum and the Open Space Network

## Annex E



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**Annex E**

