

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

For discussion
on 22 September 2016

TFK/04/2016

Updates on the Avenue of Stars

PURPOSE

This paper serves to update Members on the progress of the renovation on the Avenue of Stars (AoS) and seek views regarding the refined design.

BACKGROUND

2. In order to revitalize the AoS, New World Development (NWD) has invited the world-renowned landscape architect James Corner Field Operations (JCFO) to create a holistic design for the AoS.

3. Apart from consultation with the Task Force on Harbourfront Developments in Kowloon, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing and the Yau Tsim Mong District Council, views from various stakeholders in different sectors had been gauged in the past years. Subsequent to the Public Engagement exercise held from September to November 2015 (where the majority of respondents supported a revitalised promenade for multiple amenity use but with a shorter closure period) as well as the recent design workshop co-organized by LCSD and the Harbourfront Commission on 9 September 2016, the design team has come up with a refined plan which strives to balance the needs and concerns of stakeholders and the public.

4. The refined design has also fully manifested the principles of harbour planning with its emphases on holistic planning, energizing the harbour, enhancing public enjoyment, increasing waterfront accessibility and promoting sustainable development. The ultimate goal is to promote accessibility to enjoyable walks along the waterfront with unobstructed view of the harbour and at the same time creating a vibrant Avenue for the benefit of Hong Kong people and the betterment not just of surrounding communities but of the city as a whole.

REVISED DESIGN

5. In response to the comments expressed by the public and various stakeholders during the years-long engagement, the JCFO design team has refined the design of the AoS and the key features are

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summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

6. To address concerns about the relative lack of shade, greenery and outdoor seating on the existing AoS, the revised design has embraced the needs and feedback of a multitude of stakeholders. Not only has the quantity of shade, seating and greenery been substantially increased, the variety and quality of these provisions has also been dramatically improved. The revised plan provides 700% increase in shade, 800% more green coverage and 200% more seating on the Avenue. Apart from the variety of seating and shaded areas proposed at different locations along the waterfront, the species of plants and typology of plantings has also been expanded to suit a variety of purposes. The total improvement in shade and seating will ensure better public enjoyment and an enhanced ambience on the waterfront.

7. The design team has also reviewed the promenade's balustrade design in response to the public and the Commission's desire for a more engaging experience on the waterfront. The proposed new balustrade will bring visitors closer to the harbour. The railings have also been designed to maximise visual transparency to allow the visitors to fully embrace the stunning view of the harbour. The railings will have integrated low level pedestrian lighting which is intended to minimize glare yet also provide safety and create an engaging night-time atmosphere for visitors. Concealed and integrated with the sculpted balustrade is a gently glowing lighting feature illuminating water waves. This soft and low energy consumption LED light running along the harbour's edge will allow the AoS to become a vital part of the city's dynamic night-time experience along the Kowloon waterfront.

8. The design team has also provided a holistic approach in the Avenue's design even in the utility details. The consistent design language adopted to each utility element, such as lighting poles, litter bins, drinking fountains will minimize the amount of visual and physical clutter, lifting public's enjoyment of the waterfront.

9. Recognizing the stakeholders' desire for appropriate amount of F&B offerings on the waterfront and the desire for complementary amenities, the level of provisions for kiosks, mobile carts and vending machines has been kept. But, the typology, design and offerings of F&B amenities have been revamped to meet public expectations and address the needs of all visitors.

10. Acknowledging the significance and need for improvement to the existing signage and waterfront accessibility, the design team has reviewed holistically all signs and way-finding provisions to enable the

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visitors to approach the waterfront in a much more interactive way with improved orientation assistance partly via mobile apps.

11. Regarding existing handprints and statues, the design team has listened carefully to the diverse and varied comments of various stakeholders and has proposed some directions for display of movie features in a more enhanced and optimal manner. This will offer a more engaging comprehensive journey to visitors to appreciate the glamour of the Hong Kong film industry and its many stars.

12. The design team has placed great emphasis on environmental sustainable design, seeking to re-use the construction waste and adopt recycled materials as well as local species of planting as far as possible. The renovation of AoS will result in a much more vibrant and attractive waterfront for residents, visitors, and the betterment of the city as a whole. This will be in keeping with the spirit of revitalizing the harbourfront to create greater accessibility and more sustainability, both performed in a total and holistic manner.

PROGRESS REPORT

13. Repair and maintenance works on the AoS is making steady progress. According to the current timetable, the renovation and enhancement works on the AoS is estimated to be completed by the third quarter of 2018.

ADVICE SOUGHT

14. We would like to express our sincere gratitude for the Task Force's valuable input and appreciate Members' continued support of revitalizing the AoS.

**Leisure and Cultural Services Department
New World Development
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