

## “MaD Trip | Waterfronts Reimagined”

### **PURPOSE**

This paper briefs Members on the sharing on “MaD Trip | Waterfronts Reimagined” (MaD Trip) organised by Make A Difference Institute (MaD).

### **BACKGROUND**

2. MaD is a non-profit organization and a collaborative platform that works at the intersection of art, creativity, entrepreneurship, innovation and discovery. Through its multifaceted programmes, MaD encourages the public to tap into social and community issues, and empowers young people to come up with creative responses to these challenges.

3. Organised by MaD and funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, “The Hong Kong Jockey Club Community Project Grant: Make a Difference School” (MaD School) is a series of educational programmes for promoting positive social change through creative learning experiences and cross-disciplinary knowledge exchange.

4. In late 2021 to early 2022, starting with a “Thematic Season” called “Living by the River”, an educational series with the Drainage Services Department (DSD) as the Thematic Partner, MaD School explored with openly-recruited participants issues related to the revitalization of urban rivers and placemaking. Continuing this exploration, MaD held the MaD Trip from February to March 2022, and expanded the scope of discussion from rivers to waterfronts, covering recent examples of innovate waterfront public spaces and related projects. Co-developed by MaD and Kate LAU, Co-founder of 2 Square Metres and

Programme Facilitator of MaD Trip, the objectives of the five-day programme were to raise public awareness for waterfronts development, and to encourage participants to reflect on ways to create waterfronts that are user-centred, vibrant and sustainable.

5. The programme mainly targeted at young people aged between 18 to 35, who are interested in the issues of urban planning and design, sustainability, community, placemaking, art and culture, and social innovation. A total of 13 “Full Journey” participants and 14 “Day Pass” participants were recruited. Among these participants, there were university students, designers, social sector professionals, educators, and people from other backgrounds.

### **TOOLS AND FORMAT OF EXPLORATION**

6. Under the pandemic, the MaD Trip was presented in the form of online meetings, which were held over five consecutive weekends. The first day consisted of Pre-trip Workshops, while the subsequent weekly meetings were arranged under four different themes: Community Life and Environment, Art and Culture, Placemaking, and Prospect.

7. Eleven sites or cases had been selected for discussion in the MaD Trip. These included the revitalisation project of Kai Tak River, the art project “Viva! River” which was centred around Tuen Mun River, and the innovative design and management of East Coast Park Precinct. As no physical group tours could be arranged under the pandemic, a digital “MaD Trip Kit” with information of these case studies, as well as a set of online maps with suggested routes, were produced to guide participants to conduct self-guided excursions prior to weekly meetings.

8. Key players in waterfronts innovation or guests related to the featured case studies were invited to the weekly meetings to share with MaD Trip participants their experiences and insights

# Harbourfront Commission

For discussion  
on 25 October 2022

TFWLHA/03/2022

on waterfront innovation. Speakers included Mr Vincent NG, Chairman of the Harbourfront Commission, as well as landscape architects, arts practitioners and professionals from different sectors.

## **FINDINGS**

9. Some key topics of concern emerged from the weekly discussions and the Question-and-Answer session following the guests' presentations. The participants were particularly concerned about the practicality of designs, the method and process of public engagement, the relationship between rivers and the nearby community, and how to balance the interests of different stakeholders.

## **WAY FORWARD**

10. To record the learning process, participants were asked to submit a piece of reflective journal at the end of the programme. A total of 11 short articles had been received and shared on the MaD website as "MaD Trip Journal". Anyone interested may read the articles at <https://www.mad.asia/programmes/mad-school/983>.

11. In the future, MaD will continue to promote cross-disciplinary collaborations related to public spaces and community development. The organisation believes in the importance of knowledge building and empathetic communication as the first steps of social innovation.

**Make A Difference Institute Limited**  
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