

18 September 2013

Mr WONG Tak
President
The Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects
PO Box 20561 Hennessy Road Post Office,
Wan Chai,
Hong Kong

Dear Mr Wong,

Thank you for your letter dated 16 August 2013 addressed to the Chairman of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority ("WKCD Authority"), regarding the park development of the West Kowloon Cultural District ("WKCD"). The Chairman has asked me to reply on her behalf.

WKCD Authority is committed to delivering the WKCD project according to the Development Plan, which was developed from the selected "City Park" conceptual plan and was approved by the Chief Executive-in-Council in January 2013. Therefore, the "City Park" concept remains as the essence of the whole development.

Despite the challenges presented by project cost escalation, WKCD Authority is committed to developing the WKCD into a world-class arts and cultural hub, without undermining the overall functions and quality of the facilities in the WKCD as far as possible, and will adopt a pragmatic approach to develop facilities that are fit for purpose. The WKCD will be implemented according to the following principles –

- Rigorous cost containment of individual facilities to a level as close to the original budget as possible;
- Emphasis on content rather than form of these facilities; and
- Early delivery of the Park as well as some arts and cultural facilities for public enjoyment.

In view of the above, WKCD Authority has undertaken various cost-saving exercises, including value engineering for Xiqu Centre, negotiation with the selected design team of M+ to lower project cost and exploration of creative ways to deliver the Park and related facilities in a cost effective manner.

西九文化區管理局

West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

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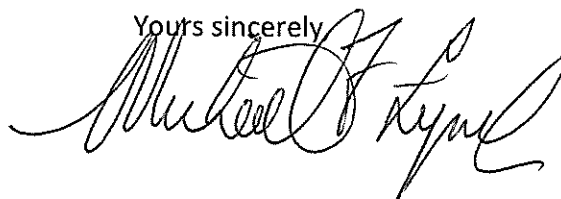
We are fully aware that the 23-hectare of public open space is invaluable to the WKCD development and that is the reason why WKCD is exploring the alternative to turn the fully landscaped Park into quality open space with a cluster of modular arts and cultural facilities and “pop-up” catering facilities. While pursuing quality open space with simpler designs, WKCD is also striving to provide much-needed performing space for artists and arts groups in the form of the Arts Pavilion and Freespace (including a Black Box Theatre and an Outdoor Stage), etc., and deliver the facilities in the Park in much compressed programmes for early enjoyment by the public and the arts community.

While WKCD is considering to apply for relaxation of gross floor area (GFA)/ building height restrictions as stipulated in the Development Plan in order to optimize the development potential of the WKCD site, major delay to the implementation timetable of the project is not envisaged as only minor relaxation of GFA/building height restrictions under section 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance is proposed.

Regarding your concern on the tender exercise for the Park design, we are considering how best to take forward the exercise with a view to delivering the Park with the revised scope above as soon as possible for public enjoyment. We will also plan for public engagement and consultation as appropriate, and advice on the concept design will be sought from the Working Group on the Park Development at suitable point of time where your representative Prof. Leslie Chen is a member.

We are concerned that the Park should be one of the great public assets of the District. The undersigned and our Executive Director, Project Delivery, Dr MW Chan will be in touch with you for further meaningful exchange on your professional views. Once again, we highly appreciate your contribution to the Park development.

Yours sincerely



Michael LYNCH CBE AM
Chief Executive Officer
West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

c.c. Hon Mrs Carrie Lam, GBS, JP, Chairman of the Board
Presidents of professional institutes: HKIA, HKIP, HKIS, HKIE, HKIUD
The Honourable Tony TSE Wai-chuen