

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S STATEMENT 行政總裁報告



2018/19 was a particularly exciting year for the West Kowloon Cultural District (West Kowloon or the District) as we moved from project planning and construction into operations. The District saw progress on many fronts during the reporting year. On the projects side, the development of the District returned to a more even keel with the appointment of the management contractor on the M+ project. Alongside, West Kowloon continued its successful efforts to cultivate audiences, strengthen its connections with artists, attract and educate young people, and build creative networks both in Hong Kong and abroad.

Featuring the world class 1,000-seat Grand Theatre on its top floor, the eight-storey performance venue provides a superb platform for the production, education, preservation and promotion of Cantonese opera and other forms of traditional Chinese theatre. The Xiqu Centre also features the Tea House Theatre, which is specially designed to introduce Chinese traditional theatre to new audiences, recreating the warm ambience of Hong Kong teahouses from a century ago.

在2018/19年度，西九文化區(西九)渡過了多姿多采的一年，亦標誌我們從項目規劃和建造階段正式邁進營運階段。在報告年度內，西九在多個範疇取得進展。在工程方面，M+項目委聘了替代承建商，取代原有承建商，使項目重回穩固的發展步伐。同時，西九繼續致力培植和建立觀眾群、加強與藝術家的連繫、吸引和教育年青人，並在本港和海外建立創作聯繫網絡。

戲曲中心樓高八層，設有大約1,000個座位的世界級大劇院位於頂層，為製作、教育、保育和推廣粵劇及其他中國傳統戲劇提供了一個絕佳的表演藝術場地。另外，戲曲中心設有茶館劇場，為初次接觸中國傳統戲劇的觀眾，重現一個世紀前香港茶館的環境和氛圍。

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S STATEMENT

行政總裁報告

In celebration of the Xiqu Centre's Grand Opening, the legendary opera *The Reincarnation of Red Plum*, curated by renowned Cantonese opera veteran Dr Pak Suet-sin, was brought to the stage of the Xiqu Centre's Grand Theatre right after the prestigious performing art venue's Opening Ceremony. The Opening Season, from January to March 2019, was a great success with over 50,000 guests attending performances, workshops, and guided tours in the Xiqu Centre.

為慶祝戲曲中心的盛大開幕，當日開幕典禮結束後，大劇院舞台隨即隆重上演由粵劇瑰寶白雪仙博士擔任藝術總監的粵劇經典劇目《再世紅梅記》。於2019年1月至3月舉行的開幕季節目反應亦非常熱烈，有超過50,000人親臨戲曲中心欣賞演出、參加工作坊和導賞團。

The opening of the Xiqu Centre in January 2019 was a defining moment in the history of the West Kowloon development. As a contemporary gateway to xiqu, the Xiqu Centre demonstrates the Authority's commitment to facilitating and enhancing cultural exchange and cooperation in Hong Kong, Mainland China and beyond, spreading this special art-form and its related culture across the city and promoting Chinese culture to the rest of the world.

戲曲中心於2019年1月開幕，為西九發展奠定重要歷史時刻。作為體驗戲曲的現代新門戶，戲曲中心正好體現管理局的承諾：促進和加強香港、中國內地與其他地區的文化交流及合作，在本地推廣戲曲這種獨特的藝術形式及其相關文化，以及將中國文化弘揚到世界各地。

The year also saw considerable work on Freespace as this exciting new venue went through the final stages of licensing, in preparation for full operations starting in mid June 2019. A series of new programmes were planned to showcase the potential of this dynamic and flexible facility.

年內，自由空間這個新場地相關的牌照審批工作踏入最後階段，我們亦為場地在2019年6月中啟用做好準備工作，自由空間將按計劃推出一系列全新節目，發揮這個設施靈活多變的潛能。

The Hong Kong Palace Museum took a major step forward, with the groundbreaking ceremony for the museum held on 28 May 2018 and the main works contract for the museum awarded in March 2019. These developments have taken the museum closer than ever to becoming a showcase for the magnificent Palace Museum collection in Hong Kong as we build West Kowloon into a world class centre for art appreciation, and a symbol of Hong Kong's rising position as a leading cultural metropolis.

香港故宮文化博物館亦取得重要進展，於2018年5月28日舉行動土儀式，及在2019年3月批出了主要工程合約。這些發展，使故宮博物院的重要藏品能夠早日在香港故宮文化博物館展出，將西九打造成為世界級的欣賞藝術中心，亦象徵香港的文化大都會領導地位日益提升。

Having said that, I must say the year has had its fair share of challenges as well. In August 2018, the Authority acted on the decision of the Board of West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCD) to terminate the original contractor's employment under the M+ Main Works Contract. This was not an easy decision, but it followed over a year of attempts to resolve issues arising from the financial problems faced by the original contractor. With the Authority's extensive efforts, WKCD was able to source a replacement contractor. With much needed energy, enthusiasm and focus injected into the delivery of the museum, the replacement contractor successfully brought construction back on track – all within two months of the termination of the original contractor.

然而，我們過去一年遇到不少挑戰。2018年8月，西九文化區管理局(管理局)根據管理局董事局的決定，終止聘用M+博物館原有主要工程合約承建商。這是一個艱難決定，唯在此之前超過一年間，我們曾多次嘗試解決該承建商因財困所引起的問題不果。在管理局多方面的努力下，最終成功覓得替代承建商，取代原有承建商。憑藉替代承建商的力量和熱誠，專注地推進博物館工程，成功在終止聘用原有主要工程合約承建商後的兩個月內，令建築工程重回正軌。

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S STATEMENT

行政總裁報告

At the end of the financial year, the structural work for the M+ project has substantially completed. The Authority is now looking forward to the completion for the M+ building in March 2020, with the museum itself opening nine to twelve months later to allow time for the environmental conditions to stabilise, and then to bring the collection to Hong Kong and install the first shows.

To achieve the District's goal of facilitating and enhancing cultural exchange and cooperation between Hong Kong, Mainland China and beyond, the Authority also made unprecedented efforts during the year to nurture artistic talent and bring together local and international artists.

To recognise outstanding artistic practices in the Greater China region, M+ launched the Sigg Prize in November 2018, which evolved directly from the Chinese Contemporary Art Award (CCAA), established by Dr Uli SIGG in 1997. M+ has transformed the CCAA as an M+ programme, with the ambition of establishing the Sigg Prize as a major arts prize in the region. The introduction of the prize to a wider international audience supports M+'s pioneering role in shaping the history of contemporary art in this part of the world and in encouraging public interest in visual culture.

In the Qixu Centre's Tea House Theatre, young qixu performers and musicians have been given a fantastic opportunity to learn and grow in their chosen art form as part of the Tea House Rising Stars Troupe, the Qixu Centre's troupe-in-residence. The troupe presents regular performances of short excerpts in the Tea House Theatre, illustrating a wide range of vocal and musical styles, and applying what they have learnt in full-length performances.

Freespace continued to extend its ongoing partnerships and programmes. In 2018/19, the District expanded its collaboration with the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in a broad range of areas, including performances, workshops, co-productions and community engagement activities.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to WKCD Board for their exceptional leadership and valued expertise. My salute also goes to the entire WKCD team and the District's partners for their professionalism and concerted efforts in implementing project delivery, and pursuing artistic and cultural excellence.

Looking forward, the challenges are only going to get bigger but I am confident that, our energy and ingenuity will make the District a showcase for all that is good about Hong Kong in the creative sector, allowing us to take a place among the recognised cultural districts worldwide.

Duncan PESCOD, GBS, JP

栢志高, GBS, JP

Chief Executive Officer of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

西九文化區管理局行政總裁

Hong Kong, 10 September 2019

香港，2019年9月10日

本財政年度結束時，M+項目的結構工程已大致完成。管理局預計M+大樓可望於2020年3月完工，而博物館則將於9至12個月後開幕，好讓博物館大樓的環境條件有充足時間穩定下來，並將藏品帶到香港和整裝，迎接首個展覽活動。

為了使西九促進和加強香港、中國內地以致世界各地文化交流合作的目標得以實現，管理局年內大力培育藝術人才，將本地與國際藝術家連繫並匯聚一起。

M+於2018年11月成立希克獎，藉此表彰大中華地區傑出的藝術實踐。此獎乃是直接承繼烏利·希克博士於1997年創立的中國當代藝術獎。M+將中國當代藝術獎納入為M+項目，希望打造希克獎成為區內重要的藝術獎項，向更廣闊的國際觀眾領域展示，推動M+成為區內塑造當代藝術史的先驅，以及培養和提升公眾對視覺文化的興趣。

在戲曲中心的茶館劇場，戲曲新晉演員和樂師可透過參與茶館新星劇團(戲曲中心的駐場劇團)盡展所長，在他們熱愛的藝術範疇中學習和發展。劇團定期在茶館劇場演出折子戲、粵曲演唱和音樂演奏，並將學習所得的知識技巧展現於演出中。

自由空間將繼續擴展夥伴合作，推出更多節目。於2018/19年度，西九與香港演藝學院開展了多項合作，當中包括籌辦表演、工作坊、聯合製作和社區參與活動。

在此，我向董事局表達衷心謝意，感謝他們的出色領導和寶貴專業意見。我亦謹此向整個管理局團隊以及西九各個合作夥伴致敬，感謝他們在推展項目以及追求卓越藝術文化時所展現的專業精神和團結努力。

展望未來，我們將面對更大的挑戰，但我有信心，憑藉我們的力量與智慧，西九將會精益求精，展示香港創意社群的無限創造力，讓西九躋身成為獲全球肯定和支持的文化區之一。