

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT 主席報告



This was a remarkable year for the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA or the Authority). I am delighted to report that during the year, the West Kowloon Cultural District (West Kowloon or the District) reached a number of key milestones in its development and made great progress towards becoming one of the most vibrant arts and cultural hubs in the world.

As Hong Kong's first performing arts venue dedicated to promoting the rich heritage of xiqu, the Xiqu Centre has become a new landmark in Hong Kong. I am thrilled to see how well the Xiqu Centre has been received by not only Cantonese opera fans, but also the general public in Hong Kong, as well as international guests. The Authority will continue to offer a wide variety of programmes and activities to encourage and foster discovery and appreciation of this unique traditional art form.

今個財政年度對於西九文化區管理局(管理局)來說，是非常出色的一年。我很高興報告西九文化區(西九)在本年度創下了多個重要的里程碑，並且在發展成為全球其中一個最具活力的藝術文化樞紐上，取得了顯著進展。

作為本港首個專為推廣戲曲這項豐富文化遺產而設的表演藝術場地，戲曲中心已經成為香港的新地標。看見戲曲中心不僅廣受粵劇愛好者的愛戴，而且還得到香港普羅大眾以至世界各地訪客的歡迎，實在令人振奮。管理局未來將繼續舉辦和提供不同形式的節目和活動，鼓勵及促進各界去探索和欣賞這門獨特的傳統藝術。

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I am also delighted to witness the opening of the second phase of the Promenade area in the Art Park in March 2019 and see work on our second major performing arts venue – Freespace – progressing well. As its name suggests, Freespace will be a creative venue, where artists and audiences can engage, exchange ideas, and explore the endless possibilities of performing arts with no boundaries. A series of new programmes are being planned to fully utilise the flexibility and possibilities of the venue. I am confident that Freespace will become one of the most popular and instrumental creative spaces in the city.

另外，我非常高興能夠見證藝術公園內第二期海濱長廊於2019年3月正式對外開放，以及西九區內第二個主要表演藝術場地——自由空間——的工作進展良好。顧名思義，自由空間是一個創意場地，讓藝術家與觀眾舉行不同活動、交流意念、突破表演藝術界限。自由空間將按計劃推出一系列全新節目，以充分發揮場地的靈活性和潛能。我深信，自由空間將會成為香港最受歡迎和最具啟發性的創意空間之一。

The Xiqu Centre is the first major performing arts venue in the District. Its opening marks a new chapter in the West Kowloon story, as we advance from the construction phase to the operational phase.

戲曲中心是西九文化區首個主要表演藝術場地。戲曲中心的開幕為整個西九故事揭開新一頁，亦標誌西九已由建造階段邁進營運階段。

The Authority continued to enhance the District's programme line-up to develop the capacity of our arts and cultural sector, expand the District's audience base, engage the community, and nurture young artists.

管理局繼續加強西九的節目陣容，促進本地文化藝術界的發展能力、拓闊西九的觀眾基礎、鼓勵社區參與及培育青年藝術家。

To facilitate cultural exchange and cooperation, the Authority signed cooperation agreements with four of its Shanghai peers in August 2018. This helps strengthen our relationship with our Shanghai counterparts and promote artistic creation and development. The Authority also formed strong partnerships with the Hong Kong Arts Development Council and other local and international arts institutions to facilitate the long-term development of Hong Kong as an international arts and cultural metropolis.

為了促進文化交流與合作，管理局於2018年8月與上海四個文化藝術界合作夥伴簽署合作協議，加強我們與上海藝術文化界的關係，推動藝術創作和發展。此外，管理局亦與香港藝術發展局以及其他本地和國際藝術機構建立了堅穩的合作，一起促進香港成為國際藝術文化大都會的長遠發展。

To champion artists to a global audience, we ventured far and wide. For example, through M+, in November 2018 in Beijing, we launched the Sigg Prize, which recognises outstanding artistic practice in the Greater China region.

為了引領藝術家面向全球觀眾，我們的工作不受地域阻隔。例如透過M+，於2018年11月在北京成立了希克獎，藉以表彰大中華地區傑出的藝術實踐。

There was solid progress in the development of other major venues in the District. The main works for the Lyric Theatre Complex commenced in November 2018. And the contract for the superstructure of the Hong Kong Palace Museum project was awarded in March 2019.

西九區內其他主要場地的發展亦有實質推進。演藝綜合劇場的主要工程於2018年11月動工。香港故宮文化博物館項目的主上蓋工程合約亦於2019年3月批出。

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Despite the generally positive year, we had a major hitch with developments on M+ and we had to take the extraordinary step of terminating the employment of the original main contractor under the terms of the contract. This was not an easy decision for the Board and it put the Authority's planning and perseverance to the test. I am pleased that the Management made its best efforts to conquer the challenges and moved quickly to appoint a replacement contractor to get the M+ project back on track. Now, we are closer than ever to delivering a permanent home for M+'s distinguished collections and for a wide range of exhibitions and programmes.

As the other facilities in the District come on stream, their operations will have a major impact on the Authority's financial situation in the coming years. In preparation for this, the Authority started building its operational strength, in particular the commercial aspects of the project by kicking off the ACE (Art, Commerce and Exhibitions) development, comprising an exhibition centre, a hotel, rental offices, and Retail, Dining and Entertainment (RDE) facilities. More of the Hotel/Office/Residential (HOR) plots will be released in coming years as we move to build the income necessary to sustain the West Kowloon development.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow WKCDA Board Members, and the members of the Committees, the Subsidiaries and the Consultation Panel and other Panels for their invaluable insight and support. I would also like to express my gratitude to the entire WKCDA team for their tireless efforts, without which the progress I have described would not have been possible.

I believe that investment in arts and culture brings considerable tangible and intangible social benefits. As the Authority moves further into the operational phase, we are excited to play an increasingly important role in providing Hong Kong with new opportunities in respect of artistic and cultural appreciation, enhancing community identity and expression, and improving the quality of life for the people. We are ready to take on all the challenges that await our arts and cultural scene to continue to develop the District into a vibrant and dynamic cultural site for the people of Hong Kong, as well as a must-see tourist attraction.

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Chairman of the Board of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority
西九文化區管理局董事局主席

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儘管年內各方面發展順利，我們在推展M+項目時亦遇到一些波折，以致我們不得不採取一些特別措施，根據合約條款終止原有主要工程合約承建商的聘用。對董事局來說，這是一個不容易的決定，亦對管理局的規劃以及一直的堅持帶來考驗。我很高興管理層作出了最大努力，成功克服這次挑戰，並迅速委聘了替代承建商，令M+項目的發展重回正軌。目前，我們已朝着目標再邁進一大步，M+無與倫比的館藏將會很快有永久的藏址，而M+各樣展覽和活動，也將有恒常的舉辦地點。

隨着西九各場地相繼營運，各項設施陸續啟用，將對管理局未來數年的財務狀況帶來重要的影響。為了未雨綢繆，管理局已經著手增強我們的營運能力，尤其是在商業項目方面，開展ACE(藝術、商業和展覽)發展，當中包括展覽中心、酒店、出租辦公室和零售、餐飲和消閒(RDE)設施。未來數年，西九將會推出更多酒店／辦公室／住宅用地，增加收入來源，讓西九持續發展。

我希望藉此機會感謝管理局董事局各位成員，以及各個委員會、附屬公司、諮詢會及其他小組的成員，就他們所提出的寶貴意見和支持，致以衷心謝意。此外，我亦希望向整個管理局團隊致以謝忱，若果沒有他們的努力不懈，以上的發展成績均無法實現。

我相信，投資藝術文化可以為社會帶來巨大的有形和無形效益。隨着管理局已經進入營運階段，西九正期待能夠在社會各方面發揮日益重要的作用，包括為香港提供更多欣賞藝術文化的新機會，鼓勵發表藝術文化意見以提升社區歸屬感，以及改善市民生活質素。作為香港藝術文化領域一分子，我們已為迎接未來挑戰作好準備，繼續將西九發展成為一個充滿活力動感的文化天地，以及一個香港市民及旅客必到的景點。