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STATEMENT

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**THE NEW ADMINISTRATION
AND I ARE FULLY
COMMITTED TO REALISING
THE VISION OF WKCD**

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THE HONOURABLE MRS CARRIE LAM, GBS, JP
Chairman

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I am pleased to present the Annual Report 2011/12 of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority ("WKCD").

The West Kowloon Cultural District ("WKCD") project has reached a new milestone in the year under review. The year witnessed commencement of the design competition for the first arts facility in the District, the Xiqu Centre, following the conclusion of the master plan preparation. At the same time, the first arts programme organised by WKCD – the West Kowloon Bamboo Theatre – successfully heralded our audience and capacity building initiatives to animate the site.

I feel privileged to take up the chairmanship of the Board of WKCD at this exciting juncture of the project. I am grateful to my two predecessors, Mr Henry Tang and Mr Stephen Lam, for achieving significant progress in the project under their leadership.

The new Administration and I are fully committed to realising the vision of WKCD and prepared to bring the project to new heights and to deliver concrete results over the term of this Government.

Through the progress we have made, and the public and stakeholder engagement activities we have conducted over the past few years, I am heartened that the community has embraced this project and expressed a desire for the project to proceed in full steam.

Our proposed Development Plan, which was submitted to the Town Planning Board in December 2011, received support among the general public during the month-long Stage 3 Public Engagement Exercise conducted in autumn last year – a testimony that the District is planned and built in line with the expectations of the public and the stakeholders.

But we still have a long way to go. That is why we are working very hard to make sure that all Hong Kong people and tourists visiting Hong Kong will be able to enjoy the arts and cultural content of WKCD when it is developed over the next 10 years.

With this in mind, we have lost no time in launching the Xiqu Centre Design Competition to meet our intention to complete the facility before 2016. The competition has met with very positive response and we have a good pool of world-class architectural practices to select from to design and administer the project. We have scheduled to launch more competitions before the end of this year, including the flagship visual culture museum M+ and one of the Pavilions, providing opportunities for all design practices, be they established or young ones, to stretch their innovative mind to create landmark buildings on this 40 hectares of land.

The development of WKCD is a complicated project, which requires close liaison with Government departments and other public services on many construction and interfacing issues. Notable progress has been made on this front and we will continue to work with them to meet the facilities delivery timeline.

Animating the site and building audiences and capacity were another focus of our work during the year under review. Our maiden arts and cultural programmes – the West Kowloon Bamboo Theatre launched during the last Chinese New Year, and the subsequent "nomadic" exhibition Mobile M+: Yau Ma Tei – were enthusiastically received and successfully enhanced our rapport with the community. More capacity building programmes to be conducted in the District are being planned for the remainder of the calendar year.

In June this year, our vision was given a further vote of confidence by the world famous Swiss collector Dr Uli Sigg, who decided to donate his life-long collection of Chinese contemporary art to M+, the flagship visual culture museum in WKCD. Dr Sigg's collection is one of the most comprehensive and most significant Chinese contemporary art collections in the world and his donation is also the largest of its kind to a single museum in recent history.

We are very pleased to welcome Dr Sigg's collection to Hong Kong. His collection, which has documented an important period of contemporary art development in Mainland China, will send a strong signal of our ambition of becoming the cultural hub in Asia and strengthening our exchanges with our friends around the world.

The progress made in both hardware and software development has laid down a solid foundation for the development of WKCD in the years to come. With the project entering an intensive development phase, we will continue the prudent management of the \$21.6 billion public endowment to develop WKCD, and make sure it will be put to optimal use.

I am glad to see that the management team, under the able leadership of Chief Executive Officer Michael Lynch, has worked effectively and closely together to achieve WKCD's mission. Though the road ahead is long and challenging, they are confident that with the support of the Board, the Government and the public, this project will be a success.

I wish to thank all members of the Board, the Committees, the Consultation Panel, staff of WKCD and my Government colleagues for the time and effort they have devoted to this challenging project. I also want to express my whole-hearted thanks to members of the public who have given us their views on WKCD. With their support and encouragement, we will continue to build the District where both our own citizens and our guests can be immersed in a cultural atmosphere and enjoy their time.



The Honourable Mrs Carrie LAM, GBS, JP
Chairman of the Board of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority
Hong Kong, 16 August 2012