

OUTLOOK

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The Project has made substantive progress both in terms of hardware and capacity building during the year under review.

The statutory planning process is now at an advanced stage and we are making good progress in appointing a design team to administer the first arts venue project, the Xiqu Centre. If all goes well, we can start “digging” in 2013 to deliver the first batch of facilities – the Xiqu Centre, part of the Park together with a platform for contemporary performances – starting from 2015.

Meanwhile, capacity building for the Authority’s arts and culture team is going full steam ahead with some significant appointments to key positions. This has put the Authority in good stead to engage and build rapport with the arts sector as well as the community as a whole.

The West Kowloon Bamboo Theatre over Chinese New Year period and the subsequent “nomadic” exhibition in Yau Ma Tei were met with applause from the arts and cultural sector

and the local community, but the events also gained us valuable experience in organising outdoor events, paving the way for a greater variety of programming as we take possession of temporary sites in the District.

The WKCD project received a significant boost in June 2012 when the Authority received a donation of 1,463 Chinese contemporary artworks valued conservatively at HK\$1.3 billion by Dr Uli Sigg of Switzerland, the world’s leading collector of Chinese contemporary art. The donation caught the world’s attention and was hailed as a strong validation of the Authority’s vision in making WKCD a world class arts hub with modern Chinese collections that are unmatched in depth, scope and quality.

We are encouraged by these developments and are grateful for the support stakeholders and the public had accorded us. And their resounding call for early implementation will spur us to move on steadfastly to meet the anticipation of the people of Hong Kong.