

A solid foundation has been laid for the development of the WKCD project during the year with the conclusion of the Development Plan and the launch of design stages for individual facilities.

The chosen design team for the Xiqu Centre project is working closely with WKCDA management as well as stakeholders to finalise the design. Construction works will begin later this year to complete the first facility around the end of 2016.

At the same time, the public programmes organised by the Authority's Performing Arts and M+ teams successfully put the WKCD name firmly on Hong Kong's cultural landscape, winning acclaim from local and international media and provoking discussion, not only in the arts community, but on conventional and new media, about "what is art" in a Hong Kong context.

Increasing construction costs and the financial challenge in building "world-class" core arts and cultural facilities continue to be a major concern, not only within the Authority, but also to the public at large.

To this end, the Authority's management team is exercising stringent cost control and working closely with the Government to come up with rigorous yet pragmatic measures to mitigate the situation and put them into practice after consultation with stakeholders and the legislature.

We are encouraged by the Administration's resolve to carry through the project as summarised by the Chief Executive in his 2013 Policy Address in which he said: "We will continue to give strong support to the WKCDA in implementing the project to set up arts and cultural facilities and enhance cultural software in tandem. Despite rising construction costs, we will

adhere to our original plan. We are confident that the future WKCD will develop into a world-class hub of arts and culture."

We are also grateful for the support from the arts community and the public as exemplified by the generous donations by collectors and artists to M+ and the patronage by the public at our programmes. Their support will further reaffirm our resolve to build a cultural district that can live up to their expectation.

Three Hundred  
and Sixty-five Days  
One Focus.