

City Park Guide

Pull-out map and
wall poster inside



A Day in the Life

The adventures of a
family in City Park



FOSTER TIMES

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Hong Kong's new City Park



Foster +Partners masterplan for City Park focuses on public spaces and connections to Kowloon

230,000

square metres

of ground level open space
including a 19 hectare park
with over 5,000 trees

[Read more on page 2 >>](#)

32,000

square metres

of arts and cultural
software, double
the original allocation

[Read more on page 3 >>](#)

16,000

job opportunities

in various sectors
from cultural to
commercial and retail

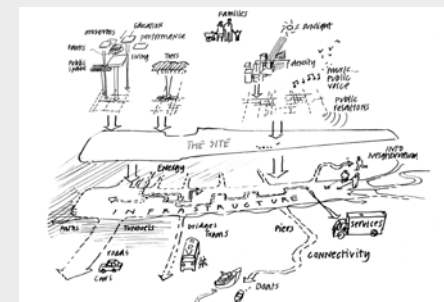
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Cities are defined by their parks, their public spaces, their streets, their laneways; by their ordinary buildings and their civic jewels.

We have created the framework for an urban quarter in West Kowloon with all these ingredients – a magnificent waterfront park, iconic cultural venues, colonnaded avenues, tree-lined streets and intimate lanes; green spaces offering tranquillity, and urban spaces that are inspired by the energy and rich mix of Kowloon.

'Iconic, world class
and for everyone –
this is our mission'

Norman Foster



All these are supported by a network of roads and services below ground and an elevated public transport system above, and the whole quarter is carbon neutral.

In Brief

Culture for all



Our pull-out map and aerial poster will help you to explore many of the cultural places and special features of City Park. The district has something for everyone; a picnic in the park, a quick lunch, a night at the opera and many other activities.

[Read more on page 3 >>](#)

Green and Sustainable

Discover what the enormous new waterfront park at West Kowloon has to offer everyone, whether they are locals or visitors, and how it is bringing the countryside to the heart of the city. And find out more about the sustainable strategies that will help to make City Park a blueprint for the cities of the future.

[Read more on page 2 >>](#)

Connected and Accessible

Getting to City Park is very easy, whether it's by rail, road, water, or foot. Once you arrive, the sky-rail and biobuses are a convenient way of getting around and all traffic is below ground so you can walk everywhere with ease, along streets and laneways that echo the energy and DNA of the rest of Kowloon.

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'Fosters' designs have two qualities not normally associated with each other – scale and intimacy. A grand plan as the servant of details... the individual in perspective... a soulful experience for futurescapes. These are the ways forward for modern cities... and they rock.'

Bono

This publication is part of the WKCD Stage 2 Public Engagement exercise. See www.wkcda.hk for more details.

The Sustainable Vision

Hong Kong countryside comes to West Kowloon



Relaxing in City Park

One of the great things about Hong Kong is that beyond the world-famous skyline of towers is a wonderful natural world of forested hillsides, lush valleys and rugged coastlines. The undulating terrain of City Park reflects these landscapes and is planted with the same types of trees as well as a variety of exotic specimens. The groves of trees become closer as you move into the park, forming a dense canopy that provides plenty of shade on a hot day.

The 19 hectare park brings the sights, sounds and senses of Hong Kong’s hinterland into the heart of the city and will be the first part of the district to open. Some of the things you will be able to do are relax in a tranquil sculpture garden, have tea in a pavilion, or enjoy a picnic on the waterfront. A shaded promenade winds along the harbour to the “green rooms” in front of the urban area, which link it with the intimate piazzas scattered throughout the city blocks.



M+ Plaza



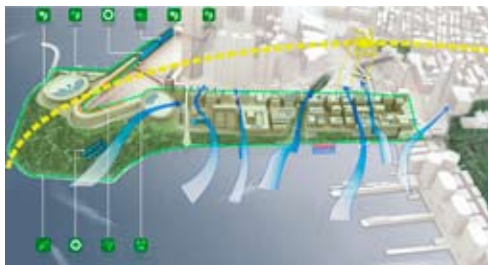
Traffic is below ground so you can walk around with ease

Towards a zero carbon city

We have taken a number of steps to ensure that City Park brings environmental and economic benefits to Hong Kong. “Our approach is holistic. Sustainability must take into account not just buildings but infrastructure – particularly transport, because buildings and the movement of people accounts for 70% of the energy we consume,” explains Norman Foster. Our strategy incorporates all aspects of the district, from the arrangement of its buildings to integrating waste and water recycling systems, and how buildings can be designed to reduce the amount of energy they use as well as using renewable energy sources. Traffic, parking and servicing is below ground to make it easier for you to walk around at ground level, and the new public transport system is less than six minutes walk from any part of the district.



Energy centre



Solar and wind power



Waste recycling



City Park

Foster + Partners

23 hectares of green open space and a thriving urban quarter connecting to Kowloon and Victoria Harbour.



Arena & Exhibition Centre
The Arena is located above the Exhibition Centre, bringing two compatible functions together within one compact form.



Opera House
This world-class venue is located in a vibrant plaza at the end of the main avenue where the city meets the park.

Arts Schools
A broad range of additional facilities will support cultural software initiatives such as education and training and will enhance the arts ecology of City Park and Hong Kong.

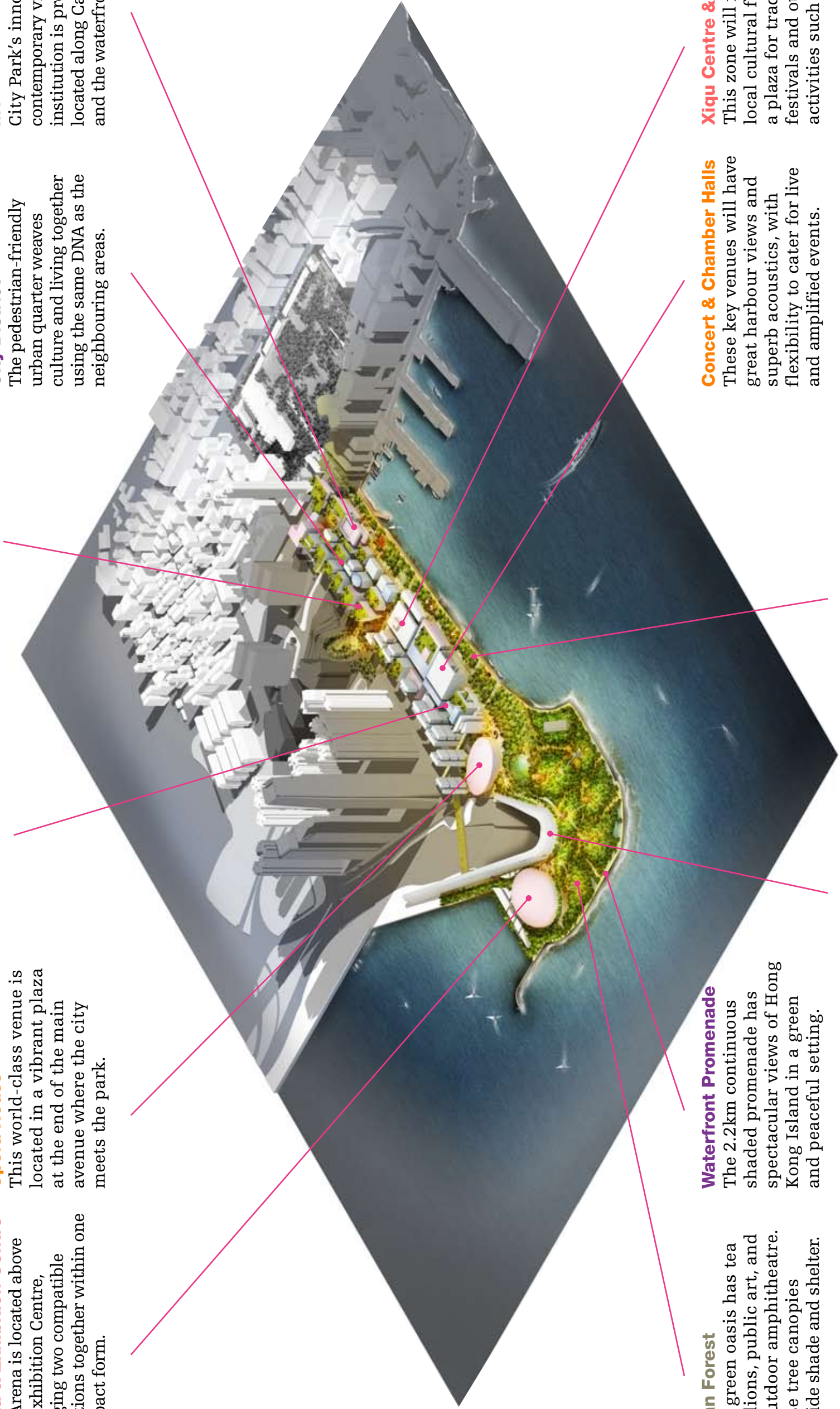
Knowledge Centre
Incorporating a multimedia library, an art archive and a literary archive, this centre will provide a link between culture and education for locals and visitors.



City District
The pedestrian-friendly urban quarter weaves culture and living together using the same DNA as the neighbouring areas.



M+
City Park's innovative contemporary visual arts institution is prominently located along Canton Road and the waterfront.



Urban Forest
This green oasis has tea pavilions, public art, and an outdoor amphitheatre. Dense tree canopies provide shade and shelter.



Waterfront Promenade
The 2.2km continuous shaded promenade has spectacular views of Hong Kong Island in a green and peaceful setting.



Hotel
This curving structure is a buffer against the noise of the tunnel and has a hotel with spectacular views over the park to harbour.

Green Rooms
These distinctive urban gardens slope down to the waterfront from the urban area and the major cultural venues.

Concert & Chamber Halls
These key venues will have great harbour views and superb acoustics, with flexibility to cater for live and amplified events.



Xiqu Centre & Plaza
This zone will focus on local cultural forms, with a plaza for traditional festivals and other activities such as tai chi.



Culture and Living

Arts education leads new proposals

You told us that cultural software should be an important part of the vision for this district, so we have created an additional 17,000 square metres for cultural education facilities on top of the 15,000 square metres that has already been allocated.

“Education is a vital part of the cultural district, if we are to ensure that it is sustainable and of its place”, says Spencer de Grey of Foster + Partners. “We must engage young people – it is from these seeds that the district can grow and become an

international centre of creative excellence.”

These proposals are a unique opportunity for Hong Kong to nurture the artists of tomorrow and to inspire a new generation of educators. Low-cost, flexible rehearsal spaces and exhibition venues (“black boxes” and “white cubes”) will mix with schools for performing and visual arts and recording and post-production facilities. Artistic communities and creative professionals will be supported by a dedicated centre for exchange of ideas.



Connecting with Kowloon

City Park will form strong links with the rest of Kowloon.

Its streets and buildings will reflect the urban fabric of neighbouring areas, and the park will connect to a network of green spaces throughout the peninsula, with the potential for the waterfront promenade to be extended in future.

Traffic and services are located below ground; this infrastructure base will allow the city above to be developed in an organic and flexible way.

Getting to City Park is easy. Covered bridges connect pedestrians to Austin and Kowloon Stations, and a plaza extends over Austin Road to West Kowloon Terminus. A green bridge to Kowloon Park will create a combined continuous open space of 40 hectares. The ferry pier is conveniently located for arrival by water. An elevated rail and a biobus service will stop at the major gateways and could potentially connect to neighbouring areas.

Something for everyone

City Park is for everyone.

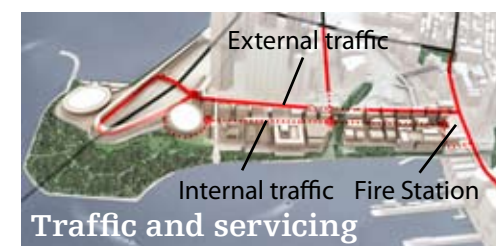
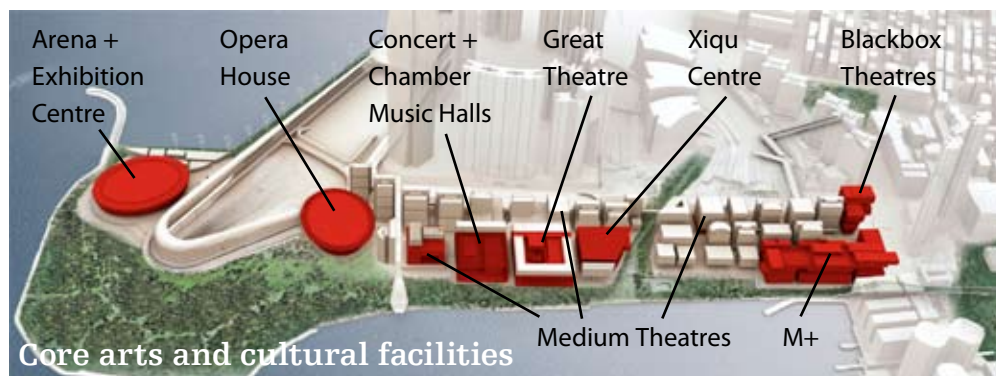
It brings together all aspects of life – culture, learning, shopping, dining, relaxing, living, working and having fun. All these activities are mixed together to generate an energy that reflects the dynamic nature of Kowloon’s streets.

Shopping and dining: at the heart of the urban area is a shaded avenue running from east to west and lined with colonnades. Strolling down it and through the network of lane-ways around it, you will find a variety of places to shop, dine and have fun.

Living and working: the urban area will have a wide range of flexible spaces to live, work and stay, with a variety of residential accommodation and the potential for 16,000 job opportunities. Several small hotels will be centrally located and also in the buffer building wrapping around the tunnel portal, which will have great views over the park to the skyline on the other side of the harbour.

Culture: the main cultural venues are embedded within the urban area, amplifying the creative energy of the district and creating a rich mix. The blackbox theatres are located at the corner of Canton and Austin Roads and will be the first cultural facilities to open; next door M+ is the gateway to the district from Canton Road. The iconic Opera House is located at the other end of the avenue, where the city meets the park. Along the waterfront are more civic jewels – the Concert Hall and Chamber Music Hall, the Great Theatre, and the Xiqu Centre, which will foster local cultural forms. The Arena and Exhibition Centre are located together and are close to public transport but well away from any areas that might be sensitive to noise.

All these core venues will be supplemented by the cultural software facilities supporting education and participation, which will help to nurture the arts ecology of the district and Hong Kong.



Comment

Responding to Hong Kong

During our 31 years in Hong Kong, we have absorbed the special qualities that make this city unique. We have listened to your aspirations for this district and sense the hope that it will transform Hong Kong on many different levels. Some key themes that have informed our plan are:

- **Innovative and inspiring:** blending aspects of cultural life, from traditional festivals to contemporary events, and finding new ways to engage audiences and encourage participation.

- **World class:** in terms of design, venues, and opportunities.
- **Responsive:** to the history and diversity of Hong Kong and to the needs of local arts and creative communities.
- **Accessible:** physically, socially, economically, culturally, for all.
- **Sustainable:** environmentally, socially and economically.
- **Unmissable!** Asia's must-see cultural destination, positioning Hong Kong as a leader in the arts and as a great place to live, work and play.



Sir Norman Rosenthal

Curator

Dr Jane Cheung

Arts Educator

Johnson Chang

Curator

Anthony Sargent

General Director
The Sage
Gateshead

"Culture, in its widest sense can make a huge contribution to the financial success and well-being of this great city. One only needs to compare the geo-political position of Hong Kong to either London, Paris or New York, all cities with large populations, a deeply rich cultural life and also many 'stages', to realize the importance of this project."

"This is what has been missing in Hong Kong. With arts education at its core, the district will encourage Hong Kong's arts and cultural sectors to flourish and to participate on the world stage. By encouraging interaction between performer and public, teacher and students, and between the artists themselves, this can become a meeting place for creative enterprise and cultural debate."

"The district is the best hope for this city to find a prominent position among cultural cities of the world – provided it is done with a global vision and an awareness of the pivotal role played by art and culture. Critically, the foundation is a clear understanding and definition of the 'Hong Kong' Chinese character – without the oriental clichés – so a spirit of place can be brought back to West Kowloon."

"The original vision for WKCD was already one of the world's most ambitious cultural developments. This new masterplan has the capacity to make a genuine cultural centre which is engaged in investing in Hong Kong's future."

The new facilities such as the Centre for Arts and Creative Industries, the Knowledge Centre, the music and art schools, and studios for arts, crafts, music, dance and other performing arts, recording and post-production create some entirely new opportunities: to provide vocational training, to use the arts in other social contexts, and to use the "professional" venues as a learning resource for young people.

Cultural centres with lots of students, young people and children are far more family-friendly and find that the energy of the young people gives back to the adult audiences that precious sense of discovery and excitement."



Foster forms expert Board of Advisors

"Architects, however important, should not alone be left in charge. They need to work with those people who are to use the facilities that are being proposed both by politicians and architects," says Sir Norman Rosenthal.

Foster + Partners has established a unique Advisory Board made up of leading practitioners and thinkers from the worlds of

art and culture, including artists, performers, curators, writers, educators and policy-makers from Hong Kong and around the world. This pool of knowledge is central to realising the ambitions for City Park to become a global cultural hub that also showcases Hong Kong's unique local characteristics; a place that can be enjoyed by locals and visitors alike, and will nurture the city's arts ecology.



A night time view from Hong Kong Island towards the vibrant new cultural district.

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