

TOWN PLANNING BOARD

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Xiqu Centre and M+ of the
West Kowloon Cultural District

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PURPOSE

This paper aims to inform Members on the design and development of Xiqu Centre and M+ (**Plan 1**) within the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD).

BACKGROUND

2. In accordance with the provision of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority Ordinance, the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA) submitted the Development Plan (DP) to the Town Planning Board on 30 December 2011. With the completion of the representation consideration process, the draft DP was approved by the Chief Executive in Council on 8 January 2013 under the Town Planning Ordinance.

3. Xiqu Centre and M+, which are identified as city landmarks and earmarked for iconic design under the DP, will be delivered as part of the first batch facilities of WKCD. International design competitions were held between 2012 and 2013 to select the architects and designs for these two landmark buildings.

XIQU CENTRE

4. Xiqu Centre will be a world-class performing arts venue built specifically for xiqu (Chinese opera) performances, and a centre for the production, education and research of this unique art form. Xiqu Centre will provide a platform to preserve and reinvent Cantonese opera and Chinese traditional theatre for Hong Kong and beyond. It will showcase

different xiqu styles, nurture new artists and build new audiences for this art form.

5. Located at the eastern edge of the WKCD and at the junction of Canton Road and Austin Road West, Xiqu Centre falls within the “Other Specified Uses” annotated “Arts, Cultural, Entertainment and Commercial Uses (5)” sub-zone on the DP. The proposed GFA and building height for Xiqu Centre are within the restrictions stipulated for this zone, i.e. a maximum GFA of 29 900m² and a maximum building height of 70mPD. Xiqu Centre will house a 1 100-seat main theatre and a 200-seat tea house with a performance stage. The Centre will serve different functions from commissioning performances to collaborative projects, and provide training and educational facilities as well as public leisure space for the general public to enjoy.

6. Following an international design competition, the winning design team of a joint venture partnership between Bing Thom Architects and Ronald Lu & Partners (Hong Kong) Ltd was appointed in December 2012. The construction of the foundation works of Xiqu Centre is progressing well and the development is generally in line with the project programme (**Annex 1**). Xiqu Centre is scheduled for completion in 2016.

M+

7. The M+ museum, focusing on 20th and 21st century visual culture, will accommodate exhibition spaces and create interdisciplinary exchange between the visual arts and the performing arts in the District. It will provide spaces for artists to meet, exhibit and experiment and house a world-class permanent visual culture collection of Hong Kong, Chinese, Asian and beyond in all its forms, providing and presenting multiple and flexible platforms for multidisciplinary programming, exploring art, design, architecture and the moving image.

8. Situated at the eastern edge of the Park of WKCD, M+ falls within the “Other Specified Uses” annotated “Arts, Cultural, Entertainment and Commercial Uses (2)” sub-zone on the DP. The maximum GFA for this sub-zone is 190 500m² which also covers other arts and cultural venues such as Lyric Theatre and Music Centre. The site for M+ development is mainly subject to a maximum building height of 100mPD with a small portion at the southeastern corner limited to 70mPD. The GFA of the museum building is around 60 000m² and the building height is within the restrictions of 70mPD and 100mPD. Facilities will include display spaces, a learning centre, a moving image centre, a research centre, museum shops and cafes, creators’ studios and outdoor green spaces. Conservation and storage facilities will be accommodated in an ancillary building to the north.

9. Following an international design competition, the WKCDA announced the appointment of Herzog & de Meuron Basel Ltd, TFP Farrells Ltd and Ove Arup & Partners HK Ltd, a joint venture of three leading architectural / engineering practices in the world. The M+ scheme design is being finalised. Scheduled for completion in late 2017, good progress is being made with the M+ project generally in line with the project programme (**Annex 1**).

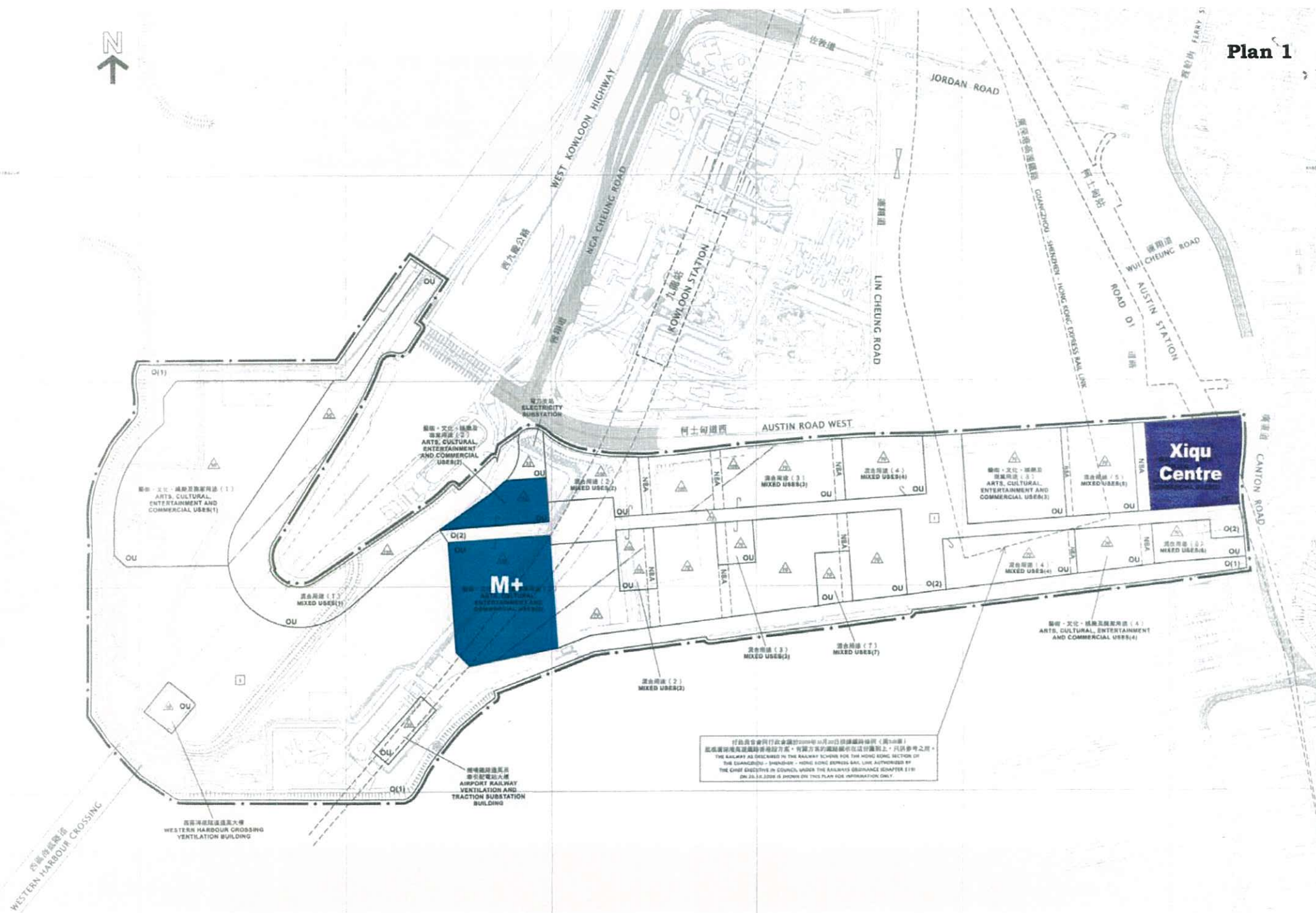
ADVICE SOUGHT

10. Members are invited to note the design and development of Xiqu Centre and M+.

Attachments

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| Plan 1 | Location of Xiqu Centre and M+ within WKCD |
| Annex 1 | Project Programme of Xiqu Centre and M+ |

West Kowloon Cultural District Authority
March 2014



PROJECT PROGRAMME

