

# West Kowloon Cultural District

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2014 continued to be a year of financial pressure for the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCD) while it progressed towards its goals of partial-opening in 2017. At the beginning of the year, with the objectives of increasing income and reducing expenditure, WKCD suggested raising the plot ratio to accommodate bigger floor area, and implementing hire-freeze. Capital available to the WKCD would only cover the construction of phases 1 and 2 facilities. When inquired about the status of the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase construction, Carrie Lam, Chief Secretary for Administration, said that it would be a waste of resources to construct such facilities should the cultural standard of Hong Kong remained to be sub-optimal. Her remarks induced aggravation from the local cultural sector. The delay of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-HongKong Express Rail Link (XRL) construction has impacted the date for the MTR Corporation to return the borrowed land to WKCD, which in turn pushes back the construction schedule of the West Kowloon Cultural District (the District). In February 2015, Michael Lynch, Chief Executive Officer, tendered his resignation. Lynch would leave the post from August 3, 2015.

M+, Museum for Visual Culture (M+), continued to collaborate with the Hong Kong Arts Development Council to play the curating role for “Venice Biennale 2015”. It also presented a series of “M+ Matters” forums to drive academic discussions on museology.

Information:

- News coverage. For details please refer to Chinese version.
- WKCD website: <http://www.westkowloon.hk>

## 2014/01

### • On January 10

M+ presented “Building M+: The Museum and Architecture Collection”, its first architecture exhibition, at ArtisTree, Taikoo Place, Quarry Bay. Over 100 pieces from M+'s collection were displayed, including the first-time showing of other shortlisted concepts in the “M+ Design Competition”.<sup>1</sup>

### • On January 15

The WKCD Board announced the re-appointment of existing members and the appointment of ten co-opted members to its committees and subcommittees. The term of appointment will run until December 31, 2014. The newly-appointed Johnson Chang and David Clarke are now members of the Museum Committee. Sabrina Fung, Kan Tai-keung, Vincent Lo and Ellen Pau have been appointed members of the Interim Acquisition Committee.<sup>2</sup>

### • On January 17

WKCD announced that M+ has received a donation of 37 works of Chinese contemporary art by Guan Yi, a collector based in the region.<sup>3</sup>

### • On January 21

According to *Tai Kung Pao*, WKCD submitted a proposal to the “Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West

Kowloon Cultural District Project” to raise the plot ratio of the District, with the objective of increasing the income to be generated from the land. A surveyor pointed out that if the proposal was approved, the buildings within the District would be highly condensed, resulting in a congested environment.<sup>4</sup>

To ease the deficit situation, WKCD announced to deploy the newly added land area for catering and artists’ accommodation facilities, as reported in *The Sun* and the *Oriental Daily*. Those facilities were expected to bring in regular income. WKCD office will also be relocated to within the District so that operation cost would be reduced. WKCD has engaged consultants to conduct evaluation on the impact on traffic, environment, ventilation, and visual aesthetic. Related reports would be submitted to the Town Planning Board for deliberation.<sup>5</sup>

- **On January 23**

WKCD announced that “VPANG architects ltd + JET Architecture Inc + Lisa Cheung”, after awarding first prize in the single stage international design competition, has been appointed to design the “Arts Pavilion” in the District.<sup>6</sup>

The Arts Pavilion will be located along the front of the Victoria Harbor, interconnected to the outdoor environment. Large-scale exhibitions could extend from within the Pavilion to the outside.

2014/02

- **On February 13**

“You.” was jointly presented by M+ and Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC). This exhibition was a continuation of “You(you).” by Lee Kit in Hong Kong’s Participation at the 55th Venice Biennale. “You.” would run between March 6 to April 13 at the Cattle Depot, To Kwa Wan, Kowloon.<sup>7</sup>

- **On February 17**

The WKCD Board held its 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting. CEO Michael Lynch reported the latest development of the District. In the meeting, Lynch was re-appointed as the CEO, effective from July 25, 2014. The Board also agreed to create a “Chief Operating Officer” position.<sup>8</sup>

*Sing Tao Daily* and *Tai Kung Pao* reported that the M+ team had organized “Right is Wrong”, a contemporary Chinese art exhibition. Among the exhibits were mainly the donations from the collector Uli Sigg, complemented by other M+ collections. Lars Nittve, Executive Director of M+, told the press that M+ was planning to co-curate and present an exhibition at the Umeå Museum, Sweden, which would later be presented at the Arts Pavilion upon its completion in 2015.<sup>9</sup>

In the meantime, *The Sun* and the *Oriental Daily* reported that M+ would soon be presenting “Mobile M+: NEON SIGNS.HK”, an interactive online exhibition showcasing Hong Kong’s streetscape. Among the exhibits were “Kai Kee Mahjong”, originally located at Kwun Tong and given to M+ as a gift earlier on, and neon signs in varied designs and typefaces. The exhibition would commence on March 21.<sup>10</sup>

- **On February 18**

A number of local newspapers reported Lynch’s re-appointment as CEO of WKCD. A worldwide recruitment exercise would be conducted for the position of Chief Operating Officer. The incumbent would be responsible for business planning and operation. A Board member anticipated that the salary of the Chief Operating Officer would be similar to that of the CEO, i.e. around five million dollars.<sup>11</sup>

- **On February 27**

WKCD announced the re-appointment of the existing members to its Consultation Panel for a period of one year from March 1, 2014 to February 28, 2015. Leong Chi-yan John had been re-appointed as the Chairman of the Consultation Panel.<sup>12</sup>

*The Sun* and the *Oriental Daily* reported that the WKCD staff increased from 99 in 2011 to 135 in 2012, i.e. 36% increase while income increase in the same period was only 6.6%. Its staff count was the highest among all statutory organizations. Total salary expenditure was 97 million dollars. The press reported that WKCD declined to reveal further information on this subject for apprehension of its impact on recruitment in general.<sup>13</sup>

- **On February 28**

WKCD announced that a design team led by “Dennis Lau & Ng Chun Man Architects & Engineers (Hong Kong) Ltd.”, supported by landscape architects “West 8 (Netherlands) and ACLA (Hong Kong)”, has been chosen to design and manage the development of the Park in the District.<sup>14</sup>

## 2014/03

- **On March 7**

The WKCD Board held its 34<sup>th</sup> meeting. Michael Lynch reported to the Board the latest development including the appointment of a design team for the Park, the construction status of Xiqu Centre, the schematic design of M+, and responded to the Board’s inquiries.<sup>15</sup>

The *Oriental Daily* reported that in order for cost-control, WKCD expected a lower-than-inflation-ratio salary adjustment. From the tender proposals submitted for the wall construction of the Xiqu Centre, which was scheduled to commence in September 2013, it was found that the construction would be costly. The Board was looking into alternative plans.<sup>16</sup>

- **On March 12**

*Sing Tao Daily* reported that WKCD held a briefing on M+ and Xiqu Centre to the Town Planning Board and consulted its opinions.<sup>17</sup>

- **On March 20**

WKCD released information on “Mobile M+: NEONSIGNS.HK”, the seventh exhibition in the series. The exhibition would run between March 21 and June 30.<sup>18</sup> This had been reported in a few local newspapers on subsequent days.<sup>19</sup>

- **On March 25**

*Sing Tao Daily* and *Tai Kung Pao* reported that upon technical evaluation, WKCD decided to raise the overall floor area by 15%. Total floor area of different land use purposes would be increased proportionally. WKCD would appeal to the Town Planning Board to release the height restriction of some parts of the District.<sup>20</sup>

- **On March 29**

A number of local newspapers<sup>21</sup> reported WKCD’s appeal to the Town Planning Board to release floor area and height restrictions. Raymond Young, Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs, said that the profit margin of art and cultural facilities was low. The increase in development density would only satisfy the demand for such facilities but would not contribute to the financial problem of the District.

2014/04

• On April 23

According to the *Oriental Daily*, Chai Man-hon, Deputy Spokesman for Traffic Affairs of the Democratic Party, said that the Party supported the investigation of the delay of Express Rail Link (XRL) with accordance to the “Legislative Council (Powers and Privileges) Ordinance”. He would also initiate discussion about the District’s construction progress in the “Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project” meetings.<sup>22</sup>

• On April 28

The WKCD Board held its 35<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Board was notified that WKCD would be supporting, for the second year, the “Best Arts and Culture News Reporting of the Hong Kong News Awards” organized by the “Newspaper Society of Hong Kong.”<sup>23</sup>

2014/05

• On May 5

The *Hong Kong Economic Journal* reported that there would be major personnel changes in the WKCD Board in October. Out of the fifteen non-government members, eleven had served for six years and could not be further re-appointed as stipulated by related regulations. Board member Sin Chung-kai said that among all Board members, Ronald Arculli, Lam Siu-lo Andrew and Lo Chung-wing Victor had been most actively participating and their departure would have strong impact on WKCD. Legco Member Ma Fung-kuok said that the Government could extend the appointment to beyond six years under special circumstances. He believed that some of the members would stay on the Board.<sup>24</sup>

In the meantime, *Sing Tao Daily* reported that CEO Michael Lynch had expressed his intention of leaving his position upon completion of his contract terms.<sup>25</sup>

• On May 7

WKCD launched the “M+ / Design Trust Fellowship” program to recruit researchers with design and architecture expertise. WKCD hoped that the findings from the fellowship would inform future acquisitions and other programs at M+. Successful applicants would conduct three-to-six-month full-time research for M+ between September 2014 and September 2015.<sup>26</sup>

A number of local press<sup>27</sup> reported that as the carpark of the District would be located on top of the West Kowloon Station of the XRL, part of the District’s construction would be held up by the delay of the XRL and would commence only upon the completion of XRL project. Impacted sites included the Contemporary Performance Centre, Lyric Theatre, and Grand Theatre. The opening of M+ and Xiqu Centre in 2017 would remain on schedule. Michael Lynch was apprehensive to the potential cost increase as a result of XRL delay.

• On May 8

WKCD invited the public to put forward their views on the management approach of the Park in the District through an online questionnaire and a series of focus group discussions.<sup>28</sup>

• On May 12

WKCD commissioned the joint venture of “UNStudio (the Netherlands) and AD+RG (Hong Kong)” to provide consultancy services for the design and administration of the construction of the Lyric Theatre.<sup>29</sup>

Ting Wing-yan Vivian, Associate Professor, Academy of Visual Arts, Baptist University, told *Sing Tao Daily* that she found the M+ team delivering satisfactory performance even before the full team had been formed. The different exhibitions presented by M+ connected with the community with local works and daily artifacts, which invited strong attention and heated discussion in the society.<sup>30</sup>

- **On May 14**

WKCDA and M+ announced the launch of a new acquisition fund for the museum, totaling five million dollars donated by Hong Kong artist and collector Rosamond Brown. The amount will be split into ten installments to be consumed over the next ten years.<sup>31</sup>

- **On May 15**

WKCDA and M+ announced that one million US Dollars (around 7.76 million Hong Kong Dollars) had been donated by an anonymous donor for the acquisition of *Asian Field* (2003) by British artist Antony Gormley.<sup>32</sup>

In the meantime, M+ conducted its first acquisition from “Art Basel Hong Kong” with the “Brown Family Annual Acquisition Fund”<sup>33</sup>. Artworks acquired included:

*Belly Painting, (Yellow Green with Streaks)* (2004) by Byron Kim (American, b. 1961; New York)

*Memento (White Shirt)* and *Memento (She Can't Remember)* (2014) by Au Hoi-lam (Hong Kong, b. 1978)

*Cotton Rope No. 7* (2012) by Hassan Sharif (Emirati, b. 1951; Dubai, UAE)

Untitled (1975) by Kishio Suga (Japanese, b. 1944; Shizuoka)

Ho Hing-kay Oscar, Program Director of Master in Cultural Studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong, found this acquisition setting a good example of how the public could contribute to museum collections. As there is a high variety of artworks available at Art Basel, Ho believed acquiring from the art fair would enhance the flexibility in M+'s collection strategy.

- **On May 21**

The Consultation Panel of WKCDA held its 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.<sup>34</sup>

- **On May 22**

A number of local newspapers<sup>35</sup> reported that Ronald Arculli, WKCDA Board Member, admitted that the delay of XRL had impacted the progress of the District's construction. The Board was looking into how to resolve that. He stressed that phase 1 (including M+, Xiqu Centre and the Park) would be completed on schedule in next year and the year after the next. The progress of phase 2 (Lyric Theatre and Contemporary Performance Centre scheduled to complete in 2020) required re-estimation.

- **On May 24**

The serious over-budget situation of WKCDA had been covered by a number of local newspapers.<sup>36</sup> The latest construction cost estimation for the basement was 23 billion dollars, much higher than the 10 billion dollars announced by the Government. WKCDA would bring forward its commercial and residential land sales by three years in order to create capital for the first batch of art facilities construction and operation.

- **On May 29**

According to a number of local press<sup>37</sup>, the WKCDA Board would implement various income-generation means to make up for the budget deficit. Carrie Lam, Chairman of WKCDA announced that there would be a hire-freeze, meaning a reduction of one-quarter of

the proposed headcount. More art organizations would be encouraged to hire the venues within the District. Commercial entities would be invited to submit tender for building temporary art facilities. The supply of retail, catering and entertainment facilities would also be speeded up. A number of LegCo members regarded the District as a “white elephant” and worried that phase 3 facilities would never see the day. They suggested dropping the original design by Norman Foster and scaling-down the basement and the park. Carrie Lam said that it was unrealistic to cancel or amend the design of the basement, which had been through three stages of public consultation since 2009.

Carrie Lam linked the progress of the District’s construction to Hong Kong’s overall cultural development. Her remark was seriously criticized by the local culture circle, according to *The Sun*<sup>38</sup>. Ho Hing-kay Oscar pointed out that the problem with West Kowloon did not lie with its budget but with its lack of a specific role and substance. Ho was concerned that the Government would use inflation as an excuse for withholding phase three construction, then change the District into a property development project by revising the ratio between commercial and residential land usage.

2014/06

• On June 2

Various local newspapers<sup>39</sup> reported that according to Carrie Lam, the plan of allocating forty acres of harbor-front land for the development of a cultural district had not been changed. She said that the Government was willing to support Hong Kong’s cultural development. At an appropriate point of time in the future, the phase three plan of the District would be reviewed and the estimated construction cost would only be available by then.

Carrie Lam also elaborated on her earlier remark and claimed that she was not trying to under-estimate the standard of Hong Kong’s art. She said she had been referring to the overall hardware and software development. She said that phase three should be introduced in accordance with the pace of local cultural development, education, audience development, and public resources utilization.

• On June 3

Uli Sigg, the Swiss collector who donated over 1,400 art pieces to M+ in 2012, told the *Apple Daily* that he hoped in the future, M+ would present exhibitions of artworks related to the June 4th Incident. A M+ spokesperson responded that there would be a three-year “Sigg Collection Exhibition” in M+. M+ would organize activities for the artworks related to sensitive issues to be re-interpreted, evaluated and written about. This would be an approach in line with M+’s mission as a contemporary museum.

Chow Chun-fai, local artist, said that every year new artworks about the June 4<sup>th</sup> Incident were produced. M+ would have contributed to the preservation of history should there be exhibitions of artworks on this theme by contemporary Chinese artists.<sup>40</sup>

• On June 26

HKADC announced that it would be collaborating with M+ again to participate in the 56th “Venice Biennale.” M+ would be responsible for curatorial matters including the selection of representing artist. HKADC’s responsibility covered coordination and supervision. Artist announcement would be made by mid-July.<sup>41</sup>

• On June 27

The WKCD Board held its 37<sup>th</sup> meeting.<sup>42</sup>

*Tai Kung Pao* and *The Sun* reported that the Board approved the “Free Space 2014” plan. The two-day outdoor arts festival would be held in November.<sup>43</sup>

2014/07

- **On July 3**

According to *Tai Kung Pao* and *Sing Tao Daily*, WKCDA presented the planning progress of the District's vehicle and pedestrian link system. M+ and the Waterfront Promenade would be connected to nearby landmarks including MTR station, China Ferry Terminal, and "Elements" so that the accessibility of the District would be enhanced. Such facilities would be completed by phases from 2017 onwards. WKCDA would soon commission a consultancy to set up the District's transportation plan, including evaluating the appropriateness of environmental-friendly buses.<sup>44</sup>

- **On July 7**

WKCDA launched an interactive online platform *Decade* for the public to make new editing arrangements of Hong Kong's representative movies and music. In the meantime, from July 26 onwards, Hong Kong's first free outdoor live music and street dance program, *Take A Swing*, would take place at the Yau Ma Tei Community Centre Rest Garden.<sup>45</sup>

- **On July 15**

HKADC and M+ announced that Tsang Kin-wah had been selected as Hong Kong's submission to participate in the 56<sup>th</sup> "Venice Biennale". The curatorial team consisted of Doryun Chong, Chief Curator, Stella Fong, Curator, Learning and Interpretation, with Lars Nittve as Consulting Curator. The Biennale would run between May 9 and November 22, 2015. In 2016, a response exhibition will be mounted in Hong Kong which will feature a comprehensive learning and outreach program.<sup>46</sup>

- **On July 21**

*South China Morning Post* interviewed some of the WKCDA Board members and local cultural practitioners. The interviewees called for a revamped board. HKADC Council member Ng Mei-kwan asked "What is the positioning of West Kowloon? How does West Kowloon fit in the cultural development of Hong Kong?" Yung Ning-tsun Danny, one of the government-appointed board members, said that he had vowed to step down after six years of service, "unless drastic changes take place". The law specified the Board should have at least five members with "good standing" in the cultural sector or have extensive knowledge about the field. Yet the government had followed its tradition of favoring lawyers, accountants and the commercial sector in board appointments. All but two of the ten committees and subcommittees, including the four arts panels, were chaired by members from cultural sector. To Yung, this showed that "the government still doesn't trust the cultural and education sectors".<sup>47</sup>

- **On July 22**

WKCDA released a press release, announcing the concept design of the Park.<sup>48</sup>

- **On July 23**

The Park's design concept was covered in a number of local newspapers.<sup>49</sup> The previous concept, "the park in the city" which proposed growing 5,000 trees has been replaced by a new concept "quality public space" due to high implementation cost. The new design incorporates a large-scale lawn and a "culture boulevard" to connect major buildings.

- **On July 24**

Local newspapers reported that due to filibusters, the LegCo Finance Committee had failed to process the M+ advance infrastructure funding application before the summer break. The estimated completion of M+ would therefore be postponed to the first half of 2018.

WKCD A proposed to outsource the management of M+ to a fully-owned subsidiary. Some LegCo members worried that should that be the case, there would be problems monitoring the financial situation of M+.<sup>50</sup>

## 2014/08

### • On August 7

WKCD A announced that the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of Consultation Panel would be held on August 12<sup>th</sup>.<sup>51</sup> The proposed agenda comprised of the following items:

- Role of the Consultation Panel going forward
- Preliminary results of Park engagement exercise
- Update on the Park development - design, use and management
- M+ acquisition policy and approach
- Exhibition of the M+ Collection

### • On August 11

M+ announced the second of the “M+ MATTERS” series, “Import/Export: Postwar Design and Industry in East Asia”, to take place on September 12 and 13 in Hong Kong and Shenzhen.<sup>52</sup>

### • On August 25

A WKCD A spokesperson confirmed in the response to *Sing Tao Daily's* inquiry that the plan to complete a compartment theater by the end of 2014 had been suspended. *Sing Tao Daily* was informed that WKCD A submitted to the Board a proposal without reasonable cost efficiency and hence was requested to cancel the plan.<sup>53</sup>

## 2014/09

### • On September 9

Ma Fung-kuok, WKCD A Board member, and Chan Man-wai, Project Delivery Executive, were interviewed by *Sing Pao*, during which they responded to the criticisms on WKCD A's construction status.<sup>54</sup>

### • On September 16

WKCD A explained to *Sing Tao Daily* that as the District was located on the flight path, it was WKCD A's intention to apply by-laws to ban kite and model-aircraft flying and/or other activities that might impact the flight path. Some members from the Consultation Panel were concerned of the restrictions stipulated by the by-laws on arts events extending into the upper-air. They hoped the situation could be resolved through departmental coordination.<sup>55</sup>

### • On September 17

Two public programs would be presented by M+ on October 18 and November 18 to explore the topic of “globalization in contemporary art”.<sup>56</sup>



- **On September 22**

The Board of WKCDA held its 38<sup>th</sup> meeting and announced the appointment of Duncan Pescod as its Chief Operating Officer (COO). Assuming duty on October 6, 2014, Pescod oversees the infrastructural development, commercial planning and operational matters of WKCDA.<sup>57</sup>

- **On September 23**

A number of local press reported that the newly-appointed COO Duncan Pescod only left his position as the Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Housing) and Director of Housing in April. In general terms, senior civil servants should not accept appointment offers until three years after leaving the civil service. Some LegCo members regarded this as favoritism for senior ex-civil servants and urged for a statement from the Civil Service Bureau.

A WKCDA spokesperson stressed that the appointment of Pescod had been approved by the Civil Service Bureau, and that Pescod had never been directly involved in any matters related to the WKCDA. He had only joined WKCDA meetings when he was working at the Tourism Commission.<sup>58</sup>

## 2014/10

- **On October 14**

WKCDA announced that “Freespace Fest” would take place at the West Kowloon Waterfront Promenade on November 22 and 23, 2014. Events over those two days would cross various art forms including dance, music, physical theatre, literary arts and busking.<sup>59</sup>

- **On October 17**

The WKCDA Board held its 39<sup>th</sup> meeting. CEO Michael Lynch reported the work progress. On the same day, *Sing Tao Daily* reported that new appointments had been made to the WKCDA Board. Allan Zeman, Lam Siu-lo Andrew, Ma Fung-kyok and Lo Chung-wing Victor, who had reached the six-year appointment threshold continued to stay on the Board. Ronald Arculli was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Board. New Board members included designer Kan Tai-keung and theater director Frederick Mao.<sup>60</sup> The Board’s new appointment was reported in a couple of local newspapers on the following day.<sup>61</sup>

## 2014/11

- **On November 11**

Michael Lynch said in a WKCDA press release that “Freespace Fest” had been planned a paid ticketed event this year. However, considering that the whole of WKCD site would be closed for construction works in 2015 and that “Freespace Fest” in 2014 would be the last outdoor program at the West Kowloon Waterfront Promenade, WKCDA decided to open it up for everyone for free.<sup>62</sup>

- **On November 24**

The two-day “Freespace Fest” attracted over 43,000 visitors. Louis Yu, Executive Director, Performing Arts, said that WKCDA “would continue to experiment with cross-discipline performing arts projects, as well as explore the relationship between performing arts and public space leading up to the opening of the Freespace venue within the park.”<sup>63</sup>

Coverage on “Freespace Fest” 2014 could be found in *Tai Kung Pao*, *The Sun* and the *Oriental Daily*.<sup>64</sup>

• **On November 25**

*Tai Kung Pao* anticipated that filibusters would continue in the Legco.<sup>65</sup> Michael Lynch told the press that he hoped 0.3 billion dollars could be approved by the beginning of 2015 to pay for the advance work for the District's basement. Otherwise the progress of M+, which is to be built on top of the basement, would be impacted. The Government warned that an additional 20 million dollars to cover construction and labor cost would be incurred for every month's delay.

Betty Fung, Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs, said that the foundation construction of Xiqu Centre had been completed while that of M+'s was in progress. It was scheduled to be completed by August 2015.

The Government and WKCD were looking into using the current fund from the WKCD to pay for the advance work of the basement should LegCo funding failed to be approved.

2014/12

• **On December 8**

The WKCD Board held its 40<sup>th</sup> meeting.<sup>66</sup> Carrie Lam welcomed new Board Members. Members were briefed on "M+ Visiting Artist Program" launched in November. The program aimed to build awareness and capacity of M+. Up to eight outstanding artists would be invited annually to visit Hong Kong for one or multiple times to research and share their ideas, thoughts and perspectives of their art practices.

Michael Lynch reported that the application to the Town Planning Board for minor relaxation of development intensity had been approved. He also reported that the foundation for the Xiqu Centre had been completed and the main superstructure work would soon begin. M+'s foundation work was progressing well since its commencement in end August. The construction of Arts Pavilion would be tendered this month; and the construction of the temporary Nursery Park would commence in January 2015.

On the same day, WKCD issued a press release about the ninth of the "M+ MATTERS" series, "Expanding the 1980s: The Landscape of Art in China and East Asia", to be held on January 13, 2015. Pi Li, Sigg Senior Curator (Visual Art), conceived and organized the symposium.<sup>67</sup>

• **On December 9**

*Wen Wei Po* reported the details of the 40<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.<sup>68</sup>

*Tai Kung Pao* reported that the Board approved a fund-raising plan. In the future, operation capital might be raised through public fund-raising or sales of naming rights.<sup>69</sup>

Both the *Oriental Daily* and *The Sun* reported that the West Kowloon Waterfront Promenade would be closed by March 2015 for construction works. The biking track would remain open to the public as long as the situation allowed.<sup>70</sup>

• **On December 19**

The WKCD Consultation Panel held its 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The agenda items were:

- Update on the WKCD progress
- Engagement of youth and the community

During the meeting, WKCDA announced the appointment of Tse Kin-pang Richard as its new Executive Director, Finance.<sup>71</sup> Tse would report duty on December 23, 2014. His direct supervisor is Michael Lynch.

- **On December 29**

WKCDA released its latest annual report. In last financial year, a profit of HK\$577 million dollars were recorded, 28% lower than the previous. According to the annual report, the annual salary of CEO Michael Lynch was \$533 million dollars plus contract gratuity of around one million dollars. The salary total for the eight senior executives, including Bonny Wong, Director of the CEO's Office and Lars Nittve, Executive Director of M+, amounted to over twenty million dollars. Six of them were each paid over 2.5 million dollars annually.<sup>72</sup>

<sup>1</sup> News coverage, *Oriental Daily* A14, January 10, 2014

News coverage, *Tai Kung Pao* A26, January 10, 2014

News coverage, *Sing Tao Daily News* A32, January 10, 2014

News coverage, *The Sun* A18, January 10, 2014

<sup>2</sup> "Appointment of Committee and Subcommittee Members under The Board of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority", WKCDA press release, January 15, 2014. <http://www.westkowloon.hk/en/newsroom/news/appointment-of-committee-and-subcommittee-members-under-the-board-of-the-west-kowloon-cultural-district-authority-495>

<sup>3</sup> "M+ receives major donation of 37 works from Chinese art collector, Guan Yi representing the strong backing from the arts community", WKCDA press release, January 17, 2014. <http://www.westkowloon.hk/tc/newsroom/news/m-receives-major-donation-of-37-works-from-chinese-art-collector-guan-yi-representing-the-strong-backing-from-the-arts-community/page/4>

<sup>4</sup> News coverage, *Tai Kung Pao* A14, January 21, 2014

<sup>5</sup> News coverage, *The Sun* A09, January 21, 2014

News coverage, *Oriental Daily* A20, January 21, 2014

<sup>6</sup> "WKCDA announces the results of the Arts Pavilion Design Competition", WKCDA press release, January 23, 2014. <http://www.westkowloon.hk/en/newsroom/news/wkcda-announces-the-results-of-the-arts-pavilion-design-competition>

<sup>7</sup> "M+, WKCDA and HKADC to Present 'You.' - Lee Kit A Continuation of Hong Kong's Participation 'You (you).' at the 55th Venice Biennale", WKCDA press release, February 13, 2014. <http://www.westkowloon.hk/en/newsroom/news/m-wkcda-and-hkadc-to-present-you-lee-kit-a-continuation-of-hong-kongs-participation-you-you-at-the-55th-venice-biennale/page/65>

<sup>8</sup> "The 33rd Board Meeting of West Kowloon Cultural District Authority Held Today", WKCDA press release, February 17, 2014. <http://www.westkowloon.hk/en/newsroom/news/the-33rd-board-meeting-of-west-kowloon-cultural-district-authority-held-today>

<sup>9</sup> News coverage, *Sing Tao Daily* A06, February 17, 2014

News coverage, *Tai Kung Pao* B14, February 17, 2014

<sup>10</sup> News coverage, *The Sun* A13, February 17, 2014

News coverage, *Oriental Daily* A16, February 17, 2014

- <sup>11</sup> News coverage, *Hong Kong Economic Journal* A12, February 18, 2014  
News coverage, *Sing Tao Daily* A02, February 18, 2014  
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