

West Kowloon Cultural District Authority  
西九文化區管理局



**West Kowloon Cultural District  
Core Arts and Cultural Facilities  
Performing Arts Facilities**

*Artistic Positioning  
and  
Technical Features*

**December 21, 2010**

## Introduction

West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA), with the assistance of the Project Consultant, will undertake a Stakeholder Engagement Exercise (SE Exercise) on Performing Arts (PA) Facilities to be held between December 2010 and January 2011.

The objectives of the SE Exercise are:

- To gauge key stakeholders' views on whether the PA Facilities have addressed comments received in Stage 1 Public Engagement Exercise;
- To seek views on the proposed artistic positioning and individual technical features of PA Facilities;
- To seek views on the relative priority of the venues so that a viable phasing strategy can be developed;
- To stimulate discussion on clustering, stacking, sharing facilities, etc. via questions listed at the end of the brief of each PA Facility, in order to make the most effective use of Gross Floor Area and financial resources.

The information contained in this brief provides stakeholders with a summary overview of each proposed performing arts facility, particularly the Authority's preliminary thoughts on their artistic positioning, basic characteristics and technical features of each primary performance space and key additional spaces.

This information is provided as a basis for discussion so that stakeholders can engage in the process of defining the performing arts facilities, ensuring that the West Kowloon Cultural District not only provides facilities with the highest quality, but also facilities that best address the needs and aspirations of the arts community.

The overview sets out the guiding principles and rationale behind each proposed PA facility to help focus discussions with stakeholders.

A series of focus group meetings for more in-depth discussion with key stakeholders will be organized in January 2011.

The consultation materials will also be uploaded to the WKCDA website for public information ([www.wkcda.hk](http://www.wkcda.hk)). While the key audience of the current engagement exercise is stakeholders from the performing arts sector, members of the public who are interested in the PA facility discussion may also register attendance at the relevant focus group meetings or give their views by post or email.

Please note that the SE Exercise is conducted independently from the Conceptual Plan Options and will have NO bearing on the Conceptual Plan selection process.

The discussion outcomes of the SE Exercise will be developed and incorporated in the detailed Schedules of Accommodation (SOA) for the performing arts facilities. There will be a further round of consultation in mid 2011 before the SOA is finalised. The SOA will form an important reference when preparing the Development Plan and serve as a basis in the detailed design of individual art and cultural facilities.

## Overview

The information contained in this booklet provides stakeholders of the West Kowloon Cultural District with a summary overview of each proposed performing arts facility, particularly relating to the Authority's preliminary thoughts on their artistic positioning, basic technical characteristics and features of each primary performance space and key additional spaces. Questions have been provided after each facility description to stimulate discussion.

This information is provided as a basis for discussion so that stakeholders can engage with the process of defining the performing arts facilities, ensuring that the West Kowloon Cultural District not only provides the very best facilities, but also facilities that best respond to the needs and aspirations of the arts community.

These descriptions have been developed taking the recommendations of the Performing Arts and Tourism Advisory Group to the Consultative Committee of the West Kowloon Cultural District as a starting point, and in specific response to the needs and ambitions of each of the various and diverse constituencies that make up the Hong Kong arts community, and those of the community as a whole, as expressed during the Public Engagement process undertaken in late 2009. The Authority has also taken into account the findings of an independent Market Analysis study for Performing Arts Facilities, as well as the recommendations of the Project Consultant.

In the development of the proposed Facility Positioning presented in this document, **International Best Practice** in design and live operations concepts from existing facilities and districts around the globe have been considered, both in terms of the response to the community's needs and ambitions, as well as in the individual typology and technical characteristics of each facility. In some cases, it has been found that the needs of the HK community are unique and that a new benchmark should be set or venue typology created to meet this need.

The following are some of the defining parameters and strategic directions that have shaped development of the facility descriptions.

## Phasing and Organic Growth

During PE1, views were strongly expressed by the arts community and other members of the public that the organic growth of the district should be considered.

The Authority recognizes the importance of creating a development framework that provides for organic growth within the District, allowing for the artistic positioning and description of facilities to be adjusted or completely revised over time in response to the evolving needs and ambitions of the community.

Phasing is a key concept related to organic growth and the Authority is soliciting views at this time from key stakeholders on the relative urgency of each of the facilities proposed so that the phasing strategy can be refined. The first phase of development of CACF facilities will need to balance parallel and sometimes contradictory pressures from:

- Broad response to the needs and ambitions of the HK Arts Community
- Sufficient hardware and software development to ensure a vibrant district whose impact is felt within the HK and international arts community and by all visitors to the District
- Construction cost outlay
- spatial requirement
- Challenges of simultaneous development of consistently high quality facilities
- Appropriate space and resources set aside to respond to evolving infrastructure requirements without the need to modify facilities already developed

Development of facilities beyond Phase 1 will therefore be subject to further stakeholder consultation and consequent refinement.

### **Sensitivity to Artistic Needs**

During PE1, the arts community expressed their hope that the design and operations of the CACF would be shaped by responsiveness to the needs of high quality artistic endeavour and the operational dynamics of professional arts organizations.

This will be taken into consideration as technical details of each of these facilities are defined, and when the modes of governance and live operations policies are established at a later stage.

### **Resident Companies**

The Authority recognizes that resident companies will be an essential component to the development of a vital and vibrant cultural district and intends to invite leading performing arts organizations to take on a residency role in some form.

It is envisioned that there will be many different forms of residency, including:

- performance residencies;
- project based residencies; and
- a limited number of full residencies

Full residency spaces, including offices, storage, workshop and dedicated rehearsal and artist support spaces are proposed to be established outside of the CACF facilities themselves.

Although Full Residency is likely to centre on the usage of one particular facility, Resident Companies are proposed to be associated with the District as a whole in

order to ensure that their creative energy is felt in as many facilities and programmes as possible across the District.

At the same time, each of the CACF performing arts facilities have been defined with sophisticated rehearsal facilities which are outlined within this document.

## **Education**

Given the current profile and appreciation of the arts in HK, integration of Education and Life-long Learning activities is a key defining mission of the District reflected in the space allocation and positioning of the CACF performing arts facilities.

Three of the facilities in particular, are designated as centres for children and youth educational programmes;

- Integrated Centre for Arts Education has been provided with workshop/classroom spaces to accommodate up to 200 primary school children
- The Theatre Centre (Blackbox II and III) and the Concert Theatre have both been provided with similar facilities to accommodate secondary school children

All other performing arts facilities will have one or more specific education/learning spaces included in the design, and it is expected that hardware provisions for education and life-long learning activities will be made in the OACF facilities that are yet to be defined.

## **Crossover between visual and performing arts**

The development of WKCD creates an opportunity to provide a multidisciplinary context for arts and arts related activities that can intrinsically foster greater synergy between what have been largely treated as separate types of artistic endeavour, both by audiences and by practitioners.

Among the synergies proposed to be fostered within the District is the relationship between the visual and performing arts. For this reason, the positioning of the CACF facilities is proposed to include:

- Performing arts venues within M+ including an experimental theatre Exhibition spaces integrated into CACF performing arts facilities

## **Access for all**

Access to all spaces within the CACF for mobility, sight and hearing impaired visitors to International Best Practice, has already been taken into consideration and will be further detailed in future steps of this development.

In addition, the spatial relationships, ambience and broad programming are designed to make the District approachable and user friendly to all sections of the community and visitors to HK.

## **Other Planning Considerations**

### **Clustering**

Although there are two “pre-clustered” facilities identified in Facility Descriptions in this document, clustering remains a factor that will be examined more once a preferred Concept Plan is selected. Clustering will be examined as a means to optimise operational efficiency and create savings in area and construction cost.

However, the identity of WKCD as a diverse district may be better served with many different facilities each with different identities, rather than performing arts complexes with multiple venues. Therefore, clustering – where undertaken - should not compromise venue identity and positioning, or concurrent usage and operational functionality. In addition, it has been recommended that:

- Small venues should not be clustered with larger venues to avoid “less important performance space” phenomenon and maximize diversity and vitality of all venues on site
- Some venues (Great and Medium Theatres, Xiqu Centre and MPV) are required to have loading docks at stage level
- Some venues (Concert Hall, Chamber Hall and blackboxes) are (only) recommended to have loading docks at stage level

Consideration will also be given to clustering of only back-of-house for operational efficiency, leaving the public experience to be different for each facility.

### **Piazzas**

The Consultative Committee’s recommendations included a number of public performance and visual arts outdoor spaces. It is expected that these will contribute significantly to the attractiveness, vibrancy and festive atmosphere in the District and provide a broad range of opportunities for arts groups to perform.

While the definition of the performing arts piazzas has been deferred until a preferred Concept Plan has been selected:

- Each facility will have well conceived outdoor environments with infrastructure supporting performing arts events nearby
- Tentative provision has been made for large outdoor video screens to relay performances taking place inside the facilities

### **Terminology**

For the purposes of this booklet the following terminology and conventions have been used:

- “Facility” refers to the collection of spaces associated with each performing arts facility, whether within a standalone building or clustered with other facilities
- “Primary Performance Space(s)” or “Venue(s)” refers to the performance facility or facilities inside the Facility. In the case of multi-venue facilities the performance spaces are referred to by a working title (eg. Large Theatre)

## General Questions for Discussion

- Taking the table of CACF Performing Arts Facilities on the next page, please consider a ranking in order of development priority from the point of view of:
  - Your personal needs or that of the organisation(s) you are associated with
  - The overall needs of the Hong Kong arts community
  - Hong Kong as an international destination and arts hub
- Are there any types of facilities that are missing and should be considered?
- Are there any venues that would be better served (either from an artistic operations point of view or an audience perception point of view) if they were clustered?
- In the Stage 2 PE Exercise, the WKCDA has proposed the following phasing arrangement for the PA Facilities, what is your comment?

### Phase 1

(2015-2020)

- Concert Hall
- 1 Great Theatre
- Large Theatre in the Xiqu Centre
- 4 Blackbox Theatres
- Chamber Music Hall
- 1 Medium-sized Theatre
- Mega Performance Venue

### Phase 2

(2020 onwards)

- 1 Great Theatre
- 3 Medium-sized Theatres
- Small Theatre in the Xiqu Centre

## Table of Facilities after PE1 Consultation

Original Facility Name	Original Seat Count	Proposed Descriptive Facility Name	Seat Count
Great Theatre I	2,100 to 2,200	Great Theatre – Cruciform (GT-C)	1,800
Great Theatre II	1,900 max	Great Theatre – Roadhouse (GT-R)	2,000+
Xiqu Centre	1, 400 max /400 max /Tea House not defined	Xiqu Centre	1,100 / 400 / 300
Concert Hall	2,000 max	Concert Hall	2,000 seated (2,400 seated and standing)
Chamber Music Hall	800 max	Chamber Hall	500
Medium Theatre I	500 to 800 each (1,600 max for both)	Proscenium Theatre	800
Medium Theatre II		Proscenium Thrust Theatre	600
Medium Theatre III	800	Concert Theatre	1,000
Medium Theatre IV	800	Experimental Theatre (in M+)	300
Blackbox I	150 to 250 each (max 1000 for all)	Integrated Centre for Arts Education	400
Blackbox II		250 seat Blackbox	250
Blackbox III		200 seat Blackbox	200
Blackbox IV		Music Box	200
Mega Performance Venue	15,000	Mega Performance Venue (MPV)	15,000 seated (18,000 seated and standing)

## **Great Theatre I (Great Theatre – Cruciform)**

### **Facility Description**

A world class quality proscenium theatre with a cruciform type stage for large-scale productions optimised for natural acoustics and with adjustable acoustics for wide range of theatrical performances incorporating amplified music.

Support facilities include a spacious foyer designed to accommodate small-scale informal performances and temporary exhibitions, VIP rooms, box lounges, integrated retail and dining facilities, and ample rehearsal spaces, including a large rehearsal/education/performance space with direct access from foyer and back-of-house.

### **Facility Character**

- Home for large-scale theatrical ‘high art’ and popular commercial productions
- International reputation as a world class theatre facility and acoustics for opera and ballet
- ‘Grand night out’ experience
- Evokes a sense of anticipation and occasion
- Grand and spacious with high quality finishes
- High quality service appropriate to the positioning of the facility

#### **Key uses:**

- Theatrical performances with unamplified music accompaniment such as opera, ballet and dance
- Large-scale drama and dance
- Commercial productions with amplified sound
- Film

#### **Key users:**

- WKCD resident companies
- Other large-scale local, regional and international performing groups
- Commercial theatre promoters

### **Basic Technical Information – Primary Performance Space**

- 1,800 seated patrons maximum
  - Maximum seating capacity is in configuration with no orchestra pit. Lower seating capacity when orchestra pit or forestage extension is in use.

- Acoustically optimised design for performances with unamplified music accompaniment but not designed for symphony performance
- Adjustable acoustics systems for high quality presentation of performances with amplified sound
- Full Cruciform stage typology with two side stages, a rear stage, and a full height fly tower
- Proposed performance area dimensions:
  - Proscenium Opening: 18m wide by 12m high with adjustable portal
  - Stage Performance Area: 18m wide by 18m deep (and additional area for Cloth Storage Elevator)
  - Wing Spaces on stage right and left: 5m wide by 18m deep
  - Fly Tower height: 30m (stage floor to bottom of grid)
  - 2 Side Stages: 18m wide by 18m deep
  - Rear Stage: 18m wide by 18m deep
- Stage wagon system connecting all stages, scenery assembly area and the large rehearsal/education/performance facility. Multi-lift orchestra pit/stage extension lift system
- Main stage equipped with double level stage lifts. Rear stage equipped with single level stage lifts
- State of the art technical systems including motorised rigging system, adjustable acoustics and seating systems, production lighting system, production sound, communication and video system including projection, integrated HD video broadcast and surtitling

## **Secondary Performances/ Rehearsal/ Education Spaces and Other Key Spaces**

- Large rehearsal/education/performance space with direct access from the foyer for public access as well as from back-of-house areas. Connected to stage wagon system to allow for rehearsals with full stage scenery
- A number of spaces available for WKCD education programmes and rehearsals by resident and visiting arts groups
  - Two large education/rehearsal rooms, one specifically equipped for dance with sprung floor, mirrors and barres, and the other for orchestra, choir or movement oriented rehearsals. Both equivalent in floor area to the main stage performance area and with appropriate clear ceiling heights
  - Two smaller dance and movement education/rehearsal rooms with sprung floors, mirrors and barres and two rooms for staging or music rehearsals
- Single, double, quad, quick change and group dressing rooms
- Artist lounge and media/guest reception room
- Spacious foyer with VIP lounge, VIP sponsor lounge, box tier lounges, event room
- Large video screen for outside relay of performances

## **Comparable Facilities**

- National Performing Arts Centre Theatre, Beijing, China
- Copenhagen Opera House, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Winspear Opera House, Dallas, TX, USA
- Guangzhou Opera House, Guangzhou, China
- Ziff Ballet Opera House, Miami, FL, USA
- Oslo Opera House, Oslo, Norway

## ***Questions for Discussion about Great Theatre - Cruciform***

- Is this a useful type of facility to have in WKCD?
  - Would you or your organization want to make use of this facility?
  - Would it be of value to the community as a whole?
- Relative to the other proposed types of facilities, how urgently is this facility needed in Hong Kong?
- Assuming that the general facility character is maintained, are there specific features that are missing or should be changed?
- To make the most effective use of Gross Floor Area and financial resources, consideration must also be given to ways that this facility could be optimized without compromising its character or effectiveness.
  - How important do you feel that each of the following is to this facility?
    - A full cruciform stage
    - Such an extensive system of stage lifts
    - The stage wagon system

## Great Theatre II (Great Theatre – Roadhouse)

### Facility Description

With a proscenium theatre intended primarily for long-run Broadway-style musicals, this facility will be designed to accommodate performances of a number of other art forms, including western and Chinese opera and dance, with emphasis on amplified, rather than unamplified music.

Support facilities include a spacious foyer designed to accommodate small-scale informal performances and temporary exhibitions, VVIP and VIP Sponsor lounges, boxes and box lounges, and integrated retail and dining facilities. There will also be a small scale scenery workshop, and a large rehearsal/education/performance space with direct access from the foyer and from the back-of-house.

### Facility Character

- Identified with large-scale musical theatre and popular commercial productions
- International reputation as a world class receiving house
- ‘Grand night out’ experience
- Evokes a sense of anticipation and excitement
- ‘Glitzy’ and spacious with high quality finishes
- High quality service appropriate to the positioning of the facility

#### Key uses:

- Long run Broadway-style musical theatre
- Large-scale drama, dance and Chinese opera
- Other commercial productions with amplified sound
- Film

#### Key users:

- Commercial theatre promoters
- WKCD resident companies for special or commercial projects
- Other large-scale local, regional and international performing groups

### Basic Technical Information – Primary Performance Space

- 2,000 or more seated patrons
  - Maximum seating capacity is in configuration with no orchestra pit. Lower seating capacity when orchestra pit or forestage extension is in use

- Optimised for amplified musical theatre performances but designed to accommodate unamplified performances at a very high quality level
- Stage area designed with side stage, a rear stage, and a full height fly tower
- Proposed performance area dimensions:
  - Proscenium Opening: 18m wide by 12m high
  - Stage Performance Area: 18m wide by 18m deep
  - Wing Spaces on stage right and left: 5m wide by 18m deep
  - Fly Tower height: 30m (stage floor to bottom of grid)
  - 1 Side Stage: 18m wide by 18m deep
  - Rear Stage: 18m wide by 18m deep
- Fully trapped stage and multi-lift orchestra pit/stage extension lift system
- State of the art technical systems optimised for touring productions, including motorised rigging system, adjustable acoustics and seating systems, trapped main stage, production lighting system, production sound, communication and video system including projection, integrated HD video broadcast and surtitling

## **Secondary Performance/ Rehearsal/ Education spaces and Other Key Spaces**

- Large rehearsal/education/performance space with sprung floor, mirrors and fixed barres, and direct access from the foyer for public access as well as from back-of-house areas
- Technical maintenance workshop (serving all venues in the district)
- Single, double, quad, quick change and group dressing rooms
- Artist lounge and media/guest reception room
- Spacious foyer with VIP lounge, VIP sponsor lounge and box tier lounges
- Large video screen for outside relay of performance

## **Comparable Facilities**

- Cobb Energy Performing Arts Center, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
- Prudential Hall, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Newark, New Jersey, USA
- Auditorium of Dijon, Dijon, France
- Theatre, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, Singapore

## ***Questions for Discussion about Great Theatre - Roadhouse***

- Is this a useful type of facility to have in WKCD?
  - Would you or your organization want to make use of this facility?
  - Would it be of value to the community as a whole?
- Relative to the other proposed types of facilities, how urgently is this facility needed in Hong Kong?
- Assuming that the general facility character is maintained, are there specific features that are missing or should be changed?
- To make the most effective use of Gross Floor Area and Financial resources, consideration must also be given to ways that this facility could be optimized without compromising its character or effectiveness.
  - How important do you feel that each of the following is to this facility?
    - A full side and rear stage
  - How important is the workshop to this facility and the district?

## **Xiqu Centre**

### **Facility Description**

The Xiqu Centre will be a Signature Facility of WKCD featuring three main performance spaces:

- 1) Large Theatre - a proscenium-type theatre designed to meet the specific spatial and acoustic needs of Xiqu performance at the highest possible quality level. Adjustable acoustics will allow the acoustics environment to be adapted for unamplified or amplified performance.
- 2) Small Theatre – a highly flexible, hybrid blackbox-type venue with mechanised systems that will allow it to be easily transformed between the following configurations: flat floor; raked seating; “traditional” thrust stage (with or without pavilion); and “proscenium” format. Intimate enough for unamplified performance, adjustable acoustics systems will allow the environment to be adapted to accommodate sound amplification.
- 3) Tea House – a single balcony courtyard type venue decorated in traditional style for tourist and showcase performances with integrated catering facilities. Stage area and associated systems have been specified to accommodate more complex presentations than are possible in similar existing facilities in mainland China.

Support facilities include generous shared foyer spaces for the large and small theatres with VIP spaces and exhibition area, integrated dining facilities (kitchens will also serve the Tea House) and a Xiqu teaching school. Rehearsal spaces in the Centre include a large rehearsal/education/performance space with direct access from the foyer and back-of-house, as well as smaller staging rehearsal rooms specifically designed for Xiqu use.

### **Facility Character**

- Home for the preservation and development of Xiqu
- Emblematic environment associated with Xiqu culture
- Regional and international reputation for the finest examples in all types of Xiqu
- International reputation for highest quality presentation performances, theatre environment and acoustics
- Centre for public and professional education
- Evokes a sense of charm and adventure for new audiences
- Spacious public spaces with high quality of finishes
- High quality service appropriate to the positioning of the facility

## Key Uses:

### Large Theatre

- Cantonese Opera
- Other Xiqu Forms
- Chinese Instrumental Music and Vocal Recitals
- Chinese Dance and Acrobatic Performances
- Xiqu Artist Recital

### Small Theatre

- Cantonese Opera
- Other Xiqu Forms
- Xiqu Artist Recital
- Chinese Instrumental Music and Vocal Recitals
- Chinese Dance and Puppet Performances
- Education Performances
- Experimental Performances
- Student and Young Artist Performances
- Readings and Literary Events

### Tea House

- Tourist performances
- Other traditional talk & sing performing arts of China
- Traditional tea House food and beverage experience
- Readings and Literary Events

## Key users:

- Professional, local and regional Cantonese opera companies associated with WKCD
- Local and regional companies performing other Chinese opera forms
- Local and regional commercial promoters of recognised quality as hirers
- Xiqu education institutions
- Students and Young Artists

## Basic Technical Information

### Large Theatre

- 1,100 seated patrons maximum
  - This seating capacity has been proposed in response to the primary goal of creating an environment optimized for the performance and enjoyment of Xiqu.
  - These goals together are best met with smaller auditoria where audiences are seated closer to the artists. We note that the best existing modern facilities are no larger than 1,100 seats.

- Maximum seating capacity is in configuration with no orchestra pit. Lower seating capacity when orchestra pit or forestage extension is in use
- A proscenium theatre providing an adjustable false proscenium
- Acoustic environment optimised for unamplified performance of Xiqu
- Adjustable acoustics systems for unamplified or amplified performances
- Trapped stage area with one side stage and rear stage and full height fly tower
- Key proposed performance area dimensions:
  - Proscenium Opening: 18m wide by 11m high
  - Stage Performance Area: 18m wide by 14m deep (plus 3m depth for carpet storage)
  - Wing Spaces on stage right and left: 3m wide by 18m deep
  - Fly Tower height: 27.5m (stage floor to bottom of grid)
  - Side Stage: 8m wide by 14m deep
  - Rear Stage: 18m wide by 8m deep
- Orchestra pit for 45 musicians designed specifically for acoustics needs of Xiqu performance
- State of the art technical systems including motorised rigging, orchestra pit/stage extension lift system, adjustable acoustics and seating systems, production lighting system, production sound, communication and video systems including projection, integrated HD video broadcast and surtitling

### **Small Theatre**

- 400 seated patrons maximum on main floor and courtyard style balcony
- Acoustic environment optimised for unamplified performance of Chinese music
- Adjustable acoustics systems for unamplified or amplified performance
- Stage area with wing spaces and full height fly tower
- Key proposed performance area dimensions:
  - Room height and width at “proscenium line”: 11m wide by 9m high
  - Stage Performance Area: 11m wide by 8m deep (plus 2m depth for carpet storage)
  - Wing Spaces on stage right and left: 3m wide by 8m deep
  - Fly Tower height: 22.5m (stage floor to bottom of grid)
  - Rear Stage: 11m wide by 9.5m deep
- Highly mechanised lift systems in stage and forestage areas for a wide range of staging and seating formats
- High quality technical systems including motorised rigging, lift systems, production lighting system , production sound, communication and video system, including integrated HD video broadcast, projection and surtitling

### **Tea House**

- 200 to 300 patrons, seated at tables on stalls level for tea and refreshment plus a courtyard-style single balcony
- Acoustics systems for unamplified or amplified performance
- A larger stage area and better equipped than other comparable facilities

- Proposed performance area dimensions:
  - Proscenium Opening: 9m wide by 5m high
  - Stage Performance and Wing Areas: 9m wide by 15m deep (plus 3m depth on each side for wing space). 6m high stage area with pipe grid.
  - Rear Stage: 15m by 11m deep
- High quality technical systems including motorised rigging, production lighting system, production sound, communication and video system, including integrated HD video broadcast, projection and surtitling

## **Secondary Performance / Rehearsal / Education Spaces and Other Key Spaces**

- A foyer area specified for Xiqu related education activities and exhibition with external access
- Xiqu teaching spaces with direct access from the foyer, including administration offices and an adequate number of student teaching and rehearsal studios with “sprung” floors and special carpeting, classrooms and practice spaces
- Large rehearsal/education/performance space with direct access from the foyer for public access as well as from back-of-house areas
- Multiple staging rooms
- High ceilings and doorways for all stage artist dressing rooms. Wide passageways and high doorways provided between dressing rooms and into stage areas for ease of movement for performers in large costume and head-dress
- Single, quad and group dressing rooms for stage artists all provided at stage level. Orchestra dressing rooms at pit level.
- Multiple storage options for performers’ costume road cases
- Artist lounge and media/guest reception room
- Foyer with VIP lounge and VIP sponsor lounge
- Large video screens for outdoor relay of performances

## **Comparable Facilities**

### **Large Theatre**

Existing facilities with this usage include:

- Mei Lanfang Theatre, Beijing, China – 1063 seats
- Chang’An Grand Theatre, Beijing, China – 1030 seats (including table seating)

The following facilities are also considered for Audience Chamber geometry:

- SangNam Hall, LG Arts Centre, Seoul, Korea – 1100 seats
- Wegener Theatre, Orpheus Theatre and Congress Centre, Apeldoorn, The Netherlands – 1200 seats

(However, it should be emphasized that no facility currently exists in the world that presents the quality level that is envisioned for the Xiqu Centre)

### **Small Theatre**

No comparable small scale facility for Xiqu exists at this time. However, the facility will be able to present events in performer/audience relationship (but not aesthetics) comparable to:

- Hu Guang Hui Guan, Beijing, China
- China Peking Opera Company Experimental Theatre, Beijing, China

### **Tea House**

Other tea houses viewed in the development of this facility include:

- Hu Guang Hui Guan
- Dong Yuan Theatre in Beijing
- Lao She Tea House in Beijing

(It should be noted that none of these spaces has the technical facilities proposed for the Xiqu Centre Tea House, but have similar traditional style and ambience.)

## ***Questions for Discussion about the Xiqu Centre***

- Is this a useful type of facility to have in WKCD?
  - Would you or your organization want to make use of this facility?
  - Would it be of value to the community as a whole?
- Relative to the other proposed types of facilities, how urgently is this facility needed in Hong Kong?
- Assuming that the general facility character is maintained, are there specific features that are missing or should be changed?
- Is it important that the facility design reflect traditional Chinese architectural style?
- To make the most effective use of Gross Floor Area and Financial resources, consideration must also be given to ways that this facility could be optimized without compromising its character or effectiveness.
  - How important do you feel that each of the following is to this facility?
    - Tea House
    - Rehearsal and Staging Rooms
    - Xiqu Training Spaces

# Concert Hall

## Facility Description

The Concert Hall will be a Signature Facility of WKCD with world class auditorium purpose-designed for the acoustics and performance requirements of large scale unamplified instrumental and vocal music, of both western and Chinese origin. Adjustable acoustics and seating systems will allow the acoustics environment to be adapted to create a high quality environment for different types of unamplified performances as well as incorporating amplified music and speech events.

At this stage, both main typologies for the primary performance space - the shoebox and the vineyard, remain under consideration. It is intended that the choice of typology will be made at the time of selecting the acoustics designer.

The auditorium will also feature an area in the middle of the main seating level, which will be able to be easily transformed into a flat floor which will be able to be lowered to create a mosh pit relationship to the stage (for standing audiences in world music performances) or raised to be at the same height as the stage (for banquets and other occasional events).

Support facilities include a generous foyer designed to accommodate small-scale informal performances and temporary exhibitions, and a young people's engagement space – (interactive learning zone), plus a large orchestra rehearsal/education/performance space with direct access from the foyer and from the back-of-house, and integrated retail and dining facilities.

## Facility Character

- Home for western and Chinese orchestral and other instrumental music
- International reputation for concert hall acoustics
- Unique facility with both Western and Chinese characteristics
- “Grand night out” experience
- Evokes a sense of anticipation
- Grand and spacious with high quality finishes
- High quality service appropriate for the positioning of the facility

### Key uses:

- Western and Chinese orchestral music performances
- Chamber orchestra performances
- Chamber and Vocal recitals by major name artists
- Choral music with and without orchestra
- Concert or semi-staged opera performance

- Jazz, world music and intimate 'unplugged' pop concerts with amplified sound
- Film and film with orchestra

**Key users:**

- WKCD resident companies
- Other large scale local, regional and international music groups
- Commercial music promoters

**Basic Technical Information – Primary Performance Space**

- 2,000 seated patrons maximum and 2,400 seated and standing (in mosh pit configuration)
- Maximum seating capacity is in configuration with minimum sized orchestra platform and all choir stalls utilised as audience seating
- Optimised for unamplified large-scale music concerts. Adjustable acoustics systems for high quality presentation of entire range of unamplified music performance as well as performances with amplified sound. Not designed for theatrical performances
- Ability to change a portion of the main floor seating area into flat floor to be used as a standing / dancing area for world music concerts. The design will ensure that those seating in the areas immediately surrounding this standing area will be able to enjoy good sightlines to the stage
- Proposed performance area dimensions:
  - Small Music Ensembles and Amplified Speech Events
    - Fixed Concert Platform with Chorus Wagon(s) deployed: 180 m<sup>2</sup> (approximately 20m wide by 9m deep)
  - Standard Symphony Orchestra
    - Fixed Concert Platform with Chorus Wagon(s) stored: 240 m<sup>2</sup> (approximately 20m wide by 12m deep)
    - Fixed Concert Platform with 1 stage extension/reduction lift and Chorus Wagon(s) deployed: 240 m<sup>2</sup> (approximately 20m wide by 12m deep)
  - Large Symphony Orchestra
    - Fixed Concert Platform with 1 stage extension/reduction lift deployed and Chorus Wagon(s) stored: 300 m<sup>2</sup> (approximately 20m wide by 15m deep)
    - Fixed Concert Platform with 2 stage extension/reduction lifts and Chorus Wagon(s) deployed: 300 m<sup>2</sup> (approximately 20m wide by 15m deep)
  - Extra Large Symphony Orchestra
    - Fixed Concert Platform with 2 stage extension/reduction lifts deployed and Chorus Wagon(s) stored: 360 m<sup>2</sup> (approximately 20m wide by 118m deep)
- State-of-the-art technical systems including stage extension/ reduction lifts with chair wagons, mobile choral seating wagons, overhead rigging systems, adjustable acoustics systems, production lighting, production sound,

communication and video system including projection and integrated HD video broadcast

## **Secondary Performance / Rehearsal / Education Spaces and Other Key Spaces**

- Large rehearsal/education/performance space sized to hold large symphony orchestra or choir. Direct access from the foyer for public access as well as from back-of-house areas
- Principal, sub-principal, double and group dressing rooms
- Artist lounge and media/guest reception room
- Foyer with VIP and , VIP sponsor lounges, and young people's engagement space – (interactive learning zone)
- Large video screen for outdoor relay of performances

## **Comparable Facilities**

- Concert Hall, Culture and Congress Center, Lucerne, Switzerland
- Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles, California, USA
- Bela Bartok, National Philharmonic Hall, Budapest, Hungary
- Concert Hall, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, Singapore
- Kitara Concert Hall, Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan
- Segerstrom Concert Hall, Costa Mesa, California, USA

## ***Questions for Discussion about the Concert Hall***

- Is this a useful type of facility to have in WKCD?
  - Would you or your organization want to make use of this facility?
  - Would it be of value to the community as a whole?
- Relative to the other proposed types of facilities, how urgently is this facility needed in Hong Kong?
- Assuming that the general facility character is maintained, are there specific features that are missing or should be changed?
- To make the most effective use of Gross Floor Area and Financial resources, consideration must also be given to ways that this facility could be optimized without compromising its character or effectiveness.
  - Is it important for you that the concert hall have adjustable acoustics? What uses are you particularly interested in that will require using different environments?
  - Is the proposed ability to transform part of the main audience floor into a depressed area for standing and dancing audiences (for amplified music concerts) a good/useful idea?
- It has been suggested that WKCDA should plan on the hall featuring both a permanent full set of Biangzhong bells and a concert pipe organ, so that the dual cultural identity of the venue be a defining characteristic, highlighting the uniqueness of this facility.
  - Do you think this is a good idea?
  - Would a pipe organ be a good investment considering how often it may be used?
  - Would a permanent full set of Biangzhong bells be a good investment considering how often they may be used?

## **Chamber Music Hall (Chamber Hall)**

### **Facility Description**

Intended primarily for a wide range of smaller scale music performance, the primary performance space is a shoebox style concert hall optimized for unamplified music performance with adjustable acoustics allowing the acoustics environment to be adapted to suit amplified music and speech events.

Support facilities include a generous foyer designed to accommodate small-scale informal performances and temporary exhibition, a VIP sponsor lounge, and integrated retail and dining facilities. A large rehearsal/ education/performance space with direct access from the foyer and from the back-of-house, to ensure day time vibrancy of this facility.

### **Facility Character**

- Performance space for a wide range of smaller scale music forms
- Internationally known for presenting a wide range of performances and supporting new experimental forms and styles of music
- 'Special night out' experience
- Evokes a sense of innovation and discovery
- Intimate with high quality finishes
- High quality service appropriate for the positioning of the facility

#### **Key uses:**

- Chamber orchestra
- Chamber music
- Choral music
- Jazz
- World music
- Vocal and instrumental music
- Amplified speech events
- Concerts for young people
- Readings and Literary events

#### **Key users:**

- WKCD resident companies
- Other local, regional and international music groups including choirs
- Emerging artists
- Small scale commercial promoters
- Festivals
- Education and student music groups

## **Basic Technical Information – Primary Performance Space**

- 500 seated patrons
- Design optimised for unamplified music concerts but with adjustable acoustics systems for high quality presentation of performances with amplified sound
- Proposed concert platform dimensions:
  - 130 m<sup>2</sup> (approximately 13m wide by 10m deep)
- State-of-the-art technical systems including overhead rigging systems, adjustable acoustics system, production lighting, production sound, communication and video system including integrated HD video broadcast

## **Secondary Performance/Rehearsal/Education Spaces and Other Key Spaces**

- Large rehearsal/education/performance space available for WKCD education programmes and rehearsals by resident and visiting arts groups, designed to accommodate large orchestra with direct access from the foyer for public access as well as from back-of-house areas
- Single and group dressing rooms
- Artist lounge and media/guest reception room
- Generous foyer with VIP sponsor lounge
- Large video screen for outdoor relay of performances

## **Comparable Facilities**

- King's Place, London, UK
- Perelman Theatre, Kimmel Centre for the Performing Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

### ***Questions for Discussion about the Chamber Hall***

- Is this a useful type of facility to have in WKCD?
  - Would you or your organization want to make use of this facility?
  - Would it be of value to the community as a whole?
  
- Relative to the other proposed types of facilities, how urgently is this facility needed in Hong Kong?
  
- Assuming that the general facility character is maintained, are there specific features that are missing or should be changed?

## Medium Theatre I (Proscenium Theatre)

### Facility Description

With a proscenium-arch style theatre, this facility will primarily be designed to meet the needs of spoken word theatre and various forms of dance incorporating small-scale unamplified and amplified music accompaniment.

Support facilities include a generous foyer, VIP sponsor rooms, integrated retail and dining facilities, and a large rehearsal/education/ performance space with direct access from foyer and back-of-house and two staging/rehearsal rooms.

### Facility Character

- Home for mainstream Hong Kong theatre and dance
- 'Special night out' experience
- Contemporary casual feel
- Evokes a sense of charm and comfort
- Spacious without being overwhelming
- High quality finishes
- High quality service appropriate to the positioning of the facility

#### Key uses:

- Mainstream theatre, musical theatre and dance
- Performances with and without amplified sound
- Small scale commercial and festival performances
- Film
- Performances for children
- Amplified speech events

#### Key users:

- WKCD resident companies
- Other local and regional theatre and dance groups
- Festivals
- Small scale commercial promoters

### Basic Technical Information – Primary Performance Space

- 800 seated patrons maximum
  - Maximum seating capacity is in configuration with no orchestra pit. Lower seating capacity when orchestra pit (or forestage extension) is in use.

- Optimised for spoken word theatre and dance with small-scale unamplified music accompaniment.
- Adjustable acoustics systems for high quality presentation of performances with amplified sound
- One side stage and a rear stage and a full height fly tower
- Proposed performance area dimensions:
  - Proscenium Opening: 18m wide by 11m high
  - Stage Performance Area: 18m wide by 15m deep
  - Wing Spaces on stage right and left: 5m wide by 15m deep
  - Fly Tower height: 27.5m (stage floor to bottom of grid)
  - 1 Side Stages: 15m wide by 15m deep
  - Rear Stage: 18m wide by 15m deep
- Fully trapped main stage and single-lift orchestra pit/stage extension lift system
- State of the art technical systems including motorised rigging system, adjustable acoustics and seating systems, production lighting system, and production sound, , communication and video system including projection, integrated HD video broadcast and surtitling

## **Secondary Performance/ Rehearsal/ Education Spaces and Other Key Spaces**

- Large rehearsal/education/performance space with sprung floor, barres and mirrors, and direct access from the foyer for public access as well as from back-of-house areas
- 2 staging/rehearsal spaces
- Single, double, quad, group and quick change dressing rooms
- Artist lounge and media/guest reception room
- Generous foyer with VIP sponsor lounge
- Large video screen for outside relay of performances

## **Comparable Facilities**

- SangNam Hall, Seoul, Korea
- McGuire Proscenium Stage, Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, USA

### ***Questions for Discussion about the Proscenium Theatre***

- Is this a useful type of facility to have in WKCD?
  - Would you or your organization want to make use of this facility?
  - Would it be of value to the community as a whole?
  
- Relative to the other proposed types of facilities, how urgently is this facility needed in Hong Kong?
  
- Assuming that the general facility character is maintained, are there specific features that are missing or should be changed?
  
- To make the most effective use of Gross Floor Area and Financial resources, consideration must also be given to ways that this facility could be optimized without compromising its character or effectiveness.
  - How important do you feel that each of the following is to this facility?
    - Side Stage
    - Rear Stage

## Medium Theatre II (Proscenium Thrust Theatre)

### Facility Description

A proscenium-arch style theatre primarily designed to meet the needs of larger contemporary dance ensembles and spoken-word drama, the primary performance space of this facility will feature a specially shaped forestage extension/orchestra lift (or “thrust”) protruding into the auditorium. This will allow spoken-word drama groups additional flexibility in their staging possibilities and create distinctive experiences for audiences.

Support facilities include a generous foyer, VIP sponsor lounge, integrated retail and dining facilities, and a large rehearsal/education/ performance space with direct access from the foyer and from back-of-house, as well as two staging/rehearsal rooms.

### Facility Character

- Home for mainstream Hong Kong contemporary dance and alternative mainstream theatre specifically designed for the space
- ‘Special night out’ experience
- Contemporary casual feel
- Evokes a sense of adventure and experimentation
- Spacious without being overwhelming
- High quality finishes
- High quality service appropriate to the positioning of the facility

#### Key uses:

- mainstream contemporary dance
- Spoken word conventional and contemporary drama
- Small-scale musical theatre
- Performances with and without amplified sound
- Small scale commercial and festival performances
- performances for young people

#### Key users:

- WKCD resident companies
- Other local and regional theatre, dance and chamber performance groups
- Festivals
- Small scale commercial promoters

### Basic Technical Information – Primary Performance Space

- 600 seated patrons maximum

- Maximum seating capacity is in configuration with no orchestra pit or forestage extension. Lower seating capacity when orchestra pit or forestage extension is in use
- Optimised for a wide range of performance types including dance with unamplified music accompaniment, spoken-word theatre and high quality presentation of performances with amplified sound, through the use of adjustable acoustics
- One rear (or side) stage and a full height fly tower
- Proposed performance area dimensions:
  - Proscenium Opening: 12m wide by 9m high
  - Stage Performance Area: 12m wide by 12m deep
  - Forestage Performance Area (lift deck): 90m<sup>2</sup>
  - Wing Spaces on stage right and left: 5m wide by 12m deep
  - Fly Tower height: 22.5m (stage floor to bottom of grid)
  - Rear Stage: 12m wide by 12m deep
- Fully trapped main stage and orchestra pit/stage extension lift system
- State of the art technical systems including motorised rigging system, adjustable acoustics and seating systems, production lighting system, production sound, communication and video system including integrated HD video broadcast and surtitling

## **Secondary Performance/ Rehearsal/ Education Spaces and Other Key Spaces**

- Large rehearsal/education/performance space with sprung floor, barres and mirrors and direct access from the foyer for public access as well as from back-of-house areas
- 2 staging/rehearsal spaces
- Single, quad, group and quick change dressing rooms
- Artist lounge and media/guest reception room
- Foyer with VIP sponsor lounge
- Large outdoor video screen for outside relay of performances

## **Comparable Facilities**

- Hall 2, the Sage, Gateshead, Newcastle, UK
- Courtyard Theatre, Royal Shakespeare Company, Stratford – upon – Avon, UK

### ***Questions for Discussion about the Proscenium Thrust Theatre***

- Is this a useful type of facility to have in WKCD?
  - Would you or your organization want to make use of this facility?
  - Would it be of value to the community as a whole?
- Relative to the other proposed types of facilities, how urgently is this facility needed in Hong Kong?
- Would you or your organization be interested in making use of the thrust configuration in your performances?
- Assuming that the general facility character is maintained, are there specific features that are missing or should be changed?

## Medium Theatre III (Concert Theatre)

### Facility Description

A hybrid concert hall/ theatre typology, the primary performance space of this facility will be designed principally for unamplified orchestral and other music performances, dance, as well as a wide range of art forms incorporating unamplified music accompaniment. Equipped with a system of mobile overhead panels and movable concert “towers”, this typology accommodates both theatrical usage and small to mid-sized symphonic music performance at a very high quality level as well as amplified music and speech. Along with the Theatre Centre, this facility will also accommodate WKCD’s secondary school aged performing arts educational activities to ensure day time vibrancy of this facility.

Support facilities include a generous foyer designed to accommodate small-scale informal performances and temporary exhibitions, VIP sponsor spaces, integrated retail and dining facilities and an exhibition space. There are also two large partitionable rehearsal/education/ performance spaces, one for dance and one for orchestra, both with direct access from the foyer and from back-of-house areas.

### Facility Character

- Highly diverse and eclectic
- Casual to formal atmosphere depending on performance and group performing
- Contemporary feel
- ‘Special night out’ experience
- Evokes a sense of anticipation and occasion
- Spacious without being overwhelming
- High quality finishes
- High Quality service appropriate to the positioning of the facility

### Key uses:

- Small to medium-size orchestral and chamber music performances
- Choral music
- Dance
- Drama/spoken word theatre
- Chamber opera
- Chamber ballet
- Musical theatre
- Performances for children
- Film with or without live accompaniment
- Amplified speech events

**Key users:**

- WKCD resident companies presenting music, dance theatre and musical theatre
- Other Hong Kong based music, dance and theatre groups
- Commercial promoters and festivals
- Education based performance groups

**Basic Technical Information – Primary Performance Space**

- 1,000 seated patrons maximum
  - Maximum seating capacity is in configuration with minimum sized orchestra platform and all choir stalls utilised as audience seating
- Ability to transform from a theatrical space with fully equipped stage to a orchestral concert space through the use of a system of mobile overhead panels and movable concert “towers”
- Side, rear stage and full fly tower for theatrical productions
- Proposed performance area dimensions:
  - Proscenium Opening: 18m wide by 11m high
  - Stage Performance Area: 18m wide by 16m deep
  - Forestage Performance Area (lift deck for orchestra use): 90m<sup>2</sup>
  - Wing Spaces on stage right and left: 5m wide by 16m deep
  - Fly Tower height: 27.5m (stage floor to bottom of grid)
  - 1 Side Stage: 10m wide by 16m deep
  - Rear Stage: 18m wide by 15m deep
- Orchestra pit/stage extension system lift
- Adjustable acoustics systems for high quality presentation of performances with both amplified and unamplified sound
- State of the art technical systems including automated acoustics panels and concert towers, adjustable acoustics and seating systems, orchestra pit/stage extension lift, production lighting system, and production sound, , communication and video system including projection, integrated HD video broadcast and surtitling

**Secondary Performance/ Rehearsal/ Education Spaces and Other Key Spaces**

- Two dedicated spaces to support WKCD education programmes and rehearsals of by resident and visiting arts groups each partitionable into three separate spaces:
  - one optimised for dance with sprung floor, barres and mirrors and partitionable into three separate spaces all with direct access from the foyer for public access as well as from the back-of-house areas
  - one optimised for orchestral or choir rehearsal with direct access from the foyer for public access as well as from the back-of-house areas
- Single, double, quad, group and quick change dressing rooms
- Artist lounge and media/guest reception room

- Foyer with VIP sponsor lounge and exhibition space
- Large outdoor video screen for outside relay of performances

### **Comparable Facilities**

- Rose Theatre, Jazz at Lincoln Center, New York, New York, USA
- Auditorium de Dijon, Dijon, France
- Dreyfoos Hall, Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, West Palm Beach, Florida, USA
- Prudential Hall, Newark, New Jersey, USA

### ***Questions for Discussion about the Concert Theatre***

- Is this a useful type of facility to have in WKCD?
  - Would you or your organization want to make use of this facility?
  - Would it be of value to the community as a whole?
  
- Relative to the other proposed types of facilities, how urgently is this facility needed in Hong Kong?
  
- Assuming that the general facility character is maintained, are there specific features that are missing or should be changed?

## **Medium Theatre IV (M+ Experimental Theatre)**

### **Facility Description**

The M+ Experimental Theatre is dedicated to the development and presentation of new works that cross over or bridge between visual and performing arts. Located within M+, the integration of this venue into this primarily visual arts facility will underline and support the unique mission of the venue.

The primary performance space is a fully flexible, blackbox type space designed to meet the needs of contemporary, multimedia and experimental performance forms. Includes independent access from street for “after hours” use when the museum functions may be closed.

Support facilities include foyer spaces, and an associated large rehearsal/education/performance space with direct access from the foyer and back-of-house.

### **Facility Character**

- Contemporary and casual ambience
- Cutting edge/funky/popular culture feel
- Flexible and changeable seating/stage arrangements
- Promotes new high-tech experiences
- Evokes a sense of experimentation and exploration
- High quality finishes with innovative design elements
- High quality service appropriate to the positioning of the facility

### **Key uses:**

- Contemporary multimedia performance
- Contemporary and experimental visual theatre, physical theatre and dance
- Performances by young and emerging artists
- Experimental performances by mainstream arts groups
- Performances which cross over between performing and visual arts
- Conferences and forums
- Performances and events for young people

### **Key users:**

- Small local contemporary performance groups
- Young artists and new groups
- WKCD resident companies for special projects related to the facility’s artistic positioning
- Visual arts groups which incorporate a performance element
- Conference, exhibition and event organisers

## **Basic Technical Information**

- Nominally 300 seated audience (when in frontal format with bleachers). Designed to ensure full flexibility of staging and seating arrangement with moveable seating units and no formally defined audience or performance area.
  - However, more traditional frontal format with sunken seating area near performance area will also allow for “proscenium” type audience/artist relationship.
  - Maximum capacity of the facility to be set will be determined according to code capacity of the floor area to ensure flexibility in seating and configurations.
- Adjustable acoustics systems for high quality presentation of unamplified performances as well as amplified/multi-media performances
- Proposed total combined performance/seating floor area: 915 m<sup>2</sup>
- Wire rope grid over the entire space for maximum technical flexibility
- State of the art technical systems including, production lighting system, and production sound, communication and video system, including integrated HD video broadcast and surtitling.

## **Secondary Performance/ Rehearsal/ Education Spaces and Other Key Spaces**

- Rehearsal/education/performance space with direct access from the foyer as well as from the back-of-house
- Single, quad, quick change and group dressing rooms
- VIP facilities (function incorporated into M+)
- Backstage pantry
- Media/guest reception room

## **Comparable Facilities (Experimental Theatre)**

- Experimental Media and Performing Arts centre, Troy, New York, USA
- Stockey Centre for the Performing Arts, Parry Sound, Ontario, Canada
- Royal Bank Theatre, Living Arts Centre, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada
- Young Centre for the Performing Arts, The Distillery Historic District, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- Getty Museum Lecture Theatres, Los Angeles, California, USA

### ***Questions for Discussion about the M+ Experimental Theatre***

- Is this a useful type of facility to have in WKCD?
  - Would you or your organization want to make use of this facility?
  - Would it be of value to the community as a whole?
  
- Relative to the other proposed types of facilities, how urgently is this facility needed in Hong Kong?
  
- Assuming that the general facility character is maintained, are there specific features that are missing or should be changed?
  
- How could this facility more effectively enhance the relationship between the visual and performing arts?

## **Blackbox I (Integrated Centre for Arts Education)**

### **Facility Description**

Centre of WKCD educational activities for pre-school and primary school aged children. Features an integrated grouping of classroom/workshop spaces, performance space with adjacent outdoor 'play and workshop' area, visual arts activity areas in foyer, as well as integrated café/retail spaces and potentially a range of Other Arts and Cultural (OACF) facilities, designed specifically for children.

### **Facility Character**

- Bright, colourful, cheerful, casual atmosphere
- Comfortable scale for children
- Active, hands-on, participatory
- Evokes anticipation of a fun experience
- One of the facilities that features cross-over programming and activities between performing arts and visual arts
- Easy access and special facilities designed for young people
- Safe and secure environment with high quality finishes
- High quality service appropriate to the positioning of the facility

#### **Key uses:**

- Performances for pre-school and primary school aged children
- Performances by children
- Arts related education activities including workshops and classes
- Education conferences and forums
- Visual arts events and activities
- Children's film
- Storytelling/ 'page to stage' performances

#### **Key users:**

- WKCD resident companies presenting performances and activities for children
- Other local arts groups presenting performances and activities for children
- Children's arts groups
- Educational organisations

## **Basic Technical Information – Primary Performance Space**

- Capacity - nominally 400 seated patrons in frontal format with telescopic seating.
  - Maximum capacity of the facility to be set will be determined according to code capacity of the floor area to ensure flexibility in seating and configurations.
- Adjustable acoustics to accommodate both amplified and unamplified performances
- Proposed total combined performance/seating floor area: 700 m<sup>2</sup>
- High quality technical systems including catwalk or wire rope grid, accommodation for motorised rigging, production lighting system, and production sound, communication and video system including integrated HD video broadcast, projection and surtitling

## **Secondary Performance/ Rehearsal/ Education Spaces and Other Key Spaces**

- A large rehearsal facility partitionable into 3 separate spaces all with direct access from the foyer for rehearsals/educational activities/performances. Sprung floor for movement activities
- Large secure and protected outdoor space to support the activities of the facility including playground and learning environment
- Single, quad, and group dressing rooms
- Foyer with visual arts educational installations and special children's café space for parties and functions.
- Workshop/classroom spaces for 200 children total, provided with "smart" classroom infrastructure and equipment, including broadband internet access. Separate access from foyer.
- Large outdoor video screen for outside relay of performances

## **Comparable Facilities**

- Young person's Theatre, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- Children's Theatre Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA
- Guangzhou Children's Activity Center, Guangzhou, China
- Carousel Theatre, Granville Island, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

### ***Questions for Discussion about the Integrated Centre for Arts Education***

- Is this a useful type of facility to have in WKCD?
  - Would you or your organization want to make use of this facility?
  - Would it be of value to the community as a whole?
  
- Relative to the other proposed types of facilities, how urgently is this facility needed in Hong Kong?
  
- Assuming that the general facility character is maintained, are there specific features that are missing or should be changed?

## **Blackbox II and III (Theatre Centre)**

### **Facility Description**

A home for contemporary performing arts – multi-disciplinary, multimedia theatre, music and dance - and centre of gravity for WKCD secondary school aged performing arts educational activities. The two primary performance spaces are fully flexible blackbox theatres designed to meet the needs of contemporary drama and dance.

Support facilities include foyer, a function room, integrated retail and catering facilities, three rehearsal/education/performance spaces each with direct access from foyer and back-of-house, and additional workshop/classrooms for educational programs.

### **Facility Character**

- Contemporary and casual
- Cutting edge/funky
- Promotes new experiences
- Evokes a sense of adventure and experimentation
- High-tech experience
- High quality finishes
- High quality service appropriate to the positioning of the facility

#### **Key uses:**

- Contemporary theatre
- Modern dance and physical theatre
- Multimedia theatre and dance
- Performances by young artists
- Readings and literary events
- Play readings, rehearsals and community events
- Conferences and forums
- Performances and events for secondary school aged youth

#### **Key users:**

- WKCD resident companies
- Other local small theatre, dance and multimedia performance groups
- Young artists and new groups
- Conference and event organisers

## **Basic Technical Information – Primary Performance Spaces**

- Two blackbox theatres, nominally 200 and 250 seated audience (when in frontal format with bleachers). Designed to ensure full flexibility of staging and seating arrangement with movable seating units and no formally defined audience or performance areas.
  - Maximum capacity of the facility to be set will be determined according to code capacity of the floor area to ensure flexibility in seating and configurations.
- 250 seat blackbox space designed for unamplified performance of both spoken word drama and dance with music accompaniment and multi-media performances. Adjustable acoustics systems for high quality presentation of performances with amplified sound.
  - Proposed total combined performance/seating floor area: 512.50 m<sup>2</sup>
- 200 seat blackbox space designed specifically for multimedia performances and amplified speech and sound.
  - Proposed total combined performance/seating floor area: 375 m<sup>2</sup>
- Wire rope grid over the full space of both theatres for maximum technical flexibility
- State of the art technical systems including production lighting system, production sound, , communication and video system including multi-media, projection, integrated HD video broadcast and surtitling

## **Secondary Performance/ Rehearsal/ Education Spaces and Other Key Spaces**

- Three rehearsal/education/performance spaces of varying sizes with pipe grid for the installation of performance technical equipment and scenery. All with direct access from foyer as well as from the back-of-house
- Five workshop/classroom spaces with 'smart' classroom infrastructure and equipment plus sprung floors for dance and movement activities. All accessible from the foyer and from back-of-house
- Single, quad, and group dressing rooms
- Backstage pantry
- Foyer with function room and media/guest reception room
- Large outdoor video screen for outside relay of performances

## **Comparable Facilities (Blackbox Theatres)**

- Harvey Theatre, Interlochen, Michigan, USA
- Kimberly Clarke Theater, Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton, Wisconsin, USA

### ***Questions for Discussion about the Theatre Centre***

- Is this a useful type of facility to have in WKCD?
  - Would you or your organization want to make use of this facility?
  - Would it be of value to the community as a whole?
  
- Relative to the other proposed types of facilities, how urgently is this facility needed in Hong Kong?
  
- Assuming that the general facility character is maintained, are there specific features that are missing or should be changed?

## **Blackbox IV (Music Box)**

### **Facility Description**

A cross-over performing and visual arts facility specifically designed for the presentation of small-scale amplified music and theatre performances focusing on youth and popular culture.

Centred around a studio (black box) type space with integrated bar and catering facilities and exhibition space.

### **Facility Character**

- Contemporary and cool vibe
- Independent art and artists
- Youth and popular culture
- Relaxing
- Raw/found space look with 'grungy' feel but high quality finishes
- Late night
- High quality service appropriate to the positioning of the facility

#### **Key uses:**

- Popular live music, stand-up comedy and small theatre performances
- Experimental performances and exhibitions by young artists
- Casual functions
- Readings and literary events
- Talks, forums and workshops

#### **Key users:**

- Local live bands, comedians and independent performers
- Young artists
- WKCD resident companies
- Event organizers

### **Basic Technical Information – Primary Performance Space**

- Sized for 250 seated audience or at tables, and 500 standing  
Maximum capacity of the facility to be set will be determined according to code capacity of the floor area to ensure flexibility in seating and configurations
- Flexible blackbox with movable raised platform staging
- Designed for performances with sound reinforcement
- Proposed total combined performance/seating floor area: 400 m<sup>2</sup>

- Wire rope grid over the full space for maximum technical flexibility
- State of the art technical systems including production lighting system, and production sound, communication and video system including projection and integrated HD video broadcast

### **Secondary Performance/ Rehearsal / Education Spaces and Other Key Spaces**

- Exhibition space used as foyer
- Small rehearsal space
- Single and 6 person dressing rooms
- Large outdoor video screen for outside relay of performances

### **Comparable Facilities**

- The Allen Room, Jazz at Lincoln Center, New York, New York, USA
- Fringe Club, Hong Kong SAR
- Donmar Warehouse, London, UK

### ***Questions for Discussion about the Music Box***

- Is this a useful type of facility to have in WKCD?
  - Would you or your organization want to make use of this facility?
  - Would it be of value to the community as a whole?
- Relative to the other proposed types of facilities, how urgently is this facility needed in Hong Kong?
- Assuming that the general facility character is maintained, are there specific features that are missing or should be changed?
- How could this space be used to more effectively enhance the District?

# Mega Performance Venue

## Facility Description

The Mega Performance Venue is designed primarily for popular amplified music events, with the flexibility to accommodate a number of other art forms and large-scale entertainment events. The primary performance space is a hybrid design between an indoor arena and the French Zenith typology. The facility will primarily be used in an end-stage configuration and seating on multiple levels, optimized for sightlines and amplified music acoustics. Demountable or loose seating in the centre section will accommodate standing or dancing audiences. The MPV will be the first in the world designed specifically for the needs of performing arts, artists and audiences.

Support facilities include a foyer, VVIP, VIP and sponsor hospitality lounges and boxes, integrated retail and dining facilities, and two warm up room/rehearsal spaces.

## Facility Character

- Popular culture ambience
- 'Grand night out' experience
- Evokes a sense of excitement and wonder
- Grand scale but intimate feel
- Performing arts facility standards
- High quality finishes
- High quality service appropriate to the positioning of facility

### Key uses:

- Mega performances
- Pop concerts
- Large entertainment events
- Exhibitions/large conferences
- Martial arts exhibition performances

### Key users:

- Commercial promoters of Canto and Western pop
- Mass entertainment, sports and martial arts exhibition promoters
- Event management companies
- Exhibition organisers

## **Basic Technical Information – Primary Performance Space**

- 15,000 seated patrons maximum, 18,000 seated and standing patrons maximum
- Acoustics and sightlines optimised for large amplified concerts and spectacular events
- The stage area will be composed of both a fixed area and 15 platform lifts that can be arranged in different ways to suit the production. It will be possible to arrange some of these platform lifts to create an orchestra pit
- Proposed performance dimensions in end-on configuration: 28m wide by 20m deep
- A large wire rope grid working surface above the stage and part of audience areas
- State of the art technical systems including motorised rigging system, production lighting system, and production sound, communication and video system including projection, integrated HD video broadcast and video screens
- Technical infrastructure to allow presenters to bring in and install their own equipment for specific events

## **Secondary Performance/ Rehearsal/ Education Spaces and Other Key Spaces**

- Two warm up rooms/rehearsal spaces with sprung floors, barres and mirrors
- Star, single, double, quad, group and quick change dressing rooms
- Performer lounge (also serves as extra dressing rooms) and media/guest reception room
- Foyer with VVIP box and lounge, VIP boxes and lounges, and hospitality boxes and lounges
- Large outdoor video screen for outside relay of performances

## **Comparable Facilities**

There are no existing comparable facilities of this scale and typology.

### ***Questions for Discussion about the Mega Performance Venue***

- Is this a useful type of facility to have in WKCD?
  - Would you or your organization want to make use of this facility?
  - Would it be of value to the community as a whole?
  
- Relative to the other proposed types of facilities, how urgently is this facility needed in Hong Kong?
  
- Assuming that the general facility character is maintained, are there specific features that are missing or should be changed?
  
- How do you feel about a large facility such as this being specifically designed for the performing arts?