

**For discussion on
25 July 2023**

Legislative Council Panel on Development

Annual Report on Implementation Progress of Heritage Conservation Initiatives

Purpose

This paper updates Members on the latest position of the implementation of various heritage conservation initiatives since our last report to the Panel in July 2022.

Identification and Assessment of Items of Heritage Value

Administrative Grading System for Historic Buildings

2. As at 30 June 2023, grading assessment of the heritage value in respect of 1 646 buildings has been completed, including 1 385 out of the 1 444 buildings¹ and 261 out of 387 items on the new list². A breakdown of the 1 646 items are set out below:

- (a) 46 items declared as monument;
- (b) 200 items with Grade 1 status;
- (c) 407 items with Grade 2 status;
- (d) 619 items with Grade 3 status;
- (e) 347 items with no grading; and
- (f) 27 items with no further processing due to their demolition or substantial alteration.

¹ A territory-wide survey commissioned by Antiquities and Monuments Office (“AMO”) from 1996 to 2000 recorded some 8 800 buildings which were mainly built before 1950. 1 444 of the buildings were selected for assessment, and the Antiquities Advisory Board (“AAB”) gave initial endorsement of the proposed grading for these buildings in 2009. Since then, AAB has been confirming in batches the final grading of the buildings, having regard to additional information and views received during the public consultation.

² Through suggestions from the public and daily work of AMO, 387 items have been added to the list of new items to be graded (“the new list”).

Preparation for the Assessment of Post-1950 Buildings

3. The Antiquities and Monuments Office (“AMO”) set up a task force in 2019 to carry out preparatory work for the assessment of post-1950 buildings. The task force identified some 2 000 buildings constructed in the urban areas between 1950 and 1959 and has completed preliminary research thereon. Preliminary research on those located in the New Territories and the Islands District is currently underway, and is expected to finish by mid-2024. Based on the results of the preliminary research available so far, AMO has commenced compiling a list of buildings with potential heritage value for in-depth assessment and consideration for grading.

4. While preparation is being made for grading post-1950 buildings systematically, the Antiquities Advisory Board (“AAB”) has received from time to time ad hoc requests for grading individual post-1950 buildings, and as at 30 June 2023, AAB has already completed the grading process in respect of 204 such buildings, and accorded Grade 1, 2 or 3 status to 119 of them. The AAB will continue to conduct grading assessment of buildings, including those built after 1950, under the prevailing mechanism and accord priority to assess buildings with cogent needs, such as those affected by redevelopment or alteration plans.

Statutory Monument Declaration

5. At present, there are 132 declared monuments in Hong Kong. We consulted AAB at its meeting on 8 June 2023 and AAB supported our proposal to declare two historic buildings as monuments under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53) in 2023. They are:

- (a) Tin Hau Temple, Joss House Bay, and
- (b) Former Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong Central Building.

Appraisals on the two buildings are at **Annex A**.

6. The statutory procedures for declaring the above two historic buildings as monuments are underway. Subject to the approval of the Chief Executive, we will move a subsidiary legislation in due course to

complete the declaration process.

7. We will continue to identify suitable items for declaration as monuments to accord statutory protection.

Heritage Conservation Initiatives and Enhancements

Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (“Revitalisation Scheme”)

8. Since the launch of the Revitalisation Scheme in 2008, 22 government-owned historic buildings have been included in six batches of the Scheme. Among them, 12 projects³ covered in Batches I to IV are currently in operation. The renovation works of the three projects under Batch V, namely Roberts Block of Old Victoria Barracks, Luen Wo Market, and Former Lau Fau Shan Police Station, have commenced and the projects are scheduled to open in phases starting from late 2023.

9. As for projects under Batch VI, the assessment results of the first four projects, namely Tai Tam Tuk Raw Water Pumping Station Staff Quarters Compound (Declared Monument), Homi Villa (Grade 3), King Yin Lei (Declared Monument) and Fong Yuen Study Hall (Grade 3), were announced on 14 June 2022. Pre-construction work of the projects, including detailed design and site investigation, commenced in the second quarter of 2023. For Former North Kowloon Magistracy (Grade 2), which was included in Batch VI on a date later than the other four projects, the assessment result was announced on 8 December 2022. We plan to seek funding approval for the restoration works for these five Batch VI projects from 2024. The projects are expected to be completed and come into operation in phases starting from 2025. All five projects will open a substantial part of the historic buildings and declared monuments for visit by the public, and free guided tours and open days will also be arranged. The public will be able to better appreciate the historic buildings and declared monuments and use their facilities, thereby enhancing their understanding and awareness of heritage conservation and revitalisation.

10. The progress of the various projects under the Revitalisation

³ 4 projects in Batch I, 3 projects in Batch II, 2 projects in Batch III and 3 projects in Batch IV.

Scheme is summarised at **Annex B**.

11. With a view to enhancing the Revitalisation Scheme and streamlining the application and selection process, we have conducted an overall review of the scheme, in consultation with the operators of the Revitalisation Scheme projects and the Advisory Committee on Built Heritage Conservation (“ACBHC”).

12. Instead of launching four to five historic buildings at the same time every few years, which led to bunching of applications and extended time in the assessment and approval process, in future, we will be inviting applications for a smaller number of buildings (i.e. one to two buildings) but on a more frequent basis (i.e. around six months after launching of the previous round) with a view to evening out the workload and expediting the selection process. Historic buildings selected for upcoming application periods will be made known to the public in advance to enhance transparency and facilitate advance planning of interested organisations.

13. To attract more quality applicants and creative ideas in enhancing the financial sustainability of the projects, we will extend the application eligibility by allowing non-profit-making organisations (“NPOs”) with charitable status under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) to partner with non-charitable organisations to submit applications. Other enhancement measures include streamlining the selection process by simplifying the application form and setting a passing mark for each assessment criteria; increasing the maximum one-off grant to meet the starting costs and operating deficits of the projects for the first two years of operation from \$5 million to \$6 million, and enhancing other support to the NPOs as appropriate.

14. The enhancement measures will be implemented starting from the next round of application to be launched tentatively by end 2023.

Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme on Built Heritage (“FAS”)

15. In support of the conservation of privately-owned graded historic buildings, the Government launched the FAS in 2008 to provide subsidies to private owners of graded historic buildings to carry out maintenance works. Since the introduction of FAS in 2008, we have approved 112 applications as at end June 2023, involving committed funds of around

\$127 million.

16. On the basis of results received during regular inspection of graded historic buildings, we have stepped up efforts to proactively reach out to private owners to encourage application for subsidies for maintenance. In consultation with the industry and the ACBHC, we have conducted a review on the application and approval procedure of FAS. A number of enhancement measures to streamline the approval process are being considered for implementation by end 2023. These include, for example, increasing the maximum grant amount, adopting initiatives to prevent fee-diving for the consultancies, and enhancing coordination among owners and consultants to resolve technical issues.

Funding Scheme for Public Engagement Projects

17. Since its launch in 2017, three public engagement projects were offered financial support for public education, community involvement and publicity activities. A total grant of \$5.91 million has been approved.

18. All activities of the three public engagement projects were completed by December 2021. We have recently completed a review on the funding scheme in consultation with ACBHC, and a number of enhancement measures in respect of mode of activities, eligibility of applicants, disbursement of funds, assessment criteria, project management and submission of reports, etc. have been introduced.

19. The Funding Scheme for Public Engagement Projects will continue to support projects that enhance community awareness and knowledge of built heritage conservation, mobilise stakeholder actions and induce behavioural changes to conserve built heritage. Under the pilot scheme in 2017, applications were invited from five professional institutes that are closely involved in built heritage conservation. To enhance community involvement, the eligibility criteria for Batch II of the funding scheme is extended to all local non-profit making organisations previously involved in built heritage conservation. Application for Batch II of the funding scheme is now open until 3 October 2023.

Conservation of Wartime Relics

20. It is of great importance to introduce the stories of the War of Resistance and promote the related history and culture to the members of the public, which helps to enhance the cultivation of patriotic sentiments and national identity. Such efforts should not be confined to built structures, but should also involve places, activities, personal items, etc., with wartime history. To this end, an Inter-departmental Task Force chaired by the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration and comprising the Development Bureau, Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau, Home and Youth Affairs Bureau and Education Bureau will be set up to coordinate the relevant efforts of the policy bureaux and enlist the support of the community.

Application of Technology in Heritage Conservation

21. AMO has been exploring the application of the latest technologies in heritage conservation where possible. It has been using advanced 3D scanning to record heritage sites to facilitate restoration, studies and heritage education. 3D printing of historic buildings or their architectural features is also used at exhibitions to enrich the experience of visitors.

22. AMO is also tapping into the technological advancement of drones and artificial intelligence algorithm, by deploying this technology to enhance the inspection of roof of heritage buildings and condition of Sites of Archaeological Interest, where access is difficult, unsafe, resource-intensive and time-consuming. Five archaeological sites, including boulder trackway, Qing dynasty military fortresses and prehistoric rock carvings etc., have been selected to apply the new technology to inspect the sites. The captured images can be generated into high resolution 3D models and automatically assessed through analytic programme and artificial intelligence.

23. AMO has embarked on a pilot programme to produce a series of virtual tours for declared monuments / graded historic buildings in various districts in Hong Kong. Seven virtual tours have been uploaded onto the AMO website for public viewing. Another eleven virtual tours are being produced and scheduled for roll-out by December 2023.

Opening Arrangement of Government-owned Historic Buildings

24. As at June 2023, a total of 276 government-owned historic buildings / structures have been accorded Grade 1, Grade 2 or Grade 3 status, while 70 declared monuments are under government ownership.

25. Among these 340 plus government-owned historic buildings, over 200 are open to the public through appropriate arrangements having regard to their actual circumstances, including museums or exhibition spaces, and the historic buildings operated by NPOs under the Revitalisation Scheme.

26. We will continue to encourage government departments to open their buildings for public visit and enjoyment wherever practicable, and provide them with appropriate support from the heritage conservation perspective. We will engage the tourism sector in selecting priority buildings to be so opened up.

27. We will also continue to explore installation of information plaques at historic buildings which could not be open to the public, in order to facilitate public knowledge of their historical background and heritage values. We will consider involving the faculties and students of the academic sector, to capitalise on their expertise and interest in the area of work.

Collaboration with The Mainland

28. The first Greater Bay Area (the “GBA”) Built Heritage Summit (the “Summit”) was held in Hong Kong on 9 and 10 November 2022 to foster exchange of knowledge, experience and deployment of advanced technology in built heritage conservation, revitalisation, education and engagement amongst the region and explore collaboration. The Summit gathered around 30 government officials, experts, and academics from the GBA and beyond as speakers to share their experiences, best practices, and innovative ideas in heritage building conservation and revitalisation. Some 846 people attended the two-day Summit while more than 10 million online views were recorded.

29. At the Summit, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the Exchange and Collaboration on Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Amongst the GBA (“MoU”) with Department of Culture and Tourism of Guangdong Province and Cultural Affairs Bureau of Macao Special Administrative Region to further strengthen collaborations on archaeological and built heritage in the GBA.

30. We further signed a "Framework Agreement on Deepening Exchange and Cooperation in the Field of Heritage Architecture and Archaeology" (the "Framework Agreement") with the National Cultural Heritage Administration (“NCHA”) on 16 November 2022 to further promote cultural heritage exchange and collaborations on archaeological and built heritage between the Mainland and Hong Kong.

31. Subsequent to the signing of the Framework Agreement and with the support of NCHA, AMO jointly presented the "Light of Jinsha - The Ancient Shu Civilisation" exhibition with Chengdu Jinsha Site Museum from 30 December 2022 to 29 March 2023 to feature over 70 pieces of invaluable exhibits unearthed from the archaeological sites in Sichuan. Seven pieces of significant archaeological relics unearthed in Hong Kong were displayed together with the national treasures to showcase the "pluralistic integration" of the origins of the ancient Chinese civilisation.

32. We also presented the "Inseparable Ties: Cohesion as Told by Hong Kong Historic Buildings" exhibition from October to November 2022 to underscore the bond between Hong Kong and the Mainland. The exhibition is currently being showcased at the Nanjing Municipal Museum in the form of a photo exhibition and is planned to travel to other museums in major cities in the Mainland to foster awareness of the close connection and affection between Hong Kong and the motherland. A roving exhibition of the same theme is being planned for schools in Hong Kong.

33. Following up on the MoU signed among GBA, we are planning the first exhibition jointly curated by AMO and heritage institutions in the region to showcase the origin, evolution and characteristics of traditional Chinese architecture in the Lingnan region through significant archaeological finds, architectural components as well as historical photos from Guangdong, Macao and Hong Kong. The exhibition will be presented at the Heritage Discovery Centre (“HDC”) from December 2023

to June 2024, tentatively.

34. AMO has also commenced collaboration with NCHA to study the significant archaeological finds of Hong Kong. Experts from the National Centre for Archaeology of NCHA will work jointly with AMO to study the 900 000 ceramic shreds dated to Song-Yuan dynasties unearthed in the site of Sacred Hill and the 100 000 ceramic shreds of Ming period excavated in Penny's Bay in the context of the maritime trade of China and the role of Hong Kong therein.

35. In December 2022, we joined the Alliance of Cities for the Protection and Joint Inscription of Maritime Silk Road as World Heritage Sites to jointly inscribe heritage sites related to maritime trade as World Heritage Sites. In the "Start from Guangzhou: Nanhai I Shipwreck and the Maritime Silk Road" currently showcased at the Nanyue King Museum in Guangzhou with AMO's participation, Hong Kong's possible role in the Maritime Silk Road is demonstrated through the ceramics shreds unearthed at the site of Sacred Hill, Penny's Bay, Sha Ha, Tai Hom Village and the old airport.

36. This summer, in-person attendance will resume at the Cultural Heritage Summer Course for Secondary School Students jointly launched with NCHA. Following on the theme of the "Light of Jinsha" exhibition held in Hong Kong, the course will be held in Sichuan this year. 20 students from Hong Kong will join their counterparts from the Mainland and Macao to attend this six-day course, with visits to archaeological sites and museums, and attending talks by experts to enhance their understanding about the culture and history of China.

37. With the support of NCHA as well as through the GBA network, we will continue to explore further collaborations with the Mainland on research, heritage conservation and education, engagement and deployment of advanced technology for heritage work.

Public Education and Publicity Programmes

38. In celebration of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, in November 2022, we staged the popular Heritage Vogue • Hollywood Road 2022 with a host of cultural

performances, guided tours, exhibitions, booths and workshops attracted more than 70 200 visitors. The post-event videos drew over 850 000 online views as of 30 June 2023.

39. To celebrate the 26th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Government and different sectors of the community rolled out a rich array of celebration activities and special offers. Free guided tours and workshops were arranged or enhanced on and around 1 July 2023 by the 12 projects under the Revitalisation Scheme for public enjoyment.

40. AMO organised and launched a wide array of education and engagement programmes, including exhibitions, heritage trails, public lectures, guided tours, workshops, music performances, fun days, community engagement / social inclusion programmes as well as “cross-over” heritage events such as heritage runs, concert in historic building, etc..

Exhibitions

41. Since the report in 2022, AMO staged five heritage-themed exhibitions at HDC attracting a wide spectrum of visitors. For instance, apart from the “Light of Jinsha” and “Inseparable Ties: Cohesion as Told by Hong Kong Historic Buildings” exhibitions mentioned above, exhibitions were staged to showcase the history and heritage of Maryknoll Convent, a declared monument, through the relics uncovered in its hidden attic, and on the art talents of people with disabilities through their drawings on built heritage. AMO also staged five outbound exhibitions.

Heritage Cluster

42. AMO joined hands with The University of Hong Kong to launch “HKU Heritage Sights and Sites”, a web-based audio guide to promote a cluster of historic buildings, in November 2022. The cluster comprises seven declared monuments and six graded buildings within the campus or in the vicinity of the university. The audio guide enables visitors to learn the history and appreciate the exquisite design and craftsmanship of the buildings by scanning QR codes placed at the buildings or listening to the audio guide available on the website of AMO.

Friends of Heritage and Young Friends of Heritage

43. AMO has received more than 2 700 applications for joining the Friend of Heritage (“FOH”) or Young Friend of Heritage (“YFOH”) in the past 15 months. Since July 2022, AMO has held 48 sessions of guided tours, workshops, field trips and special events for FOH and YFOH, which attracted a total attendance of over 1 000.

Media and Social Media

44. Subsequent to the series of TV episodes on the heritage in Tai Po between March and July 2021, AMO further collaborated with the local TV channel to produce a new series on the historic buildings in Tai Hang and Causeway Bay to tell the history and heritage of Hong Kong in a district context. The episodes were broadcast from March and April 2023.

45. Launched in January 2022 to publicise heritage conservation and allow cross-promotion of events related to heritage to the younger generations, our Instagram account “HKHeritageLIVE” has reached over 12 600 followers.

46. A series of social inclusion programmes themed on heritage was launched to engage people with disabilities, fostering their interest in heritage, as well as enhancing social inclusiveness in the community. From March to July 2022, AMO launched the “Art Unbound, Inclusion Absolute – Heritage for All” Drawing Competition with the support of 12 art / social organisations. An online polling held to select “My Favourite Online Artwork” from the 130 qualified entries attracted 2 790 votes from members of the public. A display of all the winning and shortlisted entries was staged between September and December 2022 at HDC and H6 CONET respectively attracting a total attendance of more than 90 000.

47. To encourage participation by disabled people in built heritage appreciation, AMO collaborated with the Hong Kong Society for the Blind to run a talk cum workshop on the “Habits and Haberdashery – Uncovering History and Heritage in the Hidden Attic” exhibition for visually impaired participants. Participants could learn more about the history and heritage of the Maryknoll Convent, a declared monument, and appreciate the enjoy

the exhibition through touchable replica exhibits.

Cross-over Heritage Programmes

48. We continued to make use of cultural / sports cross-over events to broaden the reach of heritage conservation promotion and enhance the heritage appreciation experience. AMO jointly launched the “Heritage Run”. Three series of heritage runs covering four districts, namely Kowloon City District, Central and Western District, Kwai Tsing District and Tsuen Wan District, were held with Kai Tak Sports Initiative Foundation Limited from September 2022 to March 2023 to promote appreciation of built heritage on a district basis whilst doing exercise. AMO also joined hands with Tung Wah Group of Hospitals and Greater Bay Area Philharmonic Hong Kong Orchestra to hold a concert at the Main Block of Tung Wah Hospital (Grade 1 historic building) to celebrate China’s Cultural and Natural Heritage Day on 10 June 2023.

Collaboration with Tourism Sector

49. We regularly update and involve the Hong Kong Tourism Board on heritage-related events and programmes, e.g. Heritage Vogue • Hollywood Road 2022, to facilitate their promotion to tourists. In designing our programmes and activities, we also take into consideration potential benefits to tourists. For example, the web-based audio guide for HKU Heritage Sights and Sites is designed to facilitate tourists to visit the historic buildings in the campus and vicinity. The routes of the heritage runs enable tourists to understand more about Hong Kong’s history on a district basis. We are also working with some of the District Offices on programmes to present the built heritage in the respective districts. As set out in paragraph 26 above, we will consult the tourism sector as to which government-owned historic buildings they consider to be of high potential for tourism and encourage the relevant departments to consider appropriate opening or interpretation arrangements.

Fun Days

50. We organised two fun days on the Chinese Valentines’ Day and Easter this year with a view to reaching out to families. A wide range of heritage-themed programmes including classical music concert performed

by a family, printing and badge making workshops, Easter egg hunt and painting, balloon twisting, lantern riddles, paper cutting, etc., were held on the two fun days, attracting a total of 2 480 visitors.

Teacher Training

51. To foster awareness and interest of primary and secondary school teachers in Hong Kong heritage, AMO has been collaborating closely with Education Bureau to organise various training activities related to the promotion of national identity, heritage and multi-cultural development in Hong Kong, etc. Through online and physical seminars and field visits to various heritage sites including Tai Po, Sai Kung, North District, and Kam Tin and Sha Tau Kok, school teachers were briefed on the history and heritage in a district basis, the techniques to arouse and engage students to learn in a more appealing and enjoyable way, such as to understand history and culture through historic buildings and heritage sites. The activities held for teachers were very well received and acclaimed by participants.

52. Details of the public engagement events are set out in **Annex C**.

Advice Sought

53. Members are invited to note the latest position of the implementation of various heritage conservation initiatives.

Development Bureau

July 2023

Heritage Appraisal of Tin Hau Temple Joss House Bay, Sai Kung

The Tin Hau¹ Temple in Joss House Bay is believed to be *Historical Interest* one of the oldest surviving temples dedicated to Tin Hau in Hong Kong and the coastal area of Guangdong province. The Temple is commonly known as *Tai Miu* (大廟), literally means “great temple”.² It has been one of the most popular Tin Hau temples in Hong Kong since the 1950s, the period when worshippers residing in Hong Kong waters changed their place of worship.³

A rock inscription situated behind the Temple gives a clue to the early history of the site. The inscription states that an officer in charge of salt production in Kowloon noticed that a man called Lam Tao-yi (林道義) had restored and expanded a *tong* (堂) (literally a “hall” or “shrine”) in the area when he and his friend visited Fat Tong Mun in 1274.⁴ In addition, an old Chinese voyage map produced in the 16th century records a temple dedicated to Tin Hau in northern Fat Tong Mun.⁵

The Tin Hau Temple in Joss House Bay is linked to the Lam family of Chuk Yuen and Po Kong, Kowloon. The *Lam Genealogy of Chuk Yuen, Kowloon* (《九龍竹園村林氏族譜》) records that, in the Song dynasty, two Lam brothers, Chung-kin (松堅) and Pak-

¹ Tin Hau, also known as the Empress of Heaven and the Goddess of the Sea, is a popular patron deity of seafaring folk, particularly in Guangdong and Fujian provinces. Tin Hau worship is originated in Fujian.

² The waters in front of the Tin Hau Temple are marked as “Tai Miu” in the 1895 map of Hong Kong, which is the revised version of the map prepared by Lieutenant Collinson in 1845.

³ Before the 1950s, the Tin Hau temple in Chiwan, Baoan (寶安赤灣) was more popular than the one in Joss House Bay.

⁴ It is stated in the 1819 edition of the *Gazetteer of Xin'an County* (《新安縣志》) that four Chinese characters “咸淳二年 (the second year of the Xianchun period of the Southern Song dynasty) (1266)” were just about legible in a rock inscription found inside a temple at the current site. However, the rock inscription described is no longer in existence. Whatever the relationship between the rock inscriptions, the shrine and the then Tin Hau temple are themselves subject to a number of interpretations.

⁵ The *Coastal Map of Guangdong* (廣東沿海圖) from *The Grand Record of Guangdong* (《粵大記》).

kin (柏堅) were rescued by Tin Hau during a storm at sea. Grateful to Tin Hau for saving them, they built a shack to pay tribute to her on the southern shore of Fat Tong Mun. Chung-kin's son Lam Tao-yi built a temple at the current location.⁶ In 1939, the Chinese Temples Committee took over the Temple from a Lam family which may have a remote connection with Lam Tao-yi.

The Temple has been popular among local fishermen and seafarers throughout the years. The relics preserved in the Temple demonstrate that it was well supported by the locals during the past two centuries. The oldest relic is an incense burner cast in 1803.⁷ Other relics include two bells cast in 1839 and 1840 respectively, an incense burner cast in 1893, a pair of wooden banners offered to the Temple in 1898, a timber plaque bearing the inscription, “神力扶持” (literally, “empowered by the Goddess”) dated 1908, a pair of historic wooden couplets dated 1909, an incense burner dated 1925, and a decorative wooden panel (彩門) dated 1926. These were all offered by the devotees in order to honour Tin Hau's divine prowess.

The Temple building follows the South China vernacular style that was popular during the Qing period. The granite lintel at the main entrance is evidence that the current layout of the building was formed during the restoration work done in 1877.⁸ The Temple is composed of a row of five buildings. The main building is flanked on each side by two subsidiary buildings. The front elevation of the main building is recessed. It shows an entrance porch formed by two granite tie-beams supported by granite bracket supports and inserted into granite columns. Granite *gejia* (隔架) and a wooden camel's hump (駝峰) decorated with shallow reliefs can also be found at the porch. The roof is covered with green glazed tiles. The gable wall is decorated with a plaster relief, showing a grass motif pattern and *bogu* (博古) ends.

**Architectural
Merit**

⁶ “The story of the North and South shrines” (南北二佛堂誌) in the *Lam Genealogy of Chuk Yuen, Kowloon*.

⁷ The two oldest relics preserved in the Temple are two incense burners cast in 1803 and 1804 respectively.

⁸ Reference is made to the inscription “光緒三年歲次丁丑重修” (literally, restored in the third year of the Guangxu reign) on the granite lintel which dates back to 1877.

The main building has a typical temple layout, being a two-hall-three-bay (兩進三開間) structure. Between the two halls (the entrance hall and the rear hall), there is a covered incense pavilion and two side chambers. The entrance hall served as a reception area with a pair of screen doors in the middle. Behind the screen doors is the incense pavilion supported by granite columns, decorated with two pairs of antique wooden couplets and tablets. Three statues of Tin Hau sit at the middle of the central altar in the rear hall. Another deity, Madam Golden Flower (金花娘娘), is housed to the right, and two smaller statues of Tin Hau are placed to the left. In front of the central altar, there are sculpted figures of maids and Tin Hau's guardian assistants, the Thousand League Eyes (千里眼) to the left and the Wind-Flavouring Ears (順風耳) to the right. The layout of the rear hall is similar to the setting of a law-court, as it occasionally functioned in the past as a place to resolve matters among the followers in front of the deities.

The two subsidiary buildings to the left of the main building are also two-hall structures. At the rear hall of that subsidiary building which is closer to the main building is the residential chamber of Tin Hau (天后寢宮); the Year Gods deities (*Tai Shui* 太歲) are enshrined in the entrance hall. The rear hall of the furthest subsidiary building is the Matreya Buddha (彌勒佛) hall. The subsidiary buildings to the right of the main building are the back office of the temple management.

The Temple is heavily decorated. One of the most outstanding decorations is a wooden panel painted gold in colour, placed above the screen doors in the entrance hall. Produced in 1926, it is a boat-shaped ornament with intricate carvings depicting a scene of an opera performance. As for the fascia boards, these are decorated with patterns of flowers and plants. Relief mouldings of animal and human figurines and murals are found on the left and right of the friezes. Unlike the murals of other historical Chinese buildings, which feature historical figures and stories, two murals at the incense pavilion depict a young woman rowing a boat, presumably a modern interpretation of the protection given by Tin Hau.

Restorations and repairs to the Temple were carried out in 1840, 1877, 1925, 1962, 1990, 2009 and 2022. In 1990, the glazed ceramic double dragons with a petal finial at the centre of the main ridge and the *bogu* decorations at the ends of the main ridge and the gable ridges replaced the previous decorative elements. However, the overall setting and the spatial layout of the main building and subsidiary buildings have remained unchanged for years. The building structure and most of the building fabrics, such as the granite columns, the granite *gejia*, the murals of the incense pavilion, the screen doors, timber cornice boards and floor tiles, are all preserved. Last but not least, the decorative ceramic main ridge of 1925 remains at the roof of the rear hall. ***Authenticity***

The setting is the most distinctive feature of the Temple. It is believed that the location of the Temple was carefully chosen with a view of helping Tin Hau to “keep on eye” on the waters, so that she could protect fishermen and seafarers passing through the Fat Tong Mun channel. This sea-facing setting is still the most direct manifestation of the core purpose and value of the Temple. The Temple is one of the most prominent examples in today’s Hong Kong where a Tin Hau temple is close to the sea shore, undisturbed by urban development. Some people believe, additionally, that the setting of the Temple is consistent with traditional *fengshui* principles.⁹ The *fengshui* setting and the scenic view endow the Temple with a leading position among other Tin Hau temples in Hong Kong. ***Rarity***

The Temple provides a centre-piece for those rituals of Tin Hau’s followers which take place in the waters of Hong Kong. The most important event of the Temple is the celebration of Tin Hau’s birthday (known as Tin Hau Festival in English). A considerable number of government documents, photographs and videos, dating from 1950s and 1990s, record the populous and bustling birthday celebrations during the period. On the 23rd day of the third lunar month - celebrated as the birthday of Tin Hau - thousands of people ***Social Value & Local Interest***

⁹ The hill Tin Ha Shan at the rear provides a backup support. To the two sides of the Temple are Tei Tong Tsui and Tei Tong Teng supporting the two wings, “green dragon” and “white tiger”. To the south, Joss House Bay provides a “bright hall” for the Temple.

from all over Hong Kong, including fishermen, seafarers, and other people engaged in sea-related business, as well as local villagers, pay homage to Tin Hau at the Temple. The ferry company arranges ferries to travel between Fat Tong Mun and North Point at the time of the Tin Hau Festival. Nowadays, celebration activities continue to be held annually and reinforce the status of the Temple as a prominent and popular Tin Hau Temple in Hong Kong.

The Temple has a close connection with the Po Toi O Chuen and other villages nearby. The villagers from Po Toi O and Clear Water Bay served as temple-keepers of the Tin Hau Temple in the past. Together, the villagers formed the Joss House Bay Jiao Committee of Sai Kung to hold the Jiao Festival at the Temple, beginning in 2003. In addition, the villagers at Hang Hau perform the Hakka Unicorn Dance at the Temple, as well as at the Tin Hau Temple in Hang Hau, to celebrate the Tin Hau Festival and strengthen the connection between the two places. Through organising the celebration activities, the bonding between the Temple and the local communities is further reinforced.

In addition, the Temple has been selected as the venue for the commissioning ceremony of new vessels in Hong Kong. A recent example is the commissioning ceremony of new vessels held in mid-2021 by the Marine Region of the Hong Kong Police.

The Temple serves as a significant landmark demonstrating and witnessing at the same time the social cohesion, cultural diversity and financial strength of the local society. It also plays a leading role to promote our cultural heritage. The celebrations held at the Temple form a crucial part of the Tin Hau Festival in Hong Kong and contributed to the inscription of the “Tin Hau Festival in Hong Kong” onto the Fifth National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2021.

The vast number of the Tin Hau temples reflects the popularity of Tin Hau belief in Hong Kong. Other than the leading one in Joss House Bay, the Tin Hau temples in Yau Ma Tei, Causeway Bay and Lung Yeuk Tau are declared monuments. The Tin Hau temple at Fung Chi Tsuen, Yuen Long has been accorded the status of

Group Value

a Grade 1 historic building. Eleven Tin Hau temples have been accorded the status of a Grade 2 historic building and twenty-two have been accorded the status of a Grade 3 historic building. These Tin Hau temples have established and reinforced the important folk culture and religion in Hong Kong. The site of the Chinese Customs Station at Junk Island, the Tung Lung Fort at Tung Lung Chau, the Rock Inscription situated behind the Temple at the Joss House Bay (all Declared Monument), the Hung Shing Temple at Po Toi O (Grade 3), and the Temple present the different stages of the development of the Fat Tong Mun area since the time of the Southern Song era in the 13th century. Amongst them, the Rock Inscription and the Hung Shing Temple are within walking distance of the Tin Hau Temple. Collectively, they reflect the historical and socio-cultural development of the area.

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Photos of Tin Hau Temple, Joss House Bay, Sai Kung



The front façade of Tin Hau Temple,
Joss House Bay



The granite lintel dated 1877 at the main entrance of
Tin Hau Temple, Joss House Bay



The sea-facing setting is the most distinctive feature of Tin Hau Temple, Joss House Bay.



The main building is a two-hall structure.
An incense pavilion is built between the two halls.



The statues of Tin Hau and Madam Golden Flower
at the altars in the rear hall



In front of the altars, there are sculpted figures of two maids and
two guardian assistants, the Thousand League Eyes (right) and
Wind-Flavouring Ears (left).



The boat-shaped wooden panel dated 1925 above the screen doors in the entrance hall



Decorative fascia board, murals and mouldings of animal and human figurines at the incense pavilion



Residential chamber of Tin Hau at the subsidiary building

**Heritage Appraisal of
Former Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong Central Building
No. 51 Bridges Street, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong**

Built in 1918, the former Chinese Young Men’s Christian Association (“YMCA”) of Hong Kong Central Building (“Central Building”), currently known as “the Bridges Street Centre”, was the first headquarters building of the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong until 1966, when the headquarters moved to Waterloo Road, Kowloon. *Historical Interest*

The establishment of the Central Building was funded by donations from two Chicago YMCA members, Mrs W. E. Blackstone (碧士東夫人) and Mr C. H. McCormick (麥金覓先生), and prominent local Chinese leaders and businessmen such as Mr Huang Mou-lin (黃茂林), the president of the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong at the time, Mr Lam Woo (林護), a property tycoon, Mr Ma Ying Piu (馬應彪), the founder of Sincere Department Store, Mr Kwok Lok (郭樂), the co-founder of Wing On Department Store, as well as Mr Wu Ting Fang (伍廷芳) the first Chinese Legislative Council member of Hong Kong and others.¹ Through the generous support of prominent members and local Chinese businessmen, the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong succeeded in raising the required funds of around USD 25,000 for the establishment of this dedicated building in Hong Kong. The contribution of the Chinese to the construction of the Central Building was indispensable and showed the growing influence of the Chinese leaders and businessmen to the society in early 20th century Hong Kong.

In 1914, the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong purchased the piece of land known as No. 51 Bridges Street in the Tai Ping Shan area from the Government for the purpose of developing the new building. The construction works commenced in December 1915. Bishop of Victoria, the Right Rev. C.H. Lander D.D. (倫治華博士) laid the foundation stone on 10 February 1917. The building was officially opened by the Hon. Claud Severn, C.M.G. (施勳護督) on 10 October

¹ Names of the donors were inscribed on the memorial plaque installed at the entrance of the auditorium.

1918. Upon its inauguration, the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong held a five-day celebration, attracting more than 23,000 people to visit the building.²

The Central Building was the first multi-functional building equipped with modern facilities at the time that was dedicated to the Chinese community. The original provision of the building included the Hong Kong's first indoor swimming pool with the provision of warm water, the first elevated wok-shaped running track supported by a cantilever structure, a double-volume auditorium with a screening room that could accommodate some 520 seats, a social room, a billiard room, a dormitory, a kitchen and a dining hall, a library, changing rooms, day and night school rooms and a roof garden.³

In the early 20th century, there were few assembly halls to hold large-scale seminars, gatherings or exhibitions in Hong Kong. After its opening, the Central Building soon became a popular venue for such activities. For example, the first annual general meeting of the “Anti-Mui Tsai Society” was held in 1922 and the first mass wedding was held in 1936.⁴ Other important events held in the Central Building were the two lectures delivered by the famous Chinese writer Lu Xun on 18 and 19 February 1927, attracting over 600 people.⁵ The Central Building had been a place to disseminate new ideas which in some ways enhanced social change.

Sports facilities were crucial elements of the Central Building in achieving the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong's missions of promoting physical well-being of youth and adult. To promote physical education, the architects equipped the Central Building with

² Website of Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong, “Bridges Street Centre 100th Anniversary”, <https://www.ymca.org.hk/bsc/index-en.php>, accessed on 1 April 2023.

³ “New Chinese Y.M.C.A. Description of New Building Official Opening Today”, *South China Morning Post*, 10 October 1918.

⁴ Sir Shouson Chow (周壽臣) was the witness for the weddings of eleven couples. Mass weddings were held with the aim to steer society away from the custom of extravagant and wasteful weddings and instead promote a ‘frugal wedding’. Celebrities were invited to share information on maintaining a healthy marriage and a good relationship with their in-laws, as well as information on birth control.

⁵ The two lectures delivered by Lu Xun were titled “Voiceless China” (〈無聲的中國〉) and “The Old Way of Writing and Speaking Is Coming to an End” (〈老調子已經唱完〉), which promoted the written Chinese language and literary reform.

various sports facilities modelled from the YMCA buildings in America and China. The Central Building was very well-received by the public. According to the archival records of the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong, a total of 1,557 fitness room users, 730 swimming pool users and 1,557 shower room users were recorded between 23 October 1918 and 3 January 1919.⁶

During the Battle of Hong Kong in 1941, the headquarters of Hong Kong's Air Raid Precaution (Section A of the Mid-Levels) was set up in the Central Building and protected thousands of refugees. During the Japanese Occupation (1941–1945), the Central Building was requisitioned by the Japanese Education Department to offer Japanese and German courses. After the war, the Central Building resumed its usual services.

In 1966, the Central Building turned into a youth centre and was renamed as the Bridges Street Centre. The Home of Love Hostel and Home of Love Sheltered Workshop, which officially opened in 1995, are still in operation in the Central Building. The remaining parts of the building are still used as the youth centre.

The Central Building is an iconic rectangular six-storey building with a symmetrical front façade. Standing on a sloping site, the top three stories are above the street level of Bridges Street, while the other three floors are below. The building is connected to Bridges Street with bridges. Such a design is rare in historic buildings in Hong Kong.

*Architectural
Merit*

The architectural plans of the Central Building were initially prepared by architects Mr Shattuck and Mr Hussey of Chicago, who specialised in the design and construction of YMCA buildings in America and China. The architect, Mr A. R. F. Raven, adapted the architectural plans with minor amendments for local use.

The Central Building is mainly constructed from red brick

⁶ Website of Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong, "Bridges Street Centre 100th Anniversary", <https://www.ymca.org.hk/bsc/index-en.php>, accessed on 1 April 2023.

and concrete. Fair-face red brick was one of the most popular types of facades for Western buildings in Hong Kong, especially between 1890 and 1950.⁷ The Central Building represented the prevailing architectural style at the time.

The Central Building is an example of eclectic architecture, in which Western neo-classical elements are juxtaposed with Chinese vernacular elements. The front elevation displays neo-classical features such as keystones, Tuscan columns, a classical arched main entrance porch, dentils in arranged brickwork and brick arch openings at the basement. More Western features can be found in the building's interior, such as classical-style scroll brackets of the auditorium, a fireplace and plastered moulding. The Chinese feature is mainly the green glazed tiled eaves of the porches at the auditorium entrances, the old lobby and the balconies on the second floor. The rear elevation of the building presents a utilitarian appearance. The use of identical fenestration, demonstrating functional expression and directness, reveals the character of the Chicago School's architectural style. Adopting Chinese architectural elements in a Western building was a practice in ecclesiastical architecture in the early 20th century.

The multi-functional arrangement of different spaces of this building is similar to, and modelled after, other YMCA buildings in North America of the same period. All of its special features and facilities contributed to making it a Hong Kong building that was modern and advanced for its time.

The Central Building has generally retained much of its original appearance since it was built in 1918.⁸ Although some areas of the building have undergone some conversion works in order to meet different uses in the past 100 years and led to subsequent changes to the internal layout and internal finishes,⁹ most of the architectural *Authenticity*

⁷ The old Pathological Institute, Kom Tong Hall, the Fung Ping Shan Building, the Main Building, the Hung Hing Ying Building, Elliot Hall and May Hall of The University of Hong Kong are examples of red brick buildings in the Central and Western District.

⁸ An obvious change is the replacement of the two external metal staircases to fulfil the current building regulations. The new staircases retain the visual character of the original design.

⁹ For example, some areas of the gymnasium have been converted into a store and toilets, the finishings of the swimming pool, changing room and dormitory have been replaced with

features and heritage assets of the Central Building, including the foundation stone with the emblem of the YMCA, the inscriptions of “Young Men’s Christian Association” at the auditorium and old lobby entrance porches, the fireplace in the old lobby area, the terrazzo steps leading to the stage of the auditorium, timber staircases to the upper loft of the auditorium, the wok-shaped running track and iron railing, the fitness equipment and timber flooring of the gymnasium and other features are all still preserved in good condition. The swimming pool of the Central Building, the first heated indoor pool during wintertime in Hong Kong, has maintained its original use since 1918. The two historic brass rails and the layout of the swimming pool remain unchanged. In addition, the Central Building has been continuously used as a youth centre, offering various kinds of sports and recreational activities and facilities, as well as hostel services, since its establishment. All these factors further enhance its authenticity.

The building is the oldest surviving building in Hong Kong that the YMCA once used as their headquarters. It is also the first building to be equipped with various advanced sports and recreational facilities and other functional facilities. The wok-shaped running track is probably the only surviving example in Hong Kong. ***Rarity***

Ecclesiastical architecture with a mix of Western building technology and Chinese architectural features is a special type of architecture in Hong Kong.¹⁰ It is also unique for how it was designed by architects from North America, modelled on the master building form of the YMCA buildings in North America.

The social value of the building lies in its role in contributing to social, religious, educational, sports and rehabilitation services development in Hong Kong. For over a century, from serving as the headquarters in 1918 to 1966 and then as the Bridges Street Centre, a youth and recreational centre and a ***Social Value & Local Interest***

new materials and the green glazed eave tiles have been re-laid according to the original appearance.

¹⁰ Other examples of eclectic-style ecclesiastical buildings in Hong Kong include S.K.H. St. Mary’s Church in Causeway Bay, S.K.H. Holy Trinity Cathedral in Kowloon City, Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre in Sha Tin and the Holy Spirit Seminary in Wong Chuk Hang.

sheltered workshop and hostel today, the Central Building has continuously offered diverse sports opportunities, education, social services and hostel services to the community. Although part of the building has been converted into a sheltered workshop and hostel, the building continues to be a venue for sports programmes and interest classes with the wide participation from the members of the community.

In the early days, the Central Building was an important place for social communication, especially for the Chinese community. Many well-known Chinese businessmen and elites were directors of the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong. The construction of the building reflected the social network of the Chinese elites, as suggested in the memorial plaques engraved with the name of donors installed outside and inside the auditorium of the Central Building.

With a distinctive appearance and a prominent location along Ladder Street, the Central Building is an iconic local landmark. Because of its historical and social background, it is of considerable local interest and attracts visitors for appreciation. It is also one of the historic buildings along the Central and Western Heritage Trail (中西區文物徑).

The Central Building, Man Mo Temple Compound, Sheung Wan (Declared Monument), Kwong Fook I Tsz (Grade 2), Main Block of the Tung Wah Hospital (Grade 1) were all founded or managed by local Chinese people and located in the Tai Ping Shan area. These historical buildings collectively illustrate the development of the Chinese community in early Hong Kong. Together with the Man Mo Temple compound and the old Pathological Institute (Declared Monument) (currently the Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences), these three historic buildings are located along Ladder Street (Grade 1), which connects the Central District and Mid-Levels, where European and wealthy Chinese residents lived. Also, the Bridges Street Market (Grade 3) (currently the Hong Kong News-Expo) is within walking distance of the Central Building. These historic

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buildings and structures collectively exemplify the development of Hong Kong – in particular, the historical and socio-cultural development of the Sheung Wan District.

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Photos of Former Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong Central Building



Tuscan columns and green glazed tiled eaves at the front elevation of the Central Building



The side and rear elevations of the Central Building looking from Ladder Street. The Chinese name of YMCA are installed at prominent positions.



The foundation stone at the front elevation of the Central Building



The inscription of “Young Men’s Christian Association”
above the entrance porch near Tank Lane



The fireplace on ground floor.
The emblem of YMCA and couplets backed with marble plate and slabs are
on top of the mantel.



The auditorium



The gymnasium with a wok-shaped timber running track



The indoor swimming pool.
The original brass rail (in the foreground) is still in use.

**Projects under the Revitalising Historic Buildings
Through Partnership Scheme (the “Revitalisation Scheme”)**

Batch I

The following four projects under Batch I of the Revitalisation Scheme are in operation. Their latest position is as follows:

- (a) **Old Tai O Police Station** – it has been revitalised as the “Tai O Heritage Hotel”, and started operation in March 2012. The project received an Award of Merit in the 2013 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation (“UNESCO Awards”). By the end of June 2023, over 1 986 000 visitors have visited the hotel;
- (b) **Lui Seng Chun** – it has been revitalised into “Hong Kong Baptist University School of Chinese Medicine – Lui Seng Chun”, a Chinese medicine and healthcare centre. The centre commenced operation in April 2012. By the end of June 2023, over 608 000 visitors have visited the revitalised building;
- (c) **Mei Ho House** – it has been revitalised into the “YHA Mei Ho House Youth Hostel”, comprising 129 guest rooms, a cafeteria and a museum on public housing development in Hong Kong. The hostel started operation in October 2013. The project received an Honourable Mention in the 2015 UNESCO Awards. By the end of June 2023, over 1 712 000 visitors have visited the hostel; and
- (d) **Former Lai Chi Kok Hospital** – this cluster of historic buildings has been revitalised into the “Jao Tsung-I Academy”, a centre for promoting Chinese culture. Operation of the Academy commenced in February 2014. By the end of June 2023, over 1 857 000 visitors have visited the place.

Batch II

2. The following three projects under Batch II of the Revitalisation Scheme are in operation. Their latest position is as follows:

- (a) **Old Tai Po Police Station** – it has been revitalised into the “Green Hub” for sustainable living. Educational programmes and training camps are provided under the project to develop, teach and promote affordable strategies for ecologically responsible and low carbon living. Operation commenced in August 2015. The project received an Honourable Mention in the 2016 UNESCO Awards. By the end of June 2023, over 374 000 visitors have visited the place;
- (b) **Stone Houses** – the site has been revitalised into the “Stone Houses Family Garden”, a themed cafeteria-cum-visitor information centre. The project commenced operation in October 2015. By the end of June 2023, over 1 311 000 visitors have visited the place; and
- (c) **Blue House Cluster** – it has been revitalised into the “Viva Blue House”, a multi-functional complex providing residential accommodation and various kinds of services to the local community. Grand opening of the project was held in September 2017. The project won the Award of Excellence in the 2017 UNESCO Awards. It is the first time a built heritage conservation project in Hong Kong has received this top honour. By the end of June 2023, over 298 000 visitors have visited the cluster.

Batch III

3. There are three projects under Batch III of the Revitalisation Scheme. Their latest position is as follows:

- (a) **Bridges Street Market** – it has been revitalised into the “Hong Kong News-Expo”. Operation commenced in December 2018. By the end of June 2023, over 124 000 visitors have visited the place;
- (b) **Former Fanling Magistracy** – it has been revitalised into “The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups Leadership Institute”, providing training programmes on leadership skills. The project commenced operation in December 2018. By the end of June 2023, over 328 000 visitors have visited the Institute; and
- (c) **Haw Par Mansion** – it was revitalised as the “Haw Par Music”, a music school providing training on Chinese and Western music and promoting the exchange of Chinese and Western music culture. The project commenced operation in December 2018. Haw Par Music ceased operation on 1 December 2022 and the historic building of Haw Par Mansion was returned to the Government on the same day. Up to its closure on 30 November 2022, over 155 000 visitors visited the place. The Government will formulate plans for its future use. In the interim, Haw Par Mansion has been reopened since early June 2023. The public can visit the mansion by joining free guided tours offered by the Antiquities and Monuments Office of Development Bureau.

Batch IV

4. The following three projects under Batch IV of the Revitalisation Scheme are in operation. Their latest position is as follows::

- (a) **No. 12 School Street** – it has been revitalised into the “Tai Hang Fire Dragon Heritage Centre”, which also houses a themed restaurant. The project introduces the history and culture of the Tai Hang Fire Dragon and promotes traditional Hakka culture. An opening ceremony was held on 11 June 2022. By the end of June 2023, over 16 000 visitors have visited the Centre;
- (b) **Old Dairy Farm Senior Staff Quarters** – it has been revitalised

into “The Pokfulam Farm”, a living museum revealing the history and operation of the Old Dairy Farm, and presenting the culture of Pokfulam village and the surrounding area. An opening ceremony was held on 24 March 2023. By the end of June 2023, over 46 000 visitors have visited the place;

- (c) **Lady Ho Tung Welfare Centre** – it has been revitalised into the “Lady Ho Tung Welfare Centre Eco-Learn Institute”, which provides education programmes on biodiversity with the aim of enhancing the public awareness of the importance of ecology conservation and the concept of sustainable development. An opening ceremony was held on 6 May 2023. The project is in operation now.

Batch V

5. There are four projects under Batch V of the Revitalisation Scheme:

- (a) **Roberts Block, Old Victoria Barracks** will be revitalised into the “Roberts Block Creative Arts Therapy Centre”;
- (b) **Luen Wo Market** will be revitalised into the “Luen Wo Market – House of Rural and Urban Living”;
- (c) **Former Lau Fau Shan Police Station** will be revitalised into the “Former Lau Fau Shan Police Station – Hong Kong Guide Dogs Academy”; and
- (d) **Watervale House, Former Gordon Hard Camp** was planned to be revitalised into the “Tuen Mun Soul Oasis”.

6. Renovation works of the items 5(a) to 5(c) have commenced in early 2022 and are in good progress. These projects are scheduled to open in phases starting from end 2023.

7. The non-profit-making organisation for item 5(d) withdrew from the project in January 2021 because their management focus has changed significantly and they can no longer provide the counselling and community services as originally intended. We will consider including this historic building in the next batch of the Revitalisation Scheme.

Batch VI

8. There are five projects under Batch VI of the Revitalisation Scheme:

- (a) **Tai Tam Tuk Raw Water Pumping Station Staff Quarters Compound** will be revitalised into “EARTH - Eco, Art & Culture, Revitalisation, Technology and Heritage”;
- (b) **Homi Villa** will be revitalised into “CNHE Youyou Villa”;
- (c) **King Yin Lei** will be revitalised into “King Yin Lei - a Healthy Living Centre based on Pu’er Tea & TCM”;
- (d) **Fong Yuen Study Hall** will be revitalised into “Fong Yuen Study Hall – Experiential Learning Centre”; and
- (e) **Former North Kowloon Magistracy** will be revitalised into “NK Future”.

9. For items (a) to (d), pre-construction work including detailed design and site investigation of the projects have commenced in the second quarter of 2023. For item (e), funding for pre-construction work will be sought in end of 2023. We will seek funding approval for the renovation works from the Finance Committee of Legislative Council for the five projects in due course.

Development Bureau
July 2023

Public Engagement Events

Since the last progress report in July 2022, the Government has organised the following publicity and public education activities:

The Greater Bay Area Built Heritage Summit

- (a) In celebration of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“HKSAR”), Commissioner for Heritage’s Office (“CHO”) and Antiquities and Monuments Office (“AMO”) jointly organised the Greater Bay Area Built Heritage Summit (the “Summit”) at the Hong Kong City Hall from 9 to 10 November 2022, with live broadcast online. Around 30 experts and scholars on built heritage conservation from the Greater Bay Area and overseas were invited to share their professional knowledge and valuable experiences. The Summit was very well-received, with a total attendance of 846 and more than 10 million online views on YouTube and Ifeng;
- (b) also for celebrating the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the “HKSAR”, CHO organised the “Heritage Vogue • Hollywood Road 2022” on 20 November 2022, which covered Tai Kwun, Police Married Quarters (PMQ), Man Mo Temple, Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong Bridges Street Centre, Central Market, Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum, Fringe Club, the Hong Kong City Hall, Hong Kong News-Expo, Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences, The Helena May and The Murray. The event crossed over heritage with performing arts and cultural activities, guided tours, themed exhibition, workshops and attracted more than 70 200 visitors flow;
- (c) a Roving Exhibition on Batches I to IV of the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (“Revitalisation Scheme”) projects was also held from 19 November to 31

December 2022 in conjunction with “Heritage Vogue • Hollywood Road 2022” and attracted more than 90 300 visitors flow;

- (d) to celebrate the 26th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, the Government and different sectors of the community rolled out a rich array of celebration activities and special offers. Free guided tours and workshops have been arranged or enhanced on and around 1 July 2023 for the 12 projects under the Revitalising Scheme for the enjoyment of the public.

Exhibitions

- (e) AMO jointly presented the “Light of Jinsha - The Ancient Shu Civilisation” exhibition with Chengdu Jinsha Site Museum, in association with Sanxingdui Museum and Chengdu Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology, at Heritage Discovery Centre (“HDC”) from 30 December 2022 to 29 March 2023. Over 70 pieces of invaluable exhibits unearthed from the archaeological sites in Sichuan were featured, together with 7 significant archaeological relics unearthed in Hong Kong to compare and unfold the "pluralistic integration" of the origins of the ancient Chinese civilisation. The exhibition attracted a total attendance of 39 511;
- (f) co-organised by AMO and Maryknoll Convent School Foundation Limited, and supported by the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust, the “Habits and Haberdashery – Uncovering History and Heritage in the Hidden Attic” exhibition was held at HDC from 24 June to 14 September 2022, recording a total attendance of 15 669;
- (g) with the support of National Cultural Heritage Administration (“NCHA”) and the Department of Culture and Tourism of Guangdong Province (“DCTGP”), AMO and Art Exhibition China (“AEC”) jointly presented the “Inseparable Ties: Cohesion as Told by Hong Kong Historic Buildings” exhibition at HDC from 21 October to 20 November 2022, attracting a total

attendance of 4 280;

- (h) “In Virtual of Heritage – Exploring Monuments with Heritage Technology” exhibition was held at the Hong Kong City Hall from 11 to 22 November 2022, recording a total attendance of 4 423. The exhibition has been partially converted into a roving exhibition staged at the Central Market from 20 December 2022 to 16 January 2023, and at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre from 28 December 2022 to 15 January 2023, attracting an attendance of 312 316 and 19 146 respectively;
- (i) the display of all the winning and shortlisted entries of the “Art Unbound, Inclusion Absolute – Heritage for All Drawing Competition” was staged at HDC between 16 September and 16 November 2022 with a total attendance of 4 959. The exhibition was further staged at H6 CONET from 26 November to 28 December 2022, attracting a total attendance of 85 646;
- (j) the exhibition on “Treasures from Sacred Hill: Song-Yuan Archaeological Discoveries at Sung Wong Toi” staged in Sung Wong Toi MTR Station has been enjoying great popularity since its opening on 27 June 2021. A total attendance of 828 359 was recorded as at 30 June 2023;

Heritage cluster

- (k) CHO, AMO and The University of Hong Kong (“HKU”) jointly presented the “HKU Heritage Sights & Sites” audio guide programme to promote a heritage cluster which consists of 7 declared monuments and 6 graded buildings in the campus and vicinity. The “HKU Heritage Sights & Sites” is a heritage promotion and education initiative in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of HKSAR and the 111th anniversary of HKU. By scanning the QR codes, listening to the audio guide and reading the e-booklet available on the AMO’s website, visitors will discover and appreciate the richness of Hong Kong’s built heritage – starting with the exquisite design and craftsmanship of the 13 historic buildings;

Education programmes

- (l) between mid-June 2022 and June 2023, AMO has conducted a total of 41 public lectures in hybrid mode (of both online and physical formats) at HDC, recording a total attendance of 6 931. The lectures were themed on various heritage topics, including the “Light of Jinsha – The Ancient Shu Civilisation” exhibition related to archaeology, “The Stories of Hong Kong Architecture – Hong Kong City Hall as a Preface”, “Architectural Features and Islamic Belief – Jamia Mosque” and “Revitalised Pre-war Tong Lau – Lui Seng Chun” focusing on the newly declared monuments in 2022, as well as the history, story and architecture of Po Leung Kuk Main Building;
- (m) in addition to public lectures, videos on the three newly declared monuments, namely the Hong Kong City Hall, Jamia Mosque and Lui Seng Chun were produced and uploaded to Instagram “hkheritagealive” and the website of AMO to enhance promotion;
- (n) to complement the "Treasures from Sacred Hill: Song-Yuan Archaeological Discoveries at Sung Wong Toi" exhibition, four ceramics art workshops were delivered at HDC from June to July 2022 to promote the archaeological finds and enhance the participants’ understanding of ceramics of Song-Yuan period;
- (o) apart from a series of workshops on “Rubbing on Couplets and Plaques” workshops at the Main Building of Po Leung Kuk in August 2022, Christmas cookies drawing workshops were held in December 2022 in collaboration with a social enterprise to promote the public’s understanding of the historic churches in Hong Kong and to draw churches on cookies. Workshops on the “Declared Monument Temple Night Light”, “Lin Fa Temple, Tai Hang and Flower Arranging” and “Tin Hau Festivals and Traditional Flower Boards” in collaboration with the Chinese Temples Committee were also held in HDC. All the workshops were very much sought after;

Social inclusion

- (p) A series of social inclusion programmes themed on heritage was launched to engage people with disabilities, fostering their interest in heritage, as well as enhancing social inclusiveness in the community. From March to July 2022, AMO launched the “Art Unbound, Inclusion Absolute – Heritage for All” Drawing Competition with the support of 12 art / social organisations. An online polling held to select “My Favourite Online Artwork” from the 130 qualified entries attracted 2 790 votes from members of the public. A display of all the winning and shortlisted entries was staged between September and December 2022 at HDC and H6 CONET respectively attracting a total attendance of more than 90 000.

- (q) To encourage participation by disabled people in built heritage appreciation, AMO collaborated with the Hong Kong Society for the Blind (“HKSB”) to run a talk cum workshop on the “Habits and Haberdashery – Uncovering History and Heritage in the Hidden Attic” exhibition for visually impaired participants. Participants could learn more about the history and heritage of the Maryknoll Convent, a declared monument, and appreciate and enjoy the exhibition through touchable replica exhibits. HKSB showed great interest in future collaboration with AMO to tailor-make more activities for the visually impaired;

Community engagement

- (r) a heritage promotion campaign, “Walk in Tai Po” was launched for the public, Friends of Heritage (“FOH”) and Young Friends of Heritage (“YFOH”) of AMO to visit selected declared monuments and historic buildings in Tai Po from July to September 2022, in which a local licensed travel agent was commissioned to conduct 15 guided tours, recording a total attendance of 254 participants;

Cross-sector heritage programmes

- (s) AMO is keen to promote cross-boundary events themed on heritage with cultural / sports elements. Between September 2022 and March 2023, three series of “Heritage Run” were launched, covering Kowloon City District, Central and Western District, as well as Tsuen Wan District and Kwai Tsing District.

Promotion and publicity

- (t) to promote heritage conservation to the public, AMO collaborated with a local TV channel to produce a series of TV episodes 《Wish》 featuring the historic buildings in Tai Hang and Causeway Bay, which was broadcast between March and April 2023;
- (u) in 2022, AMO developed a YouTube channel and produced 32 videos to promote AMO’s professional work and expertise, and to enhance public awareness and appreciation of the archaeological and built heritage in Hong Kong, and to convey the important message of heritage conservation;
- (v) since August 2022, CHO and AMO have contributed articles on heritage to am730 on a bi-weekly basis to promote heritage in Hong Kong;

Friends of Heritage and Young Friends of Heritage

- (w) proactive measures have been carried out to invite more interested individuals and youngsters to join AMO’s FOH and YFOH schemes to explore the fun in understanding heritage. Applications have been made open all the year round since April 2022. AMO received more than 2 700 applications for joining FOH and YFOH in the past 15 months. Since July 2022, 48 sessions of guided tours, workshops, field trips and special events have been organised for FOH and YFOH with a total attendance of 1 000;

School programmes

- (x) to raise primary school students' appreciation of historic buildings in Hong Kong and to enhance their aesthetic perception, the "Cat Curator Colouring Competition" was launched in early 2023. The competition covered four educational-related declared monuments, namely Kang Yung Study Hall, the Former Kowloon British School, the Main Building of The University of Hong Kong, and Bonham Road Government Primary School. A total of 15 043 entries submitted by 155 schools were received. The award presentation ceremony was held on 4 July 2023 and the display of the winning and shortlisted entries will be displayed at HDC from late July to end of August 2023; and

Collaboration with tourism sector

- (y) to facilitate the development and promotion of heritage tourism in Hong Kong, we are in close liaison with the Tourism Commission and the Hong Kong Tourism Board in the provision of information on Hong Kong built heritage and updates about heritage projects (such as Revitalisation Scheme projects).

2. We continue to keep the public informed of developments and engage them on the heritage front and our heritage conservation work through:

- (a) our dedicated heritage website (www.heritage.gov.hk);
- (b) since June 2008, our bimonthly heritage newsletter, "活化@Heritage" has been effective in the dissemination of heritage conservation information. The newsletters are distributed both electronically and in printed form with a circulation of over 6 200 copies per issue;
- (c) Hong Kong Heritage LIVE, our Instagram platform, was launched on 3 January 2022 and has attracted 12 557 followers

as of 30 June 2023; and

3. We will roll out the following events in the second half of 2023 and beyond. They are:

(a) Exhibition on Traditional Chinese Architecture in the Lingnan Region

An exhibition on the origin, development and characteristics of the traditional Chinese architectures in the Lingnan region jointly presented by DEVB, NCHA and the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture of the Macao Special Administrative Region, supported by DCTGP, CHO, the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macao Special Administrative Region and the Guangzhou Municipal Culture, Radio, Television and Tourism Bureau and organised by AMO, AEC, Guangdong Folk Arts Museum, in association with the Nanyue King Museum, and the Guangzhou Museum, will be held from December 2023 to June 2024 at HDC, featuring over 160 sets of architectural components from Guangdong, Macao and Hong Kong. This is the first exhibition jointly curated after signing the Memorandum of Understanding on the Exchange and Collaboration on Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Amongst the Greater Bay Area in November 2022.

(b) Heritage Fiesta cum Roving Exhibition 2023

Heritage Fiesta 2023, themed on greening and landscape, will be launched from 1 October to 30 November 2023. The roving exhibition will then be presented at local libraries, government offices and shopping malls until 29 December 2023.

(c) Virtual tours of historic buildings

To promote Hong Kong's built heritage, AMO has launched a pilot project to produce virtual tours for 18 declared monuments and graded historic buildings in the 18 districts on AMO's website. With the adoption of 3D technology, the virtual tours

will facilitate public appreciation of Hong Kong's built heritage, including some sites which may not be open to the public or are located in remote areas. Visitors from outside Hong Kong can also enjoy our heritage sites virtually with no restrictions. Seven virtual tours were uploaded to the AMO's website and the other 11 virtual tours are under production and tentatively to be rolled out by December 2023.

Development Bureau
July 2023