

Harbourfront Enhancement Committee

A Permanent Planning and Infrastructure Exhibition Gallery at the City Hall Annex

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to inform Members of the proposed expansion of the existing temporary Hong Kong Planning and Infrastructure Exhibition Gallery (the Gallery) at the City Hall Annex in Central into a permanent gallery.

Background

2. Major cities such as Shanghai, Beijing, Singapore and Sydney all have a central exhibition venue to display and share with the public their city's vision for planning and infrastructure projects. Such exhibitions have projected a positive image of the cities and the venues have also become major tourist attractions.

3. The existing Gallery at the City Hall Annex was originally set up as a temporary exhibition gallery to showcase Hong Kong's major planning proposals and infrastructure projects, pending the establishment of a full-fledged permanent exhibition gallery at Tamar. The Administration subsequently decided that the proposed permanent exhibition gallery be excised from the Tamar development project. Hence, an alternative site is required for the provision of a permanent exhibition gallery.

4. The existing Gallery on the ground floor of the City Hall Annex has a floor area of about 460 square metres. It is intended to expand the existing Gallery to include the remaining four floors of the City Hall Annex and the area between the City Hall Low Block and the City Hall Annex, which is now under skylight cover, and turn the premises into a permanent exhibition gallery with a construction floor area of approximately 3,980 square metres.

5. The existing Gallery at the ground floor of the City Hall Annex was originally developed as a temporary facility in 2002. Its small size has posed many constraints to its daily operation. For instance, guided-tours have to be limited to small groups not exceeding 20 people each and no more than two guided-tours can be conducted in the Gallery at the same time. Requests for guided-tours have been declined due to space limitation. The briefing room at the existing Gallery (with a floor area of about 22m²) allows only about 12 visitors inside. Moreover, there is no space for conducting public forums, workshops or large scale themed exhibitions to engage the public and seek their views on planning and infrastructure projects. Other public and private venues have been relied upon instead but their availability is much constrained by the popular demand for these facilities. The situation is unlikely to improve with increasing public interest in involvement in planning and infrastructure projects and the Administration's commitment to engage the public on these projects.

6. The permanent gallery project will only involve renovation works of the City Hall Annex. There will not be any change in the building height, structure and bulk of the building. The only significant alteration will be the replacement of the existing concrete façade by a transparent façade of glass panels. This design will create a sense of user-friendliness and transparency of the permanent gallery and enhance visual connectivity between the gallery and the new Central harbourfront. The design of the renovated City Hall Annex will also be matching and complementary to the design of the City Hall Complex which also has transparent façades with glass panels.

7. The proposed permanent gallery will provide additional space and a flexible design to overcome the operational constraints as mentioned in paragraph 4 above and provide better services to local, Mainland and overseas visitors. Extensive and robust outreach and publicity programmes will be implemented to promote the proposed permanent gallery, including the expansion of existing outreach programmes to schools and different community groups and the participation in and co-organization with, e.g., professional institutes of various community programmes.

8. The objectives of establishing the permanent exhibition gallery are:

- (a) to showcase Hong Kong's major planning proposals and infrastructure projects;
- (b) to manifest the vision of our city's future development for

engaging the community;

- (c) to provide a convenient venue for a variety of exhibitions, meetings, and public consultation forums on planning and infrastructure development proposals;
- (d) to provide community and educational facilities including a resource centre for planning and infrastructure; and
- (e) to create a tourist attraction to help promote Hong Kong as Asia's world city.

9. The proposed permanent gallery will provide a venue for :-

- (a) displaying exhibits on planning and infrastructure under various themes such as the history of Hong Kong's development, different levels of planning including cross-boundary, territorial and district planning, the living environment concerning urban design, culture and heritage, transport and communications, and sustainable development;
- (b) temporary display of models and presentation materials for engaging the public on planning and infrastructure projects;
- (c) conducting forums and workshops to engage the public and seek their views on planning and infrastructure projects. A multi-purpose hall with a seating capacity of about 150 will be provided in the permanent gallery for such a purpose;
- (d) conducting briefings for and holding discussion sessions with visitors from the Mainland and overseas;
- (e) a resource centre where there will be books, journals and internet facilities through which the public can obtain detailed information on planning and infrastructural development. The main users of this educational facility will be university and secondary school students; and
- (f) guided-tours for visitors, including school groups, community groups and visitors from the Mainland and overseas;

10. The City Hall Annex is situated at a convenient location at the Central harbourfront and easily accessible by public transport. The gallery use of the renovated Annex Building will be highly complementary to the civic and cultural uses of the adjacent City Hall Complex as well as contributing to the vibrancy of the Central harbourfront. The permanent gallery will be connected to the new harbourfront open space to its north by a convenient pedestrian footbridge network.

11. To make way for the establishment of the proposed permanent gallery, the existing offices of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Liquor Licensing Board on the 1/F to 4/F of the City Hall Annex have to be relocated to other premises.

12. There has been great demand from Mainland and overseas visitors as well as local residents, in particular school students, for the services of the existing Gallery at the City Hall Annex. The Gallery, however, will have to be closed for the construction works of the proposed permanent gallery. We will set up a temporary exhibition gallery in the interim to maintain services to the public during the construction period.

13. We plan to start the proposed fitting-out works for relocating the existing offices on the 1/F to 4/F of the City Hall Annex to make way for the establishment of the proposed permanent gallery and works on the temporary gallery in September 2008, and the refurbishment/upgrading works for the proposed permanent gallery in April 2009 for completion in June 2012. A location plan of the proposed permanent gallery is at **Enclosure 1**. Views of the proposed permanent gallery (including artist's impressions) are at **Enclosures 2, 3 and 4**.

Public Engagement

14. We organised workshops in May 2007 and October 2007 to seek views on the proposed permanent gallery from the relevant professional institutes, namely, Hong Kong Institute of Planners, The Hong Kong Institute of Architects, The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, The Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects and The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors. We received positive views on the project from the institutes. We also consulted the Central & Western District Council on 13 September 2007. Members supported the

project.

Sustainable Development

Environmental Implications

15. The project is not a designated project under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499). The project will not cause any long-term environmental impact.

16. In view of the Gallery's proximity to the concert hall in City Hall, we will control noise, dust and site run-off nuisances to within established standards and guidelines through the implementation of mitigation measures in the relevant contracts during construction. These include the use of silencers, mufflers, acoustic lining or shields for noisy construction activities, frequent cleaning and watering of the sites, and the provision of wheel-washing facilities. Noisy works will be implemented only in a 3-month construction window during 7:00 am to 1:00 pm and in 12 morning sessions per month throughout the contract period in order to minimize the effect on City Hall users.

Energy Conservation Measures

17. The project has adopted various forms of energy efficient features, including-

- (a) for artificial lighting, energy efficient T5 fluorescent tubes, compact fluorescent lamp with electronic ballast, LED exit lights and occupancy sensor control will be widely used;
- (b) for lift and escalator installation, we would install:
 - (i) automatic on/off switching of lighting and ventilation fan inside all lifts; and
 - (ii) service-on-demand for the operation of escalators; and
- (c) for the air conditioning system, demand control of fresh air supply with Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) sensors will be adopted; and heat reclaim of exhaust air to pre-cool the intake air will be provided.

18. For renewable energy technologies, one of the themes of the exhibition, a small-scale wind turbine and sunlight collection system would be adopted for demonstration purpose.

19. A vertical green trellis would be installed at the western façade of the building to shelter the staircase and lobby from solar heat gain.

20. The project is an adaptive re-use of the former Urban Council Chamber. The re-use of the reinforced concrete structure has reduced construction waste and extended the useful life of existing fabrics. The existing sea-water cool chiller plant will also be retained.

Heritage Implications

21. The Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) has advised that whilst the City Hall Complex comprising City Hall High Block and Low Block (built in 1962) is a heritage site identified by AMO, the City Hall Annex (built in 1978) is not. As the expansion project will only take place in the City Hall Annex, i.e., outside a heritage site and measures will be taken specifically to protect the architectural features on the external walls of the City Hall Low Block, the value of the City Hall Complex will not be affected and hence an HIA is not required.

Way Forward

22. The project will be submitted to the Legislative Council Public Works Subcommittee and the Finance Committee on 18 June and 4 July 2008 respectively for funding approval.

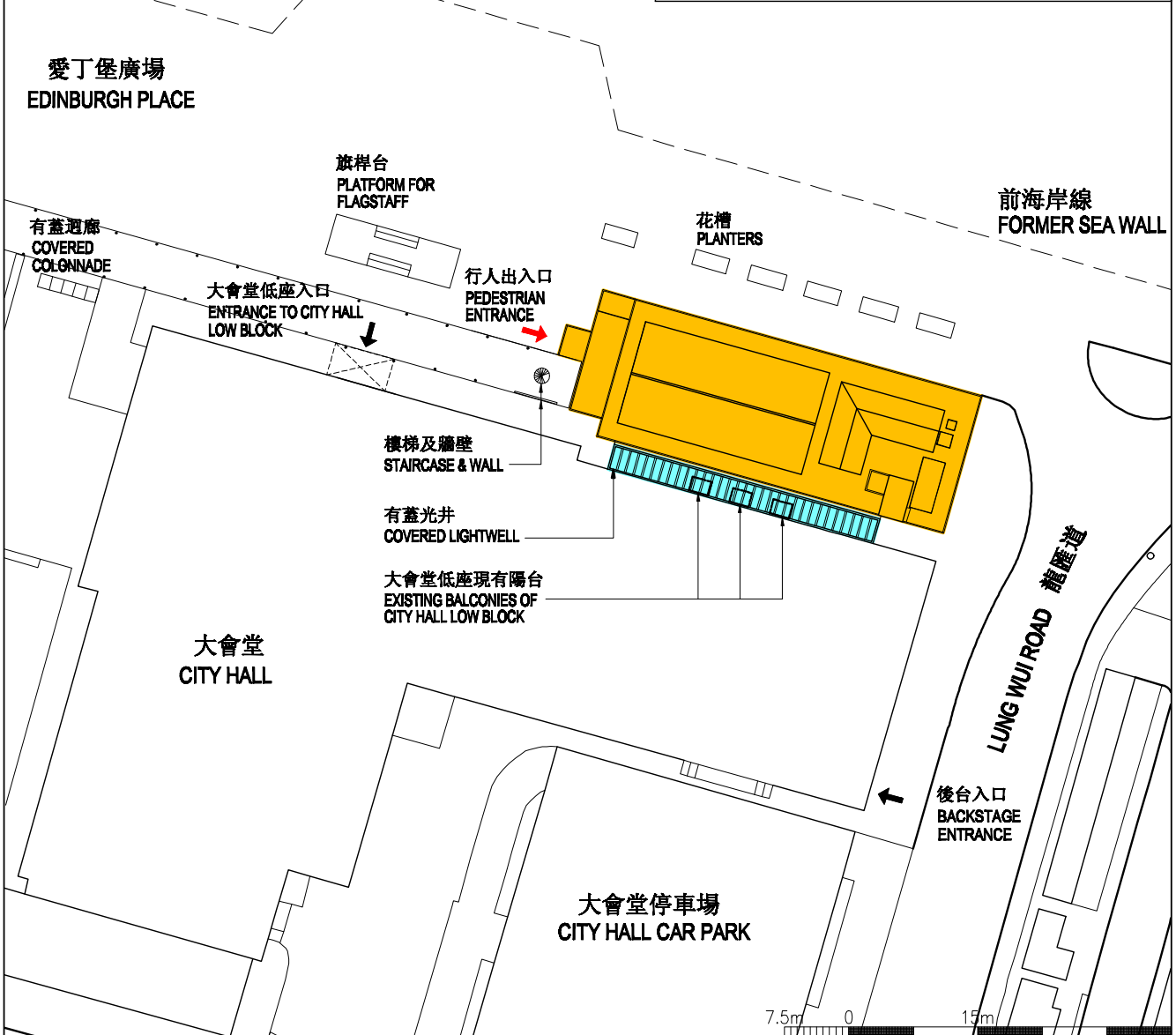
Attachment


Enclosure 1 : Location Plan of the Proposed Permanent Gallery

Enclosures 2 to 4: Views of the Proposed Permanent Gallery (Artist's Impression)

Planning Department

June 2008



title 3055RE 香港大會堂附屬建築物改建為永久規劃及基建展覽館 A PERMANENT PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE EXHIBITION GALLERY AT CITY HALL ANNEX	drawn by CHRIS CHUI	date MAY 08	drawing no. AB/7195/XA001	scale 1:750
	approved KEVIN LI	date MAY 08	 ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT	
	office ARCHITECTURAL BRANCH			



從西北面望向展覽館及大會堂建築群的構思圖
VIEW OF THE PROPOSED GALLERY & EXISTING CITY HALL COMPLEX FROM NORTH-
WESTERN DIRECTION (ARTIST'S IMPRESSION)



從西北面望向展覽館正面的構思圖
VIEW OF THE PROPOSED GALLERY FROM NORTH-WESTERN DIRECTION (ARTIST'S
IMPRESSION)

3055RE

香港大會堂附屬建築物改建為永久規劃及基建展覽館

A PERMANENT PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE EXHIBITION GALLERY AT CITY HALL
ANNEX



INTERIOR VIEW OF THE PROPOSED MULTI-USE EXHIBITION HALL (ARTIST'S IMPRESSIONS) 展覽館內多用途展區構思圖

3055RE

香港大會堂附屬建築物改建為永久規劃及基建展覽館

A PERMANENT PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE EXHIBITION GALLERY AT CITY HALL ANNEX

