

**For discussion on
25 June 2024**

Legislative Council Panel on Development

**Annual Report on
Implementation Progress of Heritage Conservation Initiatives**

Purpose

This paper updates Members on the latest position of implementation of various heritage conservation initiatives since our last report to the Panel in July 2023. In addition, the Panel’s support is sought for funding application for two projects under Batch VI of the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme, namely Fong Yuen Study Hall and Homi Villa.

Heritage Conservation Policy

Policy Statement

2. As promulgated in 2007, the Government seeks “to protect, conserve and revitalise as appropriate historical and heritage sites and buildings through relevant and sustainable approaches for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. In implementing this policy, due regard should be given to development needs in the public interest, respect for private property rights, budgetary considerations, cross-sector collaboration and active engagement of stakeholders and the general public.”

Identification and Assessment of Items of Heritage Value

Administrative Grading System for Historic Buildings

3. As at 31 May 2024, grading assessment of the heritage value in respect of 1 656 buildings has been completed, including 1 385 out of the 1 444 buildings¹ and 271 out of 388 items on the list of new items pending grading assessment (“the new list”)². A breakdown of the 1 656 items are set out below -

- (a) 46 items declared as monument (“DM”);
- (b) 202 items with Grade 1 status;
- (c) 409 items with Grade 2 status;
- (d) 623 items with Grade 3 status;
- (e) 349 items with no grading; and
- (f) 27 items with no further processing due to their demolition or substantial alteration.

Preparation for the Assessment of Post-1950 Buildings

4. The Antiquities Advisory Board (“AAB”) receives from time to time ad hoc suggestions for grading individual buildings, including post-1950 buildings. As at 31 May 2024, AAB has completed the grading assessment in respect of 207 post-1950 buildings, and accorded Grade 1, 2 or 3 status to 120 of them.

5. In 2019, the Antiquities and Monuments Office (“AMO”) set up a task force to carry out preparatory work for the assessment of post-1950 buildings systematically. Preliminary research on the items built between 1950 and 1959, which include some 2 000 buildings mainly in urban areas and village-type buildings identified from some 900 villages in the New Territories, has been completed. Based on the results of the preliminary

¹ A territory-wide survey commissioned by the Antiquities and Monuments Office 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 gave initial endorsement of the proposed grading for these buildings in 2009. Since then, the Antiquities Advisory Board 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 the Antiquities and Monuments Office, 388 items have been added to the new list.

research, AMO is shortlisting buildings with potential heritage value for in-depth assessment and consideration for grading. AMO also studied the practices in other places (including the Mainland)³. It is noted that each of the places under study adopts a single set of criteria for assessing both pre-war and post-war buildings, with some adopting a more rigorous selection in respect of buildings constructed after the war. While preparing for grading post-1950 buildings systematically, AMO is in parallel reviewing the pre-1950 buildings which were recorded during the territory-wide survey but not included in the list of 1 444 buildings, with a view to selecting items suitable for grading assessment.

6. The research findings and progress of the preparatory work for assessing post-1950 buildings were reported to AAB at its meeting on 6 June 2024. AAB will continue the grading assessment of buildings under the prevailing mechanism in accordance with the established six assessment criteria to grade pre-1950 buildings first followed by post-1950 buildings, while buildings which are subject to demolition threat or redevelopment plans would be handled with priority.

Statutory Monument Declaration

7. At present, there are 134 DMs in Hong Kong. We consulted AAB at its meeting on 7 March 2024 and AAB supported our proposal to declare the following two historic buildings as monuments under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53) in 2024 -

- (a) Lo Pan Temple, No. 15 Ching Lin Terrace, Kennedy Town; and
- (b) Residence of Tang Pak Kau, No. 20 Tsz Tong Tsuen, Kam Tin, Yuen Long.

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

8. 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.

³ The assessment criteria of seven countries (Mainland China, Australia, Canada, England, Japan, Singapore and the United States) and 12 cities (Beijing, Berlin, Guangzhou, London, Macau, New York, Penang, Shanghai, Sydney, Taipei, Tokyo and Vancouver) have been studied by AMO.

9. 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”)

10. The Revitalisation Scheme was launched in 2008 to preserve and put historic government-owned buildings into good and innovative use. At present, 24 government-owned historic buildings have been included in seven batches of the Revitalisation Scheme. Among them, 13 projects⁴ of Batches I to V are currently in operation, including “Luen Wo Market – House of Urban and Rural Living” revitalised from the Luen Wo Market under Batch V which commenced operation on 28 March 2024. The progress of the various projects under the Revitalisation Scheme is summarised at **Annex B**.

11. Detailed design of the renovation works for two revitalisation projects under Batch VI, namely Fong Yuen Study Hall and Homi Villa, has been substantially completed. The Heritage Impact Assessment of the two projects were endorsed by AAB at its meeting on 7 March 2024. We plan to seek support and funding approval for the renovation works from the Public Works Subcommittee (“PWSC”) and the Finance Committee (“FC”) of the Legislative Council in the fourth quarter of 2024. Details of and funding requirements for the two projects, totalling \$129.9 million, are at **Annex C**.

12. In December 2023, we announced the three historic buildings included under Batch VII of the Revitalisation Scheme, and invited revitalisation proposals from non-profit-making organisations (“NPOs”) for one of them, namely Watervale House of the Former Gordon Hard Camp. Application for this building closed on 10 April 2024 and ten applications were received. Assessment of these applications by the

⁴ The 13 projects include four projects in Batch I, three projects in Batch II, two projects in Batch III, three projects in Batch IV and one project in Batch V.

Advisory Committee on Built Heritage Conservation (“ACBHC”) is in progress and the selection result is expected to be announced in early 2025. For the other two historic buildings, namely No. 23 Coombe Road and the Old Lunatic Asylum (Chinese Block), application arrangements will be announced in due course.

13. Enhancement measures for the Revitalisation Scheme as mentioned in the last report to the Panel have been implemented in December 2023 with the launch of Batch VII.

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

14. In support of the conservation of privately-owned graded historic buildings, the Government launched 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 122 applications as at end May 2024, involving committed funds of around \$142 million.

15. Based on the observations from our regular inspections of graded historic buildings, we have stepped up efforts to proactively reach out to private owners to encourage them to apply for subsidies for maintenance. In consultation with the industry and ACBHC, we have completed a review on the application and approval procedure of FAS. A number of enhancement measures to streamline the approval process have been implemented since January 2024. These include, for example, increasing the maximum grant amount and adopting initiatives to prevent fee-diving for the consultancies.

Funding Scheme for Public Engagement Projects

16. The Funding Scheme for Public Engagement Projects was launched in 2017 to offer funding to support projects that enhance community awareness and knowledge of built heritage conservation, mobilise stakeholder actions and induce behavioural changes to conserve built heritage. During the pilot run in 2017, applications were invited from five professional institutes that were closely involved in built heritage conservation. Three public engagement projects were approved with a total grant of \$5.91 million and all activities of the projects were completed

by December 2021. The institutes subsequently submitted the project evaluation reports and statement of accounts, and a review was conducted on the funding scheme in consultation with ACHBC. Based on the review results and recommendations of ACBHC, 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. were introduced when launching Batch II of the funding scheme.

17. Batch II of the funding scheme was open for application to all local NPOs previously involved in built heritage conservation from 3 July to 3 October 2023. It is anticipated that funding will be provided for four public engagement projects under this round of application. ACBHC has been invited to assess the applications received and provide recommendations for approval of applications. We will announce the results and notify the successful applicants in due course. We plan to open the next round of application in around second half of 2025, providing funding to another four public engagement projects.

Funding Scheme for Thematic Research

18. The Funding Scheme for Thematic Research was launched in 2017 to encourage interest in, render financial support to, and recognise quality academic research on the theme of built heritage conservation. During the pilot run in 2017, eight degree-awarding academic institutions were invited to submit applications and six research projects were approved with a total grant of \$11.41 million. Research reports of all six thematic researches were completed and their research findings were presented to ACBHC. Information on the research projects will be uploaded onto the website of Commissioner for Heritage's Office.

19. The Government conducted a review on the Funding Scheme for Thematic Research and reported the review results to ACBHC in March 2024. ACBHC will consider the proposed enhancements of the funding scheme on aspects including research theme, eligibility of applicants, assessment criteria, disbursement of funds and submission of reports for implementing the next batch of the funding scheme.

20. The enhancements in respect of the Revitalisation Scheme, FAS,

the Funding Scheme for Public Engagement Projects and the Funding Scheme for Thematic Research are summarised at **Annex D**.

Collaboration with the Mainland

21. In November 2022, a “Framework Agreement on Deepening Exchange and Cooperation in the Field of Heritage Architecture and Archaeology” with the National Cultural Heritage Administration (“NCHA”) to further promote cultural heritage exchange and collaborations on archaeological and built heritage between the Mainland and Hong Kong as well as a Memorandum of Understanding on the Exchange and Collaboration on Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Amongst the Greater Bay Area (“GBA”) with the Department of Culture and Tourism of Guangdong Province and Cultural Affairs Bureau of Macao Special Administrative Region (“SAR”) to further strengthen collaborations on archaeological and built heritage in the GBA were signed. Subsequently, collaborations on heritage conservation and education amongst the GBA and with other cultural institutions of the Mainland have been further enhanced.

22. To foster awareness of the close connection and affection between Hong Kong and the motherland, the photo exhibition on “Inseparable Ties: Cohesion as Told by Hong Kong Historic Buildings” is being staged at Nanjing Municipal Museum until 30 June 2024. It was staged at Deng Xiaoping Former Residence Museum in Sichuan in early 2024. Besides, the “Under the Same Roof: Origin and Art of Lingnan Traditional Architecture” exhibition, the first exhibition jointly curated by AMO and other heritage institutions in the GBA was presented at the Heritage Discovery Centre (“HDC”) from December 2023 to early June 2024. A series of talks and workshops on the techniques and skills of Lingnan traditional architecture were also organised in conjunction with the exhibition. With further support of NCHA, an exhibition on cultural relics of Shandong is jointly presented by AMO and Shandong Museum from May to October 2024 to feature 60 sets of invaluable exhibits from Shandong in parallel with over 100 sets of significant archaeological relics unearthed in Hong Kong to showcase the “pluralistic integration” of the origins of the Chinese civilisation and culture. Another exhibition

entitled “Launch from Greater Bay Area: Nanhai I Shipwreck and the Maritime Silk Road” will be staged from August 2024 to February 2025 to elaborate on the role of Hong Kong in the context of the GBA on the Maritime Silk Road.

23. As regards research, AMO is cooperating with NCHA in planning for a study to examine the significant archaeological finds of Hong Kong, particularly the 900 000 ceramic shreds dated to the Song-Yuan period unearthed at the site of Sacred Hill and the 100 000 ceramic shreds of the Ming period excavated in Penny’s Bay, in the context of the maritime trade of China and the role of Hong Kong. The research is planned to commence in late 2024 or early 2025.

24. Hong Kong is a member of the Alliance of Cities for the Protection and Joint Inscription of Maritime Silk Road as World Heritage Sites. The Alliance, formed by various mainland cities, Hong Kong SAR and Macao SAR, aims to jointly support the inscription of heritage sites related to maritime trade as World Heritage Sites. We have actively attended the Alliance’s meetings to deliberate on the focus and strategies for the intended inscription, and share our experience on promoting heritage sites through setting up of heritage trails.

25. Recently, on 26 April 2024, we signed an agreement with Shanghai Municipal Administration of Culture and Tourism (上海市文化和旅遊局), which has the additional title of Shanghai Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage (上海市文物局), to further promote and strengthen co-operation between the two places in conservation, management and revitalisation of historic buildings, sharing of archaeological research findings, heritage education and promotion, and nurturing of talents.

26. With the support of our Mainland counterparts, 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, and training of talents.

Public Education and Publicity Programmes

27. To celebrate the 27th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong SAR, the Government and different sectors of the community will roll out a rich array of celebration activities and special offers. Different offers, including free guided tours and workshops will be arranged on and around 1 July 2024 for the 13 projects under the Revitalisation Scheme for the enjoyment of the public.

28. To enhance public appreciation of built heritage, “Heritage Fiesta 2023” was held from October to November 2023, with guided tours organised for the public at ten DMs and graded historic buildings. To dovetail with the fiesta, a roving exhibition was held from October to December 2023 at 13 locations. The fiesta cum exhibition attracted around 150 000 visitors. The fiesta cum exhibition for 2024 will commence in the last quarter of 2024.

Exhibitions

29. Since the report in July 2023, AMO has staged four heritage-themed exhibitions at HDC and five outbound exhibitions, apart from renewing the display on Treasures of Sacred Hill at Sung Wong Toi (“SWT”) MTR Station to include a new section on maritime trade.

Heritage Trails

30. AMO continues to enhance the facilities and launched new programmes to enhance the attraction of heritage trails through innovative workshops at buildings along the trails, e.g. conservation of historic soul tablets at Tang Ancestral Hall and Yu Kiu Ancestral Hall on Ping Shan Heritage Trail, assembling of the bracket system models at Tang Chung Ling Ancestral Hall on Lung Yeuk Tau Heritage Trail, as well as special guided tours for visually impaired people at Tang Chung Ling Ancestral Hall.

Media and Social Media

31. To reach out to the younger generation and a wider audience, we

continue to use social media, including Instagram⁵ to publicise heritage conservation. Through engaging local Key Opinion Leaders in our key events such as exhibitions and heritage run⁶, the events are promoted and shared on their Facebook and Instagram accounts. Besides, articles are published bi-weekly on AM730 to promote the latest development on heritage conservation to enhance public interest. We will also utilise popular social media platforms such as Xiaohongshu and WeChat to promote our programmes to the Mainland.

Youth Engagement

32. Dedicated efforts are made to increase the youth's interest and appreciation of heritage with a wide range of activities and programmes. AMO designed and conducted rammed earth student workshops in May 2024 to pass on knowledge and experience in the production and conservation of rammed earth. For more in-depth learning, young heritage enthusiasts may join AMO's Young Friends of Heritage ("YFOHs") programme, which organises guided tours, workshops, field trips, etc. regularly for its members. In order to reach out to more young people, AMO has been collaborating closely with the Education Bureau to specially design and conduct heritage-related training programmes, such as study tours⁷, talks and workshops, to enhance educators' understanding on national identity and the multi-cultural development in Hong Kong through its heritage. These activities held for principals and teachers were very well received and acclaimed by participants.

33. "The Fifth Cultural Heritage Summer Course for Secondary School Students of the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao SARs" jointly presented by NCHA, Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macao SAR Government and us was held from 12 to 17 August 2023. Twenty students from Hong Kong together with students from the Mainland and Macao SAR participated in the course. The students attended lectures

⁵ Our Instagram account "HKHeritageLIVE" has reached 20 469 followers as at 31 May 2024.

⁶ So far, six series of heritage runs were jointly launched with Kai Tak Sports Initiative Foundation Limited since September 2022 to promote the appreciation of built heritage on a district basis whilst doing exercise. Seven districts have been covered, including Kowloon City District, Central and Western District, Kwai Tsing District, Tsuen Wan District, Yau Tsim Mong District, Eastern District and Shatin District. The historic buildings along the routes of the heritage run have been uploaded to the website of AMO for public viewing.

⁷ The selected heritage sites included Fanling, Lantau, Tsim Sha Tsui, Yuen Long and Sha Tau Kok.

conducted by heritage specialists and visited heritage sites and museums⁸. The sixth Cultural Heritage Summer Course is being planned and will be launched in July 2024.

Fun Days

34. We organised two fun days in 2024 to celebrate the Chinese New Year and Easter with a view to reaching out to families and tourists. A wide range of specially designed programmes on heritage were held on the fun days, attracting a total of 2 777 visitors

35. Details of the public engagement events are set out in **Annex E**.

Making Use of Historic Buildings for Tourism Purposes

36. As at 31 May 2024, a total of 277 government-owned historic buildings / structures have been accorded Grade 1, Grade 2 or Grade 3 status, while 71 DMs are under government ownership.

37. 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 and exhibition spaces, and the historic buildings operated by NPOs under the Revitalisation Scheme. The remaining government-owned historic buildings are not open to the public due to security, safety and privacy considerations. For example, the Green Island Lighthouse in Central and Western District is not suitable for opening due to maritime security and safety concerns, while the Headquarters Building of the Ex-Royal Air Force Station (Kai Tak) in Kwun Tong, which is now a family crisis support centre, is not open to public visits having regard to privacy of users.

38. We will continue to work with government departments and organisations (e.g. the Urban Renewal Authority) with a view to opening their buildings for public visit and enjoyment wherever practicable, and provide them with appropriate support from the heritage conservation

⁸ Included the world heritage site Dujiangyan, Sanxingdui Museum, Sichuan Museum, Chengdu Museum, Du Fu Thatched Cottage, and Jinsha Site Museum

perspective. We are working closely with the Tourism Commission and the tourism sector in identifying government-owned historic buildings with high potential for tourism and will encourage relevant departments to consider appropriate opening or interpretation arrangements. We will also work with relevant departments to explore measures to better utilise the tourism potential of their historic buildings or sites (e.g. the Ex-Sham Shui Po Service Reservoir). In addition, we will make available information on DMs and historic buildings, grouped by building types and areas of interest, to facilitate the tourism sector to arrange themed routes.

39. To facilitate public knowledge of their historical background and heritage values, information plaques have been installed at some 250 historic buildings. We will continue to liaise with the owners or management parties of both government-owned and privately-owned DMs and graded historic buildings for the installation of information plaques at their historic buildings. We have included QR codes on the information plaques of selected declared monuments and graded buildings with access links to audio guides or videos. QR codes will be added to information plaques to be installed in future with links to the building appraisals, photos and location maps to allow fuller appreciation of the buildings' historical background and heritage values.

40. To support local heritage tourism, we from time to time update and involve the Hong Kong Tourism Board ("HKTB") on heritage-related events and programmes, e.g. Heritage Fiesta cum Roving Exhibition 2023, the new exhibitions staged at HDC as well as the renewed display at SWT MTR Station, to facilitate their promotion to tourists. In designing our programmes and activities, we also take into consideration potential benefits to tourists. For instance, QR codes with narration in Cantonese, Putonghua and English, on the selected aspects of people's livelihood in Song-Yuan period to complement the display at SWT MTR Station have been produced and uploaded onto AMO's website. Besides, the web-based audio guides for the Hong Kong University Heritage Sights and Sites are designed to facilitate tourists to visit the respective historic buildings. The routes of the heritage runs uploaded onto AMO's website also enable tourists to understand more about Hong Kong's history on a district basis. We are also working with some of the District Offices of Home Affairs Department on programmes to present built heritage in the respective

districts.

41. Technologies including advanced 3D scanning, the use of drones and artificial intelligence algorithm had already been applied in heritage conservation to record heritage sites for restoration, studies, and heritage education. Apart from using 3D printing of historic buildings or their architectural features at exhibitions to enrich the experience of visitors, AMO is exploring ways to release 2D and 3D records of heritage sites on mobile apps and online platform respectively to facilitate visitors on-the-go for search and access. Additionally, a series of virtual tours for declared monuments and graded historic buildings in different districts of Hong Kong have been uploaded onto the AMO's website in December 2023 for public viewing. We would continue to explore with HKTB to link our online information to HKTB's website.

Advice Sought

42. Members are invited to note the latest position of the implementation of various heritage conservation initiatives. Subject to the Panel's support for the funding applications for the two Batch VI projects of the Revitalisation Scheme, we plan to seek support and funding approval from PWSC and FC in the fourth quarter of 2024.

Development Bureau
June 2024

**Heritage Appraisal of
Lo Pan Temple, 15 Ching Lin Terrace, Kennedy Town, Hong Kong**

Lo Pan Temple is located on Ching Lin Terrace, one of the seven terraces built on the slopes between Pok Fu Lam Road and Belcher's Street in Kennedy Town. Dedicated to Lo Pan,¹ who is revered as the god of Chinese builders and building contractors,² the temple was completed in 1928 and bears witness to the development of the construction industry in Hong Kong.

*Historical
Interest*

A group of local builders and building contractors initiated the construction of the temple in the 10th year of the Guangxu (光緒) reign in the Qing Dynasty (1884).³ Sympathetic to their cause and impressed by their enthusiasm, the businessman Li Lai Hing (李禮興) donated the land for the temple in the name of his company, Lai Hing Ho (禮興號). Commenced in 1884 and completed in 1888,⁴ the construction of the first temple building was made possible by donations from over a thousand companies and individuals involved in the construction industry. The temple underwent several renovations between 1894 and 1910, which were financed with the help of local builders and contractors.⁵ The establishment and later renovations of the temple reflect the booming construction business in Hong Kong in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

¹ Born in 507 B.C. in the State of Lu (魯) (now Shandong province) during the Spring and Autumn period (春秋) (770-476 B.C.), Lo Pan, also known as Kungshu Pan (公輸班), was described as the most talented and skilful builder, carpenter and inventor in ancient China. In honour of his achievements, he was made the patron god of the people working in the construction industry after his death. Legend has it that he came to the assistance of craftsmen and builders in despair, and as a result praying for his protection and guardianship became a custom of many Chinese builders and contractors.

² A more generalised term for builders and building contractors in Hong Kong is *sam hong* (三行), which literally means "three trades" and traditionally refers to carpentry, masonry and bricklaying. Today, the term *sam hong* is generally associated with the trades involved in the construction and renovation of buildings.

³ Reference is made to the stone tablet "倡建魯班先師廟簽題工金芳名碑誌" erected in the temple in the 10th year of the Guangxu reign, which dates back to 1884. The intention behind the building of the temple was to commemorate the virtues and contributions of the great master Lo Pan. The inscriptions on the stone tablet read "茲我行香海經營，躬建北城侯魯班先師廟宇，以盡崇德報功、飲水思源之義。".

⁴ The inscription "風調雨順，沐恩弟子曾瓊記敬送，北城侯先師案前。光緒十四年季秋吉旦，國泰民安，信昌爐造" can be seen on the bell in the temple.

⁵ Stone tablets commemorating renovations in 1897, 1902, 1904, 1907, 1908 and 1910 can still be seen in the temple.

As the condition of the first temple was deteriorating, it was rebuilt at the same site in 1928. A total of 210 construction companies and individuals sponsored the works.⁶ In 1949, a pavilion between the two halls of the temple and an annex as quarters for the temple keeper were built.⁷ The construction works demonstrate the vigorous development of the construction industry in the 20th century and the trade's commitment to the upkeep of the temple.

The construction of the Lo Pan Temple also testifies to the rise of associations established by Chinese people in Hong Kong. Many immigrants from the Mainland and other places were attracted to Hong Kong to make a living in the middle of the 19th century. They noted the need to unite in order to offer each other help and support, and to safeguard their mutual interests. The early Chinese associations in Hong Kong can be roughly divided into associations based on the same family name, on a common homeland, on a local religious belief or on a trade. As the construction industry in Hong Kong grew increasingly prosperous in the 1870s, builders gradually formed sufficient group cohesion to build the temple.

Moreover, the temple is a reminder of the close links that Hong Kong had with other regions in the late 19th and the early 20th centuries. According to information on the stone tablets commemorating the construction and later renovations of the temple, donations to the building works included several from individuals originating from different parts of Guangdong province, such as Xinhui, Shunde, Kaiping and Dongguan.

Facing northwest, the temple features a two-hall, one-*Architectural*
courtyard layout of a single bay with a recessed façade. It is built of *Merit*
grey bricks. Both the entrance hall and the main hall are topped with a traditional Chinese pitched roof laid with green-glazed roll tiles and red pan tiles, which is supported by a timber roof system and flanked

⁶ Reference is made to the inscriptions on the granite lintel and the stone tablet erected in 1951 in the temple. Reference is also made to a news report in *The Kung Sheung Daily News* of 23 November 1928 and an article in *Hong Kong and Far East Builder*, vol. 19 no. 3 (October 1964).

⁷ Reference is made to the stone tablet “本堂奉祀” erected in 1949 in the temple and the approved drawing from the Buildings Department.

with gable walls on both ends. The height between the floor and ceiling is almost two storeys. The temple follows the topography of the site and thus has a few steps leading up to the main hall housing the altar of Lo Pan as well as other deities, such as the god of wealth.

The temple was built and embellished in a highly imaginative and decorative style. Delicate works of art in the form of mural, plaster mouldings, wood carvings and Shiwan (石灣) ceramic figurines adorn all the interior and exterior walls of the temple in abundance and highlight its exceptional architectural and aesthetic values. The exquisite craftsmanship displayed in the wide variety of decorative elements testifies to the superior status of Lo Pan Temple and its significance to the worshippers there.

One of the temple's most distinctive architectural features is its stepped gable walls on both sides of the two halls. These gables, which point upwards like daggers, are built in the "Five Peaks Paying Tribute to Heaven" style (五岳朝天式), a very rare design that is seldom found in Hong Kong.⁸

Another highly significant feature of the temple is the wealth of delicate decorations throughout the entire building. To begin with, both sides of each ridge of the rooftop of the entrance hall and the main hall are elaborately embellished with numerous exquisite Shiwan ceramic figurines. The upper part of the ridge of the entrance hall features precious pearl and a pair of dragon fish and phoenixes used as ridge-end ornaments. The decorations on the main ridges of the two halls and the *chitou* (gable wall heads 墀頭) on the front façade depict figures from the 16th-century Chinese novel *Investiture of the Gods* (《封神榜》), a popular theme adopted in ceramic ridges in Hong Kong.

Chinese inscriptions engraved on the main ridge, including "省城聚興選辦", "均玉窑造"⁹, and "香港鍾照記建" on the roof of the

⁸ According to the Antiquities and Monuments Office's records, there are three historic buildings with this kind of stepped gables: Lo Pan Temple in Kennedy Town, Hau Wong Temple in Kowloon City and Tin Hau Temple in Peng Chau.

⁹ Junyu kiln was the renowned Shiwan ceramic manufacturer from Foshan, Guangdong province.

entrance hall, record the names of manufacturers in Guangdong province, the year of manufacture and the local building contractor that was in charge of the construction of the ceramic ridges and decorations. The Shiwan ceramic figurines are not only exquisitely crafted, but also very skilfully positioned. It is noteworthy that a few figurines have been placed leaning forward in order to facilitate a clear and undistorted view from ground level.

The large quantity of superb mural paintings depicting a wide variety of subjects in the temple, numbering as many as 26 pieces, is also exceptional. Right above the door lintel on the front façade is a remarkable mural containing nine paintings and two calligraphy murals on a single tableau featuring various themes such as *Evening Trip to Red Cliff* (夜遊赤壁)¹⁰, and *Bodhidharma Crossing Waves on a Reed* (達摩一葦渡江), together with subjects from traditional landscapes and plants.¹¹ These highly decorative murals convey the inspiration of the thirst for knowledge and the virtue of diligence. Other fine murals can be found decorating the front and rear elevations as well as internal walls and wall friezes.

In addition, a total of seven sets of finely crafted plaster mouldings can be found across the temple depicting auspicious motifs and historic folktales. Two of these mention a prominent local building contractor, Chung Cheu Kee Building Contractor (鍾照記建造), and the names of the notable craftsmen Deng Zizhou (鄧子舟) and his son Deng Juqian (鄧居謙) at the border frame.¹² The intricate wood carvings in the temple are also remarkable. Looking up at the covered pavilion reveals an exquisitely decorated *caimen* (彩門), a wooden panel. Depicting historic folktales including *Xue Gang Rebelling against Tang* (薛剛反唐) and other auspicious motifs, the *caimen* was manufactured by Leung So Kee (梁蘇記) and presented by Lam Yam Chuen (林蔭泉), the founding chairman of the Hongkong

¹⁰ This is the largest painting and is placed in the middle of the tableau. It depicts famous scholar Su Shi (蘇軾) in a boat, Fou Yin the monk (佛印和尚) on the bank and the calligrapher Huang Tingjian (黃庭堅).

¹¹ The painting above the word “魯” is different from the rest of the paintings. Depicting several books and papers, it is an example of a genre of Chinese art that developed during the middle of the 19th century in China known as the “eight broken”.

¹² Four plaster mouldings crafted by the Dengs are preserved in the temple.

Building Contractors' Association (香港建造商會), and his son to commemorate the temple's reconstruction in 1928.¹³

The temple retains its authentic layout and main elements. ***Authenticity***
The building structure and the decorative features remain in good condition. The major later additions to the temple include the pavilion that was erected in 1949 over the original courtyard and the temple keeper's quarters in the southwestern corner.

The temple is the well-recognised historic temple dedicated to Lo Pan in Hong Kong. Its stepped gable walls in the style of the "Five Peaks Paying Tribute to Heaven" are a rare sight in Hong Kong. The temple is also one of the most gorgeously decorated temples in Hong Kong. It retains and expresses advanced techniques and superb craftsmanship in the execution of its wood carvings, ceramic figurines, plaster mouldings, mural paintings and stone inscriptions. Both the front and rear sides of the ridges of the entrance and main halls are vividly decorated with Shiwan ceramic figurines, which are found only in isolated cases in Hong Kong. ***Rarity***

The temple is of significant social value and local interest. ***Social Value & Local Interest***
In the time when it was built, new entrants to the trade learned the knowledge and techniques of construction and building by undertaking an apprenticeship rather than through vocational training in a school setting. Lo Pan can be regarded as the great teacher of all the trades associated with building. Paying homage to Lo Pan at the temple is thus an important part of the heritage of the building trades that reflects the continuity and significance of apprenticeship. Since the temple was built, local owners and workers of construction businesses have followed the traditional practice of celebrating the birthday of Lo Pan, widely known as the "Master Festival" (師傅誕), on the 13th day of the sixth lunar month every year, when they usually stop work and gather in front of the temple to pay homage to Lo Pan, thanking the master for his protection and asking for his blessing for

¹³ Inscriptions "魯班先師廟廣悅寶堂重建崇陞誌慶" are engraved on the *caimen*. Reference is also made to 馬素梅:《迎祥接福: 香港中式古建築的木雕彩門》, 香港: 作者自印, 2021年, 頁158-159。

smooth and safe works. They later hold a banquet in a restaurant in the evening.

Traditional celebrations have been held at the temple that last one and a half days over the evening before and the day of the “Master Festival”. The festivities include a consecration ceremony conducted by Taoist priests to enshrine the souls of workers who have died in industrial accidents and the performance of lion and dragon dances. Another memorable activity is the distribution of “master rice” to children in the neighbourhood. Tradition has it that children who eat “master rice” will grow up to be as smart, versatile and hard-working as Lo Pan. “Master rice” was thus very popular in the old days. But as the older generations of craftsmen passed away, the “master rice” tradition has gradually disappeared since the 1960s.

In 2020, the Construction Industry Council in association with the Hong Kong Construction Association launched the “Construction Industry Lo Pan Rice Campaign” during the “Master Festival”, distributing hot lunch boxes to underprivileged groups in the community. The campaign has now become an iconic territory-wide charity event of the construction industry, reflecting the fact that the influence of Lo Pan is not only confined to the tangible historic temple building, but has also extended out in intangible form to a wider community from a socioeconomic perspective.

To promote the spirit of Lo Pan, which values innovation, and to recognize outstanding young practitioners in the industry, the Young Lo Pan Award Ceremony was inaugurated in 2010 by the management of the temple in collaboration with other stakeholders in the industry and is now held at the temple every year. It reflects the strong bonds that the temple fostered within the industry, and continues to foster even today, and testifies to the historical development of one of the major industries in Hong Kong.

Built in 1949, Kwong Yuet Tong Public Office (Grade 3) is located next to the temple. The existence of the office and the temple in close proximity form a significant group value. *Group Value*

Another renowned temple in Central and Western District is the Man Mo Temple compound in Sheung Wan, which was declared as monument in 2010. Other historic buildings in the vicinity of the temple include No. 9 Ching Lin Terrace (Grade 3), the Ex-Western Fire Station (Grade 2) and the Senior Staff Quarters and Workmen's Quarters of Elliot Pumping Station and Filters (Grade 2 and 3 respectively).

Photos of Lo Pan Temple
No. 15 Ching Lin Terrace, Kennedy Town, Hong Kong



Front façade of Lo Pan Temple



Front side of the main ridge decorated with
Shiwan ceramic figurines



The statues of Sun God (right) and Moon Goddess (left) at the front end of the descending ridges of the Entrance Hall



Gable walls in the style of “Five Peaks Paying Tribute to Heaven”



Mural containing nine paintings and two calligraphy murals on a single tableau at the front façade



Chitou (gable wall head) decorated with ceramic figurines at the front façade



Colourful plaster moulding figurines at the front façade



Delicate mural paintings and colourful plaster moulding figurines



The *caimen* (wooden panel) depicting the historic folktales and auspicious motifs and the main altar dedicated to Lo Pan at the Main Hall



The wood carving on the century-old offering table in front of the main altar

**Heritage Appraisal of
Residence of Tang Pak Kau
No. 20 Tsz Tong Tsuen, Kam Tin, Yuen Long**

The Residence of Tang Pak Kau, located in Tsz Tong Tsuen¹ *Historical Interest* in the Kam Tin area of Yuen Long, is believed to have been built in the early 20th century. The building is also known as *Lai Kang Tong* (禮耕堂), which can be translated as “hall for the propriety and cultivation”.² A 26th generation descendent of Tang Yuen Leung (鄧元亮), who is considered to be one of the founders of the Tang clan in Kam Tin, Tang Pak Kau (鄧伯裘) (1876-1950) was a distinguished member of the Tangs in the area in the late 19th century and the first half of the 20th century.³ The residence thus serves as testimony to the life of a prominent figure in Kam Tin and his remarkable contribution to the development of the area and also of Yuen Long and the New Territories as a whole.

Following the tradition of providing an education for the younger members of the Tang clan in Kam Tin,⁴ Tang Pak Kau set aside part of his residence as a private school for Tang children in the early 20th century.⁵ Known as Lai Kang School, it is believed to be

¹ Tsz Tong Tsuen can be written in two ways in Chinese, 祠塘村 and 祠堂村, and both versions are currently used by government departments. Tsz Tong literally means ancestral hall, while Tsuen is a village. Members of the Tang clan in Kam Tin who were interviewed for an oral history record by the Antiquities and Monuments Office on 28 March 2023 generally believe that the name Tsz Tong Tsuen is derived from Tang Lung Yau Wan Tsuen Um Ancestral Hall (龍游尹泉菴鄧公祠) of the Tangs in the nearby walled village of Tai Hong Wai (泰康圍), which was built in 1768 in memory of Tang Man-wai (鄧文蔚). The area around the hall was sparsely inhabited at this time, and it was only when the population of Tai Hong Wai outgrew the village’s walls that people started to settle Tsz Tong Tsuen.

² The couplets painted on the wooden door panels at the entrance to the building begin with the words “propriety” and “cultivate” and can be regarded as Tang Pak Kau’s personal motto or an expression of what he hoped to achieve.

³ Tang Pak Kau opened an oil factory called Tai Cheung (泰祥號榨油廠) in Yuen Long in 1915 and later became an agent for A.S. Watson & Co., Ltd. selling its carbonated water. By all accounts a very successful businessman, he acquired a number of land lots in Kam Tin, Yuen Long, Lo Wu and Fanling, as can be seen from the archives of the Public Records Office, Hong Kong (HKRS96-1-6029) and 經濟資料社：《香港工商手冊》，香港：經濟資料社，1946年，頁200.

⁴ Of the six private study halls that were built in Kam Tin, five were originally established solely for teaching purposes: Yi Tai Study Hall (declared monument), Lik Wing Tong Study Hall (Grade 1), Chou Wong Yi Kung Study Hall (Grade 2), So Lau Yuen (Grade 3) and Tang Yu Kai Study Hall (Grade 3). The sixth, Cheung Chun Yuen (Grade 1), provided facilities for both ancestral worship and education.

⁵ The Block Government Lease and an antique pendulum clock inside the residence offer

Tang Pak Kau's first attempt in his lifelong pursuit to develop education in Yuen Long. He later provided financial support for the establishment of a free school, Yuen Long Shau Kai School (元朗少岐義學) in 1926, founded Mung Yang School (蒙養學校) in the same year and served as the chairman of the School Building Committee of Un Long Public Middle School (元朗公立中學) in 1949.

In addition to promoting education, he participated in the establishment in 1923 of the New Territories Association of Agricultural, Industrial and Commercial Research (租界農工商業研究總會), the predecessor of the Heung Yee Kuk (founded in 1926). He also served on the committee of the New Territories Agricultural Association (新界農業會) in 1930 and as vice-chairman of the Yuen Long Merchants Association (元朗商會) in 1938. Moreover, he contributed to the establishment of the Cottage Hospital (錦田婦孺醫院) for women and children and of the St. John Ambulance Brigade – Un Long Division First Aid Post (聖約翰救傷隊元朗支隊救傷站), which were opened in Kam Tin in 1932 and 1948 respectively. He was also appointed as the chairman of Pok Oi Hospital for four terms in 1928-29, 1933-34, 1946-47 and 1947-48.

A key leader in Kam Tin, Tang Pak Kau acted as a bridge between local villagers and the Hong Kong government. He represented the Tangs of Kam Tin when they successfully petitioned the government to demand the return of the iron gates of Kat Hing Wai (吉慶圍) to their original position after they had been seized and taken to Ireland in 1899. He was appointed to the reception committees that welcomed two new governors of Hong Kong, Sir Andrew Caldecott in 1935 and Sir Geoffry Northcote in 1937. He was awarded a Certificate of Honour in 1930 and the King's Coronation Medal in 1937. He was later appointed a justice of the peace in 1947. Furthermore, he was made a Donat of the Order of St. John in 1939, receiving the distinction of the bronze cross, in recognition of his dedicated service to the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

clues to the early history of the building. According to the lease, part of the residence, specifically KHWL 183 and KHWL 184 in DD 109, was originally designated for use as a "school". The clock is inscribed with the words "LAI KANG SCHOOL".

A large number of gifts, plaques, couplets and calligraphy rolls celebrating his 70th birthday as well as presents congratulating him on being appointed a justice of the peace are on display in the residence, all of which highlight his strong local connections and distinguished status in the community. Some of the names printed on the gifts belong to well-known people of the day, including the renowned former Qing Hanlin scholars Lai Tsi-hsi (賴際熙), Kong Hung-yan (江孔殷), Chu U-chun (朱汝珍) and Shum Kwong-yuet (岑光樾), the famous local Chinese calligraphist Au Kin-kung (區建公) and the wealthy Yuen Long businessmen Tang Pui-king (鄧佩瓊) and Chiu Lut-sau (趙聿修). When Tang Pak Kau died four years later, many prominent figures, such as the outstanding businessman and civic leader Sir Shouson Chow (周壽臣), the Chairman of Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Chau Cham-kwong (周湛光) and the Chairman of the Po Leung Kuk Choi Cheong (蔡昌), and high-ranking officials, including the acting Colonial Secretary, the Secretary for Chinese affairs, the Director of Education and the District Commissioner of the New Territories, offered their messages of condolences.⁶

The rectangular, grey brick, single-storey building is very different from the surrounding village houses, as it is five times longer than it is wide and has a prominent watchtower three storeys in height at one end. The entire exterior of the residence is built in the traditional Chinese Qing vernacular style, which is reflected in its flush gable roof system assembled using single-roll double pan tiles with a bare ridge and its grey-brick external wall and mouldings. The building structure and interior decorations, however, feature a striking juxtaposition of traditional Chinese elements and Western components.

***Architectural
Merit***

The site that the residence stands on comprises various land lots that were acquired from 1905 to 1922, which suggests it underwent several extensions. Looking at the elevation, construction joints can be clearly seen on the external walls: granite blocks have been laid to form the base for the central section, while undressed stone

⁶ 鄧緝煌，〈鄧伯裘先生哀思錄〉（香港：編輯自編，1950）。

has been used for the section on the left. As granite corner stones are located at the corners of the central section and on the two sides of the main entrance, it is likely that this was the first part to be built and was then extended by the other sections, which all combine to form the present compound. The wall friezes and gable friezes are decorated with mouldings featuring plants and mythical figures, some of which are still well preserved.

The rectangular residence is also divided into two rows, with the main residential area to the rear and the kitchen, storerooms, light wells, passages and corridors at the front. Just after the entrance to the building is a light well decorated with Tuscan columns and arch that act as a frame guarding the opening of the vestibule. The altar to Man Cheong (“God of Literature” (文昌)) and accompanying couplets in the main section lie on the central axis with the main entrance, which is probably related to the building’s original use as a school.⁷

To the right of the altar is a finely carved wooden moon gate, which helps divide the central section into two smaller units. Passing through the wooden swinging doors and a traditional Chinese sliding door, a spacious side hall comes into sight, again featuring Tuscan columns and arches. Three doorways lead to other areas: the spacious backyard, the courtyard on the right with bathrooms and toilets and the watchtower.

The three-storey watchtower at the north corner of the residence is a special architectural feature of the compound. The interior is modestly decorated, with a floral pattern at dado level and ceiling mouldings. The whole staircase and the floor are finished in red and green terrazzo. Its design with small windows and minimal ornamentation indicates that it was built for surveillance and security purposes. The security of the tower itself is ensured by thick partitions, a huge and heavy entrance door and security bars.

⁷ It was a tradition to install an altar to Man Cheong in study halls and ancestral halls so that sacrificial offerings could be made. Yi Tai Study Hall, built during the Daoguang (道光) reign (1821-1850) in Shui Tau Tsuen, Kam Tin, also houses an altar to Man Cheong.

In the section of the residence on the left, which the family referred to as “the new study room” (新書房), Tuscan columns and arches are installed at the two sides of the entrance to the living area, which is divided into three bays. Passing through the arch and a passageway, there is another light well with a covered corridor and a transparent roof that was added later. While the central part of the light well is composed of granite blocks, the floor of the covered corridor is paved with white hexagonal chip tiles interspersed with green chip tiles, which form several snowflake patterns. The northern internal wall of the light well is decorated with green glazed ceramic grilles decorated with *ruyi* (如意, sceptres) and crab apple patterns, topped by a plaster moulding with an auspicious motif. It is notable that the Western features of Tuscan columns and arches are consistently adopted in the residence, including in this living room, both for decorative purposes and as intermediate support for the pitched roofs constructed of timber purlins, battens and tiles. The bases of the columns are built in a combination of concrete and terrazzo. The wall friezes are finely decorated with murals featuring landscapes, people and calligraphy; most of them are well preserved and retain their attractive colouring. The floor is also finished with hexagonal chip tiles with a large snowflake pattern at the centre. The new study room provides the best example of this unique design and its juxtaposition of Chinese and Western architectural and decorative features.

The building was extended several times by Tang Pak Kau in the early 20th century, and this is authentically reflected in the physical fabric of the residence. Several alterations have also been made – some of the windows have been replaced, internal walls have been replastered, and light wells have been covered to modernise the building for residential use by the Tang family – but overall the building retains much of its original appearance from the early 20th century. The original colours of some murals can still be seen, while most of the original fine details of the building fabric and finishes, which display fine workmanship, also remain.

Authenticity

Unlike the villages nearby, Tsz Tong Tsuen, where the residence is situated, was not enclosed by a wall to defend it against attacks by bandits. The residence therefore incorporates security considerations in its design, in particular in the form of the three-storey watchtower, which, although there are several examples elsewhere in Hong Kong,⁸ is the only one of its kind in a residence in Kam Tin. ***Rarity***

The L-shaped layout of the rectangular residence and the watchtower is also a distinguishing feature. What further sets it apart is the impressive juxtaposition, in a village house, of traditional Chinese decorative features and Western structural components, which reflect the life of the Chinese gentry in Hong Kong in the early 20th century.

A prominent figure in Kam Tin in the late 19th and early 20th century, Tang Pak Kau is still remembered by people living in Kam Tin and Yuen Long even today, especially by the older generations. His residence is an important building that bears witness to the development of Kam Tin and Yuen Long and especially the history of private schools in the territory in the early 20th century. Today, the residence is the only historical building that testifies to Tang Pak Kau's contribution to education in Yuen Long. In addition, the building is located next to the footpath connecting the train station and the main street of Kam Tin and stands as a landmark in Tsz Tong Tsuen. ***Social Value & Local Interest***

The residence shares a group value not only with Tang Lung Yau Wan Tsuen Um Ancestral Hall (Grade 3) in the same village, but also with historic places in the vicinity, including Kat Hing Wai (Grade 1), Wing Lung Wai (featuring Grade 2 and 3 historic buildings)⁹ and Tai Hong Wai Entrance Gate and Watchtower (northwest) (Grade 3) as well as Tang Kwong U Ancestral Hall (declared monument), Yi Tai Study Hall (declared monument), Lik Wing Tong Study Hall (Grade 1), Cheung Chun Yuen (Grade 1), Chou Wong Yi Kung Study Hall ***Group Value***

⁸ According to the Antiquities and Monuments Office's records, other examples of residential buildings with a watchtower include the Ho Residence in Pak Sha O, Tai Po (watchtower and side chamber, Grade 1), Yuen's Mansion in Chung Hau, Mui Wo on Lantau Island (east and west watchtowers, both Grade 2) and No. 15 Hok Tau Tsuen in Fanling (watchtower, Grade 2).

⁹ The entrance gate to Wing Lung Wai is a Grade 2 historic building, while both Chung Shing Temple and Kang Sam Tong are Grade 3 historic buildings.

(Grade 2), Tang Chan Yui Kuen Ancestral Hall (Grade 3), So Lau Yuen (Grade 3), and Hung Shing Temple (Grade 3) in Shui Tau Tsuen and Tang Tsing Lok Ancestral Hall (Grade 1) and Tin Hau Temple (Grade 3) in Shui Mei Tsuen, all of which are in areas neighbouring Kam Tin. These historic places and buildings form a heritage cluster reflecting the development of the Tang clan in the territory from the 11th century onwards, while the residence of Tang Pak Kau bears witness to his achievements and the benevolent acts he performed for his fellow clansmen and townsmen alike.

Photos of Residence of Tang Pak Kau
No. 20 Tsz Tong Tsuen, Kam Tin, Yuen Long



West elevation of Residence of Tang Pak Kau



Light well right behind the main entrance with
Tuscan columns and arch



Finely carved wooden moon gate in the main hall



Green glazed ceramic grilles topped by a plaster moulding of auspicious motif



Tuscan columns and arch in the new study room



Colour mural at the wall frieze



Hexagonal chip tiles featuring a snowflake pattern



Staircase finished in red and green terrazzo inside the watchtower

**Projects under the Revitalising Historic Buildings
Through Partnership Scheme (“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 May 2024, over 2 053 000 visitors 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 May 2024, over 650 000 visitors 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 May 2024, over 1 897 000 visitors 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 May 2024, over 1 995 000 visitors 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 May 2024, over 418 000 visitors 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 May 2024, over 1 430 000 visitors 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 May 2024, over 354 000 visitors 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 May 2024, over 153 000 visitors 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 May 2024, over 394 000 visitors 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 May 2024, over 70 000 visitors 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 May 2024, over 63 000 visitors visited the place;

- (c) **Lady Ho Tung Welfare Centre** – it has been revitalised into the “Sik Sik Yuen 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. By the end of May 2024, over 5 700 visitors visited the place.

Batch V

5. There are four projects under Batch V of the Revitalisation Scheme. Their latest position is as follows -

- (a) **Roberts Block, Old Victoria Barracks** will be revitalised into the “Roberts Block Creative Arts Therapy Centre”;
- (b) **Luen Wo Market** – it has been revitalised into the “Luen Wo Market – House of Rural and Urban Living” to facilitate urban and rural interaction through providing stalls to sell local farm products and daily necessities etc., and organising weekend bazaar to sell traditional food and crafts. The project commenced operation on 28 March 2024.
- (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) and 5(c) commenced in early 2022 and are in good progress. These two projects are scheduled to open in phases starting from the fourth quarter of 2024.

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. This historic building has been included in Batch VII of the Revitalisation Scheme.

Batch VI

8. There are five projects under Batch VI of the Revitalisation Scheme. Their latest position is as follows -

- (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 8(a) to (d), pre-construction work including design and site investigation of the projects commenced in the second quarter of 2023. For item 8(e), the pre-construction work will commence in the third quarter of 2024. We will seek funding approval for the renovation works from the Finance Committee of Legislative Council for the five projects in due course.

Batch VII

10. There are three projects under Batch VII of the Revitalisation Scheme. Their latest position is as follows –

- (a) **Watervale House, Former Gordon Hard Camp;**

(b) **No. 23 Coombe Road;** and

(c) **Old Lunatic Asylum (Chinese Block).**

11. For item 10(a), this project was launched on 27 December 2023 and ten applications were received by the deadline of application submission on 10 April 2024. Assessment of the applications is in progress and the selection results is expected to be announced in early 2025. For items 10(b) and (c), application arrangements will be announced in due course.

**Development Bureau
June 2024**

**Revitalisation of Fong Yuen Study Hall and Homi Villa
Batch VI of
the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme**

Background

In September 2019, we launched Batch VI¹ of the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (“Revitalisation Scheme”) and invited non-profit-making organisations with charitable status under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) to submit proposals for adaptive re-use of government-owned graded historic buildings including Fong Yuen Study Hall (“FYSH”) and Homi Villa, in the form of social enterprises. Following a vigorous and competitive selection process, the following proposals have been selected in respect of the above two buildings -

- (a) The Boys’ Brigade, Hong Kong (“BBHK”) to revitalise **FYSH** into **FYSH - Experiential Learning Centre**; and
- (b) National History Education (Hong Kong) Limited to revitalise **Homi Villa** into **Centre of National History Education Youyou Villa** (“CNHE Youyou Villa”).

2. To facilitate financial monitoring by the Government, particularly in preventing any attempt to siphon off funds intended for or arising from the projects to serve non-project related purposes, successful proponents are required to set up special purpose companies (“SPCs”) with charitable status under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance for the sole purpose of the projects. SPCs for the above projects are “Fong Yuen Study Hall – Experiential Learning Center Limited” and “National History Education Centre (Youyou Villa) Limited” respectively.

¹ Five historic buildings included in the Batch VI, viz. Tai Tam Tuk Raw Water Pumping Station Staff Quarters Compound, Homi Villa, King Yin Lei, FYSH and Former North Kowloon Magistracy

**Revitalisation of FYSH into FYSH - Experiential Learning Centre
(8048QW)**

The building

3. FYSH², with a site area of about 280 square metres (m²) and a total floor area of about 140 m², is located in Tin Liu Tsuen, Ma Wan. It comprises a historic building, a garden at the front and a toilet block. The historic building is a two-storey reinforced concrete building constructed in the 1920s to 1930s. FYSH was accorded Grade 3 status by the Antiquities Advisory Board (“AAB”) in 2010.

The project scope

4. The project will revitalise the traditional teaching function of the site into an experiential learning experience to the public of different age groups via Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (“STEM”).

5. The project scope comprises conservation and revitalisation works of FYSH for accommodating the following facilities:

- (a) STEM workshop;
- (b) exhibition area;
- (c) ancillary offices;
- (d) outdoor staircase and platform;
- (e) outdoor courtyard; and
- (f) back of house facilities (including toilets, and electrical and mechanical plant rooms, etc).

6. A site plan, an existing building photograph and an artist’s impression of revitalisation are at **Enclosure 1** and **Enclosure 2**.

Benefits

7. The revitalisation project will bring benefits to the society by -

² Yuen Yuen Institute (“YYI”) adaptively re-used FYSH as a Tourism and Chinese Culture Centre cum Ma Wan Residents Museum from March 2013 to end 2016. YYI ceased the project operation on 1 January 2017. The Antiquities and Monuments Office has made arrangements to continue opening the site for the public to visit and appreciate the historic building.

- (a) implementing diversified and innovative initiative in holistic development concept, and adopting technology as the learning medium, thereby enhancing the learning interest and experiences of the participants, as well as advocating the nurture of moral standard and virtues;
- (b) providing guided tours relating to history, culture and environmental protection that extend and link up the historical and natural heritage of Ma Wan; while at the same time connecting the local community, groups and organisations to create synergy and build up cohesion for enhancing the social capital;
- (c) offering job opportunities to the elderly, the retired and the indigenous residents to be docents to unfold the change of development of FYSH and Ma Wan through oral history, so as to foster an inclusive culture; and
- (d) providing free activity places for the underprivileged groups, so as to serve regularly and continually the needy in the society.

Project Estimate

8. The capital cost of the project is estimated at \$25.5 million in money-of-the-day (“MOD”) prices. The maintenance cost of structural repairs of the historic building will be borne by the Government. FYSH – Experiential Learning Center Limited will be responsible for the costs of other maintenance works for the historic building and the site. Subject to the outcome of the Panel consultation, we plan to seek support and funding approval from the Public Works Subcommittee (“PWSC”) and the Finance Committee (“FC”) within the fourth quarter of 2024.

Heritage Implications

9. BBHK has conducted a Heritage Impact Assessment (“HIA”) in respect of the revitalisation project. At its meeting on 7 March 2024, AAB endorsed the HIA report of revitalising FYSH into FYSH - Experiential Learning Centre. BBHK will ensure that construction works,

mitigation measures, future maintenance and interpretation of the site history will comply with the requirements stipulated in the HIA report.

Public Consultation

10. We and BBHK consulted the Tsuen Wan District Council on the project on 27 September 2022. The members supported the project.

11. We reported the progress of Batch VI projects under the Revitalisation Scheme, including the adaptive re-use of FYSH, to the Panel on 25 July 2023. The Panel members raised no adverse comments on the revitalisation project.

Revitalisation of Homi Villa into CNHE Youyou Villa (8050QW)

The building

12. Homi Villa, with a site area of about 1,400 m² and a total floor area of about 580 m², is located at 401 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories. Homi Villa, comprising the Main Building and the Extension, is a single-storey building constructed on a promontory overlooking the Ma Wan Channel with a spectacular sea view on three sides. The Main Building is in general a reinforced concrete roof supported by structural brick wall constructed in 1930s. Homi Villa has been converted into the Airport Core Programme Exhibition Centre since 1995. Homi Villa was accorded Grade 3 status by the AAB in 2010.

The project scope

13. The project will revitalise Homi Villa into a learning centre to promote Chinese culture, history studies and environmental studies, conduct courses and programmes for the general public, and house a restaurant. Exhibitions and guided tours will be organised to promote public understanding towards the architectural merits and cultural significance of Homi Villa, the history of Tsuen Wan area and the contribution made by Ruttonjee family to Hong Kong.

14. The project scope comprises conservation and revitalisation works of Homi Villa for accommodating the following facilities -

- (a) heritage interpretation areas;
- (b) outdoor activity area;
- (c) restaurant;
- (d) ancillary offices; and
- (e) back of house facilities (including toilets, and electrical and mechanical plant rooms, etc.).

15. A site plan, an existing building photograph and an artist's impression of revitalisation are at **Enclosure 3** and **Enclosure 4**.

Benefits

16. The revitalisation project will bring benefits to the society by -

- (a) presenting a variety of activities focusing on environmental and history studies, to foster public understanding of the Ruttonjee family and the history, development and contribution of the Parsis in Hong Kong, in addition to the history of Homi Villa and Hong Kong;
- (b) providing students with learning experience, and teachers and commercial organisations with professional talks and workshops to deepen participants' understanding of environment, history and culture;
- (c) organising two open days annually with thematic exhibitions, talks and activities related to the festive days to attract public participation apart from regular guided tours; and
- (d) offering job opportunities to local residents and the underprivileged, and liaising and cooperating with the local communities to establish community cohesion and strengthens the sense of belonging among local residents.

Project Estimate

17. The capital cost of the project is estimated at \$104.4 million in MOD prices. The maintenance cost of structural repairs of the historic building will be borne by the Government. National History Education Centre (Youyou Villa) Limited will be responsible for the costs of other maintenance works for the historic building and the site. Subject to the outcome of the Panel consultation, we plan to seek support and funding approval from PWSC and FC within the fourth quarter of 2024.

Heritage Implications

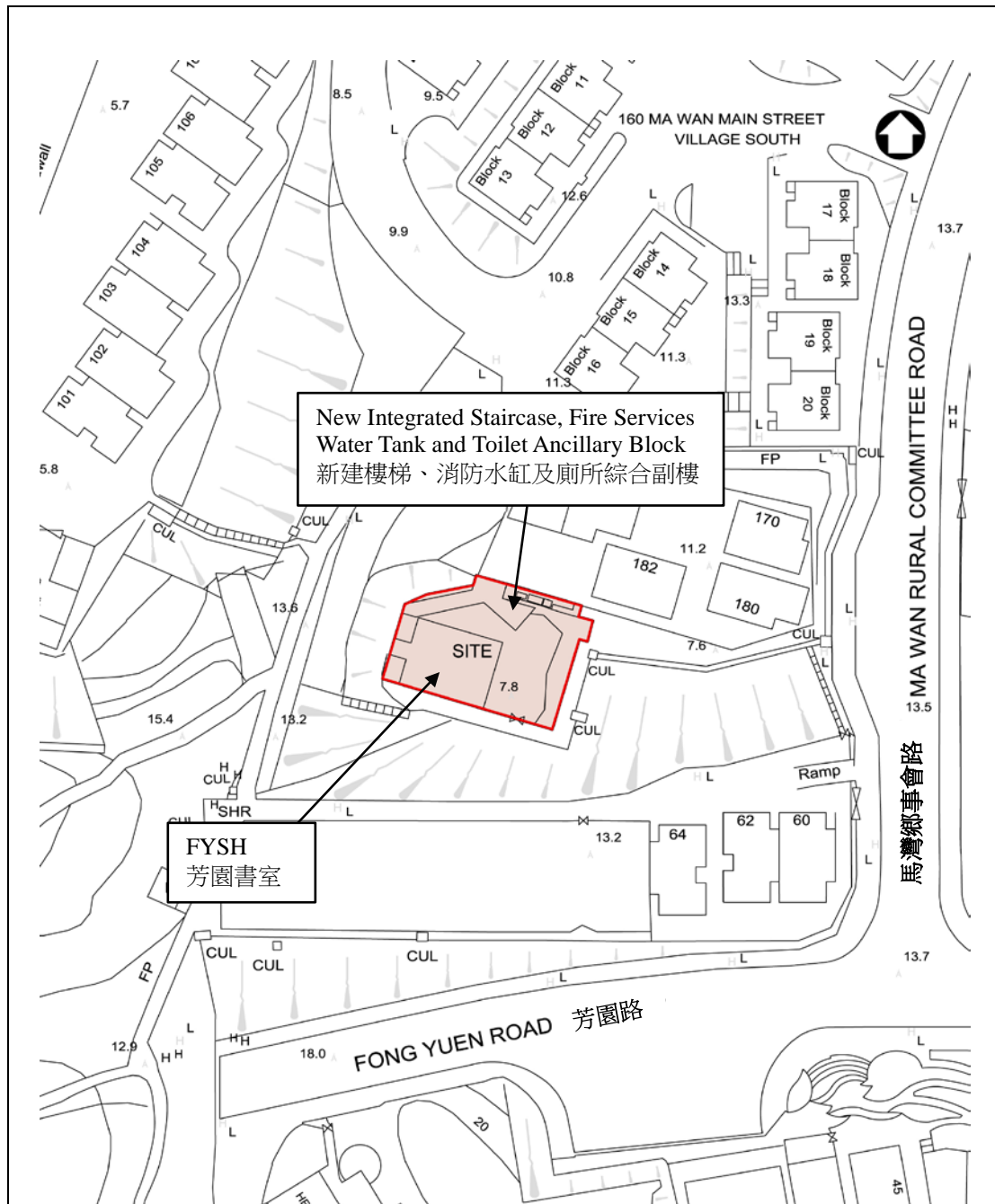
18. National History Education Centre (Youyou Villa) Limited has conducted an HIA in respect of the revitalisation project. At its meeting on 7 March 2024, AAB endorsed the HIA report of revitalising Homi Villa into CNHE Youyou Villa. National History Education Centre (Youyou Villa) Limited will ensure that construction works, mitigation measures, future maintenance and interpretation of the site history will comply with the requirements stipulated in the HIA report.

Public Consultation

19. We and National History Education (Hong Kong) Limited consulted the Tsuen Wan District Council on 27 September 2022. The members supported the project.

20. We reported the progress of Batch VI projects under the Revitalisation Scheme, including the adaptive re-use of Homi Villa, to the Panel on 25 July 2023. The Panel members raised no adverse comments on the revitalisation project.

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Site Plan 位置圖

8048QW – Revitalisation of FYSH into FYSH - Experiential Learning Centre

8048QW – 活化芳園書室為創學芳園



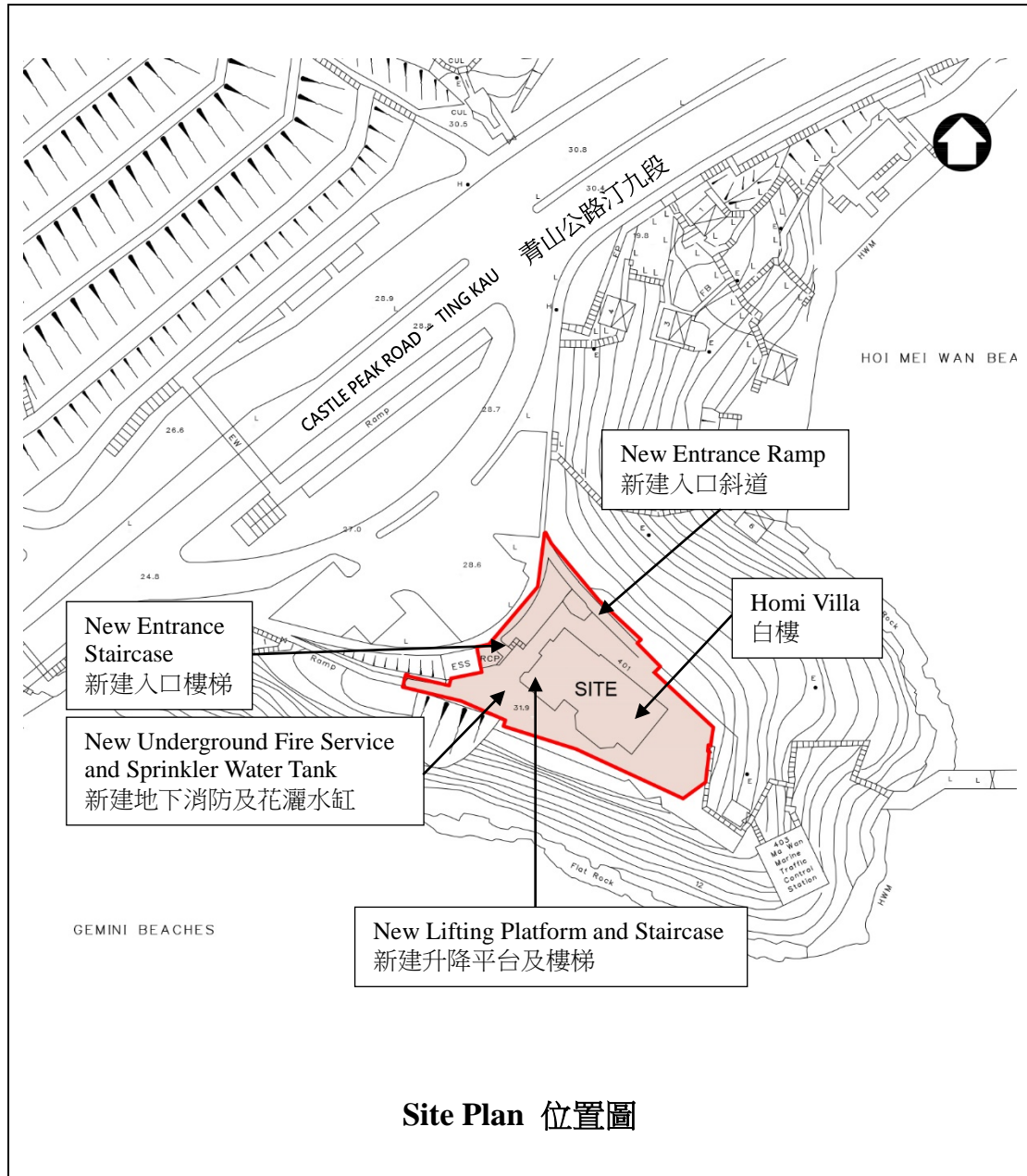
Existing Condition of FYSH
芳園書室的現貌



Artist's Impression of FYSH – Experiential Learning Centre
芳園書室—創學芳園的構思圖

8048QW – Revitalisation of FYSH into FYSH - Experiential Learning Centre

8048QW – 活化芳園書室為創學芳園



Site Plan 位置圖

8050QW – Revitalisation of Homi Villa into CNHE Youyou Villa
8050QW – 活化白樓為國史教育中心悠悠館

ENCLOSURE 4

附錄 4



Existing Condition of Homi Villa
白樓的現貌



Artist's Impression of CNHE Youyou Villa
國史教育中心悠悠館的構思圖

8050QW – Revitalisation of Homi Villa into CNHE Youyou Villa
8050QW – 活化白樓為國史教育中心悠悠館

**Enhancement Measures
for Funding Schemes under Built Heritage Conservation Fund**

**(A) Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme
("Revitalisation Scheme")**

The following enhancement measures took effective in December 2023 with launching of Batch VII:

Area	Enhancement Measure
Support to Non-profit-making Organisations ("NPOs")	To increase the maximum one-off grant to meet the starting costs and operating deficits of the project for the first two years of operation from \$5 million to \$6 million.
Launching Mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● To invite applications for a smaller number of historic buildings (i.e. one to two buildings for each round) but on a more frequent basis (around six months after launching of the previous round).● Historic buildings selected for upcoming application periods to be announced in advance to allow time for preparation by interested NPOs.
Eligibility of Applicant	To extend the applicant eligibility by allowing NPOs with charitable status under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) to partner with non-charitable organisations.
Assessment of Application	To streamline the selection process by simplifying the application form and setting a passing mark for each assessment criterion.

(B) Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme on Built Heritage

The following enhancement measures took effective in January 2024:

Area	Enhancement Measure
Grant amount	To increase the ceiling of grant amount from \$2 million to \$6 million for each application.
Consultancy Services for FAS Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● To remove the ceiling on consultancy fee and award the contract to the consultant whose bid is the lowest between 80% and 100% (inclusive) of the median fee of all conforming bids.● To limit the maximum number of projects undertaken simultaneously by each consultant to six.

(C) Funding Scheme on Public Engagement Projects

The following enhancement measures will be implemented in 2024 for the second batch applications:

Area	Enhancement Measure
Mode of activities	To implement the second batch in two phases to space out the various activities rolled out by the funded projects, sustain the momentum of the public's interest in the activities and enhance community involvement.
Eligibility of Applicant	To extend the applicant eligibility from professional institutes to local NPOs which have involved in built heritage conservation.
Assessment of Application	To make the application assessment more comprehensive by including additional assessment criteria on project outcome and impact, and on project effectiveness and publicity.
Disbursement of Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● To ease the project's cashflow by allowing 20% of the total approved funding to be the initial project payment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To disburse payment by instalments with a fixed payment schedule, which has been agreed by the successful applicant.
Submission of Report	To extend the deadline of final report submission from three months to four months after completion of all project activities.
Project Management	To further enhance the project evaluation by providing a new sample questionnaire for successful applicants to collect feedback from participants of the project activities.

(D) Funding Scheme on Thematic Research

The Advisory Committee on Built Heritage Conservation is being consulted on the ensuing proposed enhancement measures. Subject to the agreement of the advisory committee, these measures would be incorporated in the next batch of applications:

Area	Enhancement Measure
Eligibility of Applicant	To extend the applicant eligibility by inviting applications from eight degree-awarding academic institutions to 13 local registered post-secondary education institutions which currently offers degree programmes on disciplines relevant to the proposed research theme.
Assessment of Application	To make the application assessment more comprehensive by dividing the original assessment criteria “Research Plan and Budgetary Management” into separate assessment criteria and reviewing the weighting of all the assessment criteria.
Disbursement of Funding	To facilitate the successful applicants to recruit research and supporting staff at the project initial stage by increasing the initial payment from not more 10% to 20% of the total approved funding.

Submission of Report	To extend the deadline of final report submission from three months to four months after completion of all project activities.
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June 2024

Public Engagement Events

Since the last progress report in July 2023, the Government has organised the following publicity and public education activities:

Publicity Programmes

- (a) Commissioner for Heritage's Office ("CHO") organised "Heritage Fiesta 2023" from 1 October to 30 November 2023 featuring ten declared monuments and graded historic buildings that were related to greening and landscape with over 100 guided tours organised for the public. To dovetail with the fiesta, a roving exhibition was held from 1 October to 31 December 2023 at 13 locations, including shopping malls, a government venue and public libraries. Around 150 000 visitors participated in both events;

Exhibitions

- (b) Development Bureau ("DEVB") jointly presented the "Under the Same Roof: Origin and Art of Lingnan Traditional Architecture" exhibition with National Cultural Heritage Administration ("NCHA") and Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture of the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region ("SAR"), at Heritage Discovery Centre ("HDC") from 1 December 2023 to 2 June 2024. 170 pieces/sets of cultural and historical artefacts from esteemed cultural institutions, museums and private collections of Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao were featured. Highlight exhibits include the Panyu shrine, a grade-one national treasure from the Guangdong Folk Arts Museum. The exhibition attracted a total attendance of 52 875 to visit the Thematic Exhibition Gallery and 44 173 to visit the Panyu Shrine Gallery as at 31 May 2024;
- (c) co-organised by AMO and Shandong Museum, the "Harmony of Rites and Music: Exploring the Qilu Culture through Shandong Relics" exhibition has been staged at HDC from 29 May until

6 October 2024. 60 sets (about 200 pieces) of cultural relics from Shandong Museum, Shandong Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology, Shandong University Museum and Yi Nan County Museum are displayed together with 104 archaeological finds unearthed in Hong Kong to illustrate the pluralistic origins of Chinese civilisation. The exhibition attracted a total attendance of 829 as at 31 May 2024;

- (d) ‘Monumental’ Stories — Cat Curator Colouring Competition Winning Entries Exhibition was held at HDC from 22 July to 30 August 2023, attracting a total attendance of 4 435. The exhibition was then staged at Central Market from 1 to 30 September 2023 with a total attendance of 31 275;
- (e) “Fun Historic Building Tour Through Models of the Buildings” exhibition was held at HDC from 29 July to 13 September 2023, recording a total attendance of 10 660;
- (f) “Models of Historic Buildings Exhibition” was staged at Central Market between 1 and 30 September 2023 with a total attendance of 46 800. “The Aesthetics of Chinese Traditional Architecture: Structure and Form” exhibition was staged at the same venue between 3 and 22 October 2023 with a total attendance of 30 480;
- (g) “Inseparable Ties: Cohesion as Told by Hong Kong Historic Buildings” exhibition - photo version was staged at Deng Xiaoping Former Residence Museum from 8 February to 30 April 2024, with a total attendance of 2 507 597 and Nanjing Municipal Museum from 30 June 2023 to 30 June 2024, with a total attendance of 789 725 as at 31 May 2024;
- (h) 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. The display has been renewed in late March 2024 with a newly added section on "Sung Wong Toi and Maritime Trade". Over 500 archeological finds unearthed from the site of Sung Wong Toi MTR Station are currently on

display to feature the lives and economic activities of the people of the Song-Yuan period, the scenery of Sacred Hill and its environs in the past and the maritime trade as reflected by the finds unearthed. A total attendance of 1 025 879 was recorded as at 31 May 2024;

Education programmes

- (i) between July 2023 and May 2024, AMO has conducted a total of 27 public lectures, in which 23 were delivered in hybrid mode (of both online and physical formats) at HDC, recording a total attendance of 3 458. The lectures were themed on various heritage topics including the lecture series of “Under the Same Roof: Origin and Art of Lingnan Traditional Architecture” exhibition; “Tin Hau Temple, Yau Ma Tei and its Correlation with the District”, “Chinese Temples and Auspicious Embroidery”, “Maintaining Community Cohesion: The Story of Temples in Tai O” focusing on historic temples in various districts in Hong Kong; as well as the history, story and historic buildings of Eastern District;
- (j) in addition to the lecture series of “Under the Same Roof” exhibition, a workshop series complemented the same exhibition has also been launched since November 2023. Relevant intangible cultural heritage bearers and experts were invited to give lectures and host workshops on various aspects of Lingnan traditional architecture, including plaster moulding, brick carving, Chaozhou painting applique in gold foil and mural painting, Chaozhou wood carving, and inlaid carving of pottery. During 1 November 2023 to 31 May 2024, eleven lectures and ten workshops were held, with a total attendance of 1 551 participants;
- (k) a range of workshops themed on heritage were held in HDC including “Little Night Light on Declared Monument Temple Workshop” and “Mid-autumn Festival Lantern-making Workshop” in collaboration with the Chinese Temples Committee in August and September 2023 respectively, “Mini-

brick Workshop (for families)” in December 2023, “Hand-painted Cookies Workshop Featuring Patterns on Eaves End Tiles” and “Hand-painted Relics · Gold Foil Red Packets Workshop” in January and February 2024 respectively. All the workshops were very much sought-after;

Social inclusion

- (l) To encourage people with disabilities to appreciate built heritage, AMO collaborated with the Department of Architecture of Hong Kong Chu Hai College (“HKCHC”) and the Lutheran Church Hong Kong Synod to organise guided tours to two declared monuments (“DMs”), namely Tang Chung Ling Ancestral Hall, Fanling and Tang Ancestral Hall in Ha Tsuen, Yuen Long for visually impaired people on 26 January 2024 as one of the complementary educational activities for the exhibition “Under the Same Roof: The Origin and Art of Lingnan Traditional Architecture”. A total of 25 people with disabilities and their care givers attended. They were guided to understand the physical characteristics of brick walls, stone columns and structures of the DMs through touching, tactile sensing and replicated exhibits and the introduction delivered by HKCHC.

Community engagement

- (m) with the support of the Tang clan of Ping Shan, AMO conducted two sharing sessions and a series of workshops for conservation specialists to teach Friends of Heritage (“FOH”) to conserve historic soul tablets and to rub historic tablets. A total of 349 FOHs joined the two sharing sessions and 28 workshops to conserve more than 300 soul tablets under guidance;

Cross-sector heritage programmes

- (n) AMO is keen to promote cross-sector events themed on heritage with cultural / sports elements. Between September 2022 and April 2024, six series of “Heritage Run” were held, covering Kowloon City District, Central and Western District, Tsuen Wan

District and Kwai Tsing District, Yau Tsim Mong District, Eastern District as well as Shatin District.

Promotion and publicity

- (o) since 2022, AMO made use of the YouTube platform and has produced 38 videos to promote AMO's professional work and expertise, as well as stories of heritage to enhance public's awareness and appreciation of the archaeological and built heritage in Hong Kong, and to convey the important message of heritage conservation;
- (p) since August 2022, CHO and AMO have contributed articles on heritage to am730 on a bi-weekly basis to promote heritage in Hong Kong. As at 31 May 2024, 48 articles have been published;

Friends of Heritage and Young Friends of Heritage ("YFOH")

- (q) 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 3 100 applications for joining FOH and YFOH. Since July 2023, 47 sessions of guided tours, workshops, field trips and special events have been organised for FOHs and YFOHs with a total attendance of 706 as at 31 May 2024;

School programmes

- (r) 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 winning and shortlisted entries were displayed at HDC from late July to end of August 2023; and

Collaboration with tourism sector

- (s) 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 and the renewed display on the archaeological finds unearthed from the site of Sung Wong Toi MTR Station).

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 20 469 followers as of 31 May 2024; and

3. We will roll out the following events in the second half of 2024 and beyond. They are:

(a) “Launch from Greater Bay Area: Nanhai I Shipwreck and the Maritime Silk Road” Exhibition

A major exhibition to introduce the position and importance of Greater Bay Area region in the Maritime Silk Road jointly presented by DEVB, NCHA and the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture of the Macao SAR, supported by Department of Culture and Tourism of Guangdong Province, CHO, the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macao SAR and the Guangzhou Municipal Culture, Radio, Television and Tourism Bureau and organised by AMO, Art Exhibitions China, the Nanyue King Museum and the Guangdong Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology, in association with, the Guangzhou Municipal Institute of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, the Administration Office of Tongguan Kiln Site, Changsha, the Foshan Museum, the Nan Hai Museum, and the Huizhou Museum, will be held from August 2024 to February 2025 at HDC, featuring over 200 sets of relics from Guangdong, Macao and Hong Kong.

(b) Heritage Fiesta cum Roving Exhibition 2024

“Heritage Fiesta 2024”, themed on “East-meets-West”, will be launched from 1 October to 30 November 2024. The roving exhibition will be presented at local libraries, government offices and shopping malls from 1 October 2024 to 27 January 2025.

(c) Celebration activities for the 27th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong SAR (“HKSAR”)

To celebrate the 27th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, the Government and different sectors of the community will roll out a rich array of celebration activities and special offers. Different offers, including free guided tours and workshops will be arranged on and around 1 July 2024 for the 13 projects under the Revitalisation Scheme for the enjoyment of the public.

(d) Virtual tours of historic buildings

To promote Hong Kong's built heritage, AMO has produced and uploaded the virtual tours for 18 declared monuments and graded historic buildings in the 18 districts on AMO's website in December 2023. With the adoption of 3D technology, the virtual tours 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.

Development Bureau
June 2024