

Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre A Dream Coming True

「賽馬會創意藝術中心」替藝術社群圓夢

It's hard to imagine that an abandoned factory building in Shek Kip Mei can be transformed into a vibrant hub of artistic and cultural endeavour, where artists of all disciplines can practise their art in a practical and pleasant environment and also get on-the-spot help to promote their work.

你可曾想過一幢位於石硤尾的空置工廠大廈，會搖身一變成為一個匯聚藝術和文化的集中地嗎？從事不同類型創作的藝術家可在這個既實用又舒適的環境下，發揮所長，並且得到專人提供協助，推廣作品。



A retractable roof is included for the convenience of tenants and visitors on rainy days
中心將建自動開合天蓬，全天候照顧租戶和訪客的需要



Thanks to HKBU and two partners, the Hong Kong Arts Development Council and the Hong Kong Arts Centre, plus a generous donation of \$69.4 million from The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, that improbable vision is soon to become reality.

In charge of making the dream come true is Mr. Eddie Lui, a former banker who became a full-time artist and art consultant in 1995 and who has won prestigious awards for his work as a painter and a sculptor. In addition he has worked tirelessly to promote the development of arts and culture in Hong Kong.

Meeting demand for space

Mr. Lui is Planning Director for the Shek Kip Mei project, formally named the Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre and housed in a nine-storey factory building constructed in the 1970s.

“This is the project that the Hong Kong art community has been looking forward to for the past 20 years or so. Work space for artists has been always in great demand. As an artist myself I have always suffered from lack of space,” says Mr. Lui.

When renovation work is complete in mid-2007, the Centre will have

about 100,000 square feet of lettable space in about 150 units, available for about 100 artists and arts groups for the production and display of their works. Included will be a performing stage, an exhibition gallery, communal workshops and lecture theatres while a small number of units will be reserved for catering facilities and arts-related shops to support tenants as well as attract visitors.

A feature of the building is a central atrium extending upwards to the full height of the structure. Mr.

Lui's plans include a roof garden and a retractable roof that automatically moves into place when rain falls.

Mr. Lui sees the Centre not just as a magnet for artists but also for visitors. "It is our hope that tourists will come to see art works and buy them, and to interact with artists." He sees the Centre as a community hub that will play a leading role in the regeneration of Shek Kip Mei.

Springboard for arts development

Mr. Lui says the Centre will not only be self-financing, he wants the tenants to earn a decent living from their work. With this in mind, artists will benefit from professional support services to help them market and sell their work. There will even be a sick bay, because safety is paramount.

Mr. Lui sees the Centre as a potential springboard for future exciting developments for Hong Kong's arts community. "I've had this dream of the Centre for many years. I also want the Centre to set an example for other centres in future, and once this one is alive and kicking I think there will be more to come." ■

Project partners, the government and Hong Kong Jockey Club officiate at the Launch Ceremony
三所夥伴機構、政府及香港賽馬會一起主持啟動儀式



The Centre will be converted from a vacant nine-storey factory building in Shek Kip Mei
中心位於石硤尾，由現時一座樓高九層的工廠大廈改建



Mr. Eddie Lui
Planning Director
策劃總監呂豐雅先生

「賽馬會創意藝術中心」由香港浸會大學、香港藝術發展局和香港藝術中心攜手合作，獲香港賽馬會慈善信託基金捐款港幣六千九百四十萬元，作為改建及開發經費，讓本港的藝術、文化和創意產業發展邁向新里程。

替香港藝術社群圓夢的是中心的策劃總監呂豐雅先生。本身是畫家和雕塑家的他，在一九九五年成為全職藝術家和藝術顧問前，一直服務銀行界。多年來，他積極參與藝術發展及推廣工作，擔任多個藝術活動和藝術節的幹事及顧問。

解決空間不足

賽馬會創意藝術中心是由一幢建於七十年代、樓高九層的工廠大廈翻新而成，由呂豐雅先生負責策劃和推行這項計劃。

呂先生說：「過去二十多年，本地藝術社群一直渴望有類似的計劃出現，因為

地方不足的問題，一直困擾著他們。而我作為藝術創作者，當然明白箇中情況。」

當翻新工程於二零零七年中完成後，中心約有十萬平方呎租用面積，分成約一百五十個基本單位，供大約一百個本地藝術團體和藝術工作者進駐，讓他們從事藝術創作和展示創作成果。此外，中心將設有表演及活動場地、展覽廳、共用創作室和演講廳等，小部分單位將預留為食肆和售賣藝術物品的店舖，以供租戶使用和吸引訪客。

中心的一大特色是一個貫通整座大廈的中庭，呂先生亦計劃興建一個空中花園，以及一個自動開合的天蓬，全天候照顧中庭的設施。

呂先生認為賽馬會創意藝術中心不但要吸引藝術工作者，還須吸引訪客。他說：「我們希望遊客可以到來欣賞駐場藝術家的創作，與藝術家交流，或購藏他

們的作品。」他又期望中心會成為附近社區的聚腳點，令藝術融入社區生活中，同時帶動石硤尾區的蓬勃發展。

藝術發展的跳板

呂先生表示中心將以自負盈虧模式運作，他亦希望租戶可以賺取合理收益，因此，中心將提供專業支援，協助藝術工作者推廣和營銷作品。他又預期中心的人流眾多，而中心對安全守則極為重視，故將設有急救護理及傷療設備，作為配套支援。

展望中心的發展，呂先生期待賽馬會創意藝術中心可以成為香港藝術社群作進一步拓展的橋樑。他表示：「類似的創意中心計劃，是我多年的夢想。我希望透過中心的成功，作為日後其他同類型計劃的藍圖；假若香港有更多這樣的中心出現，我們的藝術發展定必更加光明。」 ■