

For Immediate Release

One Week Countdown to the Hong Kong International Cultural Summit, the First International Event that Kicks off Hong Kong Art Week 2026

*The 2nd Hong Kong International Cultural Summit Gathers Global Cultural Leaders at
WestK for Dialogues and Partnerships from 22 to 23 March 2026*



(17 March 2026, Hong Kong) In less than a week, the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCD or the Authority) will host the **2nd Hong Kong International Cultural Summit** (HKICS or the Summit) from 22 to 23 March 2026, bringing together close to 30 eminent speakers from 14 countries and regions, including heads of major cultural districts and top international arts and cultural institutions, such as Southbank Centre (United Kingdom), The Museum of Modern Art (United States), Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum & Foundation (United States) and more, to engage in constructive dialogue on key issues affecting the future development of arts and culture globally. The Summit is expected to attract thousands of participants from Hong Kong and beyond.

Betty Fung, Chief Executive Officer of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, said, “The Authority is proud to host the second edition of the Hong Kong International Cultural Summit (HKICS), one of the highlights of the Hong Kong Art Week 2026, and will present a wide array of vibrant arts and cultural experiences that would put WestK in the global spotlight as an arts and cultural hub. The Summit reinforces WestK’s identity as one of the largest and most significant cultural projects in the world, establishing its leadership role in advancing arts and culture regionally and internationally. We look forward to exchanging ideas with the speakers and participants on the new directions of cultural development and exploring new opportunities for collaboration, further enriching the cultural tapestry of the city.”

A New Era: Reimagining Community through the Arts

The theme of the HKICS 2026 is “**A New Era: Reimagining Community through the Arts**”. Cultural leaders and experts from across the globe will share insights on topical issues such as the challenges and opportunities facing multidisciplinary arts districts; reimagining the relationship between the arts, community and leadership; the evolving role of learning in 21st-century museums; and how museums can engage the community and embrace entrepreneurship. A central focus of these discussions will be the integration of sustainable development within the arts and cultural sector, focusing on how cultural practices can enhance public engagement and foster social cohesion.

In anticipation of the impending completion of the WestK Performing Arts Centre (WestK PAC) in 2026, this year’s Summit features an expanded programme that includes a new panel discussion dedicated to the performing arts.

Preceded by a welcome dinner at the Hong Kong Palace Museum (HKPM) on 22 March 2026, the HKICS will feature an opening and plenary session at the Xiqu Centre on 23 March morning, followed by five themed panels to be held at the Xiqu Centre, M+ and the HKPM on the same day. Over 1,000 delegates from around the world are expected to attend the Summit in person, while live streaming will be provided through WestK’s YouTube, the Hong Kong Palace Museum’s WeChat Channels, the Summit’s website, and Zaiyi APP and website, allowing virtual participation from around the world.

Detailed Programme of Hong Kong International Cultural Summit 2026

Opening

Grand Theatre, Xiqu Centre
(09:15 – 09:45)

The Opening will take place at the Xiqu Centre, the District’s flagship performing arts venue, bringing together more than 1,000 delegates from Hong Kong, Chinese Mainland, Asia and beyond.

Plenary Session: Multi-disciplinary Arts Districts in the 21st Century – Challenges and Opportunities

Grand Theatre, Xiqu Centre

(09:45 – 11:00)

Multidisciplinary arts districts offer a way to integrate different art forms and enable complementary cultural and commercial activities. Yet they also bring opportunities and challenges that require leaders with both vision and the ability to guide change. In this plenary, arts leaders from different regions will share their experiences, insights and visions on the evolving role of arts districts globally.

Speakers:

- Elaine Bedell, Chief Executive, Southbank Centre, United Kingdom
- Adrian Ellis, Chair, Global Cultural Districts Network
- Douglas Gautier, CEO, Royal Arts Complex, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Dr Mariët Westermann, Director and CEO, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum & Foundation, United States

Moderator: Betty Fung, CEO, West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, HKSAR

Performing Arts Panel Discussion: Arts, Community and Leadership – Reframing the Relationship

Grand Theatre, Xiqu Centre

(11:20 – 12:35)

In this rapidly changing cultural landscape and at a time of mounting public and budgetary pressure, arts leaders the world over are confronted with the challenge of addressing the shifting needs of artists, audiences, funders, and the larger community. As arts institutions transition from traditional centres of performance to civic hubs that foster inspiration, innovation, learning, and community engagement, the sector stands at a pivotal moment of transformation. This international panel of arts leaders will explore how arts institutions reframe their relationships with their constituents to stay relevant to their own places and times.

Speakers:

- Sir Alistair Spalding CBE, Artistic Director and Co-Chief Executive, Sadler's Wells, United Kingdom
- Rachid Ouramdane, Director, Chaillot – National Theatre of Dance, Choreographer, Dancer, France
- Toufic Maatouk, Artistic Programming Advisor, Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation, Conductor, Musicologist, United Arab Emirates
- Sasapin Siriwanij, Artistic Director, Bangkok International Performing Arts Meeting, Thailand

Moderator: Paul Tam, Executive Director, Performing Arts, West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, HKSAR

Panel Discussion: Museums at the Crossroads: Fostering Community and Embracing Entrepreneurship

Hong Kong Palace Museum

The two sessions organised by the Hong Kong Palace Museum will explore new ideas and practices to redefine museums as spaces for community building and entrepreneurial experimentation. Leaders around the globe will illuminate how museums must lead and innovate to ensure their long-term financial sustainability and relevance to their audiences.

Panel Discussion (I) – Knowing Our Audiences: Shaping Community-centred Museums

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Auditorium, Hong Kong Palace Museum

(14:30 – 15:50)

This panel will explore how museums come to understand their audiences and translate this knowledge into inclusive, engaging experiences that genuinely reflect the diversity of the communities they serve. Gaining insight into who current and prospective visitors are, what they need, and the motivations behind their visit — or lack thereof — guides museums in their exhibition planning, programming, marketing and outreach. Esteemed museum experts will share how audience research enables institutions to dismantle barriers and respond effectively to evolving social trends and technologies, thereby fulfilling their mission as vibrant, community-centred organisations in today's world.

Speakers:

- Lynley Crosswell, CEO and Director, Museums Victoria, Australia
- Dr Sharon Shaffer, Principal of Early Learning in Museums, United States
- Dr Hiroyuki Shimatani, Executive Director, The Museum of the Imperial Collections, Sannomaru Shozokan, Japan

Moderator: Dr Louis Ng, Museum Director, Hong Kong Palace Museum, HKSAR

Panel Discussion (II) – Entrepreneurship and Innovations in Museums

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Auditorium, Hong Kong Palace Museum

(16:20 – 17:30)

This panel will focus on the growing trend of museums adopting entrepreneurial approaches, blending their cultural mission with business acumen and innovation. This fusion enables museums to remain relevant and sustainable in a rapidly changing world. Leading museum directors will discuss emerging strategies to implement self-sustaining business models that support museums' core missions while expanding their impact through unique and unconventional experiences tailored to diverse audiences. Topics will include cultural and creative industry development, and entrepreneurial partnerships.

Speakers:

- Dr Chu Xiaobo, Director, Shanghai Museum, China
- Dr Bernd Ebert, Director General, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, Germany
- Manuel Rabaté, Chief Executive and Director, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, India

Moderator: Lou Wei, Executive Deputy Director, The Palace Museum, China

Panel Discussion: The Role of Learning in 21st Century Museums

M+

The two sessions organised by M+ will explore challenges faced by museums today, and what museums must do to remain relevant to their audiences, including the need to embrace new approaches to learning that prioritise curiosity, plurality, interactivity, and social experiences over knowledge transmission and passive viewing. The first panel will focus on how museum learning can transform an institution, while the second panel will examine the specific work of building community and what it means to connect with audiences today.

Panel Discussion (I) – Building a Community for the Museum

Grand Stair, M+

(14:30 – 15:45)

The session will consider how museums build and maintain audiences today, how they engage new visitors, and how funders contribute to community-building. Whether it involves developing a new museum, welcoming previously excluded audiences, or rebuilding connections with local communities, speakers on this panel will discuss the challenges they encounter in this work and the unexpected impacts these efforts have had on their organisations.

Speakers:

- Jochen Volz, General Director, Pinacoteca de São Paulo, Brazil
- Dr Manal Ataya, Advisor, Sharjah Museums Authority, United Arab Emirates
- Fatima Bintou Rassoul Sy, Director of Programmes, RAW Material Company, Senegal
- Karen Smith, Head, Academic Programmes, De Ying Foundation, China

Moderator: Suhanya Raffel, Museum Director, M+, HKSAR

Panel Discussion (II): Entrepreneurship and Innovations in Museums

Grand Stair, M+

(16:15 – 17:30)

This panel will examine what it looks like when the relationships among audiences, objects and artists are reimaged. The speakers will reflect on how their organisations define and leverage museum learning — both to build audiences and to create lasting impacts within and beyond the institution. Recognising that learning can happen anywhere, the discussion will consider new possibilities for empowering audiences and encouraging visitors of all ages to participate in, and ultimately value, museums once again.

Speakers:

- Christophe Cherix, David Rockefeller Director, The Museum of Modern Art, United States
- Seb Chan, Director and CEO, Australian Center for the Moving Image, Australia

- Devyani Saltzman, Director for Arts, Barbican Centre, United Kingdom
- Dr Carol Yinghua Lu, Director, Inside-Out Art Museum, China

Moderator: Dr András Szántó, New York-based cultural strategy consultant and author, United States

WKCDTA celebrates the Hong Kong Art Week in March with an exciting lineup of exhibitions and programmes presented by the HKPM, M+ and WestK Performing Arts. Please see the appendix for programme highlights.

WKCDTA extends its heartfelt gratitude to the sponsors whose generous support makes the Hong Kong International Cultural Summit 2026 possible. These include the **Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau of the HKSAR Government**, Major Sponsor of the Summit; **Cathay**, WKCDTA's Travel Partner; **The Peninsula Hong Kong**, Hotel Partner, **HKT**, Technology Partner, and **Volvo**, Limousine Partner of the Summit. **South China Morning Post** and **The Art Newspaper** are the Media Partners of the Summit.

WKCDTA collaborates with the Hong Kong Tourism Board, the Information Services Department and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department of the HKSAR Government and Art Basel in publicising the Summit and Hong Kong Art Week. This concerted effort aims to elevate Hong Kong's international profile as a cultural hub and a premier cultural tourism destination.

For details, please refer to the Summit website: www.culturalsummit.hk

Appendix I: Insights from speakers and moderators on the HKICS 2026

The Southbank Centre, built as part of the Festival of Britain in 1951, sparked the building of one of the world's greatest cultural districts. This year, we're celebrating our 75th anniversary by taking the optimistic spirit of the Festival of Britain and considering what it means to be an arts centre of the future. I'm looking forward to exploring this with delegates and panellists in the marvellous setting of the West Kowloon Cultural District.

—**Elaine Bedell**
Chief Executive, Southbank Centre, United Kingdom

Hong Kong International Cultural Summit is a timely event to encourage international cultural understanding and cooperation. And Hong Kong as an international cultural hub is an ideal setting for this important event.

—**Douglas Gautier**
CEO, Royal Arts Complex, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Since its founding in 1937, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation has been guided by its commitment to collecting, preserving, and exhibiting the art of its time, and offering people from any background access to this art. Our constellation of museums from New York to Venice and from Bilbao to – soon – Abu Dhabi expands the understanding and experience of modern and contemporary art.

Today, art museums are also dynamic gathering places for local communities and tourists alike. They are anchor institutions for the cultural and economic development of their cities, as the Guggenheim Bilbao has proved so clearly. Often, they are vital magnets within cultural districts, as the Guggenheim New York is on Museum Mile or the Peggy Guggenheim Collection for Venice. As M+ in West Kowloon has done so well, the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi will be a beacon for contemporary art in the Saadiyat Cultural District, a collection of museums and other cultural entities designed for global and local exhibitions, performances, and dialogue in and around distinctive, inviting buildings.

—**Dr. Mariët Westermann**
Director and CEO, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum & Foundation, United States

At the Hong Kong International Summit, I hope to share my recent experience shaping the next phase of Sadler's Wells' mission through our new facility in Stratford, East London. Its success relies on developing deep, meaningful partnerships with local communities. I'm also eager to learn more about developments in West Kowloon and to meet Hong Kong's dance artists and companies, exploring opportunities for exchange and future collaboration.

—**Sir Alistair Spalding CBE**
Artistic Director and Co-Chief Executive, Sadler's Wells, United Kingdom

Taking part in the HKICS symposium is a meaningful step in building a long-term relationship between Chaillot – Théâtre national de la Danse and Hong Kong's lively cultural scene. It comes from a genuine belief in the power of intercultural exchange between our countries. The richness and diversity of the voices gathered here make this dialogue especially inspiring, and I look forward to sharing perspectives with panelists and audiences, and to imagining new artistic paths together.

——**Rachid Ouramdane**

Director, Chaillot – National Theatre of Dance, Choreographer, Dancer, France

I am thrilled to join the Hong Kong International Cultural Summit and to bring the Abu Dhabi Festival's artistic vision into this global conversation. Hong Kong's cultural pulse, energised by the bold innovation of the West Kowloon Cultural District, makes it a magnetic crossroads for creativity. I look forward to exchanging ideas with inspiring voices in Hong Kong and beyond, and to sparking new collaborations that push the performing arts into exciting new territory.

——**Toufic Maatouk**

**Artistic Programming Advisor, Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation,
Conductor, Musicologist, United Arab Emirates**

I am deeply honoured to participate in this prestigious summit. It is a proud moment for BIPAM, as a Bangkok-based independent organization, to have our work recognized on such a global stage. I look forward to sharing Southeast Asian perspectives on arts and community while exchanging ideas with fellow global leaders. With WestK's visionary leadership, I am excited to strengthen our connection with Hong Kong and immerse myself in the vibrant atmosphere of Hong Kong Art Week.

——**Sasapin Siriwanij**

Artistic Director, Bangkok International Performing Arts Meeting, Thailand

What? How? For whom? These are questions that permeate the construction of a museum within society, which must exist both as a place for safeguarding heritage and as a space for experimentation. Museums should be truly plural spaces, where autonomous perspectives can engage in dialogue. It is necessary to continually reaffirm the transformative role of art, where critical thinking blends with practice, fostering a continuous flow between reflection and action.

——**Jochen Volz**

General Director, Pinacoteca de São Paulo, Brazil

At HKICS, I want us to rethink institutions not as landmarks but as long-term civic commitments. In Sharjah, we have seen that when museums and cultural institutions are embedded in neighbourhoods and remain present over decades, they become part of daily life — woven into the city's fabric. Culture cannot be transient if it is truly rooted in people. I look forward to engaging with colleagues in Hong Kong and across the region on how cultural districts like WestK can cultivate institutions that are owned by their communities.

——**Dr Manal Ataya**

Advisor, Sharjah Museums Authority, United Arab Emirates

I am honoured to join the Hong Kong International Cultural Summit. At RAW Material Company, in Dakar, our work has long explored the role of art in shaping social and political imaginaries across black geographies and the global majority. At a moment when digital technologies and AI are transforming how we relate to one another, this conversation feels particularly urgent, offering an important space to reflect collectively on how art can sustain community, ethics, and solidarity across geographies.

——**Fatima Bintou Rassoul Sy**
Director of Programmes, RAW Material Company, Senegal

It is a privilege to participate in the Hong Kong International Cultural Summit 2026 (HKICS), to introduce the De Ying Foundation's developing role in contemporary art, from nurturing curators to building cross-cultural connections across institutions. HKICS is to be applauded as an initiative that brings voices of experience from institutions worldwide to be heard in Hong Kong, enhancing the role Hong Kong plays for the rapidly developing Greater Bay Area. De Ying's contribution to M+'s curatorial team here is our commitment to the region's future.

——**Karen Smith**
Head, Academic Programmes, De Ying Foundation, China

Museums have the extraordinary capacity to change lives. That's why, at MoMA, we aspire to be a catalyst for experimentation, learning, and creativity in order to connect people from around the world to the art and artists of our time. I look forward to engaging in thoughtful conversation with fellow panelists at the Hong Kong International Cultural Summit as we consider how, together, we can reimagine the audience experience and reinforce the valuable role museums play as places of dialogue, cultural exchange, community, and inspiration.

——**Christophe Cherix**
David Rockefeller Director, The Museum of Modern Art, United States

I lead Australia's national museum of screen culture, a globally recognised hub connecting people, communities, technology and ideas. I have long admired Hong Kong's commitment to fostering creative innovation in the arts sector. The city's cultural landscape is one of the world's most vibrant, anchored by the visionary West Kowloon Cultural District. I am thrilled to contribute to this global conversation about how our institutions can better collaborate and shape the future of culture together.

——**Seb Chan**
Director and CEO, Australian Center for the Moving Image, Australia

It is our absolute pleasure to participate in the HKICS 2026. Cultural exchange and the role of cultural institutions as spaces of gathering, civic discourse and joy, are essential in an increasingly complex world. The Barbican's renewal sits at the heart of that ethos as it repositions itself for a 21st century purpose.

——**Devyani Saltzman**
Director for Arts, Barbican Centre, United Kingdom

There will always be those who regard supporting art museums as a social duty — people marked by foresight as well as the capacity and determination to act upon it. The Inside-Out Art Museum in Beijing offers a telling example: its founder established a dedicated foundation at the museum's inception to support its long-term development. As we gather in Hong Kong for HKICS, it is clear that such conviction resonates across borders, affirming that an art museum's true purpose is to generate lasting social value, rather than merely serving as a space for cultural consumption.

——**Carol Yinghua Lu**
Director, Inside-Out Art Museum, China

I have been fortunate to witness the rapid expansion of Hong Kong's cultural infrastructure over the past decade, including the evolution and eventual opening of M+ and of the West Kowloon Cultural District. These investments show that Hong Kong understands that there is no great city without a thriving arts and cultural life. In my second Summit, I am looking forward to converging with colleagues on a panel on museum learning and education, an area full of innovation, and to learning from colleagues from the region and around the world.

——**Dr András Szántó**
New York-based cultural strategy consultant and author, United States

Participating in the 2026 Hong Kong International Cultural Summit is a valuable opportunity to exchange ideas with fellow arts and cultural institution leaders. Community-centred museums sit at the intersection of culture, technology and civic life and are built through evidence, engagement and relationships, within our walls and beyond. In an era of rapid change, understanding audiences is essential for museums to move beyond access towards agency, and maintain our position as trusted, relevant and deeply connected spaces. I'm looking forward to showcasing how understanding our community results in sustained social licence and provides an opportunity to build an enduring position in the future.

——**Lynley Crosswell**
CEO and Director, Museums Victoria, Australia

The Hong Kong International Cultural Summit 2026 offers a distinct opportunity for sharing perspectives with colleagues on a global stage. As a professional in the field, I am eager to learn from others, especially my co-presenters, and see this as the perfect opportunity for mutual exchange of knowledge. It's also exciting for me to visit the Hong Kong Palace Museum in person after working online with the museum's professionals in 2020 to develop educational materials for individuals both inside and outside of the museum.

——**Dr Sharon Shaffer**
Principal of Early Learning in Museums, United States

The Hong Kong International Cultural Summit 2026 provides a distinguished platform for directors of leading museums worldwide and experts in cultural heritage, contemporary visual culture, and the performing arts to engage in substantive dialogue.

I believe that the communication and discussion at this international event will definitely advance global cultural collaboration and further strengthen Hong Kong's position as a

prominent international cultural hub. I look forward to connecting with esteemed colleagues and experiencing the dynamism and vitality of Hong Kong.

——**Dr Hiroyuki Shimatani**

**Executive Director, The Museum of the Imperial Collections,
Sannomaru Shozokan, Japan**

Museums serve as custodians of history and incubators of innovation, connecting the past and present and fostering community connections. The diverse cultural ecosystem and vibrant practices of Hong Kong and WestK are truly impressive. I look forward to exchanging ideas with peers from Hong Kong and around the world, drawing inspiration from diverse cultural contexts to spark innovation and collectively envision our future.

——**Dr Chu Xiaobo**

Director, Shanghai Museum, China

During my first visit to Hong Kong, the West Kowloon Cultural District was still a vision. As a member of the expert group for the Humboldt Forum in Berlin, I met with specialists around the world, e.g. the teams of Louvre Abu Dhabi and Guggenheim, the Cultural authorities in Doha as well as several partners in China. When I returned to Hong Kong a few years later as Director General of the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden (State Art Collections Dresden), I was struck to see what had been accomplished, not only regarding the development of the area, but also the quality of the museums and the professionalism of all teams involved.

——**Dr Bernd Ebert**

General Director, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, Germany

I look forward to joining fellow museum leaders at the Hong Kong International Cultural Summit in March 2026 to discuss the role our institutions can play in bringing cultures and audiences closer together. After 18 years dedicated to the development of Louvre Abu Dhabi and contributing to the success of the Saadiyat Cultural District, I am now beginning a new chapter as Director and CEO of the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art. I am eager to share this extraordinary experience in such a culturally active place.

——**Manuel Rabaté**

Chief Executive and Director, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, India

Civilisation is like water: it nourishes all life in silence and thrives endlessly through exchange and mutual learning. The Palace Museum preserves the splendour of both ancient and modern eras, bridges Chinese civilisations with others, and serves as a vital window for showcasing Chinese culture to the world. Hong Kong, with its unique blend of East and West and its spirit of openness and diversity, serves as a vital nexus for cultural exchange between China and the wider world. I look forward to gathering with esteemed guests from near and far in the West Kowloon Cultural District to build consensus, pool our strengths, and collaboratively advance the inheritance and innovative development of culture.

——**Lou Wei**

Executive Deputy Director, The Palace Museum, China

Appendix II: Highlighted Programmes of WestK in Hong Kong Art Week 2026

Lee Bul: From 1998 to Now at M+ (14 March to 9 August 2026)

Co-organised by M+ and Leeum Museum of Art in Seoul, Korea, the exhibition is a comprehensive survey of work by pioneering artist Lee Bul (South Korean, born 1964). The M+ presentation showcases more than 200 works, including 49 early works from the late 1990s to early 2000s in the artist's practice, as well as pieces created in 2024. Highlights include iconic architectural installations from the *Mon grand récit* series, two-dimensional works from the *Perdu* series, and the widely celebrated *Cyborg* and *Anagram* series. The exhibition is generously supported by M+ Lead Partner and exhibition Lead Sponsor HSBC, The Ritz-Carlton, Hong Kong, the M+ Lee Bul Friends Circle, and the Korea Foundation.

Shahzia Sikander: 3 to 12 Nautical Miles on the M+ Facade (23 March to 21 June 2026)

Co-commissioned by M+ and Art Basel, and presented by UBS, Pakistani-American artist Shahzia Sikander illuminates the M+ Facade with a radiant cinematic tableau, animated from hand-painted images, navigates the enduring currents of power and trade that have shaped the global landscape from the nineteenth century to the modern era. In conjunction with the commission, the artist will present Collective Behaviour: Shahzia Sikander Artist Lecture around her trailblazing cross-disciplinary art practice at the M+ Cinema on 26 March.

Heavenly Horses: Masterpieces from the Palace Museum at the Hong Kong Palace Museum (20 March 2026 to 17 March 2027)

Celebrating the arrival of the Year of the Horse in 2026, this exhibition explores horse-themed paintings in Chinese art by considering imperial and literati practices, the relationship between tradition and modernity, and the dialogue between Chinese and European painting styles. The exhibition, drawing mainly on the Palace Museum collection and enriched by loans from the Hong Kong Museum of Art and the Art Museum of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, displays nearly 100 horse-themed paintings by more than 60 renowned artists from the Yuan, Ming, Qing dynasties up to the 20th century. The exhibition is exclusively sponsored by the Institute of Philanthropy.

Ancient Egypt Unveiled: Treasures from Egyptian Museums at the Hong Kong Palace Museum (20 November 2025 to 31 August 2026)

This exhibition features 250 spectacular treasures from seven major Egyptian museums and the Saqqara archaeological site, including statues, stelae, gold ornaments, mummy coffins, and animal mummies. It traces the development of ancient Egyptian civilisation spanning nearly 5,000 years and explores the politics, arts, everyday life, and religious beliefs when this ancient civilisation flourished. The exhibition also unveils the latest archaeological discoveries from Saqqara and the vibrant exchanges between Ancient Egypt and other world civilisations. The exhibition is jointly organised by the Hong Kong Palace Museum and the Supreme Council of Antiquities of Egypt. It is proudly supported by Bank of China (Hong Kong), the Museum's Strategic Partner. Cathay and UnionPay International are the Major Sponsors of the exhibition.

WestK FunFest 2026 (19 March to 12 April 2026)

Presented by WestK Performing Arts, the third edition of WestK FunFest returns with over 120 diverse family-friendly experiences from Australia, Spain, the UK and Hong Kong, offering a vibrant mix of interactive performances, theatrical events, music and dance performances, large-scale outdoor art installations and hands-on workshops. Highlights include the Asian debut of *The Cats that Slept for a Thousand Years*, a giant cat-shaped installation by UK studio Air Giants at Harbourside East Lawn; *Bob Marley for Babies*, an immersive live music experience by Barcelona's La Petita Malumaluga, specially designed for infants and toddlers; and *Snowmelt*, an immersive story theatre piece co-presented with local non-profit arts collective ALAN, inspiring audiences to reflect on the balance and coexistence of humanity and nature.

WestK Performing Arts x The Drifters@Jing Wong Creations: When the World is Your Enemy at Freespace (7 to 22 March 2026)

Taking place in Freespace, this programme is an audience-centric participatory game theatre performance, jointly presented and produced by WestK Performing Arts and The Drifters@Jing Wong Creations. It is a live-action world-building simulation filled with live performance, immersive storytelling, puppetry, real-time game play, projections and interactive game mechanics. The performance is part of the WestK Creators Series which cultivate exchange and collaboration among local contemporary artists, and nurtures experimentation and new perspectives for the Hong Kong performing arts scene.

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For Media Enquiries

Hong Kong, Mainland and Taiwan: Edelman Public Relations Worldwide (HK) Limited

Sybil Kot	+852 9775 3068	sybil.kot@edelman.com
Connie Lin	+852 6624 2689	connie.lin@edelman.com
Bowie Chan	+852 2837 4764	bowie.chan@edelman.com

International: Bolton & Quinn

Jane Quinn	+44 (0)20 7221 5000	jq@boltonquinn.com
Ashleigh Chow	+44 (0)20 7221 5000	ashleigh@boltonquinn.com

External Affairs Department

West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

Margaret Chiu	+852 2200 5495	margaret.chiu@wkcd.a.hk
Ridley Cheung	+852 2200 3798	ridley.cheung@wkcd.a.hk

About the West Kowloon Cultural District (WestK)

WestK is one of the largest and most ambitious cultural hubs in the world and Hong Kong's new cultural tourism landmark, spanning 40 hectares alongside Victoria Harbour. WestK comprises a mix of landmark arts and cultural facilities, including world-class museums M+ and the Hong Kong Palace Museum, intricately designed performing arts venues the Xiqu Centre and Freespace, the 11-hectare Art Park with a waterfront promenade, and the upcoming WestK Performing Arts Centre.

Hosting over 1,000 exhibitions, performances, programmes, and events each year, WestK provides a vital platform for both emerging and established artists. WestK welcomes more than 10 million visitors each year, evolving as the international cultural brand of Hong Kong and strengthening the city's strategic role as an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange.