



Reimagining North Point's Urban Landscape

Hong Kong Arts Centre's Via North Point gets the entire city involved to imagine a dynamic way forward for the historic district

20 August 2021, Hong Kong – Hong Kong Arts Centre (HKAC) announces the launch of the highly anticipated Via North Point Festival on **30 August 2021**. Sponsored by the Urban Renewal Fund, Via North Point began in 2019 as a public art initiative merging creativity with daily life in a vibrant corner of Hong Kong. The festival kicks activities into high gear by merging professional input with insights from *kaifong*. Both meet in a sweet spot for sustainable and fun solutions that celebrate heritage and cultural diversity.

On 30th August, Via North Point Festival will engage the neighbourhood with a Forum starting 14:00 at K11 ATELIER King's Road. **Peter Yuen**, MH, Board Member, Board of Governors, HKAC, will join **Ian Leung**, HKAC Via North Point's Programme Manager, to welcome the audience and introduce the Forum's theme *The Urban Mastermind: The Myth of Co-Living*. Three dialogue sessions will decode the role of art, design and architecture as agents to public space intervention while exploring the possibilities of co-living. The sessions include concepts by leading architects, planners and stakeholders including **Connie Lam**, Executive Director, HKAC; **Winnie Ho**, JP, Director, Architectural Services Department, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; **Ricky Yu**, Founder and CEO, Light Be; **Andrew Mead**, Head of Architecture, MTR Corporation Limited; **Vincent Ng**, Chairman, Harbourfront Commission; **Law Wing Chung**, Founder and Managing Director of Jervois One; and **Eric Li**, Director, Asia, BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group. The day is capped with an Opening Ceremony officiated by the **Honourable Michael Wong Wai-lun**, JP, Secretary for Development, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; **Simon Chan**, JP, District Officer (Eastern), Home Affairs Department, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; **Professor Steven Ngai Sek-yum**, Chairman of the Board, Urban Renewal Fund, and **Peter Yuen**, MH, Board Member, Board of Governors, HKAC. The ceremony will start at 18:00 at North Point East Ferry Pier.

Six land and two water-sited community space art works will be unveiled on 30th August, with related tours, workshops and activities throughout the month of September. Each of the land installations was chosen from an open call for entries; together, they address the complexities of North Point with sensitivity and respond to the design charter consolidated by the community. The art works are scattered from Chun Yeung Street to the sea east of North Point Public Pier, and advocate sustainability through biodiversity and up-cycling. **MLKK Studio's** *A Cycle of Life in Chun*



Yeung responds to the beautiful chaos of the market street by transforming produce waste into fertiliser and energy to benefit the community. **ARTA Architects'** *The Symphony of North Point* amplifies the sounds of North Point while encouraging youth to make music. **AaaM Architects'** *Hangout Islands in North Point* envisions a relaxed beach vibe where people of all ages can mix. **O&O Studio x Rehyphenation's** *North Pointer* captures memories imbued in heritage furnishings by repurposing them for the neighbourhood. **Jason Lee Lok-sun's** *Sugar Factory* encourages street fitness in enjoying the waterfront with a nod towards sugar refineries of the past. **#TackTeam's** *#TackPoint* hacks used plastic bottles and multipurpose anchors for flexible ways to utilise outdoor spaces. In addition, two floating installations provide pause for reflection of bygone days and ways towards a greener future. **Yucolab's** Re-imagining *Collective Swimming in North Point* revisits the area's past swimming shed with a bamboo structure to evoke a longing for the neighbourhood's aquatic heritage. **Cesar Jung-Harada's** *Ocean Imagineer* examines how oyster farming can increase aquatic biodiversity and enhance water quality while producing energy to sustain the practise.

Further, a series of art works that recall the neighbourhood's former shoreline while raising awareness of current sustainability issues can be experienced beginning 30th August. **Onion Peterman's** *Under the Sea* on the lift tower to the footbridge at the King's Road and Pak King Street junction is a lively illustration of land and marine life that increase knowledge of rising sea levels. **Sim Chan, Stanley Siu** and North Point participants created *North Point . Coastline* along the south expanse of the footbridge at the Java Road and Tong Shui Road junction. The painted stained glass depicts the area's collective memory of the waterfront, changing daily as sunlight fades and fluorescents glow. **Art Napping** and North Point participants' *Wandering in Chun Yeung: Here & Past* is on the north expanse of the same footbridge. The surrealistic mural combines a collage of creatures with vernacular elements to showcase the district's myriad of livelihoods. Within North Point West Ferry Pier, three local artists transform the entry flanked by popular seafood vendors. Ink artist **Carmen Or's** *A Corner of North Point* is a traditional and digital ink banner painting depicting North Point's birds in their natural habitats. **Benjamin Hao** enlivens fish stall signage with *In This Pier*, a series of watercolour images to capture the essence of each seafood vendor. And **Lam Kin-choi** tells his story along the columns by wrapping his landscape painting *Pacing in North Point* around them to showcase the community's old and new cultural landscape.

As a community festival, Via North Point will offer a number of workshops and activities for the community to understand more about the district, all at North Point East Ferry Pier.

- On 12th and 19th September from noon to 13:30 and 16:00 to 17:30, **Pants Theatre Production** will invite the community to join *A Whole New World*. The audience can

re-imagine how public spaces can be utilised while discovering its inner voice in an applied theatre context.

- On 4th, 11th, 12th, 18th and 19th September from 10:00 to 11:30, artist **Jacklam Ho Tsz-yeung** will give a guided tour of his sound installation *The Corner Coast*. Overlaying its early years with North Point's current shoreline, sounds from everyday life are captured for audiences to time-travel and share their communal memories.
- On 11th and 25th September from 10:00 to noon and 14:00 to 16:00, the Via North Point team and **Kaifong Tour** will take participants on an intrepid journey through the community's hidden treasures on *Community Wanderer* walking tours. Interactive games and sharing sessions will enhance the six senses' exploration of North Point's landscapes, focusing on themes including City and Architecture; Art and Culture, Entertainment and Craft, and Community Treasures.
- On 11th to 12th and 18th to 19th September, an art market will feature 15 boutiques with handmade North Point-centric crafts alongside workshops, storytelling and games.

For those whose businesses have grown with the community, Via North Point introduced a Community Art Hacking initiative to enhance their premises. Various artisans took up residence in select shops to produce furnishings in response to user needs. **Roy Ng Ting-ho** worked with Tin Yin Coconut Grocery Store to create an organised shelving solution while preserving the shop's unique DNA. Carpenters **ChiChoiMao** and **Caphis Chan** designed a smooth and durable wooden display cabinet for Sam Kee Book Company's inventory of volumes and numerous feline friends. **Coutou Woodworking Studio** and interior designer **Dio Wong** helped Fei Tat News Stand with a mobile retractable cabinet to facilitate improved experiences for customers at the Fort Street newsstand. And artist **Dylan Kwok Tat-lun** designed interactive furniture for Chan's Creative School for its pupils to learn, play and grow better.

Via North Point Festival is the culmination of HKACs vision to engage the community through public art and spatial place-making. It seeks to increase people's **15-minute circle of living with art** that inspires them to venture further. It encourages the area's walkability and invites new contemplation of old spaces viewed through a more artistic lens. Through its top down meets bottom up approach, it facilitates cultural citizenship as people take ownership and pride in their district. Community ownership can be a catalyst for art in public spaces to bind disparate segments of the neighbourhood. The team at Via North Point endeavours that everyone will discover for themselves how to **Be An Imagineer** in this corner of Hong Kong.

For more information and the latest updates, please visit www.via-northpoint.hk

Via North Point Festival Forum – “Urban Mastermind: The Myth of Co-Living”



Date: 30 August, 2021 (Monday)

Time: 2-5pm

Location: K11 Atelier, 728 King's Road, North Point

Forum Guests and Speakers:

- **Ms. Winnie Ho Wing-yin**, JP, Director of Architectural Services, HKSARG
- **Ms. Connie Lam**, Executive Director, Hong Kong Arts Centre
- **Mr. Law Wing Chung**, Founder and Managing Director of Jervois One
- **Mr. Eric Li**, Director, Asia, Bjarke Ingels Group (via Zoom)
- **Mr. Andrew Mead**, Head of Architecture, MTR Corporation Limited (via Zoom)
- **Mr. Vincent Ng**, JP, Architect & Chairman, Harbourfront Commission
- **Prof. Steven Ngai Sek-yum**, Chairman of the Board, Urban Renewal Fund
- **Mr. Peter Yuen**, MH, Board Member, Board of Governors, Hong Kong Arts Centre
- **Mr. Ricky Yu**, Founder & CEO, Light Be
- Closing Remarks: **Mr. Michael Wong**, JP, Secretary for Development, HKSARG

Via North Point Festival Opening Ceremony (By invitation only)

Date: 30 August, 2021 (Monday)

Time: 6-7pm

Location: North Point East Ferry Pier (Bauhinia Cruise)

Opening Officiating Guests:

- **Mr. Simon Chan**, JP, District Officer (Eastern), HKSARG
- **Ms. Winnie Ho Wing-yin**, JP, Director of Architectural Services, HKSARG
- **Prof. Steven Ngai Sek-yum**, Chairman of the Board, Urban Renewal Fund
- **Mr. Michael Wong**, JP, Secretary for Development, HKSARG
- **Mr. Peter Yuen**, MH, Board Member, Board of Governors, Hong Kong Arts Centre



Arrangements are subject to the latest announcement by HKAC.

For more details, please visit:

Website : www.via-northpoint.hk
Facebook : 路過北角Via North Point
Instagram : @vianorthpoint
YouTube :

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCz20dDmB8In4IfQ1vu3Z5vw>

Hashtags:

#路過北角 #ViaNorthPoint #創意社區空間提案徵集 #路過週末 #ViaNorthPointWeekend #香港藝術中心 #市區更新基金 #HongKongArtsCentre #UrbanRenewalFund #北角 #NorthPoint #BeAnImaginer #UrbanCoLiving #CulturalCitizenship #空間想像 #地方主場 #文化公民 #都市共居

About Hong Kong Arts Centre

HKAC is a multi-arts centre that fosters artistic exchanges locally and internationally, bringing the most forward creations to Hong Kong and showcasing homegrown talents abroad. HKAC stimulates innovation and promotes creativity. Being Hong Kong's only independent non-profit multi-arts institution, HKAC offers exhibitions, screenings and performances, connecting the arts of Hong Kong to the rest of the world through programmes and collaborations.

About Urban Renewal Fund

As part of the Urban Renewal Strategy promulgated in February 2011, one of the main objects of the Urban Renewal Trust Fund is to support heritage preservation and district revitalization initiatives in the urban renewal context. As the trustee of the Trust Fund, the Urban Renewal Fund (URF) operates the Urban Renewal Heritage Preservation and District Revitalization Funding Scheme to provide financial support to urban renewal preservation and revitalization projects proposed by the community.

About Via North Point

North Point is a fascinating location full of collective memories yet also undergoing rapid urban and socio-economic transformation, populated with diverse neighborhoods. The Project carries a key mission in empowering the community to envision a better future use of public space, and enhance the quality of living for North Point Residents. Together with the concerted efforts with the collaborators, Hong Kong Arts Centre design and engage the community with a series of participatory programmes and creative artistic structures to connect the new and the old areas in the district, building capacity on public space, celebrating the uniqueness of North Point and hence cultivating a sense of belonging and building the cultural citizenship through imaginations of urban spaces.

-The End-

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