

Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre

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The Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre is the first project to reconstruct government factory estate into an art village in Hong Kong. The project was initiated by the Hong Kong Baptist University, accompanied by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council and the Hong Kong Arts Centre as strategic partners, promoted by the Home Affairs Department, and sponsored by the Jockey Club Charities Trust, which donated HK\$69.4 million as supplementary grant for building renovation and partial start-up costs.

In 1998, the Housing Authority published the White Paper on Long Term Housing Strategy in which the Shek Kip Mei Factory Estate was listed as one of the four major target factory estates to be removed. The clearance was originally scheduled in 2001.

In 2003, the Government published a proposal for turning the Shek Kip Mei Factory Estate into an artist village.

In May 2004, the Hong Kong Baptist University submitted a proposal to the Home Affairs Bureau, which suggested turning the Shek Kip Mei Factory Estate into a creative arts centre.

In July 2005, the Jockey Club Charities Trust donated HK\$69.4 million as supplementary grant for building renovation and partial start-up costs.

In 2006, the Centre announced the site plan and architectural design, while rental applications for the studios would be closed at the end of the same year.

In 2007, 108 applicants were successfully allocated after two rounds of selection exercise, with 4 of them being artistic institutions, 87 being individual artists or art groups while 17 of them being art students or graduates. In February, the Jockey Club Charities Trust further donated HK\$25 million. On 28 June, the Centre announced that Eddie Lui Fung-ngar would be appointed Executive Director of the Centre, in effect from 1st July 2007.

On 26 September 2008, the Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre officially opened.

On 2 February 2009, Ming Pao reported about the Centre in its front page story: “70% Studios Are Empty in Government Subsidized Art Centre” (〈政府出地廉租資助藝術 藝術工廈七成單位無人〉) for the “low utility rate of the studios”. Protest articles and events by JCCAC tenants and local artists were recorded.

In February 2010, Lui Fung-ngar Eddie resigned. Hau Cheuk-ki Lillian was appointed as new Executive Director of the Centre, in effect from 3rd May 2010.

Information: (More details please refer to the Chinese version)

- Local newspapers
- JCCAC
<http://www.jccac.org.hk/>
- JCCACmate
<http://www.jccacmate.com.hk/>

2011/08

- On 3 August

Hau Cheuk-ki Lillian, the Executive Director of the Centre announced that the first JCCAC Festival will be held on 2nd December to 18th December.

- On 9 August

Ming Pao interviewed Lillian Hau, who said the financial status of the Center was developing stably in recent years. Some tenants recommended that the Center should strengthen the publicity, a boost to the crowd.

- On 13 August

Ming Pao reported some of the tenants from higher level of the Centre were dissatisfied with lacking crowd.

2011/10

- On 19 October

The newspapers reported tenants of the center protested against the rental increase for the coming year.

- On 24 October

Lillian Hau met the media to explain the details of the rental matter.

2011/

- On 18 November

Board members of JCCAC William Leung Wing-cheung, Chow Yung-ping, Andy Lee Shiu-chuen, Connie Lam, P K Chiu and Chief Executive Director Lillian Hau were having a meeting with 30 tenants, to listen to their views of rental increase and management arrangements of the Centre. *Ming Pao* and *Ta Kung Pao* reported the event next day.

2011/12

- On 2 December

The first “JCCAC Arts Festival” was officially opened, program included JCCAC Festival Art Fair, Open Studios (3-4 and 10-11 December, two weekends), Exhibition and talks, activities end on 18 December.¹

¹ Schedule of the festival: http://www.jccac.org.hk/?a=group&id=c_1&doc_id=856

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