



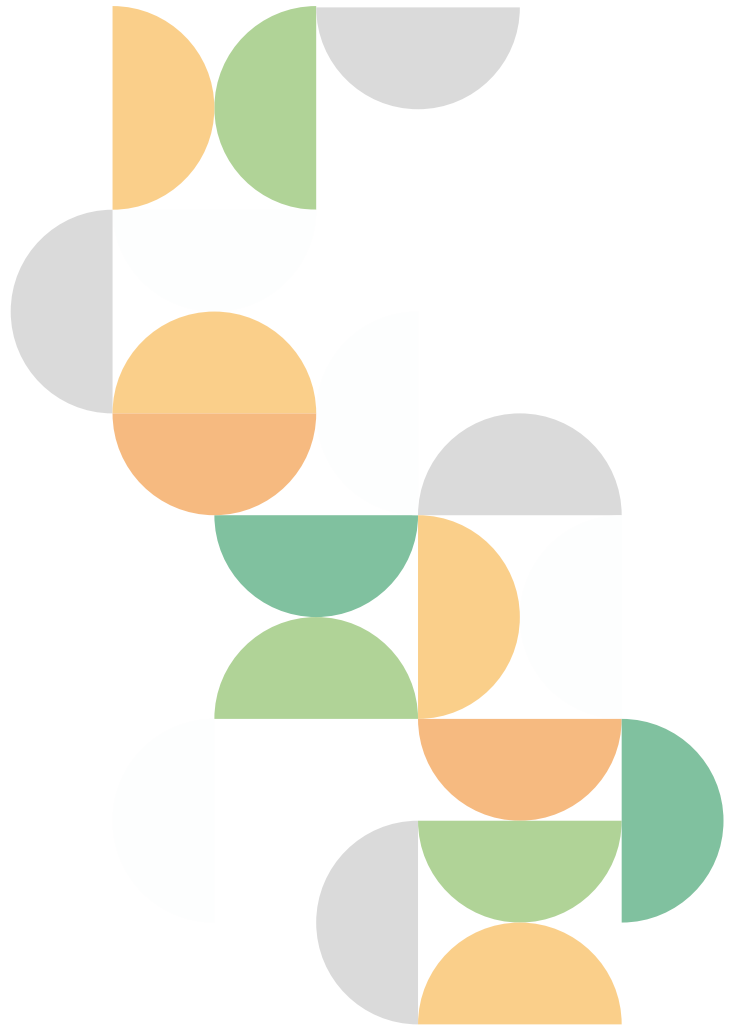
市區更新基金
Urban Renewal Fund

A decorative background pattern consisting of various colored semi-circles and circles in shades of green, orange, grey, and white, arranged in a non-repeating, abstract geometric layout.

MOVE UPSTREAM POISED FOR BREAKTHROUGH

Annual Report 2020-2021

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Chairman's Foreword

Due to the outbreak of coronavirus in the first quarter of 2020, the world has been facing unprecedented challenges. Under the pandemic, Urban Renewal Fund met the challenge imperturbably and adopted pragmatic measures continually such as flexible and remote working arrangements, work reprioritizing or rescheduling and the use of hybrid mode to minimize the delay of work and stay focused on our core missions.

During this difficult time, we are proud of our partners that they keep up the urban renewal initiatives in communities with dedication and professionalism following the prevention guidelines. The frontline workers of Urban Renewal Social Service Teams continued to

carry out their duties, to provide assistance to residents affected by redevelopment projects implemented by the URA with resilience. At the same time, the on-going projects of the Fourth Round Urban Renewal Heritage Preservation and District Revitalisation Funding Scheme have been preparing well in different districts and deliverables were well received by the communities.

2021 marks the 10th anniversary of the Fund. We equip ourselves with innovations and inspirations to prepare the commemoration activities for this important milestone. Although the uncertainty is around, we strive our best to move upstream and poised for breakthrough.

Professor Steven Ngai Sek-Yum
Chairman, Urban Renewal Fund
October 2021

Connecting Communities with Love and Care

During the year, several waves of virus had significant influence to the society. The Fund adopted pragmatic measures continually, and followed the prevention guidelines strictly to prevent the spread of the disease. Masks were distributed to the staff at the first stage of the pandemic to relieve the difficulties of supply shortage. In addition, flexible and remote working arrangements were adopted and the Fund made good use of digital tools such as Zoom to work closely with partners to minimize the delay of work.

The Social Service Teams and the partners from the Fourth Round Urban Renewal Heritage Preservation and District Revitalisation Funding Scheme carried out their services and initiatives with professionalism and empathy under this difficult time. The activities and services they provided were well planned with resilience as well as to connect the community with love and care.

Urban Renewal Social Service Teams

In this year, the Social Service Teams carried out their duties in 18 redevelopment projects implemented by the URA with resilience. Home-office arrangement for social workers was adopted to cope with the pandemic. At the very first stage of the outbreak, the communication between Social Service Teams and residents shifted online to reduce social contact. Support from the society did lend a big hand to the Social Service Teams in assisting the residents especially grassroots and elderly to overcome this tough period. Local organizations and enterprises donated masks and other protective items, as well as grocery to the Social Service Teams for distribution.

Limited activities were organized while the epidemic subsided from its peak. For example, training classes of the use of online meeting tools such as Zoom and Teams were arranged. It allowed residents to have normal social relations under the “new normal”.



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Connecting Communities with Love and Care

Re: South – The Heritage and Community Arts Project

The Warehouse Teenage Club

In the past year, programmes including “Art in South”, docent training & guided tours, community studies and exhibition were held. The uncertainties and changes brought by the pandemic were both hindering and innovating. Under the “new normal”, the team sought ways to implement programmes in various ways while keeping the human touch in community. It was challenging for both organizer and participants.

Despite such difficult situation, the team tried its best to carry out physical activities while following social distancing rules; such as splitting participants into more groups and sessions for “Art in South” workshops. Some of the events like community tours were done virtually, and community or historical stories



were shared on social media to keep the project going. It was hoped that with the help of the internet, the public could still get to learn about the Southern District while staying home.

Under the pandemic, group activities were scaled down, masks and sanitizing were required. While bringing inconvenience, there was no barrier between members of the community. During art workshops, it was particularly impressive to see former residents on boats transforming their memory into ink painting and sharing their old days with their next generations. Community members were also eager to learn about what the youth artists were trying to bring to this district.

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Connecting Communities with Love and Care

Via North Point Hong Kong Arts Centre

“Via North Point” - an arts/ design/ architecture led community initiative which commenced in May 2019, was hit by the pandemic in 2020. In response to the pandemic, Via North Point shifted to hybrid mode, a “new normal” and experimented new ways with collaborators to provide enriching and multi-faceted online experiences.

The team produced 8 videos featuring local North Point shops and stories told by local residents “kaifongs”. 2000 zines per issue were printed and delivered to 15 different distribution points in North Point. Yet, there were still many essential physical activities or elements irreplaceable by digital experiences.

Following government guidelines, Via North Point gradually resumed face-to-face activities such as distribution of Fai Chuns to North Point residents just before Chinese New Year and

community recipes that kaifongs very much welcomed.

Besides, the team organized the Shoreside Planting Crew to build a micro community through planting. Participants get to explore the interlinks between community, space, and gardening by being part of the planting crew, allowing everyone to re-observe community life and explore the surprising neighborhood ecology.

In addition to that, several workshops related to urban design were held. In the Urban Design Lab, lab members imagined public space as a living room through a series of bottom-up participatory design workshops with four major themes: Play, Rest, Wonder and Work. The design ideas represented were temporary but reflected on the meaning of and aspirations for the public space.



Our Community of Love & Mutuality – Nurturing Cultural Diversity & Community Legacy in Kwai Chung III

H.K.S.K.H. Lady MacLehose Centre

In order to protect the health and safety of the residents during the epidemic, the team switched all activities from face-to-face to online, such as Urdu classes, Cantonese classes, Kids craft workshops and a multi-cultural ladies group etc., to ensure that the team and the participants could interact in a safe manner.



To make it easier for the Chinese and South Asian residents to express their views on the public staircases and their expectations of the beautification project, the team and the Department of Architecture of Chu Hai College of Higher Education had originally planned to conduct community consultation in the form of game booths. However, with the suspension of the face-to-face activities, the physical community consultation could not take place as scheduled. In order to catch up with the construction design, the team downsized the booth game to a game pack containing three activities and distributed it to residents. Residents were encouraged to finish the game pack at home with their families by following simple instructions. Besides, two game-days were organized physically aiming at inviting more families to participate when the epidemic subsided.

Ideas collecting from the game packs were adopted by the design team to create three designs for the staircase project, followed by two online launch events to receive feedback from the residents who participated in the consultation.

Although the epidemic reduced the opportunities for people to meet each other, it did not stop people from showing their care for the needy in the community. In addition to donating masks, disinfectant supplies and rice to the needy residents, volunteers who were good at fabric art had prepared mask case DIY packs for the residents to make at home, and some volunteers taught stretching exercises online that could be done at home to keep the residents physically and mentally healthy.

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Connecting Communities with Love and Care

The Kowloon City Themed Walking Trail

HKSKH Welfare Council Limited

The Kowloon City Themed Walking Trail (“Walking Trail”) aims to preserve the cultural heritages and humanity in Kowloon City District by connecting the local residents and other stakeholders through events, publications and public facilities.

In view of the unstable situation during the pandemic, some of the offline activities, such as guided tours and workshops, were moved to online. This allowed the public to remotely explore the community and learn about the local culture of Kowloon City at home. A series of activities such as quiz games, voting and story submission were also held on social media. For example, to support the community during the critical time of the outbreak, the Walking Trail team initiated



a story submission activity about the daily life changes under the pandemic in forms of text, photo and video. Participants were given a set of anti-epidemic care pack consisting of masks and hand sanitizers in return.

The installation of public facilities in Route 3 “Community Art Walk” completed in the first quarter of 2021. With the aim to provide more direction clues on the Walking Trail, the works included renewal of railing design and installation of sign plates on lamp posts, information sign and floor decoration. The Walking Trail team also organized a series of “participatory design workshops” to collect public feedback on community facilities and open space design, so to create inspiration for designing the remaining installations in other routes.



Urban Renewal Fund 10th Anniversary Connecting Communities for Sustainable Urban Renewal

2021 marks the 10th anniversary of the Urban Renewal Fund. The Fund upheld its mission on promoting heritage preservation and district revitalisation with dedication on connecting more partners to the way of urban renewal.

During the year, 5 Board Meetings were held and the focuses were the arrangement of

commemoration of the 10th anniversary, as well as the consideration of the applications of the Fifth Round Urban Renewal Heritage Preservation and District Revitalisation Funding Scheme. The Board has been hoping to curate core strategies with various partners and strengthen public awareness towards the value of the Fund's vision and mission.

Working Group on Commemoration of the 10th Anniversary

To oversee the commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the URF, 6 current and ex-directors of the Board formed the Working Group. The Working Group came up with the theme "Connecting Communities for Sustainable Urban Renewal: Innovations and Inspirations" to guide the commemoration of the 10th Anniversary. During the year, the Working Group held 3 meetings, physical or online, to cope with the outbreak of the pandemic.

In addition, the Fund would like to seize the opportunity to curating core strategies for

enhancing its visibility, public awareness and connectivity in the community as well as striving together with various partners to achieve synergy for "Innovations and Inspirations" in sustainable urban renewal through the commemorative activities of the 10th Anniversary. Thus, Rabbit Studio Limited was appointed as the services provider of the Publicity and Media Campaign of the 10th Anniversary after rounds of selection. Apart from the Campaign, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences of City University of Hong Kong was appointed as the Consultant to conduct the Study on the Outcome and Social Impact of the Fund.

Urban Renewal Heritage Preservation and District Revitalisation Funding Scheme

Under the theme of "Co-Creating Community Space: New-Old Fusion; People-Place Connection; Artistic Ambience", the Fifth Round Urban Renewal Heritage Preservation and District Revitalisation Funding Scheme commenced in December 2019 and the Fund received the most applications among the years. The Board has been reviewing the

applications and hoping to keep fostering Heritage Preservation and District Revitalisation in different districts.

