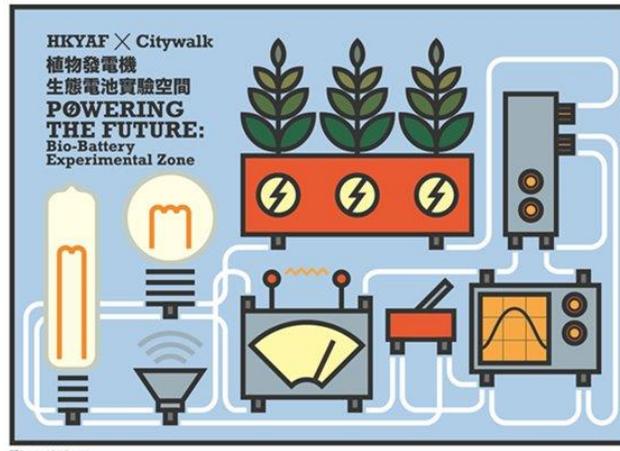


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HKYAF x Citywalk
Powering the Future: Bio-Battery Experimental Zone
Installation of plant-powered battery highlight the urgent need for sustainable energy.



High resolution pictures can be downloaded from:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bv3z3f21wyykjwk/AADeWpZWC4vF4-k7DexlBrjaa?dl=0>

HONG KONG – 21 April 2016. In the past century, we have exploited fossil fuels as a major energy source in every aspect of our lives. But the effects of over-consumption are causing environmental problems around the world – the greenhouse gases emitted when fossil fuels are burnt which exacerbating climate change.

In celebration of Earth Day, and to raise awareness of renewable and sustainable energy, Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation and Citywalk are collaborating to present **Powering the Future: Bio-Battery Experimental Zone**. Inspired by the concept of eco-batteries and plastic-bag-weaving techniques, the local design team KaCaMa Design Lab have worked with a group of school students and residences from Tsuen Wan district to create a lively art installation – one that highlights the need for environmental protection and demonstrates a simple way of producing sustainable energy.

Between 21 April and 5 June, Citywalk Open Piazza is transforming into a botanical laboratory with this collaboratively created art installation. The installation features plant-powered cells: potted plants that each have a positive copper electrode and a negative iron electrode inserted into the soil and wire leads connecting these electrodes to a sound producing device. When plants make food through photosynthesis, they release organic nutrients that are broken down by microorganisms in the soil. This process releases electrons that can be captured by the electrodes placed in the soil and transformed into an electric current. The resulting current is used to power a sound device and amplifier that plays a recording of bird song, giving visitors the impression they are walking in a tranquil forest. The installation is designed to raise awareness of the urgent need to protect our environment, and the different possibilities for renewable, sustainable forms of energy.

The installation also demonstrates creative ways to reduce and recycle daily waste. In February and March, Citywalk asked residents and schools in the Tsuen Wan district to help collect plastic bags that would become the raw material for the installation. In an artist-led workshop, students were shown how to turn plastic bags into weaving yarn and use it to create plant pot holders. During the exhibition period, a series of public Sunday workshops will be held to demonstrate the plastic-bag-weaving techniques and show participants how to create mini eco-battery decorations.

According to the Earth Policy Institute: 'A trillion single-use plastic bags are used each year – nearly 2 million each minute, worldwide.' Our planet is currently facing an environmental crisis – but we can all make a difference by changing our behaviour. Reducing our energy consumption is one way to help. Every small act counts!



Four guests officiated the grand opening, connected the electrodes of the plant-powered cells, then powered the lightbulb held by dancer and bring up the sustainable energy to the planet.

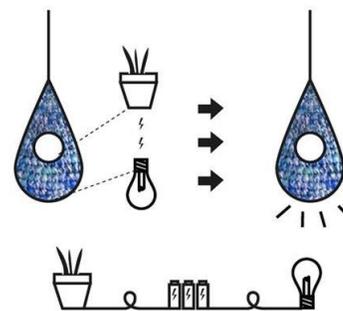
From second left: (1) Ms Lindsey McAlister, OBE, JP, Founder of Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation, (2) Mr Wong Wai-kit, Vice Chairman of Tsuen Wan District Council, (3) Mr Raymond Lau, Senior Manager, Retail Marketing & Promotions of Citywalk, (4) Ms Kay Chan, Founder and Product Designer of KaCaMa Design Lab.



A series of public Sunday workshops will be held to demonstrate the plastic-bag-weaving techniques and show participants how to create mini eco-battery decorations.



Inspired by the concept of eco-batteries and plastic-bag-weaving techniques, the lively art installation demonstrates creative ways of producing sustainable energy. The resulting current is used to power a recording of bird song, giving visitors the impression they are walking in a tranquil forest.



KaCaMa

Ms Kay Chan and Match Chen, the artists of KaCaMa Design Lab was demonstrating the theory of bio-battery.

NOTES TO EDITOR

HKYAF x Citywalk

Powering the Future: Bio-Battery Experimental Zone

◆ Art Installation Exhibition

Inspired by the concept of eco-batteries and weaving techniques that make use of plastic bags, Citywalk Open Piazza is transformed into a botanical laboratory in a lively art installation that highlights the need for environmental protection and demonstrates a simple way of producing sustainable energy.

Date: 21 April – 5 June
Location: Open Piazza, Citywalk
Admission: Free
Enquiry: 3926 5708 or 2614 3887

◆ Mini Eco-battery Decorations Workshop

A series of public Sunday workshops will be held to introduce the concept of eco-batteries and plastic-bag-weaving techniques, and to show participants how to create their own mini eco-battery decorations. The workshops are suitable for all ages. (Children aged 10 or under must be accompanied by an adult) No reservation, first come, first served.

Date: 24 April | 1 May | 8 May | 15 May (Sundays)
Time: 2:30pm – 3:30pm and 3:30pm – 4:30pm
Location: Open Piazza, Citywalk
Admission: Free
Enquiry: 3926 5708 or 2614 3887

Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation

Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation is a charity that provides access to high quality, non-competitive arts experiences for young people aged 5 to 25. Since 1993, YAF has organised inclusive and inspirational projects that reach out to youngsters of all cultures, backgrounds, languages and abilities, and actively created opportunities for those who are disadvantaged and underprivileged. Each year we reach over 800,000 people with our projects, in the form of workshops, exhibitions, performances and more.

Citywalk

Citywalk, as a contemporary shopping mall with innovative architectural concepts, distinguishes itself as an iconic and rejuvenating landmark of the territory. The inventive plan integrates people, technology, art and nature with imagination and innovative ideas. The first phase of the new landmark, Citywalk, strikes perfect harmony between nature and shopping. The 40,000 sq ft “Citywalk Piazza”, together with the 8,000 sq ft Vertical Garden, increases the green space of the external areas to over 30 percent. As Hong Kong’s First Green Shopping Mall, Citywalk was rated Platinum by the Hong Kong Building Environmental Assessment Method Society (HK-BEAM Society) for its 11 distinctive green features and designs. Well served by easily accessible transportation, Citywalk houses more than 200 shops, featuring an integrated retail mix from fashion and beauty, lifestyle and digital gadgets, food and beverages, entertainment and more, to offer a unique all-in-one shopping and dining experience.

KaCaMa Design Lab

KaCaMa Design Lab is a Hong Kong-based product designers who specializes in reusing post-consumer waste materials. They hope their product not only can delight people's lives and instill eco-awareness in its users, but also can establish contact with local enterprises, handcraft men and local cultures.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

For more information, please contact:

Ms. Josephine Leung

Tel: (852) 2877 2625

Email: josephine@hkyaf.com

Ms. Amanda Chan

Tel: (852) 2214 0266

Email: amanda@hkyaf.com