

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Every Shop Has A History Every Shutter Tells A Story
“HK Urban Canvas” Free Mobile App Is Out Now!

View artwork on local stores with special AR function
 Join free guided cultural tours and explore the community through art



(HONG KONG – 19 May 2017) Twenty “HK Urban Canvas” shutter artworks are now complete and our “HK Urban Canvas” mobile app with augmented reality (AR) function is ready to download. The AR function allows users to view the “Hong Kong Urban Canvas” shutter art anytime they wish – even when the shops are open and the shutter art is not visible – and to take photos in front of the virtual artwork and share them on social media. The app also provides information about the project, the concepts and cultural stories behind the artworks, as well as details of the location of each work and four GPS-supported suggested cultural tour routes. From May 27 to June 11, free guided tours will be arranged on weekends and public holidays to give audiences deeper insight into the shutter artworks, local cultural attractions and the history of the community.

4 routes, 20 shutter artworks, 37 stories of local history and countless neighbourhood memories

Organised by Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation and sponsored by the Standard Chartered Hong Kong 150th Anniversary Community Foundation, “Hong Kong Urban Canvas” is a community art project devised to enhance community inclusion and highlight unique aspects of local culture through oral history. The project is divided into two phases. The main focus of phase one is public art. With the support of our project partners The Conservancy Association Centre for Heritage (CACHE) and St. James’ Settlement, six groups of artists, Bao Ho, Devil, Marka Mak, Noble Wong, Smile Maker and Wong Wing Fung, designed unique works of shutter art that reflect the personalities and histories of the owners of 20 neighbourhood shops on Hong Kong Island. The focus of phase two is youth art education. Through a series of art education programmes, over 450 young people and teachers have worked with professional artists, reaching out to the community and collecting local stories that they used as inspiration for different forms of art creation – paper relief, graffiti, block print, clay head sculptures and wooden puppets – that remind us to cherish the

contributions of all of our community neighbours. The resulting artwork will be showcased in the “Hong Kong Urban Canvas” exhibition from 24 May to 12 June 2017 at Comix Home Base (open daily from 10am to 8pm).

Mobile App with AR Function to Review the Shutter Artwork

With the HK Urban Canvas mobile app, you can check the location of each piece of shutter art, read about the artistic concepts behind the works, learn neighbourhood stories, and follow four suggested cultural tour routes – each of which is supported by a GPS system that makes it easy to locate checkpoints. The app has both Chinese and English interfaces. The four routes include “Explore a 100-year-old Market” and “Wan Chai Penguin Story” in Wan Chai, and “Chinese Communities in Colonial Hong Kong” and “A Hillside Full of Shops” in Central and Western. The estimated time for each route is between 45 minutes and 1.5 hours.

The app also has an augmented reality (AR) function that allows users to view the works on their smartphone even when the shops are open and the shutters are not visible. By selecting the location, turning on the AR camera and “targeting” the shop, users will be able to view the artwork, an animation and a related ‘Making of’ video. The app also allows users to take “selfies” with the artworks and share them with friends on social media.

On the shutter of Kwong Wah Printing Company in Sheung Wan, there’s an image of the owner Mr Yam holding two type block characters – the essence of letterpress printing. Behind him is the company’s original antique Heidelberg letterpress, which he still keeps in his office. With the app, users can also view a video about the letterpress printing process. The shutter art at Ho Wah Restaurant in Wan Chai shows a huge cup of Ho Wah signature’s coffee with a penguin sliding out from the cup. According to some of the older local residents, there used to be a penguin who strolled the streets of Wan Chai about 50 years ago! This story caught the imagination of the artists, Devil and Smile Maker, who made the legendary penguin part of their work. At Kwong Lam Kee in Sai Ying Pun, the shutter art shows a collection of traditional local products, including a bamboo broom, a steamer, palm-leaf fan and an painted enamel chamber pot. The last item was inspired by a funny story the owner Mrs Kwan related to the artist, about the time a foreigner came to her and bought two of these chamber pots to serve drinks from at a party.

Limited Period: Free Guided Cultural Tours

On Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays between 27 May and 11 June 2017, our expert docents will conduct free guided tours of each neighbourhood, sharing information about the shutter artworks and insight into interesting aspects of local history. The three different tours are specially designed by CACHE and led by professionally trained retired docents.

The Western District tour includes a visit to Heyro Optical Company in Sai Ying Pun. There participants will meet the owner Mr Chow, an expert at assembling and selling glasses and frames with extensive experience in the optical industry. Mr Chow takes good care of his customers. He recalls one elderly customer who lived in an old walk-up building. To help her out, Mr Chow carried the heavy testing equipment up to her home and tailor-made a pair of glasses for her. This kind of story is rare today. Mr Chow cherishes the past and wanted the shutter art on his shop to reflect his memories of old Sai Ying Pun, as seen through his eyeglasses!

A total of 24 guided tours, lasts around 1 hour and 15 minutes each. Online registration is required at www.hkyaf.com/hkuc_tour. Places allocated on a first come, first served basis.



High resolution pictures can be downloaded from:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/44cbabh3lkalixn/AACcdD-ejfGpY_KSJxVN_oTla?dl=0

NOTES TO EDITOR

Project Organiser: Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (HKYAF)
Project Sponsor: Standard Chartered Hong Kong 150th Anniversary Community Foundation
Project Partner: The Conservancy Association Centre for Heritage (CACHe)
St. James' Settlement
Facebook Page: 城市聞誌 HK Urban Canvas (@HKUrbanCanvas)
Hashtag: #城市聞誌 # HKUrbanCanvas

As some of the shops are close to busy roads, users must pay special attention when using the mobile app.

Suggested routes by HK Urban Canvas mobile app

Route	Attractions	Duration
Wan Chai Explore a 100-year-old Market	Classic T-shaped Street Sign, 100-year-old Market, Kam Bor Printing, Poon Chai Kee, Fung Gor Bag Stall, Mrs Choi's Grocery, Old Wan Chai Post Office, Hung Shing Temple	Approximately 45 mins
Wan Chai Wan Chai Penguin Story	Lee Kung Man Knitting Factory (HK), Ho Wah Restaurant, Comix Home Base, Lam Chun-Hin Clinic, Wah Shing Company, Pak Tai Temple	Approximately 45 mins
Central & Western Chinese Communities in Colonial Hong Kong	Kau Kee Beef Brisket, Central School, Po Wah Furniture, Former Police Married Quarters (PMQ), Kung Lee, Hollywood Road, Man Mo Temple, Kwong Wah Printing Company, Tai Ping Shan Street, Queen's Road West, Chun Shing Hong	Approximately 1 hour
Central & Western A Hillside Full of Shops	Tak Shing Sea Products, Hop Lee Ho, Lam Kiu Kee, Hop Hing Hoo, Heyro Optical Company, Kwong Lam Kee, Second Street Public Bathhouse, Tropical Fish Aquarium, Old Western Public Dispensary, Kwan Hing Kee, Sister's Quarters of Civil Hospital, King George V Memorial Park – Stone Wall Trees	Approximately 1 hour 30 mins

Limited Period: Free Guided Cultural Tours

Route	Date	Time	Meeting Point	Duration
Wan Chai	May 27, 28, 30 June 03, 04, 10, 11	2pm & 3:30pm	Comix Home Base 7 Mallory St, Wan Chai	Approximately 1 hour
Sai Ying Pun	May 27 June 03, 10	2:30pm & 4:15pm	The Conservancy Association Centre for Heritage. Annex Block, 36A Western Street, Sai Ying Pun	Approximately 1 hour 15 mins
Sheung Wan	May 28 June 04	2:30pm & 4:15pm	PMQ 35 Aberdeen St, Central	Approximately 1 hour 15 minutes

HK Urban Canvas Exhibition

Date: 24 | 05 | 2017 – 12 | 06 | 2017

Time: 10am – 8pm

Venue: 3/F, Comix Home Base, 7 Mallory Street, Wan Chai

Admission: Free admission, no ticket required

Download the “HK Urban Canvas” mobile app or follow “HK Urban Canvas” Facebook page to redeem limited souvenir (postcard/ masking tape) during the exhibition period.



Shops participated in HK Urban Canvas

WAN CHAI



Kam Bor Printing
Address: GP T1 Tai Yuen Street
Type: Rubber stamps and chops
Artist: Smile Maker



Mrs Choi Grocery
Address: Stall HPP 112, Tai Yuen Street
Type: Groceries
Artist: Smile Maker



Fung Gor Bag Stall
Address: Stall HPP 20, Tai Yuen Street
Type: Bags
Artist: Bao Ho



Ho Wah Restaurant
Address: 1A Mallory Street
Type: Restaurant
Artist: Devil & Smile Maker



Lee Kung Man Knitting Factory (HK)
Address: 224 Johnston Road
Type: Clothing
Artist: Noble Wong



Wah Shing Company
Address: 76 Stone Nullah Lane
Type: Machine repairs
Artist: Smile Maker and 20 Wan Chai residents



Poon Chai Kee
Address: GP2 Tai Yuen Street
Type: Umbrellas and repairs
Artist: Wong Wing Fung

SAI YING PUN



Kwan Hing Kee
Address: 65 Third Street
Type: Soya bean products
Artist: Marka Mak



Hop Lee Ho
Address: 152 Des Voeux Road West
Type: Salted fish wholesale
Artist: Marka Mak



Lam Kiu Kee
Address: 188 Des Voeux Road West
Type: Salted fish and dried seafood
Artist: Smile Maker



Hop Hing Hoo
Address: 190 Des Voeux Road West
Type: Dried seafood and groceries
Artist: Bao Ho



Heyro Optical Company
Address: 276 Queen's Road West
Type: Eyewear and accessories
Artist: Bao Ho and 5 students from Ying Wa Girls' School



Tropical Fish Aquarium
Address: 107 Second Street
Type: Aquarium supplies
Artist: Noble Wong



Kwong Lam Kee
Address: 52 Second Street
Type: Household goods
Artist: Wong Wing Fung



Chun Shing Hong
Address: G/F, 138-142 Queen's Road West
Type: Paper Crafts & offerings
Artist: Devil

SHEUNG WAN



Kwong Wah Printing Company
 Address: 45 Sai Street
 Type: Letterpress printing
 Artist: Smile Maker



Tak Shing Sea Products
 Address: G/F, 94 Des Voeux
 Road West
 Type: Dried seafood
 Artist: Devil and Smile Maker



Kau Kee Beef Brisket
 Address: 21 Gough Street
 Type: Restaurant
 Artist: Smile Maker



Po Wah Furniture
 Address: 18A Aberdeen Street
 Type: Furniture
 Artist: Noble Wong



Kung Lee
 Address: G/F, 60 Hollywood
 Road
 Type: Sugar cane juice shop
 Artist: Noble Wong

Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation

Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (HKYAF) is a charity that provides access to high quality, non-competitive free-of-charge arts experiences for young people aged 5 to 25. Established in 1993 by Lindsey McAlister OBE, JP, HKYAF organizes inclusive and inspirational projects that reach out to youngsters of all cultures, backgrounds, languages and abilities, and actively creates opportunities for those who are disadvantaged and underprivileged. Each year, HKYAF reaches over 800,000 people through its projects, exhibitions and performances.

Hong Kong 150th Anniversary Community Foundation

In 2009, Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited issued the Standard Chartered Hong Kong 150th Anniversary Commemorative Charity Banknote – the first banknote in \$150 denomination in the world - to celebrate the Bank's 150 years of presence in Hong Kong. Dedicated to the people who have contributed to the development of Hong Kong, net proceeds from the sale of the Commemorative Charity Banknote have been donated to the "Standard Chartered Hong Kong 150th Anniversary Community Foundation", established in 2009, in support of the local community and charities.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

For more information, please contact:

Ms. Rosata Ching
Tel: (852) 2214 0266
Email: rosata@hkyaf.com

Ms. Josephine Leung
Tel: (852) 2877 2625
Email: josephine@hkyaf.com