

MAJOR EVENTS OF THE YEAR

04



- 87 secondary school students from six schools joined 2nd Young Leaders Programme co-organised by the U and Tung Wah Group of Hospitals. Gaining insights from the Programme, the students initiated creative proposals in promoting urban renewal, enhancing the living environments of old districts while strengthening local characteristics.



05

- Mr Chow Chung-kong began his three-year term as Chairman of the URA on 1 May 2019, taking over the office from Mr Victor So Hing-woh who retired on 30 April 2019 after some six years of dedicated services on the Board.



06

- All 450 units of the eResidence "Starter Homes" Pilot Project were selected by eligible applicants. The project offered home-purchase choices for higher-income persons and families who were neither eligible for Home Ownership Scheme nor able to afford private housing.



2019

07

- Aiming at encouraging students to apply their knowledge to smart-living concepts and use their innovation to design works showcasing the local characteristics of Central and Sheung Wan, the URA joined hands with Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (IVE) and Hong Kong Design Institute (HKDI) in organising URA/IVE/HKDI Innovative Design Competition. The award-winning design "Invisible Oasis" featured a water curtain at the open space of Central Market to provide office workers with a tranquil place.



08

- The URA issued acquisition offers to owners affected by the Queen's Road West/In Ku Lane Development Scheme. The project site covers an area of approximately 2,040 square metres, involving approximately 70 property interests. The planning intention is to rationalise the land uses and layout within the area, thereby linking up open spaces surrounded by buildings and improving connectivity, accessibility and comfort of the users. The existing refuse collection point and public toilet will be re-provisioned in-situ and integrated within the future development for better serviceability.



09



- To promote local sports and enhance local characteristics, a sports-themed interactive information hub, SPORTS EXPO, was set up at the commercial portion (namely "THE FOREST") of the Sai Yee Street Project in Mong Kok. It began to accept appointments in September before the official opening in October. Introducing technological elements including multimedia and virtual reality (VR) in the virtual arena, motion game zone and VR games zone, SPORTS EXPO enables the public to experience various sports in an innovative and interactive way.

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- The URA began to send the notice of application result and priority of the first round of application to about 1,200 applicants under the Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme. By providing building owners of old buildings with financial assistance and professional support, the URA encouraged them to expedite the organisation and implementation of enhancement works to the lifts, thus raising the safety level of aged lifts.



11



- "618 Shanghai Street", the Shanghai Street/Argyle Street preservation and revitalisation project, commenced operation. In addition to the preservation of the architectural features of pre-war shophouses, the project was revitalised and adaptive re-used for commercial and cultural purposes with an integration of old and new elements of the locality. Community spaces were provided for local organisations to organise cultural and arts activities, injecting vibrancy into the buildings and the district.

12

- The URA worked with the tenants of the Peel Street/Graham Street Development Scheme (H18) to launch the H18 mobile app. The app aims to maintain the networks of the Graham Market, H18 CONET tenants and the community, preserving local characteristics while promoting retail business to keep up with the changing urban contexts.



- The URA organised a communal mural project at Shing Wong Street, in which students from King's College Old Boys' Association Primary School were led by an artist to paint a 17-metre-long mural. As one of the "community making" initiatives, the project connects stakeholders in the vicinity of Staunton Street/Wing Lee Street Project, creating an integrated and harmonious community.



MAJOR EVENTS OF THE YEAR



01

- The second round of Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme started accepting applications from January. The URA and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department jointly organised online briefing sessions to enable the public to better understand the details and application methods of the scheme.



- An appreciation ceremony was organised to commend volunteers from the URA and tertiary institutions who participated in the Community Service Partnership Scheme. In the past year, the scheme partnered with social service organisations to carry out a series of volunteer programmes enhancing the physical and mental well-being of underprivileged families. Among these, the upcycling programme which transformed discarded wood planks into tailor-made home furniture for families in need in old districts was in the third year of its running.

2020

02

- A new round of Home Repair Services Community Programme began to accept applications. The URA continued to partner with local community groups and volunteer technicians to provide free repair services to families of elderly people in poor living conditions in Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong. Since the launch of the programme in June 2018, the volunteers had helped more than 600 residents solve various problems in their homes and daily life such as repair of lights, water tank, etc.



03

- The URA launched the "URAmity" page on Facebook and Instagram, with a view to building a closer tie with the public and enabling them to better understand the work and latest developments of the URA.



🔍 開心建城 URAmity

04

- The URA Board approved rent relief measures to the domestic and commercial tenants in URA's properties, as well as the commercial tenants in its joint ventured shopping malls. Aiming to assist tenants in the face of current economic challenges and support employment over difficult times, the initiative lasted for nine months till the end of December.



05

- The completed units of the “Starter Homes” Pilot Project eResidence were handed over to buyers. To facilitate the handover process and improve service quality and efficiency, a mobile app was introduced for making appointments and following up on procedures and workflows including appointment for handover, inspection of unit facilities and rectifications follow-up.



- The URA commenced two pilot projects in Kowloon City to redevelop buildings under the Civil Servants’ Co-operative Building Society Scheme. Through maximisation of development potential, the two projects would increase housing supply by providing more than 3,000 units which is about five times of the existing number of units. The two projects would also enhance district connectivity and accessibility while creating a more liveable community through appropriate landscaping and urban design.



06

- With the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Development Bureau on launching the Building Maintenance Grant Scheme for Needy Owners (BMGSNO) with an expanded scope of beneficiaries, the URA became the sole organisation to administer all Government building rehabilitation subsidy schemes in an integrated manner.

