

Hong Kong International Photo Festival 香港國際攝影節

Recruitment: Project Manager, Koon Man Space

Introduction

In 2020, Hong Kong Photographic Culture Association (HKPCA) successfully obtained a short-term lease (approx. five years, renewable) for the site of the former Koon Man School at Chuen Lung Village, Tai Mo Shan and a subsidy for refurbishing the 60-year-old site. The refurbished site (**Project Koon Man Space**) will be a space for learning, exchanges, and experimentations on contemporary photography, not least a communal space to strengthen relationships, generate conversations and vitality from within the scenic village. In our endeavour to set foot in this place, also as part of our mandate to promote the advancement of visual culture, we will be working with a team of photographers, artists, curators, scientists and designers as our curatorial, research and education partners, while engaging the community members as co-creators, to learn, question, preserve, and share about life in the historical mid-hill village.



Artists Ki Wong and Pak Chai have been concluding a two-year research in the village, and the resultant works will be presented as the inaugural exhibition of Koon Man Space in the first quarter of 2023. Meanwhile, we will embark on a two year visual study of the Chuen Lung Village with the Community Museum Project (Chuen Lung Storyboard - Visualising a Community and its Cultural Heritage), which will be an in-depth study on the history, cultural heritage and environment of the area, presented in Koon Man Space through a series of 'Open Studio' from mid-2023 to mid-2024, followed by Mobile Exhibitions at schools and community centres across Hong Kong.

We envision the Project Manager to play a vital role in shaping the character of the digital and physical space of Koon Man into one that perpetuates its core values and aspirations, leveraging on the expertise of various curatorial partners and cultural practitioners, while engaging community members as co-creators in offering a nurturing environment for members of the public to experience the power and excitement of the arts to discover, connect and heal. See Appendix 1 for further details.

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Job Description

The Project Manager is primarily responsible for the programme planning, management, administration and operations in connection with the Space, including:

- / Work with various collaborators including artists, image makers, educators, researchers, writers, scientists, designers and community members in delivering the ongoing artist residencies, the CMP collaboration as well as any future initiatives in disseminating the research outcomes and works to a broad audience through a myriad of forms, including online, physical exhibitions and activities, and print. In this aspect their work approach should be fluid and accumulative, responding to the project needs, the changeful nature of its surrounding environment and community, as well as discoveries made in the ongoing research;
- / Follow through the site renovation work (and the subsequent fitting-out by our interior designer), coordinating with various government bureaux and departments, architectural consultants, contractors to ensure mutual understanding of project progress and quality; make timely payment/reimbursement arrangements; apply required licence(s);
- / Act as the HKPCA representative and connect people in the broader Chuen Lung community by cultivating relationships with individuals, businesses, and other relevant parties, including but not limited to government agencies, funders, consultants, art practitioners, community representatives, schools, business and relevant stakeholders, ensuring smooth running of the Project;
- / Research and devise suitable financing models and secure fundings and resources to support the long term development of Project; and
- / Budget administration, timeline management, project coordination, and daily operations, etc.

Tentative Project Schedule of the first two years

June 2022	Renovation work commences
July-Dec 2022	Space visual identity development; inaugural exhibition planning
Dec 2022	Completion of renovation work
Dec 2022-Jan 2023	Interior fitting out; installation of inaugural exhibition
Dec 2022	Commencement of 2-year curatorial and research partnership with CMP
Feb 2023	Space opening
Feb-May 2023	Inaugural exhibitions by Ki Wong and Chuen Lung residents; public programmes in collaboration with the villagers
Feb 2023 - mid 2024	Implementation of Chuen Lung Storyboard Research Sessions, Open Studio, and workshops
Aug-Oct 2024	Touring exhibition and workshops
Aug 2024	Launch Digital Social Archive

You should be/possess

- / Graduated from an accredited college or university with a degree or equivalent;
- / Around 5 years relevant experience in a professional environment; exhibition planning experience a plus;
- / Passionate about arts and culture, and seeking to achieve long-term and sustainable outcomes, processes, relationships, or discourses;
- / Friendly, patient, proactive, flexible, organised, detailed-minded, strong in decision making and able to work independently at the same time an effective team player with strong communication skills; and
- / Excellent command of spoken and written English and Chinese (Cantonese a must).

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To Apply

If you are interested, please send your application with a cover letter, CV and a portfolio to hr@hkipf.org.hk to the attention of Ms. Lo, on or before 12nn, **4 July 2022**, stating the position you are applying on the email subject. All collected data will be used for recruitment purposes only and kept in strict confidence for 6 months.

HKIPF is an equal opportunity employer. All employment is decided on the basis of qualifications, merit, and organisation need. If you are a member of any under-represented communities, you are encouraged to self-identify, on either your cover letter or CV.

For all enquiries or further information please contact hr@hkipf.org.hk or 2777 0955.

Ki Wong chatting with Sister Wong, who's taking a break from her long day of work. Sister Wong has been farming the Chuen Lung signature produce watercress in the village since early 1990s.

- END -

Personal Information Collection Statement

HKPCA respect personal data and are committed to implementing and complying with the data protection principles and the relevant provisions of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance.

Purpose of Collection	All information provided in this application will be used by the Association for Processing and evaluation the submission; Providing communications regarding the submission through email or call; Comply with any statutory requirements or laws that bind the Association; and General administration.
Consequence of Not Providing Information	Failure to supply sufficient and accurate information will prevent HKPCA from evaluation and processing, as such may render the submission invalid.
Right of Access	You have the right of access to and correction of your own personal data kept and used by HKPCA in accordance with the provisions of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486). For access or correction requests, please contact HKPCA at info@hkipf.org.hk .

About HKIPF

Hong Kong International Photo Festival (HKIPF) was launched in 2010. In each edition, the Festival focuses on a different theme, introducing local and overseas photographers to discuss manifold issues and perspectives. Through a wide range of public programmes, the Festival promotes creative practices as means to deepen our understanding of the environment we live in and the people we live with.

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Appendix 1.

Koon Man Space

Commencement: February 2023



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HKIPF successfully obtained a short-term lease for the former Koon Man School at Chuen Lung Village in Tai Mo Shan and subsidy for basic refurbishments. The 60-year-old site, now named Koon Man Space, will be repurposed into a space for learning, exchanges, and experimentations on contemporary photography, not least a communal space to strengthen relationships, generate conversations and vitality from within the scenic village.

The space will consist of an outdoor green space and two rooms: a multi-purpose/ exhibition room with which we will be showcasing residency outcomes and works from Hong Kong and overseas, and the Community Living Room that will hold a small photobook library and the Community Museum Project Project Corner (two-year project). We envision that it will be where people are free to drop by and sit down to read a photobook, or strike a conversation with the resident artists over a cup of tea brewed with Tai Mo Shan water. All this can help create a fantastic social coherence and social network.

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Inaugural Exhibitions by Ki Wong & Chuen Lung Residents: *Photovoices*, facilitated by Ki Wong and Pak Chai

Exhibition date: February 2023

Photovoice is a visual research methodology that puts cameras into the participants' hands to help them to document, reflect upon, and communicate issues of concern. Taking place within Chuen Lung Village, a 500-year-old Hakka village in Tai Mo Shan, the project aims at entailing the opportunity of empowering participants; stimulating memories and creativity of the participants; enhancing their understanding of art and photography; and facilitating the preservation, reimagination and regeneration of the village community and culture in the long run.

As a photographer and educator dedicated to exploring family origins, family bonds and emotional expressions, Ki with Pak Chai have been conducting interviews with residents in the village, among them members of the native Tsang clan and people who later settled in the village for work, for marriage, or for the good *feng shui*.

Among them, Ki has invited four villagers as Photovoices participate. In the process they are guided to document their daily life and living environment and express their unique views and perspectives through the lens. The resultant exhibition will be held in the Community Living Room, accompanied by discussion sessions to share the outcome with local residents and the public.



In parallel, Ki is developing a solo project with the family photographs, stories, drawings, and plant seeds the villagers generously shared. With the assistance of Pak Chai, Ki will collate and weave these materials together to look at how different people come to enroot themselves in a place; how customs and traditions have influenced the lives of women in the paternal village; as well as the similarities and contrasts between lives of natives and nonnatives.

Pak Chai tracing the now disappeared old footbridge over the village's main river by referencing a family picture provided by the Chan's living nearby.

CMP Storyboard Series

The Community Museum Project (CMP) was founded in 2002 in Hong Kong by the late Howard Chan (art curator), Siu King-chung (design educator), Pak Chai and Phoebe Wong (cultural researchers). Following the idea of a museum as a means to represent everyday living and values, the collective explores visual culture and public culture through the collection and interpretation of artefacts and visual evidence, local creativity. Rather than establishing conventional museum hardware, CMP carries out flexible exhibitions and public programmes, often within specific community settings. In doing so, CMP aims to nurture a platform to articulate personal experiences and underrepresented histories while creating occasions for public participation and cross-disciplinary collaboration.

Collecting Community Assets: Images, Objects, Stories, Knowledge and Networks

For this project, CMP is conducting community studies and engagement via visual means such as photo stocktaking and photo

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elicitation to actively engage villagers in collaborative research sessions, devised under themes for detailed inquiry into the life and culture of Chuen Lung. Photography, drawings, and paintings are employed to collect and visualise the input from local villagers and information gathered.

Interpreting and Visualising the Community Assets

The Project Corner at Koon Man Space will be dedicated to the research sessions, presenting the *Chuen Lung Storyboard* 川龍壁報板. The Storyboard will be changed three times throughout the project period, presenting different sets of research findings visually such as through maps, drawings, graphs, while also probing discussions on different aspects and details of various modes of production, consumption and communication in the village. Photography in this project is employed as a research tool for systematically creating images that will be treated as objects, to be further organised, compared and contrasted visually, forming “visual statistics”.

Dissemination and Education: Sharing Research Outcomes with the Public

Beyond on-site showcasing, the Storyboard series and accompanying workshops will be toured around schools and community centres across Hong Kong to connect the project outcomes with the Hong Kong general public. A Mobile Exhibition set will be produced to bring together key materials in the Storyboard series. The set will then be used by the CMP team and research partners as a tool to guide students and members of the public into the processes and outcomes of artistic creation and scientific research. Materials put on display in the Project Corner and collected throughout the research sessions, along with other outcomes derived, will also make up the core of the Digital Social Archive, a permanent resource for the public. In forming an archive, we aim to enable greater accessibility and application, and in turn inspire further developments, whether local or remote. A website designer and programmer will be invited on board to work collaboratively with the Design Partner and the team to deliver a versatile and engaging virtual hub in order to facilitate different forms of online exchanges.



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