

Green at Heart Our New Central

TIME BANK COLLECTIVE

THEME - civic programming and open spaces

A NEW FINANCIAL HUB – GREEN AT HEART

The New Central will reposition Hong Kong as Asia's most progressive Green Financial Hub – focusing on attracting financial capitals in producing knowledge, human resources, technological innovations in solving our world's most pressing environmental problems via supporting clean-tech enterprises. Under the Green-at-Heart Business District Directive, everyone can participate in creating tools, practices, patterns of responsible production and consumption, institutionalised to be sustainable and by interacting in labs, forums, concept stores, workshops, even the 'bank' would help us to move closer to UN's sustainable development goals. Everyone from the civil society can enter the zone to become Green-at-Heart stakeholders/members, pledge to fight the climate crisis.

ACTIVATION OF A CARING CIVIC SPACE – REPURPOSE THE POST OFFICE INTO A TIME BANK

The General Post Office will NOT be demolished, but repurposed into a Time Bank (a concept coined by Legal Professor Edgar S. Cahn in the 80's). Citizens interested in being part of the time bank can register into the "time-currency" system, when they invest time in activities benefitting the collective, they will receive time credits to be used in future whenever they need help – the more the merrier - promoting the survival of the kindest – reframing our civic society's fundamental beliefs from 'time is money' to 'time is care' for the people. Those who has performed 'care' in the past will be cared by their future, guaranteed. Time bank will also try to link one's carbon reduction into time credits interests, can we also encourage green and blue bonds to be traded by citizens within the premise? Time credits will be the community currencies usable for goods and services in the green-at-heart zone.

THE STORY BEHIND THE LANDSCAPE DECK DESIGN

In the future, when the ground breaks for reconstruction of the Star Ferry Clock Tower at its original site, the timeline of history will be disrupted, simultaneously triggering the arrival of a Giant Clock Tower from another time dimension. It will emerge slowly from the ground in a duration of 1000 years. The comprehensive commercial development therefore can be hosted within this new landmark, meanwhile, offering itself as an open space for citizens' enjoyment. If we upkeep the 'green-at-heart' principles, use our time wisely for the wellbeing of the community, and promise the earth to live sustainably, the Giant Clock Tower will afford us its current beauty, lush greenery, freedom to use and stability for the next 1000 years. On the other hand, if we let our greed, power, bad habits, hatred, injustice and inequality fill our hearts, contaminate our souls and trash our humanity, the new Giant Star Ferry Clock Tower will emerge from the ground abruptly, cause an unprecedented earthquake, eventually destroy us.

The sloppy green field around the clock tower was formed by the forces of time ripples.

Citizens are welcomed to curate cultural events, prototypes, organise playdates and markets for all.

How does your idea benefit the public?

The Time Bank | Green-at-Heart concept enables the creation of a just and sustainable economy of human relationship, highlighting the interdependence of individuals, recalibrating the importance of 'investing time' to care for those in need.

We must make visible the ideal that compassionate gestures 'money' cannot buy are equally valued at the centre of our city. Time Bank can open itself to become NGOs headquarters, social enterprises in Hong Kong, as many has already started to their own versions of 'time bank' with respective communities, such as Blue House, Tin Shui Wai Women's Group and an Elderly Center in Tseung Kwan O.

TIME BOX = ex P.O. BOX

Anyone can post their wishes, tasks and sustainable development workshop ideas to Time boxes (ex-PO boxes) with the membership number. Citizens who wish to earn their desired time credit will be given matching access to Time Boxes (1 hour, 1 week, 1 year etc.) to deliver helpful actions to strangers they have never met, yet interested in offering services and knowledges in order to accumulate time credits.



Time Boxes are receivers of community wishes, categorised by the duration of commitment. After registration, members can access to check-in wishes from all over our society, and choose to embark on one that fits one's aspiration and skillset to start their investment on time credits.

Time, heritage, cultural and marine resources at Site 3



CONNECTIVITY - TIME LAB

Apart from Time Bank, there will be a Time Lab/Museum positioning itself as a temporal nexus sliding participants' encounter and engagement between heritage corridor and our sustainable future, honouring the memories of our past.

Meanwhile, all members are welcomed to come to the time lab and reimagine a sustainable future with the stakeholders through material innovation open studios, workshops, lectures and consultation meetings. There will also be opportunities to thoroughly explore Hong Kong's green and blue resources in historical terms.

A postal gallery archiving letters to/from Hong Kong's past will be curated into different combination of display or as script for performers to re-enact in the civic spaces (including historic sea charts, logs, maps, objects).

Time Lab will curate events about bring us back in time to see through citizens' eyes, their objects, letters, stories in order to understand how Hong Kong has evolved from a fishing village to International Financial Centre, stimulating us to anchor upon our heritage, and shine light to imagine a better future- what can the ex-fishing villagers do to stop plastic makers trashing our ocean? How do we develop and promote our blue economy?

Time lab can also develop a knowledge common with Marine Museum at Pier 8 to conduct joint aquaculture research to raise awareness in marine culture.

TIME CAPSULE WRITING WORKSHOP

The long post - can we send letters to be received 100, 300 or 1000 years later? Will this place keep the later through many generations, what will you write to that person?

CIVIC PROGRAMMING PUBLIC SPACES

New Central's core mission is to develop vibrant education, interaction and responsible consumption programs to reset our society's financial heart to care about UN's sustainable development goals, ensuring everyone can be given accurate information on the ecological costs of GDP and will start to readjust behaviours according to the 'green-at-heart' philosophy.

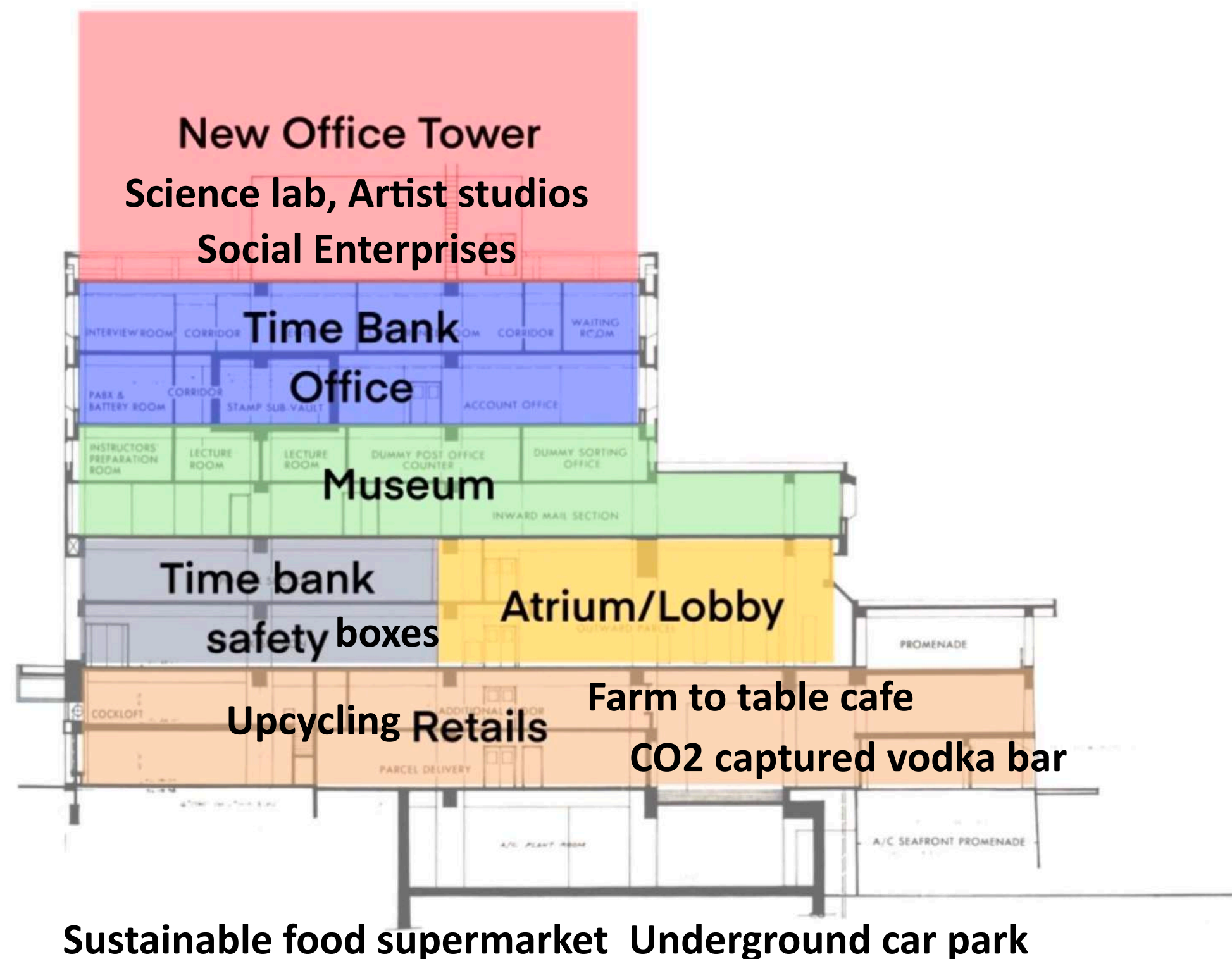
The zone will encourage pop up events in civic spaces, concept stores and social enterprises, by utilizing the most up-to-date technologies, citizens' science lab, artist studios, live-event broadcast, performances rehearsal, public games, virtual reality, digital place-making...etc... in offering one-stop experiential opportunities to uplift everyone's wellbeing on a great day out at the new Green Central.

Stakeholders in this zone shall drive collaboration to develop, commercialise, promote sustainable manufacturing technologies for the construction of the site in strategies that would enable the community not only to generate renewable energies, also to rejuvenate communal health, and redesign sport facilities (such as, citizens using exercise-bikes to generate power) from early childhood to active ageing.

Civic spaces will fashion itself as idea playground, encouraging citizens to come up with wellbeing equipments and consult stakeholders, some will be tested, prototyped, installed and finally enjoyed by all, idea generators will be rewarded by time credits.

How does your idea connect with existing public spaces, cultural resources and the environment at Site 3?

Electricity generated gym
solar panels power up the building



Open Call will be announced in the Time Bank premises regularly creating opportunities for different stakeholders to learn about circular economy, how to extend life-cycle of products and services, and be eco-smart in every stage of the manufacturing processes through open-source and DIY collaborative principles.

Cultural workers, environmental scientists, communication digital experts could come together to jam and refine their products, technologies or services with input from users.

Bars will be serving vodka made of captured carbon dioxide, clothing from recycled plastic waste, restaurants with food directly delivered from farm to table, sustainable seafood restaurants, food labs, gyms powered up by people doing exercise generating electricity...leading to an eventual decarbonisation...etc...

How might the government evaluate proposals—such as yours—claiming to offer public value? Could your design principles apply beyond Site 3?

Green at heart incorporates the local with the global by diversifying Hong Kong's international financial services into investment of blue and green bonds, time credits and also by addressing local demands for additional green public spaces, environmental aspiration, social values, recreational landscapes and restoration of Hong Kong into a caring, carbon neutral society.

Converting the General Post Office into Time Bank can provide new resources that's open for all, enabling citizens to engage in innovative eco-cultural activities and scientific experiments without monetary burdens, as such, levelling the playing field to include contributions and deliver entertainments with citizens of lower social economic status, by using time currencies to uphold a fairer and more equitable ecosystem of civic participation. This model is easy to replicate to different districts, since a network of 200+ independent Time Banks are operational in the United States and in more than 32 countries around the world.

'Bank time for the people' will become a fashionable slogan to engage, entertain, embed and educate individuals to invest on compassionate actions linking value to social, cultural, environmental betterment for all, becoming the status symbol for young and old alike. Green is the new gold, and time is now to flourish the commons at large, in every district!!!

Our city, as a whole, can be more sustainable if we plan, develop 'green-at-heart' as design principles and practices in the built environment that would nudge citizens to participate in responsible production and consumption patterns seamlessly, and logically wired desirability to help and build trust with each other.

Practices change when people are set up to do things differently, creatively, happily and being rewarded respectfully.

The Time Bank Collective is a 6-month multidisciplinary creative research project funded by the Robert Ho Family Foundation. Workshops have recently been set up to learn, think, explore ways in which to achieve UN's sustainable development goals (SDGs) through the construct of a time bank. What are the operational procedures and compliance of time credits, happiness indexes, and community investment insurance policies...etc..? We have 17 members, each has been given a mission to compose an actionable initiative to tackle one SDG, individually or/and collaboratively, led by artist Amy Cheung. Amos Cheng, Jeffrey Kwong, Carl Ng, Hollis Au, Tara Tang and Sam Lam have made significantly contribution to the creation of the Site 3 Time Bank design concepts, drawings completed in collaboration with Erkka Nissinen.