

27 June 2024

**Bank of China (Hong Kong) supports *I. M. Pei: Life Is Architecture* as the Lead Sponsor
First full-scale retrospective of world-renowned architect Ieoh Ming Pei**

An opening ceremony of *I. M. Pei: Life Is Architecture*, the first full-scale retrospective of Chinese American architect **Ieoh Ming Pei** (1917–2019), was held today at the Grand Stair, M+. Presented by M+, the exhibition is supported by Bank of China (Hong Kong) (“BOCHK”) as the Lead Sponsor. Paul Lam Ting-kwok, Secretary for Justice, HKSAR Government; Andrew Leung Kwan-yuen, President, Legislative Council, HKSAR; Li Chung (Sandi) Pei, I. M. Pei’s son, partner and founder of PEI Architects; Henry Tang, Chairman of the Board of West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA); Bernard Chan, Chairman of the M+ Board; Betty Fung, Chief Executive Officer of WKCDA; Suhanya Raffel, Museum Director, M+; Patricia Pei, I. M. Pei’s sister, member, M+ American Friends Foundation Board; Shirley Surya, Curator, Design and Architecture, M+ and exhibition co-curator; and Sun Yu, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive, Bank of China (Hong Kong), officiated at the ceremony to kick off this half-year exhibition that presents the life and legacy of I. M. Pei.

I. M. Pei’s son, the architect Li Chung (Sandi) Pei, partner and founder of PEI Architects, says, “This exhibition brings to the public the first full-scale retrospective of our father’s productive and far-reaching career, elucidating the transcultural influences and distinctive historical circumstances that contributed to his unique place as an architect and global citizen. Gathered over many years from a multitude of sources, the exhibition details a remarkable personal story that only in its full telling reveals the complexities, challenges, and achievements of his long and optimistic life. We are proud of this exhibition and thank the M+ team for its thorough, intelligent, and enlightened documentation.”

Sun Yu, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive of Bank of China (Hong Kong), says, “Mr Pei’s achievements are well-known — his iconic buildings have left a lasting mark around the world. But what really sets him apart is his genius in bridging different cultures, blending tradition and modernity, and creating designs that are both beautiful and functional. As the Lead Sponsor, Bank of China (Hong Kong) is very proud to support this exhibition. It explores Mr Pei’s work in its social, cultural, and personal context, showcasing his rich legacy for people in Hong Kong, the Chinese mainland, and beyond. We hope it will help foster a deeper appreciation for architecture and the arts, and inspire the next generation of creative talents to follow in Mr Pei’s extraordinary footsteps. This exhibition also serves as a celebration of Hong Kong’s heritage as a cultural super-connector between East and West, sharing a vivid China story with the world.”

Mr I. M. Pei, one of the most influential architects of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. His high-profile projects were realised over seven decades with an exceptionally wide

geographic reach, including the National Gallery of Art East Building in Washington, D.C., the modernisation of the Grand Louvre in Paris, the Bank of China Tower in Hong Kong, and the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha. These landmark projects solidified his legacy and position in architectural history and popular culture. His life and work weave together a tapestry of cultural traditions around the world. His transcultural vision laid the foundation for the contemporary world. Seven years in the making, this retrospective features more than 400 objects, many of them never exhibited before. These include original drawings, architectural models, photographs, films, and other archival documentation from institutional and private holdings. The exhibition will open to the public from **Saturday, 29 June 2024** to **Sunday, 5 January 2025**.

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