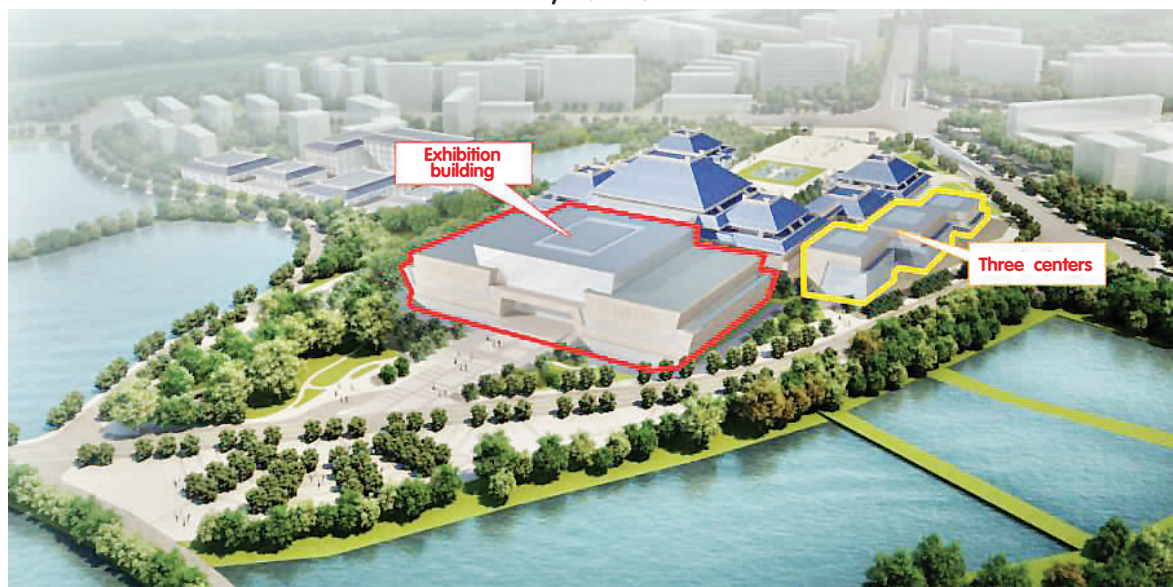


Main structure finished for new exhibition hall of Hubei Provincial Museum

By Han Wei



Artistic impression of the extension project

The extension project for the relics exhibition building of Hubei Provincial Museum has moved on to decorating and furnishing the main structure. It is expected to open to the public in September 2019. By then, the museum will have become one of the top three national-level museums in China.

The Phase IV Extension Project kicked off in 2016,

covering a new relics exhibition building, a relics protection center, a relics research center, a tour team reception center, and a control and equipment building, with a total floor area of 64,800 square meters.

As the major part of the project, the solemn-looking relics exhibition building highlights Chu culture. By completing the Phase IV

Extension Project, the building complex of the museum will reach 110,000 square meters in total and will resemble the Chinese character 鼎 (*ding*, an ancient Chinese cauldron) when viewed from above.

Exhibits housed in the old buildings will be then moved into the new relics exhibition building. The old building then will undergo a revamp before reorganizing exhibitions.

Special effects guru Richard Taylor to build movie park in Wuhan

Richard Taylor, a five-time Oscar winning special effects guru and the man behind *Lord of the Rings* and *Avatar*, is cooperating with Shambala, Duobaoqing Film and TV Culture Co., Ltd. and others for a RMB 200 million movie park located on Han Street.

The project will contain an animation experience center for *Wotwots Kiddets*, the first Sino-New Zealand cooperation film.

To select the site, Richard Taylor visited Wuhan several times and finally decided on a deserted factory near the Han Street Movie Park, with plans to build it into a theme park to show special effects.

Special effects props will be shipped directly from New Zealand. Popular movies and TV programs like the *Wotwots Kiddets*, *Jurassic World*, *Thunderbirds Are Go*, and *Dr. Grordbort* will be displayed in the park.

The park is now under construction and is expected to open this year.

Red T Creative Store of Hubei Xinhua Bookstore opens

By Wang Jianhui

The "Red T" Creative Store of Hubei Xinhua Bookstore opened in the Red T Fashion Creative Block in Jiangnan Economic Development Zone on the morning of December 8, becoming the first bookstore with pronounced elements of a cultural industrial park.

The Red T Fashion Creative Block integrates the maker space of designers, independent designers' studios, and the Red T Venture Capital Foundation.

The Red T Creative Store is in the fifth building of the block with an operating area of 500 square meters.

The store serves not only as a bookshop, but a multifunctional art and cultural space. It will be a venue for hosting exchanges and exhibitions on architecture, garden design, and fashion. Several fashion shows have already been scheduled.

Training courses on Chinese opera for teachers

An opera training program for local primary and middle school teachers began at the Wuhan Beijing Opera Theater on January 15. There are 101 teachers from 15 districts in Wuhan participating in the 10 day training program, in which they will learn about Chinese opera and puppetry skills.

As part of the activity series, "Chinese Opera on Campus," the training session aims to help local teachers improve their knowledge and

skills related to Chinese opera, which will in turn facilitate their ability to teach their students about this traditional art form in the classroom.

The program offers training in three types of Chinese opera — Beijing, Han, and Chu — as well as traditional puppetry.

Participants will learn about opera music, facial makeup, and costumes. They will also have an opportunity to perform Chinese opera on the stage.

