



**INAUGURATION REPORT
OF
“THE REVITALIZATION OF URBAN SPACE AT THE ART COUNCIL”**



**Karachi Neighborhood Improvement Project
Planning and Development Department
Govt. of Sindh**

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Abbreviations

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| CLICK | Competitive & Livable City of Karachi |
| CM | Chief Minister |
| KDA | Karachi Development Authority |
| KNIP | Karachi Neighborhood Improvement Project |
| PD | Project Director |
| SBCA | Sindh Building Control Authority |
| SWF | Single Window Facility |
| WB | World Bank |

Executive Summary

Karachi Neighborhood Improvement Project (KNIP) is a joint initiative of the Govt. of Sindh and the World Bank to enhance public spaces, urban road infrastructure, mobility, inclusion and access to the market in targeted neighborhoods (**Saddar, Malir and Korangi**) in Karachi. It is a four-year project which commenced in July 2017. The three major components of the project are: 1) Public Space and Mobility Improvements in Selected Neighborhoods; 2) Support to Improved Administrative Services and City Capacity Development; and 3) Support to Implementation and Technical Assistance.

In Saddar, Phase I which is also called “Education and Cultural Zone” three roads (Din Muhammad Wafai Road, M.R Kiyani Road & Dr. Zia Uddin Road) have been reconstructed and rehabilitated, a Parking Plaza has been built and renovation and reconstruction work has been done in Art Council.

A launch of Art Council was done on **9th November 2019**. CM Sindh was the Chief Guest of the ceremony. Mr. Ahmed Shah, President Art Council, showed newly constructed and renovated places of the Art Council to the CM. After that, CM formally inaugurated.

Ms. Huma Mir, renowned TV artist was the Master of Ceremony. She welcomed CM, dignitaries and other guests and informed participants about KNIP and its’ work in Saddar and Art Council. A documentary was screened about KNIP.

Mr. Abdul Kabeer Kazi, Project Director (PD) KNIP proudly shared with the participants that the Art Council work has been completed and it is the first milestone of KNIP Component I. He also informed participants that the work of M.R Kiyani and Din Muhammad Wafai Road has also been completed. He gladly shared that once Parking Plaza construction will be completed 700 cars and 400 motorcycles will be parked in it. Surrounding government offices and academic institutions will be benefited from it. He also revealed to the participants that the top surface of parking plaza will be used as public space and many social and cultural activities could be planned such as “Book Mela”. At the end, he apologized to all the citizens for the inconvenience which they faced during construction process and thanked CM for his support to the KNIP.

Mr. Ahmed Shah, President Art Council, thanked to CM, dignitaries and guests to attend the ceremony. He appreciated KNIP PD and team’s efforts to complete work at the Art Council. He emphasized the importance of art and culture and informed participants that world leading universities are now offering degree programs in this field of study. He also shared the details of art and culture courses offered by the Art Council to the students of under privileged areas. He gladly informed that the grant of Art council by the government has been increased. At the end, he appreciated government for its’ excellent infrastructure development not only in Karachi but also in other cities of Sindh and requested government to enhance projection of its work and offered his services in this regard.

After that, Shields were presented to the PD KNIP by CM and the President Art Council. Beside this, an elegant piece of artwork prepared by renowned artist Mr. Shahid Rasam was also presented to CM and PD KNIP.

CM welcomed all the guests and shared his happiness on completion of the Art Council work as it is first small milestone of KNIP. He also shared that KNIP is the first project which is the outcome of a comprehensive study called “Karachi Diagnostic Study” conducted in 2015/2016 by the WB. In this study, a detailed need analysis of the city infrastructure and the utilities was done. He shared the details of phase I of KNIP in Saddar, Malir and Korangi. Beside this, he also informed participants about SWF in SBCA for automation of construction process and improvement of Pakistan’s ranking in the WB “Ease of Doing Business”. He shared the details of upcoming projects of the WB in Karachi.

At the end, Master of Ceremony, Ms. Huma Mir thanked CM and other guests for their presence to make the inauguration a successful event.

Introduction of KNIP

The Govt. of Sindh, with the financial and technical support of the World Bank (WB), started the **Karachi Neighborhood Improvement Project (KNIP)** in July 2017. It is a four-year project. The purpose of the project is to enhance public spaces, urban roads infrastructure, mobility, inclusion, and access to the market in targeted neighborhoods (**Saddar, Malir and Korangi**) in Karachi. The project has the following three major components.

1. Public Space and Mobility Improvements in Selected Neighborhoods
2. Support to Improved Administrative Services and City Capacity Development
3. Support for Implementation and Technical Assistance

Phase 1 Saddar

The name of the sub-component I.1 is “*Saddar Downtown Area Revitalization*” under *Component I*. In Phase I, Din Muhammad Wafai Road/ Strachan Road, Dr Ziauddin Ahmed Road and M.R. Kayani Road which formed a triangular boundary have been selected as a subproject area which are named “Educational and Cultural Zone” due to presence of many Educational and Cultural institutes. The total length of subproject roads is estimated 2.5 km. A parking Plaza has also been built to address the challenges of parking in one of the most crowded areas of the city.



The Revitalization of Urban Space at the Art Council Pakistan

The Art Council of Pakistan has also been renovated to provide safe public space for promoting culture and art activities.

The total renovated area is 3500 Square Meter with estimated cost of Pak Rs 110 Million.

The Salient features of the work done at the Art Council are followings:

- Up gradation of Substation including MEP works
- Infrastructure Up-gradation of Complex
- External Surface Area Improved comprising of following
 - South Courtyard
 - North Courtyard
 - Multipurpose Semi Covered Space
 - Cafeteria with Indoor, outdoor and roof top seating for 200 persons
 - Toilet Blocks and Ancillary Facilities
- Fountains and seating spaces
- Hard landscape, Pavers, Bollards
- Landscape Elements, soft elements plantation.
- Semi covered roof top Canopy



Social and Cultural Impacts



162,000 people have been benefited free of cost from November 2018 till October 2019, out of which 97,620 (60%) are males and 64,380 (40%) females. Space has been used for many socio-cultural activities such as International Conferences, exhibitions, musical nights, and literacy settings.

Launch of Art Council

Launch of the Art Council was held on **November 9, 2019 at the premises of Art Council**. Honorable Chief Minister (CM) Sindh, Mr. Murad Ali Shah inaugurated the facility. Ministers and Secretaries of the various Departments, Senior Govt. Officials, Business Community Representatives, Scholars, well known TV and Film Artists and Notable Citizens attended the event.

Proceedings

Mr. Ahmed Shah, President Art Council and Mr. Kabeer Kazi, Project Director KNIP welcomed CM when he arrived at the Art Council for inauguration. CM visited the premises and Mr. Ahmed Shah explained the rehabilitation work done at the Art Council by KNIP which includes construction of new cafeteria, new toilet block and rehabilitation of north and south courtyards.

Formal Inauguration

CM formally inaugurated the Art Council and recited dua.



Ms. Huma Mir a renowned TV artist was the Master of Ceremony. She welcomed the honorable CM and other respectable guests. She informed all the guests that today's gathering is arranged for the inauguration of ***"The Revitalization of Urban Space at the Art Council"***. She further

informed participants that KNIP is working in Saddar, Malir and Korangi for rehabilitation and revitalization of public spaces as its' objective is to enhance public spaces.

She also informed participants about the following three components of KNIP and shared that the Art Council work has been done under component one of the KNIP.

1. Public Space and Mobility Improvements in Selected Neighborhoods
2. Support to Improved Administrative Services and City Capacity Development
3. Support for Implementation and Technical Assistance

She appreciated CM role not only in development work in the city of Karachi but also in the other cities of the Sindh province and said, ***“Due to CM’s interest in the city, KNIP has been achieving its goals successfully”***.

She valued the role of the Art Council in promoting Art and Culture, ***“Pakistan is well known for art and culture work in the world and the Art Council Pakistan has played major role in that. The credit of Art Council goes to Mr. Ahmed Shah because he has put lot of efforts in establishing the Art Council to the level it is today and congratulated Mr. Ahmed Shah”***.

After that, she announced formal inauguration of the event with Talawat-e-Quran followed by National Anthem.



Screening of Documentary

A documentary was screened that showed progress of work in Saddar phase I and the Art Council. Beside this, the views of President Art Council and Principal of SM Law College were also shared in the documentary. They highly appreciated KNIP initiatives in Saddar specially parking plaza.

Speech by Project Director KNIP

Mr. Abdul Kabeer Kazi, Project Director KNIP informed participants that Saddar project was started in Feb 2018 and planned to be completed in 12-month time but due to monsoon season for 2 months and huge work of utilities in which all overhead utilities have been undergrounded and due to this work has been slightly delayed. He proudly shared the first milestone of KNIP is the Art Council which is 100% completed. He informed participants that work at M.R Kiyani and Din Muhammad Wafai Roads has also been completed. He also shared with participants that in newly constructed parking plaza 700 cars and 400 bikes will be parked and employees of Sindh Secretariat, Federal Bureau of Revenue, faculty and students of three leading academic institutes (*NED City Campus, DJ Science College & SM Law College*) will be benefited. He further added that a public space will be developed on the upper surface of Parking Plaza and students and people of nearby area will be benefited from it and every Sunday a “Book Mela” will be arranged in which people will buy and read books. In this regard, he requested Mr. Ahmed Shah to facilitate this initiative.

In the end, he thanked CM for his support to KNIP and apologized to all the citizens who faced difficulties during construction.



Speech by President Art Council

Mr. Ahmed Shah, President Art Council thanked the honorable CM, dignitaries and guests for attending the inauguration ceremony. He appreciated the hard work of Mr. Kabeer Kazi as Project Director, KNIP and said that he and his team worked day and night to complete the work and even spent Saturdays which are public holidays in the Govt. He further added that the CM, having a background in Engineering, has a flare for art and culture and gladly shared that a huge amount of work has been done in the Art Council during the CM's tenure. He emphasized the importance of art and culture and shared that leading universities in the world are now offering degree programs in this area of study.

He gladly shared that the grant of the Art Council by the government has been increased from 50 thousand to 100 Million from 2008 till to date and it was possible due to the CM's support.

He shared the achievements of the Art Council with the participants and said,

*“30 people are running the Art School; 26 people teach at the Music Academy and 20 people teach at the Theater Academy. The **“School Model of Art Council”** in which a leading painter Mr. Shahid Rassam came from Canada to run the school. He has been collecting 25 hundred thousand per month from the philanthropist of Karachi to meet the expenses of the school and the top leading artists are teaching in this school and students of underprivileged areas such as Lyari, Gadap and Korangi are getting free of cost art and culture training”.*

He appreciated the Govt. efforts to build roads, bridges and infrastructure not only in Karachi but also in other cities of Sindh. He claimed that the volume of work which has been carried in the province by the current provincial govt is unprecedented. But he also complained that the projection of the government's achievements is very weak both on social media and mainstream media. He further said, it is not the role of bureaucrats to do publicity work, but the achievement should be highlighted and in this regard the services of the young generation could be availed as they are very good at managing social media. He also offered his services in this regard.



Presentation of Shield

CM presented shield to the PD KNIP. Another shield was also presented to the PD KNIP by Mr. Ahmed Shah. An elegant piece of artwork was also presented to the CM and the PD KNIP by the Director Art Council and renowned artist Mr. Shahid Rassam, who prepared it. After that, the Secretary Art Council, Professor Ijaz Ahmed Farroqui, presented bouquet to the CM and the CM presented to the PD KNIP.



A piece of Art is presented to CM and PD KNIP



CM Sindh presented Shield to PD KNIP



A bouquet presented to CM by Secretary Art Council



A bouquet presented to PD KNIP by CM

Speech by Honorable Chief Minister Sindh

CM welcomed all the notables and guests and said,

“I am glad to be here today to see a small outcome of a component of KNIP for which I was also part of the planning”.

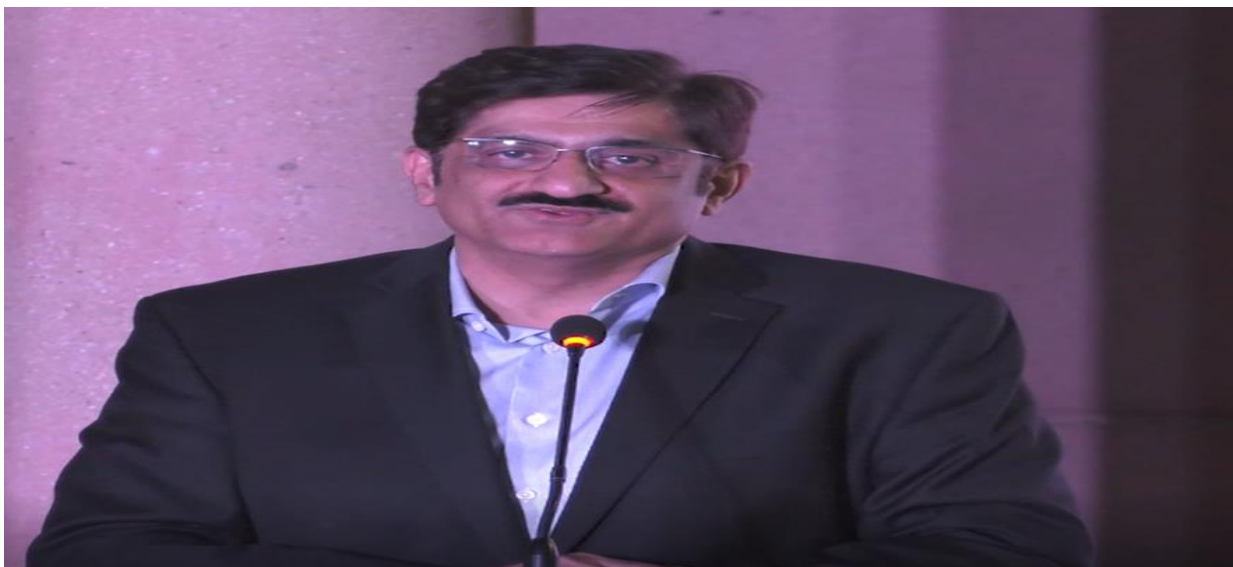
He shared that in 2015/2016 the World Bank team of experts consisting of Water and Sewerage; Transport and Urban Planning specialists conducted a comprehensive study of the city called **“Karachi Diagnostic Study”** (KDS). In KDS, they identified the needs of the city in the above-mentioned sectors. KNIP was the first project which was approved by the WB Board and now many other projects are on their way.

He further added that

“Under KNIP we wanted to improve neighborhoods of Karachi and would like to provide services which should be part of good neighbourhood. Saddar is the oldest area of Karachi and we started from it. Initially, three roads were selected in Saddar which make a triangle. Secretariat and well-known Educational institutes are located on these roads and parking is the major issue and a solution came up to construct an under-ground Parking Plaza. Beside this, in Malir and Korangi neighbourhood improvement work has also been started under KNIP. In another component of KNIP, SBCA system has been automated and a SWF has been established”.

He also informed participants that Pakistan ranking has been improved in WB **“Ease of Doing Business”** Ranking. He gladly shared with the participants that three other projects have also been approved for Karachi by the WB. One is Competitive & Livable City of Karachi (CLICK) under which local government capacities will be improved and some infrastructure upscaling will also be done. The other two projects are related to the Water and Sewerage and Transportation.

In the end, he congratulated PD and all team members of KNIP for successful completion of Art Council work.



Conclusion

Overall, it was a highly successful event and the great achievement to promote art and culture in the city. All the stakeholders were happy and shared their positive feedback. The efforts of KNIP PD and teams were highly appreciated.

Appendices

A- Picture Gallery



Media Wall



CM Sindh visited Parking Plaza



KNIP PD with Mr. Taj Hyder



KNIP Team

Art Council after rehabilitation and Renovation





B– Invitation Card

Karachi Neighborhood Improvement Project
Planning and Development Department
Government of Sindh

In collaboration with Pakistan Arts Council, Karachi
Cordially invites you at the inauguration Ceremony of

**Revitalization of Urban Space in Arts Council of
Pakistan, Karachi**

Honourable Syed Murad Ali Shah, Chief Minister Sindh
has very kindly consented to grace the occasion

On Saturday, 9th November 2019 at 6:00 pm
Venue: Pakistan Arts Council, Karachi

C – Agenda

Inauguration of Art Council

November 9, 2019

| TIME | ACTIVITY |
|----------|---|
| 05:30 pm | Arrival at Parking Plaza Site Briefing at Surface. Walk on the Surface and view Construction work from top Walk downstairs to visit underground Parking site level 1 Exit from entrance ramp for Arts Council |
| 06:05 PM | Arrival at Pakistan Arts Council Poster briefing on Arts Council and inter section designs and off-street parking points Inauguration Visit of cafeteria and courtyards Screening of Documentary Remarks by Project Director, KNIP Welcome by President Arts Council Presentation of Shields Speech by Chief Guest Media Talk Refreshment / Hi Tea |

Murad says Arts Council renovated to provide safe public spaces for art & culture promotion

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that facilities at the Arts Council have been revitalised by improving its external areas to attract a greater audience.

Mr Shah was speaking at a ceremony held for the opening of revitalised urban spaces outside the Arts Council — which offers a platform for social integration of artists, intellectuals, students and women — focusing on fast, low-cost and high-impact interventions.

The ceremony was attended by Home Secretary Qazi Kabir, who is also the project director of the Karachi Neighbourhood Improvement Programme (KNIP), Karachi Arts Council president Mohammed Ahmed Shah, representatives of the World Bank Group, artists and people from all walks of life.

The chief minister said his government with the financial and technical support of the World Bank started a four-year project in July 2017. The purpose of undertaking this project was to enhance public spaces,

urban roads' infrastructure and mobility and to ensure people's access to markets in targeted neighbourhoods such as Saddar, Malir and Korangi.

"Educational and cultural zone in Saddar is being overhauled, renovated and rehabilitated, which includes Din Muhammad Wafai Road or Strachan Road, Dr Ziauddin Ahmed Road and M.R. Kayani Road that form a triangular boundary. This has been selected as a sub-project area of phase-1," he said.

He added that the total length of the sub-project roads was estimated to be 2.5 kilometres. "A parking plaza has also been built to tackle the challenges of parking in one of the most crowded areas of the city located at the National Museum."

Mr Shah said the Arts Council had been renovated to provide safe public spaces for promoting culture and art activities.

"The Karachi Neighbourhood Improvement Project working under the planning and development department is undertaking projects for providing enhanced public spaces in targeted neighbourhoods, improved urban road infrastructure to enhance mobility for access

to important places, improve city's capacity to provide selected administrative services," he said.

He added that the World Bank Group on the request of the Sindh government carried out a Karachi City Diagnostic (KCD) plan for implementation of a Karachi transformation strategy through short- and long-term engagements.

"The Karachi City Diagnostic plan provides an overview of challenges and opportunities faced by the Karachi metropolitan region and estimates investment gap and improve the metropolitan region's economic potential.

"The facility of Arts Council is revitalised and its space is being used for socio-cultural activities such as exhibitions, musical evenings and literacy settings.

"Semi-covered/indoor event space for 100 persons (Gulrang) on the northern and southern courtyards, semi-covered event space for exhibitions on ground floor of Manzar Akbar Hall substation has also been upgraded with two fountains, seating spaces, plantation, landscape features, lighting, ancillary facili-

ties [etc]," he said.

The CM said from socio-economic point, this project was based on participatory approach.

One-window operation at SBCA

Mr Shah said another component of the KNIP was the "single-window facility for the Sindh Building Control Authority to facilitate the automation of construction permits under one roof.

"The time required for construction permits has [been] reduced from 45 days to 15 days. The Ease of Doing Business Index ranking of the country has improved. The SBCA with 60pc weightage in the country has been one of the reasons for better ranking of the country."

He said the Sindh government had always been supportive of initiatives that intended to enhance the rich culture of Karachi like the KNIP had done in the Arts Council's precinct. "The intervention carried out in the Arts Council precinct is not going to end here but will continue in phase-II where open-air theatre of Arts Council will be rejuvenated."