

# **Consultation Panel of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority**

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For discussion  
on 27 May 2009

WKCD CP/04/2009

## **Proposed Arrangements for Stage 1 Public Engagement Exercise**

### **PURPOSE**

This paper aims to seek Consultation Panel members' comments on the proposed arrangements for Stage 1 Public Engagement (PE) exercise.

### **ADVICE SOUGHT**

2. Members are invited to comment on the proposed arrangements for Stage 1 PE exercise including -
  - (a) the targets of the PE exercise (paragraph 4);
  - (b) the scopes of consultation questions (paragraph 5-8);
  - (c) the formats of Stage 1 PE exercise (paragraph 9-11); and
  - (d) the arrangements to enhance transparency (paragraph 12).

### **PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS FOR STAGE 1 PE EXERCISE**

3. The West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (the Authority) acknowledges the importance of collecting views from the community comprehensively at different stages of the preparation of the DP, and had earlier on announced that the Public Engagement (PE) exercise would be divided into 3 stages. In Stage 1, the Authority, through the PE exercise, will gauge the community's expectations on the planning of the WKCD as a whole as well as the views of the stakeholders in the arts and cultural sector on the facilities of the arts and cultural venues, such as how can the facilities suit their creative work and performances. The concerned PE exercise is tentatively scheduled for summer 2009.

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## Targets of the PE Exercise

4. Since the WKCD is a project for the people of Hong Kong, it is essential for us to conduct extensive public consultations to collect views of the community. It is proposed that all PE activities should be open to public participation by means of registration and that the venue and time of every PE activity should be publicised about three weeks in advance to allow the public enough time to take note of and participate in the activity. To facilitate more structured and organised discussions, a draft list of institutions/stakeholders who can be considered for inviting to take part in the PE exercise has been compiled (**Annex**). It is suggested to proactively invite them to participate in the PE exercise to express views. The draft list has included the institutions and individuals that have been engaged in previous public consultation exercises, as well as stakeholders suggested by members of the Performing Arts Committee, Museum Committee and Development Committee under the Authority. The stakeholders are subdivided into broad categories based on their areas of expertise/interest -

### *For Performing Arts Venues*

- (a) Performing arts groups for concert hall/chamber music hall;
- (b) Performing arts groups for xiqu centre;
- (c) Performing arts groups for mega performance venue (including the international performing groups which have used this type of venues in Hong Kong before);
- (d) Performing arts groups for theatres;
- (e) Performing arts venue managers and arts administrators;
- (f) Stage designers and theatre technicians;
- (g) Hirers and arts programme promoters;

### *For Museum and Exhibition Centre*

- (h) Arts associations/arts groups on visual art, design, popular culture and moving image;
- (i) Arts organisations, arts centres and museum organisations professionals;
- (j) Arts critics, independent curators and arts publications professionals;
- (k) Commercial galleries, auction houses and hirers of exhibition

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centres;

## *For Education, Planning, Tourism and Retail*

- (l) Arts foundations and past arts performance sponsors;
- (m) Arts education and learning institutions, including university departments, teachers and youth groups;
- (n) Urban development and environmental protection organisations;
- (o) Tourism and retail

## *Others*

- (p) Disabled persons;
- (q) Senior citizens; and
- (r) Community Groups and others (including Legislative Council members and District Councils).

Members' comments on the draft list are welcomed.

## Scopes of Consultation Questions

5. We propose two scopes of questions be devised - one on general planning matters and another on the facilities of the arts and cultural venues. With a view to collecting specific views to take forward the actual planning of the project, the scopes of these questions are different from the questions raised at previous consultation exercises on the WKCD (please refer to WKCDA CP/02/2009). Members are invited to comment on the proposed scopes of questions. The Secretariat will forward Members' comments to the Project Consultant for them to work out a set of specific questions, which will then be submitted to the Consultation Panel for discussion before the commencement of the PE exercise.

## *Questions on General Planning Matters*

6. It is proposed that the scope of this set of questions can be, in

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general, categorized according to the following levels -

- (a) Look of the district – aim to gauge views on the general layout of the WKCD, such as how the interaction between the buildings and that between the buildings and the open spaces can serve to highlight the distinctive identity of the WKCD;
- (b) Atmosphere of the district – aim to gauge views on the type of feeling/experience that the visitors aspire the WKCD to offer, such as including the atmosphere in the WKCD at different times;
- (c) Access within and to the WKCD – other than the “barrier-free design” for disabled persons, aim to gauge views on the design of access within and to the WKCD including the provision of convenient and comfortable point-to-point connectivity within the WKCD, cycling tracks and considerations in the provision of pedestrian facilities and traffic connections between the WKCD and adjoining areas such as Kowloon Park and Jordan area;
- (d) Use of the facilities - aim to gauge views on how to make individual facilities such as performing arts venues, the Museum, the Exhibition Centre and open spaces more convenient and inviting. For example, apart from the arts and cultural functions of these facilities, whether other aspects including promotion of arts and culture, education, and public/visitors activities space etc. should be catered for;
- (e) How the WKCD fits with its surrounding area – aim to gauge views on the integration of the WKCD as a whole with the surrounding areas and the harbour; and
- (f) Others – aim to gauge views on (i) other areas in relation to the planning of the WKCD requiring attention and (ii) audience building and programming etc.

*Questions on the Facilities and Open Spaces in the Arts and Cultural Venues*

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7. When consulting the stakeholders of the arts and cultural sector, apart from collecting their views on the general planning matters, we also propose to collect their views relating to how the facilities requirements in the arts and cultural venues can suit their presentation of arts. The scope of this set of questions may include-

- (a) Technical requirements for the presentation of arts and cultural performances and viewing - acoustics, stages, lighting, preferred locations of backstage, rehearsal rooms, loading and unloading areas, props stores, store rooms, ticket offices, control rooms, etc., as well as the distance between the seating and the stage; and
- (b) Design requirements of the facilities for the convenience of audience/visitors - the preferred locations of entrance/exit, rest/waiting areas, cloakrooms, dining facilities, parking spaces, souvenir shops and space for educational activities etc., as well as arrangement of the seating to ensure audience comfort.

8. The views collected will facilitate the Artistic Director in setting out the detailed arrangements for activities and venue space. More in-depth discussion on the design of facilities and space in the arts and cultural venues will be conducted in Stage 2 PE exercise.

## Formats of Stage 1 PE Exercise

9. As mentioned above, targets of the PE exercise include performing arts groups, visual arts groups, venue managers and professional technicians, youth, senior citizens, disabled persons, education sector, tourism industry, retail industry, and community groups, etc. Therefore, we propose to use different consultation formats for different stakeholder groups. The preliminary proposal for the formats of Stage 1 PE exercise is as follow:

- (a) The first PE meeting – we propose to hold the first PE meeting with youth groups including secondary and university students. Since the younger generation will be the future

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users of the WKCD, their participation is essential. It is proposed that the first PE meeting should be held in late July/early August to enable more young people to take part in it. As for the format, we propose to start the meeting by introducing overseas examples of arts and cultural districts through dynamic visual media, followed by a question and answer session and breakout session.

- (b) The second PE meeting – we propose that the second PE meeting should target parents and teachers. Not only do they play an important role in nurturing the next generation, they are also users of the future WKCD. It is proposed that the format of this PE meeting should be similar to the first one.
- (c) The third PE meeting – we propose that the third PE meeting should be a public forum for the general public. The Consultation Panel may consider holding at least three public forums during Stage 1 PE, one in Hong Kong, one in Kowloon and one in the New Territories, to make it convenient for people living in different districts to participate.
- (d) Thereafter, the Consultation Panel to hold PE group meetings for all the stakeholder groups listed in **Annex** including the stakeholders of the arts and cultural sector. At least two sessions are suggested to be held for each group. Additional sessions will be arranged if the size of the stakeholder group is large. The meetings are expected to take the form of in-depth small group discussions. It is estimated that at least 35 group discussions will be held.

10. Members are welcome to comment on various aspects of the WKCD development in all PE meetings. At the same time, Members can also serve as facilitators in small group discussions to help move the discussion along. Moreover, the Hong Kong Institute of Planners, Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors, Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, Hong Kong Institute of Architects, Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects, Yau Tsim Mong District Council, Department of Architecture of the University of Hong Kong, Department of Architecture of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Academy of Visual Arts of the Hong Kong Baptist University, School of Design of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) and Harbour-front Enhancement Committee have accepted

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the Authority's invitation to be its network collaborators in preparing the DP. Through their networks, these institutions can help the Authority disseminate the PE materials to related stakeholders of their respective sectors and enlarge the network of feedback collection. They will also help serve as facilitators in the breakout sessions in the PE activities.

11. In order to reach out to those who cannot attend public forums or the PE meetings, the Consultation Panel could consider designing a questionnaire comprising questions as outlined in the scope mentioned in paragraph 6 and 7 in the form of a consultation leaflet and distributing it through the following channels for collecting a wide spectrum of views:

- (a) Various District Offices;
- (b) LCSD venues;
- (c) Arts and cultural related organisations such as the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, HKADC, Hong Kong Arts Centre etc.;
- (d) All secondary schools and universities; and
- (e) Network collaborators.

## Arrangements to Enhance Transparency

12. Apart from the aforementioned proposed arrangements of publicising the venue and time of every PE event beforehand to allow the public enough time to take note of and participate in the event, it is also proposed that progress of the PE exercise, including meetings held, number of participants, dates of upcoming meetings/events, etc., as well as audio recordings of the PE meetings (if available) should be uploaded to the Authority's website to enhance transparency of the PE exercise.

## **WAY FORWARD**

13. Members are welcome to comment on the arrangements for Stage 1 PE exercise outlined above, which are only preliminary suggestions. Subject to Members' views, detailed work plans and

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schedules, publicity measures, as well as the consultation questions to be put forward in the PE exercise and set out in the consultation document will be presented in the second meeting of the Consultation Panel for Members' comments.

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