

立法會
Legislative Council

Paper No. WKCD-382
(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/HS/2/04

**Subcommittee on
West Kowloon Cultural District Development**

**Minutes of twenty-eighth meeting held on
Saturday, 6 January 2007, at 9:00 am
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

- Members present** : Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC (Chairman)
Hon James TO Kun-sun (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J.,
JP
Hon Margaret NG
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP
Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
- Members absent** : Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah, SBS, JP
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP
Hon SIN Chung-kai, JP
Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon CHOY So-yuk, JP
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon LEE Wing-tat
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, SBS, JP
Hon CHIM Pui-chung
Hon Albert Jinghan CHENG

**Public officers
attending**

: Agenda Item III

Ms Esther LEUNG
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (3)

Mr Vincent FUNG
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(West Kowloon Cultural District) 1

Miss Susanna SIU
Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(West Kowloon Cultural District) 1

**Attendance by
invitation**

: Agenda Item III

Museum of Site, Ltd.

Mr Andrew LAM
Representative

Mr Andy TAM
Representative

Hong Kong Arts Festival Society Ltd.

Mr SO Kwok-wan
Programme Manager

Hong Kong Arts Development Council

Mr MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Chairman

Miss Eileen MOK
Manager, Planning & Research

Hong Kong Curators Association

Mr CHAN Ki-hung
Chairman

Mr TANG Man-leung
Vice Chairman

Individual

Dr Robert CHUNG
Public Opinion Programme
The University of Hong Kong

Hong Kong Alternatives

Ms Karen LOH
Member

The Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong

Ms CHAN Kim-sing
Chairman

Ms LUK Kit
Administrative Secretary

Individual

Mr Oscar HO
The Department of Cultural and Religious Studies
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Asia Art Archive

Ms Claire HSU
Executive Director

Ms Jane DEBEVOISE
Chair, Board of Directors

The Hong Kong Institute of Planners

Miss PONG Yuen-yee
Vice-President

The Hong Kong Institute of Architect

Mr Michael CHIANG
Chairman, Planning and Lands Committee

Clerk in attendance : Ms Anita SIT
Chief Council Secretary (1)4

Staff in attendance : Ms Pauline NG
Assistant Secretary General 1

Mr Anthony CHU
Council Secretary (1)2

Ms Christina SHIU
Legislative Assistant (1)7

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I Confirmation of minutes of meeting

(Paper No. WKCD-363 -- Minutes of meeting on 4 October 2006)

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2006 were confirmed.

II Information papers issued since last meeting

(Paper Nos. WKCD-351, 352 and 353 -- Agendas for the seventh, eighth and ninth meetings of the Museums Advisory Group on 27 September, 10 October and 20 October 2006 respectively)

Paper Nos. WKCD-354, 355 and 356 -- Agenda and papers for the third meeting of the Financial Matters Advisory Group on 27 October 2006

Paper Nos. WKCD-357, 358 and 359 -- Agenda and papers for the fourth meeting of the Financial Matters Advisory Group on 20 November 2006

Paper Nos. WKCD-360, 361 and 362 -- Agenda and papers for the fourth meeting of the Consultative Committee on Core Arts and Cultural Facilities of the West Kowloon Cultural District on 23 November 2006

Paper Nos. WKCD-364 and 365 -- Agenda and paper for the fifth meeting of the Financial Matters Advisory Group on 18 December 2006

Paper No. WKCD-366 -- The Administration's press release dated 24 December 2006 on "Extension of the appointment of members of the Consultative

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Committee on the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities of the West Kowloon Cultural District and its three Advisory Groups" with the latest membership lists)

2. Members noted the above information papers issued since the last meeting.

III Progress of the work on the West Kowloon Cultural District project

(Paper No. WKCD-332 -- Discussion paper for the third meeting of the Consultative Committee on the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities of the West Kowloon Cultural District on 7 September 2006 -- Report of the Performing Arts and Tourism Advisory Group

Paper No. WKCD-350 -- Information paper entitled "Comparison between the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities (CACF) as defined in the Invitation for Proposals and the current recommendations of Performing Arts and Tourism Advisory Group and Museums Advisory Group of the Consultative Committee on the CACF of the West Kowloon Cultural District" provided by the Administration

Paper No. WKCD-369 -- Information paper entitled "Progress of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project" provided by the Administration

Paper No. WKCD-370 -- Paper entitled "Recommendations of the Phase I and Phase II Study Reports, the Administration's Response in June 2006, relevant comments/recommendations of the Consultative Committee and Advisory Groups and other observations of the Legislative Council Secretariat" prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat)

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3. The Subcommittee deliberated (Index of proceedings attached at the **Appendix**).

4. The Chairman advised members that this meeting was held for the Administration to report on the progress of work on the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD), in particular, the work of the Consultative Committee on the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities in WKCD (CC) and its three Advisory Groups (AGs). Deputations who had previously given views on the way forward for the WKCD had been invited to attend this meeting to present their views on the work done so far by CC and AGs, particularly the reports of the Performing Arts and Tourism Advisory Group (PATAG) and the Museums Advisory Group (MAG). He also drew members' attention to the paper (Paper No. WKCD-370) prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat which tabulated the recommendations of the Phase I and Phase II Study Reports in juxtaposition with the Administration's response in June 2006, relevant comments/recommendations of CC and AGs and other relevant observations of the Secretariat.

5. The Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (3) (DS/HA) briefed members on the progress of work of CC and its AGs. She said that at its meeting on 23 November 2006, CC had discussed the report submitted by MAG. CC endorsed the MAG's recommendations and agreed to forward the report to the Financial Matters Advisory Group (FMAG) for assessment of the financial implications of the recommended facilities. FMAG was planning to submit to CC its recommendation report in the first quarter of 2007. CC would then deliberate on the recommendations of the three AGs from a holistic perspective and thereafter submit its recommendations to the Chief Executive (CE) on the arts and cultural facilities to be provided in WKCD and the possible financing approaches for developing and operating those facilities. To allow sufficient time for CC and AGs to accomplish their tasks, CE had approved the extension of the appointment of the members of CC and AGs for six months up to the end of June 2007. She then highlighted the recommendations of MAG to set up a cultural institution under the name M+, or Museum Plus and to develop an Exhibition Centre, as well as the work progress of the FMAG.

6. The Chairman welcomed the deputations and invited them to present their views in turn.

Presentation of views

Museum of Site, Ltd. (MOS)

7. Mr Andrew LAM, representative of MOS, declared that he was a member of MAG. He commented that the public consultation conducted by MAG was not thorough and the public participation level had been low. MAG had not conducted detailed discussion and analysis on the 60-odd themes received from the public. MOS had reservation on the "Centre Pompidou"

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approach of the proposed M+ which sought to cover collections of various groupings under an umbrella institution. MOS considered that this approach was contrary to the global trend that each museum was devoted to one particular theme, as in the case of the 200-odd museums in Tokyo. The M+ proposal might be "dangerous" and would not be conducive to the development of the currently frail museum culture in Hong Kong. Pointing out that the global trend showed that history and science themes were more appealing to the public than visual culture, he said that the Administration should conduct thorough consultation on MAG's recommendations, in particular the M+ proposal. He cautioned that museum facilities on visual culture under M+ would compete against the existing art museums managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD). As the 21st century was an era of media culture, any new museums should capitalize this development.

8. Mr Andy TAM, representative of MOS, added that there was perceived conflict of interests in the composition of MAG and he had doubts whether MAG could truly reflect public views. As it was envisaged that legislation would be enacted for the museums in WKCD, more discussion should be conducted on how to balance the need to encourage creativity and the need to ensure proper monitoring under the future governing structure. He expressed reservation on MAG's recommendation to subsume ink art, which was representative of Chinese traditional art, under the broad grouping of visual art. He opined that ink art should be given the treatment of a distinct grouping to showcase its importance and uniqueness in visual culture, and this in turn would enhance the role of Hong Kong in the collection and development of this art form.

Hong Kong Arts Festival Society Ltd. (HKAFS)

9. Mr SO Kwok-wan, Programme Manager of HKAFS, said that the Society welcomed PATAG's recommendation on providing more performing venues. The Society considered that the recommended venues would need further study taking into account the projected audience size, the demand of the public and the attendance rates of the existing performing venues. The Government should expand its focus beyond WKCD to examine the relationship between the WKCD venues with the existing performing venues. Given that it was the Government's intention that WKCD would adopt a completely new operation and financing mode, the recommendations of AGs would need further study and consultation with reference to overseas experience in managing cultural districts or complexes. Although PATAG and MAG reports had deliberated over the cultural vision for WKCD, it was necessary to examine in-depth how the future facilities and programmes in WKCD could achieve this cultural vision. The future financing proposals recommended by FMAG would also need consultation with the public.

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Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC)

10. Mr MA Fung-kwok, Chairman of HKADC, declared that he was a member of CC. He said that HKADC had solicited the views of the arts and cultural sector on WKCD through consultation forums and surveys. While the report of PATAG had responded to HKADC's request on the need for more performing venues, the report of MAG had addressed HKADC's view that WKCD should promote and develop local arts, enhance arts education, and the establishment of other complementary facilities in WKCD. HKADC supported the M+ proposal in view of its forward-looking and flexible approach. The Council considered that CC should give consideration to the promotion of cultural and creative industries, the training of talents for the arts and cultural sector, the governance mode and the future development of WKCD and how WKCD could catalyze the realization of a long-term arts and cultural vision for Hong Kong.

(Post-meeting note: The speaking note of HKADC was tabled at the meeting and subsequently issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)662/06-07 on 8 January 2007)

Hong Kong Curators Association (HKCA)

11. Mr CHAN Ki-hung, Chairman of HKCA, expressed concern that M+ had not yet had an official Chinese name and this would not be conducive to public consultation given that Hong Kong was predominantly a Chinese society. HKCA suggested that the Government should consider enacting a piece of legislation to provide a solid regulatory framework for museums to educate and promote culture. HKCA had reservation on the four broad groupings recommended by MAG, which were too narrow, skewing towards visual culture. He pointed out that science museums were more popular than visual arts museums, and some other themes, which carried the public's collective memories, were also worth considering. MAG's recommended four groupings had different degrees of overlapping with the existing museums managed by LCSD. As such, M+ and the existing museums would develop their collections on the same themes separately and no full picture on one theme could be presented by any one museum. Due to the competition for collection under the same themes by different museums, the price of the collection items might become higher, and this would lead to unnecessary wastage of public resources. The Association agreed that flexibility should be allowed for the curators of the museums in WKCD in future, but would caution that too much flexibility on the themes would make it difficult to build up collections and as a result, the museums would not be able to establish their character and audience base. The Association was disappointed with MAG's report as the concept M+ was too broad and MAG did not provide any guidelines on the collection strategy. A wide scope of collections would easily lead to mediocrity and the proposed Hong Kong perspective for the collections of M+ might result in the future collections being too local lacking in a global dimension.

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*Dr Robert CHUNG, Public Opinion Programme
The University of Hong Kong*

12. Dr Robert CHUNG, Public Opinion Programme, the University of Hong Kong, said that his submission focused on policy making and the proper use and interpretation of public opinions in the decision process. Whilst appreciating the innovative concept M+ recommended by MAG after discussion and consultation, he expressed concern whether the concept was understood and accepted by the general public. Given that the public was the ultimate users of the future museum facilities, it was important that they should develop a sense of ownership and they should be involved and consulted at different stages of planning and development of the proposed M+. To facilitate the understanding of the public, the Administration could provide them with viable options at strategic stages for public consultation. Public hearings, civil referendum and opinion surveys could be conducted to gauge public views. However, he cautioned that in conducting opinion surveys, the established international standards should be followed. Referring to the Government's commissioning of a consultancy to carry out a study on public opinions on WKCD in February 2005, he noted that the consultancy brief had stipulated that sample design and the estimation method should be subject to the vetting and approval of the Government and the questionnaire should be designed by the Consultant in consultation with the Government and subject to the Government's approval. He opined that in conducting large-scale opinion surveys, the consultant should be given complete autonomy, otherwise, the survey could not be considered as conducted by an "independent" consultant.

Hong Kong Alternatives (HKA)

13. With the aid of powerpoint, Ms Karen LOH, members of HKA, presented HKA's views as follows

- (a) HKA proposed a cultural green park with arts and cultural facilities in WKCD to improve the environment and the quality of life and to enhance social harmony in Hong Kong;
- (b) According to a survey conducted by HKA, more than 80% of the public agreed that a cultural green park should be developed at the West Kowloon Reclamation (WKR);
- (c) Comparing to other harbour cities, the harbourfront of the Victoria Harbour was barren without much green areas and was unsightly.

(Post-meeting note: The powerpoint presentation materials were subsequently issued to members via e-mail on 8 January 2007.)

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The Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong (CAA)

14. Ms CHAN Kim-sing, Chairman of CAA, said that the Association supported PATAG's report in that it had responded to the request of the performing arts sector for setting up a Xiqu Centre. Citing the lack of a formal institution to train budding artists of Cantonese Opera for succession, she welcomed the work of HKADC on the promotion of Cantonese Opera and the setting up of a Development Fund by the Government in 2005. She however expressed concern that the software development might not keep pace with the hardware development in WKCD and called on the Government to implement measures to speed up the development of software. She also relayed the concern of some Cantonese Opera companies, especially the small to medium ones, about the affordability of the rentals of the future performing venues in WKCD, which might operate on a self-financing basis. She suggested that the Government should consider measures to enhance creativity of local art groups. Consideration could be given to setting up a dedicated fund for the sustainable development of the arts and cultural sector.

*Mr Oscar HO, the Department of Cultural and Religious Studies
The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

15. Mr Oscar HO, the Department of Cultural and Religious Studies, the Chinese University of Hong Kong declared that he was a member of MAG. With involvement in private museums for more than 20 years, he considered the M+ concept innovative, visionary and forward-looking and could embrace a large variety of art forms. The concept was responsive to the latest global critical thinking concerning the future development of museums and had aroused great interest among overseas museums professionals. However, it was necessary to explain details of the M+ to the public in easily comprehensible terms. He said that over the past few years, there had been no in-depth research or opinion survey on how the museums in Hong Kong should develop and more studies in this respect should be conducted for the future museum facilities in WKCD. Given the little information in this respect, MAG had found it difficult to discuss in depth the themes and the design for the museum facilities in WKCD. He concurred that the museum facilities in WKCD should be considered in conjunction with the overall cultural policy and the existing museums. He also pointed out that in public consultation, the respective views of the general public and professionals should be accorded suitable weights and the views of professionals should be respected. Sufficient room for creativity should be allowed for professionals to design world-class museum facilities in WKCD to meet public aspirations.

Asia Art Archive (AAA)

16. Ms Jane DEBEVOISE, Chair, Board of Directors of AAA, declared that she was a member of MAG. She said that the M+ was an exciting and forward-looking proposal in line with the global trend. In addition to

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embodying the traditional roles of museums on collection, exhibition, conservation and education, M+ was more than a traditional museum and was meant to engage and respond to the public. M+ was meant to provide a dedicated platform on modern (20th century) and contemporary (21st century) visual cultures. In view of the rapid change in museums and culture, the boundary between different arts forms had become blurred. As shown in overseas metropolitan cities where there were both traditional and contemporary arts museums, M+ and the existing arts museums would have their respective roles. The M+ concept would make the museum facilities in WKCD sustainable in the long term. She pointed out that there had been continuous discussion on the arts and cultural facilities and its relationship with the existing cultural policy since the WKCD project was launched. Curators of the existing museums had been involved in the discussion of MAG informally and formally.

17. Ms Clare HSU, Executive Director of AAA, declared that she was a member of MAG. She supplemented that the proposed M+ could cater for the rapid changes in the roles and functions of museums. From her communication with curators of overseas museums, their reaction towards the M+ proposal was positive and considered the concept visionary. As no such institution had existed in Hong Kong or Asia, M+ would provide a good opportunity to put Hong Kong on the world cultural map.

The Hong Kong Institute of Planners (HKIP)

18. Miss PONG Yuen-ye, Vice-President of the HKIP, said that there was a need for the Government to substantiate its cultural policy in conjunction with the vision for WKCD as it seemed that the current cultural policy, in particular the strategies for cultural software development under the policy, might not be able to accommodate and complement the recommendations of PATAG and MAG. She expressed concern that the training of management professionals and art talents would not be in time for the planning and operation of the arts and cultural facilities in WKCD. To overcome this problem, consideration should be given to developing the project in phases, and conduct regular review of the project. She enquired whether and when the public would be consulted after CC's recommendations were submitted to CE. Given that the reports of PATAG and MAG might not be fully comprehended by the public, the Administration should consider strengthening publicity to explain details of the reports, preferably with the aid of display models. Citing the recent public outcry over the demolition of the Central Star Ferry Pier and its clock tower, she stressed that it was imperative that clear and adequate information should be provided in the public consultations on WKCD.

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA)

19. Mr Michael CHIANG, Chairman, Planning and Lands Committee of HKIA, welcomed MAG's recommendation on holding an open architectural competition for M+ but considered it imperative that the Administration should

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explain details of the recommendations of PATAG and MAG to the public. He considered that there was a lack of coordination for the collection development among the existing museums and enquired about the positioning of the existing museums when the museum facilities in WKCD were in place. He suggested that consideration might be given to converting some existing museums to training facilities for cultural software development. While supporting the M+ concept, he said that both the majority preferences and minority preferences should be respected. As the four broad groupings proposed by MAG could not cater for certain minority preferences, he suggested that some small museums on the minority themes could be provided in WKCD. He pointed out that architecture formed part of the visual art in Hong Kong and iconic buildings, such as the Kowloon Walled City, which were unique in the world, could be one of the themes at the WKCD museums. Mr CHIANG opined that implementation of the WKCD could be undertaken in stages as arts and cultural scenes were changing rapidly. In reviewing each stage in the light of public feedback, the next stage could be modified to meet the changing needs and circumstances of the community.

Discussion

20. While acknowledging that the M+ concept was a new and good idea, Ms Margaret NG expressed concern that the concept was not comprehensive and MAG had not touched upon the details on how the cultural institution should be established. Citing the successful cases of Guggenheim Museum Bilbao (GMB) and Tate Modern, she highlighted the importance of the collections or architectural aspects of the museums. Given that MAG had only outlined the M+ concept without providing details on its collections and the hardware requirements, she sought the Administration's elaboration on the collection policy of M+ and whether it would serve the education purpose of a museum in the conventional sense. Given that M+ was such an innovative idea, she sought views from the deputations who had expressed reservations on the concept. She also queried why MAG recommended that M+ should focus on 20th-21st century visual culture and enquired details about the governance structure for M+.

21. DS/HA said that MAG had stated in its report that M+ should embody the traditional functions of a museum on collection, conservation, exhibition and education. M+ would be a single cultural institution with its mission to focus on 20th to 21st century visual culture, broadly defined, from a Hong Kong perspective, the perspective of now, and with a global vision. Four initial broad groupings for collection building were proposed, namely, design, moving image, popular culture and visual art. Subject to the acceptance of the M+ concept by the Government, the MAG report suggested that an advisory committee should be set up at an early stage to advise on and oversee the implementation plan, the collection strategy and relevant preparatory steps. MAG also proposed that for the long-term governance of M+, a statutory body with an independent Board of Trustees should be established to guarantee the principles of curatorial independence, professional excellence, collaboration and accountability to the

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public.

22. Citing GMB and Tate Modern, Mr Oscar HO said the vision of a museum and its collections would have implications on the design of the museum. Given that the size of the site and the amount of resources that would be available for the development of museums in WKCD were not yet finalized, and in view of the time constraints, MAG could only set out in its report an overall framework and it would be up to the curators and other professionals responsible for the planning of M+ to work out the details for the establishment of M+. He concurred that further studies would be required for M+. On the recommendation for M+ to focus on 20th-21st century visual culture, he explained that focusing on this period would bring the M+ experience closer to its audience. MAG was aware that different definitions for modern art and contemporary art were used in different places over the world. As such, MAG had avoided using these terms in its recommendations. On the training of software for the museum facilities, Mr HO pointed out that in the past, there had been no structured training programme in Hong Kong to groom management and curatorial professionals for museums and the Government should strengthen its efforts in this regard.

23. Mr CHAN Ki-hung of HKCA said that Hong Kong needed to conduct more basic research work on museums. While agreeing that some flexibility should be allowed for the future curators of the museums in WKCD, HKCA was concerned about the lack of clear guidelines on the collection policy at the planning stage for M+. Such guidelines were required for the development of the specifications for the hardware, as the nature and scope of collections would have implications on the space and environmental requirements and the design of the museums.

24. Prof Patrick LAU welcomed the M+ proposal which he considered was innovative but expressed concern about the role of M+ in relation to the existing museums. On public consultation, he suggested more extensive use of display models/exhibits to facilitate better understanding of the relevant planning concepts. He enquired whether HKCA was represented in the MAG. He opined that to enable early commencement of the preparatory work for the M+, in particular the development of collections, the governing body for M+ should be formed as early as practicable. He enquired why the MAG report recommended that an interim venue outside WKCD should be identified to carry out the preparatory work. He also sought the details of the governance structure for M+ and the concrete timeframe on the way forward for WKCD.

25. The Chairman sought the Administration's explanation on how MAG's report had responded to the Subcommittee's recommendations on the adoption of an integrated and coordination approach in planning WKCD and how WKCD was strategically placed to catalyze the realization of a long-term arts and cultural vision of Hong Kong.

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26. DS/HA recapped that the role of CC and AGs was to re-examine and re-confirm if appropriate the need for the core arts and culture facilities (CACF) in WKCD as defined in the Invitation for Proposal (IFP) issued in September 2003. As such, detailed planning and technical studies on the arts and culture facilities would not be undertaken at this stage. The report of MAG aimed to provide an overall direction and planning framework for the future museum facilities in WKCD. The current thinking was that the future statutory authority for WKCD would conduct detailed studies on each individual facility. In view of the long lead time from the acceptance of the M+ proposal to the completion of the museum facilities, MAG recommended that the preparatory work should be started as early as possible, with an interim venue identified somewhere to provide a platform for ideas, partnership, education, research and professional staff training during the period before the museum facilities in WKCD was formally opened.

27. On public consultation, DS/HA advised that PATAG and MAG had conducted consultations with the arts and cultural sector and the general public through public forums and focus group meetings. They had also gathered information on overseas experience through an overseas visit and meeting with overseas experts. The two AGs had set out in detail in their reports how they had arrived at their recommendations. She added that after CC had submitted its report to CE, if it was considered that the public should be consulted further, more relevant information would be provided to facilitate the public's understanding of CC's/AG's recommendations.

28. Mrs Selina CHOW declared that she was a member of CC and Chairman of PATAG. She said that the AGs had to balance the divergent views of different stakeholders and consider how to engage the public in their work. The Liberal Party considered that the present recommendations were balanced, innovative and forward-looking, and appreciated that MAG had conducted extensive consultations and thorough deliberation in arriving at its recommendations. Pointing out that WKCD had been on the drawing board for more than 10 years, she expressed concern on the progress of the project and sought the deputations' views on how to engage the public on WKCD without further delaying the implementation of the project.

29. In response, Dr Robert CHUNG said that the public should be consulted at each strategic stage and the use of models or exhibits would facilitate the public's understanding of the ideas underlying the proposals. During the public consultation, viable options could be provided to the public to solicit their views. Since the WKCD project was re-launched in response to public views, the public was generally satisfied that the Government had heeded their views and agreed that the project should be expedited. Given that the M+ proposal was mainly a conceptual one, the public could be involved in the discussion of the details. Given that M+ did not have an official Chinese name, he suggested that a competition could be held inviting the public to make suggestions. He further said that public consultations could be of different scales and were not

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necessarily time-consuming. Some could be undertaken in a shorter timeframe. To show that the Government respected public views, appropriate weightings should be accorded to public views and expert views. He had confidence that the public were capable of rational discussions and providing reasonable views. The WKCD project could be a good platform for public engagement to enhance social cohesion on cultural development.

30. Mrs Selina CHOW noted that Mr Andrew LAM of MOS was a member of MAG. She asked whether he had presented his opposing views at MAG, and if so, how other members of the MAG had responded to his views. She also requested Mr LAM to elaborate his comment that the Centre Pompidou was an old concept and how, in his view, the museums in WKCD should be planned. She also asked Mr CHAN Ki-hung of HKCA whether further discussion on the themes of the museums would have a negative impact on the progress of the WKCD project.

31. Mr Andrew LAM of MOS said that he had reflected his views on M+ to MAG and indeed, MAG had included some minority views in its report. While professional views had been discussed at MAG, the public had little involvement in the discussion on the development of museums. The various themes received since 2004 had not been given sufficient deliberations at the meetings. He pointed out that most new museums over the world would not adopt the Pompidou Centre style of housing different themes under one roof. Instead each museum would have its own dedicated theme. He considered that the M+ concept would not be conducive to collection building and fundraising and the outturn museum facilities would not be attractive to visitors. He also opined that the future statutory body should establish a communication platform to facilitate continuous dialogue with the arts and cultural sector on the development of museums in WKCD.

32. Mr CHAN Ki-hung of HKCA said that HKCA was of the view that the museums in WKCD should be planned in conjunction with the existing public and private museums in Hong Kong. Enactment of a piece of legislation on museums could facilitate the healthy development of museum facilities in Hong Kong. He reiterated his reservation on those recommended groupings that had significant overlapping with the themes of the existing museums. While a small extent of overlapping might be beneficial to competition, the Government should consider revising those groupings with significant overlapping with existing museums, namely the two groupings of "design" and "popular culture". It was a global trend to cluster museums of different themes together to increase the attractiveness to visitors. He considered that MAG's recommendations could be slightly amended without causing serious delay to the WKCD project.

33. Miss CHAN Yuen-han expressed concern on how the Administration would handle the public views received by the AGs and whether it would present the divergent views expressed by members of the AGs for discussion by the community at large. While agreeing that a regular platform for the future

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WKCD statutory body to communicate with experts was important, she stressed that it was equally important to consult the public at various stages of the project in order to promote a sense of ownership among the public. She enquired about the timing for the Administration to consult the public on the recommendations of CC/AGs and the approach for handling divergent views in the interim. Miss CHAN urged the Administration to lower the development density in WKCD, as the public had expressed serious concern on the "wall effect" caused by the tall buildings on the waterfront.

34. DS/HA and the Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (West Kowloon Cultural District)1 (PAS(WKCD)) responded that there were changes in the scope and specifications in the arts and cultural facilities and the ancillary facilities recommended by PATAG and MAG when compared with those specified in IFP. FMAG would study the financing options for constructing and operating the recommended facilities. In this regard, it would consider the suitable proportions of the cultural and non-cultural components in WKCD on the premise of sustainable development. Upon receipt of FMAG's report, CC would consider the overall planning and submit its recommendations to CE. The next stage would be on the formation of the statutory body, which would be responsible for preparing the masterplan for WKCD and undertaking detailed studies on individual facilities. The public could have ample opportunities to give views on the role and functions etc. of the statutory body at the next stage.

35. In response to the Chairman's enquiry on whether CC would discuss the divergent views expressed and present these views for public consultation before it submitted its recommendations to CE, DS/HA replied that at this stage, the Administration had yet to formulate a concrete plan on these matters. She undertook to convey to CC the views of Members and deputations on the need for greater public involvement in the planning process.

36. Dr KWOK Ka-ki expressed disappointment that the Administration had no plan to consult the public on the AGs' reports. He recalled that the WKR area was originally planned for a park and pointed out that more hardware in WKCD might imply that more property developments were required to finance the project. He opined that the public should be consulted on the reports of PATAG and MAG at an early stage. If the public was consulted only after the CC or even the Administration had taken a view on the facilities and the financial arrangements for the project, the public consultation would probably be a cosmetic consultation. He suggested that the Subcommittee should consider conducting public consultation on its own. He also expressed concern on the overlapping of the mega performance venue recommended by PATAG with the multi-purpose stadium complex planned to be built in Kai Tak, as well as the overlapping of the other recommended facilities in WKCD with the existing LCSD facilities, pointing out that such overlapping would lead to wastage of public resources.

37. DS/HA reiterated that the PATAG and MAG were to re-examine and

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re-confirm if appropriate the need for the CACF in the WKCD. FMAG would submit its report on the financing implications of the recommended facilities to CC. CC would then take an overall view to examine the reports of the AGs. As such, the Administration had no plan to conduct further public consultation on the reports of PATAG and MAG before the reports of all the three AGs had been deliberated by CC. Besides, PATAG and MAG had consulted the public on matters under its respective terms of reference and the reports and papers of the meetings of AGs were made available to the public on the Internet.

38. Taking note of the Administration's explanation, Dr KWOK Ka-ki said that the Subcommittee should consider holding public hearings to gauge the public's views on the WKCD project.

39. The Chairman said that in the Subcommittee's Phase II Report, the Subcommittee had highlighted the need for the Administration to articulate how WKCD was strategically placed to catalyze the realization of a long-term arts and cultural vision for Hong Kong, the importance of training of talents and the integration of WKCD arts and cultural facilities with existing arts and cultural facilities. He asked whether CC would address these recommendations in its study and recommendations.

40. DS/HA recapped that the Government's cultural policy was to create an environment conducive to the freedom of artistic expression and creation, and the wider participation in cultural activities, with the Government playing the role of a facilitator to provide a suitable environment and support for the local arts and cultural development. Developing WKCD into an integrated arts and cultural district was a major initiative to implement the existing policy on culture and arts. CC would examine, inter alia, what governance mode would be appropriate for the facilities in WKCD and how the development of software could complement the facility development. The Home Affairs Bureau would review the existing arts and cultural facilities managed by LCSD in the light of the planning for WKCD. In fact, the Committee on Museums, which was one of the three committees formed to follow up the recommendations of Culture and Heritage Commission, was studying the future development and governance mode of public museums and was aware of the need to interface the existing museums with future museum facilities in WKCD.

41. Ms Margaret NG pointed out that the Administration should dispense with its old thinking on public involvement, which should be an interactive process. The Administration or CC should conduct consultation on the reports of the AGs. She enquired how M+ could catalyze and integrate with the peripheral areas as GMB in Bilbao had catalyzed the revitalization of the areas in its vicinity. She appreciated that a versatile framework for the museum facilities in WKCD was needed. However, the vision of M+ was too broad as details on the collection building and other important requirements were lacking. The operation of M+ and how M+ would integrate and coordinate with existing museums had not been given sufficient discussion by MAG. Despite that the

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M+ concept should be welcomed, the details would need further discussion. She expressed disappointment that the ink art, which was a unique and important traditional Chinese art form, was subsumed under the grouping of visual art. She suggested that before the relevant legislation was enacted, a provisional body could be set up in the interim to undertake preparatory work and refine the M+ concept through conducting more structured consultation with public. She also remarked that the Administration should involve HKCA in planning the museums in WKCD.

42. DS/HA thanked members for their views and explained that MAG had stated at the outset of its report that it did not intend to define specifics of the museums in WKCD. Rather it sought to provide a vision, conceptual framework and some broad guidelines to assist future governing bodies and professionals to formulate detailed plans. Notwithstanding this, the report had suggested action steps for the preparatory work prior to the formation of the governing body for WKCD. If MAG's recommendations were accepted by the Government, consideration would be given to implementing some interim measures suggested by MAG in consultation with the arts and cultural sector.

43. PAS(WKCD) said that quite a number of senior members of the HKCA had attended most meetings of MAG. The respective reports of PATAG and MAG were different in that the former provided more details on the recommended facilities while the latter emphasized on the conceptual aspects while outlying a development framework. MAG had discussed at length the different museum themes submitted by the public. The details of the recommended arts and cultural facilities would be more concrete at the future stages of the project.

44. Mr Michael CHIANG of HKIA said that he was concerned about the narrow focus of the four broad groupings recommended by MAG and that the minority views had not been duly considered. He suggested that consideration be given to providing four big museums with a few other small museums so that minority interests could also be catered for. He also remarked that all the themes could be presented to the public for further discussion.

45. Mr Andrew LAM of MOS advised members that MAG had discussed ink art as a theme and agreed on its importance as an integral part of visual art. However, there were divergent views on whether ink art should be accorded the status of a self-standing grouping. The relevant minority views had been reflected in MAG's report. Given that MAG also recommended that an open architectural competition should be held for M+, MOS suggested that more open competitions could be held in respect of the facilities in WKCD to enhance public participation and awareness.

46. Mr CHAN Ki-hung of HKCA said that in view of the technical nature of museum planning and development, the Association had suggested a mechanism for engagement of the public in selecting museum themes for WKCD.

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It was necessary to enlist relevant professionals to select among the suggested themes at the early consultation stage using objective criteria before the general public was further consulted on their preferences and views. He clarified that members of HKCA only attended MAG meetings in their capacity as curators of public museums and their role was to give advice on the current mode and practices of management of public museums.

47. Ms Margaret NG expressed dissatisfaction that the Administration would only consult the public after it had endorsed MAG's report. She considered that public consultation should be done right away on M+ and MAG's recommendation on subsuming "ink art" under the grouping of "visual art".

48. Ms Jane DEBEVOISE said that there had been a lot of discussion on "ink art" at MAG's meetings and the relevant minority views had been reflected in MAG's report. While "ink art" was a living art form, she considered that the boundary between "ink art" and other art forms had become blurred. Segregating "ink art" from "visual art" would marginalize the former and defeating the vision of M+ to achieve cross-fertilization. MAG was of the view that flexibility should be given to the curators of the future museum facilities in WKCD to determine the collection development and programming at M+.

49. Dr Robert CHUNG opined that the Administration should change its mindset on conducting public consultation. Public engagement should be started at an early stage of a public project. Public consultation of varying scales could be conducted at various strategic stages of a major project like WKCD and the scale should be determined according to the circumstances. To facilitate the public to give views, options could be formulated to invite the public to indicate preference and give comments. To forge a consensus among the public, it was important to give the public a sense of ownership and show that their views were genuinely respected.

50. Mr Andy TAM of MOS said that some academics had expressed views against the idea of providing an umbrella institution to cover different themes at the MAG public hearings. He considered that the M+ concept could not reflect the uniqueness of Hong Kong nor embrace the history and identity of the Hong Kong people and expressed concern that without the Hong Kong public identifying with M+, M+ would become a white elephant. On the composition of MAG, he considered that scientists and historians could have been enlisted to give views from a wider perspective.

51. Pointing out that the public might not fully comprehend the details of the reports of PATAG and MAG, Miss CHAN Yuen-han said that it was imperative that the Administration should devise a mechanism for structured public consultation, public engagement and handling of divergent views. She shared the view of Dr Robert CHUNG that public consultation should be conducted at various strategic stages of the WKCD project. Divergent views expressed during the deliberations of the AGs should be presented for public discussion.

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She requested the Administration to provide a paper to explain its contemplated public consultation activities for the WKCD project and how it would handle divergent views. Ms Margaret NG supported Miss CHAN's request.

Admin 52. The Administration undertook to provide a paper setting out the public consultation activities that have been undertaken since the WKCD project was planned afresh with the termination of the IFP process and those that were being contemplated.

(Post-meeting note: The requested information (WKCD-375) was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)801/06-07 on 24 January 2007.)

53. Dr KWOK Ka-ki stressed that it was necessary to have a thorough discussion on the overall planning of WKCD and the cultural policy before any decision was made on the hardware. He suggested that the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS), who was the Chairman of CC, should be invited to attend the next Subcommittee meeting to explain the work of CC including the public consultation work, and the way forward for WKCD after CC had received the report of FMAG. On the other hand, given that the Administration had indicated that it would not conduct consultation on the reports of PATAG and MAG, the Subcommittee should consider conducting public hearings for experts, interested groups and the public to express views on the planning for WKCD and the recommended arts and cultural facilities.

54. The Chairman said that at this meeting, apart from the discussion on the M+ concept, concerns had also been expressed by members on the following aspects:

- a) the Administration had not provided a clear picture on how it would address the Subcommittee's recommendation on the need to articulate how WKCD was strategically placed to catalyze the realization of a long-term arts and cultural vision for Hong Kong; and
- b) a structured public consultation mechanism seemed to be lacking to promote public engagement and awareness.

Action

He agreed with Dr KWOK Ka-ki that CS could be invited to attend the next Subcommittee meeting in around March 2007 when CC had received FMAG's report to brief the Subcommittee on the work progress for WKCD, whether and when public consultation on the reports of the AGs would be conducted, and the details of the statutory body to be formed for WKCD.

55. Members agreed that upon receipt of the Administration's paper on its public consultation work on WKCD, the Subcommittee should hold a closed meeting for internal deliberation with a view to coming up with a position on the issue and planning ahead the work of the Subcommittee accordingly.

(Post-meeting note: The closed meeting was held on Monday, 29 January 2007)

IV Any other business

56. The meeting ended at 12:10 pm.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
1 March 2007

**Proceedings of the twenty-eighth meeting of the
Subcommittee on West Kowloon Cultural District Development
on Saturday, 6 January 2007, at 9:00 am
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
000000 – 000035	Chairman	Confirmation of minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2006 (Paper No. WKCD-363)	
000036 – 000320	Chairman	Opening remarks	
000321 – 001044	Administration	Briefing by the Administration (Paper No. WKCD-369)	
001045 – 001741	Museum of Site, Ltd (MoS)	Presentation of views (Paper No. WKCD-291)	
001742 – 002353	Hong Kong Arts Festival Society Ltd.	Presentation of views (Paper No. WKCD-296)	
002354 – 002951	Hong Kong Arts Development Council	Presentation of views (Paper No. WKCD-290)	
002952 – 003624	Hong Kong Curators Association (HKCA)	Presentation of views (Paper No. WKCD-300)	
003625 – 004501	Dr Robert CHUNG	Presentation of views (Paper Nos. WKCD-294 and 371)	
004502 – 005159	Hong Kong Alternatives	Presentation of views (Paper Nos. WKCD-292, 339 and 367)	
005200 – 005722	The Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong	Presentation of views (Paper Nos. WKCD-305 and 368)	
005723 – 010229	Mr Oscar HO	Presentation of views (Paper No. WKCD-372)	
010230 – 011029	Asia Art Archive (AAA)	Presentation of views	
011030 – 011418	The Hong Kong Institute of Planners	Presentation of views	
011419 – 011944	The Hong Kong Institute of Architect (HKIA)	Presentation of views	
011945 – 013357	Ms Margaret NG	- Function and collection policy of	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
	Administration Mr Oscar HO HKCA	Museum plus (M+) - Governance structure for M+	
013358 – 014645	Prof Patrick LAU Chairman Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relationship between M+ and the existing public museums - Whether museums dedicated to single themes were more attractive to visitors - Preparatory work and governance structure for M+ - Effectiveness of different modes of public consultation - Timeframe for WKCD project 	
014646 – 020332	Mrs Selina CHOW Dr Robert CHUNG MoS HKCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mrs Selina CHOW's expression of support for the M+ concept - Public engagement without causing further delay to the WKCD project - Divergent views on M+ - Further discussion on the museums themes without causing further delay to the WKCD project 	
020333 – 021635	Miss CHAN Yuen-han Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mechanism for public consultation and how different views were handled - Divergent views received by AGs - Development density of WKCD 	
021636 – 022449	Dr KWOK Ka-ki Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Importance of timely public consultation on arts and cultural facilities recommended by the Performing Arts and Tourism Advisory Group (PATAG) and MAG before the Financial Affairs Advisory Group (FAMG) made its recommendations - Public involvement and 	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>participation in the work of the Consultative Committee on the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities in WKCD (CC) and the Advisory Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overlapping of WKCD facilities with other facilities planned in the Kai Tak area and the existing facilities under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department 	
022450 – 022931	Chairman Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How the Administration would address the Subcommittee's recommendations in its Phase II Report - Timeframe for FMAG to submit its report to CC 	
022932 – 025042	Ms Margaret NG Administration HKIA MoS HKCA AAA Dr Robert CHUNG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - M+ concept too broad without concrete details - Ink art as a distinct art form in M+ - Board of trustees to be set up for the M+ - Public consultation on the reports of PATAG and MAG 	
025043 - 030233	Miss CHAN Yuen-han Dr KWOK Ka-ki Chairman Ms Margaret NG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Request a paper from the Administration on public consultation - Date and scope of next meeting 	The Administration to take appropriate follow-up action