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1 November 2007

Ms Anita SIT
Clerk to Subcommittee on
West Kowloon Cultural District Development
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Legislative Council Building
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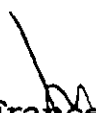
Dear Ms SIT,

Subcommittee on West Kowloon Cultural District Development
Follow-up to Meetings on 3 and 9 October 2007

I refer to your letters dated 8 and 9 October 2007 requesting the Administration to provide further information and response to the questions raised by Subcommittee members. Further to the first batch of response forwarded to you on 22 October 2007, I enclose herewith the response to the remaining questions as follows -

- Attachment A - Response to questions raised and information requested by Subcommittee members at and subsequent to the meetings on 3 and 9 October 2007
- Attachment B - Response to questions raised in the letter dated 2 October 2007 from Hon LEE Wing-tat

Yours sincerely,


(Mrs Frances YIM)
for Secretary for Home Affairs

Attachment A

Response to questions raised and information requested by Subcommittee members at and subsequent to the meetings on 3 & 9 October 2007

3 October 2007

Q. 2 The Administration indicated at the meeting that it had no plan to set up a high-level body vested with the responsibility for arts and cultural development in Hong Kong. Please explain how the long-term arts and cultural vision to make Hong Kong a cultural metropolis can be achieved without such an institutional setup to carry out strategic planning and co-ordinate the work of various bureaux/departments and other relevant organizations on arts and cultural development.

A. 2 Our cultural policy refers to the policy on culture and the arts. Our policy objective is to create an environment which is conducive to the freedom of artistic expression and creation, and the wider participation in cultural activities. The policy comprises the following four major elements:

- Respect freedom of creation and expression
- Provide opportunities for participation
- Encourage diversified and balanced development
- Support environment and conditions (venues, funding, education and administration)

This policy is in line with the core values of Hong Kong as a free, diversified and open society.

Our cultural policy is descriptive (rather than prescriptive). As a facilitator, the Government will neither impose an official definition on culture and the arts, nor influence the specific operation of artistic creation or contents of creativity. Instead, we are committed to upholding the freedom of cultural and artistic creation and expression, as well as providing an environment that keenly supports the development of culture and the arts. Therefore, we should provide

support both to certain forms of high culture with traditional values as well as to those avant garde artistic expressions. Our existing cultural policy, which has been explained in detail to the Home Affairs Panel in April 2006, is generally in line with the six principles and strategies put forward by the Culture and Heritage Commission in its Policy Recommendation Report issued in April 2003. The six principles are “people-oriented”, “pluralism”, “freedom of expression and protection of intellectual property”, “holistic approach”, “partnership” and “community-driven”.

Under the current Government structure, the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) is responsible for formulating policies on culture and the arts, as well as strategic planning and coordination. HAB works closely with relevant statutory bodies and advisory committees in this regard. It also consults extensively with the arts and culture sector and other stakeholders through various channels and means to ensure proper public engagement in the implementation of policies. The committees and bodies involved include the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC), the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA), the Committee on Performing Arts which is appointed by Secretary for Home Affairs, as well as working groups under its purview, the Funding Committee for the Performing Arts, the Committee on Venue Partnership and the Programme and Development Committee.

The West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) is a major strategic investment to promote the long-term development of the arts and culture in Hong Kong. To achieve the WKCD’s vision, we will take a series of measures to strengthen the cultural software for the purpose of achieving this objective. We will involve a wide spectrum of persons from the arts and culture sector and other relevant sectors in the formulation and implementation of these measures.

Q. 3 The Administration indicated at the meeting that

funding for nurturing of art talents, community art education, training of management and marketing professionals for arts and cultural facilities etc. to complement the WKCD project had not been taken into account in the proposed financial arrangements for the WKCD project, but the funding requirements for these purposes would be taken into account in the Government's normal budgeting process. Please provide details on the current and future budgeting arrangements.

- A. 3** HAB and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will, through the recurrent expenditure allocated by the Government for the development of arts and culture, enhance support on nurturing of talents, community arts education, and training of management and marketing professionals for arts and cultural facilities

At present, our annual recurrent expenditure on culture and the arts amounts to around \$2.5 billion, which is mainly deployed to the provision and management of cultural facilities through LCSD such as public libraries, museums, performance venues and visual arts centres for the purpose of promoting arts and culture to the public. With these recurrent resources, we are also supporting arts organisations, nurturing talents and fostering audience building through providing funding support for professional performing arts groups, organising cultural programmes and arts education programmes through the LCSD as well as through the on-going work of HKADC and HKAPA.

In 2008-09, HAB plans to increase resources to support HKAPA to expand its first-year intake and funding of studies for the Technical and Entertainment Arts Programme, to enhance funding for major, medium-sized and small performing arts groups, and to further promote arts education in the community. As for the training of management and marketing professionals for arts and cultural facilities, HAB will launch a comprehensive survey on the mapping of manpower in the arts and

cultural sector. Upon completion of the survey and depending on the survey findings, HAB will seek additional funds through the same mechanism to support the relevant training measures.

Q. 4 Information on the funding modes for arts and cultural development in other places. How far reference can be drawn from these places in formulating the Government's funding policy for local arts and cultural organizations and the financial arrangements for WKCD?

A. 4 HAB is actively planning a research study on the funding and assessment mechanism for major professional performing arts groups. As part of the study, we will gather information on funding models for arts and culture in other jurisdictions for comparison and consideration of their applicability to Hong Kong. The study is expected to commence in the first quarter of 2008. We will engage the local performing arts sector in thorough and extensive discussions during the study.

Q. 5 Would the Government consider the setting-up of a separate Cultural Software Development Fund, so as to live up to its purported commitments to developing cultural and art software?

A. 5 The Government has no plans for the time being to set up a Cultural Software Development Fund on top of our on-going funding mechanism for culture and the arts. We will continue to provide resources for developing cultural software through the existing mechanism. Apart from our recurrent expenditure, the Arts and Sports Development Fund (ASDF) under the purview of the Secretary for Home Affairs is a dedicated fund for supporting the development of sports and the arts. Early this year, the Legislative Council approved an injection of \$40 M to the culture part of the Fund. The injection provides support to a series of initiatives by the HKADC to nurture small and medium-sized arts groups

and to develop community arts. In addition to the ASDF, the Arts Development Fund (ADF) under HAB is also a dedicated fund for supporting artists to undertake outbound cultural exchange activities. An injection of \$20M was approved by LegCo early this year to strengthen support on culture exchange.

Q. 6 There are rich art and antique collections held by private bodies and individuals in the community. Would the Administration consider measures to mobilize these resources to promote the appreciation of art and antique in the community during the lead time before the WKCD project commences?

A. 6 The Consultative Committee has proposed to build a forward-looking cultural institution with functions of a museum (temporarily named **M+**) in WKCD, and suggested the setting up of an interim **M+** as soon as possible to provide a platform to start training professional staff, conducting research, building collections, planning exhibitions and providing arts education to the public with a view to laying a solid foundation for **M+**.

We will also make use of the work of existing museums to promote appreciation in arts and antiques in the community.

Q. 10 Detailed information on the survey conducted by the Education Bureau on the efficacy of arts education in primary and secondary schools and how the survey results compare with the situation of other comparable places.

A. 10 The information requested is as follows:

Extracted from *Survey on the Reform of the School Curriculum and the Implementation of Key Learning Area Curricula in Schools 2005* (Quality Evaluation Centre, City University of Hong Kong):

Table 1 : Effectiveness of learning and teaching strategies in enhancing student learning

| Q.8 In the last school year (2004/05), did your school adopt the following learning and teaching strategies for this KLA? If yes, how effective do you think they are in enhancing student learning? | Very effective/Quite effective (%) | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| | Primary KLA Heads | Primary KLA Teachers | Secondary KLA Heads | Secondary KLA Teachers |
| Applicable to Visual Arts teachers | | | | |
| Engaging students in visual arts appreciation and criticism (verbally or in writing) for enhancing students' critical appreciation abilities | 82.1 | 79.9 | 68.1 | 64.3 |
| Engaging students in visual arts appreciation and criticism (verbally or in writing) for enhancing students' art making abilities | 82.1 | 78.6 | 71.8 | 72.3 |
| Applicable to Music teachers | | | | |
| To help students achieve the Four Learning Targets effectively through the integrated activities of creating, performing and listening | 82.1 | 77.1 | 79.6 | 80.0 |

Table 2: Impact of the implementation of the Curriculum Reform on students as reported by primary and

secondary Arts Education teachers

| Q.13 Since the implementation of the curriculum reform in the 2001/02 school year, do you think there has been any change in the students' learning in Arts Education in the following aspects? | Better/Slightly better (%) | | | |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| | Primary KLA Heads | Primary KLA Teachers | Secondary KLA Heads | Secondary KLA Teachers |
| Demonstrating creativity in arts making / appraising / performing | 82.3 | 74.3 | 70.3 | 65.2 |
| Expressing personal feelings towards artwork verbally / in writing | 80.9 | 70.9 | 70.5 | 65.0 |
| Handling appropriate skills and knowledge for arts making and performance | 81.7 | 70.3 | 69.9 | 66.4 |

Q. 11 Why the Consultative Committee and the Government had not adopted the Subcommittee's recommendation to set up consultation panels to conduct structured public consultation for the public engagement exercise being undertaken and for the future public engagement during the implementation and operation of the WKCD?

A.11 The Government has always consulted the public on the WKCD project. At the initial stage, apart from liaising with the relevant sectors, we conducted a public consultation exercise from December 2004 to June 2005. During the exercise, public attention tended to focus on the development approach, the huge canopy and the private sector proposals, rather than the need for, and major requirements of the core art and culture facilities.

Thus, following the discontinuation of the Invitation for Proposals process in early 2006 and the formation of the Consultative Committee, the relevant Advisory Groups launched another comprehensive consultation exercise to solicit public views on the need for and major requirements of the art and culture facilities in WKCD. An overseas study tour was organized and views of overseas experts were sought.

The above efforts have built up a general consensus within the art and cultural community on the core art and culture facilities. To give the general public an opportunity to better understand the views of some 70 experts who were members of the Consultative Committee and its three Advisory Groups, the overall picture of the project, the actual scale of the development and the quantum of public subsidy required for bringing WKCD into fruition, the Consultative Committee advised and the Government agreed to stage a Public Engagement Exercise.

The scope of the Public Engagement Exercise is extensive. An independent academic institution has been engaged to analyze the views collected. Both the Consultative Committee and the Government are of the view that the Public Engagement Exercise should aim to seek public support to the recommendations to facilitate the Government to take an early decision on the way forward. It should be highlighted as the first of a series of public engagement or consultation efforts on the WKCD project at later stages. Later on, relevant sectors (the Legislative Council in particular) will be consulted on the setting up of the proposed WKCD Authority. Also, the public will be consulted on the planning matters relating to WKCD in accordance with the statutory planning procedures. Our public engagement efforts are carried out in a gradual, orderly and planned manner to secure public support for all major issues.

9 October 2007

- (b) There is a need for a review on the current funding and assessment system for performing arts so as to facilitate its long-term growth and development (Consultative Committee's Recommendation Report, para. 8.2.3).**

HAB, in consultation with the Funding Committee for the Performing Arts set up by the Home Affairs Bureau in November 2007 to advise the Government on funding for the 10 major performing arts groups, will launch an independent research in the first quarter of 2008 to help develop a new assessment mechanism and funding model for Government Subvention to major professional performing arts groups. The Study is expected to be completed in early 2009. The objective of the Study is to, on the other hand, follow up on the recommendations in the Recommendation Report 1 of the Committee on Performing Arts (CPA), to bring the major 10 professional performing arts groups under one assessment framework; and to identify a funding mechanism which will facilitate the long-term growth and development of professional performing arts groups in the light of the vision of WKCD. In the CPA's recommendations report, the common assessment mechanism should consider, inter alia, artistic and community impact, quantifiable output and governance. While the research study will focus on funding for the major professional performing arts groups, it would also review the relationship between funding for these major groups and for the other smaller groups, as well as the need or otherwise for corresponding policies to ensure that there is also a vibrant non-subsidized performing arts sector. The sustainability of the proposed funding arrangement will also be examined.

- (c) The Government to take the opportunity to review the operational modes of existing LCSD performing**

venues and museums with a view to seeking improvements and providing on-the-job training opportunities for arts administration and venue management which would be in great demand for the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities in WKCD in future (Consultative Committee's Recommendation Report, para. 8.2.8).

Under the Venue Partnership Scheme (VPS) to be introduced as a pilot project in the LCSD performing venues in 2008, the successful partner organisations in each of the venues will work more closely with the LCSD venue management in programming selection and ways to maximize the use of the venue, the promotion and marketing arrangements, audience building initiatives and even sponsorship possibilities. In other words, there would be sharing of knowledge and experience transfer between the arts groups and LCSD's venue management. This should go some way to providing on-the-job training opportunities for arts administration and venue management^{Note 1}. In addition, HAB will launch a comprehensive manpower mapping study in early 2008 to identify the arts-related manpower supply and demand gaps so as to identify and put in place corresponding training programmes for the necessary expertise. Meanwhile, the Government will also assess and work on short-term programmes for arts-related jobs which have an imminent demand. The Government's proposed support to HKAPA to expand its first-year intake of studies for the Technical and Entertainment Arts Programme and the provision of fundamental / re-skill programmes on this front is one example.

^{Note 1} The VPS is a pilot scheme to be introduced by LCSD in 2008-09. The objective of the Scheme is to foster a closer partnership between arts groups and venue management for arts development purpose, through making a better use of the venues as a resource for staging quality programmes, for audience building and arts education purposes. When the 'Invitation for Proposals' for the VPS closed in September, 34 applications were received. The Department is considering the applications and further details will be announced later this year.

The Committee on Museums^{Note 2} (the Committee) formally submitted its recommendation report to the Government in May 2007. The report together with the Government's response was also presented to the LegCo Home Affairs Panel at its June meeting. The Government accepts in principle all the recommendations made by the Committee. As regards the future mode of governance, the Committee recommends that a statutory Museums Board should be set up in three years' time as far as practicable to take on the operation and management responsibility of public museums currently under LCSD. To ensure a smooth migration from Government-run public museums managed by a statutory board in the long run, the Committee also recommends that a Provisional Museums Board should be set up to oversee the preparatory work during the transitional period and the progress made in respect of improvement measures to the existing museum services. While the Government would endeavour to set up a statutory Museums Board as soon as practicable, it may in fact take a longer time, say five years, to complete the entire transformation process having regard to the need to set up a Provisional Museums Board, draft the enabling legislation and resolve issues relating to the transitional arrangements for existing museum staff. The Government will carry out a detailed study on the implications of the Committee's recommendations and formulate implementation plans having regard to legal, financial and human resource considerations. As a first step to take forward the proposed institutional changes and the various improvement measures, the Government will establish a Provisional Museums Board to oversee the whole exercise.

^{Note 2} The Committee on Museums was set up in November 2004 to advise the Secretary for Home Affairs on the provision of public museum services in Hong Kong.

**Response to questions raised in the letter
dated 2 October 2007 from Hon LEE Wing-tat**

文化軟件及配套

Q.1 西九硬件落實之前，我們需要有足夠的文化軟件及配套措施，使將來能善用西九的場地及設施，市民能享受更多采多姿的文化生活，報告指政府會進行一項與藝術有關的人力供求研究，項目集中哪些範疇，預計何時完成，以便於何時提出相應的培訓及教育計劃？

A.1 The Government would shortly be commissioning a comprehensive study on the supply and demand of manpower in the arts and cultural sector. The survey will cover all manpower requirements in areas related to arts and culture. The Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) will set up a dedicated working group to solicit views from the arts community and relevant parties on the survey. We plan to commission the study in early 2008. When the study is completed, HAB will consult the relevant experts and to implement follow up actions particularly on education and training measures as soon as possible.

Q.2 報告指出當前急務是要增進普羅大眾對文化藝術的興趣及欣賞能力，並建議將推廣藝術教育的工作範圍擴大至更多學校和社區，政府打算在這方面有何具體的策略及措施？在推動國際性的文化交流方面，又會有甚麼計劃？

A.2 On the promotion of interest in arts and arts literacy among the public, Leisure and Cultural Service Department (LCSD) will continue with its ongoing promotion work, i.e. enhancing the promotion of culture and the arts through activities offered by public libraries, museums and performance venues. In 2008-09, we are planning to enhance the efforts of the ten major performing arts groups on arts education and audience building through appropriate additional funding

support.

On promotion of arts education in schools, HAB would enhance cooperation with the Education Bureau to strengthen the linkages and collaboration between schools and arts groups, so that students could gain further access to the arts. LCSO will also enhance the promotion of arts education among students through the “School Culture Day”, the “School Animator Scheme” and activities organized by the Music Office.

On the promotion of international cultural exchange, a dedicated fund under the purview of HAB, namely the Arts Development Fund, supports outbound cultural exchange activities by local arts local arts groups/artists. Between November 2001 and April 2007, we have approved 114 funding applications with a funding allocation of \$14M. In early 2007, an injection of \$20M into the fund was approved by LegCo. Other cultural exchange activities include signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) on Cultural Cooperation to strengthen mutual cultural exchange with various regions. As of to-date, the HKSAR Government has signed 11 such MoUs. In respect of cultural exchange with the Mainland, the HKSAR Government signed the Agreement on Greater Pearl River Delta Cultural Cooperation in 2003 with Guangdong and Macao SAR. Under the Agreement, Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao would take turns to host Summits. Eight Summits have since then been held. In November 2005, the HKSAR Government signed an Agreement on Closer Cultural Partnership Agreement with the Ministry of Culture of the Central Government to strengthen interaction in cultural exchange and cooperation. The two sides have met recently to discuss the implementation of the Agreement. Besides, we have contacted interested local offices of overseas cultural institutions including British Council, Alliance Francaise, Goethe Institut and Asian Cultural Council, to explore the possibility of organizing fellowship/internship programmes for local arts administrators and curators in the respective regions. We will follow up on this project in the coming months. Since 2003, HKSAR has successfully hosted five Asia

Cultural Cooperation Forums (ACCF) which strengthen cultural exchange and promote cooperation between HKSAR, the Mainland and the Asia region. Looking ahead, we are planning to conduct a comprehensive study and review on the effectiveness of the HKSAR Government's policy on cultural exchange with a view to mapping the way forward.

Q.3 報告指政府決定由商務及經濟發展局負責制訂策略推動香港的文化和創意產業，就此，政府有否與文化藝術界作出討論，他們的反應如何？

A.3 As a quality city, and with a view to enhancing the public's quality of life, Hong Kong needs to have well-developed creative industries. Creative industries cover a number of areas including film, television, design, architecture, urban planning, arts and culture, digital entertainment etc. To capitalise on the support to different creative industries by the Government bureaux and departments, as well as to focus resources under one roof for better utilization, the Chief Executive has decided to designate the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau to coordinate the development of creative industries in Hong Kong. Steps will be taken shortly. First of all, we will set up a cross-sectoral steering committee led by the Financial Secretary. The Government, by pooling the creativity and efforts of relevant representatives of the sector, non-government organisations and professional bodies, will be able to plan and develop a holistic strategy and action agenda for the development of creative industries in Hong Kong, as well as drawing up facilitating measures and talent training initiatives. The committee will discuss relevant issues in depth with a view to making a concerted effort in developing creative industries.

Q.4 政府資助專業演藝團體是不可或缺的，在報告中，政府表示正檢討有關的撥款及評核模式，打算何時完成，會繼續由民政事務局做或是交由將來成立的西九管理局負責？有關的資助是否由民政事務局撥款？

A.4 HAB is conducting a research on the funding and assessment mechanism for the ten major professional performing arts groups. We will engage the relevant groups and the Funding Committee for the Performing Arts in thorough and extensive discussions during the study. The study is expected to commence in early 2008 and to be completed in early 2009. HAB will continue to be responsible for the policy of supporting major professional performing arts groups.

Q.5 將來西九是採用非政府的管理模式，在報告中，委員會建議政府檢討現時康文署轄下表演場地和博物館的運作模式，將來西九及康文署轄下的文康設施的管理模式會是怎樣？會有一套或是兩套制度？政府打算何時開始及如何提供這方面的管理人才培訓計劃？報告指出政府已原則上通過成立法定的博物館管理委員會，將公共博物館的管理工作公司化，預計何時提交法案？

A.5 On performing arts venues, LCSD will soon pilot the “Venue Partnership Scheme”, the objective of which is to foster a partnership between the venue management and professional performing arts groups, so as to optimize usage of facilities for promoting arts and culture development, build up the artistic image and character of the venue, enlarge the audience base and facilitate the solicitation of corporate/private sponsorship. LCSD will also continue with its efforts to promote arts and culture to the community and the school sector through its various performing venues.

On museums’ side, the Government plans to establish a statutory Museums Board in 3-5 years to manage all government-run public museums. LCSD is working on the set up of a Provisional Museums Board for the establishment of the statutory body and to take forward various improvement measures to museum services.

Q.6 報告書在 8.2 段只提出文化軟件配套的參考性建議，甚至隻字未提香港文化政策的發展。既然文化軟件比硬件

有更優先的考慮，政府會何時制訂長遠的文化政策及行動策略以配合西九的興建？

A.6 Please refer to A. 2 of **Attachment A**.

Q.8 將來在西九看一場表演要\$200，加上交通費各項，令大部分市民即使有興趣，也不可能經常前往欣賞表演，政府要如何吸引市民，從而增進公眾對文化藝術的興趣、瞭解和欣賞能力？

(報告第 8.2.14 段)

A. 8 A broad spectrum of arts and culture facilities and programmes are proposed for the WKCD, including programmes that are affordable or even free for local audiences. In the WKCD financial assessment, the average ticket price is assumed to range from \$100-\$300, which is similar to the pricing of programmes currently offered in LCSD venues. Besides, there would be large quantity of public open space and spacious piazza in WKCD, which could cater for a variety of programmes. We envisage that most of these programmes would be free to the public so as to foster the public's interest in the arts and culture and to enhance the cultural ambience of the district.

On the other hand, at present, the number of audiences attending ticketed LCSD programmes amounts to more than 4 million each year. We aim to enhance public interest and ability to appreciate arts and culture through enhancing funding for major, medium-sized and small performing arts groups, and activities aiming at strengthening arts education and audience building,