

**Consultative Committee on the
Core Arts and Cultural Facilities of the
West Kowloon Cultural District**

Performing Arts and Tourism Advisory Group

The Work Plan for the Coming Months

Purpose

This paper sets out broadly some general direction arising from the views discussed/received so far on the need for performing arts venues in the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) and to discuss the work plan in respect of the Performing Arts and Tourism Advisory Group's (PATAG) submission to the Consultative Committee on the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities of WKCD (Consultative Committee) (CC).

Advice Sought

2. Members are invited to
 - (a) note some general direction of the views discussed/received so far on the need for performing arts venues in WKCD (paragraphs 4 & 5) and
 - (b) discuss the work plan for the coming months (paragraphs 6 to 8).

Background

3. At the first PATAG meeting held on 24 April 2006, Members endorsed the proposed work plan of holding open consultative forums and sector-specific focus group meetings to gauge views on the performing arts venues as core arts and cultural facilities and other arts and cultural facilities needed in WKCD in May and early June. The Advisory Group would then proceed to examine the views collected in coming up with the recommendations to CC for endorsement and subsequently to the Financial Matters Advisory Group for considering the financial implications. In view of the sequential nature of work among CC and its three Advisory Groups (AG), the PATAG's work plan has to dovetail with the other two AGs. The PATAG aims to complete its task in August 2006.

Some General Direction of the Views Received/Discussed so far

4. On the basis of the discussions at focus group meetings and open consultative forums held by PATAG from April to June (the list of the meetings held at Annex A of Information Paper PATAG/13/2006 refers), some general direction in respect of the performing arts facilities in WKCD have emerged. They are as follows -

- (a) WKCD should be developed into an integrated world-class arts and cultural, entertainment and tourism district. It should be a district with its facilities suitably clustered together to attract people flow all day, hence creating synergy and vibrancy;
- (b) not only is it necessary to consider from the tourism perspective when examining the need for the performing

arts facilities, but it is equally important to develop WKCD into an attraction for local people;

- (c) both the hardware and software of WKCD should be of high standard to be commensurate with its goal-setting of being a world-class arts and cultural, entertainment and tourism district;
- (d) the performing arts facilities in WKCD should aim to meet the needs of the long-term development of arts and culture in Hong Kong and should not simply be considered as solution to the current shortage of performing venues. Thus, flexibility should be allowed in the facilities for further development or changes in future;
- (e) the performing arts facilities and other arts and cultural facilities should factor in the element of nurturing the budding artists and enhancing audience building;
- (f) there should be outdoor performance venues and spacious open space in the district for visitors, particularly the children, to hang out and enjoy outdoor performances;
- (g) the need for purpose-built venues for Xiqu/ Cantonese Opera and classical music respectively should not be overlooked;
- (h) the concept of 'theatreland' of having a few streets provided with a considerable number of relatively small-size performing venues for different performing arts forms in WKCD is worthy of pursuing.

5. There is a view that the Government should develop a comprehensive cultural policy and vision before we decide on what facilities are most appropriate for WKCD. They consider that detailed studies, analysis and debates should be conducted and international arts and cultural institutions should be invited to express their views. On the other hand, many respondents to PATAG's consultative forums and focus group meetings expressed their wish that WKCD project should proceed as soon as possible, as the issues of venue shortage and limitations caused by the inflexibility of Government venues have become very imminent. They are of the views that the hardware and software of arts and culture in WKCD should be developed together to endeavour an early commencement of the project.

Proposed Work Plan in the Coming Months

6. Based on the existing arts and cultural policy (as outlined in Information Paper PATAG/02/2006) and having regard to the current provision in Hong Kong (Information Paper PATAG/03/2006 refers), PATAG, guided by its terms of reference, will focus its work on the need for and the major specifications of the various performance venues defined as Core Arts and Cultural Facilities (CACF) in WKCD in the original Invitation for Proposals (IFP) in particular from the perspective of enriching performing arts and promoting tourism and the need for other arts and cultural facilities (excluding museums and Art Exhibition Centre). The previous PATAG meetings, informal discussions, focus group meetings and consultative forums have given rich food for thought to re-examine the original requirements as defined in the IFP.

7. From July to August, PATAG will critically re-examine the need of the performing venues as defined as CACF in the IFP with a view to coming up with proposals on the performing venues and other arts and cultural facilities needed in WKCD. It is proposed that paper on each of the following issues will be prepared to facilitate deliberation-

- (a) to re-examine the need for a Theatre Complex with the three theatres with seating capabilities of at least 2,000, 800 and 400 seats respectively and to further explore the idea of 'theatreland';
- (b) (discuss together with (a)) to examine the need for purpose-built performing venues- Chinese Opera/ Cantonese Opera theatre and a concert hall etc.;
- (c) to re-examine the need for a Performance Venue of 10,000 seats;
- (d) to re-examine the need for a Water Amphitheatre and for at least four Piazzas;
- (e) to examine the issue of residents companies in the theatres in WKCD;
- (f) to examine the need for other arts and cultural facilities such as rehearsal studios, a book city etc.

8. The general directions of the views discussed at PATAG meetings and received through consultative forums (paragraph 4 refers) and the written submissions will be taken into consideration in preparing the papers.

9. The schedule of the coming PATAG meetings in July and August are as follows-

4th Meeting	Thursday, 6 July at 10:00 a.m.
5th Meeting	Monday, 17 July at 10:00 a.m.
6th Meeting	Friday, 11 August at 10:00 a.m.

**Secretariat, Performing Arts and Tourism Advisory Group
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