

Hon. Alan Leong Kah-kit
Chairman
Legislative Council Subcommittee on the West Kowloon Cultural District Development

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Following a very short notice to respond to the latest town planning proposals, I am writing to register our dismay at the plans to build a multi-track train station as part of the West Kowloon Cultural District.

A large train station is hardly compatible with performance venues and museums, unless one is aiming to stage concerts by the train tracks and build a railroad museum. This decision clearly reflects a lack of sensitivity to the concept of a cultural district, and how unprepared and ill-suited Hong Kong is to true cultural development. It is almost preferable to defer the entire project until Hong Kong has developed sufficient vision and talent to produce something of lasting beauty, rather than churn out another utilitarian pile.

A train station is a place where travellers converge in a hurry to come and go. A great deal of street traffic will be feeding into the area as a result, and the movement of trains will inevitably cause vibrations to the ground and surrounding structures, affecting the performance venues above.

It is inconceivable to allow such activities to take place in such close proximity to a park and cultural district by the waterfront which is aiming to offer the public respite from the city and invite the enjoyment and contemplation of art.

Sadly, one must come to the unfortunate conclusion that the original vision of WKCD and the single-developer model would have produced more desirable results, and that the public consultations have ended in a confusion of purposes.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to express our views in the past.

With best wishes,

Nancy Lee
Committee on Public Affairs
Zonta Club of Hong Kong