

HONG KONG CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Presentation to Legco on 16 Dec 2004

Opinion on Development of West Kowloon Cultural District

1. Public Participation

As reflected from the development of the whole issue and other planning issues, it is obvious that public participation is badly needed. We suggest that the government should involve the public as soon as possible to examine their visions for the West Kowloon development and on the long-term cultural policy in Hong Kong. This public participation should be a bottom-up approach rather than a top-down consultation.

2. A land to be fairly enjoyed by all walks of citizens

West Kowloon should be a land enjoyed by all citizens, not only for the rich. Thus, the government should stipulate clearly a requirement for the property developers to build not only high class buildings for the rich, but also public housings for the grassroots who should have the same right to enjoy the beautiful harbour view.

3. A cultural centre point for all citizens, irrespective of gender, age, race, and health condition

The government should plan well ahead future cultural developments in the area, taking into consideration gender mainstreaming, age mainstreaming, racial mainstreaming, and the special needs of the mentally or physically handicapped people. Moreover, not only so called “high culture” will be provided, but popular culture should also be entertained. All these different characteristics of cultural activities have to be well planned beforehand because they may require different designs of venues and facilities. Designs should not only be barrier free, but should also be able to cater for all ages ranging from small kids to older people, all races who have different cultures, and for both men and women.