

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PANEL ON PLANNING, LANDS AND WORKS
MEETING ON 16 DECEMBER 2004
Discussion on the Development of the West Kowloon Cultural District
Written submission from the Hong Kong Arts Centre

Hong Kong Arts Centre's view on the West Kowloon Cultural District Project
(The Project)

1. We agree the Project in principle.
2. We have the following concerns:
 - a. The relationship between the Project and the existing cultural environment

The Project should be an organic part of the overall Hong Kong cultural environment. Since the Government is the biggest player in the culture sector (through the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Arts Development Council), the Government should clarify the future relationship between the Project and the LCSD and ADC to avoid overlapping of resources and unhealthy competition.

b. Governance

As the Project is a brand new model of developing and operating cultural facilities with the private sector, a governing board with representatives from culture sector should be formed to monitor the operation the district.

c. Operation

There are many local arts organizations, including the Arts Centre, have the experience and capability to run the arts facilities in the Project. When considering the operation of the facilities, the Government should give priority to local arts organizations.

d. Visual Arts Academy

It is commonly known in the arts community that the arts facility Hong Kong needs most is a visual arts academy (VAA). A VAA is usually the heart of the creative industries in a city and Hong Kong is the only big city in the world that doesn't have a VAA. The Government should consider putting a VAA in the Project.