

**WHERE ARE YOU, HONG KONG 2006?**

# CULTURE BUILDING: INFRA-STRUCTURING A CULTURAL POLICY FOR HONG KONG

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## PEAMBLE

**What is our culture policy really about?  
Who will be benefited from the Hong Kong culture? Who can build the Cultural Policy of Hong Kong? HAB? HKADC? The Public Sector? Are there any research or paper being done? How can the public assess the value of cultural development?**

## PROBLEM

The following notes are our points of concern and understanding:

### 1. **INSUFFICIENCY OF POLICY RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT**

- The **Competitiveness of HK in Global Culture** (Museum Culture / Media Culture...) is insignificant and un-identified
- Our current provision of High Culture and Sophisticated Art asserts **No Influence in the World Politics of Culture**
- In upcoming 10 years, there will be 100 museums in Beijing, and 300 museums in Tokyo?  
**What have HK done in research?**
- HK needs an **Independent & Permanent Policy Unit** to review and study its Cultural Policy
- To cite the WKCD project, for instance, the HAB rejects MAG members' proposal for relevant academic research and it only accepts a 'fact-finding' method to be carried out by the LCSD officials. Fact-find is an attitude of the Government but it is **NOT ENOUGH FOR A RESEARCH!**

### 2. **POLICY FOCUS & RECOMMENDATION OF THE CULTURE & HERITAGE COMMISSION (CHC) IS INSUFFICIENT**

- The nearly 100 proposed recommendations cannot cover the wide spectrum of cultural activities / problems in HK
- Situation in HK is fast-changing. Have we made any assumption on culture based on facts and cultural statistics?

### **3. INAPPROPRIATE FUNDING MECHANISM FOR POLICY DEVELOPMENT & IMPLEMENTATION**

- The **FUND AVAILABLE** for **HKADC** is inadequate. Administrative support of professional art organizations and individual artists is inadequate.
- Comparatively speaking, the NGOs in the field of social welfare are more supported. **Culture is of less importance than Social Welfare!**
- No Funding Support for a Heritage Research Plan / PRD Cultural Analysis by independent scholars / NPOs / NGOs
- HKADC has a Narrow Scope of Funding and HK needs an **Cultural Endowment Fund**

### **4. INCOMPREHENSIVENESS OF CULTURAL POLICY**

#### **4.1. FOOT BINDING FOR MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT**

**Pride or Prejudice:** What is the Government's Attitude towards Non-Government Museums (NGM) in the Private Sector?

- NGM such as the Medical Museum has never been patronized

#### **Any Strategy for Museum Promotion & Patronage?**

- The Conspiracy for Stepping Down of NGMs in HK, Any Museum Fund for application?
- The West Kowloon Museum Builders can only propose museum subjects without an overall Museum Policy & Strategy view or information back-up

#### **Any Strategic Vision for Non-Government Museums (NGMs)?**

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#### **Any Policy for Preservation of Heritage Building?**

- How the Museum of HKMMS and Dr. Sun Yat Sen Museum were formed?
- Dr. Thersa Tang Museum? Bruce Lee Museum?

#### **Any Policy Frame-work for Preserving a Site?**

- Any policy back up for the development of the Museum of Tung Ping Chau, Museum of Tai Po Stilt Houses, Museum of Site (alternative community space at Kat Hing Wai Walled Village)

#### **Any Policy for Preserving Historic Document and Department's History?**

- The Museum of Police, Museum of Correctional Services, HK Planning & Infrastructure Exhibition Gallery were not policy-outcome of the LCSD

#### **Any Policy for furthering the development of the Leisure & Cultural Services?**

- Any LCSD's District Museum for popular, visual or material culture?

#### **4.2. DISTRICT BLINDNESS**

- **Cultural Policy / Community Policy** in support of community development have never been discoursed
- **Proportion of Fund** allocated to Cultural Activities in District Council is unclear / No Policy
- No Planning / Resource for Developing **Inter-district/District's Art & Cultural Facility**

- The 18 District Councils fail to provide any **incentive** to attract professional and visionary cultural workers in the involvement of district renewal schemes
- District Councilors do not have an **'Art Vision'** for the enhancement of visual / material environment
- The WKCD would become **a world class / international hub Without A District Vision!**

#### 4.3. CONFINEMENT OF MEDIA REVIEW

- The Current Review is confined to Public Broadcasters or strictly speaking, the RTHK

#### 4.4. POLICY FOR CULTURAL EXCHANGE

- If HK has an international policy, there is no cultural exchange policy
- Should HK set up some Cultural Offices (w/ like Trade Offices) in International Cities?

#### 4.5. PUBLIC SPACE POLICY AND PUBLIC ART POLICY

- A civil society makes sense if public space is re-created as a playing-field for public dialogue and public interest. With art, public space forges a focal point for the city. Without art, public space becomes a culturally defined, but visually impaired landscape. The value of public space is its shared, physical social sphere, in which the public celebrates and acts within a common realm for a variety of purpose-built social functions, discussions and practices, with site-specific installations, situational performances, time-based street actions, ephemeral community workshops or other events.
- Any Policy of using **Waterfront / Promenade?**
- **No Street Art / Street Cafe Policy!**
- **Where is % Art Policy? S. Korea & Taiwan YES**

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#### 4.6. NO CREATIVE POLICY TO GROOM CREATIVE INDUSTRY

- Is there any **Creative Person** working in high-level administration?
- What is the **General Policy and End-Goal of CEPA?** Can they be spelled out at this moment? Why CEPA has to go through stage 1, II & III? What will be the final shape of CEPA IV, IV, VI?
- Land Use Policy / Immigration Policy / Culture Fair / Film Fair... / *Renaissance Report 2000* (Singapore)
- **NO POLICY PAPER HAS YET BEEN RELEASED BY THE HAB!!! Why?**

#### 4.7. NO POLICY FOR LIBRARY OR READERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- Any 2010-2 Book Policy for Senior Citizen?
- How to achieve the Variety of Book & Magazine available to public library? Any Acquisition Policy for the purchase of art & cultural books? Can we follow The Citizen Book Donation Scheme (US)?

#### 4.8. WHY NOT A STATUTORY BROAD FOR FILM & MEDIA DEVELOPMENT???

**4.9. STRATEGY FOR REINFORCING HK'S LEAD STATUS OF PUBLISHING INDUSTRY IN ASIA**

- i.e. Consolidating the Revenue of Copyright, Any means to support the Development of Advance Technologies...

**4.10. POLICY FOR XIQU or TRADITIONAL CHINESE OPERA: VENUE / RESOURCES / TERTIARY EDUCATION / MEDIATION OR BROAD-CASTING**

- What will the State of XIQU after **the dismantle of Sunbeam Theatre in 2009** and the kick-off of the WKCD in 2003?
- Any policy for **Xiqu Performance in public gardens?**

**5. SEGREGATION OF URBAN / PUBLIC POLICY WITH CULTURAL POLICY**

- Any Policy for Heritage Tourism, Eco-Tourism, Museum Tourism & other **Forms of Cultural Tourism?**
- Any Policy in collaboration with District Councils for the **Development of Local Culture?** i.e. Cultural Terrace in Ladder Street?
- Can our **Education Reform** tie in with the Creative Industry?

**6. A VISION FOR MAN**

- Where is our **Human & Resources Strategy?**
- Is the current policy/ strategy useful to attract **Creative, Talent Professionals** from the Great China Region or overseas countries?
- How can the **hardware / infrastructural building** without the building up of human resources? **4**
- If the WKCD is to be developed in phasing stages, can the development of relevant **human resources be groomed on a compatible status.**

**7. SEGREGATION OF POWER IN-BETWEEN GOVERNMENT BUREAUs**

- Are the **HAB & the CITB** (Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau) working together in promoting creative industries?
- What is the **Policy Blueprint** to be shared?

**POLICY RECOMMENDATION**

**POLICY IMPLICATION:** A bottom-up + top-down, transparent form of CONSULTATION and COMMUNICATION

**A NEW INFRASTRUCTURE** is needed to be forged to incorporate CITIZENS' VIEW

It could be transformed if necessarily to A STATUTORY BODY

R & D must be launched immediately

**THE HAB SHOULD RELEASE THE CULTURAL STRATEGY IN A POLICY PAPER (I.E. A 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN) FROM TIME TO TIME TO MEET THE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF HK**

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APPENDIX:

# **HAB, Are you Sleeping?**

## Singapore:

# RENAISSANCE CITY REPORT

Published in SINGAPORE March 2000 by Ministry of Information and the Arts

[http://www.getforme.com/Arts\\_RenaissanceCityReport.htm](http://www.getforme.com/Arts_RenaissanceCityReport.htm)

ISBN 9971 88 743 6

This report has two aims:

- a. To establish Singapore as a **global arts city**. We want to position Singapore as a key city in the Asian renaissance of the 21st century and a cultural centre in the globalised world. The idea is to be one of the top cities in the world to live, work and play in, where there is an environment conducive to creative and knowledge-based industries and talent.
- b. To provide **cultural ballast** in our nation-building efforts. In order to strengthen Singaporeans' sense of national identity and belonging. We need to inculcate an appreciation of our heritage and strengthen the Singapore Heartbeat through **the creation and sharing of Singapore stories**, be it film, theatre, dance, music, literature or the visual arts.

Six key strategies for developing the arts and heritage sectors are proposed:

1. Develop a **strong arts and cultural base**
2. Develop **flagship and major arts companies**
3. Recognise and groom **talent**
4. Provide **good infrastructure and facilities**
5. Go **international**
6. Develop an **arts and cultural "renaissance" economy**

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*This report was accepted by the Singapore Government and announced in Parliament by Mr LEE Yock Suan, then Minister for Information and the Arts, on 9 Mar 2000.*

## S. Korea

On the 5th December in 2002, **Korea Cultural Policy Institute (KCPI)** merged with **Korea Tourism Research Institute (KTRI)**, to form **KCTPI**. In the past, the two institutes had engaged in various consulting activities particularly for government-sponsored research in such areas as culture, arts and the cultural and tourism industry.

While continuing to devote itself to research, consulting, and publications, **KCTPI will actively expand its research and policy development linking culture and the arts with the culture and tourism industry.**

In April 2003, the 166th session of UNESCO \*s Executive Board decided to submit a **"preliminary study as to the desirability of a new international standard-setting instrument on cultural diversity"** to the 32nd session of the General Conference to be held in October. In light of the international community \*s heated interest in this topic, the KNCU held a seminar on 25 June that explored the possibility of implementing an international standard-setting instrument on cultural diversity, with relevant specialists and government officials in attendance.

