



香港建築師學會  
The Hong Kong Institute of Architects

## HKIA Submission to Panel on Home Affairs of the Legislative Council on Strengthening the Software and Humanware for Culture and the Arts

### 1. Guidelines rather than policies

HKIA agrees in principle to the 4 major elements in HK's official cultural policy, i.e.:

- a. Respect for freedom of creation and expression
- b. Provision of opportunities for participation
- c. Encourage diversified and balanced development
- d. Support environment and conditions (venues, funding, education and administration)

HKIA also concurs with the 6 principles put forward by the Culture and Heritage Commission in 2003, i.e., 'people-oriented; pluralism; freedom of expression and protection of intellectual property; holistic approach; partnership and community-driven'.

However, these seem to be guidelines for the development of policies, rather than the policies themselves. There seems to be a lack of cognizance of the present conditions and substantive policies to address prevailing issues, formulate vision and map out actions for cultural and art development.

### 2. Education is key

To strengthen the software and humanware for culture and the arts, education is the key. Starting from a young age, our community should grow up knowing how to understand and appreciate culture and the arts and to enrich their life with culture and the arts, and may eventually become active members in the creation and promotion of culture and the arts. Policies on education should tie in with policies on culture and the arts.

### 3. Inadequate evaluation

The consultation paper lists out public funding made to various institutes and organizations engaged in cultural and art activities. However, it gives no indication, whether the activities are successful in the sense that they have satisfied policy objectives and community aspirations, whether supporting resources have been adequate in effectively achieving end results, and how these activities have fit into an overall policy framework for culture and the arts.

### 4. Broader Government support required

HKIA is of the opinion, that other than the official list of organizations and institutes, there are other social groups and entities, which also engage actively in promotion of culture and the arts, which need Government support. HKIA, for example, jointly with HKIP (Hong Kong Institute of Planners), HKDA (Hong Kong Designers Association) and Shenzhen Planning Bureau, has recently organized 'The Hong Kong Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture'. HKIA would definitely need greater support from the Government in similar activities in future.

### 5. West Kowloon Cultural District

The West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) will shortly be launched as a prime venue for the promotion of culture and the arts in Hong Kong. Its significance lies in its role to play not only as a hub for culture and the arts, but also as a pride for Hong Kong people. Only the best schemes in master plan, urban design and architecture befit such an important project. HKIA strongly advocates for open competition in procurement of planning and design services in WKCD development. The current Government procurement process (2-envelope system) is not recommended since selection of consultants will precede design schemes, and financial consideration often dominates the selection process.