

Panel on Home Affairs

**Meeting on 15 February 2008 -
Summary of views of deputations/individuals on strengthening the software and
humanware in culture and the arts**

(as at 5 May 2008)

1. Arts education in schools, audience building and community participation	
<i>Zuni Icosahedron</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The aesthetic education under the New Senior Secondary School Curriculum should be strengthened in order to help students build up a solid foundation in arts education.
<i>Composers and Authors Society of Hong Kong</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● "Integrated Arts" curriculum should be adopted in schools to facilitate students' exposure to different arts forms.
<i>Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong [CB(2)1068/07-08(03)]</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Education Bureau (EDB) should fully implement the programme "One Sport and One Art for One Student" in schools and require the school sector to strengthen teaching of arts and physical education subjects.
<i>Hong Kong Arts Administrators' Association [CB(2)1101/07-08(02)]</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should increase funding support for arts groups to strengthen their collaboration with schools and presentation of performances in schools, in order to enhance students' exposure to arts activities and their ability of arts appreciation.
<i>Democratic Party [CB(2)1101/07-08(07)]</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promotion of culture and the arts should start with education. The Administration should review adequacy of support being provided for various arts educational institutions. In undertaking that it will conduct an institutional review in 2008-2009 for the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts with a view to re-affirming the Academy's role, the Administration should also consider the long-term development of other arts education bodies, e.g. private arts institutions and tertiary institutions which provide arts and design courses (e.g. the Hong Kong Institute of Education offers visual arts studies), and the role they play in strengthening humanware in culture and the arts.
<i>Hong Kong Arts Centre [CB(2)1101/07-08(03)]</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Hong Kong Art School is short of government funding support for its educational programmes, and it hopes that the Wan Chai Police Station can be allocated to the School to be used as its campus.

<p><i>Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA)</i> [CB(2)1053/07-08(05)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Apart from subvented arts and cultural groups, other self-funding institutions such as HKIA which also engages actively in the promotion of culture and the arts, require government funding support for its activities.
<p><i>Hong Kong Fringe Club</i> [CB(2)1101/07-08(01)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should sponsor cultural organisations in organising arts educational and promotional programmes for the community and also support the development of self-funding arts organisations like the Fringe Club.
<p><i>Hong Kong Institute of Contemporary Culture</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research study on arts education should be conducted to understand the current situation in the provision of arts education in schools, constraints and problems, and adequacy of teaching resources and support measures in schools, etc.
<p><i>Mr YEUNG Wai-sing,</i> <i>Eastern District Council</i> <i>member</i> [CB(2)1053/07-08(06)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reference should be made to the arts curricula for primary and secondary schools in overseas places in seeking improvements to the local arts curriculum which seems to have over-emphasised training of technical skills rather than students' ability of appreciation. ● The Administration should set up a special fund for supporting cultural exchanges for participation of students to widen their vision in culture and the arts.
<p><i>Ink Society Limited</i> [CB(2)1302/07-08(01)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EDB should review the arts curriculum with a view to strengthening studies in the arts, music and drama in primary, secondary schools and tertiary institutions. The development of a comprehensive arts curriculum and strengthening arts teacher training are needed to cultivate local arts talents.
<p><i>Mr Oscar HO</i> <i>Department of Cultural and Religious Studies,</i> <i>Chinese University of Hong Kong</i> [CB(2)1068/07-08(01) and (02)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should collaborate with tertiary institutions to encourage undertaking more arts research activities and production of arts educational aid, e.g. publications on arts management and arts appreciation.
<p><i>Islands District Council</i> [CB(2)1101/07-08(06)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) should provide cultural and arts activities free of charge or at a low cost for students and residents in the Islands District as they may not be able to afford the expensive

	<p>traffic cost to travel outside their district to attend such activities.</p>
<p><i>Ink Society Limited</i> [CB(2)1302/07-08(01)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arts groups, such as the Chung Ying Theatre Company which has been successful in the past in giving performances in Tin Shui Wai, should expand their outreach programmes to other districts for the young people to enhance their opportunities of engaging in arts activities.
<p><i>Hong Kong Institute of Contemporary Culture</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There may be a general misunderstanding amongst District Council (DC) members that cultural and arts activities are equivalent to leisure and recreational activities. The Administration should promote understanding of cultural and arts activities among DC members with a view to facilitating their organisation of cultural and arts activities for residents by making better use of \$300 million being allocated to DCs for the implementation of community involvement projects.
<p><i>The Composers & Authors Society of Hong Kong</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In order to encourage more people in the community to engage in cultural and arts studies, a trust fund, similar to the Continuing Education Fund, for subsidising such studies should be set up for application by the public.
<p><i>Professional Commons</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● District Cultural Centres should be set up to promote appreciation of culture and the arts in the community. Cultural activities should be organised to encourage reading habit among the younger generation.
<p>2. Professional training on the arts, arts administration and arts criticism</p>	
<p><i>Mr Oscar HO</i> <i>Department of Cultural and Religious Studies,</i> <i>Chinese University of Hong Kong</i> [CB(2)1068/07-08(01) and (02)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The importance of training of arts educators, arts critics and arts administrators for Hong Kong has long been neglected in the past. As these professionals play an important role of promoting culture and the arts to the audience, the lack of these professionals has undermined the effectiveness of the work of bringing cultural and arts presentations to the audience. This has resulted in a small audience base in culture and the arts and a lack of interest of the local media in covering cultural and arts programmes. Hong Kong should embark on timely measures to strengthen manpower training in order to realise the vision of the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) project in facilitating the long-term development of culture and the arts. For example, the M+ of WKCD will

	<p>pose a large demand for professionals of museum management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More training programmes (e.g. degree/certificate courses; internships/practicum opportunities) should be provided for artists/cultural workers.
<p><i>The Association of Managers, Cultural Services</i> [CB(2)1068/07-08(05)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The brain drain rate of cultural services managers in the past two years was 18% and that of deputy managers was 26%. The Administration should address serious brain drain pertaining to arts administrators, and devise measure to retain talents and strengthen manpower training.
<p><i>Composers and Authors Society of Hong Kong</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Management training in the arts is very lacking in Hong Kong. Only one such course is offered by the Chinese University of Hong Kong and another one, the "Postgraduate Diploma in Creative Industries Management", will be launched by the School of Professional and Continuing Education of the University of Hong Kong in April 2008. ● While the Administration should attract more people to embark on studies relating to the arts, the reimbursable amount under the Continuing Education Fund, i.e. \$10,000 per person, should also be increased. The administration of the Fund should also be transferred from the Labour and Welfare Bureau to EDB. ● The Administration should address the problem of inadequate performing venues available for teaching purpose in relation to theatre and entertainment arts training. The Administration should also subsidise arts management training courses organised by local or overseas educational institutions.
<p><i>International Association of Art Critics, Hong Kong (AICA/HK)</i> [CB(2)1101/07-08(04)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should address the problem that Hong Kong has no dedicated artists' residency programme for visiting artists. Reference should be made to the Taipei Artist Village which has an excellent purpose-built facility to accommodate artists of different disciplines. The lack of such facilities in Hong Kong has hindered implementation of exchange programmes with overseas artists.
<p><i>Hong Kong Arts' Administrators'</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should provide funding support for small and budding arts groups to employ administrative

<p><i>Association</i> [CB(2)1101/07-08(02)]</p>	<p>staff so as to relieve the artists of these groups from administrative burden and to offer more training opportunities for arts administrators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should provide funding support for major arts organisations to operate training programmes to train junior and middle managers and encourage these arts organisations to accept interns. ● The Administration should provide training opportunities to attract experienced administrators in other fields who are passionate about the arts to become arts managers. ● The Administration should enhance exposure of participating arts organisations under the Venue Partnership Scheme to venue management.
<p>3. A comprehensive manpower mapping survey to be launched by HAB in early 2008</p>	
<p><i>International Association of Art Critics, Hong Kong (AICA/HK)</i> [CB(2)1101/07-08(04)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The manpower mapping survey will not be useful unless there is a clear direction devised for the development of the cultural policy. Before launching the manpower mapping survey, the Administration should work out the delineation of roles and functions between LCSD and the future WKCD Authority and their respective positioning. For example, whether the two will compete for audience, or whether WKCD is positioned to make Hong Kong an international cultural metropolis whereas LCSD is to specialise in the promotion of culture and the arts in the community.
<p><i>The Association of Managers, Cultural Services</i> [CB(2)1068/07-08(05)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Information and data on the "audience's demands" should be obtained by conducting surveys on (i) how Hong Kong people allocate their leisure time, and (ii) the pattern of cultural consumption (文化消費) of the people.
<p><i>Democratic Party</i> [CB(2)1101/07-08(07)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should formulate strategies to develop humanware for culture and the arts, taking into account the findings of the manpower mapping survey to be conducted. The Administration should also conduct a survey on audience' interests making reference to a survey study on performing arts commissioned by the then Culture and Recreation Branch in 1992.

<p>4. Developing performing venues and exploring new and alternative art spaces in the community</p>	
<p><i>The Association of Managers, Cultural Services</i> [CB(2)1068/07-08(05)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should map out strategies for the creation of alternative arts spaces. Apart from school-based facilities, vacant factory buildings should be explored as far as possible. The Foo Tak Building in Wanchai and the Fotanian Arts Studio are successful examples which still have room for further expansion. Rate or land tax concessions should be offered to encourage private owners of vacant buildings to rent their premises to arts groups/artists to showcase their creative work. ● The Administration should address the criticisms made by performing arts groups regarding the Venue Partnership Scheme, e.g. it has reduced the opportunities of community arts groups as well as medium and small sized arts groups in using certain venues.
<p><i>International Association of Art Critics, Hong Kong (AICA/HK)</i> [CB(2)1101/07-08(04)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improvements should be made to the management of arts facilities in consultation with community arts groups. The Government Property Agency imposes stringent control in its management of the the Cattle Depot Artist Village in To Kwa Wan to the detriment of expression of creativity of artists using the facility.
<p>5. Resources allocation and increasing support for small and medium sized arts groups as well as the young and budding arts groups/artists</p>	
<p><i>Museum of Site</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should allocate more resources for culture and the arts as there has been no increase in the annual recurrent expenditure on culture and the arts in the past decade. ● The Administration should provide a breakdown on the total expenditures of the 18 District Councils for culture and the arts in 2006-2007. ● The Administration should increase the annual recurrent expenditure on culture and the arts from \$2.5 billion to \$2.75 billion. The 10% increase is intended to cover the expenses on preparation works for WKCD and set-up cost of a Heritage Protection Fund if it is provided.

<p><i>Civic Party</i> [CB(2)1068/07-08(04)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC), which supports the diversified development of local artists and arts groups, only receives about 2.8% of the government's annual recurrent expenditure whereas LCS D receives some 79%. The Administration should increase the recurrent funding for HKADC in order to enhance its funding support for the diversified development of local arts groups.● The Administration should enhance funding support for the development of medium and small sized performing arts groups which receive funding allocation from HKADC at a level of amount of less than one third of that allocated to the 10 major performing arts groups.● The subvention mode of "One-Year Grant" is not conducive to the development of new and budding arts groups in planning for long-term programmes. The subsidy mode for small and medium arts groups should be diversified.● While the Administration undertakes that it will increase funding support for the 10 major performing arts groups for 2008-2009 and 2009-2010, the Administration should explain what changes and improvements will be made to the relevant funding and evaluation mechanisms.
<p><i>International Association of Art Critics, Hong Kong (AICA/HK)</i> [CB(2)1101/07-08(04)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Administration should review the current position that a large proportion of the government's annual recurrent expenditure and venues for culture and the arts is allocated to LCS D under its control, and this may not be conducive to the diversified development of local arts groups. The level of government involvement in arts and culture is unnecessarily high. For better utilization of the facilities, the Administration should release some LCS D venues for the community to run directly.● The Administration should review the effectiveness of HKADC in performing its role, e.g. HKADC, since its inception, has not fulfilled its roles of undertaking independent research and giving advice to the Government on arts policy issues.
<p><i>Spring-time Stage Productions Limited</i> [CB(2)1163/07-08(01)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The current policy of heavily subsidising the 10 major performing arts groups has led to unfair competition within the sector, which is not conducive to the development of

	<p>the arts. The non-subsidised drama groups are competing unfavourably with the established ones which can lower their ticket prices to a level below their production cost. The non-subsidised arts groups also have great difficulty in getting private investment than the subsidised arts groups, as the latter enjoy guaranteed government subsidies contributing to lower production costs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should review its policy of heavily subsidising the 10 major performing arts groups in the light of current circumstances. The Administration should provide justifications for adopting such a policy and review fairness of the policy.
<p><i>Mr YEUNG Wai-sing, Member of Eastern District Council [CB(2)1053/07-08(06)]</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The funding methodology for subvented arts/cultural organisations should be reviewed to rectify the problem of imbalance. In reforming the methodology, the Administration should actively engage the arts sector in the process.
<p><i>Democratic Party [CB(2)1101/07-08(07)]</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should reduce subsidies to the established arts groups gradually and the resources relieved should be redeployed to support the small and medium arts groups as well as young and budding artists. To help such artists, the Government should identify more performance/exhibition venues as platforms for them to cultivate their craft, and allow street-artists to perform in areas with high pedestrian flow.
<p><i>International Association of Art Critics, Hong Kong (AICA/HK) [CB(2)1101/07-08(04)]</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Local young artists have limited opportunities to develop their talents. The Hong Kong Tourism Board should be more proactive in promoting the work of local artists abroad.
<p><i>Spring-time Stage Productions Limited [CB(2)1163/07-08(01)]</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Many graduates of HKAPA cannot get performing opportunities in the drama sector and this is not conducive to the target of nurturing and retaining arts talents.
<p><i>Hong Kong Philharmonic Society Ltd (HKPS) [CB(2)1053/07-08(04)]</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should increase adequate funding support for local arts groups in order to materialise the vision of WKCD. The current level of government funding HKPS received has, however, been reduced by \$12 million compared to the level in 1998-1999.

<p><i>Hong Kong Arts Festival Society</i> [CB(2)1101/07-08(05)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There has been no increase in government funding support for the Hong Kong Arts Festival since 2005. In recent years, the actual funding support, after deducting venue rental and other necessary costs, amounted to less than 15% of the operating budget. The funding level is low and the quality of its programmes may be affected in the long term. ● The Hong Kong Arts Festival Society can provide opportunities of internship programmes for arts management training if it receives funding support from the Administration in this respect.
<p>6. Other suggested initiatives to facilitate the development of culture and the arts, e.g. introducing institutional reform and setting up a Cultural Affairs Bureau</p>	
<p><i>Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong</i> <i>Museum of Site</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● These two organisations suggest setting up of a Cultural Affairs Bureau in the Government to be responsible for implementing active measures to promote culture and the arts in schools and in the community and to oversee implementation of the cultural policy and related resources allocation. Museum of Site further suggests that this new bureau should oversee the operation of the WKCD Authority as the WKCD project is also a major cultural initiative of the Administration. In addition, Museum of Site suggests that a trust fund for culture and the arts should be set up and administered by this new bureau for supporting community cultural and arts activities.
<p><i>Hong Kong Institute of Contemporary Culture</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The cultural policy involves implementing initiatives straddling different bureaux, e.g. arts education in schools, provision of television channels for cultural and arts programmes, development of creative industries, and revitalising heritage buildings by bringing in cultural and arts activities, which are under the purview of Home Affairs Bureau (HAB), EDB, the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) and the Development Bureau respectively. To avoid lack of coordination among bureaux and to foster the development of culture and the arts, an integrated unit should be created for implementation of the cultural policy. Reference can be made to South Korea where a public-funded organisation overseeing implementation of initiatives relating to the development of culture and the arts has been set up.

<p><i>Zuni Icosahedron</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There should be a clear delineation of roles between HAB and EDB in taking forward different initiatives, e.g. strengthening basic arts education and professional training, for the promotion of arts in the community.
<p><i>Mr Oscar HO</i> <i>Department of Cultural and Religious Studies,</i> <i>Chinese University of Hong Kong</i> <i>[CB(2)1068/07-08(01) and (02)]</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should put in place a mechanism, with the participation of the cultural and arts sectors, for conducting review of the cultural policy and its implementation.
<p><i>The Association of Managers, Cultural Services</i> <i>[CB(2)1068/07-08(05)]</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should conduct studies on "Art Licensing" (藝術授權) with a view to promoting the development of creative industries. ● The Administration should open more public TV channels and require commercial TV broadcasters to provide free channels for broadcasting arts and cultural programme during licence renewal. ● Measures should be devised to encourage the business sector and the community to sponsor and make donations for arts groups. Tax concessions and matching grants should be offered to encourage donations to arts groups. The Administration should also consider enhancing legislation on intellectual property right and copyright to safeguard the interests of artists.
<p>7. Promotion of Chinese culture</p>	
<p><i>Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong</i> <i>[CB(2)1068/07-08(03)]</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LCSD should promote Chinese traditional cultural customs, e.g. lantern carnivals (Mid-Autumn Festival) and lantern riddle game night carnivals, and it should provide more venues for such activities. ● LCSD should enhance resources support for community groups to organise local cultural activities, e.g. dragon-boat race, during festivals, and promote it as a kind of water sports in Hong Kong.
<p><i>The Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The development of Cantonese operas should be promoted and a training school on Xiqu (戲曲) should be set up. Venue problem caused by the demolition of the Sunbeam Theatre in North Point should be addressed.

<p><i>Mr YEUNG Wai-sing, Member of Eastern District Council [CB(2)1053/07-08(06)]</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should enhance national education and organise more exchange programmes to the Mainland to facilitate people's understanding of the roots of Hong Kong's culture.
<p>8. Development of public libraries and museums</p>	
<p><i>Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong [CB(2)1068/07-08(03)]</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should strengthen support for the development of public and private museums and consider setting up a Child Museum in Hong Kong.
<p><i>International Association of Art Critics, Hong Kong (AICA/HK) [CB(2)1101/07-08(04)]</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should provide a timetable for introducing changes to the management of Hong Kong's public museums with a view to granting them full autonomy in decision-making "in line with international practices". ● There is no art facility displaying the history of Hong Kong art, and the Hong Kong Museum of Art has very limited collections on permanent display. If the visual arts of Hong Kong are to make any impact internationally, visiting curators should have the chance to see the range of Hong Kong visual art physically for themselves.
<p><i>Museum of Site</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should review its policy on public libraries in Hong Kong taking into account latest development "Public lending right" (PLR) that has been introduced in many European countries, i.e. the right of authors to receive payment under PLR legislation for the loan of their books by public libraries. In the United Kingdom, writers, illustrators, photographers, translators and editors who have contributed to books lent out by public libraries receive PLR payments each year.
<p><i>Mr YEUNG Wai-sing, Member of Eastern District Council [CB(2)1053/07-08(06)]</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should provide each district with resources to set up its district-based museum of history.
<p>9. Heritage conservation</p>	
<p><i>Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong [CB(2)1068/07-08(03)]</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Administration should compile a comprehensive inventory and database on Hong Kong's tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

<p><i>Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Proper conservation of heritage buildings with historical significance can be one of the means of strengthening Hong Kong people's cultural identity. The heritage conservation policy should allow preservation of historic buildings of less than 50 years but with historic significance.
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Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
5 May 2008