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Hon. Ip Kwok-him, GBS, JP,  
Chairman  
Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the  
West Kowloon Cultural District Project  
Legislative Council Building, 8 Jackson Road  
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27-Feb-2009

**Re: Invitation for written submissions.**

Dear Hon. Ip Kwok-him, GBS, JP.

Thanks for honoring the Hong Kong Arts Centre with this invitation. As an ardent arts promoter we fully understand the importance of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project (WKCD) in the development of Hong Kong arts and culture. We have taken pride and joy to share our experience and express our views to your Joint Subcommittee on different occasions.

Regarding the issue, we want to express two points of pressing importance:

1. WKCD should be planned with the whole Hong Kong arts and cultural development in mind --- To make Hong Kong the capital of arts and culture in Asia we need to go beyond WKCD, using it as a creative hub and weaving it into the existing network of small and medium size art organizations and venues to create synergy. For example, it should be connected with the arts and cultural hubs in Tsim Sha Tsui and Wanchai North, the Hong Kong Arts Centre, the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, the Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre, and the Cattle Depot etc., through programming or other means.
2. There is an urgent need to develop cultural software (nurturing artists, personnel and building audiences) now --- The first phase of WKCD will be completed by 2015 which leaves us only six years to build artistic contents, audiences and train curators, arts administrators and technical staff. Right now, there are only a few isolated arts administration courses available while practical opportunities are scant. We must start changing these and developing ingredients for the software of WKCD.

Hong Kong Arts Centre has always been an incubator for young and developing artists and organizations. Moreover, as a unique multidisciplinary programme provider and venue operator, it has nurtured many of the arts administrators and curators working in the field today. This role is further reinforced by our Art School



which offers professional courses in arts administration and management as well as a wide spectrum of courses to enhance arts appreciation and to nurture creativity. In parallel to WKCD's aspiration to make arts accessible to the public while establishing itself as a world class arts and cultural centre, the Hong Kong Arts Centre also aims at world class artistic excellence while providing arts education to the Hong Kong public. In future, we will offer more advanced courses as well as promote visual art education through short courses and community arts programmes. At a time when the development of cultural software is much needed to prepare for WKCD, the Hong Kong Arts Centre could be a useful strategic partner for the WKCD Authority.

Yours Sincerely,

Connie Lam  
Executive Director  
Hong Kong Arts Centre