

**LETTERHEAD OF ARTS WITH THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION HONG KONG**

To : Hon. Choy So-yuk,  
Chairman, Panel on Home Affairs,  
Legislative Council

Fax no. 2509 9055

From : Mok Chiu Yu  
Executive Secretary,  
Arts with the Disabled Association Hong Kong

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No. of pages: 3

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> September, 1998

Re: Submission on Long Term Cultural Policy in Hong Kong

With respect to your call for discussion on the development of arts and cultural, cultural exchange activities and promotion of arts in schools in the community, we would like to submit the following views:

1. That more public resources should be devoted to the activities mentioned above-that the public budget for arts and cultural, cultural exchange activities should not be reduced despite of Hong Kong's economic downturn;
2. That whatever development and promotion are to take place, it should be carried out on the basis of equal opportunities-we would like to point out that persons with disabilities have been discriminated when it comes to enjoying, partaking in and having access to the arts. We would like to point out the following:
  - a. people with disabilities number half a million in Hong Kong according to figures of the Hong Kong Council of Social service.

- b. people with disabilities should have the same rights as other Hong Kong citizens to participate in Hong Kong's artistic and cultural life, but often face greater obstacles in gaining access to venues, resources, employment, training and programs.
- c. people with disabilities can and do contribute to Hong Kong's artistic and cultural life and should have the opportunity to develop their own cultural activities for the enrichment and enjoyment of all Hong Kong people.

3. That it would be appropriate for Hong Kong to have a code of practice on Arts & Disability which will be similar to those in existence in countries like Great Britain and lay down good practices in terms of satisfying the cultural needs of persons with disabilities including employment of persons with disabilities, programming, outreaching, information and publicity, ticket pricing, access and disability awareness etc.

4. That it would be appropriate for the relevant government authority to commission a detailed research report on art and disability with the following brief-

- a. evaluate barriers to intellectual and physical access to the arts for people with disabilities, as audience members, artists/performers and employees/artworkers.
- b. assess the appropriateness of the existing arts and disability infrastructure, including key players and support networks, involved in providing services through, or developing access to, the arts for people with disabilities, including artists.
- c. examine the ways in which people with disabilities are reflected in or represented through the arts.
- d. analyse the implications for arts organisations of the anti-discrimination laws newly implemented in Hong Kong.
- e. investigate the need for arts funding to be attached with guideline on the arts and disability.
- f. develop a framework for policy on arts and disability.

We are sending you separately copies of our latest publication: No More Lesser-Arts, Disability and Equal Opportunities. Please distribute the copies to other members of the Panel and we trust that this book will further elaborate some of our positions.

We shall not be able to come to the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 1998 but should there be any queries on our submission, kindly contact Mr. Mok Chiu Yu, Executive Secretary of our organisation on phone no. 2855 9548.