

香港特別行政區政府

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

房屋及規劃地政局
香港花園道美利大廈



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本局檔號 Our Ref.

來函檔號 Your Ref.

27 August 2005

Miss Odelia LEUNG
Clerk to Subcommittee on West Kowloon Cultural District Development
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Miss Leung,

Subcommittee on West Kowloon Cultural District Development

Thank you for your letter of 9 August, requesting us to provide the information listed in the Appendix to your letter.

As you are already aware, the Chief Secretary of Administration has agreed to attend a special meeting of the House Committee to discuss with Members various issues regarding the development of the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD). The letter from the Chief Secretary of Administration of 13 July to the Chairperson of the House Committee is at Annex A for your reference. He will take that opportunity to share with Members the outcome of the public consultation and discuss with Members how best to take forward the WKCD project, including matters related to the proposed "overseeing authority". Also, as we have committed to the public and LegCo earlier, we shall make arrangements for publication of the report on public consultation in the near future.

Regarding your enquiries on the canopy, we have set out the Administration's responses in our letter to you of 3 May.

As for Government's cultural and heritage protection policy relating to WKCD, I attach at Annex B relevant information provided by Home Affairs Bureau for your reference.

Yours sincerely,



(Arsene YIU)
for Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

香港特別行政區政府
政務司司長辦公室



Annex A
CHIEF SECRETARY
FOR ADMINISTRATION'S OFFICE
Government of the Hong Kong
Special Administrative Region

Our Ref.: CSO 6/1/18 (7/05)
Your Ref.: CB2/H/3

13 July 2005

The Hon Miriam Lau Kin-yeet, GBS, JP
Chairman, House Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Miriam,

Thank you for your letter of 8 July inviting me to attend a meeting of the House Committee.

The Chief Executive is currently discussing with Principal Officials, among other things, the policy agenda for the Government in the next two years and the relationship between the Executive and the Legislature. It is, therefore, not appropriate for the time being for me to discuss these issues with Members.

This notwithstanding, I would be pleased to continue the arrangement for the Chief Secretary for Administration to attend special meetings of the House Committee on a regular basis to exchange views on individual, special issues that are of interest to Members, such as the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) development.

We have just received the report on the Phase I study of the Legislative Council Subcommittee on WKCD. At the same time, the independent consultant engaged by the Government is preparing a separate report on the public views received during the consultation on WKCD that ended on 30 June. We will carefully consider the recommendations of the Legislative Council Subcommittee and the public views received in mapping out the way forward. To allow

preparation for a fruitful discussion with Members, I intend to attend a special meeting of the House Committee in September. My office will get in touch with the Legislative Council Secretariat to set up the meeting nearer the time.

Yours sincerely

ds
(Rafael S. Y. HUI)
Chief Secretary for Administration

Annex B

Cultural and heritage protection policy and West Kowloon

Our basic policy on arts and culture is to endeavour to create an environment which is conducive to the freedom of artistic expression and creation and encourages wide public participation in cultural activities. The Government sees its role as a catalyst in promoting the development of culture and the arts through the provision of financial support, education and publicity.

In April 2000, the Culture and Heritage Commission (CHC) was established to advise the Government on the policies as well as resources allocation priorities on culture and the arts. The CHC submitted its Policy Recommendation Report (the CHC Report) to the Government in April 2003, putting forward more than one hundred recommendations which cover overall policies as well as implementation strategies. The Government accepted CHC's proposed strategies for cultural development, and announced in early 2004 that it would adopt the CHC Report as a blueprint of Hong Kong's cultural policy and would gradually implement most of its recommendations.

The CHC proposed to protect cultural heritage in Hong Kong, incorporate a cultural perspective (including heritage conservation and the aesthetic quality of city environment) in town planning and urban renewal, and enhance public awareness of the importance of heritage preservation through public education efforts. The Government conducted a public consultation on Review of Built Heritage Conservation Policy in early 2004, and is now further reviewing the public opinions gathered from the consultation.

Apart from conservation of built heritage, we recognized the importance of preserving the unique history and culture of Hong Kong to fostering our cultural identity and sense of belonging. The CHC had put forward its vision on the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD), which was later included into the WKCD Conceptual Design Competition document. It pointed out that what WKCD ought to reclaim is not only land but Hong Kong's history, identity and creative

spirit. The WKCD should not simply be a superficial design of sheer visual sensation, but it should be able to evoke a greater emotional depth in people's hearts and minds. It should be a place that not only highlights Hong Kong's role as a world class city in this region but also evokes memories : a new exciting place that people can still relate to and find comforting familiarity with.

As a matter of fact, according to the Government's requirements as set out in the Invitation for Proposals, the arts and cultural facilities put forward by the Proponents should fulfill the vision of preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of Hong Kong. Take museums as an example, the proposed themes, namely ink, moving image, modern art and design can highlight our local culture on the one hand and serve to showcase and conserve the local cultural heritage on the other. Upon completion of the WKCD, a large quantity of venues and platforms will also be available for local artists and art groups to undertake arts and cultural activities, which would facilitate the development of our arts and culture.

Home Affairs Bureau
27 August 2005