

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Hong Kong as a sustainable regional cultural hub”
moved by Hon LAU Kong-wah
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 25 May 2011**

Motion as amended by Hon LEE Wing-tat and Hon Tanya CHAN

That, given that the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (‘WKCD’) has designated a conceptual plan as the master plan for developing the West Kowloon Cultural District (‘WKCD’), the authorities will launch the Stage 3 Public Engagement Exercise in summer this year to consult the public on the development plan of the WKCD; whether the WKCD can develop into a first-class arts and cultural facility in the world will largely depend on Hong Kong’s overall cultural development, and whether we can seize the opportunity presented by the WKCD to upgrade people’s cultural qualities as well as artistic tastes, so as to establish Hong Kong’s cultural edge and status; in order to build Hong Kong into a sustainable regional cultural hub, this Council urges the Government to:

Perfection of framework and policies –

- (a) explore the establishment of a cultural and education bureau to co-ordinate the policies and resources presently scattered among other government departments, and explore and formulate territory-wide and regional policies as well as development strategies for culture and the arts;
- (b) enhance the professional composition of the Advisory Committee on Arts Development and its function as a think tank;
- (c) formulate a checklist with culture and arts as the core to assist various government departments in giving more attention and consideration to the needs of local culture and arts in the process of policy evaluation and project implementation;
- (d) reform the Hong Kong Arts Development Council’s method for selecting members from the community, and step up the studies on and implementation of local arts and community development strategies, so as to improve the operation of existing cultural hardware and its ancillary facilities;

Resources allocation and market development —

- (e) increase participation and investment in culture and arts by requiring the Government and major public bodies to spend 1% of the construction expenses of their public works projects on public arts;
- (f) provide major performing arts groups with venues that suit their needs and financial support, so as to foster their sustainable and healthy development and drive the upgrading of Hong Kong's overall cultural level;
- (g) assist in building a vibrant cultural and arts market, and allocate resources to train talents of the relevant industries, and attract more people to participate in the relevant intermediary industries and professional services;
- (h) enhance support for young art workers, so as to encourage more young people to join cultural and artistic industries;
- (i) promote arts popularization, with a view to enlarging Hong Kong's arts appreciation population;
- (j) train local talents engaging in culture and arts administration, and set up scholarships for people aspiring to develop in the areas of culture and arts to pursue overseas studies on arts administration and venue management, etc., so as to nurture talents for Hong Kong in this regard and meet the demand for arts administration talents after the completion of WKCD;

Facility and space enhancement —

- (k) establish regional cultural and arts resources centres in various districts, so as to more effectively foster the promotion and education on traditional folklores, festivals and customs in the districts, encourage the development of budding arts talents and provide room for community activities;
- (l) through various policies, encourage private developers to provide cultural and arts facilities, and flexibly utilize the existing district resources for increasing the number of cultural and arts venues, so as to progressively form a cultural ambience in society;
- (m) open more public space to street performers, so as to enable performing arts to enrich streets in Hong Kong, and relax the existing legislation on street performances, so as to encourage public arts to enter the communities;

- (n) strengthen inter-departmental co-operation, and use existing premises or resources for providing more exhibition space, including public space not designated as formal exhibition venues, so as to enable arts workers to have more opportunities to display their works to the public;

Promotion of public arts education —

- (o) promote public arts education, and intensify public education and promotion, so as to reacquaint people with arts and culture as well as their professional nature and status;
- (p) station in each secondary school and primary school a sufficient number of professionally trained teachers, and provide ample teaching facilities and room, so as to facilitate the full-scale, universal and professional conduct of arts education;
- (q) establish a close partnership among the WKCDA, arts organizations and The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, so as to bring in professional perspectives to assist in the development of the WKCD and promote culture and arts education, and to strengthen the professional development of local arts and culture in the WKCD;
- (r) develop the WKCD into an international cultural district with Asian, Chinese and Western cultural features;

Provision of an information and exchanges platform —

- (s) establish a systematic and free public cultural channel, including a public television channel and an arts web, so as to enable the arts sector to conduct publicity and exchanges;
- (t) through the Broadcasting Authority, encourage free television channels to provide daily newscasts on cultural affairs; and

Relationship with arts organizations —

- (u) regard various arts organizations as partners, maintain close co-operation with them, and request the WKCDA to face up and proactively respond to the views put forward by arts organizations on the WKCD, so as to allay their concern about the present ‘black hole in WKCD’;

Perfection of framework and policies —

- (v) review the role, functions and composition of the Advisory Committee on Arts Development, and introduce the participation of more people with professional cultural and arts backgrounds;

- (w) review the functions and composition of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council as a territory-wide statutory public cultural organization, improve its structure and composition, bring in more members with professional cultural and arts background, and review the system for selecting representatives from the arts interest;

Promotion of public arts education —

- (x) conduct studies on offering cultural and arts education programmes at more universities and tertiary institutions; and

Provision of an information and exchanges platform —

- (y) conduct studies on establishing an artwork resources platform for collecting local artists' works, and arrange for the identification of appropriate artworks by organizations interested in borrowing or renting artworks for exhibition purposes, so as to enable local artists to display their works in more places.