

History Sub-committee, Museum Advisory Committee

12th Meeting held on 12 December 2023

Summary of Discussion

1. Three-Year Plans of the History Museums and Related Offices Managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department

- Members noted the three-year plans of the history museums and related offices managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD).
- Members made the following comments or enquiries about the three-year plans:
 - Suggested that the Hong Kong Heritage Museum (HKHM) should convey the cultural essence of Jin Yong’s novels to the youth through the exhibition “A Path to Glory – Jin Yong’s Centennial Memorial, Sculpted by Ren Zhe” (Jin Yong exhibition);
 - Suggested that the Jin Yong exhibition should tell the heroic tales of female characters in Jin Yong’s novels from a balanced perspective;
 - Suggested exploring the possibility of co-organising arts-related activities with the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) at the Sheung Yiu Folk Museum so as to promote the museum to the public;
 - Suggested that when organising “General History of China Exhibition Series”, the Hong Kong Museum of History (HKMH) should introduce a province of Mainland China while introducing a particular dynasty so as to enhance visitors’ understanding of the dynasties, provincial developments and historical statuses of China; and
 - Suggested setting up displays at different historical spots to give visitors a feel of the setting and ambience of historical events.
- The LCSD responded as follows:
 - The LCSD was currently planning extension activities for the Jin Yong exhibition, such as talks at museums and reading corners set up in collaboration with public libraries, to introduce the underlying Chinese culture and values of Jin Yong’s novels;
 - The HKHM had been co-organising activities under “Art Buddies” with the HKADC;
 - The future curatorial direction of the HKMH was to amalgamate history and geography;

- The Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence was currently inviting scholars to lead guided tours of sites of the War of Resistance. After this had become an established routine, activities could be held at historical spots.

2. Setting up Two Museums about Our Country and the War of Resistance and the Future Development of Museums

- Members noted the setting up of two museums about our country and the War of Resistance as well as the future development of museums.

- Members made the following comments or enquiries about new developments for the museums, including the setting up of two museums about our country and the War of Resistance:

- Enquired about site identification for the museum showcasing the development and achievements of our country to be constructed (the new museum), and suggested that West Kowloon or the Airport might be desirable for the new museum;
- Suggested disseminating messages properly and maintaining good communication with both Mainland and overseas media organisations;
- Hoped that the Government would maintain its initial policies of upgrading the cultural infrastructure, including increasing the number of museums, to expedite Hong Kong's progression into an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange, and invest more resources in this respect;
- Suggested that, in the development of museums, consideration should be given to the engagement of teenagers and families, and more elements of education and child participation should be added so as to benefit the next generation of Hong Kong;
- Suggested adding pop culture exhibitions to the Hong Kong Cultural Centre in future expansion for better unification of themes; and
- Suggested setting up a team of professional consultants to properly plan the future development of museums.

- The LCSD responded as follows:

- As the new museum would target both Hong Kong citizens and tourists, its future exhibitions would be uniquely curated to attract different groups of audience;
- In the 2022 Policy Address and the 2023 Policy Address, the Chief Executive announced the Government's plans to increase the number of the LCSD's

museums to 19 and over 20 respectively. The LCSD hoped that its museum services could contribute to Hong Kong's progression into an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange; and

- The LCSD had been exploring the feasibility of setting up a Pop Culture Centre since last year, and would continue to identify a suitable site.

Secretariat
Museum Advisory Committee
October 2024