

Appendix 2.3 – Summary of Views Received in Stage 3 PE Exercise

Major Categories	Summary of Views
Overall Layout / Development Plan	<p>A large majority of the views received on the overall layout and/or the proposed DP have been supportive – the people-orientation, incorporating a wide range of opinion, balancing diverse needs, the green features, as well as the modern and innovative design. Differing views include the lack of distinctive architectural features and attributes pertaining to world-class arts and cultural districts, too much greenery, and some buildings being too close to each other. There are concerns on building height and density in the District.</p>
Arts and Cultural Facilities	<p>There are supportive views on the overall layout and locations of the arts and cultural facilities. The inclusion of some desirable features of the other two CPOs is supported. Views expressed include the location and capacity of certain arts and cultural facilities, their being too close together, the designs of buildings not being iconic, and too much emphasis being placed on performing arts and not enough on museums. Suggestions include having additional venues, having open design competitions for some iconic buildings, making better use of Victoria Harbour vis-à-vis the arts and cultural facilities, and the relocation of certain arts and cultural venues.</p> <p>There are suggestions regarding the M+ and the Xiqu Centre in terms of location and interior design, and the contents of exhibits for M+.</p> <p>There are also suggestions regarding the type and contents of libraries in the District.</p>
Phasing	<p>There is general support for the early implementation of the Project, and that further delay would be highly undesirable.</p>
Public Open Space	<p>Regarding the Park, many find the idea of a natural forest in an urban city appealing. Some opine that it is duplicating other parks, lacking a theme, too remote, and question whether it will truly be a forest.</p> <p>Regarding the Avenue, some find a straight Avenue mundane. There are also views about the Avenue being too commercial, too much like Mong Kok, and having insufficient greenery. There are views for and against street performance in the Avenue. Suggestions include having winding roads, having arcades to connect one city block with another, having more space for shops and supporting facilities, and expanding the scale of the Avenue so that decorated float parades can be held.</p> <p>There are many diverse suggestions received regarding the Promenade such as its width, facilities along the path, and themes.</p>
Commercial and Residential Facilities	<p>Regarding retail, dining and entertainment facilities, there is strong preference for stores that sell merchandise that are uniquely Hong Kong and with arts and cultural themes, and for restaurants that serve local foods and beverages. There seems to be greater preference for smaller operations rather than mega stores carrying the usual brand names that can be found in most shopping malls. Suggestions for recreation facilities emphasise the need for children and family orientation.</p> <p>Regarding residential developments, views have been expressed that having residential blocks in the District might turn it into a property development project. Suggestions include eliminating, downsizing, or relocating the residential blocks, setting clear guidelines on building height, and the rights of WKCD's facility users vs. those of the occupants/users of office, hotels, and residential facilities.</p>
Transportation, Connectivity and Accessibility	<p>There are supportive views on having a variety of public transportation means to visit WKCD, and a network of multi-level pedestrian linkages. Some consider that in view of the heavy traffic flows in the surrounding area, the current plan has to come up with a comprehensive transportation solution. There are views about existing and future connectivity within WKCD and its vicinity. In particular, they hope to see better north-south connectivity and connection to the Mega Performance Venue. There should be additional options for the pedestrians to get access to WKCD from various adjacent districts. Existing MTR station exits should be fully utilised to improve connectivity.</p> <p>There is noticeable support for building cycling tracks within WKCD.</p> <p>There is support for piers at WKCD. The design of the piers, however, needs to be differentiated from the other conventional piers in Hong Kong.</p>
Sustainability	<p>There is general support for the environmentally friendly design of WKCD, in particular, the provision of greenery in the District. Suggestions and questions include noise from outdoor performances, the importance of noise impact assessment, ventilation of underground traffic, air movement at pedestrian level and light pollution, the use of environmental protection technology and environmentally friendly building materials, and the need for a concrete action plan to achieve the sustainability vision and objectives.</p>

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Future Operational and Related Issues	Many views relate to future operational and management issues of WKCD such as the use of facilities by different users (including foreign domestic helpers and political groups), venue rental, and fares, the type of programmes (including nurturing programmes, audience building programmes, and programmes for children), the strategic positioning of WKCD (western vs. Chinese, international vs. local), and the long-term financial sustainability, especially in light of construction cost escalation. There are also comments on the PE exercise, generally wanting more information. Many comment on the Government's cultural policy, calling for more participation from stakeholders, especially arts and cultural professionals.

Source: Report on the Analysis of Views for the Stage 3 PE Exercise for the WKCD