

HONG KONG ARTS ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016-2017

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

1. STAFFING

With the support from ADC's year grant and funding of Arts Administration Internship Scheme, the Association now has a total of 3 full-time and 1 part-time staff members, they are: Ms Theresa Tsang (Manager), Ms Wendy Lam (Assistant Manager), Ms Chelsea Zhang (Management Trainee) and Ms Yuki Cheng (Part-time Intern).

2. FUNDING

In the year under review, Hong Kong Arts Development Council (ADC) approved the Association's Three-year grant from 2016 to 2019. The Second-Year grant on 2017-2018 was \$800,000, while it was \$880,000, for 2016-2017. Also, the Association had continued to successfully applied ADC 4th Arts Administration Internship for 2017-2018, with an amount of \$171,900, in order to support one year of salary for our Management Trainee. Furthermore, the Association received the grant of \$274,000 from ADC for Arts Administrations Workshops for a series of practical workshops "Essential Guide to Effective Arts Management: Law, Marketing, Finances and Project Management". The programme will be launched and completed in this year, targeting for current arts administrators with up to 3 years of related experience, independent producers and freelance arts practitioners.

Furthermore, the Association is continuously seeking for more funding resources, such as The Home Affairs Bureau's Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme (7th Round Funding Exercise), which we have submitted an application.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership now stands at 170 individual members (as of Feb 2018) and 8 corporate members, including Chung Ying Theatre, Hand Group (a 3D printing company), Hong Kong Arts Festival, Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, Hong Kong Dance Company, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Tai Kwun and Zuni Icosahedron. Members are with a diverse profile covering various sizes of arts groups/institutions with practitioners of various experiences ranging from CEO to younger administrators as well as students and from local and overseas. Currently we have 388 registered volunteers from university students to executives from different disciplines, who want to get involved and gain experience in arts administration.

4. ACTIVITIES OF THE PAST GRANT YEAR

4.1 **Talks and Workshops**

A series of talks and workshops were organized to support members' and practitioners' continued education and development, covering various topics and areas, such as using technology and digital

platform in the arts sector with Google Hong Kong and art-mate, career talks on cultural ecology, museum curation, registration and conservation with Asia Society Hong Kong and M+. Also, we organized networking events Arty Hour, etc. targeted for administrators of varied experience in the field, the talks and workshops had proven useful to, and had been well received by, attendees and fellow arts administrators. We also organized cultural tours from time to time, in order to encourage arts administrators to expand their knowledge and network. In year 2017, we organized a few guided tours with HSBC on archives and using digital app for storytelling.

In Nov 2016, the association organized a two-day Guangzhou Culture Trip, to watch performance of Guangdong modern dance week of City Contemporary Dance Company and had site visits on various venues, including Guangzhou Grand Theater and Xinghai Concert Hall.

We had some new initiatives during 2016-2017, including a two-day weekend workshop “Arts Executive Workshop – Envisioning the Arts: Strategy and Capacity Building”, co-presented with Faculty of Social Sciences and Excel3 of University of Hong Kong.

In July 2017, we introduced a new “Meet the Arts Leaders” Series, featuring outstanding leaders from different art forms. We had invited a veteran arts administrator Ms Helen Ng as the guest speakers. In March, we will have new talks featuring Mr Kin Bun Chan, Executive Director of Hong Kong Repertory Theatre and Ms Mary Lou Aleskie, Director of Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth College and Chair of the International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA).

4.2 **Cultural Leadership Summit 2017**

The “2017 Cultural Leadership Summit – Building Our Future” was held successfully on 26 to 27 September of 2017 at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, with our partners West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, Arts with the Disabled Association Hong Kong, Australian Consulate-General Hong Kong, Hong Kong Arts Centre and Kwang Hwa Information and Culture Center. We invited over 30 people of the best minds from Hong Kong and overseas in the arts and creative industry to join us in discussion, including technology experts from Facebook and Google. The two-day symposium, with talks, workshops, round-table discussions and networking sessions, attracted more than 400 participants attended, from young arts administrators to CEOs, representatives from government and consulates .

The “**2018 Cultural Leadership Summit**” would explore on topics of cultural exchange, such as development of Greater Bay Area, overseas touring opportunities and local cultural tourism. This year, the Summit is schedule to be held at Amphitheatre of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts from 18 to 19 September 2018. The coming Summit will provide a platform for constructive dialogue and network building. Please save the date and stay tuned.

4.3 **Schools and Institutional Talks**

The Association had been invited by different schools and institutions in Hong Kong to present on themes related to arts administration, including Education University of Hong Kong, School of Continuing and Professional Studies of CUHK and Hong Kong Young Friends.

4.4 **Hong Kong Arts Administrators Association Recruitment Day**

The Association strives to support the advancement of a flourishing arts scene by establishing a network connecting arts administrators in local and neighbor areas. To link the shortages of different levels of work in the arts field with demands to arts jobs, HKAAA organized an annual Recruitment Day during the summer in this grant year and will continue to provide this as a free platform for art organizations. The last Recruitment Day with on-site interview and CV consultation at HKICC Lee Shau Kee School of Creativity has been a great success and attracted over 200 attendees in 2017.

5 COMMUNICATIONS

The Association has been communicating with our practitioners through our website, Facebook, and e-newsletter. Our website and Facebook page are particularly popular with much useful information such as job postings, arts news, funding resources, featured events and research article for practitioner's usage. In the past one year, the number of subscribers on Facebook stood at over 13,000 and monthly visitors to our website about 20,000. We have built partnership with over 70 different arts groups, large and small, to offer benefits to our members.

6 POLICY ADVOCACY

The Association will continue to serve its role in advocacy for the development of a healthy local arts scene. The Association has constantly inquired on the needs of the arts industry by constructing dialogues, conducting evaluations and surveys. In the past year, the Association consulted small surveys for the arts industry on different topics including the skills that are most required by these small to mid-size organizations for arts administrators, training needs for overseas touring and views on URBTIX system. The findings will be the reference for the Association to plan our future events as well as our dialogues with the government.

Also, HKAAA representatives meet government officials regularly to discuss the circumstances of the local arts scene, including the need of training of arts administrators and some of the challenges of arts administrators, such as low salary and huge workload. Some of the government official we met in 2016/2017 includes representatives from Home Affairs Bureau and Legislative Council Mr Ma Fung-kwok. We also invited representatives from the government to discuss policy issues with the public, such as a post-policy address talk in October 2017 with representatives from Commerce and Economic Development Bureau and Home Affairs Bureau.

7 BOARD

On behalf of the Association, I would like to express my gratitude to our board members for their dedication and contribution for the past year. I hope all of our board members could continue to contribute to the Association.

8 CONCLUSION

As a small organization with a long history of 32 years, it has always been challenging for the association to grow and find the best way to serve the need of arts practitioners, with our limited manpower and resources.

The HKAAA will continue to build partnerships and provide a platform for information exchange, organize programmes for professional development for members and arts practitioners in the field and communicate with relevant authorities and parties for the advocacy and development of the arts industry.

Last but not the least, I would like to give a heartfelt thanks to all members for their support for the past year and your feedback is most welcomed. Please join us on the association's flagship event Cultural Leadership Summit 2017 and our coming talks "Meet the Arts Leaders" Series in March. Looking forward to seeing all of you soon.

Paul Tam
Chairman
7 March 2018