

Transforming Our Community Heritage — Schools, Parents, Community, Professionals and Government Partnership in Enhancing Sustainable Development of Our Community Heritage

CARE

Heritage preservation and education have been of growing importance in recent years. The Hong Kong Government has made an effort to support and promote preservation of local heritage. However, using heritage sites and buildings only for guided visits, or leaving them unused without any adaptive re-use, is a waste of our resources.

Objectives

The project aims to provide an opportunity for interactive participation between school communities and professionals to develop creative design proposals for transforming our community heritage to meet the needs and aspirations of each individual district and the community at large. Through an interactive and participatory process, students' research and creative ideas provide original and valuable contributions to District Councils, Government and the community. Students will also gain precious experience through the process and hence, develop a commitment to sustainable development. Moreover, the interactive and participatory workshop will help foster students' creative ideas on transforming the historical buildings and sites into economically and socially sustainable entities to the benefit of the community.

Activities and Progress

"Transforming Our Community Heritage" Project enters its second year and is well received by the school community — 38 secondary and primary schools and community organizations participate in the project and 7 heritage sites will be studied. Through a series of site visit and thematic activities, the students will be encouraged to develop their interests in community heritage conservation.

"Transforming Our Community Heritage" Exhibition and Recognition Ceremony

Under the theme of "tHIRD HORIZON", the "Transforming Our Community Heritage" Exhibition and Recognition Ceremony took place in the City Hall on 4 February 2006. The exhibition displayed the creative conservation proposals and the works of students in the first year of the project. Their heritage conservation proposals covered Stanley Police Station, Yau Ma Tei Fruit Market, Old District Office (North), Kat Hing Wai, Shek Kip Mei factory estates and Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter. The exhibition was attended by more than 4,700 visitors and widely covered by major local newspapers. Guests were invited to share their views on sustainable development and heritage preservation. Teachers and students also shared their valuable experience gained from participation in the project.

"Transforming Our Community Heritage" Seminar

Two seminars were organized on 13 and 20 March 2006 respectively. Two winners of the Hong Kong Heritage Awards (2004) were invited to share their invaluable experience in heritage conservation.

Upcoming Events

"Transforming our Community Heritage" Exhibition 2005 – 2006

We plan to hold an exhibition to display the participants' design models from May to July 2006 at the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre in the Kowloon Park.



在石硤尾工廠大廈內實地考察
Site visit at Shek Kip Mei Factory Estate