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謝謝香港青年藝術協會的團隊。

在開始發言之前,我想播放一齣短片,讓大家認識一下香港青年藝術協會的工作。

究竟本會是如何加強學生對文化藝術的認識?其後又如何延續這方面的工作呢?本會每年均舉辦一百多個視覺和表演藝術活動,目的是嘗試推動和激勵香港市民,特別是青年人,多些參與這些活動。

我們鼓勵家長讓孩子從小參與藝術活動,使其成為家庭生活和孩子日常生活的一部分,讓孩子養成一種習慣,如同教導他們每天早上要刷牙一樣。習慣成自然,我相信推廣藝術也應如此。

我們製造各種大大小小的機會,如在公園和商場等地方,讓人在不同環境下能夠不經意地接觸藝術,而毋須刻意尋覓。我們深信,藝術是為大眾而設的,希望人人都能參與其中。因此,我們舉辦多個項目,藉此揭開藝術的神秘面紗,掃除藝術只屬於一小撮人的玩意這種成見。

我們推出的藝術項目,成功與否,關鍵在於藝術家本身。因此,我們會先找一些幹勁十足的藝術家,而他們必須樂意與人分享技藝、善於與人溝通和對藝術教育充滿熱誠;然後,又會找一些願意全力為自己的學生和學校貢獻的教師。我們需要的是處事有魄力和有志改變現狀的人。接着,我們會安排這些人一起合作,讓他們擦出火花。

所有跟本會合作的藝術家都是以合理的價錢聘用的。 很明顯,這是因為本會重視他們的工作,同時希望締 造一個可持續發展下去的藝術工作環境。本會所做的 一切,均不是要與他人爭一日之長短,而是以成果為 依歸。我們籌辦的所有活動,無非把創作出來的作品 以展覽或演出的形式與人分享。這對跟本會合作的青 年人來說,是極大的鼓舞,而他們看到自己的作品能 公諸於世,與人分享,亦會產生無比的滿足感。 Thank you. YAF team.

I'd like to begin by sharing a video that'll give you a taste of the work that we do at the Youth Arts Foundation. Thank you.

So how do we at the YAF broaden a student's exposure to the arts and culture? And once we've got them, how do we keep them? Well, the YAF creates over a hundred projects every year in the visual and the performing arts. So we try and motivate and stimulate the Hong Kong community, and especially the youth community.

We encourage parents to get their children involved in the arts at an early age so that it becomes part of their family life and also part of the child's daily life. It's like a habit; it's like teaching your child to brush their teeth in the morning. Once you've got into the habit of it, you just do it automatically. And that's what I believe we should be doing in the arts.

We create lots of different opportunities in the arts in different spaces, and we try and create them in spaces like parks and shopping centres where you'll just trip over the arts. You won't have to look for it. We believe in arts for everybody. We want everyone to be engaged, and so the projects that we create, we want to demystify them; we want to dismiss any preconceptions that the arts are only for some people.

The key ingredient of any arts project is the artist. And so we look for dynamic artists who are keen to share their skills, artists that are good communicators and have a passion for arts education. And then we look for teachers in schools who want to be the best they can be for their students and for their school. We look for people with energy, people who want to make a difference. And then we put them together, and that's where the magic happens.

We employ all the artists that we work with, and we pay them a fair rate because obviously we value their work, and we want to cultivate a sustainable working environment in the arts. Everything the YAF does is non-competitive and outcome-based, so all the projects we do are about sharing the work once it's been created either by exhibition or as a performance. This is incredibly motivating to the young people that we work with, and it's so fulfilling for them to see their work being shared in a public environment.

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不少曾參加本會所辦活動的學校和青年人,均會再度 參與。起初,他們可能只是試試水溫,隨後卻深深被 本會的專業態度和優質製作吸引。他們均喜歡本會 提供機會,讓他們在專業場地一展所長,或與專業演 藝家同台獻藝,或在同一空間內展示作品。

本會追求的是長遠的合作關係,對單次合作不感興 趣。本會與不少學校合作,希望這些學校的青年人能 長期支持我們的工作。最初,參與的學校或會踏出一 小步,為藝趣嘉年華製作一件簡單的戲服;其後,隨 着信心和藝術技巧提升,他們或會想作大膽嘗試,創 製較高難度的作品。因此,幾年下來,你會看到他們 製作四米高的燈籠人偶,參加藝趣嘉年華的夜光巡 遊;也會看到有個別藝術家前來參加舞蹈工作坊,卻 從沒想過自己善於此道,結果渾然忘我,樂在其中,並 心想「我應該接受面試,參與演出」。接着,他們坐言 起行,接受面試,並獲邀參與演出。當他們的信心大 增後,而本會亦認定他們日後在舞蹈方面可能有一番 作為,便會安排他們參加本會所辦的計劃,例如青年 編舞者計劃,這不但可讓他們學習創作舞蹈,更可學 習如何發揮領導才能。此外,他們亦為本會的年輕會 員編創作品,並提供指導。

過去24年,香港青年藝術協會積極發展,成果豐碩。明年就是本會成立的25周年,對此我們欣喜不已。展望將來,毫無疑問,大計之一便是要發掘新進藝術家,因此我們其中一項工作是為他們提供培訓。雖然相對我們所做的工作而言,這只佔很小的一部分,但我認為卻非常重要,因此希望能在這方面做得更多。

最近,我們舉辦了一個有關栽培藝術家的活動,並匯集了30名本地視覺和表演藝術家,一起探討如何推展跨代項目。我們認為,如有海外藝術家來港,我們必須抓緊這個寶貴的機會,讓本地藝術家與他們一起對話,交流心得。為此,我們舉辦了多個大師班和工作坊。

我們覺得,要栽培經驗尚淺但極有潛質的藝術家,最好的方法是安排他們跟隨資歷較深的藝術家學習,讓他們在工作室的環境中一起工作,並觀摩導師的一言一行。這對他們的發展大有裨益。

此外,我們亦有為學生舉辦師友計劃。過去12個月, 我們開辦了一個化妝師師友計劃,讓年輕人學習化妝 技巧。我們更在本會今年較早前舉行的大型表演中, 安排他們擔任化妝工作人員,讓他們可在化妝室以外 的地方學以致用。 A lot of schools and young people who participate in our programmes get involved repeatedly. So they might get involved in a toe in the water initially and then drawn by our professionalism and by our high quality. They also love the opportunity we give them to perform in professional venues and to perform alongside professional performers and exhibit their work in the same space.

We look for long term partnerships. We're not interested in just a oneoff. We want the young people in the schools that we work with to have a long term commitment to the organisation. And so initially a school may get involved with just a toe in the water. They may create a simple costume for Arts in the Park. And then as their confidence builds and their art skills grow, you can see them wanting to tackle something a little bit more adventurous. And so several years down the line, you'll see them creating a four metre illuminated puppet for Arts in the Park joining the night parade. Or we may have individual artists who come along and join a dance workshop, though they have never really thought that was their thing. And they get caught up and they really enjoy it. And then they think, "I should audition for a show." And so they come along. They audition. They're invited to join the show. And then again as their confidence grows, we identify them as having a future in dance possibly, and put them into one of our programmes, like the youth assistant choreographer programme, where not only do they get to create dance, but they also get a leadership role. And they also get to create work for younger members of the organisation. And we get them to mentor.

The YAF has grown and flourished over the past 24 years. We actually turn 25 next year, so we're very, very happy about that. And as we look to our future, one of the things that we obviously are looking for are new artists. And so part of the work we do is artist training. It's only a tiny part of the work we do. I wish we could do more because I think it's very important.

So recently we have had an artist incubator, where 30 Hong Kong visual and performing artists have come together to look at developing cross-generational projects. If we have artists in town from overseas, which is a very precious occurrence, we think it's important to have some kind of dialogues with local artists. And so we create master classes and workshops.

We also believe that by putting the less experienced artists with a more seasoned artist, and letting them work together in a studio environment, and letting the former see the latter in action as a facilitator is a really great way to grow an artist who may be a bit green but shows a lot of potential.

We also have mentorships for students and so in the past 12 months. We've had a makeup artist mentorship, where young people acquired make-up skills; but rather than just sticking to it only in a studio environment where they learnt it, we also put them to the test by making them the make-up crew for a big performance that we did earlier this year.

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我們又推出了一個關於攝影的計劃,讓年輕人有機會學習如何為舞蹈員拍攝造型照和拍攝舞蹈員身段的照片。整個舞蹈計劃的高潮,是學員可以實實在在地展示自己的作品。

毫無疑問,我們會鼓勵贊助商不斷資助我們。這種想法,人皆有之。其中一個理由,就是當你第一次舉辦活動,效果或許不大理想;可是當你有機會多辦幾次的話,效果就會越來越好。因此,我們請求贊助商為我們每次推展一個項目,都會從中汲取經驗,並在實踐中成長,而這些項目也一定會越辦越好,其中一個成功的例子就是「藝趣嘉年華」。本會在24年前,即一九九三年,首次舉辦「藝趣嘉年華」。24年後,這個項目已作出不少改變,如今耳目一新,為香港人帶來更豐富多彩的藝術體驗。

我們一直跟參加過本會活動的人保持聯繫,因為他們認同本會的文化與精神,將來可能成為出色的活動策劃人、表演者、藝術家、藝術行政人員,甚至贊助人。

本會舉辦活動的宗旨,在於宣揚本地文化、使文化藝術世代相傳,以及鼓勵大眾欣賞和認識藝術。我們現正推出多個項目,其中一個剛獲得渣打銀行提供另外三年的資助。多年來,渣打銀行一直鼎力支持本會的工作,對此我們非常感激。這個社區藝術項目名為「城市閘誌」,而推出的目的,是要推廣社區共融,並透過口述歷史的方式展現本地文化獨特的一面。這個項目分為兩部分,第一部分是公共藝術,由六組藝術家負責進入社區,跟20家街坊小店聯手創作鐵閘藝術,以展示社區活力;第二部分則是駐校藝術家計劃,由約500名年輕人以社區故事為題,創作不同範疇的藝術作品。

請相信我,當你參與藝術活動,你所得到的,並非只是 「藝術」那麼簡單,還會有很多其他的收穫,例如創 意思維和解難、人際合作、同理心、領導才能,以及毅 力和決心。凡此種種,不勝枚舉,我也不必在此贅言, 因為你們一定明白這個道理。

最後,我想告訴大家,我每天都會這樣提醒自己:一不做,二不休。謝謝各位。

We also did a photography project, where young people got the opportunity to learn about taking photographs of dancers and movement photography. And the culmination of that project was getting them to exhibit their work as part of the dance programme.

We obviously encourage our sponsors to give ongoing funding. Hey, who doesn't? One of the reasons for that is the first time you do a project, it may not be as good as if you got the opportunity to do it a few more time. So we encourage sponsors not just to give as a one-off wham bam, but give as a three-year funding. Because every time we do a project, we learn from it. We grow when we do it. And so obviously the projects just get better and better. And a wonderful example of this is Arts in the Park, which started in 1993, 24 years ago. And obviously in 24 years, there have been massive changes in that project. And it's so much a richer experience for Hong Kong as a result of that.

We stay connected with our alumni because they have the YAF culture and the YAF spirit in their blood. And so we think they make marvellous facilitators, performers, artists, arts administrators, and also sponsors for the future.

Our work celebrates local culture, builds legacy, and facilitates appreciation and understanding. One of the projects that we're engaged in at the moment have been granted with three years' further funding from the Standard Chartered, a massive supporter of our work. Thank you. It's a community art project called Hong Kong Urban Canvas which promotes community inclusion and highlights the unique aspects of local culture through oral history. And the project's divided into two sections. The first section is the public art, where six groups of artists go into a community and work with 20 neighbourhood shops to create shutter art works to celebrate their lives. And then we have the second part, which is an artist-in-schools programme, where about 500 young people again use the stories from that community, to create art works in different disciplines.

Obviously when you're involved in an arts project, it's not just the art that you're getting out of it. It's so much more: creative thinking, creative problem solving, collaboration, empathy, leadership skills, perseverance, determination, the list is endless and I'm preaching to the choir, because you all know this.

And just to finish, I'd like to tell you what I think to myself every single day. Do it with passion or don't do it at all. Thank you.