

**Antiquities and Monuments Office's Comments
on the Heritage Impact Assessment in respect of
the Revitalisation of Fong Yuen Study Hall into
Fong Yuen Study Hall – Experiential Learning Center**

The Antiquities and Monuments Office (“AMO”) has reviewed the findings set out in the Heritage Impact Assessment (“HIA”) report in respect of the revitalisation of the Fong Yuen Study Hall (“FYSH”) (Grade 3) into “Fong Yuen Study Hall – Experiential Learning Center”. AMO considers the proposal agreeable for the following reasons:

- (a) the proposal has kept all the key character-defining elements (“CDEs”) and adopted the principles of minimal intervention and reversibility for the new additions such that changes/disturbance to the FYSH can be kept to a minimum. As such, the proposal is agreeable;
- (b) the existing fire escape staircase and toilet block will be replaced with new ancillary block, comprising a new fire-escape staircase, pump house and toilets. Both the fire staircase and the toilet block are not the original ones. Although the fire-escaped staircase will be wider than a statutory required one, it will also function as stair seating facing the forecourt to facilitate activities to be held at the open forecourt. This additional use of the staircase will further welcome the audiences / visitors to gather and interact at the forecourt, and continue the social function of FYSH as a place of community connection. Besides, the new ancillary block will be lower in height and set out further away from the historic building when comparing to the existing one, which reduces the overall visual impact on the FYSH and will open up the north façade of FYSH for public’s appreciation. The reconstruction of the ancillary block with its new design is therefore commendable;
- (c) the building façades will be kept intact except for some minor repair and repaint works; and the taking down and re-installing the existing fire-rated glasses on north and west façade from the external side to the space between the timber windows and metal

grills, which will more clearly disclose the historic appearance and is agreeable;

- (d) the interior layout will be re-designed with better building services and interior design arrangement to reveal more of the original spatial organisation and the historic fabric, while meeting the practical needs during operation. The wall panels proposed will be kept folded usually so that the visitors can appreciate the timber windows and the internal recessed wall enclave for the windows in-swing. All these proposed works are reversible. The approach is agreeable;
- (e) a new indoor heritage interpretation area will be established on ground floor to showcase the rich history of the FYSH and Ma Wan. The cultural significance of FYSH as well as the traditional Hakka livelihood in Tin Liu Village, the history of Ma Wan and the process of previous and current revitalisation works, etc. will also be elaborated. The arrangement is supported; and
- (f) cartographic and photographic surveys to record the FYSH will be conducted before commencement of the proposed works, and the findings will be sent to AMO for record.

2. In addition to the mitigation measures devised in the HIA report, AMO has further suggested the following enhancement measures about which the project proponent has agreed to undertake:

- (a) to ensure that the mitigation measures recommended in the HIA report are properly implemented, a heritage conservation consultant should be appointed by the Boy's Brigade, Hong Kong to monitor the implementation and record any changes and variations, prepare progress reports or other suitable means for AMO's noting and action as appropriate, and prepare the Interpretation Plan and Maintenance and Management Manual as stated;
- (b) to consult AMO on any deviation of design from the HIA report in future for agreement before commencement of works;

- (c) to follow up on the detailed design of the following works and consult AMO for agreement before commencement of works:
 - (i) design details of the new structures, i.e., the new fire escape staircase, balustrade, pump house and toilets, including but not limited to the appearance, building height, finishes and colour scheme of the proposed ancillary block to minimise the visual impact to the historic fabric;
 - (ii) design details of the modification works to the facades of historic building; and
 - (iii) other enhancement works to suit modern day requirement including new installations for the building services and current regulations.

Antiquities and Monuments Office

March 2024

Ref: AMO 22-3/0