

## Background

During World War II, the Thai government began to view culture as a key dimension in the process of nation-building, and decided to promulgate two acts on the development of the national culture. Equally importance was the establishment of the National Culture Institution in 1942, as required by the National Culture Acts. In 1952, the Ministry of Culture was founded as Thailand suffered a temporary decline in cultural development. Both the National Culture Institution and the Ministry of Culture were dissolved in 1958 since the social climate at that time favored economic development as a top national priority and the economic planners failed to incorporate the cultural dimension into the National Development Plan.

In the late 1970s, several attempts were made on the part of the government to revitalize interests in cultural development. An adhoc committee was appointed to study the viability of creating a national culture organization. The effort eventually culminated in the promulgation of an act which called for the establishment of the Office of the National Culture Commission (ONCC). This Act is known as “The Office of the National Culture Commission Act B.E. 2522” (1979 A.D.). Consequently, the ONCC was constituted on March 24, 1979 according to this Act. In the beginning, the ONCC was situated at the National Stadium, since 1990, it was moved to Thiamruammit Road, which is the present office.



## Department of Cultural Promotion (DCP)

Department of Cultural Promotion is an organization equivalent to a department of the Ministry of Culture. As such, it is headed by a Director-General who is assisted by two deputies.

DCP has the responsibility to formulate plans and projects; to promote and develop national culture; to draw on cultural heritage and bring its influence to bear on educational, economic, political and social development; and to cooperate and coordinate with governmental units, state enterprises and private sectors involved in the enforcement of culture and cultural related laws.

The structure of DCP can be divided into two types; extraordinary line of command, and ordinary line of command.

1. Extraordinary line of command; the undertaking of these groups is directly under the supervision of the Director-General. It can be divided as the following:

- 1.1 Internal Audit Group
- 1.2 Public Sector Development Group
- 1.3 Information Technology Group

2. Ordinary line of command that are under the supervision of the Director-General with delegation of responsibility to the Deputy Director-General as follows:

- 2.1 General Affairs Division
- 2.2 Cultural Promotion Fund Division
- 2.3 The Institute of Cultural Education
- 2.4 Film and Video Screening Office
- 2.5 Cultural Promotion and Dissemination Office



Main responsibilities of these Divisions, Institute and Office are as follows:

### General Affairs Division

Main responsibility of this division is to support the work of other divisions for greater achievement. It consists of:

1. General Administrative Section
2. Personnel Administrative Group
3. Finance and Procurement Group
4. Legal Affair Group
5. Planning Group
6. Public Relations Group
7. Foreign Relations Group

### **Cultural Promotion Fund Division**

It is responsible for drafting of policies concerning the administration of the Cultural Promotion Fund. It consists of:

1. General Administrative Section
2. Fund Management and Fund Raising Group
3. Artist and Person of Cultural Merit Welfare

### **Institute of Cultural Education**

It is responsible for performing art programs, cultural exhibitions, promoting Thai cultural activities and transmission of culture, promoting and preserving folk cultures, cultural education, research and development, and public relations. It consists of:

1. Cultural Research and Development Section
2. Thai Life Exhibition Promotion Section
3. Thailand Cultural Centre
4. The Supreme Artist Hall

In addition, the Institute administers the annual selection of national artists and persons who have made outstanding cultural contributions. Under the responsibility of the Institute of Cultural Education, there are three interesting cultural learning centres as follows:

#### **1. Thailand Cultural Centre**

Thailand Cultural Centre houses a modern stage and theatre for the performing arts. The main auditorium has a beautiful interior architectural design with excellent acoustics and has a seating capacity for 2,000 patrons. Thailand Cultural Centre also has an outdoor amphitheater and a Small Hall with 400 seating capacity.

### **2. The Supreme Artist Hall**

It is the place exhibiting the arts and valuable cultural performance of His Majesty the King in nine fields. It also exhibits art works of supreme artists and national artists. The Supreme Artist Hall is located on Khlong Luang, Pathum Thani Province.

### **3. Thai Life Exhibition Promotion Section**

It is located at the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Exhibition Building, Thailand Cultural Centre. It exhibits five topics of Thai culture: 1. The Evolution of the Thai Nation 2. Rice and Ways of Thai Life 3. Thai Language and Literature 4. Thailand and the World and 5. Heroic Deeds and Major Events in Thai History

### **Film and Video Screening Office**

It is responsible for film and Video screening. It consists of:

1. General Administration Section
2. Film and Video Screening Group
3. Registration and License Administration Group
4. Business Inspection and Promotion Group

### **Cultural Promotion and Dissemination Office**

This Office provides grants for its Provincial Cultural Centre and operates cultural mobile units. It is composed of:

1. General Administration Section
2. Cultural Quality and Standard Development Group
3. Cultural Human Resources Development Group
4. Cultural Transmission Promotion Group
5. Cultural Network Promotion Group 1 (Association/Foundation)
6. Cultural Network Promotion Group 2 (Cultural Council s/Other Organizations)
7. Cultural Network Promotion Group 3 (Individual/Family/Community)



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MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

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