

July 14, 2016

Dear candidates for the Tokyo Gubernatorial Election

We are engaged, both as individuals and with groups, in various cultural activities in the Tokyo metropolitan area. We would like to ask you, as a Tokyo gubernatorial candidate, some questions related to the issue of “Freedom of Expression,” which has recently become a subject of widespread public interest.

We would be grateful if you could reply to the following questions by July 25, either online, or by fax or post. Please note that your answers (including whether or not you reply), may be posted on our website (www.openquestion.jp) for voter reference.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Hikaru Fujii and Meiro Koizumi

Open Letter on “Freedom of Expression” in the Tokyo Metropolitan Government’s Promotion of Arts and Culture

As the host city of the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government is actively developing its cultural policy and activities. This extends to various artistic disciplines, including drama, dance, music, traditional arts, anime, and contemporary art. The Government is now moving forward with preparations for a cultural program of unprecedented scale and content which is expected to exceed that of the 2012 London Olympics to become the largest ever.* We would like to ask you some questions regarding the Government’s promotion of culture as Tokyo strives to develop into a city with a truly mature culture commensurate with its international status.

** “Tokyo Vision for Arts and Culture” formulated by the Arts and Culture Department of the Bureau of Citizens and Cultural Affairs.*

Question 1

The fundamental principle of the Tokyo Ordinance on Cultural Development is to provide the maximum degree of support for those engaged in cultural activities by promoting the greatest amount of autonomy and creativity.* Maintaining quality and diversity in cultural activities serves the common good by guaranteeing freedom and the individual right to know. Do you, as a Tokyo gubernatorial candidate, agree that the policy to respect the autonomy and the creativity of artists to the maximum degree is a basic necessity in developing a city with a truly mature culture?

1. Agree | 2. Disagree

**The Fundamental Law for the Promotion of Culture and the Arts (Article 2: Basic Principles) stipulates “respect for the autonomy of entities that conduct cultural and artistic activities” and a “respect for the creativity of entities that conduct cultural and artistic activities in addition to improving the status of such efforts and making it possible for such entities to exercise their abilities in an effective manner.”*

Question 2

In the fundamental principles of Tokyo ordinance on cultural promotion, it is stated that, "the City of Tokyo, must pay heed to not intervene and interfere with the content of the cultural activities when applying this ordinance." If you become the Governor of Tokyo, do you agree that it is in the fundamental principle of Tokyo ordinance on cultural promotion; and that the administrative officer in charge of the city's art and cultural promotion and the corporation and/or the government workers (of Tokyo and other cities) who are appointed to manage the municipal cultural institutions shall comply with this ordinance, as well as paying heed to not intervene and interfere with the content of the cultural activities?

1. Agree | **2. Disagree**

Question 3

If it is confirmed that this ordinance is violated, and that the content of art and cultural activities is intervened with or interfered with, or if there were a possibility of intervention or interference, what would your specific measure in response be? For example, will you establish a "committee in response to the claim made by the production site" to investigate this claim?

Question 4

Suppose that there are exceptions to this ordinance, and that there are times that the city must intervene and/or interfere with the content of art and cultural activities, what specific situations do you think should be treated as exceptions? Also, do you agree that the discretion of the administrative officer in charge of the city's art and cultural promotion and the corporation and/or the government workers (of Tokyo and other cities) who are appointed to manage the municipal cultural institutions should be widely admitted during projects and exhibitions that the city is involved with, or do you think that their discretion should be limited?

