

Email Newsletter from Mayor of Okayama (87) July 14, 2017 Issue

【Let's set the new Okayama Civic Hall as a place where the culture is created and transmitted】

Hello, I'm Masao Omori, Mayor of Okayama.

Currently, the "New Cultural Arts Facility (New Civic Hall)" is planned to be developed in Sennichimae Area. This will not remain just a theatre for rental as it is expected to be the one which creates Okayama's unique cultural arts and transmits them to both domestic and overseas.

Under this circumstance, on the other day, a meeting was held to discuss the direction of administration and management of the new civic hall. As we got meaningful suggestions by experts from various fields, I would like to share some of them.

- In the future, the development of AI (Artificial Intelligence) ,for example, will cause a big change in the industrial structure. It is said that survived or created jobs in the future will be something creative. This means that the importance of creative art will further increase.

- The meaning of performing arts is to (1) create a work and perform it, and (2) to provide creative experiences to children who will be responsible for future city planning. The regional disparity caused by the presence or absence of them will appear as a clear difference 10 years later.

- Cultivation of culture by connecting people and people is a great force of the culture. It is significant to have such a base in Okayama.

- A good theater has a will and an ability to think. A facility as a point of contact for the region should be built so that people who consider regional issues are able to get together.

All of these opinions were understandable. Myself participated in the discussion found out the image of the future development sprang up and the excitement increased. At the same time, I felt that I would have to firmly arrange the direction in the limited time of 4.5 years so that the new civic hall as a cultural creation / transmission area would become a facility which changes the culture of Okayama.