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By Michael Ng

Within mainstream discourse, the term “beauty” is often confined to visual standards. Yet when we invite visually impaired people to define “beauty,” the concept instantly becomes multidimensional and vibrant with life. This issue's three articles eloquently reveal diverse forms of “beauty” within the visually impaired community.

First, “Dancing with White Canes: Embracing Life’s Rhythm with Body Movement” showcases the dynamic beauty of movement and the resilience of human spirit. The white cane is no longer merely a tool for guidance; in the hands of dancers, it becomes a confident and stylish partner. The members who have recently become visually impaired embrace their new identities through dance, demonstrating the courage and vitality to dance through adversity and pursue a vibrant life.

Next, “Exploring, Breaking Through, Connecting — A Beautiful Journey for People with Visual Impairments” showcases external beauty that transcends boundaries and fosters social connections. In the POLA’s “Makeup Without a Mirror” experience, visually impaired members have learned to use their fingertips instead of mirrors, reshaping their self-image through touch. This is not merely an enhancement of makeup skills; it is a powerful challenge to societal stereotypes and promotes inclusive connections between businesses and communities.

Finally, “Beyond Light and Shadow: Skillful Hands Weaving the Beauty of Life” focuses on the beauty of creativity that comes from within and the beauty of self-worth. The training programme of our Vocational and Educational Resources Centre proves that “beauty” can be created and realized through touch and dexterity. Through their dedication and immersion in craftsmanship, members rediscover their confidence and self-worth, radiating a rich vitality.

“Beauty” is not a reflection in a mirror but a way of life—a confidence, creativity, and courage radiating from within. It resides in the rhythm of a white cane's swing, in creations crafted by fingertips, and most profoundly, in the courageous pursuit of beauty that shatters boundaries.

Let us embrace an open heart to redefine and appreciate every sparkle in life.

May you discover your own beauty in this issue.

Dancing with White Canes: Embracing Life's Rhythm with Body Movement

By Ho Ho-yuen

"One, two, three o'clock, four o'clock rock!" As the nostalgic and lively jazz drumbeats begin, a dozen middle-aged people on stage move with incredible energy, radiating brilliance and inviting the audience to dance along. This wonderful performance by our New VI Support Group proves that even when stepping into darkness, members can still enjoy a vibrant life and express the beauty of their body movements.

"We're gonna rock, rock, rock, 'til broad daylight!" In time with the beat, they draw their white canes, transforming them into various everyday items—one tosses an invisible tennis ball and swings the "racket"; another grips the "handles" while riding an imaginary motorcycle. Participant Mok Wai-leung previously lost sight suddenly within six months. He admits that he once regarded the white cane as a symbol of visual impairment, but now he wishes to embrace it from a different perspective. Since he can no longer play tennis or ride a motorcycle, he decides to hold the white cane and search for joy and possibilities in life. To dance with grace and style on stage is itself a form of enjoyment.

From Escaping Reality to Embracing Truth: Reshaping the Meaning of "Amulet"

"The white cane is my amulet." "It's my reliable partner." The performers express their trust in the "props" through their movements. Another participant, Huang Yan-wen, suffered from declining vision for nearly 20 years. For a long time, she found it draining to navigate the road and avoided going out. One day, while walking in a park, she accidentally bumped into a pedestrian. Realizing she was visually impaired, the pedestrian quickly apologized. This incident made her realize it was a regrettable choice to escape reality for years, not using the white cane as her amulet. In the past few months, she has actively participated in dance rehearsals and even practiced alone. As the lyrics of the song go, "Pour out everything in your true self." She is now facing and expressing her new life stage through dance steps and the white cane.

The Harmonious Collaboration of Instructor, Social Worker, and Members

As the music shifts to "Let's Dance Again" by Anita Mui, the performers move to synchronized dance steps. The white canes lightly tap the floor, then elegantly dance up and down in rhythm. Dance instructor Eve says, "Some participants regarded the white cane as a symbol of visual impairment. But I tell them that gentlemen have long enjoyed cane dances—and of course, visually impaired people can dance with their white canes and live out their true selves." During practice, Eve carefully broke down the movements and explored the possibilities of white cane dance with social workers. They designed dynamic moves that defy gravity and swing the white cane like a windmill. To help all members feel secure while dancing, social workers placed tactile markers in the performance area, allowing them to focus on their steps and ensuring a smooth performance. The performers are all from our New VI Support Group. The members with less visual impairment experience support each other, learn to be "good friends" with the white cane, and gain the ability for independent travel. The close collaboration among instructors, social workers, and members is key to this group successfully stepping onto the stage and showcasing the beauty of motion.

The white cane dance demonstrates not only the beauty of movement but also the resilience of members as they learn to adapt and face challenges. If you witness their white cane dance, please be sure to give them a big round of applause! Their dance

steps are the best testament to connecting with society, embracing oneself, and pursuing a vibrant life. We believe that through the continued support, every member can find their rhythm in this new stage of life and continue to dance gracefully with the world.

Exploring, Breaking Through, Connecting — A Beautiful Journey for People with Visual Impairments

By Merrick Ho

“Beauty” is more than reflection in a mirror — it could be felt through the fingertips. Last year, Japanese beauty brand Pola hosted its first-ever “Makeup without Mirror” event at its headquarters in Japan, introduced the experience of beauty into the world of people with visual impairments. Blanche, Pola Hong Kong’s Education Manager, later travelled to Japan for professional training and brought the programme to Hong Kong Blind Union. In late June this year, the first mirrorless makeup workshop was held, inviting our members to explore beauty with their hands and to renew their perception of beauty.

Beauty as the reshaping of self-image. Carol, who is fully blind and new to the workforce, had never worn makeup before. “I was always afraid that I would apply it unevenly or go outside the lines, which would only make things worse.” she said. With guidance from the instructor, she learned to use her fingers instead of brushes, relying on touch to locate facial features. When she returned home, her family remarked that she looked more energised — a comment that delighted her.

Beauty as the courage to challenge prejudice. Cannes, who is partially sighted and previously worked in retail, understands well the value placed on appearance. “I believe people with visual impairments not only have the right but also the ability to pursue beauty in their appearance. The two-on-one teaching format was incredibly effective. I finally realised that orange isn’t strange at all — it can actually brighten the skin tone.”

Beauty as a bridge between brands and society. It was Melody, Pola Hong Kong’s Regional Director, who helped Cannes rediscover the colour orange. At first, she and Blanche believed that describing colours and spatial positions would be the major challenge in the class. But they soon discovered that metaphors and clock-face positioning techniques could greatly enhance understanding. “Life in Hong Kong is fast paced, so we had to adjust the teaching approach from Japan. But the participants’ enthusiasm was uplifting. Watching how engaged they were reaffirmed our belief that beauty truly belongs to everyone.”

This teaching journey reminds us that inclusion can begin with the simplest gestures. After the workshop, POLA Hong Kong continued exploring new ways to enhance the shopping experience for visually impaired customers — to break the boundaries and unleash imagination, so that beauty becomes a shared language among brands, visually impaired consumers, and the wider community.

Beyond Light and Shadow: Skillful Hands Weaving the Beauty of Life Discovering Infinite Potential through Craft — Supported Employment and Inner Value

By Chou Chun-cheong

Interviewees: Susan Chan (Social Worker), Lam Tung-yee (Participant)

“Beauty” is not confined to a single visual standard; it manifests as vitality and creativity expressed through different forms. For people with visual impairments, when the gateway of sight closes, their inner and tactile senses grow sharper, nurturing another dimension of beauty. In 2025, our Jockey Club Vocational and Educational Resources Centre (VERC) launched the “SEE-ability Handcraft Training Team.” More than a simple craft class, this initiative opens a new pathway to supported employment, aiming to uncover the boundless potential of people with visual impairments.

From Hobby to Profession: The Subtle Transformation toward Supported Employment

In contemporary society, employment opportunities for the visually impaired are often limited to traditional roles. The vision of this program is to empower members to transform their passion for crafting into marketable and sustainable career paths. We believe every pair of skillful hands deserves a chance to shine.

Creating delicate handmade products—such as aroma diffuser stones—requires precision in proportion and structure. To make this possible, staff members devoted time to deconstructing and redesigning each production step, turning visually dependent tasks into ones guided solely by touch. From using specially designed measuring cups and tools to adjusting workflow sequences, every small refinement enables participants with varying degrees of vision to work independently and master the craft with confidence and accuracy. This pursuit of professionalism, combined with thoughtful support, embodies our commitment to realize supported employment services. As each handcrafted piece comes to life, members not only develop their vocational skills, but also rediscover their self-worth and confidence. This inner richness and sense of fulfillment is, in itself, a beautiful form of art.

Participant Tung-yee shares “The crafting process allowed me to utilize my skills and prove myself. At first, I was afraid of making mistakes, but when I realized I could complete the tasks on my own, the sense of accomplishment was irreplaceable. Seeing our production of over 400 aroma diffuser stones for International White Cane Day surpass expectations—and being appreciated by the public and volunteers—gave me greater confidence in my future career. I’ve caught a glimpse of my own ‘beautiful future.’”

Healing the Mind and Body — Easing the Burden of Caregivers

The value of crafting extends beyond vocational training; it offers profound emotional healing. When visually impaired members immerse themselves in creative, hands-on work, their moods and mental states become more positive and stable, and they rediscover joy through focus. This positive transformation also lightens the emotional load of family caregivers, who often carry years of worry and fatigue. Some craft sessions even invite caregivers to join in, which serve as a relaxed and creative space to respite. They enjoy a moment to rebalance and calm down amid busy routines.

Susan (Social Worker) reflects “The beauty of the handcraft program is multifaceted. It not only opens up vocational opportunities for people with visual impairments, but also helps them rebuild confidence and self-worth through dedication and focus. We hope that this beauty of life—woven by skillful hands—will continue to shine with warmth and light.”

Activities Review

26th October, 2025

“Cane-A-Thon”- International White Cane Day 2025

The “Cane-A-Thon” was successfully held on 26 Oct. The event attracted over 400 participants, including nearly 100 people with visual impairments, volunteers, the public, and corporate groups. A special thank you goes to our loving ambassadors, Jessie Sum, Kandy Wong, and Gloria Tang, for attending to show their supports, and sing touching songs. We thank all our supporters, including sponsors Hong Kong Construction Materials Association, Golik, and Johnson & Johnson, as well as all supporting organizations, performing groups, and volunteers. The event successfully raised over HK\$250k. Funds will be used to support essential services for visually impaired people, especially escort services for medical appointments and employment services, to ensure they can live and work independently and self-reliantly.

25th October, 2025

CyberSafe For All Program

"CyberSafe For All Program" was successfully concluded on 25-26 Oct, attracting over 400 participants. The event featured expert talks, an AI interactive experience, cybersecurity booth games, and a charity market, all aimed at enhancing public awareness of cyber safety, particularly for people with disabilities. Our President, Billy, shared the experiences of visually impaired individuals who have been victims of online scams, appealing to experts to consider the needs of diverse communities to ensure safe and equal internet access for everyone. Our social enterprise, GATE, set up a booth to introduce accessibility features, to raise public attention toward accessible technology.

10th October, 2025

Awarded the "Disability Inclusion Pioneer" Commendation

Hong Kong Blind Union (HKBU) is deeply honored to have received the highest level "Level 3 Disability Inclusion Pioneer" Commendation, alongside 24 other companies, in the Labour and Welfare Bureau's “Caring Employer” medal. This honor affirms our achievements in promoting inclusive employment for people with disabilities. HKBU has always been committed to implementing human resources policies based on the principles of "Equality, Opportunity, and Independence," fostering an inclusive work environment where visually impaired colleagues can fully utilize their talents within the organisation.

28th September, 2025

“Cheer for Hong Kong” Workshop and Blind Football Experience

Jockey Club Sports Programmes with Audio-description Service (SPA) collaborated with the Hong Kong football supporters' group "Chi Sin Lo" to host a “Cheer for Hong Kong” Workshop and Blind Football Experience Day. Participants learned cheering techniques to prepare for the home match in mid-October. The event featured Chan Wing Sze, Captain of the Hong Kong Women's Football Team, who shared her experiences. A blindfolded football session was also arranged, allowing everyone to better understand the challenges and joys of visually impaired football, which enhanced their passion for the sport and their awareness of the athletic abilities of people with visual impairments.

13th September, 2025

Second Public Performance for the "Sight for Sound" Music Program Trainees

The Hong Kong Wireless Technology Industry Association and the Hong Kong Movie jointly organised the “The Way We Talk” Charity Screening. Visually impaired, hearing impaired, low-income families and physically disabled persons were invited to enjoy the

film with the public. Audio description was also provided for the audience to experience how the visually impaired “watch” movie through audio description. In addition, director Wong Sau Ping, actress Chung Suet Ying and actor Ng Tsz Ho also shared their experience, helping the audience to better understand the behind-the-scenes.