

The Application of Participatory Design in Weifang Kites, China

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Abstract: This paper discusses the key application of participatory design in Weifang kite culture. Kite, as a treasure of Chinese traditional culture, carries rich historical and cultural connotations. Weifang kite is famous both at home and abroad for its exquisite craftsmanship and unique design. However, under the impact of modern society, the traditional kite culture is facing the dual challenges of inheritance and innovation. Participatory design, with its emphasis on user participation and joint creation, provides a new perspective and method for the inheritance of kite culture. Through the systematic analysis of the core concept and implementation methods of participatory design, this paper creatively puts forward a set of targeted participatory design strategies based on the uniqueness of Weifang kite culture and the realistic needs of inheritance. These strategies aim to stimulate the enthusiasm of the community people to participate, gather collective wisdom, and jointly promote the innovation and development of kite culture. This paper mainly focuses on the theoretical discussion and the construction of the strategy system, aiming to provide new ideas and directions for the inheritance of Weifang kite culture, rather than being limited to specific cases or empirical analysis.

Keywords: Participatory Design; Weifang Kite; Cultural Inheritance; Design Strategy.

1. Introduction

1.1. Research Background

Weifang, a city with a long history, is famous for its unique kite culture. Weifang kite is not only a toy, but also a symbol of culture, carrying rich historical information and profound national emotion [1]. However, with the acceleration of the modernization process, the inheritance of Weifang kite culture is facing unprecedented challenges. Traditional craftsmen are decreasing, and the younger generation is becoming less interested in kite culture. But at the same time, with the improvement of cultural heritage protection awareness, Weifang kite culture has also ushered in a new opportunity for development. At home and abroad, participatory design, as an innovative method, has been widely used in the inheritance of cultural heritage. By involving the public in the design process, it can not only improve the practicality and acceptability of the design, but also enhance the public's sense of identity and belonging of the cultural heritage. Therefore, it is of great practical significance and theoretical value to introduce participatory design into the inheritance of Weifang kite culture.

1.2. Study Significance

First of all, the method of participatory design can promote the living inheritance of Weifang kite culture. Living inheritance emphasizes the application and development of cultural heritage in real life, rather than the simple preservation and display[2]. By allowing the public to participate in the design, production and flying process of kites, more people can understand and experience the charm of Weifang kite culture, so as to enhance their interest in and love for kite culture. Secondly, this study will expand the application theory of participatory design in the field of intangible cultural heritage. Although participatory design has been widely used at home and abroad, it is still relatively

rare in the field of intangible cultural heritage. Through this study, the applicability and effectiveness of participatory design in the inheritance of intangible cultural heritage can be further explored, and it can provide new ideas and perspectives for the development of related theories. Finally, the results of this study can also provide a reference for the inheritance of other similar cultural heritage. Weifang kite culture is just one example of many intangible cultural heritages, and there are many other similar cultural heritages. Through this study, some experiences and practices with general significance can be summarized, which can provide useful enlightenment and help for the inheritance of other similar cultural heritage[3].

2. Weifang Kite Culture Overview

2.1. Type and Characteristics of Kites

There are many kinds of kites in Weifang, all in different shapes. According to the shape, there are hard wing kite, soft wing kite, string kite, board kite; according to the theme, there are character kite, animal kite, plant kite, implements kite, etc. Each kind of kite has its own unique shape and implication, reflecting the aesthetic taste and cultural pursuit of Weifang people. Weifang kite features lies in its exquisite production skills and rich cultural connotation. In terms of making skills, Weifang kite adopts the unique four skills of tying, paste, painting and playing. The frame requires reasonable structure, light and firm, paste and mask, smooth, and no flat air, master the wind direction and the control of flight. The perfect combination of these four arts makes Weifang kite has reached a very high level in shape, color and flight performance. In terms of cultural connotation, Weifang kite integrates the essence of Chinese traditional culture. The patterns and shapes of many kites are based on fairy tales, historical figures and folklore, implying good wishes such as good luck and blessing. At the same time, Weifang kite also

reflects people's reverence for nature and love for life, and has become an important carrier for people to express their feelings and hopes[4].

2.2. Kite Making Skills and Procedures

Weifang kite making technique is a unique traditional handicraft. Its production process includes material selection, tying skeleton, pasting mask, drawing pattern and assembly line and other steps. Material selection requires light texture, moderate elasticity and wear resistance; reasonable structure, light and firm structure; paste mask, smooth and no leakage; vivid colors and vivid images; the wind direction and flight control. These steps require extensive experience and exquisite craftsmanship to complete. In the production process, the craftsmen also need to make different treatments according to the type and use of the kite. For example, hard wing kites need to adopt special tying method and lifting technique to ensure its flight performance and stability; character kites need to pay attention to realistic image and color matching to enhance its artistic effect. The treatment of these details reflects the exquisite and unique Weifang kite making skills [5].

2.3. Social Value and Influence of Kite Culture

Weifang kite culture, as an important part of Chinese traditional culture, has far-reaching social value and influence. First of all, it enriches people's spiritual life and provides people with ways of entertainment and leisure. In the process of flying kites, people can feel the charm of nature and the joy of life, and enhance their love of life and awe of nature. Secondly, Weifang kite culture promotes the communication and communication between people. In the process of kite making and flying, people need to cooperate and help each other to complete the task. This spirit of teamwork not only enhances the cohesion and centripetal force between people, but also cultivates people's sense of collective honor and responsibility. Finally, Weifang kite culture also has important historical value and cultural inheritance significance. As a unique cultural phenomenon and intangible cultural heritage, Weifang kite carries rich historical information and profound national emotion. Through the study and inheritance of Weifang kite culture, we can better understand the essence and connotation of Chinese traditional culture, and make positive contributions to the promotion of national culture and enhance national confidence[6].

3. Theoretical Basis of Participatory Design

3.1. Definition and Characteristics of Participatory Design

Participatory design, as the name suggests, is a design method that emphasizes the participation of users or relevant stakeholders. It emphasizes that in the design process, it is not only the independent thinking and creation of designers, but also the active participation and contribution of users, community members or other stakeholders. The core of this approach lies in seeing design as an open, collaborative and iterative process rather than a linear or closed process in the traditional sense. Participatory design is characterized by the following aspects: First, it emphasizes diversity and inclusiveness, and encourages people of different backgrounds, experiences and views to participate in the design process[7]. Second, it focuses on process rather than

result, and the ability to find, solve and optimize in the design process. Finally, it emphasizes collaboration and co-creation, and believes that design is a reflection of collective wisdom rather than an individual fight alone.

3.2. Basic Principles of Participatory Design

The basic principles of participatory design can be summarized as the following points: first, equal participation, all stakeholders have equal opportunities and rights to participate in the design process; second, user center, i. e., the design should always follow user needs and experience; third, the design process should be a cycle of trial and error, feedback and optimization; fourth, transparency and openness, the design process and results should be transparent and open to all participants in order to obtain timely feedback and suggestions. These principles have been widely applied and verified in practice. For example, in the field of product design, by inviting users to participate in prototype testing, user interviews and other methods, the existing problems and deficiencies of the product can be timely found and solved. In the field of urban planning, through public participation, community consultation and other means, the planning scheme is more in line with the actual needs and expectations of the public[8].

3.3. Analysis of the Advantages of Participatory Design in Cultural Inheritance

Participatory design has a significant advantage in cultural inheritance. First, by encouraging community members and relevant stakeholders to participate in the design process, local cultural characteristics and values can be better protected and inherited. Such participation can not only enhance the sense of responsibility and belonging of community members to cultural inheritance, but also promote the communication and integration between different cultures. Second, participatory design helps to stimulate innovation and creativity within the community. When community members are given the right and opportunity to participate in the design, they tend to offer unique insights and suggestions based on their own life experiences and cultural context. These insights and suggestions can not only bring more possibilities and diversity to design, but also promote innovation and development within the community. Finally, participatory design can also enhance the sustainability and influence of cultural heritage. By attracting more people to participate in the design process, a broader social support and identity can be formed. Such support and identification can not only provide continuous impetus and resource guarantee for cultural inheritance, but also enhance its influence and communication effect in the society[9].

3.4. Comparison of Participatory Design and Other Design Methods

Compared with the traditional design methods, the participatory design is more open and cooperative. Instead of seeing designers as the only creators and decision-makers, it integrates users, community members, and other stakeholders into the design process to create and make decisions together. This method can not only improve the feasibility and practicality of the design, but also enhance the social identity and belonging of the design. Compared with other modern design methods, such as user experience design and service design, participatory design pays more attention to the

openness and diversity of the process. It emphasizes the ability to find, solve problems and continuously optimize during the design process, rather than just focusing on the final design results. In addition, participatory design also pays more attention to the sustainability development of communities and the environment, focusing on considering social, economic and environmental factors in the design process. This comprehensive consideration makes participatory design more adaptable and flexible in dealing to complex problems [10].

4. Application Strategy of Participatory Design in Weifang Kite Culture Inheritance

4.1. Premise and Goal of Strategy Construction

Before discussing the application strategy of participatory design in the inheritance of Weifang kite culture, we first need to clarify the core elements of inheritance. These elements include the historical origin, production technology, cultural connotation and social function of the kite. Only by deeply understanding and grasping these core elements can we ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of the inheritance work. At the same time, setting the goal and expected effect of participatory design is also an important link of strategy construction. We hope that through the participatory design method, we can stimulate the interest and enthusiasm of community members in kite culture, promote the intergenerational inheritance, promote the innovative design and practice, and finally realize the extensive dissemination and sustainable development of Weifang kite culture.

4.2. Specific Content of the Strategy

4.2.1. Strategies to Stimulate Community Participation

In order to stimulate the enthusiasm of community members to participate in kite culture, we can organize kite making workshops and invite kite making masters to give on-site guidance, so that the community residents can experience the fun of kite making. At the same time, lectures and exhibitions on kite culture will be held to popularize the historical knowledge and cultural connotation of kites to the public and improve the public's awareness and identity of kite culture. In addition, kite competitions and festival activities are set up to provide a platform for community members to show and communicate, and create a strong kite cultural atmosphere.

4.2.2. Strategies to Promote Intergenerational Inheritance

In order to promote the intergenerational inheritance of kite culture, we can establish a kite culture inheritance and education base to provide systematic kite making and education courses for teenagers. At the same time, kite making and educational packages suitable for different age groups are developed to meet the needs of people of different ages. In addition, modern media are used to spread kite culture and making skills, such as making kite culture documentaries and opening online kite making courses, so that more people can understand and learn kite culture.

4.2.3. Strategies for Innovative Design and Practice

On the basis of inheriting the traditional kite culture, we also need to introduce the modern design concept and technology, and innovate the kite form and function. For

example, we can try to combine traditional kites with modern technology to develop new types of interactive and intelligent kites. At the same time, encourage cross-border cooperation to expand the application field of kite culture, such as integrating kite elements into clothing design, home decoration and other fields. In addition, the kite design competition platform is established to explore and cultivate design talents, and inject new vitality into the innovation and development of kite culture.

5. Safeguard Measures for Strategy Implementation

5.1. Policy and Regulatory Support

Policies and regulations are the cornerstone of cultural inheritance, and the same is true for Weifang kite culture. First of all, the government should formulate special policies for the inheritance of kite culture, clarify the objectives, principles, measures and responsibility subjects of the inheritance, and provide policy guidance and support for the inheritance of kite culture. These policies should cover the protection of kite-making skills, the cultivation of inheritors, the organization of cultural activities and other aspects, so as to ensure that kite culture can receive strong policy support in all aspects. At the same time, it is also very important to strengthen intellectual property protection. Kite making skills and pattern design are all important parts of kite culture, and also the crystallization of the wisdom of inheritors. Therefore, it is necessary to improve the intellectual property protection system, intensify the crackdown on infringement, and safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of the inheritors. By strengthening intellectual property protection, the innovation vitality of inheritors can be stimulated and the sustainable development of kite culture can be promoted.

5.2. Capital and Resource Guarantee

Funds and resources are an important guarantee for cultural inheritance. In order to ensure the smooth implementation of Weifang kite culture inheritance strategy, Adequate financial and resource support must be provided. First of all, a kite culture inheritance fund can be set up to raise funds through government funding, social donations and other channels to support the inheritance and development of kite culture. These funds can be used to organize cultural activities, train inheritors, and carry out publicity and promotion, so as to provide necessary financial guarantee for the inheritance of kite culture. In addition, integrating social resources is also the key. By guiding social capital into the field of kite culture, enterprises, social organizations and individuals are encouraged to participate in the inheritance and development of kite culture, thus forming a diversified investment mechanism. At the same time, it can also strengthen the cooperation with related industries, promote the integrated development of kite culture, tourism, education and other industries, and inject new impetus into the inheritance of kite culture.

5.3. Talent Team Construction

Talent is the core force of cultural inheritance. In the process of Weifang kite culture inheritance, we must attach importance to the construction of talent team. First of all, we should cultivate the inheritors of kite-making skills. Through selecting potential young people for systematic training and learning, they can master the kite making skills and related

knowledge, and become a new generation of inheritors. At the same time, it should also provide a good working environment and development space for the inheritors, and encourage them to actively participate in the inheritance of kite culture. In addition to cultivating inheritors, it is also essential to introduce professionals in design and management. These talents can provide new ideas and methods for the inheritance and development of kite culture, and promote the integration and innovation of kite culture and modern design concept. By introducing professional talents, the quality and influence of kite culture can be further enhanced.

5.4. International Exchanges and Cooperation

International exchange and cooperation are one of the important ways of cultural inheritance. For Weifang kite culture, actively participating in the international kite cultural exchange activities can broaden the vision and platform for inheritance. By participating in international kite competitions, exhibitions and other activities, it can show the unique charm of Weifang kite culture and enhance its popularity and influence in the world. At the same time, it is also crucial to introduce international advanced cultural heritage inheritance experience and technology. By learning from the successful practices and advanced technologies of other countries and regions, the strategies and measures of Weifang kite culture inheritance can be continuously improved. These experiences and technologies can involve the improvement of kite making skills, the cultivation of inheritors, the organization of cultural activities and other aspects, and provide useful reference for the inheritance and development of Weifang kite culture.

6. Conclusion

This study deeply discusses the importance and feasibility of participatory design in the inheritance of Weifang kite culture, and reveals its positive role in stimulating community vitality and promoting cultural inheritance. The innovations constructed through strategies, such as the introduction of multiple participants and the strengthening of interactive experience, not only enhance the attraction of kite culture, but also enhance the cultural identity of the people. These practical values provide a new perspective and methodology for the inheritance of traditional culture. However, there are also shortcomings in the research. For example, the discussion on the specific application of participatory design in the inheritance of kite making skills is still weak, and the theoretical discussion can be further deepened and the

strategy system is improved in the future. At the same time, attention should be paid to the dynamic adjustment and optimization in the implementation process to ensure that the strategy conforms to the changing community needs and cultural environment. Looking into the future, we look forward to exploring more diversified participatory design methods and tools to play a greater role in the inheritance of kite culture.

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