

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2002)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (4) Performing Arts

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Vincent LIU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism

Question:

It was announced in the Budget that the Government would provide a total of \$135 million over 5 years, starting from the next financial year (i.e. 2023-24), to support performing arts groups and artists in Hong Kong in taking part in performances and productions in the Greater Bay Area (GBA). It is anticipated that each year 1 000 Hong Kong artists will participate in these activities, with an audience of 40 000 from the GBA. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. What is the earliest application date for the above initiative? What will be the expenditure and manpower involved each year?
2. What are the amounts of funding for performances and productions respectively? Is there any cap on the funding for each project? If yes, what are the details?
3. Will the Government put in place a mechanism to select performing arts groups and artists as funding recipients? What are the selection criteria? Will there be any task force or committee responsible for the selection process?
4. It is said that it is not easy for local arts groups to perform in the Mainland, including the GBA. Apart from providing funding, how will the Government support arts groups or artists in taking part in performances or productions in the GBA?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

1. Following the recent full resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) has commenced discussion with local arts groups and performing venues across the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) to relaunch the cultural exchange events which had been postponed on account of the COVID-19 epidemic as early as possible. Those local arts groups/artists wishing to stage cultural exchange events in the GBA may now submit their programme proposals to the LCSD. The Department's estimated

expenditure in this area is around \$25 million in 2023-24, anticipated to be subject to incremental increases to about \$28 million per year over the subsequent 4 financial years. The related work is mainly undertaken by 4 Cultural Services Manager Grade members and 4 non-civil service contract staff.

2. As far as the touring of programmes in the GBA is concerned, the amount of the funding will be subject to their individual nature and scale. Such one-off funding mainly covers commissioning fees for touring programmes of local arts groups and artists in the GBA, direct production costs (artist fee, production costs and transportation) of outbound activities, and other related expenses.
3. In selecting appropriate programmes for touring in the GBA, the Department will consider a host of factors while listening to the views expressed by its collaborative partners in the Mainland. Such factors include: the artistic value and audience appeal of programme proposals in the GBA; the professional standard of artists; the capability and experience of arts groups/artists in organising programmes; the financial and technical viability; the venue availability; as well as whether such programmes fit event themes or venue features. The Department will select programme proposals in accordance with the established procedures, while seeking the Art Form Sub-committees' advice on such proposals.
4. In addition to providing funding, the LCSD will closely liaise with the operators of major performance venues, presenters of arts festivals, as well as cultural and tourism departments of municipal governments across the GBA. In doing so, the LCSD can actively explore new platforms for performances and exchanges, with a view to enhancing the opportunities for local arts groups/artists to stage performances in the GBA. Meanwhile, the Department will coordinate with the collaborative units in the Mainland for finalising the details related to such performances and productions, including assessment of the programme needs and discussion of such arrangements as performance schedule, venue and technical requirements, as well as publicity and ticketing.

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