

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB171

(Question Serial No. 1241)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Programme: (4) Performing Arts

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Ms Michelle LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

Regarding the Venue Partnership Scheme (VPS), will the Government:

- a. provide a breakdown of the various forms of support provided by the venues to each of their Venue Partners (VPs) and the expenditure involved in each form of support in 2014-15 and 2015-16; and
- b. provide a breakdown of the number of activities co-organised by each venue and its VP(s), the number of audience outreached and the average cost for each member of the audience of each activity in 2015-16?

Asked by: Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun (Member Question No. 8)

Reply:

- a. The second round of the Venue Partnership Scheme (VPS) was completed in March 2015, and the third round runs from April 2015 to March 2018, featuring 22 venue partners (VPs) at 12 performance venues. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) provides support to VPs in the form of (i) priority use of the facilities of the partnering venues; (ii) provision of work space; and (iii) publicity support such as inclusion of VPs' events in the LCSD's monthly event calendars and use of the foyer display areas and wall banner sites at the partnering venues for programme promotion.

As far as funding support is concerned, VPs that are Major Performing Arts Groups receive annual subvention from the Home Affairs Bureau in the form of consolidated grants, covering rentals of LCSD venues, production and promotion of VPS programmes and activities, as well as administrative and staff costs. For VPs that are small and medium sized arts groups, the LCSD provides each of them with (i) an annual programme fee (subject to a ceiling of \$1.1 million per group in 2014-15 and 2015-16) to cover production, publicity, staff and administrative costs; and (ii) free use of venue facilities, ticketing services and administrative support. In addition, a

one-off publicity grant of up to \$90,000 per group was provided in 2014-15 to small and medium sized groups. The total funding support provided by the LCSD (including notional charges) for the VPs which are small and medium sized performing arts groups in 2014-15 (actual) and 2015-16 (estimated) are \$32.19 million and \$31.05 million respectively. A breakdown is at Annex I.

- b. The number of activities organised by the 22 VPs at the 12 partnering venues of the LCSD and their total attendance in 2015-16 (estimated) are as follows:

Activities/Attendance	2015-16 (Estimated)
No. of stage performances	798
No. of educational, promotional and audience building activities	1 178
Total attendance	717 886

A detailed breakdown by types of activities with average cost per audience is at Annex II.

Venue Partnership Scheme (VPS) - Level of Support to Venue Partners (VPs)**A) Major Performing Arts Groups with Funding Support from the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) in 2014-15 and 2015-16**

Venue		Venue Partner	Government Subvention [Note 1]
1.	Hong Kong City Hall	(i) Hong Kong Repertory Theatre	These are major performing arts groups (MPAGs) which receive annual subvention from the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB). Considering that different aspects of the MPAGs' work are inter-related, HAB adopts a holistic approach to provide an all-inclusive grant including support to VPS for each group.
		(ii) Hong Kong Sinfonietta	
2.	Hong Kong Cultural Centre	(i) The Hong Kong Ballet	
		(ii) Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra	
		(iii) Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra	
		(iv) Zuni Icosahedron	
3.	Kwai Tsing Theatre	Chung Ying Theatre Company	
4.	Tsuen Wan Town Hall	Hong Kong Dance Company	

Annex I to Reply Serial No. HAB171 (P.2)

B(1) Small and Medium Sized Performing Arts Groups with Funding Support from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) in 2014-15

Venue		Venue Partner	Funding Support from the LCSD: 2014-15 (Actual) [Note 2]				
			Annual Programme Fee (\$)	Enhanced Publicity Support (\$) [Note 3]	Notional Hire Charges (\$) [Note 4]	Notional URB TIX Charges (\$) [Note 4]	Total Funding (\$)
			(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(a)+(b)+(c)+(d)
1.	Kwai Tsing Theatre	W Theatre Company and Wind Mill Grass Theatre	1,080,000	90,000	1,287,770	200,139	2,657,909
2.	Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre	(i) E-Side Dance Company	1,100,000	88,860	523,805	12,774	1,725,439
		(ii) Whole Theatre	1,100,000	87,400	951,384	75,579	2,214,363
3.	North District Town Hall	Hong Kong Theatre Works	1,100,000	89,900	587,900	17,952	1,795,752
4.	Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre	The Absolutely Fabulous Theatre Connection	1,100,000	89,343	747,119	32,248	1,968,710
5.	Sha Tin Town Hall	(i) The Cantonese Opera Advancement Association	1,100,000	89,572	2,413,376	531,679	4,134,627
		(ii) Trinity Theatre and The Radiant Theatre	1,100,000	90,000	891,410	83,639	2,165,049
6.	Sheung Wan Civic Centre	Perry Chiu Experimental Theatre	1,100,000	90,000	725,245	112,156	2,027,401
7.	Tsuen Wan Town Hall	Ming Ri Institute for Arts Education	1,100,000	90,000	641,636	44,785	1,876,421
8.	Tuen Mun Town Hall	Spring-Time Experimental Theatre and Hong Kong Young Talent Cantonese Opera Troupe	1,100,000	90,000	2,020,280	289,290	3,499,570
9.	Yau Ma Tei Theatre	The Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong	1,100,000	88,500	1,571,600	190,351	2,950,451
10.	Yuen Long Theatre	(i) Hong Kong Performing Stage of Cantonese Opera	1,100,000	90,000	705,953	83,116	1,979,069
		(ii) Theatre Noir Foundation	1,100,000	90,000	1,950,668	58,721	3,199,389
(B) Total :			14,280,000	1,163,575	15,018,146	1,732,429	32,194,150

B(2) Small and Medium Sized Performing Arts Groups with Funding Support from the LCSD in 2015-16

Venue		Venue Partner	Funding Support from the LCSD: 2015-16 (Estimated) [Note 2]			
			Annual Programme Fee (\$)	Notional Hire Charges (\$) [Note 4]	Notional URB TIX Charges (\$) [Note 4]	Total Funding (\$)
			(a)	(b)	(c)	(a)+(b)+(c)
1.	Kwai Tsing Theatre	W Theatre Company and Wind Mill Grass Theatre	1,100,000	1,900,000	173,911	3,173,911
2.	Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre	(i) E-Side Dance Company	1,100,000	524,000	17,309	1,641,309
		(ii) Whole Theatre	1,100,000	1,030,053	101,744	2,231,797
3.	North District Town Hall	Hong Kong Theatre Works	1,100,000	700,000	15,000	1,815,000
4.	Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre	The Absolutely Fabulous Theatre Connection	1,100,000	762,650	28,140	1,890,790
5.	Sha Tin Town Hall	(i) The Cantonese Opera Advancement Association	1,100,000	2,200,000	455,000	3,755,000
		(ii) Trinity Theatre and The Radiant Theatre	1,100,000	600,000	67,000	1,767,000
6.	Sheung Wan Civic Centre	Theatre Dojo and iStage	1,100,000	500,000	91,000	1,691,000
7.	Tsuen Wan Town Hall	Ming Ri Institute for Arts Education	1,100,000	630,000	34,073	1,764,073
8.	Tuen Mun Town Hall	(i) Pop Theatre	1,100,000	450,000	20,900	1,570,900
		(ii) Spring-Time Experimental Theatre and Hong Kong Young Talent Cantonese Opera Troupe	1,100,000	1,850,000	205,000	3,155,000
9.	Yau Ma Tei Theatre	The Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong	1,100,000	1,590,000	167,560	2,857,560
10.	Yuen Long Theatre	(i) Hong Kong Performing Stage of Cantonese Opera	1,100,000	547,720	87,090	1,734,810
		(ii) Theatre Noir Foundation	1,100,000	875,000	23,630	1,998,630
(C) Total :			15,400,000	14,159,423	1,487,357	31,046,780

Annex I to Reply Serial No. HAB171 (P.4)

- Note 1: To avoid hidden subsidy, VPs receiving funding support from HAB have to pay rental in using LCSD venues. Their subvention includes the amount of hire charges in using LCSD venues as well as the programme fees of VPS-related activities and staff costs. These VPs also receive subventions from HAB for their core productions, outreach activities and publicity efforts, etc. which may be held in various venues including the partnering venues.
- Note 2: The funding support does not include the costs of providing work space to VPs.
- Note 3: One-off additional publicity funding support given by the LCSD to VPs which are small and medium sized arts groups includes MTR publicity and other extra publicity efforts to help build the image of VPs.
- Note 4: Notional charges incurred by VPs for free use of hiring units at the partnering venue as well as ticketing services.

Annex II to Reply Serial No. HAB171 (P.1)

Venue Partnership Scheme (VPS) - Level of Activities, Attendance and Average Cost Per Audience in 2015-16

A) Major Performing Arts Groups with Funding Support from the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) [Note 1]

	Venue	Venue Partner	Level of Activities and Attendance: 2015-16 (Estimated)			
			No. of Ticketed Stage Performances (a)	No. of Educational / Promotional / Audience Building Activities (Charged or Free) (b)	Total No. of Performances / Activities (a)+(b)	Total Attendance
1.	Hong Kong City Hall	(i) Hong Kong Repertory Theatre	62	51	113	39 158
		(ii) Hong Kong Sinfonietta	38	12	50	31 478
2.	Hong Kong Cultural Centre	(i) The Hong Kong Ballet	42	46	88	101 400
		(ii) Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra	20	26	46	49 500
		(iii) Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra	58	83	141	124 500
		(iv) Zuni Icosahedron	32	22	54	43 500
3.	Kwai Tsing Theatre	Chung Ying Theatre Company	35	57	92	17 325
4.	Tsuen Wan Town Hall	Hong Kong Dance Company	7	30	37	10 192
<i>Sub-Total (A) :</i>			294	327	621	417 053

Annex II to Reply Serial No. HAB171 (P.2)

B) Small and Medium Sized Performing Arts Groups with Funding Support from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) [Note 2]

Venue		Venue Partner	Level of Activities, Attendance and Average Cost Per Audience: 2015-16 (Estimated)					
			No. of Ticketed Stage Performances	No. of Educational / Promotional / Audience Building Activities (Charged or Free)	Total No. of Performance / Activities	Total Cost (Programme Fee, Publicity Support & Notional Hire / Ticketing Charges) (\$)	Total Attendance	Average Cost Per Audience (\$) [Note 3]
			(a)	(b)	(a)+(b)			
1.	Kwai Tsing Theatre	W Theatre Company and Wind Mill Grass Theatre	34	45	79	3,173,911	30 391	104
2.	Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre	(i) E-Side Dance Company	17	29	46	1,641,309	15 418	106
		(ii) Whole Theatre	72	20	92	2,231,797	15 252	146
3.	North District Town Hall	Hong Kong Theatre Works	14	22	36	1,815,000	3 950	459
4.	Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre	The Absolutely Fabulous Theatre Connection	11	127	138	1,890,790	34 979	54
5.	Sha Tin Town Hall	(i) The Cantonese Opera Advancement Association	68	15	83	3,755,000	68 100	55
		(ii) Trinity Theatre and The Radiant Theatre	45	57	102	1,767,000	12 020	147
6.	Sheung Wan Civic Centre	Theatre Dojo and iStage	32	41	73	1,691,000	13 431	126
7.	Tsuen Wan Town Hall	Ming Ri Institute for Arts Education	23	106	129	1,764,073	20 576	86
8.	Tuen Mun Town Hall	(i) Pop Theatre	16	63	79	1,570,900	7 625	206
		(ii) Spring-Time Experimental Theatre and Hong Kong Young Talent Cantonese Opera Troupe	42	10	52	3,155,000	28 223	112
9.	Yau Ma Tei Theatre	The Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong	101	10	111	2,857,560	22 370	128
10.	Yuen Long Theatre	(i) Hong Kong Performing Stage of Cantonese Opera	21	15	36	1,734,810	15 940	109
		(ii) Theatre Noir Foundation	8	291	299	1,998,630	12 558	159
Sub-Total (B) :			504	851	1,355	31,046,780	300 833	103
Total for (A) + (B) :			798	1,178	1,976	[Note 1]	717 886	[Note 1]

- Note 1: It is not feasible to derive the average cost per audience for activities of the Venue Partners (VPs) subvented by HAB's all-inclusive grant, since the activities held at the partnering venues include not only VPS-related activities, but also their core productions.
- Note 2: These VPs receive support from the LCSD direct on free use of venue and ticketing services, plus annual funding support (up to \$1.1 million per group/consortium in 2015-16) on programme production.
- Note 3: The average cost per audience is computed basing on the funding disbursed by the LCSD in support of VPs' programmes.

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