

HAB210

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0841)

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 2013-14 and 2014-15;
- 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 2014-15; and
- c. provide the details and the expenditure involved in the new round of the Scheme to be launched from April 2015 to March 2018 after the second term ends in March 2015?

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Shu-kun, Christopher (Member Question No. 18)

Reply:

- a. In 2012-13, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) launched the second round of the three-year Venue Partnership Scheme (VPS), involving 21 venue partners (VPs) at 12 performance venues. LCSD provides support to VPs in the form of (i) priority use of the facilities of the partnering venue; (ii) provision of work space; and (iii) publicity support such as inclusion of VPs' events in 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 (HAB) 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 scale performing arts groups, LCSD provides each of them with (i) an annual programme fee (subject to a ceiling of \$1.1 million per group in 2013-14 and 2014-15) to cover production, staff and administrative costs; (ii) free use of venue facilities, ticketing services and administrative support; and (iii) enhanced publicity funding of around \$90,000 per group in 2013-14 and 2014-15 for the purpose of image building.

The total funding support provided by LCSD (including notional charges) for the small and medium scale performing arts groups in 2013-14 and 2014-15 (estimated) are \$32.4 million and \$32.3 million respectively. Breakdown is set out at Annex I.

- b. The number of activities organised by the 21 VPs at the 12 partnering venues of LCSD and their total attendance in 2014-15 (estimated) are as follows:

Activities/Attendance	2014-15 (Estimated)
No. of stage performances	794
No. of educational, promotional and audience building activities	958
Total attendance	748 236

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

- c. The third round of VPS will be implemented from April 2015 to March 2018 involving 22 VPs at 12 performance venues, with the addition of the Tuen Mun Town Hall Cultural Activities Hall as a partnering venue and one more VP. The total funding support provided by LCSD (including notional charges) for the small and medium scale performing arts groups in 2015-16 is expected to be \$32.5 million and the breakdown is at Annex III.

Venue Partnership Scheme (VPS) - Level of Support to Venue Partners (VPs)**A) Major Performing Arts Groups with Funding Support from Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) in 2013-14, 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 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	

B) Small and Medium Scale Performing Arts Groups with Funding Support from Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) in 2013-14

Venue		Venue Partner	Funding Support from LCSD: 2013-14 (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	1,060,000	99,920	2,078,888	189,590	3,428,398
2.	Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre	(i) E-Side Dance Company	1,100,000	97,960	494,495	14,465	1,706,920
		(ii) Whole Theatre	1,100,000	98,660	951,210	100,011	2,249,881
3.	North District Town Hall	Hong Kong Theatre Works	1,100,000	99,910	540,410	11,872	1,752,192
4.	Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre	The Absolutely Fabulous Theatre Connection	1,100,000	100,000	693,624	24,529	1,918,153
5.	Sha Tin Town Hall	(i) The Cantonese Opera Advancement Association	1,100,000	100,000	2,412,717	455,412	4,068,129
		(ii) Trinity Theatre and The Radiant Theatre	1,080,000	100,000	679,095	61,653	1,920,748
6.	Sheung Wan Civic Centre	Perry Chiu Experimental Theatre	1,100,000	100,000	917,005	120,459	2,237,464
7.	Tsuen Wan Town Hall	Ming Ri Institute for Arts Education	1,000,000	100,000	620,303	33,353	1,753,656
8.	Tuen Mun Town Hall	Spring-Time Experimental Theatre and Hong Kong Young Talent Cantonese Opera Troupe	1,100,000	98,900	1,567,193	147,413	2,913,506
9.	Yau Ma Tei Theatre	The Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong	1,100,000	98,280	1,706,185	200,558	3,105,023
10.	Yuen Long Theatre	(i) Hong Kong Performing Stage of Cantonese Opera	1,100,000	100,000	640,505	69,425	1,909,930
		(ii) Theatre Noir Foundation	1,100,000	99,900	2,232,003	43,838	3,475,741
(B) Total :			14,140,000	1,293,530	15,533,633	1,472,578	32,439,741

C) Small and Medium Scale Performing Arts Groups with Funding Support from LCSD in 2014-15

Venue		Venue Partner	Funding Support from LCSD: 2014-15 (Estimated) [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	1,828,155	172,789	3,170,944
2.	Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre	(i) E-Side Dance Company	1,100,000	90,000	360,706	15,208	1,565,914
		(ii) Whole Theatre	1,100,000	90,000	713,644	96,720	2,000,364
3.	North District Town Hall	Hong Kong Theatre Works	1,100,000	90,000	800,000	20,587	2,010,587
4.	Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre	The Absolutely Fabulous Theatre Connection	1,100,000	90,000	669,136	31,321	1,890,457
5.	Sha Tin Town Hall	(i) The Cantonese Opera Advancement Association	1,100,000	90,000	2,800,000	500,844	4,490,844
		(ii) Trinity Theatre and The Radiant Theatre	1,100,000	90,000	1,100,000	68,817	2,358,817
6.	Sheung Wan Civic Centre	Perry Chiu Experimental Theatre	1,100,000	90,000	566,000	108,000	1,864,000
7.	Tsuen Wan Town Hall	Ming Ri Institute for Arts Education	1,100,000	90,000	607,170	35,985	1,833,155
8.	Tuen Mun Town Hall	Spring-Time Experimental Theatre and Hong Kong Young Talent Cantonese Opera Troupe	1,100,000	90,000	1,780,000	221,140	3,191,140
9.	Yau Ma Tei Theatre	The Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong	1,100,000	90,000	1,480,000	184,386	2,854,386
10.	Yuen Long Theatre	(i) Hong Kong Performing Stage of Cantonese Opera	1,100,000	90,000	690,000	38,498	1,918,498
		(ii) Theatre Noir Foundation	1,100,000	90,000	1,930,000	37,734	3,157,734
(C) Total :			14,280,000	1,170,000	15,324,811	1,532,029	32,306,840

- 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: Publicity funding support given by LCSD to VPs which are small and medium 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.

Venue Partnership Scheme (VPS) - Level of Activities, Attendance and Average Cost Per Audience in 2014-15**A) Major Performing Arts Groups with Funding Support from Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) [Note 1]**

Venue		Venue Partner	Level of Activities and Attendance: 2014-15 (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	57	55	112	32 910
		(ii) Hong Kong Sinfonietta	46	17	63	46 175
2.	Hong Kong Cultural Centre	(i) The Hong Kong Ballet	37	44	81	100 000
		(ii) Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra	17	29	46	46 700
		(iii) Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra	59	83	142	135 400
		(iv) Zuni Icosahedron	32	20	52	29 300
3.	Kwai Tsing Theatre	Chung Ying Theatre Company	34	61	95	17 386
4.	Tsuen Wan Town Hall	Hong Kong Dance Company	10	34	44	11 885
Sub-Total (A) :			292	343	635	419 756

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

	Venue	Venue Partner	Level of Activities, Attendance and Average Cost Per Audience: 2014-15 (Estimated)					
			No. of Ticketed Stage Performances (a)	No. of Educational / Promotional / Audience Building Activities (Charged or Free) (b)	Total No. of Performance / Activities (a)+(b)	Total Cost (Programme Fee, Publicity Support & Notional Hire / Ticketing Charges) (\$)	Total Attendance	Average Cost Per Audience (\$) [Note 3]
1.	Kwai Tsing Theatre	W Theatre Company and Wind Mill Grass Theatre	30	39	69	3,170,944	25 823	123
2.	Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre	(i) E-Side Dance Company	16	29	45	1,565,914	14 741	106
		(ii) Whole Theatre	53	6	59	2,000,364	12 302	163
3.	North District Town Hall	Hong Kong Theatre Works	16	26	42	2,010,587	5 276	381
4.	Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre	The Absolutely Fabulous Theatre Connection	8	119	127	1,890,457	33 965	56
5.	Sha Tin Town Hall	(i) The Cantonese Opera Advancement Association	80	19	99	4,490,844	77 937	58
		(ii) Trinity Theatre and The Radiant Theatre	45	56	101	2,358,817	14 729	160
6.	Sheung Wan Civic Centre	Perry Chiu Experimental Theatre	50	12	62	1,864,000	15 562	120
7.	Tsuen Wan Town Hall	Ming Ri Institute for Arts Education	21	149	170	1,833,155	20 153	91
8.	Tuen Mun Town Hall	Spring-Time Experimental Theatre and Hong Kong Young Talent Cantonese Opera Troupe	50	7	57	3,191,140	39 241	81
9.	Yau Ma Tei Theatre	The Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong	100	10	110	2,854,386	25 121	114
10.	Yuen Long Theatre	(i) Hong Kong Performing Stage of Cantonese Opera	20	18	38	1,918,498	12 990	148
		(ii) Theatre Noir Foundation	13	125	138	3,157,734	30 640	103
Sub-Total (B) :			502	615	1,117	32,306,840	328 480	98
Total for (A) + (B) :			794	958	1,752	[Note 1]	748 236	[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 LCSD direct on free use of venue and ticketing services, plus annual funding support (up to \$1.1 million per group/consortium in 2014-15) on programme production.
- Note 3: The average cost per audience is computed basing on the funding by LCSD in support of VPs' programmes.

Funding Support for Small and Medium Scale Performing Arts Groups from Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) in 2015-16

Venue	Venue Partner	Funding Support from LCSD: 2015-16 (Estimated) [Note 1]				
		Annual Programme Fee (\$)	Notional Hire Charges (\$) [Note 2]	Notional URB TIX Charges (\$) [Note 2]	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	180,000	3,180,000
2.	Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre	(i) E-Side Dance Company	1,100,000	200,680	20,801	1,321,481
		(ii) Whole Theatre	1,100,000	665,072	125,705	1,890,777
3.	North District Town Hall	Hong Kong Theatre Works	1,100,000	800,000	13,628	1,913,628
4.	Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre	The Absolutely Fabulous Theatre Connection	1,100,000	650,350	34,997	1,785,347
5.	Sha Tin Town Hall	(i) The Cantonese Opera Advancement Association	1,100,000	2,800,000	410,721	4,310,721
		(ii) Trinity Theatre and The Radiant Theatre	1,100,000	1,100,000	57,552	2,257,552
6.	Sheung Wan Civic Centre	Theatre Dojo and iStage [Note 3]	1,100,000	500,000	79,000	1,679,000
7.	Tsuen Wan Town Hall	Ming Ri Institute for Arts Education	1,100,000	630,000	37,000	1,767,000
8.	Tuen Mun Town Hall	(i) Pop Theatre [Note 3]	1,100,000	650,000	40,000	1,790,000
		(ii) Spring-Time Experimental Theatre and Hong Kong Young Talent Cantonese Opera Troupe	1,100,000	1,850,000	200,000	3,150,000
9.	Yau Ma Tei Theatre	The Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong	1,100,000	1,400,000	165,900	2,665,900
10.	Yuen Long Theatre	(i) Hong Kong Performing Stage of Cantonese Opera	1,100,000	680,000	70,000	1,850,000
		(ii) Theatre Noir Foundation	1,100,000	1,800,000	45,000	2,945,000
Total :			15,400,000	15,626,102	1,480,304	32,506,406

- Note 1: The funding support does not include the costs of providing work space to the Venue Partners (VPs). Taking into account that VPs have successfully built up their image and the number of VPs has been increased from 21 to 22, no additional publicity funding support is provided to VPs.
- Note 2: Notional hire/URBTIX charge denotes charges incurred by VPs for free use of hiring units at the partnering venue as well as ticketing services.
- Note 3: New VPs for the third round (2015-18) of VPS.

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