

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

HAB373

Question Serial No.

4781

Head: 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

In paragraph 66 of the Budget Speech, the Government proposes additional funding of \$50 million for the Leisure and Cultural Services Department to acquire local visual artists' outstanding artworks, and to commission works for exhibition under public art schemes. These are set to promote the profile of local artists and bring their works to the attention of the art market. Please inform this Committee of the details of the plans, the channels for acquiring the artworks, the selection criteria, the details of the exhibitions expected to be held as well as the detailed estimated expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The additional funding of \$50 million to be allocated to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will be used to acquire and commission artworks by local artists for exhibition, public display, education and research purposes.

(a) Acquiring Artworks

The artworks to be acquired by LCSD will become museum collections which will be displayed on a rotation basis in the museums' permanent and thematic exhibitions and other venues including the visual arts exhibition and activity centre at Oil Street to be opened in mid-2013. From time to time, individual artists, private collectors, art dealers, auction houses and art galleries may offer their artworks to LCSD museums for sale, while museums may also proactively ascertain from them their interest in selling or donating artworks to the museums. In both cases, the procedures established by LCSD for handling acquisition of artworks are followed. Having regard to the advice given by the Corruption Prevention Department of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, LCSD has devised a set of procedures and assessment criteria for acquisition of artworks for museums. The criteria include the artistic merit of the proposed acquisition, its relevance to museums' collections, its physical condition, price, display and education value, and the reputation of the artist.

In conducting the assessment, LCSD will invite Museum Expert Advisers (Advisers) from the relevant panel to give independent advice on the proposed acquisition in accordance with the above-mentioned procedures/criteria. Advisers are appointed to different panels according to their areas of expertise such as Hong Kong art, design, photography, Chinese antiquities and historical pictures, etc. The number of Advisers to be engaged for each acquisition depends on the value of the artworks, but at least three Advisers have to be engaged if the estimated value of the artwork is over \$50,000. The Advisers concerned are required to declare interest when conducting assessment to avoid conflict of interest and no remuneration or honorarium will be offered to them. Unanimous support of the Advisers for the proposed acquisition, including the price to be offered, is required.

(b) Commissioning artworks for display in public areas

In addition to acquiring artworks, LCSD will also use part of the new funding to commission local artists to create artworks for display at public open spaces, such as parks, and government buildings to promote public's appreciation of art and the works of Hong Kong artists.

Artists or teams for the commissioning work will be selected through two channels, namely, open competition and collaboration with art related non-government organisations (NGOs). In the former case, an adjudication panel comprising five to seven experts in local and public art, representatives of the districts/venues concerned and Museum Expert Advisers, will be set up to select and recommend the appropriate artwork proposals for commissioning. Selection criteria include artistic merits and creativity, compliance with the competition and venue requirements, conformity with the environment, technical competence of the artist/team, feasibility and safety of the proposal, as well as the costs of implementation, management, maintenance and repair. As for collaboration with NGOs, the NGO partner appointed must be art related, non-profit making and has a good track record in executing similar commissioning projects. It will first work out the details of the proposed project and mechanism for artwork selection for LCSD's consideration. The independent advice of Museum Expert Advisers as well as the views of the venue and district representatives will be sought as part of the process.

Name in block letters: Mrs. BETTY FUNG

Post Title: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date: 5.4..2013