

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

HAB414

Question Serial No.

3921

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:

Regarding the funding of \$50 million for the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) to acquire local visual artists' artworks, how will the Government assess the value of a piece of artwork? For how long is the sum of \$50 million expected to be used and what is the expected number of artworks to be acquired? What criteria will be used by LCSD for commissioning local visual artworks for exhibition? Will artists be engaged or applications invited for this purpose?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

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

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.

As each piece of artwork is unique and the price varies depending on its nature, scale and artistic merit, the number of artworks to be acquired with the proposed amount of funding and when the funding will be exhausted cannot be estimated.

(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