

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB465

(Question Serial No. 5190)

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 art performances,

- a) How will the Government facilitate local artists to give performances? What are the expenditures involved?
- b) How will the Government facilitate overseas artists to give performances in Hong Kong? What are the expenditures involved?
- c) For street arts performances, how will the Government facilitate performers to promote the development of performance and arts?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth (Member Question No. 402)

Reply:

- a & b) The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will continue to provide an open environment for both local and visiting artists to showcase their artistic expression and creation through engagements in a variety of cultural activities, including:
- a balanced presentation of year-round cultural programmes as well as arts festivals featuring various art forms;
 - audience building programmes to promote knowledge of the arts and enhance appreciation at both schools and community levels through performances, master classes and workshops;
 - free outdoor events and large scale carnivals in the community during festive seasons;
 - sponsored presentations for local small and medium scale performing arts groups, including the Venue Partnership Scheme; and

- Cultural exchange programmes in collaboration with Consulate-Generals as well as overseas cultural organisations.

LCSD's support is provided in various forms including:

- performance fees;
- free and/or priority use of venues with professional technical support;
- free ticketing services, as well as publicity and marketing support;
- co-ordination such as performances at museums, schools, community halls, historic sites and non-LCSD performance venues; and
- logistical support such as hotel accommodation, freight and airfare for visiting artists.

The estimated direct production costs for presenting or sponsoring cultural programmes by local and overseas artists in 2015-16 are about \$98 million and \$56 million respectively.

- c) To enable more members of the public to enjoy street arts performances, and to provide art lovers with more spaces for creation and performance, LCSD has implemented the “Open Stage” Scheme (the Scheme) at the Plaza of Sha Tin Town Hall to encourage individuals or groups to showcase their artistic talents. They may accept donations from the public in appreciation of their performances. The Scheme nourishes development of the performing arts at community level where street performers enjoy free use of public open space for display of artistic talent.

Apart from the “Open Stage” Scheme, LCSD also frequently organises cultural and entertainment activities such as concerts, Cantonese opera performances and dance performances in the piazzas or plazas of its cultural venues with a view to integrating the arts into the community.

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