

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB185**

**(Question Serial No. 0453)**

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Vincent LIU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021–22 under Programme (3), that the Department will organise major exhibitions, including “Dining with the Emperor – Culinary Culture of the Qing Court” and “Tsar of All Russia – Holiness and Splendour of Power” at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum; “Mythologies: Surrealism and Beyond – Masterpieces from Centre Pompidou” at the Hong Kong Museum of Art; and “The Science Behind Pixar” at the Hong Kong Science Museum. In this regard, please advise this Committee:

1. please tabulate the attendance figures of permanent exhibitions at museums under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) in the past 3 years;
2. please tabulate the expenditure and details of the renewal or modification of permanent exhibitions at LCSD museums in the past 3 years;
3. in concern with permanent exhibitions that have been criticised as outdated and incapable to enrich the cultural life of the general public, whether there is any plan to renew all the permanent exhibitions? If yes, of the details? If no, of the reasons;
4. concerning the prolonged social distancing measures, whether the Department consider organising virtual museum tours and online talks and lectures, offering the public a way through restrictions on site visits during the Covid-19 pandemic

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 56)

Reply:

1. The attendance of permanent exhibitions at museums under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) in the past 3 years is set out at **Annex I**.
2. The expenditures and details of the renewal of permanent exhibitions at museums under the LCSD in the past 3 years are set out at **Annex II**.

3. The LCSD is committed to enhancing the permanent exhibitions in its museums, and has planned to renew the permanent exhibitions and related exhibits according to their different nature. For major permanent galleries, the LCSD has plans to revamp by phases. Renovation of the permanent galleries in the Hong Kong Museum of Art was completed in 2019, and revamp will be carried out for the Hong Kong Science Museum, the Hong Kong Museum of History, and the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence in the next few years. For small museums where most of the permanent exhibitions are housed in historic buildings with limited exhibition space inside folk museums, renewals of the exhibitions will be conducted in a timely manner. For example, revamping of the permanent exhibition of the Hong Kong Railway Museum was completed in 2019. In addition to major revamps, the LCSD will continue to replace exhibits for permanent exhibitions, refresh presentation strategies, or present small-scale thematic displays at permanent galleries from time to time to update exhibition content and deploy new modes of presentation in order to bring new experience to visitors.
  
4. In December 2020, the LCSD launched the Edutainment Channel to combine education with entertainment. Museum series of the Channel cover art, history, science, intangible cultural heritage, conservation and astronomy, etc. and provide access to museum programmes for members of the public from the comfort of their homes. While a wide range of knowledge is introduced through videos in “101 Academy”, its “Art Appreciation 101” features curators’ guide to appreciate works of art such as painting, calligraphy, sculpture and ceramics, etc. As for “vis-à-vis +01” series, viewers can join curators online for interactive thematic exhibition tours as well as attending lectures.

**Attendance of Permanent Exhibitions  
at Museums of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department**

Venues	2018-19	2019-20 <sup>(1)</sup>	2020-21 <sup>(2)</sup>
1. Hong Kong Museum of Art <sup>(3)</sup>			
(a) Ordinary to Extraordinary – Stories of the Museum	–	132 006	110 457
(b) The Wisdom of Emptiness – Selected Works from the Xubaizhai Collection	–	82 046	21 471
(c) Hong Kong Experience • Hong Kong Experiment	–	96 985	125 308
(d) The Best of Both Worlds – Acquisition and Donation of Chinese Antiquities	–	81 530	40 113
(e) Lost and Found – Guardians of the Chater Collection	–	74 590	37 307
(f) From Dung Basket to Dining Cart – 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Birth of Wu Guanzhong	–	89 438	33 904
(g) A Pleasure Shared – Selected Works from the Chih Lo Lou Collection	–	89 438	33 904
(h) A Taste for Life – The Collection and Connoisseurship of Mr Low Chuck-tiew	–	–	45 496
(i) Avowal through Withdrawal – Selected Paintings and Calligraphies from the Chih Lo Lou Collection	–	–	25 809
(j) Wu Guanzhong – Sketching from Nature	–	–	25 809
2. Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware			
(a) Let's Talk about Tea through the Ages	114 241	62 452	18 004
(b) Chinese Ceramics and Seals Donated by the K.S. Lo Foundation	83 962	46 613	6 263
(c) Calligraphy on Stone – Seal Carving in Hong Kong	83 962	46 613	–
(d) Seal Carving in Lingnan	–	–	6 263
3. Hong Kong Museum of History			
(a) The Hong Kong Story <sup>(4)</sup>	957 829	515 118	73 174
(b) Recreating a Classic – The Best Features of The Hong Kong Story	–	–	3 939
4. Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence <sup>(5)</sup>	64 507	–	–
5. Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum	90 558	56 184	10 811
6. Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery	64 146	40 021	18 849
7. Law Uk Folk Museum	16 164	9 771	2 875
8. Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum	41 173	35 033	9 041

<b>Venues</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>2020-21<sup>(2)</sup></b>
9. Hong Kong Heritage Museum			
(a) T. T. Tsui Gallery of Chinese Art	391 142	322 918	31 960
(b) Chao Shao-an Gallery	432 256	317 995	24 671
(c) Cantonese Opera Heritage Hall	401 555	308 816	24 443
(d) Children's Discovery Gallery	510 974	398 519	12 274
(e) Jin Yong Gallery	481 458	378 165	37 416
10. Hong Kong Railway Museum	277 775	200 702	66 779
11. Sheung Yiu Folk Museum	42 590	30 015	16 860
12. Hong Kong Science Museum	780 370	584 409	76 018
13. Hong Kong Space Museum	576 768	385 750	55 466
14. Hong Kong Film Archive	22 155	10 382	2 514
15. Sam Tung Uk Museum	116 451	68 339	9 189

Notes

1. The decrease in the number of attendance was due to the temporary closure of museums and venues under the management of the LCSD amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Attendance as at 28 February 2021. All museums under the management of the LCSD have been temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. The Hong Kong Museum of Art was re-opened on 30 November 2019 after renovation.
4. The permanent exhibition of the Hong Kong Museum of History has been temporarily closed since 19 October 2020 for renewal.
5. The Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence has been temporarily closed since September 2018 for major repair and renovation.

**Renewal of Permanent Exhibitions  
at Museums of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in the Past 3 Years**

<b>Museums</b>	<b>2018-19 (\$'000)</b>	<b>2019-20 (\$'000)</b>	<b>2020-21 (Revised Estimate) (\$'000)</b>	<b>Details</b>
1. Hong Kong Museum of History	4,518	10,086	26,703	Academic research and data collection for exhibitions, application for usage rights for photos and images, recording and shooting of photos and videos, and commissioning of exhibition design firm for the related work.
2. Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence	1,663	446	4,796	Acquisition of exhibits for the new permanent exhibition and the Historical Trail, application for usage rights for photos and images, production of multimedia programmes and commissioning of exhibition design firm and exhibition production house for the related work.
3. Hong Kong Heritage Museum	3,317	2,468	22,455	Research on Hong Kong popular culture, acquisition of exhibits, application for usage rights for photos and images, production of multimedia programmes, and com-missioning of exhibition production house for fabrication of exhibits and fitting-out of exhibition galleries.
4. Hong Kong Railway Museum	5,210	2,123	2,719	Exhibition gallery re-opened in September 2019 after content updating of permanent exhibition completed and interactive installations added. Relocation of historic train coach No. 313 for display in the museum and upgrading of museum facilities.

<b>Museums</b>	<b>2018-19 (\$'000)</b>	<b>2019-20 (\$'000)</b>	<b>2020-21 (Revised Estimate) (\$'000)</b>	<b>Details</b>
5. Hong Kong Science Museum				
(a) 5 permanent exhibition halls	1,953	6,714	11,260	Trial-run of the gallery conducted in November 2020 after fabrication of exhibits and fitting-out of the Earth Science Gallery completed. Re-novation of essential facilities of the Palaeontology Gallery.
(b) Telecommunications Gallery	500	500	500	Acquisition and testing of exhibits of the Innotech Gallery.
(c) Replacement of exhibits	–	1,500	3,000	Replacement of exhibits of the Electricity and Magnetism Gallery.

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