

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSTB233

(Question Serial No. 1275)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Programme: (4) Performing Arts

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism

Question:

Regarding the promotion of culture and arts, it is mentioned in paragraph 127 of the Budget Speech that the Financial Secretary planned to allocate a total of over \$150 million to support artists in Hong Kong in taking part in performances and productions in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) and to host the GBA Culture and Arts Festival in 2024. What are the details of the expenditure required for the plan, implementation timetable and details of the plan? What is the effectiveness of the plan in promoting the exchange of culture and arts in Hong Kong and the GBA?

Asked by: Hon NG Kit-chong, Johnny (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

It was announced in the 2023-24 Budget that the Government would provide a total of \$135 million over the coming 5 years to continue to support performing arts groups and artists in Hong Kong in taking part in performances and productions in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA). The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will arrange for such additional resources to cover commissioning fees for touring programmes of local arts groups and artists in the GBA, direct production costs (artist fee, production costs and transportation) of outbound activities, publicity costs, and other related expenses. The Department will further strengthen and develop collaboration platforms as well as curate programme brands to provide more performance opportunities for local arts groups and artists.

In addition, the LCSD has been granted a provision of \$20 million for hosting the GBA Culture and Arts Festival in 2024. Spanning over a month, the festival will showcase high-quality cultural and performing arts projects by arts groups and artists in the 9+2 Cities in the GBA, covering such areas as music, dance, Cantonese opera, drama, art exhibitions, literature and films. The projects will include a large-scale opening programme and touring programmes curated by the LCSD. It is estimated that about 100 performances and activities will take place in the GBA, attracting an attendance of about 140 000 people.

By promoting arts and cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and other places within the GBA, the LCSD aims to showcase high-quality arts and cultural works of Hong Kong and the other cities of the GBA, provide more performance opportunities for arts groups and artists, foster the inter-connectivity and long-term development of arts and culture, and enhance the cultural image of the GBA. All this will contribute to implementing the objective of “jointly developing a cultured Bay Area” as mentioned in the “Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area”, thereby enabling Hong Kong to make the best out of its status as an international cultural exchange platform and a metropolis among the cities in the GBA.

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