

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB137

(Question Serial No. 1560)

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 Home Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 under this Programme that 3 annual major arts festivals, namely the “Chinese Opera Festival”, the “International Arts Carnival” and the “New Vision Arts Festival” were cancelled. Free online programmes including “WeWeWebWeb Carnival” and “ReNew Vision” were created to offer alternative arts space to meet the needs of arts practitioners and arts enthusiasts. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the estimated expenditure and estimated number of viewers of “WeWeWebWeb Carnival” and “ReNew Vision”.

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the “International Arts Carnival” and the “New Vision Arts Festival” in 2020-21 were cancelled. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department created free online programmes “WeWeWebWeb Carnival” and “ReNew Vision” to support local arts groups, and to help maintain a cultural life among members of the public staying at home during the pandemic.

In response to the pandemic and the new normal, the “International Arts Carnival” and the “New Vision Arts Festival” in 2021-22 will deliver both live and online performances, and continue to engage local and overseas arts groups to produce live-streamed or pre-recorded programmes. The combined effort is expected to cultivate an interest in the community, particularly among the younger generation, in attending performance as audience. The estimated expenditure and estimated number of viewers in question are as follows:

2021-22	WeWeWebWeb Carnival	ReNew Vision
Estimated expenditure	\$1.25 million	\$1.5 million
Estimated number of viewers	600 000	100 000