

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSTB210

(Question Serial No. 3491)

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 industrialisation of culture, the Budget mentioned supporting performing arts groups and artists in Hong Kong in taking part in performances and productions in the Greater Bay Area. How will the estimated expenditures be allocated, and what are the details of the support plan?

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

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). Such additional resources will be utilised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) 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, and other related expenses. The estimated expenditure is around \$25 million in 2023-24, anticipated to be subject to incremental increases to about \$28 million per year over the subsequent 4 financial years.

Following the recent full resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland, the LCSD has actively discussed with local arts groups and performance venues across the GBA to relaunch the cultural exchange events which had been postponed on account of the COVID-19 epidemic as early as possible. On another front, the Department will further strengthen and develop collaboration platforms, as well as curate programme brands. The work involved will include the joint production of distinguished programmes, thereby providing more performance opportunities for local arts groups/artists.