

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0235)

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 Culture, Sports and Tourism

Question:

1. One of the indicators under Programme (3) is the number of “objects in museums collections (including Film Archive collections)”, which stood at as many as 1.63 million in 2022. Please provide a breakdown of the objects by type of collection.
2. The revised estimate for “acquiring museum collections and commissioning art and cultural projects” in 2022-23 is about \$27 million, representing a significant decrease by 33% over 2021-22, and the estimate for 2023-24 will further decrease to \$20 million. What are the reasons?
3. When “acquiring museum collections and commissioning art and cultural projects”, will the Department accord priority to local collections and projects so as to support the development of the arts and cultural industries in Hong Kong? How much of the relevant expenditure has been spent on the acquisition (or commissioning) of creations by local arts and cultural practitioners over the past 3 years?
4. Although the Government owns a substantial number of arts and cultural objects, it does not mean that they are readily available for public appreciation or enjoyment. How many of the aforesaid 1.63 million objects in the collections will be put on public display frequently or regularly through various means? How many have remained idle in repositories for long and hardly accessible to the public? Has the Department formulated any policies and indicators for the display of objects of the collections?
5. A large number of new government buildings, departmental offices, leisure and cultural facilities, parks, promenades and other public spaces will be completed progressively in the future in various districts of Hong Kong, especially the new development areas. Will the Government proactively encourage and even require the relevant departments and buildings to set aside some of their spaces or adopt other means to display arts and cultural objects in the Department’s collections (especially local creations), rather than merely placing the objects in museums or repositories?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

1. The actual number of museum collections (including Film Archive collections) under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) was 1 631 738 as at 2022. The types and number of collections are tabulated below:

Type of collections	Number of collections
Art	60 369
History	254 222
Science	252
Films and related materials	1 316 895

2. According to experience, every piece of artefact/artwork is unique by itself with its price varying according to its nature, scale and artistic/historical/scientific value, while commissioning projects normally span over 2 to 3 years from planning to completion. Therefore, the cash flow of annual expenditure varies significantly.
3. When acquiring museum collections and commissioning art and cultural projects, the LCSD mainly focuses on local artists. The expenditures on the acquisition or commissioning of local artists' artworks in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Financial year	(a) Expenditure on the acquisition or commissioning of local artists' artworks (\$ million)	(b) Expenditure on the acquisition or commissioning of non- local artists' artworks (\$ million)	[(a) + (b)] Total expenditure under Sub- head 677 (\$ million)
2020-21	29.22	4.37	33.59
2021-22	39.47	1.02	40.49
2022-23 (Revised estimate)	23.60	3.65	27.25

4. Apart from organising various exhibitions to showcase museums' collections to the public, the LCSD museums and Hong Kong Film Archive offer the public access to the information of museum collections at their resource centres. Over 500 000 collection items were accessible as at 31 December 2022. In addition, over 450 000 collection items are accessible to the public via the museums' websites. Every year, the museums set a target for the indicator "collection items accessible on the Internet", which is set out in the Controlling Officer's Report.
5. The LCSD has all along been committed to promoting diversity in arts. Over the years, the Art Promotion Office (APO) has organised art exhibitions and displayed public artworks at many community and government buildings, as well as cultural and leisure facilities and venues. For example, to tie in with the upcoming completion and opening of the East Kowloon Cultural Centre (EKCC) building, the APO has launched the EKCC Public Artwork Commissioning Project to display public artworks.

Apart from displaying artworks in government buildings, the APO has also held outdoor art exhibitions at outdoor venues such as the Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical

Gardens, Tuen Mun River, Tuen Mun Town Centre, Tamar Park and the Central and Western District Promenade (Central Section). The APO will continue to stage more thematic art projects for display at suitable community and government buildings, cultural and recreational facilities/venues, and outdoor venues.

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