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Panel on Home Affairs

**Information note prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 28 May 2013**

**Provision of funding for acquisition of artworks
by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department**

According to the Administration, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") currently manages 14 museums, the Hong Kong Film Archive, two heritage centres and the Art Promotion Office (hereafter referred collectively as "LCSD museums"), which acquire artefacts and artworks through purchase and/or donations from time to time to add to their collections for the organization of public programmes for the enjoyment of the general public. While LCSD museums do not set a ratio for the local and overseas artworks to be acquired, it has been LCSD's policy to focus on the acquisition of artworks by local artists so as to reflect the development and cultural identity of Hong Kong art as well as the accomplishments of local artists. The expenditure incurred by LCSD in the acquisition of artworks from 2008-2009 to 2012-2013 and the number and types of local and non-local artworks acquired by LCSD are set out in the **Appendix**.

2. In his 2013-2014 Budget, the Financial Secretary proposed allocating an additional funding of \$50 million for LCSD to acquire local visual artists' artworks and to commission works for exhibition under public art schemes ("the proposed initiative"). To maintain flexibility, there is no time limit for the use of the funding. In the Administration's view, the proposed initiative will help raise the profile of local visual artists and provide opportunities for young and budding artists to showcase their talent and build audience, thereby facilitating local arts development. In its replies to the written questions raised by members of the Finance Committee concerning the proposed initiative in examining the estimates of expenditure 2013-2014, the Administration advised that LCSD would follow the established procedures and assessment criteria for acquisition of artworks, which were devised having regard to the advice given by the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

Museum Expert Advisers would be engaged to give independent advice on the proposed acquisition including the price to be offered. The artworks to be acquired by LCSD would become museum collections which would be selected and displayed on a rotation basis in the permanent and thematic exhibitions in LCSD museums and other venues including the visual arts exhibition and activity centre at Oil Street to be opened in mid-2013. New artworks by local artists would also be commissioned with the additional funding for display at government buildings, parks and open spaces etc., as well as in outbound exhibitions presented overseas and in the Mainland to promote works of Hong Kong artists.

3. The proposed initiative has not been discussed by the Panel on Home Affairs ("the Panel"). Nevertheless, at the meeting of the Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project on 23 April 2013, concern was expressed that the proposed initiative might give rise to competition between LCSD museums and the M+ museum in the West Kowloon Cultural District in the acquisition of local artists' artworks. The Administration responded that to avoid duplication in acquiring artworks, LCSD would strengthen communication with the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority ("WKCDA") on each other's scope of collection. While the collection policy of LCSD museums focused mainly on Hong Kong, M+ aimed to build a world-class collection representative of the 20th and 21st century visual culture, encompassing the disciplines of visual art, design, architecture, and moving image from Hong Kong, China, and expanding to other regions of Asia and the rest of the world. Given the different positioning of LCSD museums and M+, the Administration considered that the collections of LCSD museums and M+ should complement with each other. LCSD and WKCDA would explore the possibility of loaning appropriate exhibits to each other in order to make good use of the resources.

4. The Administration will brief the Panel on the proposed initiative at its meeting on 28 May 2013.

**Expenditure incurred by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department
in the acquisition of artworks from 2008-2009 to 2012-2013**

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Number of local artworks acquired	Types	Number of non-local artworks acquired	Types
2008-2009	5.20	181	Photography, paintings, drawings, collages, sculptures, ceramics, installations, design products	13	Paintings and design products
2009-2010	6.39	142	Photography, paintings, prints, calligraphies, sculptures, ceramics, installations, mixed media, design products	20	Paintings, ornaments and design products
2010-2011	10.77	146	Photography, paintings, prints, calligraphies, sculptures, ceramics, installations, mixed media, design products	13	Paintings, animations, ceramics, metal works and design products
2011-2012	1.82	253	Photography, paintings, prints and sculptures	2	Paintings and drawings
2012-2013	3.39	1628*	Photography, paintings, prints, calligraphies and sculptures	2	Paintings and drawings

* Including 1 600 photo negatives from a photographer. The acquisition was made through the artist's family at an enormously discounted price.

Source: The Administration's written reply to question raised by Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che during examination of estimates of expenditure 2013-2014