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18 June 2013

Ms Alice LEUNG
Clerk to Panel on Home Affairs
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms. Leung,

Acquiring and Commissioning Artworks by Local Artists

The dedicated funding proposal on acquiring and commissioning artworks by local artists proposed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) involving \$50 million was discussed at the Home Affairs Panel meeting on 28 May 2013. Members requested the Administration to provide supplementary information¹ after the meeting. Hon Christopher Chung Shu-kun also raised supplementary questions² on the funding proposal. In your letter of 3 June 2013, our Bureau was requested to provide response to Hon Chung's questions. Our reply to these two documents is as follows:

Follow-up Questions of the Home Affairs Panel meeting on 28 May 2013

Acquisition and collection strategy for artworks adopted by LCSD's museums
(Item 7(a) of LC Paper no. CB(2)1299/12-13(02) List of Follow-up Actions)

2. Insofar as acquisition of artworks for museums is concerned, LCSD's objective is to build up a comprehensive collection that embodies the long-term development and cultural identity in various fields of Hong Kong art in different periods as well as the accomplishments, characteristics and different styles of local artists. The collection also extends to cover the artistic and cultural heritage of South China particularly the Guangdong region which has strong connection with the development of Hong Kong art and culture.

¹ Item 7 of LC Paper no. CB(2)1299/12-13(02) List of Follow-up Actions

² LC Paper no. CB(2)1277/12-13(01)

3. LCSD adopts the following main strategies for acquiring artworks of local artists:

- (a) acquiring artworks of representative artists/media of different historical periods based on research on Hong Kong's art history;
- (b) collecting the artworks of masters in Hong Kong;
- (c) collecting the winning entries and selected works of the Hong Kong Contemporary Art (Biennial) Award; and
- (d) collecting selected artworks from public art projects commissioned by LCSD.

4. For details, please refer to paragraph 6 of Home Affairs Panel paper CB(2)1076/12-13(03) and paragraph 5 of Finance Committee Paper FCR(2013-14)23.

Details of the procurement procedures and assessment criteria governing LCSD's acquisition of museum collections, in particular the consultation with and engagement of Museum Expert Advisers in the acquisition of artworks
(Item 7(b) of LC Paper no. CB(2)1299/12-13(02) List of Follow-up Actions)

5. LCSD had, after consulting the Corruption Prevention Department of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, devised a set of procedures and assessment criteria for acquisition of artworks for museums. To ensure transparency, a brief description of the scope of museum collections and the assessment criteria for acquiring collections have been uploaded onto the museum websites.

6. Objects may be added to museum collections by means of donations or purchase through a variety of sources. Museum staff will examine and assess the merit of each acquisition proposal and submit it to the relevant committee set up within individual museum for consideration. Subject to the endorsement by the committee, Museum Expert Advisers (Advisers) will be invited to assess and give advice on the item proposed for acquisition.

7. At present LCSD has 60 Advisers on Art. Assessments are based on a set of criteria including the artistic merit of the item, its relevance to local culture/museums' collections, its authenticity, physical condition, price, display value and education value, and the reputation of the artist.

8. The number of Advisers engaged for each acquisition depends on the value of the artwork. Specifically, at least one Adviser is engaged if the estimated value of the artwork is \$50,000 or less and three Advisers for those with an estimated value of over \$50,000. Only items unanimously recommended by the Advisers involved will be purchased. All LCSD officers involved in the preparation, assessment and approval of acquisitions, as well as the Advisers who are invited to give advice, need to declare interest.

9. For details, please refer to paragraphs 7-8 of Home Affairs Panel paper CB(2)1076/12-13(03) and paragraph 6-7 of Finance Committee Paper FCR(2013-14)23.

Whether the Administration had assessed the present-day value of artworks acquired by LCSD in the last three years and, if yes, the amount of appreciation or otherwise in value of these artworks

(Item 7(c) of LC Paper no. CB(2)1299/12-13(02) List of Follow-up Actions)

10. As market value appreciation is not the purpose or concern of acquiring and collecting artworks by museums, LCSD has not assessed the present-day value of the artworks acquired in the past.

The scope of museum collections of as well as the respective mission and vision of M+ and LCSD's museums

(Item 7(d) of LC Paper no. CB(2)1299/12-13(02) List of Follow-up Actions)

11. Insofar as acquisition of artworks for museums is concerned, LCSD's objective is to build up a comprehensive collection that embodies the long-term development and cultural identity in various fields of Hong Kong art in different periods as well as the accomplishments, characteristics and different styles of local artists. The collection also extends to cover the artistic and cultural heritage of South China particularly the culture and arts in Guangdong region which has strong connection with the development of Hong Kong art and culture, so as to embody the mission of cultural legacy research and enhance the position of Hong Kong's art. As for M+, its mission is set to develop content from a Hong Kong perspective with a global vision and focus on collecting and displaying the 20th and 21st century visual culture. The ultimate goal of M+ is to enable the visitors to see the world from a Hong Kong perspective through its collection, and reflect the development trend of the global visual culture through this unique filter.

Supplementary Questions raised by Hon. Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun

Existing Funding for Acquisition of LCSD's Museum Collections

(Question (1) of LC Paper no. CB(2)1277/12-13(01))

12. Currently LCSD is also acquiring artworks by local artists. However, it is not provided with dedicated funding and can only allocate a small portion from its annual recurrent expenditure for such purposes. Given that the Department provides a wide range of cultural, leisure and sports facilities and programmes, with the currently available resources, it usually earmarks \$1 million in its annual regular subventions for acquisition of museum collections, including artworks of local artists and other collections. The amount that LCSD can spend on the acquisition of artworks by local artists each financial year depends on the LCSD's overall spending situation in a particular year. The actual expenditure may be slightly more than the allocation on some occasions. The unspent funding in the recurrent expenditure cannot be carried forward to the next financial year.

13. The proposal on dedicated funding will strengthen the museums' roles in collecting Hong Kong art systematically, and support local artists to create artworks for public arts projects.

Collections of the LCSD's Museums and M+
(Question (2),(4), (5)&(6) of LC Paper no.CB(2)1277/12-13(01))

14. As a new museum, it is understandable that M+ needs more funding to take forward its preparatory work and build up museum collections. On the other hand, the Hong Kong Museum of Art (HKMA), opened in 1962, has established an impressive collection of artworks, many of which were works of local artists through acquisition and accepting donations over the year. The proposed funding of \$50 million, if approved by the Finance Committee, will be used for enriching and enhancing the collections of HKMA and Hong Kong Heritage Museum (HKHM). Hence, it is not appropriate to make a direct comparison with M+.

Co-ordination between LCSD's Museums and M+

15. LCSD and M+ each has its own acquisition strategies. While both will acquire the artworks of local artists, different strategies and perspectives in selecting the preferred artists and artworks for acquisition are adopted, which reflect their respective specific positioning and exhibition strategies. For relevant information, please refer to the section "The scope of museum collections of as well as the respective mission and vision of M+ and LCSD's museums" above. Both sides are well informed of each other's collections, and have established a communication mechanism under which regular meetings will be convened and instant contact can be made as and when necessary to maintain close contact and avoid duplications or competition in artwork acquisition.

Loaning of Collections Among Museums

16. To enrich the exhibitions and to coincide with their themes, LCSD's museums have worked together with other museums in Hong Kong and in the neighbouring regions in the past by loaning collections to each other, which is a common practice in the museum sector. Locally, LCSD has collaborated with the University Museum and Art Gallery of University of Hong Kong, the Art Museum of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Maritime Museum, the Hong Kong Museum of Education, the Police Museum, the Tung Wah Museum and the Hong Kong Racing Museum by loaning exhibits to each other. There is also frequent loaning of exhibits among the LCSD's museums. Details of the loans of exhibits between HKMA and HKHM since 2010 are as follows:

Collections of HKHM loaned to HKMA	Exhibition	Period of Exhibition
5 pieces of works of Ha Bik-chuen	From Common to Uncommon – the Legend of Ha Bik-chuen	15 April 2011 – 17 July 2011
2 sets of works of Sara Tse	Legacy and Creations – Art vs Art	27 May 2011 – 28 August 2011
12 sets of ceramic and porcelain works and 8 tea caddies	A Date with Chinese Tea	29 August 2012 – 5 August 2013

Collections of HKMA loaned to HKHM	Exhibition	Period of Exhibition
25 paintings by Gao Qifeng and other artists, 1 bust of Gao Qifeng	The Heavenly Breeze: Selected Works of Gao Qifeng and His Disciples	18 April 2012 – 16 September 2013

17. LCSD has also reached a consensus with M+ to enhance our mutual loaning of collections and collaboration on exhibitions. All the collections of the HKMA have already been uploaded onto the museum's website. M+ can, at any time, look for artworks that are relevant to its exhibitions at the museum's website and borrow them from HKMA.

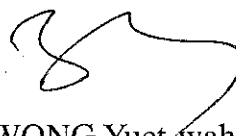
Commissioning of Artworks

(Question (3) of LC Paper no.CB(2)1277/12-13(01))

18. There are two main categories of artworks commissioned by LCSD for display at public open spaces:

- (a) The first category covers artworks intended for short-term display or designed to serve the specific functions of a facility. These artworks, mostly created by students and young artists, are usually of an experimental nature and by virtue of the use of technology, materials and resources, are generally suitable for short-term display only, such as those public artworks created by tertiary students for ArtAlive@Park. Such works are rarely selected as museum collections.
- (b) The second category covers artworks intended for longer term display. These artworks are mostly created by experienced artists, whose attention to artistic creativity, technological structure, selection of materials and maintenance requirements is geared towards longer term display of their works. These artworks usually have greater durability. LCSD will select appropriate artworks from these category of artworks as permanent museum collections for long-term keeping and display.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss WONG Yuet-wah)
for Secretary for Home Affairs

c.c. Director of Leisure and Cultural Services