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Panel on Home Affairs

**Information note prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 9 November 2012**

Cultural work of the fourth-term Government

According to the Administration, cultural affairs straddle a number of policy bureaux and the cultural policy portfolio encompasses the work which has been undertaken by the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB"), the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau ("CEDB") and the Development Bureau ("DEVB"). As far as HAB is concerned, issues relating to cultural policies and government funding support to culture and the arts have mainly been undertaken by its Culture Branch whereas the West Kowloon Cultural District ("WKCD") Project Management Team has been specifically responsible for overseeing and steering the WKCD Project. Details on the roles and responsibilities of the Culture Branch and WKCD Project Management Team of HAB are set out in the **Appendix**.

2. Before the fourth-term Government took office on 1 July 2012, the Chief Executive-elect had proposed to reorganize the Government Secretariat which included, among others, the setting up of a new Culture Bureau ("CB") to take over the policy responsibilities on culture and WKCD from HAB, film and creative industries from CEDB, and heritage conservation from DEVB. The proposal on the establishment of a new CB was discussed by the Panel on Home Affairs and the Panel on Constitutional Affairs of the Fourth Legislative Council ("LegCo") at the relevant Panel meetings held on 22 and 26 May 2012 respectively. The re-organization proposal of the Government Secretariat, however, was subsequently not put to vote by the Fourth LegCo. At the Council meeting of 17 October 2012, the Chief Executive stated, among others, that he had decided not to re-submit the re-organization proposal to LegCo in the near future, so that the Government could focus on other areas of work.

3. The Administration will brief the Panel on the cultural work to be delivered by HAB in the fourth-term Government at its meeting on 9 November 2012.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
2 November 2012

Roles and responsibilities of the Culture Branch and the West Kowloon Cultural District ("WKCD") Project Management Team of the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB")

The roles and responsibilities of the Culture Branch and WKCD Project Management Team of HAB are as follows:

(a) Setting policies and strategies on the policy areas of arts and culture

The Culture Branch of HAB oversees policies on the whole spectrum of arts and culture encompassing performing arts, visual arts, public arts, libraries, museums, intangible cultural heritage (which includes Cantonese opera), covering the development of both cultural infrastructure and cultural software (including arts education, audience building, programme development and grooming of talents) etc.

(b) Providing funding and other resources

HAB provides funding for supporting the development of the arts and culture in Hong Kong through the construction and operation of various types of cultural venues, including performance venues, public libraries, public museums and visual arts centre, etc..

HAB provides recurrent subvention for the nine major performing arts groups¹ ("MPAGs"). It also supports small and medium-sized arts groups and budding arts practitioners through the Hong Kong Arts Development Council ("HKADC"). The "Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme" operated by HAB with matching grants elements aims to enhance capacity development of promising arts practitioners and arts groups and to encourage the private sector to support and sponsor arts and cultural initiatives.

Through giving funding support to the Hong Kong Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre (a self-financed multi-disciplinary arts village and arts centre providing an interactive platform for artists and the public through arts and cultural events) and the Fringe Club (a non-profit making self-financed arts and cultural centre), HAB facilitates the provision of arts space as well as performance and exhibition venues for local arts groups and artists.

¹ The nine MPAGs are namely, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, Hong Kong Sinfonietta, Hong Kong Dance Company, Hong Kong Ballet, City Contemporary Dance Company, Hong Kong Repertory Theatre, Chung Ying Theatre Company and Zuni Icosahedron.

(c) **Promoting cultural exchanges²**

HAB has been establishing cultural cooperation frameworks and platforms with different places including the Mainland and other regions, as well as collaborating with cultural organizations and institutions around the world in presenting cultural programmes in and outside Hong Kong.

HAB administers the Arts Development Fund to support local arts groups and artists to participate in cultural exchange activities.

(d) **Overseeing the work of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") and statutory bodies in the area of arts and culture**

The Culture Branch also oversees policy-related and housekeeping matters relating to the following :

- (i) LCSD: The Cultural Services Branch of LCSD is responsible for the planning and operation of public arts and cultural facilities such as libraries, museums, performance venues; art promotion and the operation of the URBTIX system. It also presents performing arts, visual arts and literary arts programmes to promote the community's participation in the arts and culture; supports the development of budding artists and arts groups; provides arts education through its Music Office and in collaboration with the Education Bureau, HKADC and arts groups; promotes cultural exchanges; and plans and implements heritage projects.
- (ii) HKADC: It is a statutory body set up by the Government to support the broad development of the arts in Hong Kong. Its major roles include grant allocation, advocacy on policy and planning, promotion and development, and programme planning.
- (iii) Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts ("HKAPA"): Established by the Government, HKAPA is a tertiary institution in performing art, providing professional undergraduate education and practice-based postgraduate studies in Dance, Drama, Film and Television, Music Theatre and Entertainment Arts, and Chinese Traditional Theatre.
- (iv) West Kowloon Cultural District Authority ("WKCDA"): The

² Details of HAB's work on promoting cultural exchanges are in the Administration's paper entitled "Cultural Exchanges with the Mainland and Other Places" (LC Paper No.: CB(2)1913/11-12(03).)

WKCD is an important strategic investment of the HKSAR Government to meet the long-term infrastructural and development needs of the arts and culture in Hong Kong. The WKCDA was established in 2008 to implement the WKCD project. The WKCDA strives to develop the WKCD into an integrated world-class arts and cultural hub housing a good mix of facilities for all walks of life to enjoy. While the project is undergoing the statutory planning process, the WKCDA is organizing design competitions for several facilities, pressing ahead with cultural software development and maintaining close communication with stakeholders.

(e) **Collaborating with other related institutions in promoting arts education**

HAB also collaborates with the Education Bureau, LCSD, HKAPA, HKADC, and other organizations in promoting arts education in and outside schools.

(f) **Policy support for non-Government arts and cultural bodies**

Such bodies include the Hong Kong Maritime Museum (a private museum with Government capital funding for its relocation from their original site in Stanley to Central Pier 8), Hong Kong Arts Centre (a self-financed organization to promote contemporary art and culture within Hong Kong and beyond), Asia Society Hong Kong Center (a self-financed organization dedicated to promoting mutual understanding and strengthening partnerships among peoples across the fields of arts and culture among others) etc. While these bodies are non-governmental institutions, given the Government's involvement in their establishment, either in the form of providing capital grant or in granting the sites for their development, HAB has been giving policy support for the work of these bodies.

(g) **Providing secretariat support to various arts and culture-related advisory and statutory bodies and consult them on matters relating to arts and cultural policy**

The major bodies include the following:

- (i) Cantonese Opera Advisory Committee ("COAC") and Cantonese Opera Development Fund ("CODF") Advisory Committee: The COAC advises the Government on the promotion, preservation, study and development of Cantonese opera. The CODF Advisory

Committee advises the Secretary for Home Affairs on matters relating to the administration and management of the CODF, which provides funding support to programmes and activities relating to the study, promotion and sustainable development of Cantonese opera;

- (ii) Board of Trustees and Council of the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust: The Trust aims to preserve and conserve the human heritage of Hong Kong by organizing activities and providing funding support to assist community organizations and individuals to undertake heritage related activities and research projects;
- (iii) The Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund: The objective of the Fund is to promote and develop training and education in music and dance in Hong Kong by way of providing scholarships;
- (iv) The Hong Kong-Taiwan Cultural Co-operation Committee: The Committee is established under the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Co-operation and Promotion Council to promote cultural exchange and co-operation between the two places; and
- (v) Advisory Committee on Arts Development, which advises the Secretary for Home Affairs on matters related to local arts development.

Apart from the above bodies for which the Culture Branch provides secretariat support, representatives of the Branch also sit on a number of other statutory and advisory bodies relating to arts and culture. These include:

- Intangible Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee
- Public Libraries Advisory Committee
- Board of Governors of the Hong Kong Arts Centre
- HKAPA Council
- HKADC

(h) **Overall coordination of roles of different collaborators and stakeholders**

HAB coordinates among different stakeholders and collaborators on major matters that have policy implications on the development of the arts and culture in Hong Kong. As HAB maintains close contact with various advisory

and statutory bodies as well as arts organizations and oversees policy matters relating to LCSD and some other cultural bodies, it helps to promote communication and the sharing of information among different stakeholders and collaborators on matters of common interest to them.

(Note: Information extracted from the Administration's paper entitled "Delivery of Cultural Policy Portfolio under the Current Administration's Organization Structure" for the meeting of the Panel on Home Affairs on 22 May 2012 (LC Paper No. CB(2)2054/11-12(01).)