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11 July 2013

Clerk to the LegCo Panel on Home Affairs
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn : Ms Alice LEUNG)

Dear Ms Leung,

I refer to your letter to the Secretary of Home Affairs dated 20 June. Please find below information on the Government's policy on and measures for promoting street performance.

It is the Government's policy to promote the arts and culture to the public and encourage wide participation in the arts and culture. We welcome street arts performances to enrich the cultural life of people. Currently, there are no laws that prohibit street arts performances. Same as for other activities that take place in public space, such activities must not pose any risk to public safety or cause nuisances or obstruction to the public. In general, street performers, like other citizens of Hong Kong, should comply with the laws in Hong Kong. Enforcement agents (such as the Police and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department) will attend the scene and conduct enquiry when a public complaint is received. According to the circumstances of the case, advice will be given to the parties concerned or the enforcement agent will take appropriate action in accordance with the relevant legislation.

Performing arts activities such as singing, dancing or other self-entertainment activities may also take place at the outdoor areas of the performing arts venues of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) so long as these activities do not cause nuisance, annoyance or obstruction to other users. In addition, LCSD implements the “Open Stage” at the plaza of the Sha Tin Town Hall by setting up of a performance area for free performances by individuals or groups. Different forms of performing arts are welcome. Similar to the arrangement of a number of overseas cultural facilities such as the Covent Garden of London, performers are required to pass a simple audition so as to ensure their performances are of a suitable artistic standard and comply with the safety and noise control requirements. On a first-come-first-served registration basis, performers need not pay for the rental, and may collect donations within the performance area. In setting the performance areas, pedestrian flow and activities of other users of the venue have been taken into consideration, so that the performers can freely conduct their performances at ease. The registration system under the scheme also enables articulation and distribution of performance space and sessions of different participating performers. Some participating performers have reflected that the scheme has provided arts enthusiasts a platform which is suitably managed to showcase their talents. To encourage young talents to participate in the scheme, LCSD has promoted the scheme to tertiary institutions and youth centres in the territory in early 2013. We hope that the scheme will provide a performing space of creativity for arts lovers and enables appreciation of the arts by members of the public so as to enrich the cultural ambience of the community.

Apart from the “Open Stage”, LCSD regularly organizes a broad range of cultural activities covering concerts, Cantonese opera, dance performances, etc. at the outdoor areas of the four performing venues (i.e. the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Sha Tin Town Hall, Tsuen Wan Town Hall and Kwai Tsing Theatre) to bring arts to the community. Apart from the “Open Stage”, a total of 143 cultural activities were held by LCSD and other bodies at the outdoor areas of these four performing arts venues in 2012.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Elaine Mak)

for Secretary for Home Affairs