

For information on  
13 December 2013

## **Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs**

### **Policy concerning the Major Performing Arts Groups**

#### **Purpose**

This paper briefs Members on the Government's policy concerning the major performing arts groups (MPAGs).

#### **Cultural Policy**

2. Our vision is for Hong Kong to become an international cultural metropolis, where life is celebrated through cultural pursuit and creativity is a constant driver of progress in the community. Objectives pursued include providing opportunities for wide participation in culture and the arts, providing opportunities for those with potentials to develop their artistic talents, creating an environment conducive to the diversified and balanced development of culture and the arts, supporting the preservation and promotion of our traditional cultures while encouraging artistic creation and innovation, as well as developing Hong Kong into a prominent hub of cultural exchanges.

3. We observe a people-oriented principle. We foster the vibrancy and diversity of our cultures, uphold artistic freedom and enhance the protection of intellectual property. Adopting a holistic approach, we encourage all sectors of the society to be involved and seek to establish partnership among the Government, the business community and the cultural sector.

#### **Subvention policy for the MPAGs**

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

key partners of the Government in promoting arts and culture in Hong Kong through developing quality programmes, strengthening audience building and supporting arts education, cultivating artistic and arts administrative talents as well as promoting Hong Kong's arts and culture to the international community through cultural exchange activities. At present, the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) provides annual subvention to MPAGs with the total funding earmarked in 2013/14 amounting to \$304 million<sup>1</sup>.

5. In line with our cultural policy mentioned above, the Government has all long been committed to supporting freedom of artistic expression and creation as well as respecting the artistic autonomy of our local arts groups. We do not interfere with or take any part in the artistic decisions of the arts groups including those that are directly or indirectly funded by the Government. To ensure the appropriate use of public funds by MPAGs, we have put in place a mechanism to monitor the performance of the MPAGs in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Arts Development (ACAD) to ensure that the MPAGs fulfill the Government's expectation of the roles and attainments of the MPAGs (as set out at the Annex), covering the following aspects –

- (a) achieving artistic excellence and maintaining a reasonably high level of programmes/activities;
- (b) contributing to the grooming of local talents;
- (c) promoting industry development;
- (d) actively engaging in audience building;
- (e) actively supporting arts education;
- (f) promoting cultural exchange and cooperation;
- (g) maintaining sound governance and management; and
- (h) achieving effective financial management and financial sustainability.

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<sup>1</sup> This amount includes an annual subvention amount for the nine groups, as well as an amount of \$13.58 million for implementation of a contestable funding pilot scheme for the MPAGs.

6. The above expectation of the MPAGs' roles and attainments was drawn up in the light of a recommendation in the Research Study on the Funding Mechanism for Major Performing Arts Groups in Hong Kong and has been communicated to the MPAGs and reported to the Panel in June 2012. Based on this, each of the groups has formulated their own sets of Comprehensive Performance Portfolio Framework (CPPF) covering the above aspects to facilitate self-enhancement. The CPPFs have already been put in place starting from the 2013-14 financial year.

7. After the end of each financial year, each of the MPAGs is required to submit a year-end self-evaluation and assessment report, annual audited financial statement and annual financial report, as well as the annual report. These reports should contain both qualitative and quantitative assessments of each MPAG's performance, in accordance with its CPPF, in meeting the Government's expectation of its roles and attainments. The Subcommittee on Funding for Performing Arts under ACAD will consider these reports and will hold meetings with the MPAGs to exchange views on their performance and business plans. The MPAGs are also required to publicize their annual reports such as by uploading them onto the MPAGs' websites for public information.

## **Way Forward**

8. The Government will continue to support freedom of artistic expression and creation, and to respect the artistic autonomy of our arts groups. In consultation with the ACAD and the Arts Development Council, we will also continue to enhance our support for the MPAGs and other arts groups with a view to promoting their healthy development.

Home Affairs Bureau  
December 2013

### Government's Expectation of the Roles and Attainments of the Major Performing Arts Groups (MPAGs)

The Government expects that each MPAG should fulfill the roles and meet the requirements set out below in order to continue to maintain its status as a MPAG :

Aspect	Expectation
Achieving artistic excellence and maintaining a reasonably high level of programmes/ activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regularly producing high quality work.</li> <li>- Having a strong artistic reputation amongst peers in and outside Hong Kong and being recognized as of high standard.</li> <li>- Having a solid and growing audience base.</li> <li>- Regularly producing new work independently or in collaboration with other artists/ arts groups and its innovativeness is recognised by peers.</li> </ul>
Contributing to the grooming of local artistic talents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing professional development opportunities to local artists and creative practitioners including through employment, training, internship, mentoring and commissioning their work.</li> <li>- Participating in collaboration initiatives with other community partners/ institutions such as HKAPA, educational/training institutions or arts organisations to groom local artistic talents.</li> <li>- Making appropriate budget provision for training and staff development.</li> </ul>
Promoting industry development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working with other MPAGs and non-MPAGs to :               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o share best practices;</li> <li>o collaborate to develop new work that utilize the strengths and characteristics of different arts groups and art forms; and</li> <li>o make the most efficient and effective use of resources such as through sharing and other forms of collaboration.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Aspect	Expectation
Actively engaging in audience building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Making use of diverse modes and channels as well as exploring new ways of organizing activities to cultivate new audience's interest in the art form.</li> <li>- Outreaching to audience in various locations across the districts, including more remote locations (e.g. Yuen Long and Tuen Mun, etc.).</li> <li>- Developing new ways of presenting the art form (e.g. by cross-disciplinary collaboration and making use of new technology, etc.) to attract new audience.</li> </ul>
Actively supporting arts education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organising or participating in a range of arts education activities independently or in collaboration with other bodies such as schools and arts organisations, etc. to enhance students' knowledge and interest in arts and abilities of arts appreciation.</li> </ul>
Promoting cultural exchange and cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participating in and supporting cultural exchange and cooperation with other places to promote Hong Kong's position as an international arts hub.</li> </ul>
Maintaining sound governance and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintaining a well-balanced composition of governing board to include people with the necessary knowledge and experience.</li> <li>- Putting in place proper governance and management rules, procedures and mechanisms.</li> <li>- Monitoring regularly to ensure compliance.</li> <li>- Putting in place a sound human resources management system.</li> <li>- Complying with relevant legal and regulatory requirements.</li> <li>- Providing management staff with continuing development opportunities to upkeep management capability.</li> <li>- Striving for institutional development.</li> </ul>
Achieving effective financial management and financial sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Making efficient and effective use of public funding.</li> <li>- Maintaining a healthy financial condition.</li> <li>- Continuing to broaden sources of financing to build up a solid financial base.</li> </ul>