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Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1637/14-15(06)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

Panel on Home Affairs

Information note prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat for the meeting on 12 June 2015

Art Development Matching Grants Pilot Scheme

In his 2015-2016 Budget announced on 25 February 2015, the Financial Secretary ("FS") pledged to explore new ideas and strive for diversity to help Hong Kong people realize their aspirations. FS promised targetted support for the cultural and creative sector, with a view to inspiring creativity in the community, diversifying the economy and expanding market opportunities. Among the cultural and creative measures proposed by FS, \$300 million is earmarked for launching a new Art Development Matching Grants Pilot Scheme ("the Pilot Scheme") under which private donations and sponsorships secured by eligible local arts organizations will be matched with government grants. Through the new scheme, the Administration hopes to encourage different sectors of the community to sponsor local arts and cultural activities and help local arts organizations build closer partnership with different sectors of the community, thereby enhancing the cultural aura of the city.

2. At the special meeting of the Finance Committee ("FC") to examine the Estimates of Expenditure 2015-2016 on 31 March 2015, enquiries were raised about the difference of the Pilot Scheme from the existing Springboard Grants under the Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme ("ACDFS"), the eligibility and assessment criteria of the new Pilot Scheme as well as the estimated number of arts groups/organizations that could meet the requirements of and benefits from the Pilot Scheme.

3. The Administration advised that the Pilot Scheme primarily targetted at helping those arts groups/organizations which had obtained Springboard Grants for two rounds and had completed the approved projects to the satisfaction of the Government, with a view to providing further incentive to the art groups/organizations to raise private donations. Up to March 2015, about six to seven successful grantees under ACDFS were eligible to apply for the new matching

grants. The Administration would consult the Advisory Committee on Arts Development on the implementation details of the Pilot Scheme including the eligibility and assessment criteria, with a view to launching the first round of matching grants in early 2016 subject to the approval of FC.

4. The Administration will brief the Panel on the proposed parameters for the Pilot Scheme at its meeting on 12 June 2015.

Council Business Division 2
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5 June 2015