

(Translation)

Council meeting of 29 September 2021

**Hon MA Fung-kwok's motion on
"Developing Hong Kong into a hub for arts and cultural
exchanges between China and the rest of the world"**

Motion as amended by Hon LAU Kwok-fan and Hon YIU Si-wing

That Hong Kong has all along been a place where East meets West; the Central Government has, in the 14th Five-Year Plan, mentioned for the first time its support for Hong Kong to develop into a hub for arts and cultural exchanges between China and the rest of the world; to capitalize on the opportunities arising from this new positioning, this Council urges the SAR Government to, apart from continuing with the existing work (including continuously enhancing the development of cultural hardware and software, facilitating cultural exchanges, holding more arts and cultural events, developing Art Tech, nurturing local arts and cultural talents, promoting conservation and revitalizing cultural heritage, and safeguarding the freedom of artistic creation and expression in Hong Kong in accordance with the law), adopt the following measures to promote Hong Kong's development into a hub for arts and cultural exchanges between China and the rest of the world:

On government structure —

- (1) establishing a 'Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau' to raise the policy level of cultural and artistic development, and assigning a new function concerning cultural promotion for overseas Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices;

On financial support —

- (2) establishing a dedicated 'Arts Exchanges Development Fund' to provide further support for arts exchange activities, and providing tax concessions for sponsoring cultural and sports activities;

On policy measures —

- (3) formulating a more proactive industrial policy to step up efforts in supporting the development of cultural and creative industries, particularly in promoting the development of cultural and creative

industries in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the SAR Government should strengthen cooperation with the Mainland and Macao to explore the connotation of Lingnan culture, set up a mechanism for coordinating cultural and creative industries in the Greater Bay Area and an integrated database on cultural and creative intellectual property rights, establish an international cultural and creative intellectual property trading centre in the Greater Bay Area, and discuss with the Mainland the devolution of power to vet and approve some cultural and creative projects from the Central Authorities to Guangdong Province;

- (4) formulating an immigration policy for ‘friendly cultural and sports exchanges’ by streamlining the employment visa arrangements and quarantine procedures for the relevant personnel to come to Hong Kong;
- (5) striving, through the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement, for the Mainland authorities’ further relaxation of the vetting and approval procedure for Hong Kong’s arts and cultural sector to enter the Mainland market, so as to secure more performance and production opportunities for the arts and cultural sector;
- (6) enhancing cultural exchanges and cooperation with cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, with a view to joining forces with them to create a new cultural landscape for the city cluster in the Greater Bay Area; and
- (7) implementing an integrated pluralistic policy on culture in the education system to strengthen the education and learning experience on the excellent Chinese culture, thereby enhancing students’ awareness of traditional culture and upgrading their cultural quality, and in turn achieving a long-term plan of training cultural talents, so as to present to the world a true, multi-dimensional and panoramic view of China and tell China’s stories well; and
- (8) in the light of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism’s advocacy of ‘integration of culture and tourism to promote mutual development’ in the Culture and Tourism Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, updating the Development Blueprint for Hong Kong’s Tourism Industry, and formulating with the relevant Mainland departments a collaboration mechanism and a timetable for implementing specific projects, thereby facilitating cultural exchanges.