

For discussion
on 28 May 2018

Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs

Funding Support to Intangible Cultural Heritage and Museum Initiatives

Purpose

This paper seeks Members' support for the proposal of providing \$500 million to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) for the acquisition of museum collections and commissioning of art and cultural projects for exhibitions and display, and \$300 million for the safeguarding, promotion and transmission of intangible cultural heritage (ICH)¹.

Background

2. To support the development of Hong Kong as a world-class cultural metropolis, the Government is taking active steps to create an environment that is conducive to the promotion of arts and culture and the preservation of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage. To this end, the Financial Secretary proposed in his 2018-19 Budget to allocate \$500 million to the LCSD for the acquisition of museum collections and holding exhibitions, and \$300 million to strengthen the safeguarding, promotion and transmission of ICH. These allocations will provide the much needed sources of funding for acquiring museum collections, commissioning art and cultural projects, and safeguarding ICH.

Museum Initiatives

3. Museums² have an important mission to acquire, preserve, exhibit and promote their collections to safeguard the natural, cultural and scientific

¹ According to UNESCO's Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, ICH is manifested in the following five domains: oral traditions and expressions; performing arts; social practices, rituals and festive events; knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe; and traditional craftsmanship.

² There are 17 museums and heritage centres under the LCSD, including the Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong Museum of History, Hong Kong Heritage Museum, Hong Kong Science Museum, Hong Kong Space Museum, Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware, Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence, Dr. Sun Yat-sen Museum, Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum, Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery, Hong Kong Railway Museum, Law Uk Folk Museum, Sam Tung Uk Museum, Sheung Yiu Folk Museum, Hong Kong Film Archive, Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre, and Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery cum Heritage Trail Visitors Centre.

heritage. The LCSD also commissions art and cultural projects for exhibitions and public display to promote the appreciation of arts and culture to the Hong Kong public and visitors from other places. To foster the development of visual arts and nurture local artistic talent in the field, the Government sets aside \$50 million in 2013-14 for the LCSD to acquire and commission artworks by local artists. As at the end of 2017-18, the remaining balance was \$14.9 million, which is expected to be spent on art collections and artworks acquired or commissioned in 2018-19. Building on these initiatives, we propose to allocate \$500 million to serve as a dedicated funding for LCSD museums to acquire collections and commission art and cultural projects.

Acquisition of Museum Collections

4. To support the development of LCSD museums by enriching their collections in the art, history and science streams, it is proposed to use part of the \$500 million funding to acquire art, cultural and scientific items which are in line with our collection policies. This will strengthen the core functions of museums in collecting, exhibiting, and promoting arts and culture extensively and strategically. Whilst the focus of acquisition will be placed on local artworks and artefacts, items originated from the Mainland or other places will also be covered. The collection scope of LCSD museums includes Hong Kong art, history and culture, Chinese art and history, science and technology. Details are set out at [Annex I](#).

5. The artworks and artefacts to be acquired will become museum collections and will be selected for display in the exhibitions at LCSD museums and offsite venues such as Hong Kong International Airport and civic centres, as well as outbound exhibitions presented in the Mainland and other places as appropriate. These items, which form part of the collections of our museums, will also be uploaded onto the museum websites for public viewing.

6. Having regard to the advice given by the Corruption Prevention Department of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), the LCSD has devised a set of procedures and assessment criteria for the acquisition of artefacts for museums. The criteria include the artistic / historical / scientific / technological merit of the proposed acquisition, relevance to museums' collections, authenticity, physical condition, price, display and education value, as well as the reputation of the artist or maker. These criteria have been publicised at respective museum websites.

7. As an integral component of the procurement procedures, the LCSD will invite our Museum Expert Advisers (Advisers), who have been appointed according to their areas of expertise, to give independent advice on the proposed acquisition. Advisers will receive no remuneration. Measures such as declaration, etc. will be adopted to avoid conflict of interest and a perception of such conflict.

Commissioning of Art and Cultural Projects

8. In addition to acquiring art and cultural items, the LCSD will use part of the new funding to commission art and cultural projects for exhibitions and display to promote public's appreciation of arts and culture; provide a new platform for artists, guest curators, and art and cultural groups / organisations (curators) to give full play to their ideas and to enhance their cultural experience; and create opportunities for building partnerships and collaboration with different communities. These new experiences will help inspire boundless imagination and experimental ideas, spark creativity through different types of collaboration and connect people and the community through the arts and culture.

9. Apart from showcasing at LCSD museums, these projects will also be featured in offsite exhibitions and displays in other places (e.g. cultural venues, parks, leisure and recreational facilities, shopping malls) in various districts and outbound exhibitions in the Mainland and other places so as to introduce to the world at large the talent of Hong Kong artists / curators.

10. The LCSD will invite potential artists, curators or partners to submit proposals of specific themes in line with our museums' vision and mission. Some projects, mainly public art projects, will be selected through competitions. The assessment criteria will include concept and idea of the proposed projects, its artistic / historical / scientific / cultural merits, educational value, public appeal, technical and financial feasibility, etc. These criteria have been publicised at respective museum websites.

ICH Initiatives

11. The Government attaches great importance to the safeguarding of ICH and strives to raise the Hong Kong community's awareness of the importance of ICH and the need to protect such heritage as our cultural assets. To encourage community participation in safeguarding ICH and to ensure the continual development of our local culture and traditions, the Government has introduced key measures in the past years including the setting up of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee (ICHAC) in 2008 with local academics, experts and community personalities as members to advise on the implementation of safeguarding measures, the announcement of the first ICH inventory of Hong Kong (comprising 480 items) in 2014, the establishment of a dedicated Intangible Cultural Heritage Office (ICHO) in 2015, the setting up of the Hong Kong Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre at the Sam Tung Uk Museum in 2016, and the promulgation of the first Representative List of the ICH of Hong Kong (comprising 20 items) in 2017.

12. The participation of the community and bearer organisations is essential for the lasting and successful safeguarding, promotion and transmission of ICH. The ICHO has closely liaised with the respective organisations and bearers to organise a wide range of educational and promotional activities for traditional culture, craftsmanship and festive events. These collaborations have effectively enhanced the promotion and transmission of local ICH. Furthermore, some ICH bearers and organisations have shown interest and capability in organising diversified activities to promote ICH to a wider community. We therefore propose to make use of the provision of \$300 million for the LCSD to set up a dedicated funding scheme to engage the community in safeguarding and promoting the ICH. Details are set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

Objective of the proposed funding scheme

13. The objective of the proposed funding scheme is to engage the community to participate in the safeguarding, research, education, promotion and transmission of ICH, and to enhance public awareness and understanding of the ICH. The proposed funding scheme will provide support to the identified initiatives organised by or in partnership with community organisations and ICH bearers. The ICHO may also provide curatorial inputs to some of the selected projects to create synergy and maximise impact.

Scope and Criteria

14. The proposed funding scheme will provide financial support to projects and activities related to all the items on the ICH inventory of Hong Kong. The detailed scope, assessment criteria and eligibility of the scheme are set out at Annex II.

15. The funding scheme will support two different types of projects -

(a) Community-driven Project

The projects / activities to be funded must be of certain scale that can make an impact on ICH promotion in the community. Applicants are required to specify the objectives, schedules, budgets and implementation plans, etc. of the projects / activities in their proposals for assessments.

(b) Partnership Project

The ICHO will initiate projects of specific themes, scopes and requirements, and will invite partnership proposals for this type of funding support. The ICHO will provide technical advice and assistance, and will closely liaise with the bearers or respective organisations to jointly carry out the funded projects. The ICHAC

will be consulted before formulating the themes and scopes of these projects.

Administration and Monitoring Mechanism

16. An assessment panel, comprising five members, will be set up under the ICHAC for assessing applications, and subsequent monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the funded projects / activities. The assessment panel will assess applications received by the ICHO and make recommendations to the LCSD for consideration and funding approval in accordance with the established procedures. The ICHO will report the application results as well as the progress and effectiveness of the funded projects to the ICHAC on a regular basis.

17. Monitoring mechanism will be devised to ensure proper use of the resources. Applicants will be required to submit reports, including documentary evidence such as self-evaluation, survey results, auditor reports and deliverables as necessary. The ICHO will also monitor the implementation of the funded projects / activities by inspecting and evaluating the performance of the fund recipients. For assessment and evaluation purposes, applicants will also be required to propose evaluation methods and performance indicators for their deliverables.

Implementation

18. Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee (FC), the funding scheme for ICH will be rolled out in the first quarter of 2019. The ICHO will be responsible for implementing the proposed funding scheme, providing secretariat support to the assessment panel as well as curatorial inputs to the approved projects where appropriate.

Consultation

19. We have consulted the Art, History and Science Sub-committees of the Museum Advisory Committee, and the ICHAC on the funding proposals for the museum and ICH initiatives respectively. Members have indicated their support. Their views and suggestions have been duly incorporated in the proposals presented above.

The Way Forward

20. Members are invited to support the above proposals. We plan to seek the necessary funding approval from the FC in the latter half of 2018.

Home Affairs Bureau
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
May 2018

**Collection Scope of the Museums
of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department**

(a) Hong Kong Art

Hong Kong art reflects the identity of local arts and culture, its hereditary relationship with the Mainland and its diversity and characteristics in the international arena. Artworks illustrating Hong Kong art in different media from the 19th century to the present, representative works by local masters, up-and-coming artists, Chinese artists from the Mainland and other places who have close ties with Hong Kong, as well as artworks with specific themes and applied arts media, such as Hong Kong film, design, photography, etc. will be acquired.

(b) Hong Kong History and Culture

The LCSD will acquire objects related to the historical and cultural heritage of Hong Kong and its people, such as old photographs, archival documents, postal stationeries, numismatics, industrial and commercial products, military items, as well as performing arts and ethnographical relics like farming and fishing implements, household wares, costumes, musical instruments, and objects related to traditional and popular culture and religious beliefs will be included.

(c) Chinese Art and History

The LCSD will collect Chinese art and antiquities with a view to reflecting the development of Chinese art and culture of different dynasties in China. Chinese ceramics, bronzes, carvings, crafts, paintings and calligraphy works, etc. of different periods, as well as historical pictures by foreign artists who visited China in the 18th and 19th centuries will be acquired. The LCSD will also build up collections illustrating the life of Dr Sun Yat-sen and Hong Kong's development against the bigger context of the development of China in the last century or so.

(d) Science and Technology

The LCSD will collect items to reflect local and the world's technological development in the fields of science, technology, medicine, transport, astronomy and other science related disciplines. Natural history items will be acquired to illustrate the geology and abundant life form throughout the history of the Earth.

The Proposed Funding Scheme for ICH

(a) Objective

The objective of the proposed funding scheme is to engage the community for participating in the safeguarding, research, education, promotion and transmission of ICH, and to enhance public awareness and understanding of ICH.

(b) Scope and Criteria

The proposed scheme will provide financial support to projects/activities related to all the items on the ICH inventory of Hong Kong. Projects/activities to be funded must be non-profit by nature. For achieving the objective of the funding scheme, the resource will be prioritised to support the following projects/activities:

- (i) Projects/activities related to the items on the Representative List or inventory items with an urgent need for preservation;
- (ii) Projects/activities allowing participations of bearer organisations and stakeholders and showing cultural substance of ICH items;
- (iii) Training programmes for ICH bearers or practitioners, especially for programmes in different forms to nurture the next generation of bearers;
- (iv) Research projects to collect, record, preserve, organise, publish or disseminate (on the Internet) the information of local ICH, including oral history, audio-visual recordings, documentaries and other information with preservation value;
- (v) Projects/activities to promote and further the development of ICH in the community;
- (vi) Projects to develop ICH educational resources or school education programmes;
- (vii) Projects/activities allowing young people to participate in or to develop ICH; and
- (viii) Other new projects to revitalise fading ICH items.

(c) Target Recipients

The proposed scheme will accept applications from Hong Kong residents; approved charitable institutions, recognised non-profit making organisations, local societies and groups; and local tertiary education

institutions. Major target recipients include bearers or bearer organisations of local ICH items; individuals or organisations related to local ICH items, holding techniques and knowledge, or transmitting ceremonies and traditions of local ICH items; cultural organisations or academic institutions conducting researches on local ICH; and individuals or organisations promoting local ICH items in the community.