

ITEM FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE

HEAD 95 – LEISURE AND CULTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Subhead 677 Acquiring and commissioning artworks by local artists

Item 827 Acquiring and commissioning artworks by local artists

Subhead 700 General non-recurrent

New Item “Intangible cultural heritage initiatives”

Members are invited to approve the following changes to Head 95 Leisure and Cultural Services Department –

Subhead 677 Acquiring and commissioning artworks by local artists

Item 827 Acquiring and commissioning artworks by local artists

- (a) increase the approved commitment from \$50 million to \$550 million and rename both the subhead and item as “Acquiring museum collections and commissioning art and cultural projects”; and

Subhead 700 General non-recurrent

New Item “Intangible cultural heritage initiatives”

- (b) create a new commitment of \$300 million for the safeguarding, promotion and transmission of intangible cultural heritage.

/PROBLEM

PROBLEM

To further promote arts and culture and safeguard intangible cultural heritage (ICH)¹, we need to provide additional funding for launching more museum² and ICH initiatives.

PROPOSAL

2. The Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (DLCS), with the support of the Secretary for Home Affairs (SHA), proposes to –

- (a) rename Subhead 677 and Item 827 under this subhead as “Acquiring museum collections and commissioning art and cultural projects” and increase the approved commitment under Subhead 677 Item 827 from \$50 million to \$550 million so as to provide funding for the acquisition of museum collections and commissioning of art and cultural projects for exhibition and display, irrespective of their origins; and
- (b) create a new commitment of \$300 million under Subhead 700 for the safeguarding, promotion and transmission of ICH.

JUSTIFICATION

3. It is the Government’s vision to sustain Hong Kong’s position as an international cultural metropolis. To this end, the Government should step up support for the development of museums and create an environment that is conducive to the promotion of arts and culture and the preservation of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

/Museum

¹ According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization’s Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, ICH means the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognise as part of their cultural heritage. It is manifested in 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 14 museums and one film archive under the management of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), namely 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, and Hong Kong Film Archive. The proposed museum initiatives will also cover the Art Promotion Office of LCSD.

Museum Initiatives

4. Museums have an important mission to acquire, preserve, exhibit and promote their collections to safeguard the natural, cultural and scientific heritage. The LCSD also commissions art and cultural projects for exhibition 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 has set aside \$50 million under Subhead 677 “Acquiring and commissioning artworks by local artists” vide FCR(2013-14)23 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 an additional \$500 million as dedicated funding for LCSD museums to acquire collections and commission art and cultural projects.

Acquisition of Museum Collections

5. To support the development of LCSD museums by enriching their collections in the art, history and science streams, we propose to use the \$500 million funding to acquire art, historical 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 that originate 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 Enclosure 1.

Encl. 1

6. 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. Information of these acquired items will also be uploaded onto the museum websites for public viewing.

7. Having regard to the advice given by the Corruption Prevention Department of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, the LCSD has devised a set of procedures and assessment criteria for the acquisition of artefacts and organising public programmes for museums. The criteria for acquisition of artefacts 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 on respective museum websites.

8. As an integral component of the procurement procedures, the LCSD will invite its Museum Expert Advisers (Advisers)³, who are appointed according to their areas of expertise, to give independent advice on the proposed acquisition. Advisers receive no remuneration. Measures are adopted to avoid perceived and actual conflict of interests.

Commissioning of Art and Cultural Projects

9. In addition to acquiring art and cultural items, the LCSD will also use the new funding to commission art and cultural projects for exhibition and display to promote public appreciation of arts and culture; provide a new platform for artists and curators (including guest curators, art and cultural groups/organisations) to give full play to their ideas and to enhance their cultural experience; and create opportunities for building partnership 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.

10. 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, etc.) in various districts as well as outbound exhibitions in the Mainland and other places so as to introduce to the world at large the talent of Hong Kong artists and curators.

11. 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 LCSD will adopt the same set of procedures mentioned in paragraph 7 for commissioning art and cultural projects. The assessment criteria will include concept and idea of the proposed projects, artistic/historical/scientific/cultural merits, educational value, public appeal, technical and financial feasibility, etc. These criteria have been publicised on respective museum websites. Members of the Museum Advisory Committee (MAC)⁴ and the Advisers will be consulted on the annual project plans.

/ICH

³ At present, 180 Advisers have been appointed by the DLCS to specialised panels according to their expertise for a period of two years. They are responsible for advising the LCSD on museum-related matters, in particular the acquisition of collection items and special projects.

⁴ The MAC is set up to advise the DLCS on the positioning of LCSD museums, strategies for business development, marketing and community involvement, as well as measures to enhance operational efficiency and accountability. Members are appointed by the SHA and comprise professionals, academics, museum experts, collectors, art promoters, entrepreneurs, marketing and public relations experts and community leaders. The terms of reference and membership of the three subcommittees of the MAC are at: <https://www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/mac/index.html>.

ICH Initiatives

12. 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)⁵ in 2008, 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.

13. The participation of the community and ICH bearer organisations is essential for the lasting and successful safeguarding, promotion and transmission of ICH. The ICHO liaises closely with the respective organisations and bearers to organise a wide range of educational and promotional activities for traditional culture, craftsmanship and festive events. Such collaboration has effectively enhanced the promotion and transmission of local ICH. Furthermore, some ICH bearers and organisations have shown an interest and capability in organising diversified activities to promote ICH to the wider community. We therefore propose to provide \$300 million for the LCSD to launch a funding scheme to engage the community and strengthen various aspects of safeguarding work for items on the ICH inventory of Hong Kong. Details of the proposed funding scheme are set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

Objective of the Proposed Funding Scheme

14. 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 ICH. The proposed funding scheme will provide support to the identified projects and activities organised by or in partnership with community organisations and ICH bearers. The ICHO will also provide professional inputs to some of the selected projects to create synergy and maximise impact.

/Scope

⁵ The ICHAC is set up to advise the Government on the measures to safeguard ICH. Members are appointed by the SHA and comprise local academics, experts and community personalities. The terms of reference and membership of the ICHAC are at: https://www.hab.gov.hk/en/related_departments_organizations/asb46.htm.

Scope and Criteria

15. The proposed funding scheme will provide financial support commensurate with the nature, scale and complexity of individual applications, to projects and activities related to the items on the ICH inventory of Hong Kong. The detailed scope, assessment criteria and eligibility of the scheme are set out at Enclosure 2.

Encl. 2

16. The funding scheme will support two types of projects –

(a) *Community-driven Projects*

The projects/activities to be funded must be of a 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 Projects*

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 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

17. An assessment panel comprising five ICHAC members will be set up under the ICHAC for assessing applications, 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 LCSO 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. It is planned that upon approval of the aforesaid proposal, the funding scheme will be rolled out in the first quarter of 2019 at the earliest. Assessment of the applications could then be conducted in the second quarter of 2019.

/18.

18. A 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.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Acquiring museum collections and commissioning art and cultural projects

19. We propose to increase the approved commitment of the renamed Subhead 677 Item 827 by \$500 million to \$550 million for the acquisition of museum collections and commissioning of art and cultural projects for exhibition and display (as set out in paragraphs 4 to 11). The items acquired under this subhead will be used for public display, exhibition, as well as educational, scholarly and preservation purposes.

20. Based on past experience, the annual cash flow expenditure and the number of artworks commissioned or acquired vary significantly as each piece of artwork/artefact is unique and the acquisition cost is different. From 2015-16 to 2017-18, the expenditure under Subhead 677 ranged from \$6.93 million to \$9.52 million and the number of artworks acquired ranged from 105 to 147. The cost for the acquisition of other museum collections and commissioning of other projects is currently absorbed by LCSD's recurrent expenditure. From 2015-16 to 2017-18, LCSD's annual expenditure on acquisition of museum collections ranged from \$1.10 million to \$33.35 million and the number of collections acquired ranged from 13 to 602.

21. Since the dedicated funding seeks to build up a greater momentum for promotion of arts and culture in the coming years, we expect that the additional dedicated funding of \$500 million will largely be spent in ten to 15 years. Once the increase in commitment is approved and the ambit of the Subhead 677 is expanded, the acquisition of museum collections and commissioning of art and cultural projects by LCSD museums, irrespective of their origins, will be charged under this Subhead. To maintain the necessary flexibility for acquiring museum collections and commissioning projects, as with LCSD's existing use of Subhead 677, there will not be any financial limit⁶ for each acquired item/project under the revised Subhead 677.

/Implementation

⁶ Under the current arrangement, capital expenditure items costing more than \$200,000 each are charged to the Capital Account. Since an acquired item/a project may cost less than \$200,000, in line with the existing arrangement, there will not be any lower financial limit for the revised Subhead 677.

Implementation of the ICH funding scheme

22. We estimate that the implementation of the ICH funding scheme will require a non-recurrent funding of \$300 million. In view of the different nature, scale and complexity of individual projects, it is difficult to estimate the number of projects and activities to be funded. We expect that the funding would largely be spent in 15 to 20 years.

Recurrent Expenditure

23. The proposal on museum initiatives will not entail additional recurrent expenditure. No additional staff cost will be incurred.

24. Additional workload arising from the implementation of the proposed funding scheme for ICH will be absorbed by the LCSD.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

25. The LCSD consulted the Art, History and Science Sub-committees of the MAC on the proposal for museum initiatives in April and May 2018. The ICHAC was also consulted on the proposal for ICH initiatives in April and September 2018. Members unanimously supported the proposal.

26. We consulted the Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs on the proposals on 28 May 2018. Members raised no objection to the submission of the above proposals to the Finance Committee for consideration. Some members expressed concern that individual ICH bearers and community organisations might not have the requisite knowledge or experience to apply for the funding. In this connection, ICHO would provide the necessary advice and assistance wherever appropriate.

BACKGROUND

27. The Financial Secretary proposed in the 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 protection, promotion and transmission of ICH.

28. Currently, LCSD's museum collections are held mainly in the Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong Museum of History, Hong Kong Heritage Museum, Hong Kong Science Museum, Hong Kong Film Archive and the Art Promotion Office. LCSD museums have been acquiring art, cultural and scientific works and commissioning art and cultural projects where appropriate.

29. Established in 2015, the ICHO of LCSD is dedicated to the identification, documentation, research, preservation, promotion and transmission of ICH of Hong Kong. The ICHO has been working closely with various community organisations and ICH bearers to step up the safeguarding work through in-depth research, organisation of exhibitions, talks, seminars, bearer demonstrations and workshops, and issue of publications to enhance public awareness and understanding of ICH.

Home Affairs Bureau
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
November 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 Leisure and Cultural Services Department (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 in the bigger context of the development of China in recent centuries.

/(d)

(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.

Proposed Funding Scheme for Intangible Cultural Heritage Projects

(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 intangible cultural heritage (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 the items on the ICH inventory of Hong Kong. The projects/activities to be funded under the funding scheme must be of a certain scale that can make an impact on ICH promotion in the community. There is no funding cap for each project/activity. 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 participation 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, broadcast 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)

- (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.
