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Panel on Home Affairs

**Information note prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 20 January 2020**

Preservation of Hong Kong's film heritage by the Hong Kong Film Archive

The Panel on Home Affairs ("the Panel") has not discussed the subject of preservation of Hong Kong's film heritage by the Hong Kong Film Archive ("HKFA") before. According to HKFA's website, HKFA under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department is dedicated to preserving Hong Kong's film heritage, fostering research and bringing film art to the community.¹ The mission of HKFA is to, among other things, collect and conserve Hong Kong films and related materials, and maintain the collection through a user-friendly computer system for easy access of information. The annual attendance figures of HKFA between 2014-2015 and 2018-2019 are in the **Appendix**. According to the Administration, in order to expand the audience base, HKFA has been actively reaching out to local residents and tourists from abroad through staging regular film screenings at its premises, and partnering with cinemas and organizing various large-scale indoor and outdoor screenings at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre.

2. During the Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2019-2020 by the Finance Committee, some Members sought details of the Administration's plan stated in the 2019-2020 Budget Speech that \$20 million would be allocated to HKFA to employ additional technicians and acquire specialist equipment for digital conversion of sole copies of films and celluloid films in urgent need of archiving. The Administration advised that with the additional funding, HKFA would be able to digitalize 30 more films a year (on top of about 20 films each year), culminating in about one-tenth of its film collection in the next five years. The Administration considered that the plan would enable the younger generations to learn about and appreciate the invaluable film heritage of Hong Kong.

¹ The HKFA building in Sai Wan Ho is five-storey high (with a net floor area of 7 200 square metres) structurally divided into two partitions dedicated to storage, and used for screening, exhibition, offices and other public access functions respectively.

3. The Administration will brief the Panel on HKFA's work in preserving Hong Kong's film heritage and making precious old films available for public access through digitization and restoration projects at the next meeting on 20 January 2020.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
13 January 2020

Attendance of Leisure and Cultural Services Department Museums

Museums	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 ⁽⁵⁾
1. Hong Kong Museum of Art ⁽¹⁾	413 842	117 583	-	-	-
2. Hong Kong Museum of History	759 909	764 049	1 037 610	1 491 899	1 127 380
3. Hong Kong Heritage Museum	930 387	430 155	787 039	1 142 235	608 160
4. Hong Kong Science Museum	1 586 164	1 124 887	1 236 872	2 016 553	1 198 953
5. Hong Kong Space Museum ⁽²⁾	828 197	533 486	283 915	432 394	906 650
6. Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence ⁽³⁾	120 828	126 812	170 635	153 816	64 507
7. Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum	58 966	64 485	93 320	92 067	83 317
8. Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery	91 324	88 211	80 621	74 429	59 266
9. Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware	213 930	214 798	201 526	206 846	182 556
10. Hong Kong Railway Museum	227 445	223 835	275 809	295 479	253 965
11. Law Uk Folk Museum	14 864	13 486	17 919	17 355	14 730
12. Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum	39 444	37 209	38 691	39 619	37 108
13. Sam Tung Uk Museum	92 394	91 348	107 493	101 227	105 789
14. Sheung Yiu Folk Museum	41 192	40 040	40 722	39 043	37 513
15. Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre ⁽⁴⁾	193 456	189 954	203 302	177 911	167 225
16. Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery cum Heritage Trail Visitors Centre ⁽⁴⁾	70 813	71 364	71 119	70 183	63 422
17. Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre	34 479	44 132	74 280	78 323	69 813
18. Oil Street Art Space (Oi!)	251 170	207 464	194 033	190 784	161 284
19. Hong Kong Film Archive	176 840	173 686	172 570	179 115	133 337
Total:	6 145 644	4 556 984	5 087 476	6 799 278	5 274 975

Notes

- (1) The Hong Kong Museum of Art has been temporarily closed since August 2015 for renovation.
- (2) The Hong Kong Space Museum was closed in November 2015 for renovation. The Stanley Ho Space Theatre was re-opened on 2 March 2016, while the exhibition halls were re-opened on 25 April 2018.
- (3) The Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence has been temporarily closed since 17 September 2018 for renovation.
- (4) The Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre and the Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery cum Heritage Trail Visitors Centre are under the management of the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO). AMO will amalgamate with the Commissioner for Heritage's Office under Head 159 - Government Secretariat: Development Bureau (Works Branch) with effect from 1 April 2019.
- (5) Attendance as at 28 February 2019.

Source : Annex I to the Administration's reply (Serial No. HAB400) to a written question raised by Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki during the Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2019-2020 by the Finance Committee