

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 1294)**

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (4) Performing Arts

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Vincent LIU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism

Question:

1. Regarding the organisation of the “Chinese Culture Festival”, what are the specific contents apart from the incorporation of the “Chinese Opera Festival”? What is the estimated expenditure? Will the expenditure be subsumed under the recurrent expenditure of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) or other items?
2. The estimated provision for the year is \$68.4 million or 4.2% higher than the revised estimate for the previous year. Please list the items of operating expenses and subsidies contributing to the increase and their respective amounts.
3. There will be a net decrease of 8 posts in the Department in the year. Please provide the reasons for the decrease and the ranks involved, and explain how the duties of the posts will be re-assigned.
4. Please tabulate the actual categories, countries, numbers of visiting staff/artists and attendances (if any) in respect of the visiting cultural programmes in 2023.
5. The work in relation to overseas promotion and exchange for culture and arts in Hong Kong currently undertaken by the LCSD will be shared by the overseas Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices and the Offices of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in the Mainland in future. How will the LCSD collaborate with the above offices outside Hong Kong? Will there be any need for adjustment to its staff establishment?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

1. Starting from 2024, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will organise a “Chinese Culture Festival” every year to present a series of performing arts programmes in different art forms, such as Chinese dance, music, Chinese opera, multi-arts and film. Apart from including the popular “Chinese Opera Festival”, the “Chinese Culture Festival” will see the addition of more extension activities on the

promotion and inheritance of Chinese culture; a showcase of outstanding local works recognised by the China National Arts Fund; large-scale performances or exhibitions organised in collaboration with arts and cultural groups with Chinese cultural backgrounds and networks; and film series and activities that are related to Chinese history and culture. All these will provide the public with more opportunities to enjoy programmes on Chinese culture, and a more comprehensive and multifaceted understanding of the essence of Chinese culture and Hong Kong’s cultural heritage, which shares the same roots and origins with that of the Mainland.

The first “Chinese Culture Festival” will be held from June to September this year. The Government has earmarked \$20 million in 2024-25 for organising the “Chinese Culture Festival”, covering expenditures on the production of different types of programmes, marketing and publicity.

2. The estimated expenditure for Programme (4) of this Head in 2024-25 will increase mainly due to the following projects:

Project	Estimated expenses (\$m)
Organising an annual “Chinese Culture Festival” and other activities to promote Chinese culture and history	40
Launching the “Pilot Scheme on the Use of School Venues by Arts Groups” in collaboration with the Education Bureau	1.4
Organising the 4th “Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Culture and Arts Festival”	19.5
Regularising the “Community Arts Scheme”	20

Note: Increased provisions for expenses were partly offset by the expected decrease in cash flow for capital account items in 2024-25.

3. In 2024-25, the posts deleted under Programme (4) of this Head fell under the ranks of Office Assistant, Artisan, Workman I and Workman II. In view of the changes in the work model of the LCSD in recent years, there is no operational need for the deleted posts above.
4. The LCSD presented 49 and sponsored 13 visiting cultural programmes in 2023, attracting an audience of more than 850 000. The performance categories, countries/regions of origin, numbers of staff and artists visiting Hong Kong, and audience sizes are set out at **Annex I** and **Annex II** respectively.
5. Different bureaux and departments have been in close collaboration with each other to promote Hong Kong’s culture and arts to the Mainland and other parts of the world through various means and channels. While performing their respective functions, the LCSD, the Offices of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in the Mainland, and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) overseas complement each other in helping our culture to “go global”. In planning overseas cultural exchange activities, the LCSD will keep utilising the local networks established by the ETOs to liaise with local counterparts and government authorities to explore various performance platforms for outstanding Hong Kong artists/arts groups, and to assist in local publicity

and promotion. The major work of the LCSD will continue to be the planning and curation of programmes, and the presentation of the most exciting high-quality cultural and arts programmes of Hong Kong to Mainland and overseas audiences. As regards staff establishment, the Department will handle additional work through internal deployment, and engage additional manpower where necessary. There is no need for adjustment to the existing staff establishment.

**Visiting cultural programmes presented by the LCSD in 2023**

Category of performance	No. of programmes	Country/Region	No. of staff and artists visiting Hong Kong	Audience size
Music	15	The Mainland of China (Beijing and Changsha), Mongolia, Spain, United States, Netherlands, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Greece, Italy, Ireland, Japan, South Korea and Denmark	440	41 681
Dance	9	The Mainland of China (mainly Shanghai, Beijing and Yunnan Province); Macao, China; United Kingdom; Greece; United States; Australia; Russia and Japan	287	70 813
Theatre	3	The Mainland of China (Shanghai), Australia and United Kingdom	70	6 284
Chinese Opera/ Cantonese opera	9	The Mainland of China (Shanghai, Henan Province, Sichuan Province, Wuhan in Hubei Province, Zhejiang Province, Jiangsu Province, Shaoxing, Ningbo and Guangzhou) and Macao, China	818	16 801
Multi-arts	5	South Korea, Japan, Singapore, India, Germany, Australia and Czech Republic	60	5 755
Film	5	The Mainland of China, Hungary, India, Israel, Finland, Latvia, Spain, Georgia, Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Croatia, Slovenia, Italy, Russia, Ireland, United States, Austria, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Belgium, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Japan and Armenia	0	11 056
Others <sup>(1)</sup>	3	The Mainland of China (Foshan, Guangdong and Guangxi); Macao, China; Spain and Canada	76	665 984

**Note**

- (1) Other performing arts programmes included such activities as acrobatics, large-scale lantern displays and demonstrations of intangible cultural heritage/traditional handicraft.

**Annex II to Reply Serial No. CSTB331**

**Visiting cultural programmes sponsored by the LCSD in 2023**

Category of performance	No. of programmes	Country/Region	No. of staff and artists visiting Hong Kong	Audience size
Music	4	The Mainland of China; Taiwan, China; United Kingdom; United States; France; Spain; Norway; Austria; Russia; Germany; Italy; Georgia; Uruguay; Australia; Ireland; Japan and South Korea	74	10 182
Theatre	2	France and South Korea	44	3 119
Film	7	The Mainland of China, United States, France, United Kingdom, Austria, Germany, Netherlands, Denmark, Switzerland, Belgium, Italy, Romania, Turkey, Argentina, Spain, Greece, Iran, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Thailand and India	0	21 112

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