

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2486)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (4) Performing Arts

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Mrs. Betty FUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question (Member Question No. 48):

Regarding the Venue Partnership Scheme, will the Government:

- (a) provide a breakdown of the various forms of support provided by the venues to each of their Venue Partners and the expenditure involved in each form of support in 2012-13 and 2013-14; and
- (b) provide a breakdown of the number of activities co-organised by each venue and its Venue Partner(s), the number of audience outreached and the average cost for each member of the audience of each activity in 2012-13 and 2013-14?

Asked by: Hon. CHUNG Shu-kun, Christopher

Reply:

- (a) In 2012-13, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) launched the second round of the three-year Venue Partnership Scheme (VPS) involving 21 Venue Partners (VPs) at 12 performance venues. The LCSD provides support to all the VPs in the form of (i) priority use of the host venue's facilities; (ii) provision of work space; and (iii) enhanced publicity support including publicity of the VPs' events in the LCSD's monthly event calendars and use of the foyer display areas and wall banner sites at the host venues for programme promotion.

Insofar as funding support is concerned, the VPs that are major performing companies receive annual subvention from the Home Affairs Bureau in the form of consolidated grants, covering rentals of the LCSD venues, production and promotion of the VPS programmes and activities, as well as administrative and staff costs. For the VPs that are small and medium-sized performing companies, the LCSD provides each of them with an annual programme fee (a maximum of \$1 million and \$1.1 million per group in 2012-13 and 2013-14 respectively) to cover production, staff and administrative costs, in addition to free use of venue facilities, ticketing services, as well as administrative and publicity support.

The total funding support provided by the LCSD (including notional charges) for the small and medium-sized performing groups in 2012-13 (actual) and 2013-14 (estimated) are \$31.3 million and \$32.4 million respectively. Breakdown is set out in Annex A.

- (b) The number of activities organised by the 21 VPs at the 12 hosting venues of the LCSD and their total attendance in 2012-13 (actual) and 2013-14 (estimated) are as follows:

Activities/Attendance	2012-13 (Actual)	2013-14 (Estimated)
No. of stage performances	801	809
No. of educational, promotional and audience building activities	991	992
Total attendance	762 031	776 668

A detailed breakdown by types of activities with average cost per audience is at Annex B.

1. Venue Partnership Scheme (VPS) - Level of Support to Venue Partners in 2012-13**A) Major Performing Companies with Funding Support from Home Affairs Bureau (HAB)**

Venue		Venue Partner	Government Subvention in 2012-13 [Note 1]
1.	Hong Kong Cultural Centre	(i) Hong Kong Philharmonic	These are major performing companies which receive annual subvention from HAB. Considering that different aspects of the major performing arts groups' work are inter-related, HAB has adopted a holistic approach from 2012-13 onwards to provide an all-inclusive grant including support to the VPS for each group.
		(ii) Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra	
		(iii) The Hong Kong Ballet	
		(iv) Zuni Icosahedron	
2.	Hong Kong City Hall	(i) Hong Kong Sinfonietta	
		(ii) Hong Kong Repertory Theatre	
3.	Kwai Tsing Theatre	Chung Ying Theatre Company	
4.	Tsuen Wan Town Hall	Hong Kong Dance Company	

B) Small and Medium-sized Companies with Funding Support from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)

Venue		Venue Partner	Funding Support from the LCSD: 2012-13 (Actual) [Note 2]				
			Notional Hire Charges (\$) [Note 3]	Notional URB TIX Charges (\$) [Note 3]	Publicity Support (\$) [Note 4]	Annual Programme Fee (\$)	Total Funding (\$)
			(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(a)+(b)+(c)+(d)
1.	Sheung Wan Civic Centre	Perry Chiu Experimental Theatre	1,021,804	132,352	192,080	1,000,000	2,346,236
2.	Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre	The Absolutely Fabulous Theatre Connection	626,416	17,092	192,260	1,000,000	1,835,768
3.	Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre	(i) E-Side Dance Company	406,459	17,145	192,200	1,000,000	1,615,804
		(ii) Whole Theatre	658,380	47,898	191,408	1,000,000	1,897,686
4.	Yau Ma Tei Theatre	The Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong	1,795,365	245,086	185,970	1,000,000	3,226,421
5.	Kwai Tsing Theatre	W Theatre Company and Wind Mill Grass Theatre	1,061,340	135,836	192,260	870,000	2,259,436
6.	Tsuen Wan Town Hall	Ming Ri Institute for Arts Education	662,265	29,540	192,260	990,000	1,874,065
7.	Sha Tin Town Hall	(i) The Cantonese Opera Advancement Association	2,464,989	434,709	190,520	1,000,000	4,090,218
		(ii) Trinity Theatre and The Radiant Theatre	788,640	61,064	192,260	1,000,000	2,041,964
8.	North District Town Hall	Hong Kong Theatre Works	653,080	16,006	192,080	1,000,000	1,861,166
9.	Yuen Long Theatre	(i) Hong Kong Performing Stage of Cantonese Opera	1,007,160	102,034	190,710	1,000,000	2,299,904
		(ii) Theatre Noir	1,681,158	44,957	191,710	971,160	2,888,985
10.	Tuen Mun Town Hall	Spring-Time Experimental Theatre and Hong Kong Young Talent Cantonese Opera Troupe	1,666,131	163,199	191,260	1,000,000	3,020,590
(B) Sub-Total :			14,493,187	1,446,918	2,486,978	12,831,160	31,258,243

2. Venue Partnership Scheme (VPS) - Level of Support to Venue Partners in 2013-14**A) Major Performing Companies with Funding Support from HAB**

Venue		Venue Partner	Government Subvention in 2013-14 [Note 1]
1.	Hong Kong Cultural Centre	(i) Hong Kong Philharmonic	Considering that different aspects of the major performing arts groups' work are inter-related, HAB has adopted a holistic approach from 2012-13 onwards to provide an all-inclusive grant including support to the VPS for each group.
		(ii) Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra	
		(iii) The Hong Kong Ballet	
		(iv) Zuni Icosahedron	
2.	Hong Kong City Hall	(i) Hong Kong Sinfonietta	
		(ii) Hong Kong Repertory Theatre	
3.	Kwai Tsing Theatre	Chung Ying Theatre Company	
4.	Tsuen Wan Town Hall	Hong Kong Dance Company	

B) Small and Medium-sized companies with Funding Support from the LCSD

	Venue	Venue Partner	Funding Support from the LCSD: 2013-14 (Estimated) [Note 2]				
			Notional Hire Charges (\$) [Note 3]	Notional URB TIX Charges (\$) [Note 3]	Publicity Support (\$) [Note 4]	Annual Programme Fee (\$)	Total Funding (\$)
			(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(a)+(b)+(c)+(d)
1.	Sheung Wan Civic Centre	Perry Chiu Experimental Theatre	1,000,000	160,000	100,000	1,100,000	2,360,000
2.	Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre	The Absolutely Fabulous Theatre Connection	637,000	26,300	100,000	1,100,000	1,863,300
3.	Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre	(i) E-Side Dance Company	382,518	14,124	100,000	1,100,000	1,596,642
		(ii) Whole Theatre	1,151,492	106,537	100,000	1,100,000	2,458,029
4.	Yau Ma Tei Theatre	The Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong	1,747,812	191,325	100,000	1,100,000	3,139,137
5.	Kwai Tsing Theatre	W Theatre Company and Wind Mill Grass Theatre	1,327,754	179,359	99,920	1,060,000	2,667,033
6.	Tsuen Wan Town Hall	Ming Ri Institute for Arts Education	623,608	34,793	100,000	1,000,000	1,758,401
7.	Sha Tin Town Hall	(i) The Cantonese Opera Advancement Association	2,800,000	382,000	100,000	1,100,000	4,382,000
		(ii) Trinity Theatre and The Radiant Theatre	1,000,000	66,000	100,000	1,080,000	2,246,000
8.	North District Town Hall	Hong Kong Theatre Works	800,000	18,300	100,000	1,100,000	2,018,300
9.	Yuen Long Theatre	(i) Hong Kong Performing Stage of Cantonese Opera	563,000	38,190	100,000	1,100,000	1,801,190
		(ii) Theatre Noir	1,930,000	43,215	100,000	1,100,000	3,173,215
10	Tuen Mun Town Hall	Spring-Time Experimental Theatre and Hong Kong Young Talent Cantonese Opera Troupe	1,637,000	141,370	98,900	1,100,000	2,977,270
(B) Sub-Total :			15,600,184	1,401,513	1,298,820	14,140,000	32,440,517

- Note 1: To avoid hidden subsidy, the Venue Partners (VPs) receiving funding support from HAB have to pay rental in using the LCSD venues. Their subsidy includes the amount of hire charges in using the LCSD venues as well as the programme fees of the VPS-related activities and staff costs. These VPs also receive subventions from HAB for their core productions, outreach activities and publicity efforts, etc. which may be held in the partnering venues.
- Note 2: The funding support does not include the costs of providing work space to the VPs.
- Note 3: Notional hire/URBTIX charge denotes charges incurred by the VPs for free use of hiring units at the partnering venue as well as ticketing services.
- Note 4: Publicity support given by the LCSD to the VPs which are small and medium arts groups includes newspaper composite advertisements, MTR publicity and other extra publicity efforts to help build the image of the VPs.

1. Venue Partnership Scheme (VPS) - Level of Activities, Attendance and Average Cost Per Audience in 2012-13**A) Major Performing Companies with Funding Support from Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) [Note 1]**

Venue	Venue Partner	Level of Activities and Attendance : 2012-13 (Actual)			
		No. of Ticketed Stage Performances (a)	No. of Educational / Promotional / Audience Building Activities (Charged or Free) (b)	Total No. of Performances / Activities (a)+(b)	Total Attendance
1. Hong Kong Cultural Centre	(i) Hong Kong Philharmonic	65	83	148	130 187
	(ii) Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra	19	24	43	42 707
	(iii) The Hong Kong Ballet	38	39	77	103 850
	(iv) Zuni Icosahedron	27	20	47	50 290
2. Hong Kong City Hall	(i) Hong Kong Sinfonietta	36	10	46	45 984
	(ii) Hong Kong Repertory Theatre	37	61	98	31 984
3. Kwai Tsing Theatre	Chung Ying Theatre Company	40	57	97	17 340
4. Tsuen Wan Town Hall	Hong Kong Dance Company	8	31	39	12 022
Sub-Total (A) :		270	325	595	434 364

B) Small and Medium-sized companies with Funding Support from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) [Note 2]

Venue		Venue Partner	Level of Activities, Attendance and Average Cost Per Audience : 2012-13 (Actual)					
			No. of Ticketed Stage Performances (a)	No. of Educational / Promotional / Audience Building Activities (Charged or Free) (b)	Total No. of Performances / Activities (a)+(b)	Total Cost (Programme Fee, Publicity Support & Notional Hire/ Ticketing Charges) (\$)	Total Attendance	Average Cost Per Audience (\$) [Note 3]
1.	Sheung Wan Civic Centre	Perry Chiu Experimental Theatre	59	13	72	2,346,236	22 967	102
2.	Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre	The Absolutely Fabulous Theatre Connection	7	141	148	1,835,768	38 764	47
3.	Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre	(i) E-Side Dance Company	24	23	47	1,615,804	15 222	106
		(ii) Whole Theatre	48	6	54	1,897,686	7 267	261
4.	Yau Ma Tei Theatre	The Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong	129	73	202	3,226,421	31 068	104
5.	Kwai Tsing Theatre	W Theatre Company and Wind Mill Grass Theatre	24	33	57	2,259,436	21 783	104
6.	Tsuen Wan Town Hall	Ming Ri Institute for Arts Education	19	154	173	1,874,065	18 659	100
7.	Sha Tin Town Hall	(i) The Cantonese Opera Advancement Association	79	17	96	4,090,218	79 342	52
		(ii) Trinity Theatre and The Radiant Theatre	43	52	95	2,041,964	14 068	145
8.	North District Town Hall	Hong Kong Theatre Works	16	28	44	1,861,166	4 194	444
9.	Yuen Long Theatre	(i) Hong Kong Performing Stage of Cantonese Opera	36	7	43	2,299,904	17 579	131
		(ii) Theatre Noir	8	110	118	2,888,985	31 543	92
10.	Tuen Mun Town Hall	Spring-Time Experimental Theatre and Hong Kong Young Talent Cantonese Opera Troupe	39	9	48	3,020,590	25 211	120
Sub-Total (B) :			531	666	1 197	31,258,243	327 667	95
Total for (A) + (B) :			801	991	1 792	[Note 1]	762 031	[Note 1]

2. Venue Partnership Scheme (VPS) - Level of Activities, Attendance and Average Cost Per Audience in 2013-14**A) Major Performing Companies with Funding Support from HAB [Note 1]**

Venue	Venue Partner	Level of Activities and Attendance : 2013-14 (Estimated)			
		No. of Ticketed Stage Performances (a)	No. of Educational / Promotional / Audience Building Activities (Charged or Free) (b)	Total No. of Performances / Activities (a)+(b)	Total Attendance
1. Hong Kong Cultural Centre	(i) Hong Kong Philharmonic	59	83	142	136 000
	(ii) Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra	18	31	49	43 800
	(iii) The Hong Kong Ballet	51	35	86	100 000
	(iv) Zuni Icosahedron	32	10	42	46 500
2. Hong Kong City Hall	(i) Hong Kong Sinfonietta	46	13	59	48 082
	(ii) Hong Kong Repertory Theatre	51	65	116	42 785
3. Kwai Tsing Theatre	Chung Ying Theatre Company	39	69	108	19 199
4. Tsuen Wan Town Hall	Hong Kong Dance Company	10	40	50	17 335
Sub-Total (A) :		306	346	652	453 701

B) Small and Medium-sized companies with Funding Support from the LCSD [Note 2]

	Venue	Venue Partner	Level of Activities, Attendance and Average Cost Per Audience : 2013-14 (Estimated)					
			No. of Ticketed Stage Performances (a)	No. of Educational / Promotional / Audience Building Activities (Charged or Free) (b)	Total No. of Performances / Activities (a)+(b)	Total Cost (Programme Fee, Publicity Support & Notional Hire/ Ticketing Charges) (\$)	Total Attendance	Average Cost Per Audience (\$) [Note 3]
1.	Sheung Wan Civic Centre	Perry Chiu Experimental Theatre	54	14	68	2,360,000	19 840	119
2.	Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre	The Absolutely Fabulous Theatre Connection	7	123	130	1,863,300	35 225	53
3.	Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre	(i) E-Side Dance Company	20	28	48	1,596,642	14 777	108
		(ii) Whole Theatre	72	8	80	2,458,029	15 982	154
4.	Yau Ma Tei Theatre	The Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong	102	47	149	3,139,137	29 473	107
5.	Kwai Tsing Theatre	W Theatre Company and Wind Mill Grass Theatre	32	44	76	2,667,033	29 254	91
6.	Tsuen Wan Town Hall	Ming Ri Institute for Arts Education	19	146	165	1,758,401	20 680	85
7.	Sha Tin Town Hall	(i) The Cantonese Opera Advancement Association	80	15	95	4,382,000	70 000	63
		(ii) Trinity Theatre and The Radiant Theatre	38	51	89	2,246,000	12 610	178
8.	North District Town Hall	Hong Kong Theatre Works	15	30	45	2,018,300	4 900	412
9.	Yuen Long Theatre	(i) Hong Kong Performing Stage of Cantonese Opera	12	24	36	1,801,190	14 300	126
		(ii) Theatre Noir	12	110	122	3,173,215	32 950	96
10.	Tuen Mun Town Hall	Spring-Time Experimental Theatre and Hong Kong Young Talent Cantonese Opera Troupe	40	6	46	2,977,270	22 976	130
Sub-Total (B) :			503	646	1 149	32,440,517	322 967	100
Total for (A) + (B) :			809	992	1 801	[Note 1]	776 668	[Note 1]

- Note 1: It is not feasible to derive the average cost per audience for activities of the Venue Partners (VPs) subvented by HAB, since the activities held at the partnering venues include not only the VPS-related activities, but also their core productions.
- Note 2: These VPs receive support from the LCSD direct on free use of venue and ticketing services, plus annual funding support (up to \$1 million per group/consortium in 2012-13 and up to \$1.1 million per group/consortium in 2013-14) on programme production.
- Note 3: The average cost per audience is computed basing on the funding disbursed by the LCSD in support of the VPs' programmes.