

**Motion Debate on  
“Developing Hong Kong into a hub for arts and cultural exchanges  
between China and the rest of the world”**

**Progress Report**

**Background**

At the Legislative Council meeting of 29 September 2021, the motion on “Developing Hong Kong into a hub for arts and cultural exchanges between China and the rest of the world” moved by Hon MA Fung-kwok as amended by Hon LAU Kwok-fan and Hon YIU Si-wing was passed (full text of the motion passed is at [Annex](#)). This progress report sets out the follow up actions of the Government in respect of the motion.

**Latest Progress**

**Government structure**

2. The Chief Executive (CE) has put forward the possible proposal on the re-organisation of the Government structure to the Legislative Council at the CE’s Question and Answer Session on 12 January 2022, including the proposal to set up a new Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau (CSTB) to consolidate the culture, sports and tourism portfolios currently under the purview of different bureaux, to better steer and promote the development of cultural affairs of Hong Kong. The CE said that the proposal, together with the views of the Members of the LegCo, will be submitted to the CE-elect for consideration whether it should be implemented by the next term of the Government.

**Arts and culture**

3. The cultural industries in Hong Kong have been given a boost of confidence by the 14th Five-Year Plan for its clear support towards Hong Kong developing into an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange. The Government will seize upon Hong Kong’s unique creative atmosphere where Chinese and Western cultures meet to position Hong

Kong as Asia's city of culture and creativity. To realise our new cultural positioning, the Government will adopt a multi-pronged approach, including (1) developing world-class cultural facilities and pluralistic cultural environment; (2) strengthening links with overseas arts and culture organisations; (3) strengthening cultural exchange and co-operation with the Mainland; (4) leveraging technology and (5) nurturing talents.

4. In terms of hardware, various world-class arts and cultural facilities will be commissioned in a gradual manner. The M+ Museum of the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) was opened in November 2021 and the Hong Kong Palace Museum will be opened in mid-2022, showcasing to visitors contemporary visual culture and exquisite collections of the Palace Museum. The East Kowloon Cultural Centre will be opened by phases in 2023 and become a major venue and incubator for arts technology. The Lyric Theatre Complex of WKCD, expected to be completed in 2024, will be another top-class performance venue for dance and theatre.

5. In terms of software, we are seeking to maintain and strengthen links with overseas arts and culture organisations, including expanding the diversity and contents of popular culture brands like Hong Kong Arts Festivals. We will organise the Hong Kong Performing Arts Market in end-2023 to facilitate exchange between the Mainland, overseas and local arts and cultural sectors, expand the trading market of performing arts programmes, and explore new opportunities for arts groups and arts practitioners in Hong Kong and the Mainland, thereby promoting the China story. We will also continue to showcase the arts and cultural achievements of Hong Kong and promote cultural exchanges through activities such as the Hong Kong Week, as well as to co-operate with Mainland and overseas cultural institutions to solicit exhibition of their precious cultural relics in Hong Kong and to lend to them Hong Kong's arts and cultural collections. We will also further expand Hong Kong's cultural links with the Mainland and overseas and strengthen co-operation between different theatres in Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area, with a view to providing more performance opportunities for local arts groups and broadening the audience of Hong Kong's arts and cultural programmes. The Government is also committed to encouraging Hong Kong young people to take part in arts and cultural exchanges in the Mainland. We

have collaborated with the Palace Museum and Dunhuang Academy to organise the “Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland”, providing Hong Kong young people who aspired to pursue a career in the arts and culture industry with unique, in-depth and valuable internship opportunities. We will also continue to organise the “Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Youth Cultural Exchange Programme” with the Department of Culture and Tourism of Guangdong Province and the Higher Education Bureau of the Macao Special Administrative Region, to facilitate mutual understanding among young people and enhancing their understanding of the cultures of the three places. Moreover, we are actively preparing for various international conferences and forums to be held in Hong Kong this year, including the Hong Kong 2022 International Society for the Performing Arts Congress, the Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum and the International Museum Summit, so as to provide platforms for cultural and arts exchange at the international level.

6. In terms of nurturing of talents, we will enhance our efforts in talent grooming and exchanges in diverse areas such as arts administration, arts technology script production and conservation of artefacts. The Chief Executive announced in the 2021 PA that we would expand the scope of some existing professions on the Talent List of Hong Kong to include experts of, among others, “arts technology” category with a view to complementing Hong Kong’s future policy direction to develop the key area of arts and culture. In the 2022-23 Budget, the Financial Secretary announced the injection of funds to the Cantonese Opera Development Fund and allocation of additional resources for the training of conservators in order to support professional and continuing training, enhance the quality of our talents and enrich our local talent pool.

### **Creative industries**

7. Our creative industries have good potential for further development and are Hong Kong’s new economic drivers. Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) under the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau will continue to sponsor the trade through the two subsidy schemes (i.e. “CreateSmart Initiative” (CSI) and “Film Development Fund” (FDF)) to implement projects in line with our work focuses (including nurturing talents and facilitating start-ups, exploring markets, and fostering a creative

atmosphere in the community) to support the further development of the sectors.

8. In supporting the seven creative sectors other than film, the Government will continue to make good use of the CSI to support the trade in pursuing projects conducive to its long-term development. The Government injected a total of \$2 billion into the CSI in 2018 and 2021 respectively, with the total committed amount over \$1.1 billion. The COVID-19 pandemic has seriously impacted the world. We will strengthen support for the trade in adapting to the new normal under the pandemic, in particular through making good use of the latest communications, digital and virtual technologies, such as to conduct online and offline activities to showcase creativity and provide remote services through different media platforms, to enhance competitiveness of the trade, and will at the same time encourage cross-sectoral exchanges and co-operation, to enrich and diversify industry development.

9. Regarding the film industry, the Government will continue to make use of the FDF to foster development of the local film industry. The Government injected \$1 billion into the FDF in 2019. As at end-January 2022, the FDF has sponsored over 20 local film productions and over 50 other film-related projects, involving over \$300 million. The pandemic has brought major challenges to the industry. The Government announced in July 2020 the implementation of five measures under the FDF to increase local production, nurture new talents and strengthen professional training to support the long-term development of the industry. With the smooth implementation of the five measures, locally produced films have had more opportunities to be screened, and there have been more diversified themes and genres to showcase the creativity, vigour and versatility of Hong Kong film practitioners.

10. GBA has geographical proximity to Hong Kong and shares a similar culture and social background. It is among the key markets for Hong Kong in the Mainland. Constrained by the pandemic, large-scale external activities have almost come to a halt in the past two years. Notwithstanding, CreateHK has continued to support the trade to promote their creative work through various projects, including the organisation of “Fashion Forward GBA 2022” comprising fashion shows,

fashion music parties, exhibitions and sharing sessions in GBA cities, setting up the Hong Kong pavilion by the printing and publishing sector at the South China Book Festival 2022 in Guangzhou, and participation of architecture sector in the Shenzhen edition of Shenzhen – Hong Kong Bi-city Biennale of Urbanism \ Architecture 2022, in addition to the roving exhibitions organised in four GBA cities (Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Dongguan and Foshan) in November and December 2021 to showcase the strengths of our creative industries and the “Hong Kong Film Show in Guangdong” held in three cities in GBA, viz. Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Foshan, from December 2021 to January 2022 which presented the latest and classic Hong Kong films to promote film culture exchanges between Hong Kong and GBA. We will look ahead and be prepared to mobilise and partner with the trade to “go global” to reinforce outbound promotion, showcase Hong Kong’s soft power and develop markets, once travel restrictions and clearance restrictions are lifted progressively. GBA will be among the key markets for our efforts.

11. The Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) has provided more opportunities for Hong Kong’s creative industries to enter the Mainland (including GBA) market and collaborate with their counterparts for development over the years. We will continue to seek further liberalisation measures from the Mainland authorities under the CEPA framework.

12. The Government has been focusing on the development of the creative industries. We will make use of the precious development opportunities brought by our country, and will join hands with the trade to foster the continued development of the industries and better national integration and development.

### **Intellectual property (IP) trading**

13. In line with the National 14th Five Year Plan’s support for Hong Kong to develop into a regional IP trading centre, the Chief Executive announced in the 2021 Policy Address that the Government will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach to further promote the development of IP trading in Hong Kong, including reviving the Copyright Ordinance amendment exercise in the light of the development of the digital

environment. The Government launched a three-month public consultation in November last year on updating Hong Kong's copyright regime, and will carefully consider the views received. Our target is to introduce a bill to the Legislative Council to amend the Copyright Ordinance in the first half of 2022. The Government will also intensify our collaboration with IP authorities of the Mainland and Macao on IP trading, protection, management and commercialisation in GBA and beyond, so as to promote Hong Kong's competitive advantages in IP trading and our IP professional services to Mainland and overseas enterprises.

## **Culture and Tourism**

14. Following the guiding directions of the Culture and Tourism Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area ("the Plan"), the Government will continue to implement the strategies of the Development Blueprint for Hong Kong's Tourism Industry ("the Blueprint"); proactively integrate into the national development; work hand in hand with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Department of Culture and Tourism of Guangdong Province and the culture and tourism authorities of GBA cities; strengthen Hong Kong's role as the core demonstration zone for multi-destination tourism; jointly develop with GBA cities a world-class bay area for culture and leisure, with a view to developing the GBA into a hub for culture exchange between the East and the West and a world-class tourism destination, and strengthening the positions of Hong Kong as an international cultural metropolis and an international tourism hub.

15. The Government will continue to launch various measures and projects along the directions and strategies of the Plan and on the basis of the Blueprint, in order to optimise local tourism resources; promote characteristic cultural, heritage, creative and green tourism projects, as well as develop tourism products with local and international characteristics. Specifically, we are taking forward a new phase of Yim Tin Tsai Arts Festival which will last for another three years. It will feature Yim Tin Tsai as the core and gradually reach out to a few neighbouring islands. The open tender process commenced in early October 2021. We are working on the new phase of Design District Hong Kong and City in Time

with a view to sustaining our efforts in bringing in multi-faceted tourism experience to locals and visitors through creative and artistic elements; and we will continue to take forward the Enhancement of Hiking Trails Project to enhance the tourism supporting facilities of some hiking trails within country parks which are popular and with tourism appeal.

**Home Affairs Bureau**

**Commerce and Economic Development Bureau**

**Tourism Commission**

**February 2022**

**Council meeting of 29 September 2021**

**Hon MA Fung-kwok's motion on  
“Developing Hong Kong into a hub for arts and cultural exchanges  
between China and the rest of the world”**

**Motion as amended by Hon LAU Kwok-fan and Hon YIU Si-wing**

That Hong Kong has all along been a place where East meets West; the Central Government has, in the 14th Five-Year Plan, mentioned for the first time its support for Hong Kong to develop into a hub for arts and cultural exchanges between China and the rest of the world; to capitalize on the opportunities arising from this new positioning, this Council urges the SAR Government to, apart from continuing with the existing work (including continuously enhancing the development of cultural hardware and software, facilitating cultural exchanges, holding more arts and cultural events, developing Art Tech, nurturing local arts and cultural talents, promoting conservation and revitalizing cultural heritage, and safeguarding the freedom of artistic creation and expression in Hong Kong in accordance with the law), adopt the following measures to promote Hong Kong's development into a hub for arts and cultural exchanges between China and the rest of the world:

On government structure –

- (1) establishing a ‘Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau’ to raise the policy level of cultural and artistic development, and assigning a new function concerning cultural promotion for overseas Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices;

On financial support –

- (2) establishing a dedicated ‘Arts Exchanges Development Fund’ to provide further support for arts exchange activities, and providing tax concessions for sponsoring cultural and sports activities;



On policy measures –

- (3) formulating a more proactive industrial policy to step up efforts in supporting the development of cultural and creative industries, particularly in promoting the development of cultural and creative industries in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the SAR Government should strengthen cooperation with the Mainland and Macao to explore the connotation of Lingnan culture, set up a mechanism for coordinating cultural and creative industries in the Greater Bay Area and an integrated database on cultural and creative intellectual property rights, establish an international cultural and creative intellectual property trading centre in the Greater Bay Area, and discuss with the Mainland the devolution of power to vet and approve some cultural and creative projects from the Central Authorities to Guangdong Province;
- (4) formulating an immigration policy for ‘friendly cultural and sports exchanges’ by streamlining the employment visa arrangements and quarantine procedures for the relevant personnel to come to Hong Kong;
- (5) striving, through the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement, for the Mainland authorities’ further relaxation of the vetting and approval procedure for Hong Kong’s arts and cultural sector to enter the Mainland market, so as to secure more performance and production opportunities for the arts and cultural sector;
- (6) enhancing cultural exchanges and cooperation with cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, with a view to joining forces with them to create a new cultural landscape for the city cluster in the Greater Bay Area; and
- (7) implementing an integrated pluralistic policy on culture in the education system to strengthen the education and learning experience on the excellent Chinese culture, thereby enhancing students’ awareness of traditional culture and upgrading their cultural quality, and in turn achieving a long-term plan of training

cultural talents, so as to present to the world a true, multi-dimensional and panoramic view of China and tell China's stories well; and

- (8) in the light of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism's advocacy of 'integration of culture and tourism to promote mutual development' in the Culture and Tourism Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, updating the Development Blueprint for Hong Kong's Tourism Industry, and formulating with the relevant Mainland departments a collaboration mechanism and a timetable for implementing specific projects, thereby facilitating cultural exchanges.