

**Community Affairs, Culture and Recreation Committee of
the Islands District Council
CACRC Paper No. 58/2020**

**Reports on Arts and Cultural Activities in the Islands District
Organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department**

Purpose

This paper aims to report to Members on the arts and cultural activities organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) in the Islands District and seek Members' support on the extension of the Tao Arts Islands Scheme.

Background

2. To keep the Islands District Council informed of the services provided by the LCSD, reports on the arts and cultural activities in the Islands District organised by the LCSD are submitted to Members on a regular basis.

Report on Tao Arts Islands – Community Arts Scheme

3. The LCSD has collaborated with the Islands District Council and district organisation as a tripartite effort for launching the “Tao Arts Islands – Community Arts Scheme” (the Scheme) in Islands District in 2020-2021. Through the one-year musical training programme *Defying Gravity* planned under the Scheme, it aims to provide different races in the district with free community outreach performances, musical workshops, show visits and finale performances including opportunities to perform and engage in musical production, as well as connecting locals with non Chinese ethnic groups via musicals for the promotion of multiculturalism.

4. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, the activities of the Scheme cannot be arranged as scheduled. Although LCSD is planning to resume the activities in phases from October 2020, there is hardly enough time to complete every activity under the Scheme with only five months left before the next financial year. In view of the above as well as the uncertainties arising from the development of the pandemic situation, the LCSD proposes to extend the Scheme for another year until March 2022. When situation improves, activities planned under the Scheme will be carried out orderly in phases to meet its targets.

5. Apart from the musical training programme *Defying Gravity*, the 10 arts and cultural performances planned under the Scheme will be rescheduled after taking into account the availability of venues and the schedules of the arts groups. Subject to Members' support to the proposed extension, the LCSD will continue to closely monitor the development of the situation and go ahead with the activities when it is safe to do so. Should the postponement incur additional expenditure, the LCSD will arrange advance payment to the arts groups to relieve their cash flow problem caused by the postponement based on the level of preparatory and actual work performed in accordance with the contract. Additional expenditure incurred will be borne by the LCSD.

Other Arts and Cultural Activities Presented and Sponsored by the LCSD

6. The arts and cultural activities to be organised and sponsored by the LCSD in the Islands District from November 2020 to February 2021 are outlined in Annex I. Details of the cultural activities scheduled from July to October 2020 are set out in Annex II.

Advice Sought

7. This paper will be submitted to the Community Affairs, Culture and Recreation Committee of the Islands District Council for Members' consideration and support on the extension of the Tao Arts Islands Scheme for one year at the meeting on 2 November 2020.