

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)187

(Question Serial No. 2015)

Head: (118) Planning Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (3) Town Planning Information Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Planning (YIP Chi Kwai, Tom)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

It has been reflected by some views that the City Gallery in Central enjoys a strategic location, complementing the Hong Kong City Hall (the City Hall). However, the utilisation rate of the City Gallery appears to be relatively low due to various factors such as exhibition themes and publicity efforts, representing a considerable waste. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the operating costs and various usage statistics of the City Gallery over the past 3 years, including the number of visitors, venue hiring rates, number of event days, etc.;
2. whether there is any consideration on relocating the City Gallery to the Northern Metropolis or other districts, and converting the original site/building for expansion or extension of the City Hall, or for other cultural and artistic uses?

Asked by: Hon FOK Kai-kong, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

1. With the theme of town planning and large-scale infrastructure development, the City Gallery (CG) provides venues for permanent exhibitions and thematic exhibitions, and receives experts and visitors from overseas and Chinese Mainland, facilitating exchange of planning ideas and public participation. The numbers of visitors of the CG in the past 3 years are as follows:

Financial year	Number of visitors
2023-24	102 184 (91 493 on-site and 10 691 online)
2024-25	113 566 (109 145 on-site and 4 421 online)
2025-26	142 640 (134 312 on-site and 8 328 online)

The CG actively and continuously hosts a diverse array of exhibitions and activities covering topics such as planning development, transportation, and environmental conservation. In the past 3 years, various government bureaux and departments, tertiary institutions and non-governmental organisations/groups held thematic exhibitions, seminars and workshops in the CG. In addition, the CG offers guided tours, receiving government delegations from Chinese Mainland and overseas, local schools, community centres and non-governmental organisations, etc. On average, group visits are recorded every week. In 2025, the CG welcomed a total of 86 delegations from Chinese Mainland and 10 countries, introducing to them the planning development of Hong Kong.

The CG also organises thematic workshops for various communities in the society to promote planning education and fulfil social responsibilities. They are well received by the public. In 2025, 7 additional workshops were organised specifically for under-privileged groups, including the hearing-impaired elderly, persons with intellectual disability and ethnic minority communities. Over the past 3 years, relevant activities or guided tours were arranged on about 90% of the CG's opening days each year on average. The specific numbers are tabulated below (in terms of sessions):

Financial year	Number of activity and guided tour sessions
2023-24	About 230
2024-25	About 340
2025-26	About 320

The operating expenditure of the CG mainly covers venue management and operation, facility maintenance, updates to exhibition content, related manpower, etc. It forms part of the overall operating expenditure of the Planning Department (PlanD). The relevant expenditure has been incorporated as a whole into PlanD's departmental estimates.

2. The CG is located on the Central waterfront with convenient transport access. Its location provides a unique advantage in facilitating members of the public from different sectors, visitors, experts from overseas and Chinese Mainland, government officials or investors to learn about Hong Kong's overall development blueprint and its story as a city. The Government considers that maintaining a permanent exhibition platform in the heart of the Harbour Metropolis, dedicated to territory-wide planning and major development projects, remains valuable in promoting Hong Kong's overall development positioning and supporting tourism development in the long term. The Government therefore has no plan to relocate the CG. In addition, the Government is planning to establish an exhibition gallery in the Kwu Tung North New Development Area in the Northern Metropolis (NM) to showcase the NM development.

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