

SHA's speech at opening ceremony of Budding Winter

Following is the speech (English translation) by the Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Tsang Tak-sing, at the opening ceremony of the Budding Winter today (November 24):

Dear Guests,

Welcome to the Opening Ceremony of “Budding Winter”, a brand new arts programme. Art in Hong Kong has traditionally lived in museums, galleries or on a stage. Yet, with this programme, “Budding Winter” will bring art out of the museums and into our neighbourhoods. “Art in the Park” transforms neighbourhood parks into open-air museums, so people can enjoy arts on their way to school, to work or during lunch hours. We believe the energy and momentum created by the programme will inspire more talent to express their creativity through the arts.

Our plan is to add “Budding Winter” to our diverse repertoire of annual events in Hong Kong. Every year, we will showcase artworks from our budding artists, give them opportunities to experiment with their ideas, and nurture them into the big names of tomorrow.

In parallel, we are exploring the opportunity of bringing some of the student artists and their artworks for display at the Shanghai Expo 2010. We believe this is a fantastic chance to expose and broaden the horizons of these young artists, and to give them a presence in important international events.

Through “Budding Winter”, we have various initiatives with the Education Bureau to build audiences - in particular young audiences. Earlier on, we invited art professors from the four universities involved in “Art in the Park” to give lectures to school teachers on arts appreciation. We also arranged school art tours and the response has been great. We have already received applications for art tours from over 200 schools.

Finally, I would like to thank our collaborators of this project, including the four universities, the Academy for Performing Arts, Fringe Club, the Hong Kong Comics and Animation Federation, and the Community Art Network. I would also like to thank the Education Bureau for facilitating school activities and the Tourism Commission for promoting this programme to the tourist community.

Now, let's announce the opening of "Budding Winter" and wish that our budding artists and young audiences will grow from small to big in the world of arts.

Thank you.

Ends/Tuesday, November 24, 2009

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