

Chapter 20

Recreation, Sport, Culture and the Arts

Hong Kong offers no lack of sports, cultural and recreational opportunities for its hard-working populace. The wide variety of activities, ranging from international sports and arts events to community programmes, leaves people of all ages and abilities spoilt for choice.

The Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) coordinates government policies on recreation, sports, culture and heritage. Organisations such as the Sports Commission and Hong Kong Arts Development Council help the government draw up these policies.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) preserves Hong Kong's cultural heritage, enhances its physical environment, and fosters cooperative interaction between sports, cultural and community organisations. The department also organises exhibitions, sporting events and cultural performances.

Recreation and Sports

The HAB and LCSD develop and coordinate the provision of quality recreational and sports facilities for leisure enjoyment, including parks, landscaped open spaces, sports grounds, playgrounds, sports centres, holiday camps, water sports centres, swimming pools and beaches. They also organise and support a wide variety of recreational and sports programmes to promote community sports, identify sporting talent and raise sporting standards.

The HAB and LCSD work closely with district councils, national sports associations (NSAs) under the auspices of the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, district sports associations and schools to promote sport for all.

The LCSD also issues and renews licences for places of amusement. In 2021, it processed 48 applications for billiard establishments, five for public bowling alleys and seven for public skating rinks.

Parks and Greenery

The LCSD manages over 1,600 parks and gardens, including 26 major parks. It is responsible for planting and maintaining plants at the public parks, recreational and sports venues, and roadside amenity areas. In 2021, the department planted 2.33 million trees, shrubs and other plants, and enhanced the landscaping at about 21 hectares of park and roadside amenity areas.

Hong Kong Park

Hong Kong Park occupies 8.16 hectares at the former military barracks in Central District. The park features flowing water as its central motif and has artificial waterfalls, streams and ponds. Its main facilities include an aviary, a conservatory, a sports centre, a squash centre, a children's playground, an Olympic Square, a vantage point and a restaurant. The aviary resembles a tropical rainforest in which about 530 birds of 62 species are kept. The conservatory's three sections, namely the Display Plant House, Dry Plant House and Humid Plant House, have adjustable environmental control equipment to simulate different climatic conditions for plants from arid and tropical regions. About 500 African violets representing over 50 species were featured in an African violet exhibition at the Display Plant House from December 2020 to January 2021.

Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens

The Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens, developed between 1861 and 1871, is the territory's oldest public garden and occupies 5.6 hectares overlooking Central. In 2021, the animal collection comprised about 180 birds of more than 35 species, over 20 reptiles of five species, and over 75 mammals of 15 species, mainly primates. More than 1,000 species of trees, shrubs, creepers and foliage plants thrive in the gardens, where the medicinal plant collection and a greenhouse promote public interest in about 500 species of herbs, orchids, ferns and indoor plants. An education and exhibition centre offers guided visits and displays zoological specimens.

To commemorate the gardens' 150th anniversary, the LCSD launched a series of programmes for Hong Kong people to revisit this 'urban forest', and to promote the vision of 'Urban Forest Living As One' and conservation ambitions under a new logo and image of the gardens. The programmes attracted 62,061 visitors while the live-streamed kick-off ceremony and evening musical performance in November was watched by more than 79,500 viewers.

Country and Marine Parks

Some 40 per cent of Hong Kong's land area is designated as country parks and special areas for nature conservation, outdoor recreation and nature education. The 24 country parks and 22 special areas provide extensive hiking trails, barbecue, picnic and camp sites and visitor centres. Visitors can learn about the beauty and diversity of local marine life at six marine parks and one marine reserve.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department manages the country parks, special areas, marine parks, marine reserve, Hong Kong Wetland Park and Hong Kong Unesco Global Geopark.

Hong Kong Wetland Park

The 61-hectare Hong Kong Wetland Park stretches from the northern part of Tin Shui Wai to the southern tip of the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site. It is a special area designated under the Country Parks Ordinance. The park promotes wetland conservation, education and nature-based tourism, and gives visitors the opportunity to appreciate wetlands and local wildlife in an open and natural setting.

Hong Kong Unesco Global Geopark

Extending from Sai Kung to the northeastern New Territories is the Hong Kong Unesco Global Geopark. This area of natural heritage comprises spectacular hexagonal volcanic rock columns of a size and composition rarely found elsewhere in the world, and sedimentary rocks that are 400 million years old and of great geological and educational interest.

The geopark's Volcano Discovery Centre at Sai Kung Waterfront Park is accessible by public transport and is an ideal point to start a visit to the geopark. At the centre, visitors can sign up for a guided tour or pick up a self-guided tour map.

Visitors can also explore the Story Rooms at geopark communities to learn more about the history and intangible cultural heritage of these villages.

Green Hong Kong Campaign

This campaign raises awareness of the importance of greening the environment. The LCSD provides at least one community garden in each of the 18 districts. In 2021, some activities were cancelled because of the pandemic, but the districts still conducted 60 community garden programmes. Over 6,600 people joined the Green Volunteer Scheme to promote community greening and 848 schools and kindergartens took part in a Greening School Subsidy Scheme to promote environment-friendly initiatives. About 298,400 students from 1,184 schools participated in the One Person, One Flower Scheme, receiving seedlings to plant at home or school.

Hong Kong Flower Show

The Hong Kong Flower Show provides an opportunity for hundreds of thousands of Hong Kong people and horticultural lovers the world over to appreciate the beauty and diversity of flowers and to share their experiences in flower cultivation. The 2021 event was staged online due to the pandemic, with garden plots and displays set up at designated parks across the 18 districts and presented virtually from 19 March to 19 April. The total number of page views was over 242,000.

Recreation and Sports Facilities

The LCSD manages 25 sports grounds, 103 sports centres, 61 11-a-side football pitches, 256 tennis courts, 291 squash courts, four driving ranges and two public riding schools. Works for 14 other major projects are under way.

Hong Kong Stadium

The 40,000-seat Hong Kong Stadium is the territory's largest outdoor sports venue. It is used mainly for football and rugby matches and large-scale community activities. Events held during the year included the final of the Hong Kong Premier League, three Asian Football Confederation Cup 2021 matches and Hong Kong Premiership Rugby – The Stadium Showdown.

Mong Kok Stadium

The 6,000-seat Mong Kok Stadium is an important venue for sporting and community events. It is one of the major venues for the Hong Kong Premier League and international matches. Events staged in the year included the Hong Kong Premier League, Sapling Cup and Hong Kong FA Cup.

Kai Tak Sports Park

Targeted for completion by end-2023, the Kai Tak Sports Park will provide world-class sports facilities, including a 50,000-seat main stadium, a 10,000-seat indoor sports centre and a 5,000-seat public sports ground, for international sports events and large-scale community activities. Piling and basement works have been completed while superstructure works are in progress.

Water Sports Centres and Holiday Camps

The LCSD manages five water sports centres: Chong Hing, Tai Mei Tuk, the Jockey Club Wong Shek, St Stephen's Beach and Stanley Main Beach. Events held at these centres drew some 60,000 participants in 2021.

The department also runs four holiday camps: the Lady MacLehose Holiday Village, Sai Kung Outdoor Recreation Centre, Tso Kung Tam Outdoor Recreation Centre and Lei Yue Mun Park. In support of the government's work to combat COVID-19, the four camps were closed and converted into quarantine centres or temporary accommodation. In 2021, around 2,230 people had been admitted into the quarantine centres and about 260 into the temporary accommodation.

The LCSD also subsidises 11 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to run 24 holiday camps and sea activity centres, which registered around 340,000 participants in 2021.

Beaches and Swimming Pools

Swimming is one of Hong Kong's most popular summer pastimes. The LCSD manages 42 gazetted public beaches and 44 public swimming pool complexes.

Recreation and Sports Organisations

Sports Commission

The Sports Commission, comprising government officials and representatives from the sports sector, advises the government on all matters relating to sports development and oversees committees on community sports, elite sports and major sports events.

Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China

The Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China is recognised as a National Olympic Committee by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and is a member of the IOC, the Olympic Council of Asia, the Association of National Olympic Committees and the East Asian Olympic Committees. The federation organises Hong Kong's participation in all major international, continental and regional multi-sports games, such as the summer and winter Olympic Games and the summer and winter Asian Games. Hong Kong athletes won six medals – one gold, two silvers and three bronzes – at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, the city's best result at the games since it first competed in 1952.

With a membership of 82 NSAs and sports organisations, the federation represents the Hong Kong sports community. Most of its members are NSAs, which are in turn affiliated to their Asian federations (AFs) and international federations (IFs). The NSAs coordinate and conduct activities related to their sports, including recreational programmes for the community, and training programmes and competitions for novices and elite athletes locally. They organise and sanction participation in overseas competitions and train coaches and referees. They also enforce local and international rules and regulations and represent Hong Kong at IF and AF meetings.

The federation organises educational programmes for sports leaders, administrators, coaches and technical officials, notably through the Hong Kong Olympic Academy, which offers sports management and sports science courses. The ongoing epidemic meant that many annual events organised by the federation, including the Festival of Sport and Olympic Day, were cancelled or held online. However, a few events co-organised by NSAs and the Olympic Day Exhibition were held. The presentation ceremony for the 2019 Hong Kong Sports Stars Awards, organised by the federation to recognise the achievements of elite athletes, was held in the West Kowloon Cultural District in April.

The federation also helps athletes through its Hong Kong Athletes Career and Education Programme to obtain educational qualifications and a career after retiring from athletic life. The Sports Legacy Scheme was set up under the federation to employ retired and soon-to-retire athletes as coaches for underprivileged students.

The independent Hong Kong Anti-Doping Committee, formed under the auspices of the federation, plans and implements education and testing programmes to preserve a doping-free environment for fair play in sports and to ensure Hong Kong is in compliance with the World Anti-Doping Code.

Hong Kong Paralympic Committee and Sports Association for the Physically Disabled

The Hong Kong Paralympic Committee and Sports Association for the Physically Disabled promotes the Paralympic movement in Hong Kong and helps local para athletes achieve sporting excellence. It identifies and nurtures young para athletes to shine in international sporting events.

Hong Kong athletes excelled at major multi-sport games in 2021, winning two silver and three bronze medals at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games and making history with two medals in the newly added events of badminton. The team also brought home 10 golds, one silver and six

bronzes from the 11th National Games for Persons with Disabilities in Shaanxi. In December, the young para athletes won nine golds, 11 silvers and 12 bronzes at the Bahrain 2021 Asian Youth Para Games.

During the year, the association launched the Project 2026: 2021-2026 Strategic Development Plan consisting of 10 goals including recruiting novice athletes, increasing awareness of and participation in para sports, and sustaining and uplifting athletic performance. Regional training programmes for various para sports were launched to broaden grassroots participation and encourage the physically impaired to stay in sports.

Hong Kong Sports Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability

The Hong Kong Sports Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability develops, promotes and organises sporting activities to help people with intellectual disability to develop their potential and cultivate a positive attitude through sport, and to facilitate their integration into the community. Its training programme caters for all levels of ability.

The pandemic caused most international competitions in 2021 to be cancelled or postponed, but intellectually disabled athletes made the most of those that went ahead. They won 28 medals during the year, comprising 15 golds, seven silvers and six bronzes. Highlights included a bronze at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games; nine golds, one silver and two bronzes at the 11th National Games for Persons with Disabilities in Shaanxi; and six golds, six silvers and three bronzes at the Bahrain 2021 Asian Youth Para Games.

Hong Kong Sports Institute Limited

The Hong Kong Sports Institute Limited is Hong Kong's elite sports training centre. It provides comprehensive facilities and support services to athletes, including scientific conditioning, sports science, sports medicine and dual career development in education and sports training. The institute's Elite Training Programme covers 20 Tier A sports (athletics, badminton, billiard sports, cycling, equestrian, fencing, gymnastics, karatedo, rowing, rugby sevens, sailing, skating, squash, swimming, table tennis, tennis, tenpin bowling, triathlon, windsurfing and wushu) and six Tier A disability sports (boccia (physical disability), para badminton (physical disability), para table tennis (physical disability), wheelchair fencing (physical disability), para swimming (intellectual disability) and para table tennis (intellectual disability)). It also provides suitable support to athletes in 13 Tier B sports and three Tier B physical disability sports. Outstanding athletes whose sports fall outside these two tiers are covered under the Individual Athletes Support Scheme.

Adventure-Ship

Adventure-Ship, registered in 1977, provides educational training and recreation at sea for young people on board a sailing junk called the *Jockey Club Huan*, in the first charitable programme of its kind in Hong Kong. The charity promotes personal development with its theme of 'learning by experience'. It is a member of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, and is funded mainly by the Community Chest and Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust.

All young people above the age of nine are welcome to join the programme, with preference given to disabled and underprivileged youths. About 10,000 people take part each year.

The 34.5-metre aluminium-hulled, three-masted, traditional-rig *Jockey Club Huan* accommodates up to 60 people. She is equipped with modern navigational devices in addition to various amenities and barrier-free training facilities tailored for trainees with disabilities.

The junk plies within Hong Kong waters, and each training trip lasts one to three days. The training regime is designed carefully to cope with different weather conditions and the special needs of young people with different aptitudes and backgrounds. Guided by instructors, participants become members of the ship's supplementary crew and work alongside their peers, learning to face challenges and be self-reliant. The exercises also foster camaraderie and team spirit.

Hong Kong Jockey Club

Despite the pandemic, the Hong Kong Jockey Club maintained a full racing schedule in 2021, including two international race meetings featuring top overseas horses and jockeys. It did so in line with government regulations and through strict public health measures.

This maintained an essential part of Hong Kong's sporting life and supported the club's unique integrated business model, through which racing and wagering generate tax and charity support for the community. In 2020-21, the club returned 77 per cent of its wagering and lottery revenue to Hong Kong and donated 92 per cent of its operating surplus to the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust. In total, the club contributed \$29.4 billion to the community, comprising \$24.4 billion in tax to the government, \$0.5 billion to the Lotteries Fund and \$4.5 billion in approved donations to 528 projects. The club is one of the world's top 10 charity donors and Hong Kong's largest single taxpayer, contributing 7.4 per cent of all taxes collected by the Inland Revenue Department in 2020-21.

The club's global racing brand continued to expand in 2021, with eight of its 12 international Group 1 races in the World's Top 100 Group 1 and Grade 1 Races and 15 horses in the World's Best Racehorse Rankings, including *Golden Sixty*, the joint highest rated miler in the world. This saw commingling account for 17 per cent of racing turnover in 2020-21 and World Pools expanded significantly with an increase in simulcast races. The club received the highest accreditation under the Responsible Gaming Framework of the World Lottery Association, becoming the first operator in Asia to receive this recognition four times in succession. In 2021, the club's Chief Executive Officer was elected as chair of the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities, the highest authority in world racing.

The club signed a framework cooperation agreement with the Guangzhou Municipal Government to jointly take forward the promotion and development of the equine industry in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. This will bring racing to the club's Conghua Racecourse in Guangzhou from 2025-26.

The club continued to provide strong support for the community, with \$1.5 billion in measures approved since the beginning of the pandemic in addition to support for a wide range of needs. Following the Olympic and Paralympic success of Hong Kong athletes, the club provided a matching grant to the government's Sports Science and Research Funding Scheme

supporting elite sports development. The CUHK Medical Centre, funded by the club, opened in September.

Hong Kong Youth Hostels Association

The Hong Kong Youth Hostels Association is a non-profit-making organisation providing safe, good quality and affordable hostel accommodation. It encourages young people to embrace nature through outdoor activities and appreciate different cultures via the hostelling experience and international exchange programmes.

The association plans, runs and markets seven youth hostels. It has more than 30,000 individual and corporate members, and is an affiliate of Hostelling International, which has more than 4 million members worldwide.

The seven hostels each have different characteristics. The flagship is the YHA Mei Ho House Youth Hostel, which was transformed from a six-storey resettlement block in Shek Kip Mei that formed part of Hong Kong's first public housing.

Outward Bound Hong Kong

Outward Bound Hong Kong (OBHK) is a non-profit organisation providing personal development programmes for people to learn essential life skills and reach their maximum potential. It is accredited by the Association for Experiential Education, and as part of Outward Bound International, it benefits from the network of over 35 schools around the world.

OBHK's mission is to help people discover and develop their potential to care for themselves, others and the world around them through challenging experiences in unfamiliar settings.

Programmes are designed to foster confidence, responsibility, leadership, communication, creative thinking, problem solving, mental well-being and social responsibility. OBHK uses outdoor challenges to help participants gain insights and skills that can be applied to work and everyday situations. In 2021, 5,654 people joined its programmes in Hong Kong.

Based in Sai Kung, with headquarters at Tai Mong Tsai and an island base on Wong Wan Chau, OBHK's facilities include a 67-foot sail training yacht, the *Spirit of Outward Bound Hong Kong*, a world-class ropes course and a fleet of expedition sea kayaks and open-rigged sailing ketches. All these resources are maintained to international safety standards.

OBHK's public courses cater to people of different ages and needs, taking participants to remote and scenic areas of Hong Kong that most are unaware exist. Hong Kong residents can reclaim up to 80 per cent of the programme fees from the government's Continuing Education Fund, and over 40 per cent of participants receive a scholarship for their course.

OBHK works with multiple community groups and social enterprises, including at-risk youths, recovering drug addicts, people with disabilities and other special needs groups.

Outward Bound Professional works with companies to design programmes that help their staff become more resilient, communicative, cohesive and innovative, ultimately benefiting the

company itself. Programmes for schools, colleges, universities and charities help participants become resilient and compassionate leaders.

Sporting Achievements

The Hong Kong, China delegation achieved the city's best ever result at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games with a haul of one gold, two silver and three bronze medals. Fencer Cheung Ka-long won a gold medal in the men's foil individual, the first Olympic gold since the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and only the second in Hong Kong's history. Swimmer Siobhan Bernadette Haughey won two silvers in the women's 100m freestyle and 200m freestyle, breaking the Asian records in both, and became the first Hong Kong athlete to win two medals at the same Olympics. Cyclist Sarah Lee Wai-size won bronze in the women's sprint (track cycling), her second Olympic medal. Karate athlete Grace Lau Mo-sheung won a bronze in the women's kata and table tennis athletes Doo Hoi-kem, Minnie Soo Wai-yam and Lee Ho-ching claimed a bronze in the women's team event.

At the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, boccia athletes Leung Yuk-wing, Vivian Lau Wai-yan and Wong Kwan-hang won a silver medal in the mixed pairs BC4. Leung Yuk-wing also won bronze in the mixed individual BC4. Badminton players Chu Man-kai and Chan Ho-yuen won silver in the men's singles SH6 and bronze in the men's singles WH2 respectively. Another bronze medal was clinched by table tennis athlete Wong Ting-ting in the women's singles TT11.

Hong Kong athletes also excelled at other international competitions. Siobhan Haughey won gold medals in both the women's 100m and 200m freestyle and bronze in the women's 400m freestyle at the 15th Fédération Internationale de Natation World Swimming Championships (25m). She also became the first Hong Kong swimmer to break a world record when she set a new time in the women's 200m freestyle. She was named the best individual female swimmer at the championships. Grace Lau Mo-sheung won a bronze medal in the female individual kata at the 25th World Karate Federation Senior World Championships. Badminton Olympians Tang Chun-man and Tse Ying-suet won a bronze medal in the mixed doubles at the Badminton World Federation's World Championships 2021.

At the 14th National Games in Shaanxi, the HKSAR delegation attained two gold and five bronze medals. Cyclist Sarah Lee won gold in the women's sprint and bronze in the women's keirin. Lee Sze-wing became the first Hong Kong female cyclist to win a gold medal in the women's individual road race. Cyclist Leung Ka-yu claimed bronze in the men's omnium. Fencers Cheung Siu-lun, Ryan Choi Chun-yin and Yeung Chi-ka won a bronze medal in the men's foil team event while Vivian Kong Man-wai won bronze in the women's epee individual. Karate athlete Lau Chi-ming clinched bronze in the men's individual kata.

The HKSAR delegation concluded the 11th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the 8th National Special Olympic Games of the People's Republic of China with 10 gold, one silver and six bronze medals. Swimmer Wong Hon-yin won a clean sweep of gold medals in each of the five events he competed in and broke the national records for the men's S14 100m backstroke, SM14 200m freestyle and SM14 200m individual medley. Cheong Sui-kei claimed four golds and one silver in her five swimming events while Lip Kin-kwan won bronze in the

men's SB13 100m breaststroke. In the table tennis events, Lee Ming-yip and Tong Chi-ming took gold in the men's doubles and bronze with Tong Chi-yung in the team event; Leung Chung-yan and Tsoi Ming-fai also won a bronze medal in the men's doubles. In athletics, runner Yam Kwok-fan and long-jumper Chow Chi-wai won two bronzes and one bronze respectively.

Recreation and Sports Programmes

The HAB and other organisations, including the LCSD, Department of Health, Education Bureau, Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, NSAs, district sports associations and schools, provide community sports activities at various levels, encouraging people of different backgrounds, ages, abilities and interests to participate in sports regularly so as to promote the culture of 'Sport for All'. In 2021, the LCSD organised some 19,900 recreation and sports programmes for about 770,000 participants of all ages and abilities.

District Sports Teams Training Scheme

A total of 3,541 young people took part in 103 district team events in basketball, football and fencing.

Young Athletes Training Scheme

Training was conducted for 16,849 teenagers in 31 sports disciplines.

Community Sports Club Project

The project, organised by the LCSD in collaboration with the NSAs, supported about 430 community sports clubs in organising 1,978 training activities for 41,175 participants. Seminars and management development programmes were conducted for over 200 sports volunteers to help them run the clubs.

Promotion of School Sports

The School Sports Programme provided 2,898 sporting events for 305,680 students at 511 primary and secondary schools through seven subsidiary programmes: Sport Education, Easy Sport, Outreach Coaching, Joint Schools Sports Training, Sport Captain, the Badges Award Scheme and the Sports Award Scheme. Affected by the pandemic, fewer programmes were held in 2021 than usual.

The Student Athlete Support Scheme, a collaboration between the HAB and the Hong Kong Schools Sports Federation, helps students with financial needs develop their sports potential and pursue sporting goals. In the 2020–21 school year, around \$4 million was allocated to 376 participating schools, benefiting over 9,700 students.

The Opening-up School Facilities for Promotion of Sports Development Scheme provides a subsidy to encourage schools to make their facilities available to sports organisations. In the 2020–21 school year, 168 sports programmes were held by 33 sports organisations at 45 schools under the scheme.

Major Sports Events

Hong Kong is a hub for major international sports events. The 'M' Mark system aims to solicit commercial and community support for NSAs to develop sustainable major international sports events. Under this system, the HAB provides comprehensive support, including matching funds, direct grants, and venue and marketing subsidy support, to NSAs to hold world-class sports events. Due to the pandemic, only two 'M' Mark events were held in 2021.

'Healthy Exercise for All Campaign' and 'Sport For All Day'

The 'Healthy Exercise for All Campaign' is organised jointly by the LCSD and the Department of Health to encourage regular exercise. Owing to the pandemic, only 263 programmes were held in 2021, instead of the usual 1,000, with an attendance of over 22,300. The LCSD's 'Sport For All Day' held every August promotes sport for all in the community by holding free recreation and sports programmes at designated sports centres in all 18 districts and opening most of the fee-charging leisure facilities to the public for free. Sports demonstrations were featured in a live webcast via a dedicated webpage and the 'LCSD Plusss' Facebook page to encourage the public to exercise at home. In 2021, the event registered over 150,000 participants.

Hong Kong Games

The biennial Hong Kong Games and its athlete selection, sports competitions and community participation programmes were postponed for a year.

Sports Funding

Recurrent Government Funding

The government promotes sports development in Hong Kong by encouraging sports in the community, supporting elite sports and projecting the city as a centre for major international sports events. In 2020–21, around 85 per cent of the \$5.98 billion in overall government spending on sports development went into community-level sports promotion.

Arts and Sport Development Fund

The sports portion of the Arts and Sport Development Fund is a major funding source for sports development in Hong Kong. It supports athletes' preparation for and participation in major international competitions; the local hosting of international sports events by NSAs and other sports organisations; the upgrading of school and district programmes to boost community participation; and the development of local football, team sports, and one-off initiatives that are important for the development and promotion of sport in Hong Kong. In 2020–21, the fund approved \$91 million for 80 sports projects.

Sports Subvention Scheme

The LCSD subsidises NSAs and other sports organisations in sports promotion and development. In 2021, subventions totalling about \$484 million were allocated to 62 NSAs and 28 other sports organisations, which held 9,810 programmes for 528,210 participants. Local and international events staged by the subvented NSAs included the Asian Continental Qualifier for 2021 World Rowing Indoor Championships, 2021 Hong Kong Rowing Virtual Indoor Championships, Classic Hong Kong Powerlifting Invitational 2021, 2021 Hong Kong Open

Windsurfing Championships and Fédération Équestre Internationale's Jumping World Challenge 2021 (3rd Competition).

To enhance the NSAs' corporate governance, the LCSD organises seminars to raise awareness among NSAs office bearers and management staff of their roles and responsibilities in effective board practices, strategic planning and risk management. More than 120 NSA representatives attended the seminars in 2021.

Sir David Trench Fund for Recreation (Main Fund)

The Sir David Trench Fund for Recreation (Main Fund) supports NSAs, district sports associations, schools and NGOs to buy equipment and build facilities for physical education and sporting activities. It places emphasis on generating long-term benefits, encouraging the purposeful use of leisure by young people and promoting sports in the community. In 2020–21, the fund approved \$24.2 million for 230 sports projects.

Elite Athletes Development Fund

The Elite Athletes Development Fund provides a stable financial source for the Hong Kong Sports Institute to develop elite sports. The fund allocated in 2021–22 was \$737 million, which would remain the case in 2022–23, alongside an additional \$91 million from the institute's fund reserves.

Hong Kong Athletes Fund

The government's Hong Kong Athletes Fund provides education grants for eligible athletes, one-off grants for eligible retired athletes at the time of retirement from sports training through the Elite Athletes Performance Recognition Scheme, and cash incentives through the Youth Athletes Scholarship Awards for junior athletes participating in major sports events.

Culture and Arts Funding

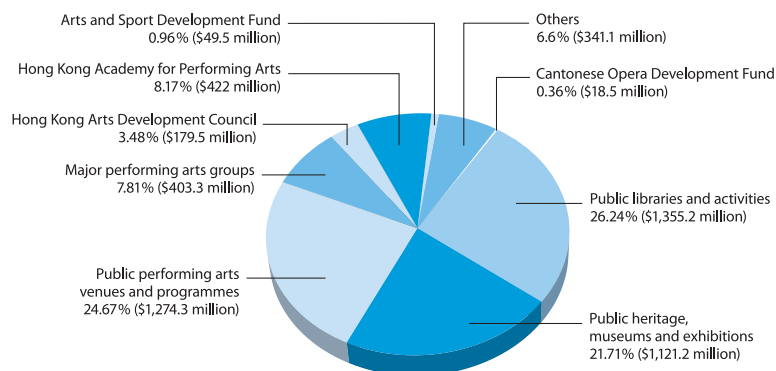
Capital Funding

The government granted an upfront endowment of \$21.6 billion to the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority in 2008 to develop the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) to meet the long-term infrastructural and developmental needs of Hong Kong's arts and culture. The government also set aside \$20 billion in 2018 to improve and develop cultural facilities in 10 years, including the construction of a metropolitan cultural centre at the heart of the Northern Metropolis and a Heritage Conservation and Resource Centre.

Recurrent Funding

In 2020–21, the government earmarked \$5.2 billion, excluding capital works expenditure, for arts groups, education and promotion, and administration. Of this sum, about \$403.3 million went into supporting nine major performing arts groups: the Chung Ying Theatre Company, City Contemporary Dance Company, Hong Kong Ballet, Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, Hong Kong Dance Company, Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Hong Kong Repertory Theatre, Hong Kong Sinfonietta and Zuni Icosahedron.

Chart 1 Provision for Arts and Culture 2020-21



Total government expenditure on arts and culture in 2020–21 was \$5.2 billion.

Arts and Sport Development Fund

The arts portion of the Arts and Sport Development Fund subsidises long-term arts and cultural development through investment returns generated by seed money of \$1.5 billion injected in 2010-11. The Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme seeks to develop the capacity of local artists and arts groups and to promote public-private partnership in local arts development in the form of springboard grants with matching elements and project grants. In 2021, it supported 17 new projects with a total of \$45.38 million. Around \$30 million is also earmarked annually to support projects initiated or recommended by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council.

Cantonese Opera Development Fund

The Cantonese Opera Development Fund helps to preserve, promote and develop Cantonese opera. In 2020–21, it granted about \$18.5 million to support related projects.

Lord Wilson Heritage Trust

The Lord Wilson Heritage Trust provides funding for community organisations and individuals to implement heritage-related projects. Fourteen projects worth \$2.42 million were approved in 2021.

Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund awards scholarships to candidates of outstanding calibre to pursue further studies or training in music or dance in or outside the city. Ten scholarships worth \$3.52 million were awarded in 2021.

Art Development Matching Grants Scheme

The bureau's \$1.7 billion Art Development Matching Grants Scheme seeks to widen funding sources for arts groups and encourage community support for arts and cultural development. It matches the private donations and sponsorships raised by eligible arts groups by providing the corresponding grants.

Intangible Cultural Heritage Funding Scheme

The Intangible Cultural Heritage Funding Scheme, established to engage the community in safeguarding Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage, approved \$66 million for 70 community-driven and partnership projects from 2019 to 2020.

Culture and Arts Venues

West Kowloon Cultural District

The WKCD, set to stretch across 40 hectares along Victoria Harbour, is being developed as an integrated arts and cultural district with world-class facilities. It aims to promote the development of arts and culture, meet the public's growing cultural needs and strengthen Hong Kong's position as an international arts and cultural metropolis.

The WKCD is progressing from the project planning and construction phase to the operational phase. Four major venues are now in operation. M+, with an exhibition space of about 17,000 square metres, is a museum of contemporary visual culture presenting collections that include visual art, design and architecture as well as moving image from Hong Kong, Greater China, Asia and beyond. The Xiqu Centre is dedicated to the conservation and promotion of the *xiqu* art form and includes among its facilities a 1,075-seat theatre. Freespace, Hong Kong's new centre for contemporary performances and a creative space for cutting-edge productions, includes a 'black box' theatre accommodating 900 people standing or 450 seated. The Art Park features a diversity of trees and plants spread across open lawns, with cafes and restaurants on the waterfront promenade against the backdrop of Victoria Harbour. Other major facilities, including the Hong Kong Palace Museum and Lyric Theatre Complex, are planned for completion in the next few years.

The WKCD Authority initiates and co-presents arts and cultural programmes to develop the capacity of the local arts and cultural sector, build audiences, engage the community and nurture young artists. Major initiatives during the year included the Black Box Chinese Opera Festival at the Xiqu Centre and the Freespace Jazz Fest at the Art Park and Freespace.

The LCSD manages 14 performing arts venues and two indoor stadia.

Performing Arts Venues

To enable audiences to enjoy a wide array of performing arts at home during the pandemic, some performance venues procured live streaming systems and high resolution cameras to support the live or recorded broadcast of performances. To tie in with the development of arts technology, performance venues also installed immersive audio systems and real-time stage tracking systems.

Hong Kong Cultural Centre

The Hong Kong Cultural Centre is the territory's premier performing arts facility. It has three main performance venues: a 1,971-seat concert hall, a 1,734-seat grand theatre and a 496-seat studio theatre.

Hong Kong City Hall

Hong Kong City Hall opened in 1962 as the territory's first purpose-built major civic centre. Its main facilities include a 1,430-seat concert hall, a 463-seat theatre and an exhibition hall.

Yau Ma Tei Theatre

Yau Ma Tei Theatre, the only surviving pre-war cinema building in the urban area, is dedicated to nurturing young talent for Cantonese opera. Its venue partner is the Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong.

Regional and District Civic Centres and Theatres

The LCSD runs 11 regional and district civic centres: the Sheung Wan and Sai Wan Ho civic centres on Hong Kong Island; Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre and Ko Shan Theatre and its New Wing in Kowloon; and the Sha Tin, Tsuen Wan, Tuen Mun and North District town halls, Kwai Tsing and Yuen Long theatres and Tai Po Civic Centre in the New Territories.

Indoor Stadia

The 12,500-seat Hong Kong Coliseum and the 3,500-seat Queen Elizabeth Stadium are the territory's premier multi-purpose indoor stadia. With flexible stage and seating configurations, the two stadia host mega sports events, pop concerts, major celebrations and other activities.

Venue Partnership Scheme

This scheme fosters partnerships between the department's performance venues and performing arts groups. It aims to enhance the image and character of individual venues and their partners. The venue partners organised 695 stage performances in conjunction with 700 educational, promotional and audience-building activities in 2021.

Urban Ticketing System

The Urban Ticketing System is one of the most widely used computerised ticketing systems locally. It provides counter ticketing services at about 20 outlets, and also via the internet, telephone and a mobile application. In 2021, the system issued around 1.84 million tickets with proceeds of \$523 million.

Culture and Arts Organisations

Hong Kong Arts Development Council

The Hong Kong Arts Development Council operates grant schemes and plans, promotes, funds and supports the overall development of the arts. It is a beneficiary of the bureau's Art Development Matching Grants Scheme and implements its own matching fund scheme to help small and medium-sized arts organisations.

The council nurtures artists, curators, arts administrators and other arts professionals by providing opportunities for training, cultural exchange, internship and attachment locally and abroad.

During the year, the council organised the Hong Kong exhibition at the Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition that took place in November, jointly with the Hong Kong Institute of Architects Biennale Foundation and in partnership with the Hong Kong Institute of Architects. In May, it took part in Hong Kong Week 2021@Guangzhou and supported performing arts groups and artists to participate in CINARS Web 2021.

To promote the integration of arts and technology, the council organised two interactive arts technology exhibitions with different themes at Youth Square and Tai Po Arts Centre for the Arts Ambassadors-in-School Scheme, attracting over 4,000 participants in 11 days in August.

The council runs an Arts-in-School Partnership Scheme to foster cooperation between arts groups and schools while promoting better use of campuses as arts spaces. It also operates one arts space each in Lai Chi Kok and Tai Po, and two in Kwun Tong.

Arts research and policy advocacy are part of the council's main tasks. Through an annual survey, it collects data on performing arts, visual arts, film and literary arts activities. Publications on the arts are produced yearly in collaboration with professional and academic groups. The council also conducted a study to collect views from the public towards non-physical participation of arts activities, and released the results in September.

Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts

The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts offers professional education, training and research facilities in the performing arts: Chinese opera, dance, drama, film and TV, music, and theatre and entertainment arts. In the QS World University Rankings for Performing Arts 2021, the academy ranked first in Asia and 10th globally.

During 2021, 880 students enrolled in undergraduate and post-secondary programmes in the six performing arts disciplines. Another 148 students were pursuing master's degree programmes in dance, drama, film and TV, music, and theatre and entertainment arts. The academy also admitted more than 660 students to its junior programmes and around 2,000 students to its Extension and Continuing Education for Life programme.

Hong Kong Arts Centre

The self-financing Hong Kong Arts Centre promotes contemporary arts and culture. It features the works of local and overseas artists, and provides facilities for performances, films and exhibitions. The centre's Hong Kong Art School runs higher diploma and degree courses on fine art, and offers short programmes on a wide variety of arts subjects.

Fringe Club

The Fringe Club is housed in what used to be a cold-storage warehouse built in 1890, now listed as a Grade 1 historical building and adapted for use as a contemporary arts space. It houses three theatres, and holds regular exhibitions in different spaces throughout the building. The club adopts an open access policy to nurture budding artists and promote mature artists by providing venue and publicity support as well as opportunities for overseas tours. In 2021, 168 exhibitions and music and drama performances were organised.

Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre

The Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre is a multidisciplinary arts village and arts centre housed in a converted nine-storey decommissioned factory estate in Shek Kip Mei. It leases studio facilities to more than 140 artists and cultural organisations, and provides exhibition and performance facilities, including the Central Courtyard, galleries and the Jockey Club Black Box Theatre.

During the year, although the number of regular programmes including arts education activities for schools as well as large-scale programmes for the public such as the annual JCCAC Festival, the quarterly Handicraft Fair, open-air film screenings, exhibitions and docent guided tours were reduced in scale or cancelled due to the pandemic, alternative methods, like online workshops and exhibitions, were explored to stay connected with the public. There were around 190,000 visitors to the centre in 2020-21.

Major Performing Arts Groups

Chung Ying Theatre Company

The company is a professional theatrical arts group. In 2021, it staged a musical, *The Women in Kenzo*, streamed its *Pride and Prejudice* production and held a live meet-the-artists session, continuing the cultural exchange with the Mainland.

City Contemporary Dance Company

The company is a professional modern dance group that nurtures creative dance talent in the context of contemporary China. In the 2021 dance season, it created a number of new works, including *Days are Numbered*, *Luck-quacka*, *Home Sweet Home*, *2nd Stage* and *Dancing Never Stops*, and held the City Contemporary Dance Festival with the theme 'Danzcation'.

Hong Kong Ballet

This is one of Asia's premier ballet companies. In 2021, it presented *turn(it)out festival* (online), Balanchine's *Jewels*, *Romeo + Juliet*, *Alice (in wonderland)*, *The Sleeping Beauty* and the Hong Kong version of *The Nutcracker*. The company collaborated with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra to present the new short film *Amadeus (a cyberpunk dream)*, and screened *Alice (in wonderland)* at Hong Kong Week 2021@Guangzhou. The company's online channel 'HKBallet@Home' won the Excellence in Video Marketing award at the 2021 HKMA/ViuTV & Now TV Awards for Marketing Excellence.

Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra

The orchestra is the only professional, full-sized Chinese orchestra in Hong Kong. During the year, the orchestra organised over 300 online programmes. It is the first arts group in Hong Kong to set up a recital hall with 5G 4K live broadcast equipment. The Net Concert Hall, also set up by the orchestra, promotes and streams Chinese music around the world.

Hong Kong Dance Company

The company promotes Chinese dance with Hong Kong characteristics. In 2021, it staged performances of *The Moon Opera*, *Shan Shui: An Ode to Nature*, *Waiting Heart* and *Nine Songs*. It also adopted 5G technology to promote arts online and experimented with 5G live streams

of a dance workshop, a rehearsal, a pre-show activity, a book launch event and the performance *here and there* in 4K.

Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

The orchestra is recognised as one of Asia's foremost classical orchestras. During 2021, music director Jaap van Zweden returned to conduct the sold-out season opening concerts. The annual extravaganza 'Swire *Symphony Under the Stars*' resumed in Central Harbourfront with, for the first time, live-streaming and a live relay at the West Kowloon Cultural District Art Park. Resident conductor Lio Kuok-man was named among the Hong Kong Ten Outstanding Young Persons of 2021.

Hong Kong Repertory Theatre

The company seeks to develop creative and diverse theatrical productions of Chinese and western works and local originals. Its eight productions in 2021 included *A Winter Funeral*, *Le Père*, *The Finale of Mr AD*, *Road to Damascus* and *Ambiguous*, as well as a cinema-screening of *Principle*. Two Putonghua co-productions, *Deling and Cixi* and *The Last Supper*, toured in the Mainland. The company won six awards at the 4th Chinese Theatre Awards, Best Actor and Best Actress of the Year at the 2021 One Drama Awards and the 1st International Theatre Academy Award (Directing Award).

Hong Kong Sinfonietta

The symphony orchestra is internationally renowned for its innovative programming. It co-presented its first-ever film festival 'Life is Art 2021', premiering three original concert film productions and making classical music more accessible. Several sold-out concerts were produced, featuring overseas artists travelling to Hong Kong despite the quarantine requirements, including principal guest conductor Christoph Poppen, legendary violinist Dmitry Sitkovetsky and trumpet virtuoso Sergei Nakariakov. It also commissioned its first symphonic musical *Pica Pica Choose*.

Zuni Icosahedron

Zuni is Hong Kong's leading pioneer troupe of experimental theatre. 'X-Xperimenting Exhibition – Danny Yung 50 Year Creations' showed how Zuni's founder has been inspiring the development of Asian and International arts and cultural exchange. Its artistic director Mathias Woo curated the 'Zuni Innovation Lab' project, which has been playing a leading role in popularising arts technology. The main programmes of the Zuni theatre season, 'Hong Kong in Experiment' included *HK: A Theatre of Life and Death*, *The Tao of Fashion*, *Bach is Heart Sutra*, *The Trial 2021* and *2 or 3 Things About Interrupted Dream*.

Cultural Presentations

Programmes

Affected by the pandemic, around 132,000 people attended 476 performances featuring mainly local artists and arts groups, as well as screenings of visiting dance and multi-arts programmes. Highlights included the series of music programmes *Gingers' Tonic*; multimedia meditation

production *The Light of Metempsychosis; The Originals (Reimagined)* – Hong Kong Musicals in Concert; and new Cantonese opera *The Asura Judgment*.

Film Screenings

The LCSD organised more than 330 film screenings, online programmes and media arts programmes, attracting over 38,000 people and online viewers.

Arts Education and Audience-building Projects

The LCSD organised four lantern decorations and 491 district cultural programmes, drawing over 433,000 people. It also organised 1,007 arts education and audience building activities in schools and public venues to encourage participation in cultural activities, including the Community Cultural Ambassador Scheme.

Other Online Programmes

To enhance audiences' awareness of arts through online programmes, over 140 episodes of 'Click for Arts' were produced, including performances and introductory arts appreciation. Online hits exceeded 900,000.

Cultural exchange programmes scheduled for 2021 with the Greater Bay Area were postponed to 2022. Meanwhile, three online programmes by local arts groups and artists were launched on Mainland online platforms, attracting over 1.98 million viewers.

Major Culture and Arts Events

Hong Kong Arts Festival

The 49th Hong Kong Arts Festival presented 28 online programmes in 2021 including real-time live performances by international artists. Thirty-five performances were presented after the re-opening of venues.

The opening concert by the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra was live streamed and kept available online. The finale was a specially produced online performance by the Igor Moiseyev ballet from Russia.

International Arts Carnival

The International Arts Carnival brought family audiences fun-filled online and stage performances. Over 27,700 participants and 337,000 views were drawn by 140 festival activities and 22 online episodes of varied programmes including musicals, dramas, puppetry and multimedia concerts.

New Vision Arts Festival

The 10th New Vision Arts Festival commissioned local and overseas artists to create 74 live events and 26 cyber shows, attracting an audience of over 22,200 in person and 317,000 online.

Hong Kong Week

The second edition of Hong Kong Week was held in Guangzhou from 17 April to 5 June in a hybrid of physical and online events. The festival showcased performing arts, exhibitions and film screenings in 57 performances and activities with a viewership of over 2.57 million.

Muse Fest HK

Running from 1 October to 31 December, Muse Fest HK 2021 brought together all LCSD museums and cultural venues to engage the public with 94 diverse programmes. They included exhibitions of a wide range of topics, fun days, curators' talks and workshops. The festival attracted an audience of more than 980,000 in person or online.

Museums

The LCSD manages 14 museums, two visual arts centres and a film archive.

Hong Kong Museum of Art

In 2021, the Hong Kong Museum of Art presented the 'Mythologies: Surrealism and Beyond – Masterpieces from Centre Pompidou' exhibition. It also staged exhibitions of significant donations, including 'Works of the Second Donation of the Chih Lo Lou Collection of Chinese Painting and Calligraphy' and 'Contemplation: Highlights of the Donation of the Jingguanlou Collection'. The large-scale outdoor installation 'Rediscovering Landscape' trilogy received two international awards – DNA Paris Design Awards 2021 (Landscape Design) and Singapore Good Design Awards 2021 (Interior Design). The museum attracted 619,000 visitors in 2021.

The museum also applied arts technology to complement exhibitions, such as a robotic installation work 'Artificial Reality' to respond to the surrealist art thematic exhibition. The museum's 'virtually@HKMoA' online platform enabled the public to enjoy art at home. The 'Museum Visitor Experience Programme – Stamp by Me' received the Gold Award (Most Innovative Use of Mobile Technology) at the Mob-Ex Awards 2021.

The Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware, a branch of the Hong Kong Museum of Art, features tea ware and related artefacts as well as rare Chinese ceramics and seals. It organised the 2021 Tea Ware by Hong Kong Potters competition to stimulate interest in local ceramic arts. The museum received 54,000 visitors in 2021.

Hong Kong Museum of History

The Hong Kong Museum of History presented the 'Recreating a Classic: The Best Features of the Hong Kong Story' and 'History Through the Lens: Photographs of Early Hong Kong' exhibitions. More than 273,000 people visited the museum during the year.

It organises a rich array of education programmes to meet the needs of different audience groups. An inter-school competition on project learning was held to enhance teachers and students' understanding of Hong Kong's history and culture.

The museum uploaded video recordings of talks and lectures to support history learning and research activities, and to reach a larger audience during the pandemic.

The Museum of History manages five branch museums: the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence, Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum, Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery, Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum and Law Uk Folk Museum.

The Museum of Coastal Defence is converted from the old Lei Yue Mun Fort. It is closed for a revamp, during which outreach and online programmes such as travelling exhibitions, workshops and lectures are arranged to promote Hong Kong's military history.

Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum, housed in the declared monument Kom Tong Hall in Central, runs two permanent exhibitions about Dr Sun's life and career, and organises educational programmes relating to Dr Sun and the history of modern China. It attracted over 46,000 visitors in the year.

The Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery displays the decommissioned fireboat, as well as relics and materials related to the history of the fireboat and sea rescue services in Hong Kong. Some 48,000 people visited the gallery during the year.

Hong Kong Heritage Museum

The Hong Kong Heritage Museum explores the city's diverse cultures through exhibitions on art, design and history. The 'Hong Kong Pop 60+' permanent exhibition, opened on 28 July, features over 1,000 exhibits and interactive installations on the development of Hong Kong popular culture from the post-war period to the 2000s. The revamped version of 'A Man Beyond the Ordinary: Bruce Lee' opened on 27 November – Lee's 81st birthday. The museum jointly organised 'The Hong Kong Jockey Club Series: Tsar of All Russia. Holiness and Splendour of Power' with the Moscow Kremlin Museums, bringing to Hong Kong 170 sets of exquisite court treasures.

The museum organised guided tours, talks and online programmes to help visitors appreciate the exhibitions. Its MuseKids membership scheme and MuseTeens: Youth Leadership Scheme enabled participants to explore Hong Kong's heritage and culture through a wide array of activities.

The museum manages two branch museums: Railway Museum and Sheung Yiu Folk Museum. The former is situated in the old Tai Po Market Railway Station with a station building constructed in 1913, while the latter is located in a Hakka village built in the late 19th century. The Railway Museum's exhibition gallery opened in August with new exhibits after maintenance. In 2021, the Heritage Museum had around 337,000 visitors, the Railway Museum 131,000 and Sheung Yiu Folk Museum 27,000.

Hong Kong Science Museum

In 2021, the Hong Kong Science Museum opened a new Earth Science Gallery featuring over 28 sets of interactive exhibits and models about the structure of the Earth, how the Earth works, global warming and the stunning geology of Hong Kong. 'The Science Behind Pixar' exhibition demonstrated the technology that supports the creativity and artistry of Pixar's storytellers.

The museum cooperated with 71 scientific and government bodies to present HK SciFest 2021. The Croucher Science Week was presented online by science communicators from the United Kingdom and the United States to engage students and families in a series of science-related activities.

The museum organised a series of outreach programmes including 'Science Cafe', online 'QK Post' and the French Science Festival to promote science in daily life. In 2021, the museum had more than 1.08 million visitors.

Hong Kong Space Museum

The Hong Kong Space Museum organises regular astronomy activities on-site and holds stargazing and family programmes at its Astropark and iObservatory in Sai Kung. Its Space Theatre is equipped with digital planetarium projection and sound systems and offers Omnimax, 3D Dome and Sky shows. Its permanent exhibition halls house interactive exhibits. Astronomy and space science are introduced through interesting hands-on exhibits.

In 2021, some 490,000 people visited the museum while its educational and extension programmes had more than 8,000 participants.

Hong Kong Film Archive

The Hong Kong Film Archive preserves Hong Kong's film heritage, facilitates research and brings film art to the community. In 2021, the archive marked its 20th anniversary with celebration programmes under the theme 'Acquisition and Sharing', which included the 'Treasure-Hunt Stories' showcasing 36 archival gems, the exhibition 'Out of the Past – From the Tai Ping Treasure Trove', a fun day, and the online symposium 'Exploring Hong Kong Films of the 1930s-1940s'. More than 44,000 visitors were attracted to its exhibitions and over 130 screenings, seminars and post-screening talks. During the year, the archive acquired 1,347 film-related materials.

Public Libraries

The LCSD operates 70 static and 12 mobile libraries and a books registration office. The libraries hold 13.48 million books and 1.77 million multimedia items, serving 4.77 million book borrowers and lending more than 29.2 million books and other library materials in 2021. While library services and opening hours were seriously disrupted by the pandemic, the libraries enhanced the promotion of online resources.

Hong Kong Central Library

The Hong Kong Central Library is a major information and cultural centre, with a reference and lending stock of over 2.8 million books and other reading materials, multimedia facilities, a central reference library with six subject departments, an arts resource centre, a Hong Kong literature room, a map library, a language learning centre, a young adult library and a toy library. It offers for hire a 1,540-square-metre exhibition gallery, a 290-seat lecture theatre, two activity rooms, a music practice room and eight discussion rooms.

The Central Library organises cultural programmes and public lectures, and promotes a reading culture, documentary heritage preservation and information dissemination.

Improvements to Library Services

In 2021, the Sha Tau Kok Public Library, Sau Mau Ping Public Library and Fanling South Public Library moved to new premises with enhanced reading environments, facilities and services.

Hong Kong Public Libraries continued to enrich the content of its online catalogue with book cover images and summaries of local publications provided under the Pilot Programme for Promotion of Local Publications and Reading Culture.

Reference and Information Services

Professional reference and information services are available at the Central Library and the public libraries of City Hall, Kowloon, Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai, Sha Tin, Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun.

Information Technology and Digital Library Services

Online services are integral to the public libraries' reference and information services. The libraries provide more than 1,900 computers giving public access to their electronic resources and the internet. For remote internet access, 418,500 e-books are available to registered members. The libraries also subscribe to over 80 e-databases, some of which are accessible through the internet. The adoption of iAM Smart integration on the Library Portal in December made it more convenient for readers to use online services.

Promotion of Reading and Literary Arts

During 2021, the public libraries conducted over 14,000 activities under the 'Discover and Share the Joy of Reading – Unlock the Secrets@Library' campaign. The Hong Kong Library Festival 2021 was held with various online and onsite activities, and the Hong Kong Biennial Awards for Chinese Literature and the Chinese Poetry Writing Competition continued to commend local writers for their outstanding achievements and to encourage creative writing.

Books Registration Office

The Books Registration Office registers local publications and monitors the use of the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) system. It publishes the Catalogue of Books Printed in Hong Kong in the Government Gazette every three months. The catalogue can also be viewed online. In 2021, the office registered 14,559 books and 5,744 periodicals, and issued 654 publisher prefixes totalling 9,963 ISBNs.

Heritage

Cantonese Opera

The government is keen to preserve, promote and develop Cantonese opera in Hong Kong. The Cantonese Opera Education and Information Centre at the Ko Shan Theatre New Wing provides digitised and interactive Cantonese opera resources. In 2021, the centre received around 3,500 visitors.

The Academy for Performing Arts runs the city's first Cantonese opera degree course. The Arts Development Council funds training programmes conducted by the Cantonese Opera Academy of Hong Kong.

Intangible Cultural Heritage

The Intangible Cultural Heritage Office organises activities to enhance public knowledge of Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage. It launched the third round of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Funding Scheme in 2021 to engage the community in safeguarding and promoting intangible cultural heritage.

The office's Hong Kong Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre at Sam Tung Uk Museum holds exhibitions and other programmes to raise public understanding of intangible cultural heritage. After a major revamp, the 'Lost and Sound – Hong Kong Intangible Cultural Heritage' exhibition was launched in 2021 to showcase the wisdom of folk craftsmanship and the vibrancy of folk culture. It recorded over 32,000 visitors.

An exhibition showcasing Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage was organised at the 4th China International Import Expo in Shanghai in 2021. It was ranked third in terms of media coverage and popularity among the expo's cultural exchange programmes.

Lord Wilson Heritage Trust

This trust aims to preserve and conserve Hong Kong's human heritage by organising activities and funding community organisations and individuals to implement heritage-related projects. It approved 14 projects in 2021.

Conservation Office

The Conservation Office provides preservation and conservation services for museum artefacts, including paintings, prints, historical documents, textiles, metals, ceramics, sculptures, organic objects and archaeological finds. Scientific research and analyses were conducted to complement the conservation work for 438 artefacts in 2021.

In addition to educational workshops, the office conducted a live streaming session on preservation of historical documents.

Nurturing Talent

Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund

Scholarships are awarded to candidates of outstanding calibre to pursue postgraduate studies in music or dance at degree-awarding tertiary education institutions in Hong Kong; professional music or dance training at world-renowned institutions; or less formal studies, projects or creative work outside Hong Kong. The fund awarded 10 scholarships in 2021.

Arts Administrator Trainee Scheme

The scheme aims to nurture a pool of arts administrators and stage management staff to support the development of performing arts. The LCSD also sponsored its 22 venue partners and the Hong Kong Arts Festival to run similar programmes.

Museum Trainee Scheme

The scheme aims to develop museum professionals. Trainees are attached to museums and the Conservation Office to receive two years' on-the-job training in museum management or conservation services.

Music Office

The Music Office promotes knowledge and appreciation of music, especially among young people, by providing instrumental and ensemble training and organising music activities. During the pandemic, the office arranged many music training courses and activities online, which attracted over 6,800 trainees and 101,000 participants in 2021.

Visual and Public Art

Art Promotion Office

In 2021, the Art Promotion Office launched the 'Hi! Flora, Fauna' public art project aiming to explore stories about the Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens and the relationship between humans and nature. It also launched the 'Lamma Mia' public art project at Sok Kwu Wan, Lamma Island. Fifteen artists/groups were engaged to create artworks inspired by the wisdom, historical stories and cultural elements of the island.

The office opens up new opportunities for cross-regional collaboration and supports artists to take part in outbound art events. It worked with the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale to showcase the works of local artist Lam Tung-pang in Hong Kong House in Tsunan, Japan, and also collaborated with the Hong Kong Designers Association to present the work of artists and designers in the 'Art><Creativity' exhibition series in the Greater Bay Area.

Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre (vA!)

The Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre is an open, multidirectional art space that focuses on art learning, research and exchange. It organises arts activities and provides facilities for hire. Major programmes during the year included the 'Art Specialist Course 20th Anniversary Exhibition', the 'art talk' online broadcast and the online programme 'Today is Yesterday's Tomorrow – Dream Sequence'.

Oil Street Art Space (Oi!)

Oi! is a platform for art practitioners to realise their artistic creations and invite community engagement. Projects in 2021 included 'Flow', 'Xchange: Make Over Make Good' and 'People-Plant-Place'.

Websites

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department: www.afcd.gov.hk

Home Affairs Bureau: www.hab.gov.hk

Hong Kong Public Libraries: www.hkpl.gov.hk

Hong Kong public museums: www.museums.gov.hk

Leisure and Cultural Services Department: www.lcsd.gov.hk