



Overview

It is the Government's policy to provide an environment conducive to artistic expression and creation that encourages participation in all aspects of cultural life. The culture and creative sector is one of six sectors where Hong Kong enjoys distinct advantages. The Government supports the cultural and creative industries to develop high quality arts programmes and promote arts and creativity in the community.

CreateHK

CreateHK, set up in 2009, is a major step towards making Hong Kong a creative capital. Working closely with the trade, it co-ordinates Government policy on creative industries. CreateHK oversees the management of the \$250 million (US\$32 million) DesignSmart Initiative, the \$320 million (US\$41 million) Film Development Fund and the \$300 million (US\$39 million) CreateSmart Initiative.

InnoCentre

InnoCentre was set up in 2006 as a one-stop shop bridging designers and users of design services. It offers a design incubation programme for start-up companies as well as design education, training and professional development programmes. The Centre also provides Grade A office space.

Hong Kong Design Centre

Established in 2001, the Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC) works to develop Hong Kong into a centre of design excellence in Asia, promoting design and innovation to create value for society.

Its flagship programmes include the Business of Design Week, Reinventing with Design and the HKDC Awards. In 2010, HKDC staged the highly successful 'Hong Kong: Creative Ecologies' programme at the World Expo held in Shanghai. The year-long programme continues in Hong Kong until May 2011.

Cyberport Digital Entertainment Incubation-cum-Training Centre

This Centre, established in 2005, helps small and medium-sized enterprises enhance entrepreneurship and commercial success in the local digital entertainment industry.

Digital Media Centre

The Digital Media Centre (DMC) located at Cyberport assists new companies, individual enterprises and digital media institutes with facilities and services to produce digital films, animations, video, music and sound mixing.

Urban Design

Ingenuous feats of architecture and engineering, within the constraints of limited space and difficult terrain, have produced what is arguably the world's best example of high-rise living and some of its most iconic structures.

Iconic buildings include: International Commerce Centre, Two International Finance Centre, HSBC Building, Bank of China Tower and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University's School of Design, which is under progress.

Other unique structures include the outdoor covered escalator system leading to the Mid-Levels, the longest of its kind in the world, and the labyrinth of raised walkways and footbridges connecting hotels, commercial buildings and shopping centres in Central, which allows pedestrians to move easily and comfortably come rain or shine.

The Hong Kong International Airport, designed by Foster + Partners and completed in 1998, has been ranked one of the top 10 construction achievements of the 20th century.

West Kowloon Cultural District

In a visionary move, the Government has made an upfront endowment of \$21.6 billion (US\$2.8 billion) to develop a prime 40-hectare waterfront site in West Kowloon into a world-class integrated arts and cultural district. Foster + Partners' 'City Park' concept was adopted for the project.

Arts and Culture

Hong Kong boasts a lively arts and culture scene. Throughout the year, a rich variety of arts and cultural events, featuring local and international performers, players and artists, take place in the city.

They include the city's premier arts event, the Hong Kong Arts Festival, and the Hong Kong International Film Festival, Le French May, the International Arts Carnival, the New Vision Arts Festival and the World's Cultures Arts Festival series.

In 2009, the 300-year-old art of Cantonese opera was added to UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

World-class artists and troupes who have performed in Hong Kong over the past two years include the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, St Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Latvian National Opera, the English National Ballet and the National Ballet of China.

The Man Hong Kong International Literary Festival, launched in 2001, has become one of the biggest celebrations of creative English writing in Asia. In 2007, the Man Asian Literary Prize was inaugurated to recognise Asian literature in English.

The biennial Hong Kong Literature Festival and the Hong Kong Biennial Awards for Chinese Literature are among the leading regional events dedicated to the appreciation of Chinese literature.

Hong Kong has hosted the Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum (ACCF) since 2003 to foster regional cultural co-operation and exchange.

Museums

The Hong Kong Museum of Art presents regular and special exhibitions of both Chinese and Western art. To encourage local talent in the visual arts, the museum has hosted the Hong Kong Contemporary Art Biennial Awards Exhibitions since 1975. The Hong Kong Museum of History stages the popular permanent exhibition 'The Hong Kong Story', tracing Hong Kong's history from the distant past.

The Dr. Sun Yat-sen Museum, housed in the renovated splendour of the historical Kom Tong Hall, introduces the life and revolutionary activities of the famous man.

The Hong Kong Heritage Museum is a multi-disciplinary museum which explores Hong Kong's vibrant culture.

The Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence is also popular. The Hong Kong Science Museum promotes public awareness and interest in science and technology, including astronomy and space science.

New Homes in Old Buildings for the Creative Industries

- The former Police Married Quarters on Hollywood Road will be transformed into a creative industries landmark called PMQ.
- The former Lai Chi Kok Hospital premises will be turned into a centre to promote Chinese arts and culture.
- The prestigious US arts school, the Savannah College of Arts and Design, opened its school in Asia, housed in a historic Hong Kong court house, in September 2010.

Arts Development Council

The Hong Kong Arts Development Council is dedicated to planning, promoting and supporting the broad development of the arts in Hong Kong, including the literary, performing and visual arts, and film and media arts.

Local Artistic Talent

The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, established in 1984, offers courses in music, dance, drama, Cantonese opera, theatre and entertainment arts, film and television. Programmes range from foundation courses to master's degrees. It is also a performance venue.

Professional and amateur theatre companies of all shapes and sizes perform across the city, of which the Hong Kong

Repertory Theatre, the Chung Ying Theatre Company and Zuni Icosahedron, are among the best known.

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra and the Hong Kong Sinfonietta perform regularly to sell-out audiences.

The Hong Kong Ballet is one of Asia's leading classical ballet companies, while the Hong Kong Dance Company focuses on Chinese traditional and folk dances. The City Contemporary Dance Company often performs overseas to much critical acclaim.

Film

For decades, Hong Kong was home to one of the largest movie industries in the world. The city was the setting for many classic movies, and continues to be a favourite location for foreign film productions. Hong Kong's actors and film industry have won many international awards.

Hong Kong's significant contribution to the world cinema is preserved and promoted by the Hong Kong Film Archive, which organises thematic exhibitions and retrospectives at home and overseas.

The seventh Entertainment Expo Hong Kong, held from March 21–April 17, 2011, featured 10 spectacular events covering a global mix of film, TV, music and digital entertainment.

The Hong Kong International Film Festival – part of Entertainment Expo – is one of Asia's leading cinematic platforms. The 35th Festival in 2011 screened 335 films from 55 countries and regions, and attracted many leading directors from around the world.

A recent trend has seen Hong Kong films and co-productions opening up the Mainland China market with considerable success.

For more information, please visit www.lcsd.gov.hk