

Arts, culture and sports

Overview

Hong Kong is developing hardware and software to reinforce the city's status as an **international cultural and sports hub**.

Arts and Culture

The 2018 Policy Address announced a new injection of HK\$1 billion (US\$128 million) into the **Film Development Fund** to provide more opportunities under the **First Feature Film Initiative** as well as the **Film Production Financing Scheme**. This is in addition to an earlier injection of HK\$1 billion into the **CreateSmart Initiative** for non-film creative sectors.

Additional funding of HK\$176 million will be given to the **Leisure and Cultural Services Department** (LCSD) to host large-scale world-class performing arts programmes and provide telecasts of selected mega shows across the city in the coming five years.

Hong Kong has:

- **14 public museums** draw about 5 million visitors annually.
- **Over 1,000 groups** offer around 8,000 performing arts shows annually.
- **9 major performing arts groups:** Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra; Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra; Hong Kong Repertory Theatre; Hong Kong Dance Company; Hong Kong Sinfonietta; Hong Kong Ballet; City Contemporary Dance Company; Chung Ying Theatre Company; and Zuni Icosahedron.
- **Major events** year-round: Art Basel Hong Kong, Art Central, Fine Art Asia, Ink Asia, Hong Kong Arts Festival, Hong Kong International Film Festival, Le French May, Chinese Opera Festival, International Arts Carnival, Lumieres Hong Kong, Business of Design Week, and, in alternate years, the New Vision Arts Festival, World Cultures Festival and the Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum.
- **West Kowloon Cultural District** is one of the world's largest cultural projects. Major venues have started to open.
- **Tai Kwun – Centre for Heritage and Arts**, encompassing 16 heritage buildings, including the former Central Police Station, Victoria Prison and Central Magistracy, is a new cultural hub offering multi-purpose venues for a full array of artistic offerings from home and abroad to enrich Hong Kong's cultural life.
- **Hong Kong Museum of Art** will reopen in November 2019 after major renovations; construction of the **East Kowloon Cultural Centre** is underway.

Other initiatives

- **Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme** was launched in 2011 to nurture small and medium-sized arts groups and budding artists.
- The HK\$800 million **Art Development Matching Grants Scheme** encourages the community and private sector to sponsor arts and cultural activities.
- **HK\$216 million** earmarked from 2018-19 to 2023-24 to continue the **arts administrators training scheme**.
- **Sham Shui Po Design and Fashion Project** to nurture young designers and support fashion design start-ups. Expected completion 2023-24.

Intangible Cultural Heritage

In the 2018-19 Budget, the Financial Secretary allocated HK\$300 million to strengthen the protection, promotion and transmission of Hong Kong's Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH).

- **Cantonese opera** – first Hong Kong facet inscribed on UNESCO's "Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity", in September 2009.
- **First "Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Hong Kong"** announced in August 2017 – **20 items** (of which 10 inscribed on the national list of ICH) **of high cultural value and in urgent need of preservation**: nanyin (southern tunes); the spring and autumn ancestral worship of clans; Tin Hau Festival; Mid-Autumn Festival – the Pok Fu Lam fire dragon dance; Taoist ritual tradition of the Zhengyi school; sek pun (basin feast); Hong Kong-style milk tea-making technique; paper crafting technique; the sewing techniques of Hong Kong-style cheongsam and kwan kwa wedding costume; bamboo theatre building technique; Cantonese opera; herbal tea; Cheung Chau Jiao Festival; Tai O dragon boat water parade; Mid-Autumn Festival – the Tai Hang Fire Dragon Dance; Yu Lan Ghost Festival of the Hong Kong Chiu Chow community; the arts of the guqin (the craft of qin making); Quanzhen temples Taoist ritual music; Hakka unicorn dance in Hang Hau, Sai Kung; and, Wong Tai Sin belief and customs.
- LCSD launched the **ICH Funding Scheme** in March 2019 for community-driven projects.

West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD)

- The WKCD is one of the world's largest cultural infrastructure projects. When fully developed, it will be a vibrant cultural space that will place Hong Kong at the forefront of the global art, cultural and entertainment scene.
- **M+ Pavilion** (opened 2016); **Xiqu Centre** for Cantonese opera and other forms of Chinese traditional theatre (opened January 2019); **Art Park** (opening in phases from 2018); **Freespace** (opened June 2019); **M+**, a museum on visual culture (to open by early 2021); **Lyric Theatre Complex** (to be completed around 2023).
- **Hong Kong Palace Museum** (to open in 2022) is a unique collaboration with the Palace Museum in Beijing to exhibit its extensive collection outside the Mainland on a long-term basis.
- **West Kowloon Cultural District Authority** (WKCDA) will give priority to the Music Centre (which will include a Concert Hall and a Recital Hall) and is planning to build an Exhibition Centre under public-private partnership.
- WKCDA pursues **international cultural collaboration**.
- **WKCD financing**: WKCDA received a HK\$21.6 billion upfront endowment from the Government in 2008; in 2017, the Government announced enhanced financial arrangements, granting development rights of the hotel/office/residential portion of the district to the authority.

Sports

The Government supports the development of sports and promotes sports in the community, elite sports development and the promotion of Hong Kong as a centre for major international sports events. The bulk of Government spending on sports development goes to the promotion of sports in the community, which accounts for over 80% of overall expenditure.

Hong Kong has:

- 100 public **indoor sports centres** with an annual average usage rate of the main arenas at about 86%.
- 44 public **swimming pool complexes** with attendance of over 14 million annually.
- Over 38,000 **recreation and sports activities** for over 2 million people annually.

- The Hong Kong Sports Institute has 1,300 **athletes** (including 500 full-time athletes) and 20 Tier A sports.
- **Major sports events in 2019** include: Hong Kong Marathon, Masters of Hong Kong (Equestrian), FIA Formula E Hong Kong E-Prix, Hong Kong Sevens, ITTF World Tour - Hong Kong Open, FIVB Volleyball Nations League, Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Races, Kitchee Vs Manchester City Football Exhibition Match, Hong Kong Tennis Open, Harbour Race, World Rowing Coastal Championships, Hong Kong Open Badminton Championships, Hong Kong Open (Golf), UCI Track Cycling World Cup Hong Kong, China and Hong Kong Squash Open.

New funding initiatives in 2019

- The 2019-20 Budget earmarked HK\$100 million additional resources to 60 national sports associations and HK\$250 million for the **Hong Kong Athletes Fund**.
- To strengthen capacity of sports organisations to train athletes and host events, HK\$1 billion is injected into the Sports Portion of the **Arts and Sport Development Fund**.
- To strengthen the promotion of sports at district level and to encourage wider participation of the public in district sports programmes, HK\$100 million will be allocated for the five-year **District Sports Programmes Funding Scheme** to provide additional resources for 21 District Sports Associations to organise more programmes.
- From April 2019, the matching fund ceiling has increased to HK\$10 million for each major sports event.

Kai Tak Sports Park

Kai Tak Sports Park, covering 28 hectares, is the Government's most significant investment in sports infrastructure in recent years. When finished, it will be Hong Kong's largest sports precinct, providing modern, multi-purpose sports and recreation facilities to strengthen the development of Hong Kong into a centre for major international sports events, promote sports in the community and support our elite athletes. It is scheduled for completion in 2023.

Five-Year Plan for Sports and Recreation Facilities

In 2017 the Government announced a **Five-Year Plan** to develop new sports and recreation facilities and improve old ones. The Plan covers 26 projects costing about HK\$20 billion and feasibility studies for another 15 projects. By the first quarter of 2019, pre-construction and construction work on 10 projects, involving HK\$4.6 billion in spending, had commenced.