

## Arts, culture and sports

### Overview

Hong Kong is developing cultural hardware and software in tandem to reinforce the city's strong credentials as an **international cultural and sporting metropolis**.

### Arts and culture

In the 2018-19 Budget, the Financial Secretary (FS) earmarked **HK\$20 billion (US\$2.5 billion) to improve and develop cultural facilities** (including the construction of the New Territories East Cultural Centre and Heritage Conservation and Resource Centre, expansion of Hong Kong Science Museum and the Museum of History etc). In addition, **HK\$500 million was allocated for acquisition of museum collections** and holding exhibitions, **HK\$370 million to support arts groups and artists**, and **HK\$200 million for the promotion of reading culture**.

Hong Kong has:

- **14 public museums** draw about 5 million visitors annually.
- **Over 1,000 arts groups** offer around 8,000 performing arts shows annually.
- **9 flagship 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.
- **Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme** launched in 2011 to nurture small and medium-sized arts groups and budding artists.
- **HK\$300 million Art Development Matching Grants Pilot Scheme** encourages the community and private sector to sponsor arts and cultural activities. The 2018-19 Budget injected another HK\$500 million into the Scheme.
- **Major events** year-round: Art Basel Hong Kong, Art Central, 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 and World Cultures Festival.
- **West Kowloon Cultural District** is one of the largest cultural projects in the world under development and is progressing from planning phase to operational phase.
- **Tai Kwun – Centre for Heritage and Arts**, located at the old Central Police Station Compound heritage site, is a new cultural hub dedicated to cultivating knowledge and appreciation of history and arts, and has opened in phases commencing May 2018.
- **Expansion of Hong Kong Museum of Art** and construction of the **East Kowloon Cultural Centre** underway.
- **HK\$216 million** earmarked over next six years to **continue the training scheme for arts administrators** and encourage young artistic talents.

### Intangible Cultural Heritage

In the 2018-19 Budget, the FS allocated HK\$300 million to strengthen the protection, promotion and transmission of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Hong Kong.

- **Cantonese opera** – first Hong Kong item inscribed on UNESCO's "Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity" (ICH) in September 2009.
- **First "Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Hong Kong"** announced in August

2017 – **20 items** (of which 10 are inscribed onto the national list of ICH) **of high cultural value and an urgent need for 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; sewing techniques of the 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 in Sai Kung; and, Wong Tai Sin belief and customs.

### **West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD)**

WKCD is an important cultural infrastructure investment to create a **world-class integrated arts and cultural district** blending local, traditional as well as international and modern elements, to strengthen the city's position as an international arts and cultural metropolis.

- **M+ Pavilion** (opened in 2016); **Xiqu Centre** for Cantonese opera and other forms of Chinese traditional theatre (to open in late 2018); **Art Park** (to open in phases from 2018); **Freespace** (to open in 2019); **M+**, a museum on visual culture (to be completed in 2019); **Lyric Theatre Complex** (to be completed around 2022).
- **Hong Kong Palace Museum** (to be completed in 2022) – unique collaboration with the Palace Museum to exhibit its collection outside the Mainland on long-term basis. Construction works funded by a HK\$3.5 billion donation from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust.
- West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA) is planning the delivery of the **Exhibition Centre** under public-private partnership and the **Music Centre** (which will include a Concert Hall and a Recital Hall).
- **International cultural collaboration** pursued by the WKCDA.
- **WKCD financing:** WKCDA received a HK\$21.6 billion upfront endowment from the Government in 2008; enhanced financial arrangement granting development rights of hotel/office/residential portion of WKCD to WKCDA announced by the Government in 2017.

### **Sports**

Promoting a sports culture through infrastructure, nurturing talent and major events.

- **Kai Tak Sports Park** (to be completed between 2022 and 2023): The Government will spend HK\$31.9 billion to build the Sports Park with major facilities to include: 50,000-seat main stadium, 10,000-seat indoor sports centre and 5,000-seat public sports ground.
- **Develop new / improve existing sport and recreation facilities:** 26 projects (54 facilities) identified; HK\$20 billion Government funding over the next five years.
- **Major events annually** include: Hong Kong Marathon, Masters of Hong Kong (Equestrian), Hong Kong Sevens, FIVB Volleyball Nations League, Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Races, Hong Kong Tennis Open, Harbour Race, Hong Kong Open Badminton Championships, Hong Kong Open (Golf), FIA Formula E Hong Kong E-Prix and Hong Kong Squash Open.

The 2018-19 Budget allocated HK\$6 billion to the Elite Athletes Development Fund; HK\$1 billion to the Arts and Sport Development Fund (Sports Portion); HK\$500 million for a Major Sports Events Matching Grant Scheme; and, HK\$100 million to set up a District Sports Programmes Funding Scheme.