

Arts, Culture and Sports

Overview

Hong Kong is developing hardware and software to promote the long-term development of its culture and sports sectors. This ties in with the aim to consolidate the city's status as an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange and centre for major international sports events, showcasing the soft power of our country and telling the good stories of China and Hong Kong.

Arts and culture

The HKSAR Government is committed to fostering the cultural development of Hong Kong and has mapped out the **Blueprint for Arts and Culture and Creative Industries Development** to further enhance the ecosystem for the arts, culture and creative industries.

Hong Kong has:

- **15 museums, two art spaces and 17 performance venues** under the management of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) attracted more than 7.3 million visitors and 3.3 million attendees in 2025. According to a **10-year development blueprint for arts and cultural facilities**, the number of LCSD's museums will be increased to no less than 20 and the number of seats at performance venues will be increased by about 67% by 2032, including those under planning.
- A museum to showcase the development and achievements of our country and a new Chinese Culture Experience Centre will be set up in the Northern Metropolis and the historic building of Kowloon Park respectively.
- In 2024, the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence was converted into the **Hong Kong Museum of the War of Resistance and Coastal Defence**, focusing on the history of the War of Resistance, to cultivate a stronger sense of national esteem and patriotism.
- Around 6,300 performing art programmes/activities were presented and sponsored by the LCSD attracting over 3.1 million spectators/participants in 2025.
- **Major performing arts groups:** 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.
- **Major arts and cultural events:** Hong Kong Fashion Fest, Art Basel Hong Kong, Art Central, Chinese Culture Festival, French May Arts Festival, Hong Kong Arts Festival, Hong Kong International Film Festival, Hong Kong Film Awards, Hong Kong Performing Arts Expo, Entertainment Expo Hong Kong, Asian Film Awards, Hong Kong-Asia Film Financing Forum, ComplexCon Hong Kong, Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival, Museum Summit, International Arts Carnival and Asia+ Festival.
- **West Kowloon Cultural District** is one of the world's largest cultural projects. Spanning 40 hectares along the shore of Victoria Harbour, the district offers diversified arts and cultural programmes and world-class facilities, including M+, Hong Kong Palace Museum, Xiqu Centre, Freespace, Art Park and WestK Performing Arts Centre (expected to open in 2027). WestK Quay has also been commissioned, further enhancing connectivity to the district.
- **East Kowloon Cultural Centre** is the first flagship performance venue under the LCSD to promote

long-running performances and arts technology. Opened in November 2025, it provides five performance facilities of different scales, equipped with cutting-edge professional stage equipment and lighting and sound systems.

- **Tai Kwun – Centre for Heritage and Arts**, encompassing 16 heritage buildings, including the former Central Police Station, Victoria Prison and Central Magistracy, is a cultural hub offering multi-purpose venues for a variety of local, national and international artistic offerings.
- **PMQ**, the revitalised former Police Married Quarters on Hollywood Road, is a creative industries landmark that is home to 100+ local young create-preneurs and hosts creative and design events.
- **The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA)** ranks first in Asia and 10th globally in the category of Performing Arts in the 2026 QS World University Rankings. It provides professional undergraduate education and practical postgraduate studies in Chinese Opera, Dance, Drama, Film and Television, Music, and Theatre and Entertainment Arts. The HKAPA plans to establish another campus in the Northern Metropolis and increase the proportion of non-local students.
- **Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC)** is a statutory body set up to devise, promote and support the broad development of arts in Hong Kong, with grant allocation, policy and planning, advocacy, promotion and development, and programme planning as its main roles. The HKADC supports the development of small and medium-sized arts groups, nurturing emerging artists and encouraging the public to appreciate and participate in the arts and cultural activities through its various funding schemes and programmes.

Other initiatives

- The **Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency**, restructured from Create Hong Kong in June 2024, promotes the development of the arts, culture and creative sectors.
- The **Chinese Culture Promotion Office**, established in April 2024, actively promotes activities, exchanges and collaborations relating to Chinese culture and history within the LCSD, including the **Chinese Culture Festival**, organised annually from 2024.
- The **Mega Arts and Cultural Events Fund** launched in 2023 aims to attract and support international and large-scale arts and cultural events to take place in Hong Kong.
- The HKSAR Government provides funding support for the awardees of the China National Arts Fund (CNAF) in Hong Kong to conduct cultural exchange activities outside Hong Kong with the CNAF selected pieces, with a view to bringing recognised quality arts projects to the international community, promoting Chinese culture, and telling the good stories of Hong Kong.
- **Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme** was launched in 2011 to nurture small and medium-sized arts groups and budding artists.
- The first **Hong Kong Performing Arts Expo** was held in October 2024, attracting over 1,600 arts leaders and practitioners from over 60 countries and regions. The second edition will be held in October 2026, with the goal of transforming into a flagship event for the arts and cultural industries.
- **Signature Performing Arts Programme Scheme** was launched in 2024 to support representative and large-scale local programmes for long-running performances, providing each successful applicant a direct subsidy of up to \$10 million for a maximum period of three years and a matching subsidy of up to \$5 million.
- The Government has allocated \$37 million over six years starting from 2022-23 to provide professional training for the conservation staff of the LCSD and the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority and increase the number of places under the museum trainee (conservation) programme and the summer

internship programme.

- **Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC) is being restructured** to enhance its functions to better support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the design industry, drive the local industry to “go global” and explore more business opportunities, and bring in international brands to promote internationalisation of the Hong Kong design industry.
- **Sham Shui Po Design and Fashion Project Base** (branded as the **DX Design Hub**) was inaugurated at end 2024 and is operated by the HKDC. It aims to nurture young design talents and fashion designers, support design start-ups to boost the local economy.
- **Invigorating Island South** initiative to enhance cultural and leisure facilities in Wong Chuk Hang, Aberdeen and Ap Lei Chau, and to expedite the redevelopment/conversion of old industrial buildings in Wong Chuk Hang to provide more operating space for arts and culture.
- To further promote the exchange of culture and arts in the Greater Bay Area (GBA), starting from the financial year 2023-24, \$135 million will be spent over five years to support Hong Kong performing arts groups and artists taking part in performances and productions in the GBA. Each year, 1,000 Hong Kong artists are expected to participate in these activities for an audience of 40,000 in the GBA.

CreateSmart Initiative (CSI)

- **Since the CSI was launched in 2009, over \$4 billion has been allocated** to help the creative sector organise about 860 projects in Hong Kong, the Chinese Mainland and overseas, benefiting more than 38,000 small and medium enterprises and generating over 38,000 jobs and over 97,000 nurturing opportunities.
- **The 2024-25 Budget injected an additional \$2.9 billion to the CSI** to continue to support the development of the seven non-film sectors of creative industries, and to encourage more cross-sectoral and cross-genre collaboration on creative and cultural programmes.
- The CSI will also provide **funding to the HKDC and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council to implement flagship events and incubation programmes**, and to provide funding support for the DX Design Hub to nurture design talents and assist start-ups to build their brands.
- From 2024 onwards, about 50 projects under the CSI will be subsidised annually.

Pop culture and film

- Since 2005, the Government has injected a total of around \$2.9 billion into the **Film Development Fund (FDF)** to support the local film industry. Over 120 emerging directors and producers were engaged in some 120 approved films.
- To promote Hong Kong's pop culture to go global, the Government strives to expand the industry's development capacity focusing on film, TV and streaming platforms.
- The **Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival** has been held annually since 2023, attracting participation of around two million.
- The Government supports through FDF collaboration between local and Asian production teams for co-production of films and development of new content on streaming platforms by cross-sectoral production teams to facilitate Hong Kong film industry to enter new distribution markets.
- The **Film Financing Scheme for Mainland Market**, launched in 2024, supports Hong Kong film companies and Mainland cultural enterprises to invest in the productions of Hong Kong directors for release in the Mainland market.
- The **Hong Kong-Europe-Asian Film Collaboration Funding Scheme** was also introduced to sponsor

film projects co-produced by Hong Kong filmmakers and their Asian and European counterparts to enhance international exchanges and nurture talent.

- The **Film Production Grant Scheme for Promoting Chinese Culture** launched in 2025 funds the film industry to produce films that promote the profound traditional Chinese culture, thereby promoting the charm and diversity of Chinese culture.

Intangible cultural heritage

- **Cantonese opera** – first Hong Kong item inscribed on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization’s (UNESCO) “Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity” in September 2009.
- Twelve items of intangible cultural heritage of Hong Kong are inscribed onto “**The National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage**”: Cantonese opera; Hakka unicorn dance in Hang Hau in Sai Kung; *Quanzhen* temples Taoist ritual music; Cheung Chau *Jiao* Festival; Tai O dragon boat water parade; Yu Lan Festival of the Hong Kong Chiu Chow community; Mid-Autumn Festival – the Tai Hang fire dragon dance; Wong Tai Sin belief and customs; Tin Hau Festival in Hong Kong; herbal tea; the arts of the *guqin* (the craft of *qin* making); and Hong Kong cheongsam making technique.
- The above items, together with *nanyin* (southern tunes), spring and autumn ancestral worship of clans, 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, Hong Kong *kwan kwa* wedding costume making technique, and bamboo theatre building technique form the first “**Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Hong Kong**”, announced in August 2017. There are currently 24 items (Hong Kong cheongsam and kwan kwa wedding costume making techniques are inscribed as one item) on the representative list, including four items added in December 2024: the lantern lighting ritual, Tai Po night dragon boat parade, Yu Lan Festival and Guangcai (Canton famille rose porcelain) making technique.
- The first **Hong Kong Intangible Cultural Heritage Month** was held in June 2025, drawing an attendance of over 160,000.

Sports

The Government is committed to promoting sports in the community, supporting elite sports, promoting Hong Kong as a centre for major international sports events, enhancing professionalism in sports and developing sports as an industry. The bulk of Government spending on sports development goes to the promotion of sports in the community, which accounts for about 80% of overall expenditure. The 2026-27 Budget injected \$1.2 billion into the sports portion of the Arts and Sport Development Fund to further promote sports development, including strengthening training for team sports athletes, improving the professional standards of coaches, as well as supporting and exploring more diverse and higher-level sports competitions to be held in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong has:

- 106 public **indoor sports centres** with an average usage rate of the main arenas at about 96% in 2025.
- 46 public **swimming pool complexes** with attendance of over 13 million in 2025.
- The **Hong Kong Sports Institute** (HKSI), which supports around 1,760 athletes (including around 780 full-time athletes), provides elite sports training for 22 Tier A sports and six Tier A disability sports.

The **new facilities building of the HKSI**, commissioned in December 2024, provides more advanced training facilities for elite athletes. The Government has allocated additional resources to strengthen the HKSI's sports medicine and sports science services. In 2024-25, the HKSI established a committee to oversee the development of sports medicine and sports science, thereby enhancing the professional standards of these services.

- **Major sports events** include: Hong Kong Marathon, Hong Kong Sevens, FIVB Volleyball Nations League Hong Kong, Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Races, Hong Kong Open Badminton Championships, Hong Kong Open (Golf), FIBA 3x3 World Tour Hong Kong Final, Hong Kong Tennis Open, Hong Kong Squash Open, Hong Kong Cricket Sixes, BLAST Premier Hong Kong Rivals, WTT Finals Hong Kong, Hong Kong International Horse Show, World Grand Prix (Snooker) as well as LIV Golf Hong Kong.

Other initiatives

- The Government launched in January 2022 a \$300 million **Sports Science and Research Funding Scheme**, which is jointly financed with the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust with the aim of strengthening support in sports science and sports medicine to enhance the competitiveness of athletes at international sports events.
- The Government will continue to provide support for retired athletes through the **Retired Athletes Transformation Programme**. The programme subsidises schools and sports organisations to employ retired athletes, and provides on-the-job training and education subsidies, supporting retired athletes to enhance their qualification and skills. Besides, the Government launched a **five-year pilot programme on Para Athletes Career and Education Programme** in 2023 to equip athletes with the knowledge and skill necessary for transformation and development after retirement, and provide them with placement opportunities.
- The Government continues to provide yearly subvention for the **Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China** and over 60 **national sports associations** (NSAs), for the promotion and development of sports in the community, youth training programmes, public participation, squad training at all levels, overseas exchange programmes/competitions; and enhance the corporate governance of NSAs. NSAs can also make use of the additional resources to improve their manpower and staff remuneration. The total amount of subvention has been increasing progressively from about \$300 million in 2019-20 to more than \$600 million in 2025-26.
- The Government will continue to promote urban sports which are popular among the youth in recent years (including 3-on-3 basketball, futsal, sport climbing, skateboarding and breaking). Through the **Urban Sports Funding Scheme**, subsidy is provided to primary and secondary schools and eligible organisations for organising training courses on urban sports, providing no less than 10,000 students / young people with the opportunity to take part in the urban sports every school year.
- The **Development Programme for Team Sports 2024-27** has been launched since January 2024 to provide additional funding to NSAs of eligible team sports and support members of national squads and second-tier squads, with the aim of continuing to help enhance the performance of team sports progressively, and increase their chances of attaining elite sports status in future. The Government will review the overall effectiveness of the programme after the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games, with a view to further supporting the long-term development of Hong Kong's team sports.

Kai Tak Sports Park

- Opened in March 2025, the Kai Tak Sports Park is the largest sports infrastructure ever in Hong Kong. It boosts sports development, injects impetus into related industries such as recreation, entertainment and tourism, and drives the development of mega-event economy.
- In merely nine months after its opening, the Sports Park has achieved the highest ticket sales in Asia and ranked third globally for its main stadium, registering the highest gross income of any stadium in Asia. The Sports Park has also been selected by the TIME magazine as one of the "World's Greatest Places 2026". In addition, its main stadium ranked eighth globally and first in Asia in the "Stadium of the Year 2025" according to the international stadium database.

Sports and recreation facilities

- To make the public play spaces more innovative and fun as well as to meet the aspirations of local residents, the Government announced a plan in 2019 to transform more than 170 public play spaces under the management of the LCSD. All transformation projects have commenced, of which 16 have been opened for public use.
- The 2021-22 Budget earmarked \$318 million to implement a five-year plan to upgrade over 70 football pitches under the management of the LCSD. As of end March 2026, 62 of 64 works projects were completed.
- The Government will continue to implement the **10-year development blueprint for sports and recreation facilities**, providing about 30 diverse facilities by phases, such as sports centres, swimming pools, sports grounds and parks.
- To allow users to retrieve data of their physical tests/activities and access information on health, the Government set up self-test fitness corners at sports centres and introduce smart fitness equipment at outdoor recreation venues under LCSD's management from 2024 onwards.

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