

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

Hong Kong has:

- **14 public museums** draw about 3.5 million visitors annually.
- **16 performance venues** under the management of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) draw about 3 million in attendance annually.
- Over 7 000 cultural programmes/activities organised by the LCSD attracting over 2 million spectators/participants each year.
- **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, , Hong Kong Arts Festival, Hong Kong International Film Festival, Le French May Arts Festival, Chinese Opera Festival, International Arts Carnival, New Vision Arts Festival, Lumieres Hong Kong, Business of Design Week, and, in alternate years, 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 cultural hub offering multi-purpose venues for a full array of artistic offerings from home and abroad.
- **Hong Kong Museum of Art** reopened in November 2019 after major renovations; construction of the **East Kowloon Cultural Centre** is underway and is expected to be commissioned in phases in 2023.

Other initiatives

- The 2021-22 Budget set aside \$169 million to take forward local cultural, heritage and creative tourism projects, such as the Yim Tin Tsai Arts Festival and the City in Time.
- The 2021-22 Budget announced an additional injection of \$1 billion into the **CreateSmart Initiative** to drive the development of the creative industries.
- The 2020 Policy Address announced that the Government would set aside a total of \$100 million (US\$12.8 million) under various funds operated by different bureaux to promote arts technology through encouraging related sectors to implement projects that integrate technology and arts.
- The 2020-21 Budget announced an additional allocation of **\$900 million for the Art Development Matching Grants Scheme** to further promote sponsorship of cultural and arts from all sectors.
- The 2019-20 Budget allocated additional funding of \$176 million to the 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.
- The Government injected \$1 billion into the **Film Development Fund (FDF)** in May 2019 with a view to promoting further development of the local film industry through new and enhancement measures under the FDF.
- **Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme** was launched in 2011 to nurture small and medium-sized arts groups and budding artists.
- **\$216 million** was 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

- **Cantonese opera** – first Hong Kong facet inscribed on UNESCO’s “Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity”, in September 2009.
- Twelve items of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) 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, forms the **First “Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Hong Kong”**, which was announced in August 2017.

West Kowloon Cultural District

West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) is one of the world’s largest cultural infrastructure projects. Blending traditional local culture with international and contemporary elements, WKCD showcases the unique identity of Hong Kong as a metropolis where East meets West, and establishes Hong Kong as **one of the most vibrant arts and cultural hubs in the world**. Spanning 40 hectares along the shore of Victoria Harbour, WKCD offers **world-class integrated arts and cultural facilities**:

- **Xiqu Centre** – a new landmark offering a superb platform for the production, education, preservation and promotion of Cantonese opera and other forms of Chinese traditional theatre.
- **Freespace** – a creative venue for multiple forms of contemporary performing arts, where artists and audiences can exchange and explore new ideas.
- **Art Park** – a quality open green space and a vibrant venue for open-air performances and other cultural programmes.
- **M+** – Asia’s first global museum of contemporary visual culture, exhibiting visual art, design and architecture, moving image, and Hong Kong visual culture of the 20th and 21st centuries.
- **Hong Kong Palace Museum** – displaying invaluable artefacts from the Palace Museum that represent 5,000 years of historical Chinese art from the imperial courts (expected to open in mid-2022).
- **Lyric Theatre Complex** – a centre of excellence showcasing the best of Hong Kong and international dance and theatre productions (expected to open in 2024).

Invigorating Island South

- **Enhancing cultural and leisure facilities** in Wong Chuk Hang, Aberdeen and Ap Lei Chau.
- Expediting the redevelopment/conversion of old industrial buildings in Wong Chuk Hang to provide more **operating space for arts and culture**.

Sports

The Government is committed to promoting the development of sports in Hong Kong by adopting a three-pronged approach: promoting sports in the community, supporting elite sports and promoting 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:

- 102 public **indoor sports centres** with an average usage rate of the main arenas at about 85% in 2020.

- 44 public **swimming pool complexes** with attendance of over 3.6 million in 2020.
- Around 32,000 **recreation and sports activities** for over 2 million participants annually.
- The Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) has around 1,300 **athletes** (including around 550 full-time athletes) supporting elite sports training for 20 Tier A sports and 6 Tier A disability sports. The HKSI will strive to complete the new facilities building in mid-2024.
- **Major sports events** include: Hong Kong Marathon, Hong Kong Sevens (rugby), 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), UCI Track Cycling Nation Cup Hong Kong, China and Hong Kong Squash Open.

Other initiatives

- The Government and the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust will jointly finance the setting up of a \$300 million Sports Science and Research Funding Scheme with an aim to 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 and will allocate more resources to expand the existing Retired Athletes Transformation Programme. The target is to double the number of retired athletes joining the Programme within five years to provide them with more opportunities for career transformation.
- The Government will explore ways to further promote sports development through enhanced professionalism in the sports sector and development of sports as an industry, and discuss with the business and sports sectors on how to further support the development of the sports industry in Hong Kong.
- The 2020-21 Budget announced a substantial increase in the total subvention for **the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China** and **60 national sports associations** from about \$300 million to more than \$500 million a year over the next four years to further promote sports development in Hong Kong.
- To facilitate the formulation of policies to promote sports in the community, a territory-wide Physical Fitness Survey for the Community commenced in July 2021 to collect data on the physical conditions of Hong Kong people. The result of the survey is expected to be announced in 2022.

Kai Tak Sports Park

Occupying an area of about 28 hectares, the Kai Tak Sports Park (the Sports Park) is the largest sports infrastructure ever in Hong Kong. It will provide modern and multi-purpose sports and recreation facilities to foster sports development in Hong Kong. Based on the latest progress of project implementation, the Sports Park is scheduled for completion in the second half of 2023.

Shek O Water Sports Complex

Exploring the development of a water sports centre at the rehabilitated Shek O Quarry site to provide advanced training facilities for athletes, including elite windsurfing training facilities for the exclusive use of the HKSI, and water sports enthusiasts. The target is to complete the project in about five years.

Wong Chuk Hang Sports Complex

The feasibility of redeveloping the existing sports ground, sports centre, recreation ground and swimming pool facilities in Wong Chuk Hang will be studied to optimise the "single site, multiple use" model.

Five-Year Plan for Sports and Recreation Facilities

In 2017 the Government announced a **Five-Year Plan for Sports and Recreation Facilities** which covers

26 projects costing about \$20 billion and feasibility studies for another 15 projects. Pre-construction and design/construction work on 21 projects, involving \$7.7 billion in spending, are underway.

15th National Games 2025

Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao will co-host the 15th National Games in 2025. Hong Kong will spare no effort to work closely with the relevant ministries of the Central Government, the Guangdong Province and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government on the preparatory work and follow the Central Authorities' requirement of "simple, safe and wonderful" in conducting the Games.

(Revision date: November 19, 2021)

NOVEMBER 2021