

Arts, culture and sports

Overview

Hong Kong is developing hardware and software to reinforce the city's status as an **international hub for arts, culture and sports**. This ties in with Hong Kong's new positioning as an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange, as set out in the **National 14th Five-Year Plan**.

Arts and Culture

Hong Kong has:

- **14 museums and 16 performance venues** under the management of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) draw about 3.5 million visitors and 2 million in attendance respectively 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 cultural events:** Art Basel Hong Kong, Art Central, Fine Art Asia, Hong Kong Arts Festival, Hong Kong International Film Festival, French May Arts Festival, Chinese Opera Festival, International Arts Carnival, New Vision Arts Festival, Business of Design Week, and 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.

Other initiatives

- The Government 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 2022-23 Budget earmarked \$85 million each year to support the development of the East Kowloon Cultural Centre, scheduled to be commissioned in phases in 2023, into a major arts technology venue and incubator providing structured training. An amount of \$30 million will be allocated to implement an **Arts Technology Funding Pilot Scheme** to encourage the nine major performing arts groups to apply arts technology.
- **Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme** was launched in 2011 to nurture small and medium-sized arts groups and budding artists. The 2022-23 Budget will inject \$10 million into the Scheme to encourage the arts groups to further explore the use of arts technology under the scheme.
- The 2022-23 Budget set aside \$70 million to upgrade facilities of performing arts venues under the LCSD.
- The Government will allocate \$42 million to organise the first **Hong Kong Performing Arts Market**

within two years.

- 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 injected an additional \$1 billion into the **CreateSmart Initiative** to drive the development of the creative industries.
- The Government allocated an additional \$900 million in 2021-22 for the **Art Development Matching Grants Scheme** to further promote sponsorship of cultural and arts from all sectors.
- 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.
- The Government will allocate \$37 million over the next 6 years to provide professional training for the conservation staff of the LCSD and the Hong Kong Palace Museum and increase the number of places under the museum trainee (conservation) programme and the summer internship programme.
- \$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.
- **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.

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.
- The 2022-23 Budget injected \$100 million into the **Cantonese Opera Development Fund** to support the long-term development of Cantonese opera.
- 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, 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.
- **Lyric Theatre Complex** – a centre of excellence showcasing the best of Hong Kong and international dance and theatre productions (expected to be completed after 2024).

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:

- 103 public **indoor sports centres** with an average usage rate of the main arenas at about 94% in 2021.
- 44 public **swimming pool complexes** with attendance of over 9.1 million in 2021.
- 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 540 full-time athletes) supporting elite sports training for 20 Tier A sports and 6 Tier A disability sports. The HKSI is taking forward the construction of the new facilities building and will strive for its completion 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

- In August 2021, the Government announced that it would finance jointly with the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust the setting up of a \$300 million **Sports Science and Research Funding Scheme** 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 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.

- To support the further development of sports, the Government has substantially increased the yearly subvention for **the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China** and over 60 **national sports associations** since 2020-21. The total amount of subvention will be increased progressively from about \$300 million in 2019-20 to more than \$500 million in 2023-24.
- 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 the second half of 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. The Sports Park is targeted for completion in the second half of 2024.

Sports and Recreation Facilities

- The Government announced in 2017 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 construction work on 21 projects, involving \$7.7 billion in spending, are underway.
- **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.

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.

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