

Arts, culture and sports

Overview

Hong Kong is developing hardware and software to promote the long term development of the culture and sports sectors. 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 attendees 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 offering world-class performance venues and museums as well as diversified arts and cultural programmes.
- **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:** revitalised site of the 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.

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 by phases starting from 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 continue 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 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 to promote further development of the local film industry through new and enhancement measures under the FDF.
- The Government will allocate \$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.
- \$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 in 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 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.
- The 2022-23 Budget injected \$100 million into the **Cantonese Opera Development Fund** to support the long-term development of the Cantonese opera sector.
- 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 the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Hong Kong**”, which was announced in August 2017.
- To further promote the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, the Government approved a funding of \$300 million in late 2018 for launching the Intangible Cultural Heritage Funding Scheme to engage

the community in and strengthen various aspects of safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage of Hong Kong.

West Kowloon Cultural District

West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) is one of the world's largest cultural 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**:

- **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 valuable artefacts on loan from the Palace Museum in Beijing that represent 5,000 years of Chinese art and culture from the imperial courts.
- **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.
- **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 37,000 **recreation and sports activities** for over 2.7 million participants will be organised in 2022-23.
- The **Hong Kong Sports Institute** (HKSI), which supports around 1,300 athletes (including around 500 full-time athletes), provides elite sports training for 20 Tier A sports and 6 Tier A disability sports. The Government has allocated \$990 million to the main works project for the new facilities building of the HKSI to provide additional training facilities and strengthen sports science and sports medicine support.
- **Major sports events** include: Hong Kong Marathon, Harbour Race (swimming) and UCI Track Cycling Nations Cup (Hong Kong, China).

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 and 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 from 2022-23 to provide them with more opportunities for career transformation.
- The Government is exploring ways to further promote sports development through enhanced professionalism in the sports sector and development of sports as an industry. A consultancy study is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2022.
- The Government has substantially increased the yearly subvention for **the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China** and over 60 **national sports associations** (NSAs) since 2020-21, to enhance 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 \$500 million in 2023-24.

Kai Tak Sports Park

Occupying an area of about 28 hectares, the Kai Tak 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 \$9.1 billion in spending, are underway.
- To make the public play spaces more innovative and fun as well as to meet the aspirations of local residents, the Government announced in 2019 the launching of a five-year plan to transform more than 170 public play spaces under the management of the LCSD. Since 2020, a total of 87 transformation projects have been rolled out in phases.
- The 2021-22 Budget earmarked \$318 million to implement a five-year plan for upgrading over 70 football pitches under the management of the LCSD. Improvement works of 27 pitches have commenced, with 13 already completed.

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 Provincial Government and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government on the preparatory work and follow the Central Authorities' requirement of striving for a "simple, safe and wonderful" Games.

(Revision date: September 15, 2022)