

# 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 5 million visitors annually.
- **Over 1,000 groups** offer around 8,000 performing arts shows annually.
- **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, Ink Asia, Hong Kong Arts Festival, Hong Kong International Film Festival, Le French May Arts Festival, Chinese Opera Festival, International Arts Carnival, Lumieres Hong Kong, Business of Design Week, and, in alternate years, the New Vision Arts Festival, World Cultures Festival and 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 new cultural hub offering multi-purpose venues for a full array of artistic offerings from home and abroad to enrich Hong Kong's cultural life.
- **Hong Kong Museum of Art** reopened in November 2019 after major renovations; construction of the **East Kowloon Cultural Centre** is underway.

## Other initiatives

- The 2020-21 Budget announced an additional allocation of **\$900 million (US\$115 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 **Leisure and Cultural Services Department (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 made injection of \$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** 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

In the 2018-19 Budget, the Financial Secretary allocated \$300 million to strengthen the protection, promotion and transmission of Hong Kong's Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH).

- **Cantonese opera** – first Hong Kong facet inscribed on UNESCO’s “Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity”, in September 2009.
- **First “Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Hong Kong”** announced in August 2017 – **20 items** (of which 10 inscribed on the national list of ICH) **of high cultural value and in urgent need of 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; the sewing techniques of 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, Sai Kung; and, Wong Tai Sin belief and customs.
- LCSD has launched the **ICH Funding Scheme** since March 2019, with a round of applications for community-driven projects and partnership projects respectively each year.

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

- The WKCD is one of the world’s largest cultural infrastructure projects. When fully developed, it will be a vibrant cultural space that will place Hong Kong at the forefront of the global art, cultural and entertainment scene.
- **M+ Pavilion** (opened 2016); **Xiqu Centre** for Cantonese opera and other forms of Chinese traditional theatre (opened January 2019); **Art Park** (opening in phases from 2018); **Freespace** (opened June 2019); **M+**, a museum on visual culture (to open by early 2021); **Lyric Theatre Complex** (to be completed around 2023).
- **Hong Kong Palace Museum** (to open in 2022) is a unique collaboration with the Palace Museum in Beijing to exhibit its extensive collection outside the Mainland on a long-term basis.
- **West Kowloon Cultural District Authority** (WKCDA) will give priority to the Music Centre (which will include a Concert Hall and a Recital Hall) and is planning to build an Exhibition Centre under public-private partnership.
- WKCDA pursues **international cultural collaboration**.
- **WKCD financing**: WKCDA received a \$21.6 billion upfront endowment from the Government in 2008; in 2017, the Government announced enhanced financial arrangements, granting development rights of the hotel/office/residential portion of the district to the authority.

### **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:

- 101 public **indoor sports centres** with an annual average usage rate of the main arenas at about 88%.
- 44 public **swimming pool complexes** with attendance of over 14 million annually.
- Around 39,000 **recreation and sports activities** for over 2 million people, including 80,000 persons with disabilities annually.

- The Hong Kong Sports Institute has 1,300 **athletes** (including 500 full-time athletes) and 20 Tier A sports and 6 Tier A disability sports.
- **Major sports events** include: Hong Kong Marathon, Masters of Hong Kong (Equestrian), FIA Formula E Hong Kong E-Prix, Hong Kong Sevens (rugby), ITTF World Tour - Hong Kong Open (Table-tennis), 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 World Cup Hong Kong, China and Hong Kong Squash Open.

### **Funding initiatives**

- **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 formulation of policies to promote sports in the community, a territory-wide Physical Fitness Survey for the Community will be conducted in 2021-2022 to collect data on the physical conditions of our citizens.

### **Kai Tak Sports Park**

Kai Tak Sports Park, covering 28 hectares, is the Government's most significant investment in sports infrastructure in recent years. When finished, it will be Hong Kong's largest sports precinct, providing modern, multi-purpose sports and recreation facilities to strengthen the development of Hong Kong into a centre for major international sports events, promote sports in the community and support our elite athletes. It is scheduled for completion in 2023.

### **Five-Year Plan for Sports and Recreation Facilities**

In 2017 the Government announced a **Five-Year Plan** to develop new sports and recreation facilities and improve old ones. The Plan covers 26 projects costing about \$20 billion and feasibility studies for another 15 projects. Pre-construction and construction work on 10 projects, involving \$4.6 billion in spending, are underway.

(Revision date: June 29, 2020)