

Recreation, Sport and the Arts

Hong Kong's hard-working people enjoy a wide variety of sports, cultural and recreational opportunities, whether as participants or spectators. They range from major international sports and arts events to community programmes in which people of all ages and abilities can take part.

The Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) co-ordinates Government policies on sports, recreation, culture and heritage. Organisations such as the Sports Commission and the Hong Kong Arts Development Council help to draw up these policies.

The Sports Commission advises on all matters relating to sports development and oversees committees on Elite Sports, Major Sports Events, and Community Sports. The Hong Kong Sports Institute Limited helps develop sports in Hong Kong with special emphasis on training athletes for high performance sports.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), an executive arm of HAB, provides services to preserve Hong Kong's cultural heritage, enhance its physical environment, and foster co-operative interaction between sports, cultural and community organisations.

In 2012, the LCSD organised a number of blockbuster exhibitions to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's (HKSAR) establishment, including 'Fantastic Creatures from the British Museum', 'Imperishable Affection: The Art of Feng Zikai', 'A Lofty Retreat from the Red Dust: The Secret Garden of Emperor Qianlong', 'Chinese Painting and Calligraphy of Song, Yuan and Ming Dynasties from the Osaka City Museum of Fine Arts' and 'Andy Warhol: 15 Minutes Eternal' exhibitions at the Hong Kong Museum of Art; 'Hong Kong Currency' and 'The Majesty of All Under Heaven: The Eternal Realm of China's First Emperor' exhibitions at the Hong Kong Museum of History; 'PICASSO – Masterpieces from Musée National Picasso, Paris' at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum; and 'Creatures of the Abyss' at the Hong Kong Science Museum. It also organised cultural performances, ranging from music and dance to opera and sporting events.

The LCSD co-ordinates the provision of high quality recreational and sports facilities and supports and organises training programmes and activities to promote community sports,

identify sporting talent and raise sporting standards. It works closely with the District Councils (DCs), the National Sports Associations under the auspices of the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, District Sports Associations, and schools to promote sport-for-all and encourage everyone to participate in sports and recreational activities.

The Environment

The LCSD plants shrubs, trees and flowers in parks, playgrounds and along roadsides, implementing the Government's 'greening' policy and beautifying the environment. It also organises educational and community activities to increase public awareness of the importance of environmentally friendly living.

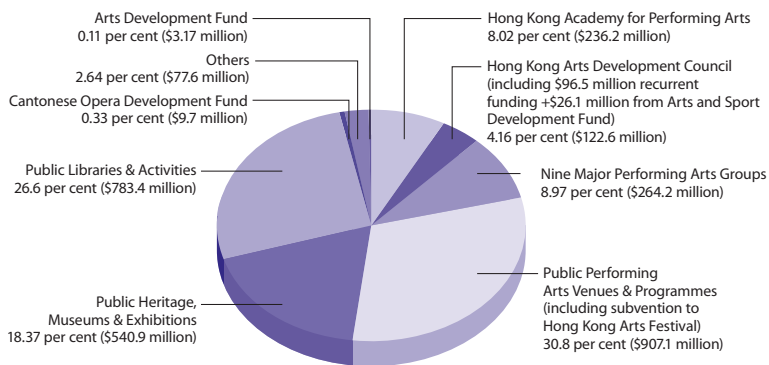
The Arts

The Government's policy is to provide an environment conducive to artistic expression and creation that encourages free participation in all aspects of cultural life.

Government Funding Support for Culture and the Arts

Chart 1

Provision for Arts and Culture 2011/12



(Note: The Government's total expenditure on arts and culture in 2011-12 was \$2.94 billion)

Recurrent Funding, Arts and Sport Development Fund and Cantonese Opera Development Fund

In 2011-12, the Government earmarked \$2.94 billion (not including capital works expenditure) for supporting arts groups, arts education and promotion, and administrative costs. The investment returns generated by \$1.5 billion injected as seed money into the arts portion of the Arts and Sport Development Fund in 2010-11 are used to subsidise the long-term development of the arts and culture. The 'Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme' disburses around \$30 million annually in the form of 'Springboard Grants' with matching elements and 'Project Grants'. The scheme seeks to develop the capacity of local artists and arts groups and to promote public-private partnership in local arts development. Eighteen proposals were selected for grants in the first round funding exercise from 2012 to 2014.

In 2012, the Cantonese Opera Development Fund granted about \$8.5 million to support various Cantonese opera projects, including the Venue Partnership Schemes at Yau Ma Tei Theatre, Yuen Long Theatre and Sha Tin Town Hall. A total of \$55 million had been approved for some 470 Cantonese opera projects since its inception in 2005. It will continue to provide funds to preserve, promote and develop Cantonese opera.

Funding for the Major Performing Arts Groups

In 2011-12, HAB provided about \$264 million in regular funding for nine major performing arts groups: the Chung Ying Theatre Company, the City Contemporary Dance Company, the Hong Kong Ballet, the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, the Hong Kong Dance Company, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre, the Hong Kong Sinfonietta and the Zuni Icosahedron.

Capital Funding

An upfront endowment of \$21.6 billion has been granted to the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority to develop the West Kowloon Cultural District, to meet the long-term infrastructural and development needs of the arts and culture.

Hong Kong Arts Development Council

The Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) plans, promotes, funds and supports the broad development of the arts in Hong Kong. Besides encouraging public participation in the arts and advocating arts education, the HKADC also endeavours to advance arts criticism, raise the standards of arts administration and strengthen arts policy research. It also operates various grant schemes.

The HKADC helps groom talented people and cultivate budding artists by providing them with opportunities to receive training and to take part in competitions, cultural exchanges and internships in Hong Kong and abroad. Besides offering the Hong Kong Scholarships on the Clore Leadership Programme and organising the Visual Artist-in-Residence Programme, the HKADC launched the Mori Art Museum Internship, the Arts Administration Scholarships and the HKADC Critic's Prize in 2012.

The HKADC held a number of big arts promotion events in 2012, notably the Hong Kong Arts Development Awards 2011; the 4th Arts Ambassadors-in-School Scheme and the Fresh Wave 2012. To bring arts closer to the public, the HKADC and RTHK co-presented *Artspiration*, a weekly TV series introducing art and cultural events in Hong Kong and around the world. It also co-presented *ArTour*, a TV segment with Cable TV at the programme *Close to Culture* once a month, featuring local young artists.

The HKADC participated in the 13th Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition and the 7th Liverpool Biennial. Together with the Manhattan School of Music, it presented the Manhattan Hong Kong Music Festival which showcased Hong Kong's best composers and musicians in New York. The HKADC also held the 4th Arts Forum for Cross-Straits, Hong Kong

and Macao and the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Creative Arts Festival in collaboration with different organisations to foster cultural exchanges.

Arts research and policy advocacy are also one of the HKADC's main tasks. In 2012, it carried out a number of surveys (including the Annual Arts Survey to collect data on visual arts exhibitions and programmes and the Survey of the Workforce and Future Demand for Arts Professional and Administrators of Targeted Arts Organisations) and published a series of yearbooks on the arts in collaboration with different professional and academic groups.

Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts

The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts offers professional education, training and research facilities in the performing arts, including music, dance, drama, theatre and entertainments arts, film and television, and Chinese traditional theatre. Its education philosophy reflects Hong Kong's cultural diversity underscored by Chinese and Western traditions, and an emphasis on interdisciplinary learning.

In 2012, the academy enrolled 767 students for undergraduate and sub-degrees programmes in its six arts disciplines, and attracted 143 students to pursue their Master's degree programmes in dance, music, drama, film and television, and theatre and entertainment arts. It admitted 728 students to its junior programmes and over 5,700 to its Extension and Continuing Education for Life (EXCEL) programme.

Hong Kong Arts Centre

The Hong Kong Arts Centre is a self-funding organisation which promotes contemporary arts and culture in Hong Kong and beyond. The centre in Wan Chai provides a wide range of programmes featuring local and overseas artists, and facilities for performances, films and exhibitions.

The Hong Kong Art School is a division of the Arts Centre that runs diploma, degree and master's degree courses in arts studies.

The Fringe Club

The Fringe Club is housed in what used to be a cold storage warehouse built in 1890, now listed as a Grade I historical building and adapted for use as a contemporary arts space. In 2012, with funding support from The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, the Fringe Club underwent extensive renovation to restore the building and upgrade its safety facilities. The Fringe Club runs a diverse cultural programme of theatre, dance, music, and exhibitions throughout the year. It is committed to an open access policy and to nurturing budding artists by providing venue and publicity support, as well as opportunities for overseas tours. In 2012, the Fringe Club brought Kwok Mang-Ho's (aka Frog King) visual arts exhibition first presented at the 54th Venice Biennale to Shanghai Zendai Zhujiajiao Art Museum and then Hong Kong. It also produced the performance programme 'Let's Swing! Taipei' in Taipei.

The Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre

The Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre (JCCAC) is an innovative arts project that involved converting a nine-storey decommissioned factory estate in Shek Kip Mei into a multi-disciplinary art village and art centre. It is a self-financed, registered charity that provides space for pursuing artistic creation, nurturing young talents and promoting culture and the arts.

The JCCAC has two exhibition galleries and a black box theatre, and houses over 100 art studios for a wide array of art forms, ranging from painting, sculpture, ceramics, glass art to photography, animation and video production. The facilities are open to hire by artists and arts groups. Major events presented by the JCCAC in 2012 included the JCCAC Festival, JCCAC Handicraft Fairs and Hong Kong International Photo Festival.

Major Performing Arts Groups

Chung Ying Theatre Company

The Chung Ying Theatre Company is dedicated to creating high quality productions. It promotes theatrical arts and explores cultural exchanges to enrich Hong Kong's cultural life.

In 2012, it invited a number of award-winning directors to direct original and translated plays, including Kearen Pang and Edmond Lo's *LUV*, Chung King Fai and Ko Tin Lung's *The Elephant Man*, James Mark's *An Inspector Calls*, and Tang Shu Wing's *Another Last Lesson*. The company's Artistic Director, Ko Tin Lung, directed the 10th re-run of *Tuesdays with Morrie*, while resident director, Edmond Lo, directed a new version of *Christmas Messages: Really Snowing*.

City Contemporary Dance Company

The City Contemporary Dance Company is a professional modern dance company that nurtures creative dance talent in the context of modern China. In 2012, it produced four original productions, hosted the '5th Jumping Frames International Dance Video Festival' and jointly presented with the LCSD the '2nd China Dance Forward', showcasing works by talented young Chinese dancers from Hong Kong, the Mainland and Taiwan. The company also performed in Beijing, Guangzhou, Xining, Shenzhen and Seoul.

Hong Kong Ballet

The Hong Kong Ballet, one of Asia's premier classical ballet companies, is gaining recognition in the international dance field. In 2012, the company performed 42 performances, including *Ballet Classics for Children: Swan Lake; Turandot; Giselle; Cinderella; Emerging Choreographers - 2012: the beginning or the end; A Ballet Soirée* and *The Nutcracker*. The company also concluded a tour to North America, participating at the 'Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival'.

Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra

The Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra gives over 140 concerts and arts education activities each season. In 2012, the orchestra's Eco-Huqin Series won the '4th Ministry of Culture Innovation Award'. On the international front, the orchestra performed in Taiwan, and was invited to give master classes at conservatories in Poland, Luxembourg, Belgium and France.

Hong Kong Dance Company

Established in 1981 to promote Chinese dance, the Hong Kong Dance Company has staged over 100 productions so far, with 47 performances staged in 2012 before 30,000 people. Programmes included *Seven Sages of the Bamboo Grove*, *Evacuation Order*, *The Enchanting Orient*, *Spring Ritual • Eulogy*, *Plateau Bluebells* and the *Chinese Folk Dance Fiesta* held at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza.

Hong Kong Philharmonic

The Hong Kong Philharmonic is the city's largest and busiest professional musical organisation, including musicians from Hong Kong and around the world. Jaap van Zweden became its Music Director in 2012-13. It presents over 150 concerts for 200,000 music lovers every year. Featuring an enviable roster of international conductors and soloists, the orchestra performed a broad variety of music and offered free concerts headlined by the ever popular *Symphony under the Stars*. Through its acclaimed education programmes, over 40,000 young people learned about orchestral music.

Hong Kong Repertory Theatre

The Hong Kong Repertory Theatre aims to produce and develop excellent, creative and diverse theatrical productions of Chinese and western works and local originals. It celebrated its 35th anniversary in 2012 with two popular original plays: *Bowlful of Kindness* and *I Have a Date with Autumn* and another nine productions, including the award-winning play *Rabbit Hole* and *SCROOGE – the musical*. The company also toured to Guangzhou and Taipei in 2012.

Hong Kong Sinfonietta

The Hong Kong Sinfonietta is one of Hong Kong's leading professional orchestras which not only performs with world-class musicians and conductors, but also commissions new works regularly and collaborates with artists from different art forms. The orchestra performed in USA, Canada, France and Macao in 2012.

Zuni Icosahedron

Zuni Icosahedron celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2012. Among its productions, Zuni presented the multi-media music theatre - *Eighteen Springs*, and *Danny Yung Experimental Theatre – Stage Sisters*. The Tian Tian Xiang Shang exhibition and activities were held in Japan and Hong Kong and Zuni performed in Suzhou, Tokyo, Singapore and Taipei. In addition, Zuni's *Looking for Mies* was awarded the 'Merit Recognition' of the Design for Asia Award this year.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund is a non-statutory trust fund, administered by a board of trustees, which awards scholarships to young people to pursue an integrated programme of post-diploma and post-graduate studies, or professional training in music or dance at leading institutions, or to pursue less formal studies outside Hong Kong. Five scholarships worth about \$1.58 million were awarded in 2012.

Music Office

The Music Office promotes knowledge and appreciation of music, especially among young people, by providing instrumental and ensemble training and organising music activities. It aims to build a new generation of concert-goers and organises international exchange programmes to foster sharing of music among young Hong Kong musicians and their counterparts around the world. In 2012, it provided music training for 8,504 trainees and 170,590 people took part in its music promotional activities.

Cultural Venues

There are 16 performance venues of varying sizes in Hong Kong, including the Yau Ma Tei Theatre for Chinese opera (in particular, Cantonese opera) which opened in July 2012. A new wing to Ko Shan Theatre is being built to accommodate a 600-seat theatre.

Hong Kong Cultural Centre

The Hong Kong Cultural Centre is Hong Kong's premier performing arts venue, attracting leading artists from around the world. It has three main performance venues: the Concert Hall, seating 2,019 patrons, the Grand Theatre, 1,734, and the Studio Theatre, up to 496. In 2012, more than 674,000 people attended 741 performances at the centre.

Hong Kong City Hall

Hong Kong City Hall, a Grade I Historic Building, celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2012. It is a major civic centre comprising a 1,434-seat concert hall, a 463-seat theatre, and an exhibition hall. In 2012, 606 events were held in the concert hall and the theatre, attracting over 368,000 people.

Yau Ma Tei Theatre

Refurbished from a historical building constructed in 1930, the new 300-seat theatre was officially opened in July 2012 as a dedicated venue for Chinese opera performances and related activities. Since its inauguration, more than 38,000 people have attended 216 performances in the theatre.

Regional and District Civic Centres

The LCSD runs 11 regional and district civic centres: the Sheung Wan and Sai Wan Ho Civic Centres on Hong Kong Island; the Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre and Ko Shan Theatre in Kowloon; and the Sha Tin, Tsuen Wan, Tuen Mun and North District town halls, the Kwai Tsing Theatre, Yuen Long Theatre, and Tai Po Civic Centre in the New Territories.

Venue Partnership Scheme

The Venue Partnership Scheme fosters partnerships between venues and performing arts groups. Its main aim is to build the image and character of individual venues and their partners, expand the audience base, optimise usage of venue facilities, develop marketing strategies, solicit sponsorship, and encourage community involvement in the arts in Hong Kong. Some 713,000 people attended or took part in 750 stage performances and 800 educational, promotion and audience building activities organised by the venue partners in 2012.

Arts Administrator Trainee Programme

The arts administrator trainee scheme aims to nurture a pool of arts administrators to support the development of Hong Kong's cultural software. The LCSD and its venue partners, comprising performing groups of every size, give trainees on-the-job training. LCSD trainees are posted to different offices of the department to learn about venue operations, facility management, event organising and promotion, and related subjects. The number of trainees from thirteen to eighteen was increased in 2012. Separately, the LCSD also sponsored its venue partners to engage trainees to learn about the management of performing arts groups.

Indoor Stadia

The 12,500-seat Hong Kong Coliseum and the 3,500-seat Queen Elizabeth Stadium are the largest and most popular multi-purpose indoor stadia in Hong Kong. With their flexible stage and seating configurations, the two stadia have played host to many international and local sports events, spectacular entertainment programmes, pop concerts and celebratory functions. In 2012, 53 and 129 events were staged in the coliseum and the stadium, attracting over 1,445,000 and 344,000 spectators respectively.

West Kowloon Cultural District

The West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD), a 40-hectare prime waterfront site at the southern tip of the West Kowloon Reclamation Area, is being developed as an integrated arts and cultural district with world-class facilities. It aims to support the long-term development of the arts and culture, foster the organic growth of cultural industries, and promote Hong Kong as an international metropolis with a vibrant arts and cultural landscape. A mix of arts and cultural facilities will come on stream in phases starting from 2015-16.

The draft WKCD Development Plan (DP), based on the 'City Park' concept by Foster + Partners, was gazetted under the Town Planning Ordinance in March 2012 for public inspection and making representations. In September, the Town Planning Board completed consideration of representations and the submission of the draft DP to the Executive Council in December takes the statutory planning process to its final stage.

The WKCD Authority is arranging design competitions for a number of arts and cultural facilities. In December, BTA & RLP Company Ltd's entry was selected as the design for the Xiqu Centre, one of the WKCD's landmark cultural venues. The teams shortlisted to participate in the design competition for M+, a museum focusing on 20th and 21st century visual culture, have also been selected.

The WKCD Authority will continue to nurture local arts talents and build audiences in collaboration with arts groups, education institutions and local communities to dovetail with the commissioning of the WKCD's arts and cultural facilities.

URBTIX

URBTIX (Urban Ticketing System) is the most widely-used computerised ticketing system in Hong Kong. It offers a variety of convenient and reliable ticketing services to the public through

its network of 43 outlets throughout the territory as well as internet and telephone booking services. In 2012, 5.18 million tickets with proceeds over \$953 million were processed by the system.

Cultural Presentations

LCSD Cultural Presentations

The LCSD provides high quality cultural programmes throughout the year. In 2012, 992 performances were held, featuring local and visiting artists, attended by more than 488,000 people.

To celebrate the 15th anniversary of the HKSAR's establishment, LCSD organised an International Military Tattoo featuring world-famous military bands and a Grand Variety Show featuring an array of distinguished Hong Kong and Mainland artists, televised in Hong Kong, the Mainland and to Chinese communities world-wide. Celebratory programmes were also organised for the 50th anniversary of the Hong Kong City Hall, including the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and Yo-Yo Ma, pipa virtuoso Lui Pui-yuen and his friends, the Borodin Quartet from Russia, and a Dance Day at the City Hall.

LCSD marked the 150th anniversary of Claude Debussy's birth with concerts featuring world-renowned artists, including pianists Krystian Zimerman, and Monique Duphil, with contributions from local musicians in recitals, chamber concerts and a mini piano marathon.

In 2012, LCSD organised the third 'Chinese Opera Festival', featuring the art of xiqu or 'Chinese traditional theatre', and in November celebrated the 10th anniversary of Cantonese Opera Day, a major event to promote the art form in the community.

Other leading programmes during the year included the San Francisco Symphony, the English Concert, Paco Peña Flamenco Dance Company from Spain, Rambert Dance Company from the UK, Verdi's *La Traviata* by Opera Hong Kong and Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* by Musica Viva.

The LCSD supports local artists in showcasing their talent and continues to explore alternative performance sites, such as the Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences and the Asia Society Hong Kong Centre, to increase the number of alternative performance sites used in recent years. The LCSD works closely with consulates-general and foreign cultural institutions in Hong Kong to sponsor cultural exchange events such as 2012's 20th anniversary of 'Le French May'.

Entertainment Programmes

In 2012, the LCSD organised 25 major carnivals and 637 district art shows, attended by about 998,000 people, featuring a range of local and overseas performances and arts.

Arts Education and Audience-building Projects

In 2012, the LCSD organised 1,248 arts education and audience-building activities in schools, community halls and other public venues to promote the arts and encourage more people to take part in cultural activities.

The 'Performing Arts Criticism Project for Senior Secondary Students', designed to foster an interest in the performing arts among senior secondary students and help them master the basic writing skills of arts criticism, was continued in 2012 following a successful pilot project. Another new initiative, the 'New Synergy Arts Animateur Pilot Scheme', offered progressive training courses to develop the artistic potential of students who had previously enrolled in music composition or script writing training.

Major Cultural Events

Hong Kong Arts Festival

The annual Hong Kong Arts Festival is one of Asia's most prestigious international festivals. The 40th anniversary festival in 2012 showcased 12 world premieres and 10 Asian premieres, and attracted an audience of over 150,900. Highlights included a collaboration between Sam Mendes and Kevin Spacey in a production of Shakespeare's *Richard III*, the Bavarian State Opera's production of *Così fan tutte*, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra under the baton of Myung-whun Chung, and two commissioned plays: *Wild Boar* by Candace Chong, and *Show Flat* by Paul Poon. In support of Hong Kong Design Year 2012, the festival produced the World of WearableArt, an extravaganza of art, couture, theatre, dance, music and lights featured award winning work of designers from around the world, including 10 pieces from young Hong Kong designers.

International Arts Carnival

The LCSD's annual International Arts Carnival in July opened with *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* by the Estonian National Ballet. Some 162,600 people attended the carnival's 448 events, involving 11 visiting and 21 local arts groups, offering an array of programmes ranging from multi-media theatre and puppetry to music and dance.

New Vision Arts Festival

The sixth New Vision Arts Festival in 2012 featured ground-breaking cross-cultural and multi-disciplinary performances with an Asian focus. Some 95 events attracted an audience of over 72,800.

The festival opened with the multi-media theatre *Beyond Time* by the U Theatre of Taiwan and concluded with the world première of *Illuminate* by the Shen Wei Dance Arts (USA), commissioned by the festival.

Hong Kong Week 2012 in Taipei

'Hong Kong Week 2012 in Taipei', presented by the Hong Kong-Taiwan Cultural Co-operation Committee in association with the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (Taiwan), was Hong Kong's first ever cultural exchange endeavour in Taiwan that introduced its audiences to eight performing arts programmes, a comic exhibition and a series of extension activities that brought together over 300 arts talents from Hong Kong.

Heritage

Lord Wilson Heritage Trust

The Lord Wilson Heritage Trust promotes the preservation and conservation of Hong Kong's heritage through funding community organisations and individuals to undertake heritage-related activities and research projects.

The trust granted about \$1.44 million to support nine heritage-related projects in 2012.

Museums

Hong Kong Museum of Art

To celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2012, the Hong Kong Museum of Art organised an exhibition 'Collecting for 50 Years – The People and Their Stories'. Other highlights of the year included 'Fantastic Creatures from the British Museum', 'A Lofty Retreat from the Red Dust: The Secret Garden of Emperor Qianlong' (co-presented with the Palace Museum to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the HKSAR's establishment), 'Chinese Painting and Calligraphy of Song, Yuan and Ming Dynasties from the Osaka City Museum of Fine Arts' and 'Andy Warhol: 15 Minutes Eternal' in collaboration with The Andy Warhol Museum.

Outbound exhibitions included 'Modern Chinese Painting and Japan', 'Maritime Porcelain Road: Relics from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Museums' and 'All are Guests – Hong Kong at the Liverpool Biennial 2012', staged at Kyoto National Museum, Macao Museum, Guangdong Museum, and Liverpool respectively.

To enhance the appreciation of art, a wide array of education programmes was presented, including special lectures, art workshops, family programmes, Gallery Talks and audio guide services. The exhibitions and education programmes attracted over 728,600 visitors and participants in 2012.

The Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware's collection comprises various kinds of tea ware and related vessels from the collection of the late Dr K S Lo and rare Chinese ceramics and seals donated by the K S Lo Foundation. Two special exhibitions were held in 2012: 'From Clay to Teapot: Tea Ware by Hong Kong Potters 1986-2010', and 'A Date with Chinese Tea' which introduced tea-drinking culture from ancient to modern times. Some 228,100 visitors visited the museum (a branch of the Hong Kong Museum of Art) and joined its education programmes in 2012.

Hong Kong Museum of History

In addition to the permanent exhibition, 'The Hong Kong Story', the Hong Kong Museum of History in 2012 organised two exhibitions: 'Hong Kong Currency' showcasing a wide range of rarely seen exhibits, including rare coins, tools for minting circulated coins, design sketches of banknotes and note-printing plates, and 'The Majesty of All Under Heaven: The Eternal Realm of China's First Emperor' featuring 120 exhibits selected from major museums and archaeology institutions in Shaanxi province, including 20 terracotta figures from the Emperor Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum. Over 425,000 people visited the exhibition, an additional

357,000 its education and extension activities, with another 172,000 attending related art activities. More than 1,024,000 people visited the museum in 2012.

The Hong Kong Museum of History also collaborated with Sino Art and Olympian City to stage the 'Transformation of the Qipao' exhibition at Olympian City from 27 April to 10 June 2012. This was the first attempt of the museum to bring its collections to display outside the museum.

The museum organised a range of programmes and events for different groups in the community, including for people with disabilities, new immigrants, teenagers, students and minority groups.

The Hong Kong Museum of History also manages five branch museums: the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence, Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum, the Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery, the Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum and the Law Uk Folk Museum.

The Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence, converted from the old Lei Yue Mun Fort in Shau Kei Wan, attracted 120,000 visitors in 2012. In addition to its permanent exhibition, '600 Years of Hong Kong's Coastal Defence', the museum staged three exhibitions in 2012: 'Paper Weapons: Wartime Japanese Propaganda Publications', 'Escape from Hong Kong: The Road to Waichow', and 'To the Last Man: Canadian Troops in the Battle of Hong Kong'.

Some 69,000 people visited the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum in 2012. Housed in historic Kom Tong Hall, it contains two permanent exhibitions relating to Dr Sun's life and career. Two additional exhibitions, 'Collection Highlights – Artefacts of Dr Sun Yat-sen's First Wife, Lu Muzhen' and 'Unsung Heroes – Dr Sun Yat-sen's Singapore Comrades' were held in 2012.

The Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery in Quarry Bay Park displays the decommissioned fireboat and literature on the history of fireboats and sea rescue as well as relics. Some 64,000 people visited the gallery in 2012.

The other two branch museums, the Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum in Sham Shui Po and the Law Uk Folk Museum in Chai Wan, attracted some 39,000 and 12,000 visitors in 2012 respectively.

Hong Kong Heritage Museum

The museum's 'PICASSO - Masterpieces from Musée National Picasso, Paris' exhibition in 2012 presented 56 paintings and sculptures by this 20th century artist from the national collection of France, attracting nearly 300,000 visitors.

Other exhibitions staged in 2012 included 'Hong Kong Photo Series 3: Beyond the Portrait', 'Post-Straight: Contemporary Hong Kong Photography', 'Creative Ecologies +', 'The Heavenly Breeze: Selected Works of Gao Qifeng and His Disciples', 'Free and Unfettered: Chinese Paintings and Calligraphy by Au Ho-nien', 'Woo Lung Wong: Exhibition of Cartoonist Louie Yu Tin's Collection', and 'Genesis and Spirit: A Showcase of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Sichuan'.

The museum offered a variety of education and extension programmes to tie in with the exhibitions and workshops and seminars were held in collaboration with the Education Bureau in support of Life-wide Learning and the New Senior Secondary Curriculum.

The Hong Kong Heritage Museum also manages three branch museums. The first of these, the Sam Tung Uk Museum in Tsuen Wan, was originally a Hakka walled village built in 1786. It was declared a monument in 1981 and later converted as a museum.

The Railway Museum in Tai Po comprises the old Tai Po Market Railway Station building, two historic locomotives and several coaches. The station building was constructed in 1913 in a Chinese style and was declared a monument in 1984. The Sheung Yiu Folk Museum in Sai Kung Country Park is housed in a Hakka village, which was built in the late 19th century and comprises several domestic units, pig pens, an open courtyard and an entrance gate-tower. The village and a nearby lime kiln were gazetted as monuments in 1981.

The Hong Kong Heritage Museum, Sam Tung Uk Museum, Hong Kong Railway Museum and Sheung Yiu Folk Museum attracted some 693,300, 98,900, 196,700 and 35,300 visitors respectively in 2012.

Hong Kong Science Museum

Over 1,287,800 visited the Science Museum in 2012. Its exhibitions included 'China's First Manned Space Docking Mission', displaying the Shenzhou-9 re-entry module and attracting 64,000 visitors during the two-week display period, 'Creatures of the Abyss', 'Brain and Cognition' and 'I Love Lyuba: Baby Mammoth of the Ice Age'.

The museum continued to showcase the latest local scientific researches, with exhibitions on 'Technologies Enhancing Patient Care', 'Computer Transformation – Transform Smartphone or Notebook into Robots' and 'Painless Vaccination', and the Distinguished Chinese Scientists Lecture Series continued in 2012.

Events co-organised by the museum in 2012 included the Hong Kong Student Science Project Competition, which attracted 712 students in 172 teams from 72 secondary schools, the Fun Science Competition, with 424 students from 212 school teams participating, and 'Science Alive' celebrating the human body's potential in the Olympic Games and marking the centenary of the birth of the 'father of computer science', Alan Turing.

Hong Kong Space Museum

In 2012, the Hong Kong Space Museum presented three Sky Shows, five OMNIMAX Shows and two School Shows at its Stanley Ho Space Theatre. Stargazing and family programmes were held regularly in its stargazing facilities of the Astropark and iObservatory in Sai Kung.

With sponsorship by the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, the museum provided 30 local secondary students with a seven-day astronaut training and study tour at the China Astronaut Research and Training Center and Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center. The museum also presented an exhibition 'Shenzhou 9: China's First Manned Docking Mission' to commemorate

the first manned rendezvous and docking of China between the Shenzhou 9 spacecraft and the Tiangong-1 space laboratory.

Some 790,000 people visited the museum's exhibitions and shows in the Space Theatre while 24,800 people took part in the educational and extension programmes in 2012.

Art Promotion Office

Projects organised or supported by the Art Promotion Office in 2012 included 'Park D'eco – Cornwall Street Park', 'ArtAlive@Park2012' at Tsim Sha Tsui East Waterfront Podium Garden, Tai Po Waterfront Park and Stanley Promenade, 'New Look for Public Places: Shanghai Street Public Art Project', 'Art@Government Buildings 2012-13', and 'Awakened Sleepers • Transformed Places – Hong Kong International Sculpture Symposium 2012' at Quarry Bay Park. Two solo exhibitions by local artists and one by a local art group were held under the 'Artists in the Neighbourhood Scheme V' to bring high quality art exhibitions to different districts of Hong Kong.

The Art Promotion Office also jointly curated '2012 Hong Kong and Macao Visual Arts Biennial: Sculpting Space – Hong Kong Public Art Design' with the Hong Kong Sculpture Society at the Beijing World Art Museum, The China Millennium Monument in September.

In 2012, the Art Promotion Office started refurbishing No 12 Oil Street, a Grade II red-brick historic building, as a visual arts exhibition and activity centre which will open in 2013.

Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre

Managed by the Art Promotion Office, the Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre focuses on art training and promotion, and provides facilities for hiring. It has eight art studios, a lecture theatre, an exhibition hall and two multi-purpose rooms. The centre organised a series of programmes in 2012 including 'Art Specialist Course 2012–13', the 'School Programme Series' and 'Art Summer@VAC'.

Hong Kong Film Archive

The Hong Kong Film Archive acquires, preserves, catalogues and documents Hong Kong films and related materials. The building houses a cinema, an exhibition hall, a resource centre and four temperature-controlled storerooms for the films and related materials. It has more than 12,527 films and 1,079,769 related materials. Major acquisitions in 2012 included 1,250 film items donated by Hong Kong Film Services, 35 pre-print film materials dated from 1992 to 2002 donated by Orange Sky Golden Harvest Entertainment Company Limited, 42 film items dated from 1976 to 2010 donated by Seasonal Film Corporation and around 57 film prints dated from 1937 to 1973 acquired from Mr Jack Lee Fong in San Francisco, USA.

Hong Kong Film Archive events in 2012 included a variety of exhibitions and screening programmes.

Conservation Office

In 2012, the Conservation Office conducted conservation treatment on 561 museum artefacts including paintings, prints, historical documents, textiles, metals, ceramics, organic objects and archaeological finds. Scientific research and analyses were undertaken prior to the treatment work to devise the most appropriate conservation methods and long-term preservation plans.

The office organised 34 'behind-the-scenes' laboratory visits and workshops for 713 students and members of the public, and recruited 79 conservation volunteers contributing 3,480 service hours to the conservation and extension programmes in 2012.

During 2012, the office staged an exhibition at Hong Kong International Airport, delivered lectures at Guangdong Museum of Art to senior professionals from Mainland art museums and won 'Best Poster Prize' at the International Institute for Conservation Congress in Vienna, Austria. Hong Kong will host the 25th Congress in September 2014.

Museum Trainee Scheme

A 'Museum Trainee Scheme' was launched in 2010 to train museum professionals. Ten graduates from local and overseas universities in a range of disciplines are attached to the Conservation Office, the Art Promotion office, the Hong Kong Film Archive and various LCSD museums for two years' training. The number of trainees was increased from 10 to 15 in 2012. Guided by supervisors, they gain practical knowledge and hands-on experience in managing museums and events through comprehensive training in venue management, curating museum exhibitions and organising education activities and programmes.

Public Libraries

The LCSD operates 67 static and 10 mobile libraries and a books registration office. The libraries hold some 11.13 million books and over 1.72 million items of multimedia material, serving almost 4.08 million registered book borrowers and lending more than 56.15 million books and other library materials in 2012. Some libraries are being re-provisioned and new public libraries at Tseung Kwan O and Yuen Chau Kok are under construction.

Hong Kong Central Library

The Hong Kong Central Library is a major information and cultural centre, with a stock of over 2.45 million books and other reading materials and a full range of library and multimedia facilities, a central reference library with six subject departments, an arts resource centre, a Hong Kong literature room, a map library, a language learning centre, a young adult library and a toy library. It offers for hire a 1,540 square-metre exhibition gallery, a 290-seat lecture theatre, two activity rooms, a music practice room and eight discussion rooms.

In addition to regular cultural activities and talks, the central library organises a wide range of programmes and holds user education sessions to promote library resources to members of the public.

Improvements to Library Services

The public libraries continue to work closely with the District Councils and local organisations to set up community libraries. The number of community libraries in Hong Kong has been increased to 212 by the end of 2012. In November, Students' Study Rooms were opened at Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai Public Library in Yuen Long and Lam Tin Public Library in Kwun Tong.

Reference and Information Services

Reference and information services are provided at the Hong Kong Central Library and the Kowloon, Sha Tin, Tsuen Wan, Tuen Mun and City Hall public libraries. The central library also has a large collection of reference materials on Hong Kong studies and on international organisations. Professional reference services are provided at these libraries and their resource centres. In 2012, 3.75 million enquiries were handled by the public libraries.

Online reference service is an integral part of the public libraries' reference and information services. 61 online databases covering different subjects are available to library users.

Information Technology Initiatives and Digital Library Initiatives

Various initiatives to improve library services were being developed in 2012, including a print management system, an electronic reference system, an online payment system, developing mobile applications and revamping the library homepage.

At the end of 2012, around 910,000 people had registered to use their smart ID cards as library cards. Over 1,700 library computers allow the public to access the libraries' electronic resources, or the internet. More than 130,000 e-books and 14 online databases are available to registered members for home use through the internet.

The public libraries' Multimedia Information System (MMIS) provides a powerful one-stop search facility enabling users to search multimedia archives and look for digitized documents via the internet.

Outreach Programmes and Promotion of Reading and Literary Arts

In 2012, the public libraries conducted 20,660 library outreach programmes, including storytelling sessions, book exhibitions, community talks and a variety of reading programmes and reading-related activities to promote reading and sustain an interest in reading. Thematic reading activities were organised to celebrate the 50th anniversary of public libraries.

Among the promotional programmes for creative writing and Chinese literature in 2012, the highlight programme was the 9th Hong Kong Literature Festival which included various events conducted by local and overseas writers.

Cultural Exchange

In 2012, Hong Kong's public libraries organised jointly with the Hong Kong Library Association and the Goethe Institut Hong Kong a public lecture by the librarian of the Bavarian State Library of Germany. The libraries and the Shenzhen Library organised creative writing competitions to

celebrate '4.23 World Book Day' at which Shenzhen's and Hong Kong's winning entries were displayed.

Books Registration Office

The Books Registration Office registers local publications and monitors the use of the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) system. It publishes Catalogue of Books Printed in Hong Kong in the Government Gazette every three months. The catalogue can also be viewed on the internet. In 2012, the office registered 15,172 books, 11,352 periodicals, and issued 1,127 new publisher prefixes totalling 22,160 ISBNs.

Sports and Recreation

The LCSD develops and manages sports and public recreation facilities, including sports grounds, playgrounds, sports centres, holiday camps, water sports centres, swimming pools and beaches. It also organises a wide variety of recreation and sports programmes for people of all ages and abilities, and provides parks and landscaped open spaces for leisurely enjoyment.

In 2012, some 840,000 people participated in activities organised at 25 holiday camps and sea activity centres run by 12 non-governmental organisations subvented by the LCSD. The LCSD also issues and renews licences for places of amusement and in 2012 processed 65 applications for billiard establishments, eight for public bowling alleys and seven for public skating rinks.

Hong Kong Sports Institute Limited

The Hong Kong Sports Institute Limited seeks to provide an environment in which sports talent can be identified, nurtured and developed. Besides access to high quality sports facilities, the support given to athletes includes coaching and training, sports science and sports medicine, education and employment support. In 2012, athletes in 15 sports received dedicated support under the institute's 'Elite Training Programme' which covers athletics, badminton, billiard sports, cycling, fencing, gymnastics, karatedo, rowing, squash, swimming, table tennis, tenpin bowling, triathlon, windsurfing and wushu. The institute also supports athletes in equestrianism, judo, rugby sevens and tennis, and also supports outstanding athletes under the Individual Athletes Support Scheme and the Disabled Sports Elite Training Programme.

In 2012, the institute focused on supporting athletes in their preparation for and participation in the London 2012 Olympic Games and the \$1.8 billion redevelopment of the institute, which will provide new, state-of-the-art facilities for training high-performance athletes. The \$7 billion Elite Athletes Development Fund established in January provides a sustainable long-term source of financial support for the institute's operation.

Sporting Achievements

A highlight of 2012 was the achievement of the Hong Kong delegation to the London 2012 Olympic Games. Cyclist Lee Wai-sze won the bronze medal in the Women's Keirin, the men's table tennis team finished fourth in their event, while badminton player Yip Pui-yin, table tennis player Jiang Tianyi and the women's table tennis team achieved top eight positions.

Athletes with disabilities also performed outstandingly at the London 2012 Paralympic Games, winning a total of three gold, three silver and six bronze medals in athletics, swimming, table tennis and wheelchair fencing.

Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China

The Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC) is recognised as a National Olympic Committee (NOC) by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and is a member of the IOC, the Olympic Council of Asia, the Association of National Olympic Committees and the East Asian Games Association and is responsible for organising Hong Kong's participation in all major international multi-sports games such as the Olympic Games (Summer and Winter), Asian Games (Summer and Winter), and East Asian Games. Lee Wai-sze, representing 'Hong Kong, China', won the third ever Olympic medal for Hong Kong in the London 2012 Olympic Games Cycling Women's Keirin.

With a membership of 75 National Sports Associations (NSAs) and sports organisations, the federation represents the collective voice of the Hong Kong sports community. Most of the members of the federation are NSAs, which are in turn affiliated to their Asian federations (AFs) and international federations (IFs). They are empowered to co-ordinate and conduct a wide range of activities related to their sports, ranging from recreational programmes for beginners to training elite athletes. They also organise and sanction participation in overseas multi-sports competitions and train coaches and referees. The NSAs implement and enforce local and international rules and regulations and represent Hong Kong at meetings of the IFs and the AFs. The federation co-ordinates a four-month 'Festival of Sport' each year, which includes more than 80 sporting activities organised by over 60 NSAs to promote 'sport for all'. It also organises extensive educational programmes for sports leaders, administrators, coaches and technical officials free of charge, notably through the Hong Kong Olympic Academy which offers free sports management and sport science courses and programmes.

In 2008, the federation launched the 'Hong Kong Athletes Career and Education Programme', a scheme which provides financial support from the Government and commercial sponsors for Hong Kong athletes to obtain an education and a career after retiring from athletic life. More than 237 athletes from 41 NSAs have received support from the scheme in the past three years.

The Hong Kong Anti-Doping Committee, established as an independent working group, under the auspices of the federation, continued to maintain a doping-free environment for fair play in sports in Hong Kong, and is responsible for planning and implementing an anti-doping programme.

Each year, with the support of sponsors, the federation organises the Hong Kong Sports Stars Awards, the 'Oscars' of local sport, to recognise the achievements of top athletes. The presentation of the Bank of China (Hong Kong) Sports Stars Awards 2011 was held in conjunction with the federation's annual spring dinner in February. Cyclist Kwok Ho-ting was awarded the most coveted Bank of China (Hong Kong) Best of Best Hong Kong Sports Star.

Hong Kong Paralympic Committee and Sports Association for the Physically Disabled

2012 was yet another rewarding year for the Paralympic Movement in Hong Kong. Not only did the Hong Kong athletes shine and excel in the London 2012 Paralympic Games but it also marked the 40th anniversary of the Hong Kong Paralympic and Sports Association for the Physically Disabled.

The 28 Hong Kong athletes who participated in the London 2012 Paralympic Games brought home three gold, three silver and six bronze medals. Hong Kong ranked 34th among the 164 participating countries and regions and was second in Asia after China in the athlete/medal ratio.

To maintain our competitive edge and to achieve further excellence, the Hong Kong Paralympic Committee and Sports Association for the Physically Disabled is committed to nurturing more young disabled athletes and enhancing support to the coaching staff.

Hong Kong Sports Association for the Mentally Handicapped

The Hong Kong Sports Association for the Mentally Handicapped develops, promotes and organises sporting activities to help people with intellectual disability develop their potential and cultivate positive attitudes through sport, and to facilitate their integration into the community. The association has steadily developed a training programme over the years to cater for all levels of ability, and in 2012, 52,570 attended sports training and competitions organised by the association.

Athletes took part in many international competitions during the year and made the most of these events to sharpen their skills. Highlights included the 2012 British International Disability Swimming Championships in England at which Hong Kong won eight medals: two gold, three silver and three bronze; the 2012 Korea Veterans PTT Tournament in Korea at which Hong Kong won three medals: two gold and one silver; the 1st Tangeum's Lake Cup International Adaptive Rowing Competition in Korea at which Hong Kong won three medals: one gold and two bronze; the Offene Landesmeisterschaften-Sportverband NRW – Swimming in Germany at which Hong Kong won five medals: two gold, two silver and one bronze; the Slovakia Open 2012 in Slovakia at which Hong Kong won two medals: one gold and one bronze; the Czech Open 2012 Swimming Championships in the Czech Republic at which Hong Kong won three gold medals; the INAS European Athletics Championships 2012 in Sweden at which Hong Kong won five medals: one gold, one silver and three bronze; the 2012 Para-Swimming World Challenge in Canada at which Hong Kong won seven medals: one gold, five silver and one bronze; the London 2012 Paralympic Games (ID Events) in the United Kingdom at which Hong Kong won four medals: one gold, one silver and two bronze; the INAS 2012 Open European Table Tennis Championships in France at which Hong Kong won six medals: three gold, two silver and one bronze; and the Mike Dempsey Memorial Table Tennis Championships in the USA at which Hong Kong won two medals: one silver and one bronze.

Hong Kong athletes also achieved excellent results at the 2012 Special Olympics Macau Bowling Competition in Macao, the 2012 SOEA Regional Skating Competition in Korea, the 2012 SOEA Regional Athletic Games in Macao and the 2012 SOEA Regional Summer Sports

Invitational Competition in Taiwan. A total of 129 medals, comprising 53 gold, 43 silver and 33 bronze, were won by the intellectually disabled athletes during the year.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club

Horse racing is one of Hong Kong's most popular sports, attracting some two million local residents and visitors a year to the city's two racecourses at Sha Tin in the New Territories and Happy Valley on Hong Kong Island. On major race days, attendance can be as high as 80,000. Many meetings are broadcast live to overseas countries and regions including Macao, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club is one of the largest racing organisations and football betting operators in the world. It is Hong Kong's only authorised operator of horse racing and regulated football betting, and also operates the Mark Six lottery. It works closely with the Government to meet public demand for gambling and to combat illegal betting, playing a leading role in promoting responsible gambling behaviour.

The club was the first organisation in Asia to receive the highest Level 4 accreditation under the Responsible Gambling Framework of the World Lottery Organisation, and is also the major contributor to the Ping Wo Fund, established by the Government to address problem gambling issues and provide counselling and remedial services.

The club's contributions to Hong Kong are manifold. It is Hong Kong's largest single taxpayer, contributing \$16.17 billion to the public purse in 2011-12, or 6.8 per cent of all taxes collected by the Inland Revenue Department during the year. It is also one of the city's largest employers, with over 26,000 full- and part-time staff. It provides more than 10 per cent of all part-time employment opportunities in Hong Kong.

In addition, the club is Hong Kong's largest non-government community benefactor, operating under a not-for-profit business model with its surpluses used to fund charitable and community projects. In 2011-12, it donated a record \$1.73 billion to 155 local projects through the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust. These projects will ultimately touch the lives of some 5.4 million people, or three-quarters of the local population.

Anxious to ensure that these contributions can be safeguarded in the face of growing local and regional competition from gaming and entertainment operators, as well as from illegal and unauthorised offshore bookmakers, the club has adopted numerous initiatives to maintain the long-term sustainability of Hong Kong horse racing. Since 2008 it has invested in a comprehensive Racecourse Master Plan, aimed at making racecourse visits a world-class experience. It is also attracting new generations to the sport through a carefully-planned customer segmentation strategy. In tandem with this, discussions are ongoing with the Government on measures to maintain the club's competitiveness, including the introduction of commingled bets on Hong Kong races from overseas and the lowering of betting duties.

The international races held at Sha Tin Racecourse each December have become widely recognised as the 'Turf World Championships', with four International Group One events being staged on a single day for a total purse of \$72 million. The 2012 International Races attracted 27

top thoroughbreds from seven countries. Despite competing with the world's best, Hong Kong-trained horses captured two of the four titles, with California Memory – ridden by graduate of the Club's Apprentice Jockeys' School Matthew Chadwick and trained by another local hero, Tony Cruz – making history by becoming the first horse to achieve back-to-back wins in the prestigious Hong Kong Cup.

In the World Thoroughbred Rankings for 2012, Hong Kong had 16 horses listed among the world's best. This ranks it seventh globally, an outstanding record for a racing jurisdiction with only 1,300 horses in training and no breeding industry.

Recreation and Sports Programmes

In 2012, the LCSD organised some 37,900 recreation and sports programmes for about 2.1 million participants of all ages and abilities at a total cost of \$134.36 million.

District Sports Teams Training Scheme

A total of 12,032 young people took part in 290 district team events for basketball, football, handball and fencing in 2012.

'Healthy Exercise for All' Campaign and 'Sport For All Day'

In 2012, about 80,000 people took part in some 1,500 programmes under the 'Healthy Exercise for All' campaign. Over 210,000 people participated in the LCSD's annual 'Sport For All Day' in August, which adopted the Olympics as its theme and the slogan 'Stay Active. Exercise for Half an Hour Daily'. A series of free recreation and sports programmes was organised at designated sports centres in 18 districts and most of the fee-charging sports facilities were open to the public free of charge.

Young Athletes Training Scheme

In 2012, 31,595 young people joined the 'Young Athletes Training Scheme', under which 22 National Sports Associations (NSAs) (commissioned by the LCSD) provide intermediate level training in 28 sports disciplines to teenagers wishing to become athletes.

Territory-wide Events

The Corporate Games 2012, a major multi-sport event designed specially for working people, attracted some 9,300 people from 267 industrial and commercial organisations in 13 sports competitions. The Masters Games 2012/13, targeted for people aged 35 and above, attracted some 4,300 participants in six competitions.

School Sports Programme

The School Sports Programme provides a wide range of sports programmes for students. The scheme comprises seven subsidiary programmes: Sport Education Programme, Easy Sport Programme, Outreach Coaching Programme, Sport Captain Programme, Joint Schools Sports Training Programme, Badges Award Scheme and Sports Award Scheme. In 2012, over 609,000 students took part in about 7,900 sporting events.

Community Sports Club Project

In 2012, the Community Sports Club (CSC) Project, organised by the LCSD in collaboration with the NSAs, supported about 430 CSCs in organising 2,252 sports training activities for 49,027 participants. Seminars and management development programmes were formulated for some 520 sports volunteers to help them run community sports clubs.

The CSC Enhancement Programme encourages CSCs to use LCSD venues outside peak hours to organise activities for local people, and 304 sports training classes were held for 3,547 participants under this programme in 2012.

Sports Subvention Scheme

The LCSD provides subvention to the NSAs and other sporting organisations for sports promotion and development. The subvention covers office and personnel expenses and spending on programmes by the NSAs. In 2012, the LCSD provided 58 NSAs and 24 sport organisations with subventions amounting to about \$250 million and 11,201 programmes for different sports were organised, attracting 744,936 participants. The most popular training programmes were: Youth Football Scheme, Hong Kong Youth (Boys and Girls) Basketball Training Scheme, Youth Wushu Training Course and New Generation Table Tennis Training Course.

During the year, the NSAs were given subsidies under the scheme to stage local and international events in Hong Kong such as the World Hong Kong Luminous Dragon and Dance Championships 2012, 22nd Asian Tenpin Bowling Championships, the FINA Marathon Swimming World Cup – Hong Kong 2012, and the 2012 ITTF Premium Junior Circuit (Table Tennis) – Hong Kong Junior and Cadet Open. The LCSD also provided subsidies under the scheme to NSAs to strengthen squad training and to enable athletes representing Hong Kong to participate in overseas competitions.

'M' Mark Support Package

The 'M' Mark System and Support Package aims to obtain greater support from the commercial sector and the community for the NSAs in developing more sustainable major international sports events. In 2012, 11 events were given 'M' Mark status and/or support packages.

The 12th National Winter Games

In January, 27 Hong Kong athletes took part in four competitive events at the 12th National Winter Games in Jilin Province.

Recreational and Sports Venues

Hong Kong Stadium

The Hong Kong Stadium is Hong Kong's largest sports venue, with seating for 40,000 people. It is mainly used for football and international rugby matches and large-scale community events. More than 320,300 people attended 31 events in the stadium in 2012, including the popular annual rugby sevens tournament, an invitation football match between Kitchee and Arsenal Football Club and the Mainland Olympic Gold Medallists Extravaganza. Matches in the

preliminary competition for the East Asian Football Federation East Asian Cup 2013 among Hong Kong, Australia, Chinese Taipei, Guam and DPR Korea were held at the Hong Kong and Mong Kok Stadiums.

Mong Kok Stadium

The Mong Kok Stadium has a seating capacity of 6,668 and is an important venue for sporting and community events. It is one of the major venues for the First Division Football League and the training ground for the national squad. The 60 events at the stadium in 2012 attended by more than 280,000 included the Asian Football Confederation Cup among Hong Kong, Thailand, Myanmar and Singapore, and the Asian Five Nations Rugby Match between Hong Kong and Kazakhstan.

Water Sports Centres and Holiday Camps

The LCSD manages five water sports centres: Chong Hing, Tai Mei Tuk, Jockey Club Wong Shek, St Stephen's Beach and Stanley Main Beach. It also runs four holiday camps, the Lady MacLehose Holiday Village, Sai Kung Outdoor Recreation Centre, Tso Kung Tam Outdoor Recreation Centre, and Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village. In 2012, over 125,000 people participated in events at the water sports centres and 555,410 visited or stayed at the holiday camps.

Other Sports and Recreational Venues

The LCSD manages 94 sports centres, 43 swimming pool complexes, 256 tennis courts, 290 squash courts, 25 sports grounds, four golf-driving ranges and two public riding schools. Major projects to provide or upgrade recreation and sports facilities completed in 2012 included a new sports centre in Tin Shui Wai, new swimming pools in Tuen Mun and Lam Tin, and the conversion of the secondary pool of Lai Chi Kok Park Swimming Pool into an indoor heated pool. Works for nine other major projects across Hong Kong are under way.

Beaches and Swimming Pools

Swimming is one of Hong Kong's most popular summer pastimes. The LCSD manages 41 beaches: 12 on Hong Kong Island and 29 in the New Territories, and 43 public swimming pool complexes. In 2012, some 12.36 million people used the beaches and 10.47 million visited public swimming pools.

The Public Swimming Pool Monthly Ticket Scheme was introduced in July with the aim of making regular swimming more affordable, particularly for the elderly, and to encourage the public to maintain a healthy lifestyle by swimming regularly. By the end of 2012, over 40,000 tickets had been sold, of which half were to senior citizens aged 60 or above.

Parks Managed By LCSD

The LCSD manages 1,503 parks and gardens of different sizes, including 25 major parks.

Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens

The Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens, developed between 1861 and 1871, is the oldest public garden in Hong Kong and occupies an area of 5.6 hectares overlooking the Central District of Hong Kong. Despite the urban surroundings, the garden provides a

conservation centre for endangered species. Thirteen endangered species of mammals, birds and reptiles lived there in 2012. The bird collection is one of the most comprehensive in Asia, comprising about 350 birds of 70 species. The mammal collection consists of about 70 animals of 17 species, mainly primates.

More than 900 species of trees, shrubs, creepers and foliage plants thrive in the garden. The medicinal plant collection and a greenhouse have helped to promote public interest in 500 or more species of herbs, orchids, ferns and indoor plants. An education and exhibition centre provides teaching facilities for participants in guided visits and for the display of botanical and zoological specimens.

Hong Kong Park

Hong Kong Park is located at the former military barracks in Central District, occupying an area of about eight hectares. The park, which blends modern design into the natural landscape, features flowing water as its central motif and has artificial waterfalls, streams and ponds. The park includes an aviary, a conservatory, a viewpoint, an Olympic Square, a squash centre, a sports centre, a children's playground and a restaurant. The aviary resembles a tropical rainforest in which about 600 birds of 80 different species are kept, including hornbills and pelicans. In 2012, eight bird species in the aviary reared offspring. The conservatory has three sections: the 'Display Plant House', 'Dry Plant House' and 'Humid Plant House'. Adjustable environmental control equipment is installed in these houses to simulate different climatic conditions for plants from arid regions and tropical environments. A 'Herbs and Spices' show was held at the Display Plant House from April to November 2012. More than 580 plants of over 40 species and nearly 20 kinds of products were displayed.

Outward Bound Hong Kong

Outward Bound Hong Kong (OBHK) is a member of Outward Bound International, which was founded in the UK in 1940 and is the world leader and originator of experiential education, operating 50 schools in over 30 countries worldwide. OBHK was established in Hong Kong in 1970 to provide local people with personal development programmes to help them learn essential life skills and reach their maximum potential. OBHK is the first and only experiential education organisation in Asia to be accredited by the internationally renowned Association of Experiential Education.

Outward Bound's mission is 'to help people discover and develop their potential to care for themselves, others and the world around them through challenging experiences in unfamiliar settings'. Courses are designed to foster confidence, responsibility, leadership, teamwork, creative thinking, problem-solving skills and social responsibility. The organisation uses challenges in the outdoors to help participants gain insights and skills that can be applied to work and real life situations. More than 8,000 people join OBHK's courses every year.

OBHK is based in Sai Kung, with headquarters at Tai Mong Tsai and an island base at Wong Wan Chau. They have a wide range of facilities and resources that include a 67-foot sail training yacht, the *Spirit of Outward Bound*, a world-class rope course as well as kayaks and ketches. All of OBHK's resources are checked regularly and maintained according to international safety standards.

OBHK offers public courses that cater to people of different ages and needs, taking participants to remote and scenic areas of Hong Kong that many people are unaware exist. It also offers expeditions to Taiwan, Japan, Sabah, the Philippines, Nepal and China.

Hong Kong residents are eligible for courses subsidised by the Government's Continuing Education Fund. With up to 80 per cent of the course fees covered by the fund, these programmes help individuals become more confident and effective in the work place and better equipped to handle challenges in their careers.

OBHK's corporate department, Outward Bound Professional, works directly with corporate organisations to design courses that help their staff become more communicative, cohesive and innovative, benefiting the organisation itself ultimately.

OBHK also works with schools, colleges, universities and various charitable organisations to devise courses to help their students, teachers and social workers become caring and competent leaders.

Adventure Ship

Adventure Ship was established as a registered charity in 1977 and operates *Jockey Club Huan*, a 34.5-metre sailing junk which provides educational training and recreation at sea for young people. Adventure Ship is the first charitable programme of its kind in Hong Kong. It is a member of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service and is funded mainly by the Community Chest and the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust.

All young people above the age of nine are welcome to join the programme, which promotes personal development with its theme of 'learning by experience', but preference is given to disabled and underprivileged youths.

Jockey Club Huan went into service in April 2006. The aluminium-hulled three-masted traditional-rig sailing junk can accommodate up to 60 people and is equipped with modern navigational devices in addition to a full range of amenities and various barriers-free training facilities tailored for trainees with disabilities.

Around 10,000 young people benefit from the programme each year. The junk plies within Hong Kong waters, and each training trip lasts between one and three days. The training regime has been carefully designed to cope with different weather conditions and the special needs of young people with different aptitudes and backgrounds. Guided by instructors, participants become members of the ship's supplementary crew and work alongside their peers, learning to face challenges and to be self-reliant. The exercises also foster camaraderie and team spirit.

Hong Kong Youth Hostels Association

The Hong Kong Youth Hostels Association (HKYHA) is a non-profit making organisation providing safe, quality, and affordable hostel accommodation in Hong Kong. Its primary aim is to encourage young people to participate in outdoor activities and promote travel and international exchange programmes.

Established in 1973, the HKYHA has been running, planning, and marketing youth hostels for 40 years. The HKYHA currently operates seven youth hostels and has over 30,000 life members and 25,000 individual and corporate members. It is also an affiliate of Hostelling International, an organisation with over four million members worldwide.

In January 2012, for the sixth consecutive year the HKYHA organised the 'Ngong Ping Charity Walk' at the scenic North Lantau Island Country Park. It attracted over 1,000 participants and raised much needed funds for hostel enhancement, environmental protection, and the HKYHA's conservation projects.

Since August 2012, the HKYHA's refurbished Jockey Club Mount Davis Youth Hostel has been in service. The renovated hostel provides guests with a spectacular view of Hong Kong's iconic Victoria Harbour as well as an array of new facilities. The HKYHA is also working closely with the Government to transform Mei Ho House, a former six-storey resettlement block in Shek Kip Mei, into a first-of-its-kind city hostel and a cultural landmark in Sham Shui Po. The YHA Mei Ho House Youth Hostel is scheduled to open in the first half of 2013. In addition to running the hostel, the HKYHA will set up the 'Mei Ho House of Livelihood' museum and form a citizens' group, 'Mei Ho House Alumni Network', to conserve the district's culture and history.

Country and Marine Parks

Some 40 per cent of Hong Kong's total land area has been designated as country parks and special areas for nature conservation, outdoor recreation and nature education. The 24 country parks and 22 special areas provide extensive hiking trails, barbecue, picnic and camp sites and visitors' centres which attracted over 13 million visitors in 2012.

In March, the Tin Fu Tsai North Section Mountain Bike Trail in Tai Lam Country Park opened, providing an additional route for mountain biking.

Visitors can enjoy and learn about the beauty and diversity of Hong Kong's marine life at four marine parks and one marine reserve. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department manages the country parks, special areas, marine parks, marine reserve, the Hong Kong Wetland Park and Hong Kong Global Geopark of China.

Hong Kong Global Geopark of China

The Hong Kong Global Geopark of China is made up of eight Geo-Areas distributed across two regions: the Sai Kung Volcanic Rock Region and the Northeast New Territories Sedimentary Rock Region, together occupying 5,000 hectares of land in the east and northeast New Territories. The Sai Kung Volcanic Rock Region reveals spectacular hexagonal volcanic rock columns, in size and composition rarely found elsewhere in the world. The Northeast New Territories Sedimentary Rock Region comprises rocks formed by different earth processes over 400 million years, endowing them with great historical and educational interest.

In collaboration with the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong and the Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Geopark has set up an accredited geopark guide system to ensure the quality of the interpretation and guide services for visitors by encouraging

geopark guides to sit for assessment and regular re-assessment. Four candidates were successfully accredited as geopark guides in the first qualifying examination in March 2012.

Hong Kong Wetland Park

The 61-hectare Hong Kong Wetland Park, in the northern part of Tin Shui Wai and the southern tip of the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site, is a special area designated under the Country Parks Ordinance and promotes wetland conservation, education and ecotourism in Hong Kong. The park gives visitors the opportunity to appreciate wetlands and the wildlife of Hong Kong in an open and natural setting. In 2012, the park attracted about 440,000 visitors. The park also organised various education and publicity programmes such as the 'The Blossoms on Wetland', 'Bouncy Wetlands' and 'Bird Watching Festival' to cultivate awareness of wetland conservation.

Green Promotion

Green Hong Kong Campaign

Various community and educational activities were organised in 2012 to enhance public awareness of the importance of 'greening' the environment. More than 880 schools and kindergartens took part in a 'Greening School Subsidy Scheme' to promote environmentally friendly initiatives. About 371,000 students from over 1,160 schools participated in a 'One Person, One Flower' programme. Seedlings were given to students to plant at home or in their schools.

The LCSD provides at least one community garden in each of the 18 districts. A total of 48 gardening courses were conducted during the year, attended by 10,410 participants. A total of 21 tree-planting activities were organised by the districts, attracting over 4,700 people.

Hong Kong Flower Show

The Hong Kong Flower Show provides an opportunity every year for hundreds of thousands of Hong Kong people and horticulture lovers from around the world to enjoy the beauty and diversity of flowers and to share their experiences in flower cultivation. About 210 horticultural organisations from 21 countries took part in the show in March at Victoria Park, attracting over 560,000 visitors.

Horticulture and Landscape Services

The LCSD is responsible for planting and maintaining the plants at the city's public parks and recreational and sports venues. It also provides horticultural maintenance for the roadside amenity areas. In 2012, the department planted 2.88 million plants, including trees, shrubs and seasonal flowers and carried out landscape improvement projects for more than 20 hectares of park land and roadside amenity areas.

Websites

Home Affairs Bureau: www.hab.gov.hk

Leisure and Cultural Services Department: www.lcsd.gov.hk

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department: www.afcd.gov.hk