

Chapter 19

Recreation, Sport, Culture 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 recreation, sports, culture and heritage. Organisations such as the Sports Commission and the Hong Kong Arts Development Council help the government in drawing up these policies.

The Sports Commission advises on all matters relating to sports development and oversees committees on community sports, elite sports and major sports events.

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. The LCSD organises exhibitions, sporting events and cultural performances ranging from music and dance to opera.

Recreation and Sports

The LCSD develops and co-ordinates the provision of high quality recreational and sports facilities for leisure enjoyment including parks, landscaped open spaces, sports grounds, playgrounds, sports centres, holiday camps, water sports centres, swimming pools and beaches. It also organises and supports a wide variety of recreation and sports programmes 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 and 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.

In 2013, some 825,400 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 2013 processed 62 applications for billiard establishments, eight for public bowling alleys and six for public skating rinks.

Horticulture, Parks, Gardens and Landscape

The LCSD manages 1,521 parks and gardens of different sizes, including 25 major parks. It is responsible for planting and maintaining the shrubs, trees and flowers at the city's public parks and recreational and sports venues and at roadside amenity areas. In 2013, the department planted 2.55 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.

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 main features of the park include an aviary, a conservatory, a sports centre, a squash centre, a children's playground, an Olympic Square, a vantage point and a restaurant. The aviary resembles a tropical rainforest in which about 600 birds of 75 different species are kept. In 2013, seven bird species in the aviary reared offspring. The conservatory's three sections ('Display Plant House', 'Dry Plant House' and 'Humid Plant House') have adjustable environmental control equipment to simulate different climatic conditions for plants from arid regions and tropical environments. A 'Fragrant Flowers' show was held at the Display Plant House from August to October 2013. About 50 species of fragrant flowers and scented plants were displayed.

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. Twelve endangered species of mammals, birds and reptiles lived there in 2013. The bird collection is one of the most comprehensive in Asia, comprising about 300 birds of 70 species. The mammal collection consists of about 70 animals of 16 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.

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 11.4 million visitors in 2013.

A new 1.4 km trailhead at the Hoi Pui Section of Tai Lam Mountain Bike Trail was opened in March, providing a new trail for the public to enjoy and experience 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 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 Hong Kong's wildlife in an open and natural setting. In 2013, the park attracted about 440,000 visitors. The park also organised various education and publicity programmes such as the 'The Flying Beauties', 'Horseshoe Crab Fortnight' and 'Bird Watching Festival' to cultivate awareness of wetland conservation.

Hong Kong Global Geopark of China

The Hong Kong Global Geopark of China is made up of eight Geo-Areas occupying 5,000 hectares of land distributed across two regions: the Sai Kung Volcanic Rock Region and the Northeast New Territories Sedimentary Rock Region. 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. Over 40 candidates have been successfully accredited as geopark guides since 2012.

Green Hong Kong Campaign

The LCSD provides at least one community garden in each of the 18 districts. A total of 10,975 participants attended the 51 gardening courses conducted in 2013, and over 3,321 people took part in 18 tree-planting activities organised by the districts.

Various activities were organised in 2013 to promote public awareness of the importance of 'greening' the environment. More than 350 local celebrities joined the 'Green Ambassador Scheme', over 4,500 people joined the 'Green Volunteer Scheme' to help promote community greening, and more than 880 schools and kindergartens took part in a 'Greening School Subsidy Scheme' to promote environmentally friendly initiatives. About 376,000 students from over 1,170 schools participated in a 'One Person, One Flower' programme. Seedlings were given to students to plant at home or in their schools.

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. A total of 210 horticultural organisations from 18 countries took part in the show in March 2013 at Victoria Park, attracting over 510,000 visitors.

Recreation and Sports Venues

Hong Kong Stadium

The Hong Kong Stadium is Hong Kong's largest outdoor 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 372,200 people attended 29 events in the stadium in 2013, including the popular annual rugby sevens tournament, the British and Irish Lions Hong Kong 2013, the Barclays Asia Trophy 2013 and an invitation football match between Kitchee and Manchester United.

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. More than 273,000 people attended the 70 events at the stadium in 2013, including the Asian Football Confederation Cup (involving Hong Kong, Indonesia, Jordan, Maldives and Myanmar) and the 2015 Asian Cup Qualifier between Hong Kong and Vietnam.

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 2013, about 122,000 people participated in events at the water sports centres and 535,500 visited or stayed at the holiday camps.

Other Recreation and Sports Venues

The LCSD manages 94 sports centres, 43 swimming pool complexes, 256 tennis courts, 295 squash courts, 25 sports grounds, four golf-driving ranges and two public riding schools. The construction works for redevelopment of Victoria Park Swimming Pool, redevelopment of Kwun Tong Swimming Pool, and Hong Kong Velodrome in Tseung Kwan O were completed in 2013, providing new or upgraded recreation and sports facilities for public enjoyment. Works for 12 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 gazetted public beaches (12 on Hong Kong Island and 29 in the New Territories) and 43 public

swimming pool complexes. In 2013, some 12.51 million people used the public beaches and 12.07 million visited public swimming pools.

With the improvement in water quality in the western part of the Victoria Harbour following the commissioning of the Advance Disinfection Facilities of the Harbour Treatment Scheme Stage 2A in March 2010, the LCSD reopened the fifth of seven beaches in Tsuen Wan in September 2013, while the remaining two beaches (Gemini and Ting Kau) will be reopened in March 2014 after completing improvement works to the beach facilities.

Recreation and Sports Organisations

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 2013, athletes in 16 'Tier A' sports (athletics, badminton, billiard sports, cycling, fencing, gymnastics, karatedo, rowing, rugby sevens, squash, swimming, table tennis, tenpin bowling, triathlon, windsurfing and wushu) received dedicated support under the institute's 'Elite Training Programme'. The institute also supports athletes in ten 'Tier B' sports (dance sports, equestrian, judo, lawn bowls, mountaineering, orienteering, roller sports, sailing, skating and tennis) as well as outstanding athletes under the Individual Athletes Support Scheme and the Disabled Sports Elite Training Programme.

Construction of the major new facilities under the institute's \$1.8 billion redevelopment was completed in 2013, providing new, state-of-the-art facilities for training high-performance athletes. The \$7 billion Elite Athletes Development Fund established in 2012 provides a sustainable long-term source of financial support for the institute's operation.

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 Committee 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. At the Tianjin 2013 East Asian Games, the Hong Kong, China team won 56 medals (10 Gold, 16 Silver and 30 Bronze) in 12 sports, ranking fifth in the medal tally.

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. The inaugural Olympism Camp in 2013 promoted Olympism and Olympic values to athletes, students and the community.

The federation's 'Hong Kong Athletes Career and Education Programme' 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 280 athletes from 42 NSAs have received support since the scheme was launched in 2008.

The Hong Kong Anti-Doping Committee, an independent working group under the auspices of the federation, maintains 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 2012 was held in conjunction with the federation's annual spring dinner in February. Cyclist Sarah Lee Wai-sze, who won Hong Kong's third ever Olympic medal in the London 2012 Olympic Games, was awarded the coveted Bank of China (Hong Kong) Best of Best Hong Kong Sports Star.

Hong Kong Paralympic Committee and Sports Association for the Physically Disabled

The Paralympic Movement in Hong Kong had another fruitful year in 2013 with Hong Kong athletes winning many trophies in international competitions, including 15 gold, 10 silver and 7 bronze medals at the Asian Youth Para Games in Malaysia in October, placing Hong Kong eighth out of the 42 competing countries and territories.

To maintain our competitive edge and to achieve further excellence, the Association is committed to nurturing more young disabled athletes and enhancing support to the coaching staff.

With the Incheon 2014 Asian Para Games and the qualifying competitions for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games just round the corner, Hong Kong's athletes are working hard on the necessary preparations for a challenging year ahead.

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's training programme caters for all levels of ability and 54,773 attended sports training and competitions organised by the association in 2013.

Athletes took part in many international competitions during the year and made the most of these events to sharpen their skills. Highlights included the 2013 Asian Indoor Rowing Championships in Hong Kong at which Hong Kong won five medals: two gold, two silver and one bronze; the 6th Inas Open European Indoor Athletics Championships in Turkey at which Hong Kong won six medals: two gold, one silver and three bronze; the 2013 IPC Athletics World Series - China Open Athletics Championships in China at which Hong Kong won one gold medal; the 2013 British International Disability Swimming Championships in the United Kingdom at which Hong Kong won seven medals: three gold, three silver and one bronze; the 2nd Bayreuth Open Table Tennis in Germany at which Hong Kong won one silver and one bronze medal; the 9th Inas World Athletics Championships in the Czech Republic at which Hong Kong won two silver medals; the 2013 Korea PTT Open in Korea at which Hong Kong won one silver and one bronze medal; the 2013 Inas World Swimming Championships in New Caledonia at which Hong Kong won 54 medals: 31 gold, 15 silver and eight bronze; the 2013 ITTF PTT Asian Regional Championships in China at which Hong Kong won two gold and one bronze medal; the Asian Youth Para Games, Malaysia 2013 (ID Events) in Malaysia at which Hong Kong won 15 medals: eight gold, four silver and three bronze; the 2nd Taichung Table Tennis Open for the Disabled 2013 in Taiwan at which Hong Kong won six medals: two gold, three silver and one bronze; and the 2013 Inas World Table Tennis Championships in Hong Kong at which Hong Kong won seven medals: one gold, one silver and five bronze.

Hong Kong athletes also achieved excellent results at the 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Korea, the 2013 HKSO Bowling Invitational Games in Hong Kong, the 2013 SO China National Football Competition in China, Special Olympics Unified Cup Football East Asia Regional Qualifier in China and the Special Olympics 2013 Asia Pacific Games in Australia. Intellectually disabled athletes won 230 medals during the year, comprising 101 gold, 68 silver and 61 bronze.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club

Horse racing has been an iconic part of Hong Kong life for more than 150 years, and today Hong Kong is recognised as one of the leading jurisdictions in the sport worldwide. Racing is not only a favourite sport among local residents but also a 'must see' attraction for many overseas visitors. In the 2012-13 season, the city's two racecourses at Sha Tin in the New Territories and Happy Valley on Hong Kong Island attracted total attendance of more than two million, the highest for nine years, including 1 19,000 at the Chinese New Year race day alone.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club is one of the world's largest racing organisations and football betting operators. 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 combat illegal betting, playing a leading role in promoting responsible gambling.

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 extend far beyond sporting entertainment. It is Hong Kong's largest single taxpayer, contributing \$17.64 billion to the public purse in 2012-13, or 7.3 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 24,000 full- and part-time staff.

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 2012-13, it donated a record \$1.95 billion to 160 local projects through the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust. These projects will ultimately touch the lives of some three-quarters of the local population.

To safeguard these contributions 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 well over \$3 billion 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 July 2013, the Legislative Council endorsed amendments to the Betting Duty Ordinance which enable the club to establish commingled betting pools with other racing jurisdictions worldwide. Hong Kong has the potential to become a leader in this rapidly-growing field, given its world-class racing operations, high reputation for integrity and attractiveness of its large betting pools. Many local race meetings are already broadcast live to overseas countries and regions such as Macao, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand. Commingled pools are gradually being introduced during 2014.

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 2013 International Races attracted 28 top thoroughbreds from seven countries. Despite competing with the world's best, Hong Kong-trained horses captured three of the four prestigious titles.

The four Hong Kong International Races, and the Champions Mile run in early May, have been listed among the World's Top 50 Group/Grade One races by the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities.

Outward Bound Hong Kong

Outward Bound Hong Kong (OBHK) is a member of Outward Bound International, which was founded in the UK in 1941 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. OBHK has a wide range of facilities and resources, including a 67-foot sail training yacht, the Spirit of Outward Bound, a world-class rope course and a fleet of sea 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 Mainland China, Japan, the Philippines, and Taiwan.

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

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, good 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 2013, for the seventh 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.

YHA Mei Ho House Youth Hostel was officially launched in December 2013. Under the government's 'Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme', this former six-storey resettlement block in Shek Kip Mei has been transformed into the HKYHA's first city hostel. Combined with the 'Heritage of Mei Ho House' museum showcasing life in public housing from the 1950s to the 1970s, the HKYHA aims to promote heritage conservation to global backpackers and the local community.

Sporting Achievements

In 2013, the Hong Kong team won 56 medals (10 gold, 16 silver and 30 bronze) at the 6th East Asian Games in Tianjin, China, including a victory over China to win gold in the Men's Foil Team event. Hong Kong's athletes won gold in all the squash events, including Men's and Women's Individual as well as Team events.

Hong Kong athletes also performed well at the 2nd Asian Youth Games in Nanjing, China, winning 20 medals (two gold, five silver and 13 bronze), including gold in the Rugby Sevens Men's Team event.

A total of 223 Hong Kong athletes took part in 20 events at the 12th National Games in Liaoning Province, winning seven medals (one gold, three silver and three bronze).

Recreation and Sports Programmes

In 2013, the LCSD organised some 38,200 recreation and sports programmes for about 2.53 million participants of all ages and abilities at a total cost of \$159.79 million.

District Sports Teams Training Scheme

A total of 11,960 young people took part in 301 district team events for basketball, football, handball and fencing in 2013.

Young Athletes Training Scheme

In 2013, 34,352 young people joined the 'Young Athletes Training Scheme', under which 22 National Sports Associations (NSAs) (commissioned by the LCSD) provided intermediate level training in 28 sports disciplines to teenagers wishing to become athletes.

School Sports Programme

The School Sports Programme provides a wide range of sports programmes for students and includes 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 2013, over 610,000 students took part in about 8,000 sporting events. The School Sport Programme Coordinator Pilot Scheme was launched in the 2012-13 school year to further foster a strong sporting culture in school campus whilst providing a career training platform for retired athletes.

Community Sports Club Project

In 2013, the Community Sports Club (CSC) Project, organised by the LCSD in collaboration with the NSAs, supported about 430 CSCs in organising 2,303 sports training activities for 50,012 participants. Seminars and management development programmes were formulated for some 520 sports volunteers to help them run CSCs.

The CSC Enhancement Programme encourages CSCs to use LCSD venues outside peak hours to organise activities for local people, and 311 sports training classes were held for 3,325 participants under this programme in 2013.

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 2013, the LCSD provided 58 NSAs and 26 sport organisations with subventions amounting to about \$259 million and 11,261 programmes for different sports were organised, attracting 746,010 participants. The most popular training programmes were for football, basketball, wushu and table tennis.

In 2013, the NSAs were given subsidies to stage local and international events in Hong Kong, including the 17th Asian Youth Tenpin Bowling Championships, the FINA Marathon Swimming World Cup – Hong Kong 2013 and the 2013 ITTF Premium Junior Circuit (Table Tennis) – Hong Kong Junior and Cadet Open. The LCSD also provided subsidies 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 increase support from the commercial sector and the community for the NSAs in developing sustainable major international sports events. In 2013, 10 events were given 'M' Mark status and/or support packages.

Masters Games

The Masters Games, held every two years, aim to inspire people aged 35 or above to maintain their physical and mental health by competing against individuals of similar age. The six sports events at the Masters Games 2012/13 attracted 4,406 competitors.

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

In 2013, over 80,000 people took part in about 1,500 programmes under the 'Healthy Exercise for All' campaign. Over 220,000 people participated in the LCSD's annual 'Sport For All Day' in August, 'Stay active. Exercise every day with your family' was adopted as the event slogan to encourage the public to lead an active and healthy life with their family members. 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 on that day.

The 4th Hong Kong Games

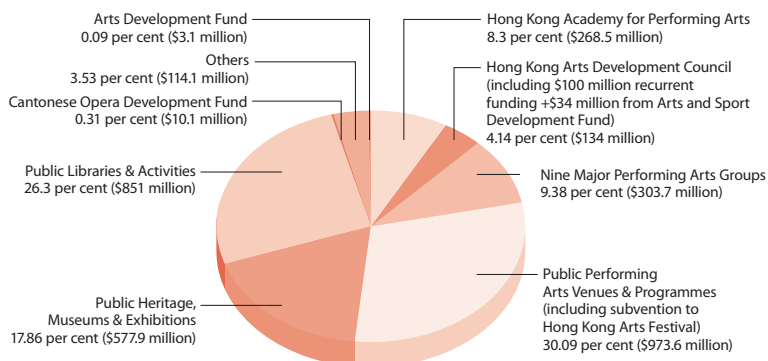
Between April and June, 3,137 athletes competed in the 4th Hong Kong Games and over 400,000 people participated in related community activities. The games, held biennially, aim to promote a stronger sporting culture in the community through competitions and community activities.

Culture and Arts Funding

Government Funding Support for Culture and the Arts

Chart 1

Provision for Arts and Culture 2012-13



(Note: The government's total expenditure on arts and culture in 2012-13 was \$3.24 billion)

Capital Funding

In 2008, an upfront endowment of \$21.6 billion was granted to the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority to develop the West Kowloon Cultural District, meeting the long-term infrastructural and development needs of Hong Kong's arts and culture.

Recurrent Funding

In 2012-13, the government earmarked \$3.24 billion (not including capital works expenditure) for supporting arts groups, arts education and promotion, and administrative costs.

Funding for the Major Performing Arts Groups

In 2012-13, HAB provided about \$304 million to support 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.

Arts and Sport Development Fund

The investment returns generated by \$1.5 billion injected as seed money into the arts portion of the Arts and Sport Development Fund (ASDF) 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. A total of 32 proposals were selected for grants in the funding exercises launched in 2011 and 2012. Another \$30 million is earmarked annually from the arts portion of the ASDF to support arts projects initiated or recommended by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council.

Cantonese Opera Development Fund

The Cantonese Opera Development Fund continues to provide funds to preserve, promote and develop Cantonese opera and in 2013 it granted about \$8.15 million to support various Cantonese opera projects, including the Venue Partnership Scheme at Yau Ma Tei Theatre, Yuen Long Theatre and Sha Tin Town Hall, and projects to preserve the artistry of Cantonese opera master artists. The fund has approved \$63 million for some 530 Cantonese opera projects since its inception in 2005.

Arts Development Fund

The Arts Development Fund was set up with a government contribution of \$30 million in 1993 to enhance the development of the arts in Hong Kong. Since 2001, it has been used mainly to support cultural exchange projects. In 2013, \$3.55 million was approved for 51 such projects.

Lord Wilson Heritage Trust

The Lord Wilson Heritage Trust provides funding support to community organisations and individuals to undertake heritage activities and research projects. Seven heritage-related projects worth about \$1.16 million were approved in 2013.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund awards scholarships to candidates of outstanding talent to pursue further studies in music or dance outside Hong Kong. Five scholarships worth about \$4.44 million were awarded in 2013.

Culture and Arts Venues

There are 16 performance venues of varying sizes in Hong Kong under LCSD's management.

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 2013, more than 656,000 people attended 711 performances at the centre.

Hong Kong City Hall

Hong Kong City Hall, the first purpose-built major civic centre, celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2012. Its main facilities include a 1,434-seat concert hall, a 463-seat theatre, and an exhibition hall. In 2013, 535 events were held in the concert hall and the theatre, attracting over 340,000 people.

Yau Ma Tei Theatre

Yau Ma Tei Theatre, the only surviving pre-war cinema building in Hong Kong's urban area, was revitalised as a dedicated venue for Chinese opera and opened in July 2012. In 2013, more than 72,600 people attended 353 performances at the theatre.

Regional and District Civic Centres and Theatres

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.

Indoor Stadia

The 12,500-seat Hong Kong Coliseum and the 3,500-seat Queen Elizabeth Stadium are the two largest multi-purpose indoor stadia in Hong Kong. With their flexible stage and seating configurations, the two stadia have played host to many major international and local sports events, culture and entertainment spectacles such as pop concerts as well as celebratory events. In 2013, 44 and 132 events were staged in the coliseum and the stadium, attracting over 1,552,000 and 373,000 spectators respectively.

Venue Partnership Scheme

The Venue Partnership Scheme fosters partnerships between LCSD's performance venues and selected 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, facilitate sponsorship drives, and encourage community

involvement in the arts in Hong Kong. Some 846,000 people attended or took part in 914 stage performances and 1,034 educational, promotional and audience-building activities organised by the venue partners in 2013.

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. The government aims to promote the development of arts and culture and Hong Kong as an international arts and cultural metropolis.

The draft WKCD Development Plan, based on the 'City Park' concept by Foster + Partners, was approved by the Chief Executive-in-Council in January 2013. Despite the challenge presented by project cost escalation, the government and the WKCD Authority are committed to developing the WKCD into a world-class hub of arts and culture. It was announced in June that a pragmatic approach would be adopted and a mix of arts and cultural facilities would come on stream in three batches starting from 2015-16.

Progress for the design and construction of the WKCD facilities in 2013 included the selection in June of Herzog & de Meuron with TFP Farrells and Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd's competition entry as the design for M+, a museum focusing on 20th and 21st century visual culture, and in September the start of construction of Xiqu Centre, WKCD's first major performing arts venue. The Design Competition for the Arts Pavilion, an exhibition and event pavilion for use by organisations, artists, designers and others, was also launched in September 2013.

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 one of the most widely-used computerised ticketing systems in Hong Kong. It offers a variety of convenient and reliable ticketing services to the public through its network of over 40 outlets throughout the territory as well as internet and telephone booking services. In 2013, 4.76 million tickets with proceeds over \$1,000 million were processed by the system.

Culture and Arts Organisations

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. In 2013, the HKADC launched an internship in the House of World Cultures in Germany, and co-organised the Overseas Training/Research Programme for Leaders from Local Arts Groups on Future Arts Development in Hong Kong with the WKCD Authority.

Major HKADC arts promotion events in 2013 included the Hong Kong Dance Festival 2013, the Hong Kong Arts Development Awards 2012; the 5th Arts Ambassadors-in-School Scheme, the Outstanding Arts Teacher Award and Fresh Wave 2013. The HKADC continued to co-present with RTHK *Artspiration*, a weekly TV series on art, artists and cultural events in Hong Kong and around the world, and with Cable TV *ArTour*, a monthly segment for the programme *Close to Culture*, featuring local young artists.

In collaboration with M+, the WKCD's museum for visual culture, and the Hong Kong Museum of Art, the HKADC participated in the 55th Venice Biennale International Art Exhibition and the Hong Kong Week 2013 in Taipei. The HKADC also presented exhibitions in Hong Kong inspired by the 54th Venice Biennale International Art Exhibition and the 13th Venice Biennale Architecture Exhibition and organised an International Arts Leadership Roundtable to discuss future arts.

The HKADC's main tasks include arts research and policy advocacy. In 2013, it carried out the Annual Arts Survey to collect data on visual arts exhibitions and programmes and updated the Hong Kong Visual Artists Directory published in 1999. The HKADC also 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: music, dance, drama, theatre and entertainments arts, film and television, and Chinese opera. Its education philosophy reflects Hong Kong's cultural diversity underscored by Chinese and Western traditions, and an emphasis on interdisciplinary learning.

In 2013, the academy enrolled 790 students for undergraduate and post-secondary programmes in its six arts disciplines, and attracted 139 students to pursue their Master's degree programmes in dance, music, drama, film and television, and theatre and entertainment arts. It admitted 797 students to its junior programmes and over 5,400 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 1 historical building and adapted for use as a contemporary arts space. 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 to nurture budding artists and promote mature artists by providing venue and publicity support, as well as opportunities for overseas tours.

Renovation of the Fringe Club premises, funded by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, neared completion in 2013. The gallery and theatres were re-opened by stages with a variety of programmes by local and visiting artists. In July, there was a four-day conference 'Asia on the Edge', jointly organised by Fringe Club, The Arts House of Singapore, and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Singapore, bringing together over 100 creative leaders and arts workers from Hong Kong and ASEAN countries.

The Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre

The Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre (JCCAC) is a multi-disciplinary arts village and arts centre housed in a converted nine-storey decommissioned factory estate in Shek Kip Mei. It operates as a self-financed, registered charity to provide space for artistic creation, nurturing young talents and promoting arts and culture.

The JCCAC houses over 100 artists and art groups working in the visual arts, film, performing arts and other art forms. The JCCAC's facilities (which are open for hire for arts and cultural activities) include exhibition galleries and a black box theatre.

Around 3,000 students and young people participated in art workshops at the JCCAC in 2013 and other events included the JCCAC Festival, handicraft fairs, rooftop cinema shows, performances at the black box theatre and gallery exhibitions.

Major Performing Arts Groups

Chung Ying Theatre Company

The Chung Ying Theatre Company dedicates itself to producing high quality productions aiming to promote theatrical arts and theatre education to enrich Hong Kong's cultural life.

In 2013, it presented translated and original plays by acclaimed directors, including Peter Jordan's *Les Misérables*, CHAN Suk-yi's *Writer's Block*, CHUNG King-fai and KO Tin-lung's *The Miracle Worker* and William LO's *The Happy Prince*. The company's Artistic Director KO Tin-lung also directed the 11th re-run of *Tuesdays with Morrie*, while Resident Director Edmond LO directed an original comedy *The Big Big Day*.

City Contemporary Dance Company

The City Contemporary Dance Company is a professional modern dance company that nurtures creative dance talent in the context of contemporary China. In 2013, it produced four original productions and hosted the Jumping Frames International Dance Video Showcase. It also performed in the Mainland, Germany, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Italy, and its Dance Centre organised educational and outreach activities to promote modern dance in Hong Kong and the Mainland.

Hong Kong Ballet

The Hong Kong Ballet, one of Asia's premier classical ballet companies, is gaining recognition in the international dance world. In 2013, it gave 56 performances, including *Ballet Classics for Children: Cinderella; The Sleeping Beauty; The Frog Prince - A Ballet Chinois; The Merry Widow; Swan Lake; The Dream of the Red Chamber and The Nutcracker*. It also presented two performances of *Swan Lake* at the Guangzhou Arts Festival.

Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra

The Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra promotes the development of Chinese music and gives over 140 concerts and arts education activities each season. In 2013, it performed in Russia at Chelyabinsk, Ekaterinburg, Tyumen and Moscow and to showcase its Eco-huqin series.

Hong Kong Dance Company

The Hong Kong Dance Company has staged over 100 productions since its establishment in 1981 to promote Chinese dance. Its 50 performances in 2013, including *Feng Shui, Pop Classics: Joseph Koo's Dance Melodies 2013, The Happy Prince, Masquerade and The Legend of Mulan*, reached an audience of more than 40,000. It also conducted overseas tours to Toronto, Washington, DC, Beijing and Taipei.

Hong Kong Philharmonic

Celebrating its 40th professional season, the Hong Kong Philharmonic is the city's largest professional musical organisation. The orchestra presents over 150 concerts for 200,000 music lovers every year. Featuring international conductors and soloists, the orchestra performed a broad variety of music in 2013 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. The orchestra also toured to Taipei in 2013.

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. In 2013, it presented 13 productions, including *18/F Flat C, The Professor, A Bowlful of Kindness, The Emperor, his Mom, a Eunuch and a Man and The Cherry Orchard*. It also developed new black box projects, extended arts educational programmes and toured to Mainland.

Hong Kong Sinfonietta

Hong Kong Sinfonietta is one of Hong Kong's leading symphony orchestras. It regularly commissions new works and collaborates with artists from different art forms and brings

classical music to people from all walks of life. In 2013, the orchestra performed with Canada's National Arts Centre Orchestra in Hong Kong, and performed at the 'La Folle Journée' festival in Japan.

Zuni Icosahedron

In 2013, Zuni Icosahedron organised the third 'Architecture is Art Festival' and presented experimental theatre programmes *The Trial and Hua-Yen Sutra 3.0*. It was the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts' company-in-residence and was invited to major cities in the Mainland, Asia and Sweden. Zuni also published *Asian Performing Arts – From the Traditional to the Contemporary*, in search of the future of intangible cultural heritage.

Culture and Arts Presentations

LCSD Cultural Presentations

The LCSD provides high quality cultural programmes throughout the year. In 2013, 989 performances were held, featuring local and visiting artists, and attended by more than 384,600 people.

LCSD organised a variety of thematic series in 2013. 'Verdi & Wagner Year' celebrated the 200th Anniversary of the birth of the two great opera composers and included Wagner's opera *The Flying Dutchman* produced by Opera Hong Kong, Verdi's opera *Rigoletto* by Musica Viva, Dresdner Philharmonie's (Germany) concerts of Wagner's orchestral works, and screenings of the complete Wagner's *Ring Cycle* with discussion sessions led by critics.

'Footprints of Time – Literary Figures and Their Sojourn in Hong Kong' was another series of performances in music, theatre and dance based upon the literary works of Yu Kwangchung, Dai Wangshu and Xiao Hong and staged in venues with strong historical ties to these literary figures.

International artists featured in LCSD programmes included soprano Renée Fleming, guitarist Pepe Romero, violinist Kyung-Wha Chung and mezzo-soprano Magdalena Kožená, while dance troupes included María Pagés Compañía (Spain), Geneva Ballet (Switzerland), and Ballet Nacional de España (Spain). Other visitors included the Tianjin People's Art Theatre and the Zunyi Acrobatic Troupe of Guizhou Province (both Mainland China), the Choir of King's College, Cambridge (United Kingdom), and the Little Singers of Paris (France).

The LCSD's large-scale community events in 2013 included the 'Cantonese Opera Day' and 'Dance Day'. The LCSD also supported local arts development and organised a number of programme series, including those for young recitalists and music groups, for emerging choreographers and dancers, for promising theatre groups, for young Cantonese opera artists, for promoting cutting-edge multi-media shows to young audience, and for appreciating and celebrating Chinese traditional music.

Entertainment Programmes

In 2013, the LCSD organised 23 major festive and thematic carnivals and 629 district art shows with a total audience of 1,180,000, featuring a range of local and overseas performances and arts.

Arts Education and Audience-building Projects

In 2013, the LCSD organised 1,279 arts education and audience-building activities in schools, community halls and other public venues to promote the arts and encourage participation in cultural activities.

Among the various arts education schemes, the 'New Synergy Arts Animateur Scheme' was continued in 2013 after its pilot run, training students wishing to further develop their artistic pursuit after completing elementary training in script writing and music composition. Following its successful implementation in Sham Shui Po and Kwun Tong, the 'Community Oral History Theatre Project' was extended to Tai O with site-specific performances by the elderly participants staged at scenic attractions in the district.

Major Culture and Arts Events

Hong Kong Arts Festival

The annual Hong Kong Arts Festival included 13 world premieres and 17 Asian premieres in its 41st season, serving an audience of over 132,000. Presentations included the *Einstein on the Beach*; and the San Carlo Theatre's Hong Kong debut with Verdi's *La Traviata*, *Il Marito Disperato* and *Viva Verdi* in the 200th anniversary year of the composer's birth. Other international performers included Esperanza Spalding, Goran Bregovic, Yeung Fai, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Musiciens du Louvre, the American Ballet Theatre, Fabulous Beast, La Baraka, 1927, Berkeley Repertory Theatre and the National Theatre of Britain. Festival productions included contemporary dance, music, theatre and the chamber opera *Heart of Coral*, and the co-production of *Green Snake* with the National Theatre of China.

International Arts Carnival

The LCSD's annual International Arts Carnival in July and August opened with *Architecture in Motion* by the Diavolo Dance Theater from USA. Some 158,400 people attended the carnival's 426 events, involving seven visiting and 51 local arts groups/artists, offering an array of programmes ranging from acrobatics, physical comedy, magic theatre, puppetry and mime to music theatre and dance.

World Cultures Festival – Lasting Legacies of Eastern Europe

The fifth edition of the LCSD's World Cultures Festival featured a selection of representative artists and art forms from Eastern Europe. The festival included *Anna Karenina* by the Eifman Ballet of St Petersburg, Chekhov's classic *Uncle Vanya* directed by Russian director Lev Dodin, and *Persona. Marilyn* directed by Polish director Krystian Lupa. The festival's 119 events attracted an audience of over 124,700.

Chinese Opera Festival

LCSD's fourth 'Chinese Opera Festival' featured mainstream genres such as Cantonese Opera, Kunqu Opera and Peking Opera, as well as regional operas such as Wu Opera of Zhejiang, Sixian Opera of Hebei, Xiang Opera of Hunan and Diaoqiang of Xinchang of Zhejiang, which have rarely been performed in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong Week 2013@Taipei

The second 'Hong Kong Week', presented by the Hong Kong-Taiwan Cultural Co-operation Committee in association with the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (Taiwan), opened on 29 November, featuring four exhibitions ('A Century of Fashion: Hong Kong Cheongsam Story', 'Hong Kong Design • Styles', 'A Parallel Tale: Taipei in 80s x Hong Kong in 90s' and 'All Are Guests'), two performing arts programmes by the Hong Kong Philharmonic and Hong Kong Dance Company, and 24 extension activities organised by the participating arts groups.

Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum (ACCF) 2013

HAB launched the ACCF in 2003 to foster cultural co-operation in the Asian region. The eighth ACCF in 2013 was attended by cultural ministers and senior officials from the Mainland, Brunei, Cambodia, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, and a workshop was also held for library professionals from these Asian countries.

Museums

Hong Kong Museum of Art

Highlights of the year included 'The Origin of Dao: New Dimensions in Chinese Contemporary Art', 'A Hundred Chinese Paintings from the Hong Kong Museum of Art', 'Maritime Porcelain Road: Relics from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Museums', 'Bonds of Memory: Wan Qingli's Collection of Chinese Art Given by His Teachers and Friends Exhibition' and 'Hong Kong Contemporary Art Awards 2012'.

One outbound exhibition was organised in 2013: a contemporary art exhibition at 'The Hong Kong Week 2013' in Taipei.

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 593,000 visitors and participants in 2013.

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. One special exhibition, '2013 Tea Ware by Hong Kong Potters', was held in 2013. Some 229,700 visitors visited the museum (a branch of the Hong Kong Museum of Art) and joined its education programmes in 2013.

Hong Kong Museum of History

In addition to its permanent exhibition, 'The Hong Kong Story', the Hong Kong Museum of History organised three large exhibitions in 2013: 'The Wonders of Ancient Mesopotamia' showcasing more than 170 artefacts from the British Museum, 'The Splendours of Royal Costume: Qing Court Attire' featuring some 130 items from the Palace Museum, including robes and accessories worn by the Qing emperors and imperial consorts, and 'Images Through Time: Photos of Old Hong Kong', featuring more than 700 photos from the museum and the collection of the Moonchu Foundation. The first two exhibitions (the third will run until April 2014) attracted more than 294,000 visitors, and an additional 172,939 participated in their education and extension activities. In addition, a series of Chinese music ensemble concerts were also staged in the 'The Hong Kong Story' Permanent Exhibition Gallery. Over 864,000 people visited the museum in 2013.

The museum organised a range of programmes and events for different sections of the community, including those with disabilities, the elderly, new immigrants, teenagers, students, teachers and ethnic minority groups. The museum launched a variety of events for 'International Museum Day 2013, Hong Kong' in May, and 65,647 visitors visited the LCSD's museums on 18 and 19 May.

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 117,444 visitors in 2013. In addition to its permanent exhibition, '600 Years of Hong Kong's Coastal Defence', the museum staged two exhibitions in 2013: 'Anti-Japanese War Heroes: An Exhibition on the Hong Kong Independent Battalion of the Dongjiang Column' and 'Unsung Bravery: History of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps'.

Some 59,100 people visited the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum in 2013. Housed in historic Kom Tong Hall, it contains two permanent exhibitions relating to Dr Sun's life and career. Two special exhibitions were held in 2013: 'Dr Sun Yat-sen and His Family' and 'History in Prints: The 1911 Revolution in Guangdong'.

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 65,600 people visited the gallery in 2013.

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 35,660 and 13,000 visitors in 2013 respectively.

Hong Kong Heritage Museum

Major exhibitions organised by the museum in 2013 included 'Fabergé: Legacy of Imperial Russia' exhibition (jointly organised with the Moscow Kremlin Museums and the Fersman Mineralogical Museum, and including Fabergé eggs, silverware, jewellery and a variety of

Romanov dynasty treasures) and 'Bruce Lee: Kung Fu • Art • Life' to mark the 40th anniversary of his death. The latter exhibition will run for five years, with various associated education and extension programmes.

Other exhibitions staged in 2013 included 'Intelligence Infinity: Inspiration through Art', 'Fashion • Image • Eddie Lau', 'Best Wishes for the Family: Traditional Chinese Woodblock Prints from the Collections of the Hong Kong Heritage Museum', 'Collaborative Printmaking' and 'The Legend of Silk and Wood: A Hong Kong Qin Story'.

In addition, in 2013 the museum introduced 'Sharing Our Lives: New Interactive Experience for Seniors and Teens', a series of special programmes designed to connect younger and older generations by interacting, sharing experiences and learning from each other. The museum also collaborated with the Education Bureau to run gallery talks, workshops and seminars in support of Life-wide Learning and the New Senior Secondary Curriculum during the year.

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 624,300, 91,200, 206,600 and 42,400 visitors respectively in 2013.

Hong Kong Science Museum

Over 1,700,000 visited the Science Museum in 2013. The museum's exhibitions included 'Julius Caesar - Military Genius & Mighty Machines' and 'Wildlife Photographer of the Year' and 'Legends of the Giant Dinosaurs'. The latter exhibition was the largest of its kind ever held in Hong Kong. Covering an area of 2,500 square metres, the exhibition's 190 exhibits included robotic dinosaurs, fossils and multimedia programmes. Activities held to tie in with the exhibition included 'A Night with Dinosaurs', giving family groups a unique opportunity to stay in the museum overnight and take part in an array of fun-filled activities.

The museum continued to showcase the latest local scientific researches, with exhibitions on 'Painless Vaccination' and 'Soybean Homecoming' and the Distinguished Chinese Scientists Lecture Series continued in 2013.

Events co-organised by the museum in 2013 included the Hong Kong Student Science Project Competition, which attracted 807 students in 200 teams from 87 secondary schools and the Fun Science Competition, with 372 students from 145 school teams.

Hong Kong Space Museum

In 2013, the Hong Kong Space Museum presented one Sky Show, four OMNIMAX Shows, one 3D fulldome show 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 an eight-day astronaut training and study tour at the China Astronaut Research and Training Center and Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center. The museum also presented the 'Chang'e 3 Lunar Exploration Mission' exhibition to commemorate China's first soft landing of a lunar rover.

Some 877,200 people visited the museum's exhibitions and shows in the Space Theatre, while 22,119 people took part in the educational and extension programmes in 2013.

Hong Kong Film Archive

In 2013, the Hong Kong Film Archive attracted over 179,600 visitors. In addition to its permanent exhibition, 'In Memory of Queen's Theatre', it organised three thematic exhibitions: 'Zen and Sensibility: Legend in King Hu's Drawing', 'Golden Harvest: A Landmark in Hong Kong Cinema' and 'Merry-Go-Movies • Star Kids'.

The archive acquired more than 209 films and 39,118 film-related materials in 2013. Major acquisitions included 35mm film prints and materials from around 127 titles donated by Universe Films Distribution Company Limited and nine titles by Point of View Movie Production Company Limited, including picture negatives, sound tracks, subtitles and footage. Film prints, trailers, teasers and footage from 17 titles dating from 1993 to 2012 were donated by Pegasus Motion Pictures Distribution Limited. Film prints, trailers and footage from 10 titles dating from 2004 to 2011 were donated by Mei Ah Entertainment Group Limited, and film prints, trailers and footage from six titles dating from 2009 to 2011 were acquired from Bona Entertainment Company Limited.

Public Libraries

The LCSD operates 67 static and 10 mobile libraries and a books registration office. The libraries hold some 11.39 million books and over 1.74 million items of multimedia material, serving almost 4.18 million registered book borrowers and lending more than 55.54 million books and other library materials in 2013.

Hong Kong Central Library

The Hong Kong Central Library is a major information and cultural centre, with a stock of over 2.59 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.

The central library organises a wide range of cultural programmes and holds user education sessions to promote library resources to members of the public. In 2013, major talk series co-organised at the library included 'Explore the World of Medicine: Public Lecture Series', 'Subject Talk Series on Life and Death Education: Preparing for Death, Appreciating Life', and 'Public Lectures on History and Business in China'.

Improvements to Library Services

The public libraries work closely with the District Councils and local organisations to set up community libraries. The number of community libraries in Hong Kong had been increased to 215 by the end of 2013. Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai Public Library in Yuen Long District opened in February and Lam Tin Public Library in Kwun Tong District opened in March.

Lending services were enhanced to increase the loan quota from six to eight books for each registered borrower from 1 March 2013.

Reference and Information Services

Reference and information services are provided at the Hong Kong Central Library and the City Hall, Kowloon, Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai, Sha Tin, Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun 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 2013, 3.55 million enquiries were handled by the public libraries.

Online reference service is an integral part of the public libraries' reference and information services and 63 online databases covering different subjects are available to library users.

Information Technology Initiatives and Digital Library Initiatives

New IT systems rolled out to improve library services in 2013 included a print management system and an electronic reference system. An online payment system, a new HKPL portal and applications for mobile devices are being developed.

At the end of 2013, around 1,150,000 people had registered to use their smart ID cards as library cards. Over 1,900 library computers allow the public to access the libraries' electronic resources, or the internet. More than 180,000 e-books and 21 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 digitised materials via the internet at any time. The system will be extended to all static libraries in early 2014.

Outreach Programmes and Promotion of Reading and Literary Arts

In 2013, the public libraries conducted 21,308 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. Reading activities were organised on the themes of family love and care for the earth and society.

Promotional programmes for creative writing and Chinese literature in 2013 included the 12th Hong Kong Biennial Awards for Chinese Literature, with seminars conducted by local and overseas writers.

Cultural Exchange

In 2013, Hong Kong's public libraries collaborated with the Hong Kong Library Association and the Goethe Institut Hongkong to organise public lectures by visiting librarians from Germany. The libraries jointly presented with the Sun Yat-sen Library of Guangdong Province the 'Thirteen Hongs of Canton: Selected Pictures and Documents Exhibition' at the Hong Kong Central Library.

Books Registration Office

The Books Registration Office registers local publications and monitors the use of the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) system. It publishes the Catalogue of Books Printed in Hong Kong in the Government Gazette every three months. The catalogue can also be viewed on the internet. In 2013, the office registered 15,418 books, 10,607 periodicals, and issued 1,047 new publisher prefixes totalling 18,570 ISBNs.

Heritage

Cantonese Opera

The government is keen to preserve, promote and develop Cantonese opera in Hong Kong. A new wing to the Ko Shan Theatre is being built to accommodate a 600-seat auditorium as a venue dedicated to Cantonese opera, in addition to the existing 1,000-seat theatre.

The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts launched the first Cantonese opera degree course in Hong Kong in the 2013-14 academic year. The Hong Kong Arts Development Council also provides continuous funding to support the training programmes organised by the Cantonese Opera Academy of Hong Kong.

Intangible Cultural Heritage

The government supports the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) through various means, including the identification, documentation, research, preservation, promotion and transmission of such heritage. The first territory-wide survey of ICH since 2009, commissioned by the Hong Kong Heritage Museum and conducted by the South China Research Center of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, was completed in May 2013. After the ICH Advisory Committee considered the survey findings, the Hong Kong Heritage Museum published a draft inventory of 477 items for public consultation from July to November 2013. The first inventory of Hong Kong's ICH will be published in mid 2014.

Lord Wilson Heritage Trust

The Lord Wilson Heritage Trust aims to preserve and conserve the human heritage of Hong Kong by organising activities and providing funding support to community activities and research projects related to heritage.

The trust approved seven heritage-related projects in 2013, bringing the total to 162 since its establishment in 1992.

Conservation Office

The Conservation Office performed conservation treatment on 726 museum artefacts, including paintings, prints, historical documents, textiles, metals, ceramics, sculptures, organic objects and archaeological finds. Prior to the treatment work, scientific research and analyses were conducted to identify appropriate modes of treatment.

The office organised 13 workshops and behind-the-scene laboratory tours for 1,076 students and members of the public in 2013, and recruited 105 volunteers who contributed over 5,271 service hours.

The office organised the first Curators Forum of the Pearl River Delta region in November 2013, featuring 15 speakers from museums in Guangdong, Macao and Hong Kong and attracting participation by more than 130 museum professionals.

A new exhibition, 'Childhood Memories', was mounted at Hong Kong International Airport in November showcasing Hong Kong toys and dolls.

Nurturing talent

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund awards scholarships to enable candidates with outstanding talent to pursue post-diploma or post-graduate studies or professional training in music or dance at world-renowned institutions or to undertake less formal studies, projects or creative work outside Hong Kong.

The fund awarded five scholarships in 2013, bringing the total to 288 since its establishment in 1980.

Arts Administrator Trainee Scheme

Launched in 2010, the Arts Administrator Trainee scheme aims to nurture a pool of arts administrators to support the development of the performing arts in Hong Kong. Trainees are attached to the LCSD performing arts venues or programme offices for two years to learn about venue operations, facility management, event organising and promotion, and related administration. The number of trainee placements was increased from 18 in 2012 to 33 in 2013. The LCSD also sponsored its venue partners and the Hong Kong Arts Festival to run similar programmes for trainees to learn about the management of performing arts groups or the organisation of arts festivals. The scheme was also extended to stage management in 2013 with nine trainees attached to the LCSD performing arts venues to gain practical experience.

Museum Trainee Scheme

The Museum Trainee Scheme was begun in 2010 to develop museum professionals. Trainees are attached to the Hong Kong Museum of Art, the Hong Kong Museum of History, the Hong Kong Heritage Museum, the Hong Kong Film Archive, the Art Promotion Office and the Conservation Office, and receive two-year on-the-job training in museum management or conservation services. Trainees learn how to manage museum services and organise education programmes and also gain hands-on experience in curating exhibitions and projects. The number of trainee placements was increased from 15 in 2012 to 24 in 2013.

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 2013, it provided music training for 8,591 trainees and 163,251 people took part in its music promotional activities.

Visual and Public Arts

Art Promotion Office

Projects organised by the Art Promotion Office in 2013 included 'ArtAlive@Park2012' at Stanley Promenade and 'Art@Government Buildings 2012-13'. Two solo exhibitions by a local artist 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 'Crossroads – Another Dimension: A Cross-Strait Four Regions Artistic Exchange Project 2013', with He Xiangning Art Museum, Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts and Macao Museum of Art in the four cities from June 2013 to February 2014.

Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre

Managed by the Art Promotion Office, the Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre focuses on art learning, research and exchange, and provides facilities for hire. It has eight well-equipped art studios, a lecture theatre, an exhibition hall and two multi-purpose rooms. The centre organised a series of programmes in 2013 including 'Art Specialist Course and Advance Practice Course 2013-14', 'Art Summer Camp', 'Celebration Programmes of 'Soar!' – VAC 21st Anniversary', 'Interactive Jam with Digital Art Pro' and 'Dialogue! Conference on Publicly Engaged Art Practices'.

Oil Street Art Space (Oi!)

Oi!, a new art space housed in a Grade 2 historic building in Oil Street and managed by the Art Promotion Office, opened in May to provide a platform for the development of visual arts. Exhibitions in 2013 included 'Embark! Beyond the Horizon' and 'Sparkle! Art for the Future'.

Public Art Project

Public art projects launched by the Art Promotion Office in 2013 included the 'MTR New Railway Lines Art in Station 2012 Open Call for Proposals', and the 'Public Art Scheme of the Town Park, Indoor Velodrome-cum-Sports Centre, Tseung Kwan O'.

Websites

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

Home Affairs Bureau: www.hab.gov.hk

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