

## Chapter 19

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# 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 2014, some 875,840 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 2014 processed 58 applications for billiard establishments, seven for public bowling alleys and five for public skating rinks.

## **Parks and Greenery**

The LCSD manages 1,544 parks and gardens of different sizes, including 26 major parks. It is responsible for planting and maintaining the plants at the city's public parks, recreational and sports venues, and roadside amenity areas. In 2014, the department planted 2.55 million plants, including trees, shrubs and seasonal flowers, and carried out landscape improvement projects for about 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 70 different species are kept. In 2014, five 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. About 50 species of aquatic plants featured in an 'Aquatic Plants' show at the Display Plant House from July to September 2014.

### ***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. Eleven endangered species of mammals, birds and reptiles lived there in 2014. The bird collection is one of the most comprehensive in Asia, comprising about 280 birds of 55 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 about 11.2 million visitors in 2014.

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 2014, the park attracted about 460,000 visitors. The park also organised various education and publicity programmes to cultivate awareness of wetland conservation.

### **Hong Kong Global Geopark of China**

The Hong Kong Global Geopark occupies 50 square kilometres 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 contains spectacular hexagonal volcanic rock columns, of a size and composition rarely found elsewhere in the world. The Northeast New Territories Sedimentary Rock Region has rocks formed over 400 million years ago, making them of great geological and educational interest.

The Hong Kong Global Geopark Volcano Discovery Centre at Sai Kung Waterfront Park was opened on 15 July 2014. It is accessible by a wide range of public transport and is an ideal point to start a visit to the Hong Kong Geopark.

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.

### **Green Hong Kong Campaign**

The LCSD provides at least one community garden in each of the 18 districts. A total of 11,420 participants attended the 53 gardening courses conducted in 2014, and over 6,332 people took part in 22 tree-planting activities organised by the districts.

Various activities were organised in 2014 to promote public awareness of the importance of 'greening' the environment. More than 350 local celebrities joined the 'Green Ambassador Scheme', over 5,100 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 372,000 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.

### ***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 217 horticultural organisations from 15 countries took part in the show in March 2014 at Victoria Park, attracting over 550,000 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 237,600 people attended 22 events in the stadium in 2014, including the popular annual rugby sevens tournament, and international football matches between Kitchee and Paris Saint-Germain and Hong Kong and Argentina.

### ***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 Hong Kong Premier League and the training ground for the national squad. More than 280,000 people attended the 83 events at the stadium in 2014, including the Asian Football Confederation Cup, the LFP World Challenge Asian Tour and an international friendly match between Hong Kong and Singapore.

### ***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 2014, about 123,000 people participated in events at the water sports centres and 508,858 visited or stayed at the holiday camps.

### ***Other Recreation and Sports Venues***

The LCSD manages 95 sports centres, 43 swimming pool complexes, 256 tennis courts, 295 squash courts, 25 sports grounds, four golf-driving ranges and two public riding schools. Works for six 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 2014, some 12.15 million people used the public beaches and 12.92 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 has reopened all seven beaches in Tsuen Wan.

## **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 2014, 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 10 '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.

The institute's \$1.8 billion redevelopment was completed in 2014, 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 Incheon 2014 Asian Games, the Hong Kong, China team won a record 42 medals (6 gold, 12 silver and 24 bronze medals), ranking in the top 10 of the 45 Asian teams.

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 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.

The Hong Kong Anti-Doping Committee, an independent working group under the auspices of the federation, plans and implements an anti-doping programme to maintain a doping-free environment for fair play in sports in Hong Kong.

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. At the Samsung 2013 Hong Kong Sports Stars Awards in March, cyclist Sarah Lee Wai-sze was awarded the coveted Best of Best Hong Kong Sports Star for the second time.

### ***Hong Kong Paralympic Committee and Sports Association for the Physically Disabled***

The year 2014 was an action-packed year filled with memories and rewards. Hong Kong athletes made history by winning 10 gold, 15 silver and 19 bronze medals in the Incheon 2014 Asian Para Games in Korea in October, placing Hong Kong eighth out of the 41 competing countries and territories.

The work momentum continues after the Incheon 2014 Asian Para Games. The Rio 2016 Paralympic Games qualifying competitions have already begun and the association will fully support Hong Kong's athletes as they strive for sporting excellence.

### ***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. Many competitions were organised by the association in 2014 and over 50,000 places at sports training sessions were taken up.

Athletes took part in many international competitions during the year and made the most of these events to sharpen their skills. Highlights included the 2014 Inas World Indoor Athletics Championships in France at which Hong Kong won four medals: one gold and three bronze; the second China Open Athletics Championships – 2014 IPC Athletics Grand Prix in Beijing at which Hong Kong won five medals: one gold, three silver and one bronze; the British International Disability Swimming Championships 2014 in Glasgow at which Hong Kong won four medals: one gold, one silver and two bronze; the Slovakian Open 2014 in Bratislava at which Hong Kong won one bronze medal; the third Inas World Indoor Rowing Championships and first Inas International Rowing Regatta in Italy at which Hong Kong won ten medals: six gold, three silver and one bronze; the 2014 Guayaquil Open Para Swimming in Ecuador at which Hong Kong won 44 medals: 21 gold, 15 silver and eight bronze; the 2014 Inas Open European Athletics Championships in the Netherlands at which Hong Kong won one gold and one bronze medal; and the Incheon 2014 Asian Para Games in Korea at which Hong Kong won 10 medals: two gold, five silver and three bronze.

Hong Kong athletes also achieved excellent results at the 2014 Special Olympics Southern California Summer Games Invitational in the USA, the sixth National Games – Football Competition in China and the Special Olympics Macao 21st Inter-Cities Invitation Game in

Macao. Intellectually disabled athletes won 104 medals during the year, comprising 46 gold, 32 silver and 26 bronze.

### ***The Hong Kong Jockey Club***

The Hong Kong Jockey Club this year celebrates its 130th Anniversary season, having been founded by a small group of racing enthusiasts in 1884, though the first informal race meetings in Hong Kong can be traced back to the mid-1840s. Today, horse racing is not only a favourite sport among local residents but also an iconic attraction for many overseas visitors, and Hong Kong is recognised as one of the leading jurisdictions in the sport worldwide. The city's two racecourses at Sha Tin in the New Territories and Happy Valley on Hong Kong Island attract total attendance of more than two million people a year, as well as being popular venues for staging community events.

The Jockey Club 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 the public demand for betting and combat illegal gambling, playing a leading role in promoting responsible gambling. It 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 \$19.6 billion to the public purse in 2013-14, or 8 per cent of all taxes collected. It is also one of the city's largest employers, with some 24,800 full- and part-time staff. Its total economic contribution to Hong Kong is estimated at \$31.9 billion, or about 1.5 per cent of Gross Domestic Product.

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 2013-14, it donated a record \$3.6 billion to 168 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 2010 it has committed investment of some \$6.3 billion to a comprehensive Racecourse Master Plan, aimed at making racecourse visits a world-class entertainment experience and attracting new generations to the sport.

To further elevate Hong Kong racing's standards, the club is creating an additional racehorse training centre at Conghua, Guangdong Province, on a site previously used for the Guangzhou 2010 Asian Games' equestrian events. This is expected to commence operations in the 2017-18 season.

With a current population of only 1,200 racehorses and no breeding industry, Hong Kong pulls its weight remarkably in international racing circles. It is the home base of many leading

overseas jockeys and trainers, while also successfully nurturing local racing talent. It now hosts 10 races a season at the highest International Group 1 level, of which five are listed in the World's Top 50 Group/Grade 1 races, while 21 Hong Kong-trained horses are currently included in the world's Best Racehorse Rankings. The Hong Kong International Races held at Sha Tin each December are widely recognised as the 'Turf World Championships', with four top events being staged on a single day for a total purse of \$83 million.

In recognition of its multi-faceted role in the community, the club is sharing its 130th Anniversary celebrations with the people of Hong Kong through a wide range of activities including exhibitions, a community festival, citywide lunches for the elderly, and sponsorship of the internationally acclaimed Cavalia horse show. It is also initiating and committing major charitable donations to a number of community projects in the long-term strategic areas of youth development, sports development and helping to make Hong Kong an elderly-friendly city.

### **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 38 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 for 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 6,000 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, 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 companies to design courses that help their staff become more resilient, communicative, cohesive and innovative, ultimately benefiting the company itself. 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, HKYHA plans, runs and markets youth hostels. HKYHA operates seven youth hostels and has over 30,000 life members and over 33,000 individual and corporate members. It is also an affiliate of Hostelling International, an organisation with over four million members worldwide.

Transformed from a six-storey resettlement block in Shek Kip Mei, YHA Mei Ho House Youth Hostel incorporates the 'Heritage of Mei Ho House' museum, showcasing life in public housing from the 1950s to the 1970s. By September 2014 the museum had received more than 180,000 visitors since its opening in December 2013. The 'Jockey Club Mei Ho House Hong Kong Spirit

Learning Programme', launched in 2014, aims to give young people a better understanding of previous generations' lives.

In January 2014, HKYHA's annual 'Ngong Ping Charity Walk' at North Lantau Island Country Park attracted over 1,000 participants and raised much needed funds for hostel enhancement, environmental protection, and HKYHA's conservation projects.

In August, HKYHA nominated two tertiary education students from its youth leadership programme to participate in the World Youth Rally 2014 in Seoul, experiencing Korean culture and meeting young people from around the world.

### **Sporting Achievements**

In 2014, the Hong Kong team won 42 medals (six gold, 12 silver and 24 bronze) at the 17th Asian Games 2014 in Incheon, Korea. Track cyclist Sarah Lee Wai-sze won gold medals in the Women's Sprint and Keirin events, and rower Lok Kwan-hoi and gymnast Shek Wai-hung won gold medals in Lightweight Men's Single Sculls and Men's Vault respectively.

Hong Kong disabled athletes also performed well at the 2014 Asian Para Games in Incheon, Korea, winning 44 medals (10 gold, 15 silver and 19 bronze). The wheelchair fencing team won four gold medals in Women's Foil Individual Cat B, Men's Sabre Individual Cat B, Men's Sabre Team and Women's Foil Team; while the table tennis athletes won gold, silver and bronze medals in the Women's Single TT11 event.

Youth athletes won seven medals (two gold, four silver and one bronze) at the Nanjing 2014 Summer Youth Olympic Games. Ng Tsz-yau won gold in the Badminton Mixed Doubles event, while fencers Albert Chien Kei-hsu and Ryan Choi Chun-yin won gold in the Mixed Continental Team.

The Men's Snooker Team of Fung Kwok-wai and Lee Chun-wai won the IBSF World 6-Red & Team Snooker Championships 2014 in June, becoming the first Hong Kong men's snooker team to become World Champions.

### **Recreation and Sports Programmes**

In 2014, the LCSD organised some 38,300 recreation and sports programmes for about 2.14 million participants of all ages and abilities at a total cost of \$143 million.

#### ***District Sports Teams Training Scheme***

A total of 12,218 young people took part in 324 district team events for basketball, football, handball and fencing in 2014.

#### ***Young Athletes Training Scheme***

In 2014, 31,469 teenagers joined training in 30 sports disciplines under the 'Young Athletes Training Scheme'.

### **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 2014, over 610,000 students took part in more than 8,000 sporting events. The implementation of the School Sport Programme Coordinator Pilot Scheme further fosters a strong sporting culture in school campus whilst providing a career training platform for retired athletes.

### **Community Sports Club Project**

In 2014, the Community Sports Club (CSC) Project, organised by the LCSD in collaboration with the NSAs, supported about 430 CSCs in organising 2,351 sports training activities for 51,002 participants. Seminars and management development programmes were formulated for some 490 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 269 sports training classes were held for 3,061 participants under this programme in 2014.

### **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 2014, the LCSD provided 58 NSAs and 24 sport organisations with subventions amounting to about \$262 million and 10,564 programmes for different sports were organised, attracting 731,063 participants.

In 2014, the NSAs were given subsidies to stage local and international events in Hong Kong, including the 2014 Hong Kong International Track Cup (Cycling), 2014 Asian Eastern Zonal Women's Volleyball Championship, FINA Swimming World Cup 2014 – Hong Kong and the 2014 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 2014, 13 events were given 'M' Mark status and/or support packages.

### **Corporate Games**

The Corporate Games, held every two years, is a major multi-sport event designed for working people by the LCSD. In 2014, over 9,700 people from 254 industrial, commercial and governmental organisations took part in its 13 sports competitions.

### Masters Games

The LCSD organises the Masters Games every two years to inspire people aged 35 or above to maintain their physical and mental health by competing against individuals of similar age. The Masters Games 2014 attracted 4,373 participants to its six sports competitions.

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

In 2014, over 80,000 people took part in about 1,550 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. Rope skipping keeps you fit' was adopted as the event slogan to encourage parents and children to use rope-skipping to cultivate a habit of daily exercise. 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.

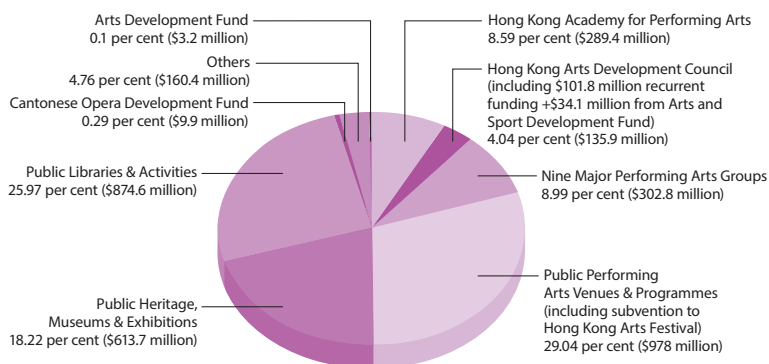
### The 5th Hong Kong Games

The 5th Hong Kong Games will be held between April and May 2015. Open selection of athletes from the 18 districts and a series of related community activities started in June 2014. 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 2013-14



(Note: The government's total expenditure on arts and culture in 2013-14 was \$3.37 billion)

### **Capital Funding**

In 2008, the government granted an upfront endowment of \$21.6 billion 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 2013-14, the government earmarked about \$3.37 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 2013-14, HAB provided about \$303 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 48 projects have been funded since the scheme's launch. 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 2014 it granted about \$9.5 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. The fund has approved more than \$71 million for some 590 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 2014, \$3.2 million was approved for 50 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. Fifteen heritage-related projects worth about \$2.71 million were approved in 2014.

### ***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 \$2.16 million were awarded in 2014.

### **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, Hong Kong's premier performing arts venue, attracts leading artists from around the world and celebrated its 25th anniversary in November 2014. 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 2014, more than 628,000 people attended about 700 performances at the centre.

#### ***Hong Kong City Hall***

Hong Kong City Hall opened in 1962 as Hong Kong's first purpose-built major civic centre. Its main facilities include a 1,434-seat concert hall, a 463-seat theatre, and an exhibition hall. In 2014, 580 events were held in the concert hall and the theatre, attracting over 349,500 people.

#### ***Yau Ma Tei Theatre***

Yau Ma Tei Theatre, the only surviving pre-war cinema building in Hong Kong's urban area, was revitalised and opened in July 2012 as a dedicated venue to nurture young talent for Cantonese opera. In 2014, more than 72,000 people attended 323 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 and its New Wing 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 premier multi-purpose indoor stadia in Hong Kong. With their flexible stage and seating configurations, the two stadia have played host to a wide array of events, including major sports events, pop concerts and celebratory events. In 2014, 44 and 125 events were staged in the coliseum and the stadium, attracting over 1,296,000 and 317,000 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 760,000 people attended or took part in 848 stage

performances and 902 educational, promotional and audience-building activities organised by the venue partners in 2014.

### **West Kowloon Cultural District**

The West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD), a 40-hectare prime waterfront site, is being developed as an integrated arts and cultural district with world-class facilities. It is aimed to promote the development of the arts and culture and contribute towards Hong Kong's development as an international arts and cultural metropolis.

Construction of a number of WKCD facilities advanced in 2014: works on the foundations for M+ (a new museum of visual culture) started in August; and works on the main superstructure for the Xiqu Centre and the temporary tree nursery park commenced at the end of the year. Design work for the Park (including Black Box and Outdoor Stage) and Lyric Theatre also started, and a winning design was selected for the Arts Pavilion.

To optimise the development potential of the site, the WKCD Authority obtained the Town Planning Board's approval in November to an increase of 15 per cent in the site's maximum total gross floor area (GFA), with pro-rata increases in the GFA of each of the site's different land uses to ensure a balanced development mix.

To nurture new audiences and raise public awareness of the WKCD project, the WKCD Authority initiated and co-presented a variety of events, including the West Kowloon Bamboo Theatre in January and the outdoor arts festival, Freespace Fest in November. M+ held its first architectural exhibition in January and took part in Art Basel in Hong Kong in May. The WKCD Authority also organised seminars, workshops, training programmes, internship schemes and other collaborative projects.

### **URBTIX**

URBTIX (Urban Ticketing System) is one of the most widely-used computerised ticketing systems in Hong Kong. Upgraded in 2014, it provides ticketing services to the public through around 40 outlets, the internet, telephone booking and a new mobile ticketing app. In 2014, 4.53 million tickets with proceeds over \$985 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 overall 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 both in Hong Kong and abroad. In 2014, the HKADC implemented Arts

Administration Scholarships (Local/Overseas), Hong Kong Scholarships on the Clore Leadership Programme, MOCA Taipei Internships, Mori Art Museum Internship, Sage Gateshead Internships and University of Arts London Scholarships, and co-organised with the WKCD Authority the Overseas Training/Research Programme for Leaders from Local Arts Groups on Future Arts Development in Hong Kong.

Major HKADC arts promotion events in 2014 included the 4th Large-Scale Interactive Media Arts Exhibition, the Hong Kong Arts Development Awards 2013, the 6th Arts Ambassadors-in-School Scheme and Fresh Wave 2014. The HKADC continued to co-present with RTHK *Artspiration*, a weekly TV series on arts, 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 2014, the HKADC participated in the 14th Venice Biennale Architectural Exhibition in collaboration with the Hong Kong Institute of Architects and presented an exhibition in Hong Kong inspired by the 55th Venice Biennale International Art Exhibition. The HKADC also collaborated with the Culture, Sports and Tourism Administration of Shenzhen Municipality and the Shenzhen 'City of Design' Promotion Office to organise the Hong Kong • Shenzhen Creative Arts Festival 2014.

The HKADC's main tasks include arts research and policy advocacy. In 2014, its Annual Arts Survey collected data on visual arts exhibitions, arts performances and film screenings. It also collected and provided Hong Kong's cultural data for the World Cities Culture Report 2013 and published a series of yearbooks on the arts in collaboration with various 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 entertainment 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 2014, the academy enrolled 792 students for undergraduate and post-secondary programmes in its six arts disciplines, and attracted 137 students to pursue their Master's degree programmes in dance, music, drama, film and television, and theatre and entertainment arts. In addition, it admitted over 780 students to its junior programmes and over 4,500 students enrolled in its Extension and Continuing Education for Life (EXCEL) programme.

### **Hong Kong Arts Centre**

The Hong Kong Arts Centre is a self-financing organisation which promotes contemporary arts and culture in Hong Kong and beyond. The centre in Wan Chai provides a wide range of programmes featuring works of 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 and 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 help promote mature artists by providing venue and publicity support, as well as opportunities for overseas tours.

The first phase of renovation of the Fringe Club premises, funded by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, was completed in 2014. Works included upgrading performance and exhibition spaces, fire services installation, and renewing electricity wiring and the ventilation system.

### ***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 is a self-financing registered charity which provides space for artistic creation to help nurture creative talent and promote arts and culture.

The JCCAC rents studio facilities to over 100 artists and art groups working in visual arts, performing arts and other art forms. It also hires out its venue facilities, (including the Central Courtyard, the exhibition galleries and the Jockey Club Black Box Theatre) for arts and cultural activities.

In 2014, the JCCAC had almost 300,000 visitors and its large-scale public programmes included the annual JCCAC Festival in December, the quarterly Handicraft Fair, and regular rooftop film screenings, exhibitions, performances and public guided tours.

## **Major Performing Arts Groups**

### ***Chung Ying Theatre Company***

The Chung Ying Theatre Company promotes theatrical arts and drama education to enrich Hong Kong's cultural life. In 2014, it presented several classic and translated plays and local original comedies. It was also invited to perform in Toronto and Guangzhou. In addition, it staged some productions to nurture new directors and organised theatre courses, Theatre-in-Education programmes and touring performances in schools and communities across the territory.

### ***City Contemporary Dance Company***

The City Contemporary Dance Company is a professional modern dance company that nurtures creative dance talents in the context of contemporary China. In 2014, it presented five original productions and hosted the Jumping Frames International Dance Video Festival. It also performed in Italy, Norway and the Mainland. Its Dance Centre organised educational and

outreach activities to promote modern dance in Hong Kong and the Mainland, and led local young choreographers and dancers to the Mainland for performances and exchanges.

### **Hong Kong Ballet**

The Hong Kong Ballet, one of Asia's premier classical ballet companies, gave 39 performances locally in 2014 featuring a mix of classical and contemporary works such as *Don Quixote*, *The Nutcracker* and Nacho Duato's *Castrati*. The company also toured Japan and USA. Its extensive Education and Community Outreach Programmes reached over 20,000 young people.

### **Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra**

The Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra gives over 140 concerts and arts education activities each season. In 2014, its concerts included the multi-media concert *Picturesque Music* and *Chinese Music + Jazz Legend*. It also organised the Second International Conducting Competition and was invited to give a concert in Singapore.

### **Hong Kong Dance Company**

The Hong Kong Dance Company was established in 1981 to promote Chinese dance. Its 58 performances in 2014, including *Glamour of Chinese Ethnic Dance*, *The Butterfly Lovers*, *Dim Sum Adventures @ Lung Fung Teahouse*, *Red Poppies*, *Storm Clouds* and the Folk Dance Fiesta at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza, reached a total audience of more than 58,000.

### **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra**

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra is the city's largest professional musical organisation, presenting over 150 concerts for 200,000 music lovers every year. Featuring international conductors and soloists, the orchestra performed a wide variety of music in 2014 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 the Mainland in 2014.

### **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 as well as local originals. Its 18 productions in 2014 included award-winning productions such as *Shed Skin* and other highlights included *The Soongs: By Dreams Betrayed*, *Wait Until Dark* and *Attempts on her Life and Three Tall Women*. It also hosted the inaugural International Black Box Festival extended its arts educational programmes, and toured Beijing, Guangzhou, Japan, Macao and Shanghai.

### **Hong Kong Sinfonietta**

The Hong Kong Sinfonietta is one of Hong Kong's leading symphony orchestras. In 2014, it gave over 100 performances, including concerts with conductor Christoph Poppen, pianist Benjamin Grosvenor and violinist Benjamin Schmid. Its new *UpClose Encounters* series aims to give audiences a better understanding of classical music through classes, dialogue and chamber music performances.

### **Zuni Icosahedron**

Zuni Icosahedron's original theatre productions in 2014 included *Contempt 2014*, *Memorandum*, *Dream Illusion Bubble Shadow* and *Red Rose, White Rose*. It was invited to perform in Macao, Shanghai, Taipei, Wuzhen and Yokohama, and invited to present at the 48th Annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival at Washington, DC.

## **Culture and Arts Presentations**

### **LCSD Cultural Presentations**

The LCSD presents high quality cultural programmes throughout the year. In 2014, 971 performances featuring local and visiting artists were attended by more than 364,000 people.

Numerous internationally renowned artists and arts groups were featured in 2014. Music programmes included pianists Evgeny Kissin, Mikhail Pletnev and Ivo Pogorelich, the Czech Philharmonic, and the Academy of St Martin in the Fields led by pianist Murray Perahia. Visiting dance groups included Ultima Vez from Belgium and 'Peacock Princess' Yang Liping from the Mainland. For theatre, the National Theatre of Scotland teamed up with the Royal Shakespeare Company in *Dunsinane*. The 'Richard Strauss Year' Series, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the composer's birth, featured the opera *Salome*, produced by Opera Hong Kong.

New programme series designed to attract young audiences included the 'Music Delight Series' combining classical music with comedy, and the 'Dance x Multimedia Series' mixing modern dance with hi-tech visual effects.

2014 also saw the opening of the New Wing of the Ko Shan Theatre, a venue dedicated to Cantonese opera. An original Cantonese opera *A Heroic Woman of the Ming Dynasty* featuring Cantonese opera stars Yuen Siu-fai, Yau Sing-po and Wan Fai-yin was premiered for the opening celebration.

The fifth Chinese Opera Festival featuring different genres of Chinese opera was held in the summer and the annual 'Cantonese Opera Day' was organised in November to promote Cantonese opera to a wider public.

### **Entertainment Programmes**

In 2014, the LCSD organised 23 major festive and thematic carnivals and 641 district art shows with a total audience of 1,014,000, featuring a range of local and overseas performances and arts.

### **Arts Education and Audience-building Projects**

In 2014, the LCSD organised 1,188 arts education and audience-building activities in schools, community halls and other public venues to promote the arts and encourage participation in cultural activities.

A pilot project 'General Education in Arts Programme for Tertiary Students (Theatre)' was launched to give tertiary students an in-depth understanding of theatrical arts. Celebrating its fifth year, the 'Community Oral History Theatre Project' staged its first joint-district performance

by elderly people from the Islands, Kwun Tong and Sham Shui Po Districts who had previously participated in the project. The project was also extended to the Eastern District in 2014.

## Major Culture and Arts Events

### *Hong Kong Arts Festival*

The 42nd annual Hong Kong Arts Festival included 21 world premieres and 16 Asian premieres. The total audience for its 137 performances and 304 associated events was over 180,000. Highlights included the Savonlinna Opera Festival's production of Richard Wagner's *Lohengrin*, the London Symphony Orchestra with Wang Yuja, the Budapest Festival Orchestra conducted by Iván Fischer, Maria João Pires with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, jazz concerts by Gregory Porter, dance opera *Iphigenia in Tauris* by Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch, La Scala Ballet's *Giselle*, the Trisha Brown Dance Company, a Beijing rock opera *108 Heroes III, A Midsummer Night's Dream* by Bristol Old Vic in association with Handspring Puppet Company, as well as 15 different festival productions featuring Hong Kong's creative talents.

### *International Arts Carnival*

The LCSD's annual International Arts Carnival in July and August opened with the National Folk Dance Ensemble of Croatia. Some 135,200 people attended the carnival's 440 events, offering an array of programmes including musical, music, folk dance, acrobatics, multimedia theatre, shadow play and puppetry, black light theatre and magic.

### *New Vision Arts Festival*

LCSD's seventh New Vision Arts Festival showcased an array of innovative and outstanding cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary performances with an Asian focus. Artists included the Hofesh Shechter Company, Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan, and Japanese director Yukio Ninagawa. The festival's 140 events attracted an audience of over 105,500.

### *Chinese Opera Festival*

LCSD's fifth Chinese Opera Festival featured Cantonese opera, Yue Opera, Kunqu opera, Peking opera and various regional genres. Some 50,000 people attended the festival's 68 events, including stage performances, talks on specific themes and art forms, Chinese opera film screenings and exhibitions.

### *Hong Kong Week 2014@Taipei*

The third '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), held from 17 October to 2 November included three exhibitions; four performing arts programmes; a lantern festival and creative arts market; films; and 29 extension activities.

## Museums

### *Hong Kong Museum of Art*

Highlights of the year included 'Ju Ming – Sculpting the Living World', 'Ming and Qing Chinese Arts from the C. P. Lin Collection' and 'Paris • Chinese Painting: Legacy of the 20th Century

Chinese Masters'. The exhibitions and education programmes attracted over 438,000 visitors in 2014. In February, 'Heaven, Earth and Man — A Hong Kong Art Exhibition' was held outdoors in the garden in front of the museum.

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 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, 'Gems of Yixing Tea Ware from the Nanjing Museums' was held in 2014. Some 215,000 visitors visited the museum (a branch of the Hong Kong Museum of Art) in 2014.

### **Hong Kong Museum of History**

In addition to its permanent exhibition, 'The Hong Kong Story', the Hong Kong Museum of History organised six exhibitions in 2014: 'A Century of Fashion: Hong Kong Cheongsam Story', 'The Aftermath of the First Sino-Japanese War: The Lease of the New Territories and Weihaiwei', 'Historical Imprints of Lingnan: Major Archaeological Discoveries of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao', 'The Tastes of Hong Kong - Local Food Culture Exhibition', 'Assimilation into Han Culture: The Ancient Funerary Pottery of Guangxi', and 'Treasures from Tsarskoye Selo, Residence of the Russian Monarchs'. In addition, the museum staged a series of Russian music concerts to complement the 'Treasures from Tsarskoye Selo' exhibition. Over 769,500 people visited the museum in 2014.

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. A pilot project, 'Journey for Active Minds: Jockey Club Museum Programme for the Elderly', commenced in March 2014 to provide special guided tours and workshops on the museum's exhibitions for the elderly and Alzheimer's patients to help them share their memories and experience, interact with others, and foster interest in Hong Kong's history, art and cultural heritage.

The museum organised an international conference on 'Historical Imprints of Lingnan: Major Archaeological Discoveries of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao' in August.

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 123,300 visitors in 2014. In addition to its permanent exhibition, '600 Years of Hong Kong's Coastal Defence', the museum staged three exhibitions in 2014: 'Unsung Bravery: History of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps', 'Conflict and War: China and Japan, 1894-95' and 'Pictorial Exhibition on the Nanjing Massacre'.

Some 60,900 people visited the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum in 2014. Housed in historic Kom Tong Hall, it has two permanent exhibitions relating to Dr Sun's life and career. Two special exhibitions were held in 2014: 'Collection Highlights – A Century of Kom Tong Hall' and 'The Whampoa Military Academy: Modern China's Crucible for Military Talent'.

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 89,500 people visited the gallery in 2014.

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 38,500 and 13,200 visitors in 2014 respectively.

### **Hong Kong Heritage Museum**

Major exhibitions organised by the museum in 2014 included 'Studio Ghibli Layout Designs: Understanding the Secrets of Takahata and Miyazaki Animation' (organised with the co-operation of Studio Ghibli and Ghibli Museum, Mitaka and sponsored by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust); 'The Extraordinary in the Ordinary: Chairs for Viewing the World through Time', with exhibits from the Palace Museum, Beijing, and eight overseas museums; and 'Dunhuang – Untold Tales, Untold Riches' exhibition (jointly organised with the Dunhuang Academy).

Other exhibitions staged in 2014 included 'Twin Peaks: Contemporary Hong Kong Photography' (in partnership with the Hong Kong Photographic Culture Association) and 'Vision - Hong Kong International Poster Triennial 2014', jointly presented with the Hong Kong Designers Association.

With the Hong Kong Design Institute and the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Lee Wai Lee), the museum launched 'From the Classroom to the Museum – Chairs for All' art project in 2014. Students' artworks for the museum's 'Please Have a Seat' project were displayed at the museum. The museum also collaborated with the Education Bureau to run gallery talks, workshops and seminars supporting Life-wide Learning and the 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 866,300, 91,400, 220,700 and 40,100 visitors respectively in 2014.

### ***Hong Kong Science Museum***

Over 2,000,000 visited the Science Museum in 2014. The museum's 'Legends of the Giant Dinosaurs' exhibition was the largest of its kind ever held in Hong Kong and attracted more than 770,000 visitors.

Other major exhibitions included 'Move and Play!' which allowed visitors to learn about the impact of physical exercise on their own bodies, and 'China's Lunar Exploration Programme', featuring some 20 exhibits related to the Chang'e missions, including replicas of the lunar lander and the lunar rover Yutu. The museum showcased the latest local scientific research with an exhibition on 'Monitoring Hong Kong's Urban Heat Island'.

The museum co-operated with 19 different science organisations and government departments to present the first-ever 'HK SciFest 2014', offering 47 programmes for families and the public. Catering for students, 'Science Alive 2014' celebrated the 60th anniversary of the discovery of DNA structure with an array of programmes.

At the museum's 'Meet the Shaw Laureates 2014' public forum, winners of the Shaw Prize shared the challenges and joy of science. Other education programmes included lecture series by distinguished scientists, competitions and events covering robotics, digital media, and Sudoku.

### ***Hong Kong Space Museum***

In 2014, the Hong Kong Space Museum presented four OMNIMAX Shows, two 3D fulldome shows and two school shows at its Stanley Ho Space Theatre. Besides regular astronomy activities at the museum, stargazing and family programmes were held regularly at its Astropark and iObservatory in Sai Kung.

With sponsorship by the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, the museum provided 30 local secondary students with a nine-day astronaut training and study tour at the China Astronaut Research and Training Center and Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center. The museum also launched a free mobile application, 'Star Hoppers', which integrated Chinese and Western star charts with information on astronomical events and related museum activities.

Some 851,400 people visited the museum's exhibitions and shows in the Space Theatre, while 23,140 people took part in the educational and extension programmes in 2014.

### ***Hong Kong Film Archive***

In 2014, the Hong Kong Film Archive attracted 174,300 visitors. In addition to its permanent exhibition, 'In Memory of Queen's Theatre', it organised three thematic exhibitions: 'Down Memory Lane: Movie Theatres of the Olden Days', 'Transcending Space and Time – Early Cinematic Experience of Hong Kong' and 'Remembrance of the Avant-garde: Archival Camera Collection Exhibition'.

The archive acquired 100 films and 31,505 film-related materials in 2014. Major acquisitions included 35mm pre-mix and pre-print materials from 13 titles donated by Fortune Star Media Limited and 13 titles donated by Edko Films Limited, including picture negatives, sound tracks, subtitles and footage. Pre-print materials, film prints, trailers, teasers and footage from five titles

dating from 1988 to 1993 were donated by Hui's Film Production Company Limited. Pre-print materials from 12 titles dating from 1983 to 2012 and 18 titles dating from 1984 to 1996 were donated by Mandarin Laboratory (International) Limited and Tomson Films Company Ltd. respectively. Film scripts and censor documents of Hong Kong films dating from 1930 to 1949 were duplicated from the New York State Archives in USA.

## **Public Libraries**

The LCSD operates 67 static and 12 mobile libraries and a books registration office. The libraries hold some 11.76 million books and over 1.76 million items of multimedia material, serving almost 4.28 million registered book borrowers and lending more than 52.85 million books and other library materials in 2014.

### ***Hong Kong Central Library***

The Hong Kong Central Library is a major information and cultural centre, with a stock of over 2.56 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 public lectures and holds user education sessions to promote library resources to members of the public.

### ***Improvements to Library Services***

The public libraries work closely with the District Councils and local organisations to set up community libraries, of which there were 213 at the end of 2014. Organisations are offered block loans of library materials together with professional advice to set up libraries tailored to their communities. The Pak Tin Public Library was re-provisioned in March 2014 and renamed as Shek Kip Mei Public Library. Mobile library services were enhanced from July 2014 with the introduction of two additional mobile library vans.

### ***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 2014, 3.48 million enquiries were handled by the public libraries.

Online service is an integral part of the public libraries' reference and information services and 62 e-databases covering different subjects are available to library users.

### ***Information Technology Initiatives and Digital Library Initiatives***

In 2014, the library website was given a modern layout and user-friendly interface. Two new mobile apps were also developed and launched to enhance the mobile public library services: 'My Library' allows readers access personal accounts, search, reserve and renew library materials;



and 'Multimedia Information' allows readers to view digitised old newspapers and photographs on mobile devices.

Over 1,900 library computers are provided in public libraries, allowing the public to access the libraries' electronic resources, or the internet. More than 200,000 e-books and 21 e-databases are available to registered members for remote access through the internet.

### ***Outreach Programmes and Promotion of Reading and Literary Arts***

In 2014, the public libraries conducted 21,371 library outreach programmes, including storytelling sessions, 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 theme of sustainable development of earth and people.

Promotional programmes for creative writing and Chinese literature in 2014 included the 10th Hong Kong Literature Festival, with a variety of literary activities including an exhibition and a symposium.

### ***Cultural Exchange***

In 2014, over 200 participants from Hong Kong and elsewhere attended an international library conference in Hong Kong, the '10th Conference on Co-operative Development and Sharing of Chinese Resources - Digital Legacy'.

In conjunction with the conference, Hong Kong's public libraries jointly presented with the Shanghai Conservatory of Music the 'Touring Exhibition of Huang Tzu's Rare Manuscripts - Commemorating the 110th Anniversary of His Birth' and a talk on 'The Art Songs of Huang Tzu' at the Hong Kong Central Library.

The libraries also collaborated with the Hong Kong Library Association and the Goethe Institut Hongkong to organise public lectures by visiting librarians from Germany and Scotland.

### ***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 2014, the office registered 13,600 books, 10,222 periodicals, and issued 971 new publisher prefixes totalling 18,170 ISBNs.

## **Heritage**

### ***Cantonese Opera***

The government is keen to preserve, promote and develop Cantonese opera in Hong Kong. Opened in October, the Ko Shan Theatre New Wing provides a 600-seat auditorium and ancillary facilities for Cantonese opera performances, training and rehearsals.

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 inventory of Hong Kong's ICH with 480 items was announced in June 2014. An online ICH database with information on the inventory items was launched in December and an exhibition on Hong Kong's ICH was organised as part of Hong Kong Week 2014 in Taipei.

### ***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 15 heritage-related projects in 2014, bringing the total to 177 since its establishment in 1992.

### ***Conservation Office***

The Conservation Office performed conservation treatment on 994 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 34 workshops and behind-the-scene laboratory tours for 681 students and members of the public in 2014, and recruited 117 volunteers who contributed over 8,652 service hours.

More than 500 participants from over 30 countries attended the 'International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works 2014 Hong Kong Congress' in September 2014, with the theme 'An Unbroken History – Conserving East Asian Works of Art and Heritage'. It was the institute's first congress held in Southeast Asia.

### ***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 2014, bringing the total to 293 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 performing arts in Hong Kong. Trainees undergo a two-year programme of training in venue operation, facility management, event promotion and the organisation of performing arts programmes, carnivals and arts festivals. There were 42 LCSD trainee placements in 2014. The LCSD also sponsored its 21 venue partners and the Hong Kong Arts Festival to run similar programmes for trainees to learn about the management of performing arts groups and the organisation of arts festivals.

### **Museum Trainee Scheme**

The Museum Trainee Scheme began 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. There were 24 trainee placements in 2014.

### **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 2014, it provided music training for 8,817 trainees and 177,596 people took part in its music promotional activities.

## **Visual and Public Art**

### **Art Promotion Office**

In 2014, the Art Promotion Office co-organised with the Hong Kong Fringe Club 'Journeys of a Hong Kong Poet, Leung Ping Kwan (1949-2013)', an exhibition included in Hong Kong Week 2014 in Taipei. It also organised '2014 Hong Kong and Macao Visual Arts Biennial – 300 Families' in Beijing, and 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.

### **Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre**

Managed by the Art Promotion Office, the Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre organises a range of visual arts activities, and provides facilities for hire. It has nine well-equipped art studios, a lecture theatre, an exhibition hall and two multi-purpose rooms. The centre organised a series of programmes including 'Crossroads • Another Dimension - A Cross-Strait Four Regions Artistic Exchange Project 2013', 'This Slow • That Fast: Animamix Biennale 2013-14' and 'Cool! Photo-Synthesis 2014'.

***Oil Street Art Space (Oi!)***

New initiatives were organised in 2014 to nurture young artistic talent and invite community engagement, including eight exhibitions were organised.

***Public Art Project***

Public art projects launched by the Art Promotion Office in 2014 included 'ArtAlive@Park 2014' at Central and Western District Promenade, 'Art@Government Buildings 2013-14' at four government buildings, and 'Energising Tsun Yip Street Playground as Kwun Tong Industrial Culture Park (Phase 1)' in collaboration with the Energising Kowloon East Office.

***Websites***

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department: [www.afcd.gov.hk](http://www.afcd.gov.hk)

Home Affairs Bureau: [www.hab.gov.hk](http://www.hab.gov.hk)

Hong Kong Public Libraries: [www.hkpl.gov.hk](http://www.hkpl.gov.hk)

Leisure and Cultural Services Department: [www.lcsd.gov.hk](http://www.lcsd.gov.hk)