

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. These activities 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 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 the bureau, 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 department organises exhibitions, sporting events and cultural performances ranging from music and dance to opera.

Recreation and Sports

The department 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, 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 take part in sports and recreational activities.

In 2015, some 920,000 people took part in activities organised at 25 holiday camps and sea activity centres run by 12 non-governmental organisations subvented by the LCSD. The

department also issues and renews licences for places of amusement. In 2015, it processed 54 applications for billiard establishments, eight for public bowling alleys and five for public skating rinks.

Parks and Greenery

The LCSD manages 1,567 parks and gardens of different sizes, including 26 major parks. It is responsible for planting and maintaining plants at the public parks, recreational and sports venues, and roadside amenity areas. In 2015, the department planted 2.08 million plants, including trees, shrubs and seasonal flowers, and carried out landscape improvement projects for about 12 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. Its main features 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 2015, three bird species in the aviary reared offspring. The conservatory's three sections, namely, the 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 20 common species of winter flowering plants were featured in a Winter Flowering Plants exhibition at the Display Plant House from December 2014 to January 2015.

Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens

The Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens, developed between 1861 and 1871, is the territory's oldest public garden and occupies 5.6 hectares overlooking Central. Despite the urban surroundings, the garden provides a conservation centre for endangered species. Eleven endangered species of mammals, birds and reptiles lived there in 2015. The bird collection is one of the most comprehensive in Asia, comprising about 260 birds of 51 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 is 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 13.2 million people in 2015.

Visitors can enjoy and learn about the beauty and diversity of local 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, stretching from the northern part of Tin Shui Wai to the southern tip of the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site, is a special area designated under the Country Parks Ordinance. It promotes wetland conservation, education and ecotourism in the territory, giving visitors the opportunity to appreciate wetlands and local wildlife in an open and natural setting. In 2015, the park attracted about 460,000 visitors. It also organised education and publicity programmes to cultivate awareness of wetland conservation.

Hong Kong Global Geopark of China

The Hong Kong Global Geopark of China, located in northeast Hong Kong, comprises two regions: the Sai Kung Volcanic Rock Region, which contains spectacular hexagonal volcanic rock columns of a size and composition rarely found elsewhere in the world; and the Northeast New Territories Sedimentary Rock Region, whose rocks are 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, opened on 15 July 2014, 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 operates 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. More than 12,000 participants attended the 55 gardening courses conducted in 2015, and over 4,800 people took part in 18 community planting activities organised by the districts.

Various activities were organised in 2015 to promote public awareness of the importance of greening the environment. More than 350 local celebrities joined the Green Ambassador Scheme, over 6,200 people joined the Green Volunteer Scheme to promote community greening, and more than 877 schools and kindergartens took part in a Greening School Subsidy Scheme to promote environmentally friendly initiatives. About 361,280 students from over 1,129 schools participated in a 'One Person, One Flower' programme. They received seedlings to plant at home or school.

Hong Kong Flower Show

This annual event provides an opportunity 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 18

countries took part in the show in March 2015 at Victoria Park, attracting more than 590,000 visitors.

Recreation and Sports Venues

Hong Kong Stadium

The Hong Kong Stadium is the territory'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. The stadium was closed in April 2015 for turf pitch reconstruction with a view to enhancing the long-term quality and durability of the turf pitch. It reopened in November to stage the Asia Rugby Sevens Qualifier. About 176,500 people attended seven events held at the stadium during the year, including the popular annual Hong Kong Sevens and the Lunar New Year AET Cup 2015 between South China and New York Cosmos.

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 320,000 people attended the 74 events at the stadium in 2015, including the Asian Football Confederation Cup, the 2018 Fifa World Cup cum 2019 AFC Asian Cup Preliminary Joint Qualification, the 38th Guangdong-Hong Kong Cup and two international friendly matches Hong Kong held with Guam and Myanmar.

Water Sports Centres and Holiday Camps

The LCSD manages five water sports centres: Chong Hing, Tai Mei Tuk, The 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. In 2015, about 123,000 people took part in events at the water sports centres and 500,000 visited or stayed at the holiday camps.

Other Recreation and Sports Venues

The department manages 96 sports centres, 43 swimming pool complexes, 256 tennis courts, 294 squash courts, 25 sports grounds, four golf-driving ranges and two public riding schools. Works for seven other major projects are under way.

Beaches and Swimming Pools

Swimming is one of Hong Kong's most popular summer pastimes. The department manages 41 gazetted public beaches and 43 public swimming pool complexes. In 2015, some 13 million people used the public beaches and 13.5 million visited public swimming pools.

Recreation and Sports Organisations

Hong Kong Sports Institute Limited

The sports institute 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 2015, athletes in 17 Tier A sports (athletics, badminton, billiard sports, cycling, fencing, gymnastics, karatedo, rowing, rugby sevens, sailing, squash, swimming, table tennis, tennis, tenpin bowling, windsurfing and wushu) received dedicated support under the institute's Elite Training Programme. The institute also supports athletes in 13 Tier B sports (dance sports, dragon boat, equestrian, golf, judo, kart, lawn bowls, mountaineering, orienteering, roller sports, skating, taekwondo and triathlon) as well as outstanding athletes under an Individual Athletes Support Scheme and a Disabled Sports Elite Training Programme.

The institute's \$1.8 billion redevelopment, completed in 2014, provides new, state-of-the-art facilities for training high-performance athletes. Its \$7 billion Elite Athletes Development Fund, established in 2012, offers 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 is recognised as a National Olympic Committee 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. It 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 Youth Games.

With a membership of 76 National Sports Associations (NSAs) and sports organisations, the federation represents the collective voice of the Hong Kong sports community. Most of its members 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. As well, they implement and enforce local and international rules and regulations and represent Hong Kong at IF and AF meetings.

The federation co-ordinates a four-month Festival of Sport each year, featuring about 80 sporting activities organised by more than 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 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.

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 2014 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 third consecutive year.

Hong Kong Paralympic Committee and Sports Association for the Physically Disabled

The year 2014-15 marked yet another fruitful and victorious period for the local Paralympic movement. Hong Kong athletes took part in 29 international competitions, from which they brought home a total of 70 medals.

To prepare for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games in September, the association continues to provide our athletes with the best possible support in their quest to qualify for and perform well at the Games. At the same time, it will continue to nurture more young disabled athletes by identifying and training potential talent in the community for the Hong Kong team and promoting the Paralympic movement.

Hong Kong Sports Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability

The Hong Kong Sports Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability 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. It organised many competitions in 2015 and filled more than 50,000 places at sports training sessions.

Athletes took part in many international competitions during the year and made the most of these events to sharpen their skills. Highlights included the 2015 Swimming NSW State Open Championships in Australia, at which Hong Kong won a bronze medal; the Hungarian Open 2015 in Eger, at which Hong Kong won one gold, one silver and two bronze medals; the British Para Swimming International Meet 2015 in Glasgow; the Slovakia Open 2015 in Bratislava, at which Hong Kong won two bronze medals; the fourth Inas World Indoor Rowing Championships and second Inas International Rowing Regatta in Italy, at which Hong Kong won four gold and three silver medals; the 2015 IPC Athletics Grand Prix – Italian Open Championships 2015 in Grosseto; the 2015 IPC Swimming World Championships in the United Kingdom; the PTT Thailand Open 2015 in Pattaya, at which Hong Kong won two bronze medals; the 2015 Korea PTT Open in Ulsan, at which Hong Kong won one gold, one silver and one bronze medal; the Ecuador 2015 Inas Global Games in Quito, at which Hong Kong won 13 gold, 11 silver and 13 bronze medals; the IPC Athletics World Championships 2015 in Qatar; and the 2015 ITTF PTT Asia Regional Championships in Jordan, at which Hong Kong won one gold and one silver medal.

Hong Kong athletes also achieved excellent results at the 2015 Special Olympics Macao Golf Masters in China, the 6th Special Olympics Games of People's Republic of China in Sichuan, the 2015 SOEA Unified Bocce Invitational Game in Taiwan, the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games in the United States and the 2015 SOEA Regional Unified Floor Hockey Competition in South Korea. Intellectually disabled athletes won 251 medals during the year, comprising 126 gold, 77 silver and 48 bronze.

Hong Kong Jockey Club

Horse racing has been a feature of Hong Kong life for more than 170 years. Today, it is Hong Kong's most popular spectator sport, attracting a total attendance of 2.07 million in 2014-15, including many tourists. It is also widely recognised for the world-class quality of its horses and racing events.

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, and plays a leading role in promoting responsible gambling. In 2011, and again in 2015, the club was awarded the highest Level 4 accreditation under the Responsible Gambling Framework of the World Lottery Organisation, becoming the first organisation in Asia to be so recognised.

The club's contributions to Hong Kong extend far beyond sporting entertainment. It is the territory's largest single taxpayer, contributing \$20.05 billion to the public purse in 2014-15, or 6.6 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 more than 24,000 full- and part-time staff.

The club is Hong Kong's largest non-government philanthropist, donating its surpluses via the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust to charitable and community projects across Hong Kong. In 2014-15, it donated a record \$3.87 billion to 189 projects, touching the lives of some 75 per cent of the population. Indeed, the trust ranked sixth in the world and number one in Asia in terms of charitable donations in 2015.

The trust operates in various ways, funding and enabling the work of charitable and community agencies, and initiating its own projects in collaboration with government and community partners. Over the next three to five years, it is focusing on three emerging areas of need, namely, youth development; building Hong Kong into an age-friendly city; and promoting sport as means to enhance health and well-being, build character, and create lifelong positive values.

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 more than \$6 billion in a comprehensive Racecourse Master Plan which aims at revitalising the race-going experience. It has also invested substantially in technology, enhancing connectivity with customers and introducing advanced odds calculation technology. And with the opening of the Conghua Training Centre in Guangdong Province in 2018, Hong Kong horses will have access to an additional world-class training facility.

These investments are paralleled by the growing strength of Hong Kong racing. The territory is home to 11 International Group One races, including the Hong Kong International Races, which are widely regarded as the 'Turf World Championships'. Ten of these races ranked in the World's Top 100 Group One/Grade One Races for 2015, with eight being in the top 50. Hong Kong also

had a record-equalling 23 horses in the World's Best Racehorse Rankings for 2015, including the world's number one sprinter.

All of this, plus the club's reputation for strict integrity, makes Hong Kong racing increasingly attractive to overseas racing fans who, through simulcasts of Hong Kong races and participation in commingled betting pools, are becoming ever more engaged with the Hong Kong racing experience.

Outward Bound Hong Kong

Outward Bound Hong Kong (OBHK) is a member of Outward Bound International, which was founded in Britain in 1941 and is the world leader and originator of experiential education, operating more than 40 schools in 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. It 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 5,500 people join its courses every year.

Outward Bound is a not-for-profit organisation based in Sai Kung, with headquarters at Tai Mong Tsai and an island base on Wong Wan Chau. It has a wide range of facilities and resources, including a 67-foot sail training yacht named the *Spirit of Outward Bound*, a world-class rope course and a fleet of sea kayaks and ketches. All the resources are checked regularly and maintained according to international safety standards.

The organisation 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.

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 workplace 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 charities to devise courses to help their students 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.

About 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 take part in outdoor activities and promote travel and international exchange programmes.

Established in 1973, HKYHA plans, runs and markets youth hostels. HKYHA has more than 30,000 individual members and 1,600 corporate members. It is also an affiliate of Hostelling International, an organisation with over four million members worldwide.

HKYHA operates seven hostels, with different characteristics and located in different areas of Hong Kong. YHA Mei Ho House Youth Hostel, transformed from a six-storey resettlement block in Shek Kip Mei which formed part of Hong Kong's first public housing, is the flagship hostel and welcomes backpackers from all over the world. In September, it was awarded an Honourable Mention in the 2015 Unesco Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.

In January 2015, HKYHA's annual Ngong Ping Charity Walk at North Lantau Island Country Park attracted more than 1,000 participants and raised much needed funds for hostel enhancement, environmental protection and HKYHA's conservation projects.

In August, HKYHA nominated four tertiary education students for a trip to Singapore and to share their backpacking experiences online.

Sporting Achievements

The year 2015 was notable for the dual achievements of billiard athlete Ng On-ye. In April, Ng won the World Champion title at the 2015 WLBSA World Ladies Championship held in Leeds, England, then in August, she grabbed another global title by emerging champion at the IBSF World 6-Reds & Team Snooker Championships held in Karachi, Pakistan.

Other elite athletes also made remarkable strides in their respective disciplines. Tenpin bowling player Wu Siu-hong won the first World Champion title at the 51st Bowling World Cup held in Las Vegas, US, while gymnast Shek Wai-hung secured a gold medal in the Men's Vault of the 6th Senior Artistic Gymnastics Asian Championships held in Hiroshima, Japan, becoming the first Asian champion in artistic gymnastics. Squash player Au Chun-ming clinched first place at the 18th Asian Individual Championship held in Kuwait.

At the 28th Summer Universiade held in Gwangju, South Korea, swimmer Stephanie Au Hoi-shun won a silver medal in the women's 50m backstroke.

Disabled table tennis player Wong Ka-man and swimmer Tang Wai-lok received the awards of Best Female Athlete and Best Male Athlete respectively during the 1st Inas Awards at the Inas General Assembly held in Sheffield, United Kingdom. Hong Kong's disabled athletes also attained brilliant results at the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games, collecting altogether 122 medals – 59 gold, 40 silver and 23 bronze.

Recreation and Sports Programmes

In 2015, the LCSD organised some 38,000 recreation and sports programmes for about 2.54 million participants of all ages and abilities at a total cost of \$153 million.

District Sports Teams Training Scheme

A total of 10,837 young people took part in 284 district team events for basketball, football, handball and fencing in 2015.

Young Athletes Training Scheme

In 2015, 30,017 teenagers joined training in 30 sports disciplines under a Young Athletes Training Scheme.

School Sports Programme

The School Sports Programme provides a wide range of sports programmes for students and comprises seven subsidiary programmes: Sport Education, Easy Sport, Outreach Coaching, Joint Schools Sports Training, Sport Captain, the Badges Award Scheme and the Sports Award Scheme. In 2015, 611,500 students took part in 8,138 sporting events. The School Sports Programme Coordinator Scheme continues to be implemented to foster a strong sporting culture on school campuses while providing a career training platform for retired athletes.

Community Sports Club Project

In 2015, the Community Sports Club (CSC) Project, organised by the LCSD in collaboration with the NSAs, supported about 430 CSCs in organising 2,350 sports training activities for 51,000 participants. Seminars and management development programmes were formulated for some 470 sports volunteers to help them run CSCs.

A CSC Enhancement Programme encourages CSCs to use the department's venues outside peak hours to organise activities, and 278 sports training classes were held for 3,314 participants under this programme in 2015.

Sports Subvention Scheme

The department provides subvention to the NSAs and other sporting organisations for sports promotion and development. The subvention covers office and personnel expenses and spending on NSA programmes. In 2015, the department provided 59 NSAs and 22 sport organisations with subventions amounting to about \$270 million and 10,590 programmes for different sports were organised, attracting 732,700 participants.

In 2015, the NSAs received subsidies to stage local and international events in Hong Kong, including the BISFed Asia and Oceania Bocchia Team and Pairs Championships 2015, the 2015 Asian Women's Beach Volleyball Championship and the Asia Rugby Sevens Qualifier. The department also provided subsidies to NSAs to strengthen squad training and to help athletes representing Hong Kong take part in overseas competitions.

'M' Mark Support Package

This package aims to increase support from the commercial sector and the community for NSAs to develop sustainable major international sports events. In 2015, 11 events were given 'M' Mark status and/or support packages.

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

In 2015, more than 80,000 people took part in about 1,570 programmes under the 'Healthy Exercise for All' campaign. Over 220,000 people participated in the department's annual 'Sport For All Day' in August. 'Stay active, Stay Healthy' was adopted as the event slogan to promote sport for all in the community. 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.

5th Hong Kong Games

Between April and May, 3,205 athletes competed in the 5th Hong Kong Games and more than 430,000 people took part in related community participation programmes. The games, held biennially, aim to promote a stronger sporting culture in the community through competitions and community activities.

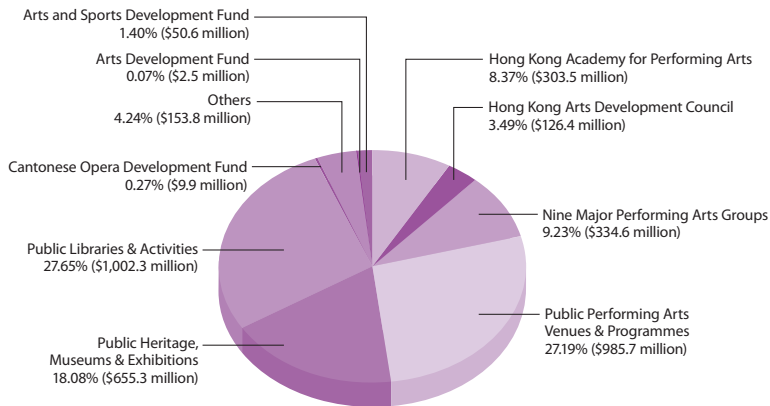
1st National Youth Games

The 1st National Youth Games was held in Fuzhou, Fujian Province, from 18 to 27 October. A total of 214 Hong Kong athletes took part in the final rounds in 20 sports and won four medals, comprising one gold, one silver and two bronze.

Culture and Arts Funding

Government Funding Support for Culture and the Arts

Chart 1 Provision for Arts and Culture 2014-15



Total government expenditure on arts and culture in 2014-15 was \$3.6 billion

Capital Funding

The government granted an upfront endowment of \$21.6 billion to the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority in 2008 to develop the West Kowloon Cultural District so as to meet the long-term infrastructural and developmental needs of Hong Kong's arts and culture. It will also build an East Kowloon Cultural Centre in Ngau Tau Kok to help alleviate the current acute shortage of professional performing arts facilities. The cultural centre, scheduled for completion in late 2020, includes a 1,200-seat auditorium and a 550-seat theatre and will become a major cultural venue in East Kowloon.

Recurrent Funding

In 2014-15, the government earmarked about \$3.6 billion, excluding capital works expenditure, to support arts groups, arts education and promotion, and administrative costs.

Major Performing Arts Groups

In 2014-15, the Home Affairs Bureau provided about \$334 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 Zuni Icosahedron.

Arts and Sport Development Fund

Investment returns generated by seed money of \$1.5 billion injected into the arts portion of the Arts and Sport Development Fund in 2010-11 are used to subsidise long-term arts and cultural development. 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. It has financed 60 projects. Another \$30 million is earmarked annually from the arts portion of the fund to support projects initiated or recommended by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council.

Cantonese Opera Development Fund

The Cantonese Opera Development Fund helps to preserve, promote and develop Cantonese opera. In 2015, it granted about \$8.3 million to support various projects, including the Venue Partnership Scheme at Yau Ma Tei Theatre, Yuen Long Theatre and Sha Tin Town Hall.

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 and has been used mainly to support cultural exchanges since 2001. In 2015, \$3.2 million was approved for 61 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. Nineteen heritage-related projects worth about \$4.24 million were approved in 2015.

Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund awards scholarships to outstanding talent to pursue further studies in music or dance outside the territory. Four scholarships worth about \$1.69 million were awarded in 2015.

Culture and Arts Venues

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department manages 16 performance venues.

Hong Kong Cultural Centre

Opened in 1989, the Hong Kong Cultural Centre has established itself as the territory's premier performing arts facility, 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 2015, more than 618,000 people attended 704 performances.

Hong Kong City Hall

Hong Kong City Hall opened in 1962 as the territory'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 2015, 588 events were held in the concert hall and the theatre, attracting 360,575 people.

Yau Ma Tei Theatre

Yau Ma Tei Theatre, the only surviving pre-war cinema building in the urban area, was revitalised and opened in July 2012 as a dedicated venue to nurture young talent for Cantonese opera. In 2015, more than 68,300 people attended 319 performances.

Regional and District Civic Centres and Theatres

The department runs 11 regional and district civic centres: the Sheung Wan and Sai Wan Ho civic centres on Hong Kong Island; 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, Kwai Tsing and Yuen Long theatres, 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 territory's premier multi-purpose indoor stadia. With flexible stage and seating configurations, the two stadia have hosted a wide array of activities, including mega sports events, pop concerts, spectacular entertainment programmes and major celebrations. In 2015, 39 and 129 events were staged in the coliseum and the stadium, attracting more than 1,192,000 and 374,000 spectators respectively.

Venue Partnership Scheme

This scheme fosters partnerships between the department'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 arts sponsorship drives, and encourage community involvement in the arts. Some 737,400 people attended or took part in 823 stage performances and 868 educational, promotional and audience-building activities organised by the venue partners in 2015.

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. Its aim is to promote the development of arts and culture, meet the growing cultural needs of the public and strengthen Hong Kong's position as an international arts and cultural metropolis.

The facilities that constitute the WKCD steadily took shape in 2015: the main superstructure works of M+, a new museum of visual culture, started in October; the M+ Pavilion, formerly known as the Arts Pavilion, was officially topped out in November; and the main superstructure works for the Xiqu Centre are moving full steam ahead. The Lyric Theatre Complex and the Park, including the Black Box and Outdoor Stage, have also entered the detailed design stage. The Nursery Park was opened in July for public enjoyment while work on the rest of the Park continued.

To nurture new audiences and raise public awareness of the project, the WKCD Authority initiated and co-presented a wide variety of events, including a *Rising Stars of Cantonese Opera* performance from February to March; M+'s first moving image project, 'Mobile M+: Moving

Images' from February to April; 'Mobile M+: Live Art', a series of public performing art events and exhibitions that explored various aspects of 'liveness' in December; and a series of free outdoor performing arts events called 'Freespace Happening' at its Nursery Park from August. The WKCD Authority also organised cultural exchange programmes, seminars, workshops, training programmes, internship schemes and other collaborative projects.

Urbtix

The Urban Ticketing System, or Urbtix, is one of the most widely used computerised ticketing systems locally. It provides convenient and reliable ticketing services through counter booking at 36 outlets, and via the internet, telephone and a mobile app. In 2015, the system processed 4.2 million tickets with proceeds of more than \$856 million.

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. Besides encouraging public participation and advocating arts education, the council endeavours to advance arts criticism, raise the standards of arts administration and strengthen arts policy research. It also operates various grant schemes.

The council grooms talented people and cultivates arts administrators and budding artists by providing opportunities to receive training and to take part in competitions, cultural exchanges and internships both in Hong Kong and abroad. In 2015, it offered Arts Administration Scholarships (Local/Overseas), Hong Kong Scholarships on the Clore Leadership Programme, Taipei National University of the Arts – Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts Internship Scheme, Mori Art Museum Internship, ImpulsTanz – Vienna International Dance Festival Internships, Sage Gateshead Internships and HKADC UAL Scholarships, and launched Overseas Training for Arts Administrators – Thematic Study Visits Scheme and Personal Development Grant. The council also launched an Arts Administration Internship Scheme and Arts Production Internship Scheme.

Major HKADC arts promotion events in 2015 included the first literary arts festival Litstream, the Hong Kong Arts Development Awards 2014, the 7th Arts Ambassadors-in-School Scheme and Fresh Wave 2015. For the first time, the council led an 80-member delegation to take part in the Performing Arts Market in Seoul. The delegation comprised representatives of small and medium-sized arts groups and individual arts practitioners funded by the council, artists and arts groups selected to present performances, and representatives of the territory's nine major performing arts groups, Hong Kong Arts Festival and WKCD Authority.

The council continued to co-present with RTHK *Artspiration*, a weekly television series on arts, artists and cultural events, and with Cable TV *ArTour*, a monthly segment for the programme *Close to Culture*, featuring local young artists.

The council also took part in the 56th Venice Biennale International Art Exhibition in collaboration with M+ and presented the Response Exhibition of the 14th Venice Biennale International Architectural Exhibition in Hong Kong.

The council's main tasks include arts research and policy advocacy. In 2015, 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 2014 and published a series of yearbooks on the arts in collaboration with 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 2015, the academy enrolled 785 students for undergraduate and post-secondary programmes in its six performing arts disciplines, and attracted 133 students to pursue master's degree programmes in dance, music, drama, film and television, and theatre and entertainment arts. It admitted more than 690 students to its junior programmes and over 3,400 students to its Extension and Continuing Education for Life programme.

Hong Kong Arts Centre

The self-financing Hong Kong Arts Centre, located in Wan Chai, promotes contemporary arts and culture. It provides a wide range of programmes featuring works of local and overseas artists, and facilities for performances, films and exhibitions.

The centre's Hong Kong Art School runs diploma and degree courses in arts studies.

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. It 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.

The Fringe Club presented 'Spotlight Penang in Hong Kong' in June and 'Spotlight Hong Kong in Singapore' in July. Both events were sponsored by the respective Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office to showcase creative talent and to promote cultural exchange.

Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre

The Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre (JCCAC) is a multidisciplinary 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 nurture creative talent and promote arts and culture.

As an arts village, the centre rents studio facilities to more than 100 artists and art groups working in visual arts, performing arts and other art forms. As an arts centre, it hires out its venue facilities, including the Central Courtyard, galleries and the Jockey Club Black Box Theatre, for arts and cultural activities.

In 2015, the centre hosted almost 300,000 visitors. Its large-scale public programmes included the annual JCCAC Festival in December, the quarterly Handicraft Fair, and regular free programmes such as open-air film screenings, exhibitions, performances and public guided tours.

Major Performing Arts Groups

Chung Ying Theatre Company

The Chung Ying Theatre Company dedicates itself to producing quality stage productions with an aim to promote theatrical arts, facilitate cultural exchanges and enrich the city's cultural life. It also provides support to new theatre groups and organises theatre courses, Theatre-in-Education programmes and performances in schools and communities. In 2015, Chung Ying presented several classic translated plays and local original comedies, and was invited to perform in Canada, Taiwan and Guangzhou. It also collaborated with a British playwright to present an English play, *Jekyll and Hyde*.

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 2015, it presented four original productions and hosted the Jumping Frames International Dance Video Showcase. It also performed in Japan, Taiwan and the Mainland. The company's Dance Centre organised various activities to promote modern dance in Hong Kong and on the Mainland, and led local young choreographers and dancers to the Mainland for performances and exchanges. It also introduced dance workshops for young children.

Hong Kong Ballet

Hong Kong Ballet, one of Asia's premier classical ballet companies, gave 44 performances locally in 2015 featuring a mix of classical and contemporary works such as *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Nutcracker*, *Turandot*, the world premiere of Isberg's *Pinocchio*, Liang's *Letting Go*, and Egami and Hu's *Bolero*. More than 20,000 young people enjoyed its extensive educational and outreach programmes.

Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra

The Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra presented more than 140 concerts and arts education activities in 2015. As a cultural ambassador of Hong Kong, the orchestra was invited by the Helsinki Festival and Year of Chinese Music in Estonia to perform and organise educational concerts. It was also invited to take part in charity music exchange activities in Chongqing.

Hong Kong Dance Company

The Hong Kong Dance Company was established in 1981 to promote Chinese dance. It put up 59 performances in 2015, including *Shao Nian Yau*, *The Legend of Mulan*, *Magical Adventures of Baby Polar Bear and the 12 Zodiac Animals*, *Voices and Dances of the Distant Land*, *L'Amour Immortel*, outdoor dance gala *Folk Dance Fiesta*, and performances during New York and Sydney tours, reaching more than 48,000 people.

Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra is the city's largest professional musical organisation, presenting more than 150 concerts for 200,000 music lovers every year. Featuring international and local conductors and soloists, the orchestra performed a broad variety of music in 2015, including Part 1 of Wagner's four-opera cycle *The Ring of the Nibelung – Das Rheingold*, and offered free concerts headlined by the popular *Symphony Under The Stars*. Through its acclaimed education programmes, more than 40,000 young people learned about orchestral music. The orchestra also toured Europe during the year.

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. Its 15 productions in 2015 included *Hello, Dolly! – the Musical*; *The Last Supper*; *The Sin Family*; *The Emperor, his Mom, a Eunuch and a Man*; *Marriage*; *A Bowlful of Kindness* and *Circle Mirror Transformation*. It also developed new black box projects, extended its arts educational programmes, and toured Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Seoul and Macao.

Hong Kong Sinfonietta

The Hong Kong Sinfonietta is one of Hong Kong's leading symphony orchestras. In 2015, it gave more than 120 performances, including concerts with violinist Gidon Kremer, cellist Pieter Wispelwey, trumpeter Håkan Hardenberger and composer-conductor Krzysztof Penderecki. The orchestra appointed Christoph Poppen as Principal Guest Conductor and opened its 2015-16 season with a tour to South Korea and Japan under his baton. The orchestra also made its debut in Switzerland.

Zuni Icosahedron

Zuni Icosahedron's original theatre productions in 2015 included *The World According to Dance*, *Invisible Cities*, *East Wing West Wing 12 Let It Be One Country Two Systems* and *The Book of Changes*. It presented the Arts Education Programme *Creative Playground* and was also invited to perform in Hanover, Shanghai and Milan Expo 2015.

Culture and Arts Presentations

LCSD Cultural Presentations

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department presents high-quality cultural programmes throughout the year. In 2015, more than 409,000 people attended 1,022 performances featuring local and visiting artists. Music programmes included the Russian National Orchestra, the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, the Singapore Chinese Orchestra, Hagen Quartet, Vienna Boys Choir,

pianist Nelson Freire, violinist Itzhak Perlman, tenor Ian Bostridge and guitarist Yang Xuefei. Visiting dance groups included Sydney Dance Company and Australian Chamber Orchestra in a joint performance, and Ballet Flamenco Sara Baras from Spain. Multi-arts and theatre groups included iLuminate, winner of *America's Got Talent*, Gecko from the United Kingdom and Li Liuyi Theatre Studio.

The Music Delight Series and the Dance x Multimedia Series featured programmes that attract young audiences. Performance platforms were created for emerging artists in Our Music Talents Series, Dance On Series and New Energy Series, as well as the large-scale community event Dance Day.

The department held its sixth Chinese Opera Festival in the summer and the annual Cantonese Opera Day in November.

Entertainment Programmes

In 2015, the department organised 22 major festive and thematic carnivals and 625 district art shows with a total audience of about 863,000.

Arts Education and Audience-building Projects

In 2015, the department organised 1,137 arts education and audience-building activities in schools, community halls and other public venues to promote the arts and encourage participation in cultural activities.

It built a broader platform for arts education at the tertiary level in order to develop an appreciative audience. To further foster the development of community arts and widen the audience base, two special themes were set for the 2015 Community Cultural Ambassador Scheme, namely, 'Enhancing the Participation of Ethnic Minorities in Performing Arts' and 'Building Elderly Audiences'.

Major Culture and Arts Events

Hong Kong Arts Festival

The 43rd annual Hong Kong Arts Festival consisted of 16 world premieres and 10 Asian premieres, including the festival's own productions: chamber opera *Datong*, new play *The Amahs*, and *The Crowd*, a play performed in collaboration with the Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre. The total audience for 137 performances and 315 associated events was close to 160,000. Highlights included The Bolshoi Opera and Bolshoi Ballet; Los Angeles Philharmonic with Gustavo Dudamel; Staatskapelle Dresden with Christian Thielemann; Bobby McFerrin and Madison; Joyce DiDonato's *Drama Queens*; recitals by Seong-Jin Cho, Kavakos and Pace; the Hong Kong Jockey Club Contemporary Dance Series and the Asia Pacific Dance Platform.

International Arts Carnival

The department's annual International Arts Carnival in July and August opened with the Shaanxi Acrobatic Troupe. Some 137,000 people attended the carnival's 414 events, which included acrobatics, music, magic, musicals, shadow puppets and physical, multimedia and interactive babies' performances.

World Cultures Festival

The department's World Cultures Festival – A Decade of Exquisite Arts gathered together artistic gems from around the globe to celebrate its 10th anniversary. Artists included the Tango Buenos Aires, Shanghai Yue Opera House, Kodo, The Chieftains and Angélique Kidjo. The festival's 80 events attracted an audience of more than 108,000.

Chinese Opera Festival

The department's sixth Chinese Opera Festival featured Cantonese opera, Kunqu opera, Peking opera and other regional genres. About 46,000 people attended the festival's 70 events, including stage performances, forums, a backstage tour, talks on specific themes and art forms, Chinese opera film screenings and exhibitions.

Hong Kong Week 2015@Taipei

The fourth Hong Kong Week, presented by the Hong Kong-Taiwan Cultural Co-operation Committee in association with the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan, held from 10 September to 11 October three exhibitions, three performing arts programmes, a performing arts forum and 26 extension activities.

Muse Fest HK

Running from 27 June to 12 July, Transcend – Muse Fest HK 2015 was the department's first museum festival. The festival featured more than 70 programmes organised by the department's 14 museums, five cultural venues and four museum disciplines, attracting an attendance of more than 340,000.

Museums

Hong Kong Museum of Art

The museum attracted more than 185,000 visitors during the year. In November, it hosted the 'Wall-less Chit-ChaNt Exhibition' in the Art Square of Salisbury Garden. Exhibitions that were organised outside Hong Kong included 'In the Name of Art – Hong Kong Contemporary Art Exhibition' at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei, and 'Maritime Porcelain Road: Relics from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Museums', staged jointly with Guangdong Museum, Macao Museum and Zhejiang Provincial Museum.

To enhance the appreciation of art, the museum presented special lectures, art workshops, family programmes, gallery talks and audio guide services. It launched the Jockey Club 'Museum of Art on Wheels' Outreach Learning Programme in October.

The Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware, a branch of the Museum of Art, features a collection of 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. Some 228,000 people visited in 2015. It also presented 'The Art and Culture of Yixing Zisha Stoneware' exhibition jointly with the Art Museum of The Chinese University of Hong Kong's (CUHK) Institute of Chinese Studies at the Art Museum.

The Hong Kong Museum of Art was closed on 3 August 2015 to prepare for three years of renovation works that began in end-2015. The renovated museum will be reopened in the second quarter of 2019.

Hong Kong Museum of History

Eight exhibitions were staged at the Hong Kong Museum of History in 2015: 'Every Object Tells a Story', 'The Exhibition of the 25th Anniversary of the Promulgation of the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China', '50th Anniversary of Dongjiang Water Supply to Hong Kong', 'The Centenary of the Hong Kong Chinese Christian Churches Union', 'Pictorial exhibition on China's War of Resistance against Japan', 'Journey For Active Minds: Jockey Club Museum Programme For The Elderly', 'The Rise of the Celestial Empire: Consolidation and Cultural Exchange during the Han Dynasty', and 'The Radiant Ming 1368-1644 through the Min Chiu Society Collection'. More than 749,700 people visited during the year.

The museum organised programmes for different communities, including those with disabilities, the elderly, new immigrants, teenagers, students, teachers and ethnic minorities, A pilot project, 'Journey for Active Minds: Jockey Club Museum Programme for the Elderly', was launched in March 2014 to provide special guided tours and workshops on the museum's exhibitions to help the elderly and Alzheimer's patients share their memories and experience, interact with others, and foster interest in Hong Kong's history, art and cultural heritage. An exhibition was staged in November 2015 to conclude the project and to showcase the participants' artworks.

The museum maintained close collaboration with The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, CUHK, Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) and Chu Hai College of Higher Education to organise public seminars and lecture series on the history and culture of Hong Kong. To mark the museum's 40th anniversary in 2015, it organised new programmes including the 'Every Object Tells a Story' exhibition, a series of reminiscence talks, iPad tours on 'The Hong Kong Story' permanent exhibition, special workshops and an ensemble by secondary students at the museum's City Cafe.

As for schools, the museum continued to organise teacher seminars, school competitions and the Future Curator Training Course to enhance understanding of Hong Kong's history and culture. It collaborated with the Academy for Performing Arts to run six interactive drama performances at 'The Hong Kong Story' gallery to arouse secondary students' interest in learning local history from different perspectives.

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

The Museum of Coastal Defence, converted from the old Lei Yue Mun Fort in Shau Kei Wan, attracted more than 119,700 visitors in 2015. In addition to its permanent exhibition, '600 Years of Hong Kong's Coastal Defence', the museum staged two exhibitions entitled 'Fighting as One: Reminders of the Eight Years' War of Resistance in Guangdong and Hong Kong' and 'Great

Victory, Historic Contribution: Exhibition of the 70th Anniversary of the Victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War' to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese people's war of resistance against Japanese aggression. To celebrate the museum's 15th anniversary, it organised special programmes including fun days, drill performances, a classical military music concert, workshops and public lecture series.

More than 59,700 people visited the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum in 2015. Housed in the historic Kom Tong Hall, it has two permanent exhibitions relating to Dr Sun's life and career. Two special exhibitions were held in 2015: 'With the Passage of Time – Artefacts of Sun Wan, Dr Sun Yat-sen's Second Daughter and her Husband, Tai Ensai' and 'Wonderful Times, Beautiful Images: Calendar Posters and Modern Society in the Republican Period'.

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. More than 92,700 people visited in 2015.

The Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum in Sham Shui Po and the Law Uk Folk Museum in Chai Wan attracted more than 37,000 and 13,700 visitors in 2015 respectively.

Hong Kong Heritage Museum

Devoted to exploring Hong Kong's diverse cultures, the Hong Kong Heritage Museum organised an array of thematic exhibitions on art, design and history in 2015. Highlights of the year included the 110th Birthday of Chao Shao-an Programme Series, which comprised two exhibitions, namely, 'The Pride of Lingnan: In Commemoration of the 110th Birthday of Chao Shao-an', co-organised with the Guangzhou Museum of Art; and 'Treasures Abroad: Works of Chao Shao-an', jointly organised with the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco.

Other exhibitions staged in 2015 included 'Bring Me Home – the Story of Hong Kong Culture, Art and Design', 'Walking in the Dreams' and 'The Past is Continuing'.

The museum collaborated with the Education Bureau, the Arts Development Council and HKBU's Institute of Creativity in continuing to present the Arts Buddies project. It also ran a MuseKids programme to stimulate children's interest in museum learning and the annual MuseTeens training programme for older youngsters to enrich their understanding of the museum's work and collections.

The Heritage Museum manages three branch museums. The first of these, the Sam Tung Uk Museum in Tsuen Wan, was converted from a Hakka walled village built in 1786. An Intangible Cultural Heritage Office was set up in May 2015, converting the Sam Tung Uk Museum into a resource centre on intangible cultural heritage. The Railway Museum in Tai Po is housed in a station building constructed in 1913, while the Sheung Yiu Folk Museum in Sai Kung Country Park is located in a Hakka village that was built in the late 19th century.

The Heritage Museum, Sam Tung Uk Museum, Hong Kong Railway Museum and Sheung Yiu Folk Museum attracted some 484,200, 92,000, 220,700 and 39,400 visitors respectively in 2015.

Hong Kong Science Museum

More than 1,169,300 visited the Science Museum in 2015. Its 'Western Scientific Instruments of the Qing Court' exhibition combined science and history, featuring precious western science and technology collections of the Palace Museum and interactive exhibits that the Science Museum specially produced to explain scientific principles behind the instruments. Other major exhibitions included 'Strange Matter', which introduced the materials used in new products, and 'Out to Sea? The Plastic Garbage Project', which educated visitors on the impact of marine plastic rubbish on the ecosystem and the environment.

The museum co-operated with 26 scientific organisations and government departments to present HK SciFest 2015, offering 80 programmes for families and the public. Science Alive 2015, catering for students, celebrated a century of amazing chemistry-related discoveries. Nineteen secondary students and four teachers took part in the first Young Scientists Study Tour, studying the excavation and reservation of dinosaur fossils in Lufeng, Yunnan.

At the museum's 'Meet the Shaw Laureates 2015' 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 fun science.

Hong Kong Space Museum

In 2015, the Hong Kong Space Museum presented one Omnimax Show, two 3D Dome Shows, one Sky Show 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.

On the evening of 4 April 2015, the museum organised a 'Night of Total Lunar Eclipse' to observe the total eclipse of the moon at the mid-section of the Avenue of Stars. More than 2,000 people attended the event.

The museum and its permanent exhibition halls were closed for exhibit renewal at the end of 2015. During this closure, the museum launched a new outreach programme, 'Stargazing@School', to bring a portable planetarium and telescopes to schools to introduce stargazing and constellations.

In 2015, some 691,000 people visited exhibitions and shows in the Space Theatre, while more than 27,100 took part in the educational and extension programmes.

Hong Kong Film Archive

In 2015, the Hong Kong Film Archive attracted more than 177,000 visitors. In addition to its permanent exhibition, 'In Memory of Queen's Theatre', it organised three thematic exhibitions: 'The Foundation of Run Run Shaw's Cinema Empire', 'The Labyrinth of Film Scripting' and 'Saving Film: Road to Film Conservation'.

The archive acquired 507 films and 23,269 film-related materials in 2015. Major acquisitions included 35mm film prints and trailers from five titles and 16 titles donated by Shaw Movie City

Hong Kong and Edko Films respectively. Pre-print materials and 35mm film prints from three titles dating from 2004 to 2006 were donated by Art Port Asia. Besides, the archive acquired from a local film laboratory 219 titles of 16mm and 35mm picture negatives, sound tracks, subtitles, inter-picture negatives, inter-positives, film prints and trailers dating from 1967 to 2011 and 2,979 film-related materials such as posters, lobby stills and grading sheets. The archive also continued to duplicate film scripts and censor documents of Hong Kong films in the 1950s from the New York State Archives.

Public Libraries

The department operates 68 static and 12 mobile libraries and a books registration office. The libraries hold some 12.34 million books and more than 1.8 million items of multimedia material, serving almost 4.37 million registered book borrowers and lending more than 51.34 million books and other library materials in 2015.

Hong Kong Central Library

The Hong Kong Central Library is a major information and cultural centre, with a stock of more than 2.64 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 cultural programmes and public lectures, and holds user education sessions to promote library resources to the public.

Improvements to Library Services

The public libraries work closely with the District Councils and local groups to set up community libraries, of which there were 205 at the end of 2015. Organisations are offered block loans of library materials together with professional advice to set up libraries tailored to their communities. The Tiu Keng Leng Public Library was opened in July 2015, strengthening significantly library services in Tseung Kwan O.

Reference and Information Services

Professional reference and information services are provided at the Central Library and the public libraries of City Hall, Kowloon, Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai, Sha Tin, Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun. The Central Library also has a large collection of reference materials on Hong Kong studies and international organisations. In 2015, the public libraries handled 3.41 million enquiries.

Online service is an integral part of the public libraries' reference and information services. About 60 e-databases are available to library users.

Information Technology Initiatives and Digital Library Initiatives

In 2015, improvements were made to the library website to enrich the experience of mobile users. These improvements included a new mobile website, a Single-Sign-On feature to access

multiple online e-services, and an online credit card payment service allowing people to pay reservation fees or overdue fines of library materials through the internet.

The public libraries provide more than 1,900 computers giving public access to the libraries' electronic resources and the internet. More than 220,000 e-books are available to registered members for remote internet access.

Outreach Programmes and Promotion of Reading and Literary Arts

In 2015, the public libraries conducted 21,461 outreach programmes, including storytelling sessions, exhibitions, subject talks, reading programmes and reading-related activities, to promote and sustain interest in reading.

Promotional programmes for creative writing and Chinese literature included the 13th Hong Kong Biennial Awards for Chinese Literature.

Cultural Exchange

In 2015, library professionals from the Mainland, Taiwan and Macao attended the 9th Council Meeting of the Conference on Co-operative Development and Sharing of Chinese Resources and a library forum, 'Looking Back and Forth: the Opportunities in the Sharing of Chinese Digital Resources', in Hong Kong.

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 Australia.

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 2015, the office registered 15,400 books and 9,965 periodicals, and issued 991 new publisher prefixes totalling 17,200 ISBNs.

Heritage

Cantonese Opera

The government is keen to preserve, promote and develop Cantonese opera in Hong Kong. Opened in October 2014, the Ko Shan Theatre New Wing provides a 600-seat auditorium and ancillary facilities for performances, training and rehearsals. In 2015, more than 111,000 people attended about 280 performances at the auditorium.

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

Intangible Cultural Heritage

According to the 2015 Policy Address, the government would enhance measures to safeguard Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), including the identification, documentation, research,

preservation, promotion and transmission of such heritage. The government would select items that have higher cultural value and an urgent need for preservation to draw up the first representative list of ICH. In May, the ICH Unit under the Heritage Museum was upgraded to an independent ICH Office with enhanced manpower and funding to heighten its efforts to safeguard ICH. The office would make use of the Sam Tung Uk Museum to house an exhibition and resource centre dedicated to ICH-related exhibitions and associated activities. In June, the government co-organised with the Ministry of Culture the 'Genesis and Spirit: A Showcase of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Gansu' to enhance the public's knowledge of the Mainland's ICH.

Lord Wilson Heritage Trust

This trust aims to preserve and conserve Hong Kong's human heritage by organising activities and providing funding support to heritage-related community activities and research. The trust approved 19 heritage-related projects in 2015, bringing the total to 196 since its establishment in 1992.

Conservation Office

In 2015, the Conservation Office conducted conservation treatments on more than 700 museum artefacts, including paintings, prints, historical documents, textiles, metals, ceramics, sculptures, organic objects and archaeological finds. It also performed scientific research and analyses to better understand the deterioration mechanisms of the collections and help formulate preservation strategies to retard their ageing.

Under Muse Fest HK 2015, Hong Kong held a Conservation Clinic for the first time. Participants received free conservation consultation service on the condition and care of treasures they brought to the event. The office also organised 37 educational workshops and behind-the-scene laboratory tours in 2015, bringing its total number of students and other event participants to about 1,000, with 152 conservation volunteers contributing altogether more than 8,700 service hours.

The office was represented at three international conferences – TechArt 2015 held in Italy in April, the 25th CIPA International Symposium on Heritage Documentation held in Taiwan in August, and the International Conference of Future Museum and Gallery Design held in Hong Kong in November.

Nurturing talent

Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund

Scholarship recipients under this fund pursue postgraduate studies in music or dance at degree-awarding tertiary education institutions in Hong Kong; post-diploma or postgraduate studies or professional training in music or dance at world-renowned institutions; or less formal studies, projects or creative work outside Hong Kong. The fund awarded four scholarships in 2015, bringing the total to 297 since its establishment in 1980.

Arts Administrator Trainee Scheme

The Arts Administrator Trainee scheme aims to nurture a pool of arts administrators to support the development of performing arts. Trainees undergo two years of training in venue operation,

facility management, stage management, event promotion and the organisation of performing arts programmes, carnivals and arts festivals. There were 43 LCSD trainee placements in 2015. The department also sponsored its 22 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 aims to develop museum professionals by attaching trainees to the Museum of Art, Museum of History, Heritage Museum, Film Archive, Art Promotion Office and Conservation Office. They receive two years of on-the-job training in museum management or conservation services, learning to manage museum services and organise education programmes and gaining hands-on experience in curating exhibitions and projects. There were 24 trainee placements in 2015.

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 2015, it provided music training for 8,970 trainees and 167,580 people took part in its promotional activities.

Visual and Public Art

Art Promotion Office

In 2015, the Art Promotion Office put the '300 Families' exhibition, which was previously shown at the 2014 Hong Kong and Macao Visual Arts Biennial in Beijing, on stage again in Shenyang, Liaoning Province, as part of the 'One Root One Heart' and '300 Families' joint exhibition. It also invited exhibition proposals for 'The 6th Artists in the Neighbourhood Scheme: Flash!'

Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre

Managed by the Art Promotion Office, the Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre organises visual arts activities and provides facilities for hire. It has a number of well-equipped art studios, multi-purpose rooms, a lecture theatre and an exhibition hall. The centre organised a series of programmes including 'Dialogue! Tactic • Strategy' and the 'Art Specialist Course 2014-15 Graduation Exhibition'.

Oil Street Art Space (Oil!)

New initiatives were organised in 2015 to nurture young artistic talent and invite community engagement, including the 'Before • After' exhibition, 'Doing Nothing Garden' by Song Dong and four exhibitions under the 'Sparkle!' exhibition series.

Public Art Project

Public art projects launched by the Art Promotion Office in 2015 included 'Urban Art Project at the Back Alley in Kwun Tong', 'ARTivating Public Buildings', 'Public Art Display for ArtSpace@TI Tower' and 'Public Art Scheme 2015'.

Websites

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

Home Affairs Bureau: www.hab.gov.hk

Hong Kong Public Libraries: www.hkpl.gov.hk

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