

Recreation, Sport, Culture and the Arts

Hong Kong offers no lack of sports, cultural and recreational opportunities for its hard-working populace. The wide variety of activities, ranging from international sports and arts events to community programmes, leaves people of all ages and abilities spoilt for choice.

The Home Affairs Bureau coordinates government policies on recreation, sports, culture and heritage. Organisations such as the Sports Commission and Hong Kong Arts Development Council help the government draw 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 cooperative interaction between sports, cultural and community organisations. The department also organises exhibitions, sporting events and cultural performances.

Recreation and Sports

The department develops and coordinates the provision of 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 recreational 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 2016, some 930,000 people took part in activities organised at 24 holiday camps and sea activity centres run by 11 non-governmental organisations subvented by the LCSD.

The department also issues and renews licences for places of amusement. In 2016, it processed 48 applications for billiard establishments, seven for public bowling alleys and five for public skating rinks.

Parks and Greenery

The LCSD manages over 1,500 parks and gardens, 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 2016, the department planted 1.98 million trees, shrubs and other plants, and enhanced the landscaping at about 12 hectares of park and roadside amenity areas.

Hong Kong Park

Hong Kong Park occupies 8.2 hectares at the former military barracks in Central District. 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 species are kept. In 2016, four 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 and tropical regions. About 80 common species of succulents were featured in an exhibition on succulents at the Display Plant House from December 2015 to January 2016.

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. Ten endangered species of mammals, birds and reptiles lived there in 2016. The bird collection is one of the most comprehensive in Asia, comprising about 212 birds of 42 species. The mammal collection consists of about 70 animals of 14 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 help 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 visitor centres, which attracted about 13 million people in 2016. Visitors can learn about the beauty and diversity of local marine life at five marine parks and one marine reserve.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department manages the country parks, special areas, marine parks, marine reserve, Hong Kong Wetland Park and Hong Kong Unesco Global Geopark.

Hong Kong Wetland Park

The 61-hectare Hong Kong Wetland Park stretches from the northern part of Tin Shui Wai to the southern tip of the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site. It is a special area designated under the

Country Parks Ordinance. The park promotes wetland conservation, education and ecotourism, and gives visitors the opportunity to appreciate wetlands and local wildlife in an open and natural setting. It attracted about 480,000 visitors in 2016.

Hong Kong Unesco Global Geopark

The Hong Kong Unesco Global Geopark, 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 geopark's Volcano Discovery Centre at Sai Kung Waterfront Park is accessible by public transport and is an ideal point to start a visit to the geopark.

The geopark operates an accredited geopark guide system in collaboration with the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong and the Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong, to ensure the quality of 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 13,000 participants attended the 64 gardening courses conducted in 2016, and over 5,000 people took part in 25 community planting activities organised by the districts.

Activities under the campaign promote public awareness of the importance of greening the environment. More than 430 local celebrities joined the Green Ambassador Scheme, over 6,900 people joined the Green Volunteer Scheme to promote community greening, and 890 schools and kindergartens took part in a Greening School Subsidy Scheme to promote environment-friendly initiatives. About 372,800 students from 1,165 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 a good opportunity for hundreds of thousands of Hong Kong people and horticulture lovers from around the world to appreciate the beauty and diversity of flowers and to share their experiences in flower cultivation. In March, 220 organisations from 17 countries took part in the show at Victoria Park, attracting more than 530,000 visitors.

Recreation and Sports Venues

Hong Kong Stadium

The 40,000-seat Hong Kong Stadium is the territory's largest outdoor sports venue. It is used mainly for football and international rugby matches and large-scale community events. About 174,000 people attended the 17 events held at the stadium during the year, including the popular annual Hong Kong Sevens and AET International Challenge Cup, pitting South China Football Team against Juventus Football Club.

Mong Kok Stadium

The 6,668-seat Mong Kok Stadium 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 315,400 people attended the 67 events at the stadium in 2016, including the Asian Football Confederation Cup, East Asian Football Federation E-1 Football Championship 2017 Round 2 and three international friendly matches Hong Kong held with FC Ryukyu, Cambodia and Singapore.

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 2016, about 122,000 people took part in events at the water sports centres and 510,000 visited or stayed at the holiday camps.

Other Recreation and Sports Venues

The department manages 97 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 eight 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 2016, some 13.7 million people used the public beaches and 13.8 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 quality sports facilities, the support given to athletes includes coaching and training, sports science and sports medicine, and education and employment training. Its Elite Training Programme renders dedicated support to 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. 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. Outstanding athletes whose sports may fall outside these two tiers are covered under an Individual Athletes Support Scheme and a Disabled Sports Elite Training Programme.

The institute's state-of-the-art facilities enable the training of high-performance athletes, while its \$7 billion Elite Athletes Development Fund 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 Olympic Committee. The federation is responsible for organising Hong Kong's participation in

all major international, continental and regional multi-sports games, such as the summer and winter Olympic Games, summer and winter Asian Games and East Asian Youth Games.

With a membership of 78 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). The NSAs are empowered to coordinate and conduct a wide variety of activities related to their sports, ranging from recreational programmes for the community to training programmes for novices and elite athletes. They organise and sanction participation in overseas competitions and train coaches and referees. They also implement and enforce local and international rules and regulations and represent Hong Kong at IF and AF meetings.

The federation coordinates a four-month Festival of Sport from March to June each year, featuring about 80 sporting activities organised by more than 60 NSAs to promote sport for all. Extensive educational programmes are also available for sports leaders, administrators, coaches and technical officials free of charge, notably through the Hong Kong Olympic Academy, which offers free sports management and sports 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 educational qualifications and a career after retiring from athletic life. Funded by sponsors, a separate charitable company was set up in end-2015 to operate the Sports Legacy Scheme, which develops the potential of students through a team of retired and retiring athletes.

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

Each year, with the support of sponsors and the government, the federation organises the Hong Kong Sports Stars Awards, the 'Oscars' of local sports, to recognise the achievements of top athletes.

Hong Kong Paralympic Committee and Sports Association for the Physically Disabled

The year 2015-16 marked yet another fruitful and victorious period for the local Paralympic movement. A delegation of 57 members, comprising 24 athletes, 31 officials and two representatives from the Hong Kong Paralympic Committee, attended the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, from which they brought home two gold, two silver and two bronze medals.

Riding on the momentum of the Games, the association continued to help various sports teams work towards targets set for the Jakarta 2018 Asian Para Games. While promoting the Paralympic movement, the association will also strengthen programmes to identify and nurture more young disabled athletes to represent Hong Kong and strive for sporting excellence.

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 2016 and filled more than 50,000 places at sports training sessions.

Intellectually disabled athletes won 176 medals during the year, comprising 79 golds, 59 silvers and 38 bronzes. They made the most of the many international competitions they took part in to sharpen their skills and bring glory to Hong Kong. Highlights included three golds, four silvers and four bronzes at the 2016 Inas Swimming Championships – Asia in Pathum Thani, Thailand; four golds, one silver and one bronze at the British Para Swimming International Meet 2016 in Glasgow; one gold, two silvers and two bronzes at the 2016 ITTF PTT China Open in Beijing; two golds and two bronzes at the 2016 III. Para TT Open Ciutat del Prat in El Prat de Llobregat, Spain; one gold and one bronze in the intellectual disability division at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; two golds, two silvers and one bronze at the PTT Thailand Open 2016 in Pattaya; and one gold and one silver at the 2016 PTT US Open 2016 in Las Vegas. The athletes also competed in the 2016 Inas World Indoor Athletics Championships in Ancona, Italy, and the 2016 IPC Athletics Grand Prix – Italian Open Championships in Grosseto.

Hong Kong athletes also achieved excellent results at the Special Olympics Golf Masters 2016 in Macao, China, the 2016 SOEA Regional Badminton Competition in Anhui, China, and the Special Olympics Hong Kong 40th Anniversary Invitational Games in Hong Kong, China.

Hong Kong Jockey Club

The Hong Kong Jockey Club is a not-for-profit enterprise dedicated to the overall betterment of the Hong Kong community. Founded in 1884 as a membership club to promote racing and riding, today it operates an integrated business model of racing and racecourse entertainment, membership, responsible sports wagering and lottery, and charity and community contribution. This enables the club to generate substantial economic and social value for Hong Kong.

In 2015-16, the club returned 78.6 per cent of its wagering and lottery revenue to Hong Kong, paying \$20.9 billion in tax to government and donating \$3.9 billion to 215 charity and community projects. It is the territory's largest single taxpayer, contributing 7.2 per cent of all taxes collected by the Inland Revenue Department in 2015-16. It is also one of the world's largest charity donors.

Horse racing is Hong Kong's most popular spectator sport, attracting a total attendance of two million in 2015-16. Hong Kong racing is also increasingly popular around the world, with all 88 race meetings now broadcast live to Australia, Canada, Macao, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, the United Kingdom, the United States and parts of Europe. Fundamental to this success is the high standard of training and horse care, the recruitment of world-class trainers and jockeys, and the import of quality horses by the club's horse-owning members. As a result, Hong Kong is now home to 11 international Group One races, including the Hong Kong International Races, widely regarded as the Turf World Championships. All 11 races ranked in the World's Top 100 Group One/Grade One Races for 2016, with nine being in the top 50. Hong Kong also had a record 26 horses in the World's Best Racehorse Rankings for

2016. All of this was achieved despite Hong Kong having just 0.6 per cent of the world's horse races and 0.7 per cent of its thoroughbred racehorses in training.

The club is authorised by the government to provide responsible horse racing and football wagering services and to operate the Mark Six lottery. In doing so, it helps meet the public demand for betting and assists the government in combating illegal gambling. Indeed, the club holds the highest Level 4 accreditation under the World Lottery Organisation's Responsible Gambling Framework. Likewise, the club implements strict measures to prevent its operations being used for money laundering.

The club has been contributing to Hong Kong for over a century, both directly and through the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust. Today, it benefits 10 areas of social need: arts, culture and heritage; education and training; elderly services; emergency and poverty relief; environmental protection; family services; medicine and health; rehabilitation; sports and recreation; and youth development. Thanks to improved business performance, charity donations quadrupled between 2007-08 and 2015-16.

Drawing on its sporting expertise, the club also promotes community football and equestrian sports, while through its Riding High Together festival, which 26,000 people attended in 2016, it seeks to educate and inspire the wider community.

Looking to the future, the club remains committed to supporting the economic and social betterment of Hong Kong. To safeguard this commitment, not least from the substantial threat of illegal gambling, the club continues to invest in its development. Five new or refurbished venues opened in 2015-16 under its \$6.5 billion Racecourse Master Plan, while work continues on a next-generation customer information and wagering system. Above all, the Conghua Training Centre in Guangdong Province, to open in 2018, will provide world-class training and stabling facilities, positioning the club for its next phase of growth.

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 30 schools worldwide. OBHK was established in Hong Kong in 1970 to provide personal development programmes for local people to 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. In 2016, more than 7,000 people joined its courses in Hong Kong.

OBHK is a not-for-profit organisation based in Sai Kung, with headquarters at Tai Mong Tsai and an island base on Wong Wan Chau. Its facilities and resources include 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, which covers up to 80 per cent of the course fees. 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 one to three days. The training regime has been designed carefully 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 is a non-profit-making organisation providing safe, good-quality and affordable hostel accommodation. It aims to encourage young people to embrace nature through outdoor activities and appreciate different cultures via the hostelling experience and international exchange programmes.

Established in 1973, the association plans, runs and markets seven youth hostels. It has more than 30,000 individual and corporate members, and is also an affiliate of Hostelling International, which has over four million members worldwide.

The seven hostels each features different characteristics. The flagship is the YHA Mei Ho House Youth Hostel, which was transformed from a six-storey resettlement block in Shek Kip Mei that formed part of Hong Kong's first public housing. In June, the association joined hands with Mainland Chinese and Taiwanese associates to organise a cultural exchange tour at Mei Ho House. More than 25 youngsters learned about housing development in these three regions.

The association's annual Ngong Ping Charity Walk, held in January at North Lantau Island Country Park, attracted 1,200 participants and raised much needed funds for hostel enhancement, environmental protection and the association's conservation projects.

Sporting Achievements

At the 2016 Asian Cycling Championships held in Japan, Cheung King-lok took three gold medals in the individual time trial and road race of the elite men's division and the track race of the elite men's 4km individual pursuit. Sarah Lee Wai-sze took gold in the women elite keirin of track cycling and attained another gold in the women's sprint of the UCI Track Cycling World Cup – the Netherlands. Billiards player Marco Fu Ka-chun was crowned champion in the 2016 Scottish Open. The teams of Ng On-ye and Wan Ka-kai as well as Jaique Ip and Cheung Ka-wai won the ladies pairs and mixed pairs respectively at the World Ladies Snooker Championship 2016 in England. Cheung Ka-long took gold in the 2016 Asian Fencing Championships in Wuxi, China, becoming the first home-grown male Asian fencing champion.

Disabled boccia player Leung Yuk-wing was nominated for the second year for the Laureus World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability. He is Hong Kong's first and only Laureus nominee so far. Apart from that, the Hong Kong delegation achieved brilliant results at the Rio Paralympic Games in September by winning two golds, two silvers and two bronzes. Tang Wai-lok and Leung Yuk-wing won a gold each in swimming and boccia respectively, with Tang Wai-lok also setting a new Paralympic record in the S14 men's 200 metres freestyle event.

Young athletes put up excellent performances as well. Jada Nichole He, 10, won gold in the girls' gunshu group C of the 6th World Junior Wushu Championships, while windsurfing athlete Mak Cheuk-wing, 13, became the junior U15 girls champion at the Techno 293 World Championships 2016. Leung Hoi-wah, 17, took gold in the junior women's points race at the 2016 Asian Cycling Championships.

In other accomplishments, squash player Leo Au Chun-ming was awarded the Outstanding Asian Men's Player of the Year by the Asian Squash Federation to honour his remarkable achievements in 2015. Chan Yuen-ting, as head coach of Eastern Football Club, was recognised by the *Guinness World Records* in May as the first female coach to have led a professional men's team to a top-league championship. At the year end, the Asian Football Confederation honoured her as Women's Coach of the Year.

Recreation and Sports Programmes

In 2016, the LCSD organised some 38,000 recreation and sports programmes for about 2.1 million participants of all ages and abilities at a total cost of \$154 million.

District Sports Teams Training Scheme

A total of 9,389 young people took part in 259 district team events about basketball, football, handball and fencing.

Young Athletes Training Scheme

Training was conducted for 30,380 teenagers in 30 sports disciplines.

School Sports Programme

The programme provided 8,180 sporting events for 611,800 students at about 980 primary and secondary schools through seven subsidiary programmes: Sport Education, Easy Sport, Outreach Coaching, Joint Schools Sports Training, Sport Captain, the Badges Award Scheme and the Sports Award Scheme.

Community Sports Club Project

The project, organised by the department in collaboration with the NSAs, supported about 430 Community Sports Clubs in organising 2,350 sports training activities for 51,000 participants. Seminars and management development programmes were formulated for some 480 sports volunteers to help them run the clubs.

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 2016, subventions totalling about \$280 million were allocated to 59 NSAs and 22 sport organisations, which organised 10,610 sports programmes for 732,780 participants. The subventions included subsidies for NSAs to stage local and international events in Hong Kong, such as the IWAS Asian Wheelchair Fencing Championships 2016, Asian Table Tennis Qualification Tournament – Qualification Event for the Games of the XXXI Olympiad in Rio de Janeiro in 2016, East Asian Muaythai Championships 2016 and 5th Men's Asian Hockey Federation Cup. Subsidies also went towards supporting the NSAs in strengthening squad training and in helping athletes representing Hong Kong take part in overseas competitions.

'M' Mark

The 'M' Mark system aims to increase support from the commercial sector and the community for NSAs to develop sustainable major international sports events. Twelve events were awarded 'M' Mark status and/or support packages in 2016.

Corporate Games

The Corporate Games is a major multi-sport event organised by the department every two years for working people. In 2016, over 9,000 employees from 233 industrial, commercial and governmental organisations took part in 11 sports competitions.

Masters Games

The department organises the Masters Games biennially to inspire people aged 35 or above to maintain their physical and mental health by competing against individuals of similar age. The Masters Games 2016 attracted 4,815 participants to take part in six sports competitions.

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

The 'Healthy Exercise for All Campaign' is a territory-wide event organised jointly by the LCSD and the Department of Health. In 2016, more than 80,000 people took part in about 1,400 programmes under the campaign. Over 230,000 people participated in August in the annual 'Sport for All Day', which adopted 'Stay Active, Scale New Heights' as the event slogan to promote sport for all in the community. On that day, free recreation and sports programmes were held at designated sports centres in all 18 districts and most of the fee-charging sports facilities were open to the public free of charge.

Hong Kong Games

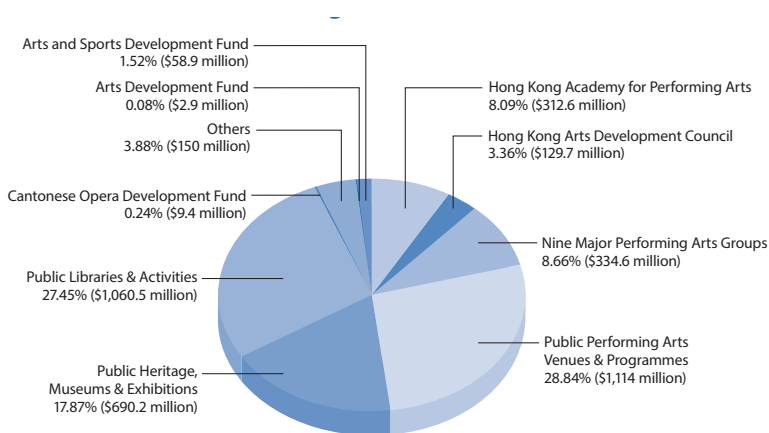
The biennial 6th Hong Kong Games will be held from April to May 2017. These games promote a stronger sporting culture in the community through competitions and community activities. Open selection of athletes from the 18 districts was launched in June 2016.

National Winter Games

The 13th National Winter Games were held in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region from 20 to 30 January. The Hong Kong delegation, consisting of 26 athletes, took part in five final competitions, winning a bronze in figure skating. It was Hong Kong's first medal at the National Winter Games, held every four years.

Culture and Arts Funding

Chart 1 Government Funding for Arts and Culture 2015-16



Total government expenditure on arts and culture in 2015-16 was \$3.9 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. Separately, the East Kowloon Cultural Centre is being built in Ngau Tau Kok to alleviate the 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 2015-16, the government earmarked about \$3.9 billion, excluding capital works expenditure, to support arts groups, arts education and promotion, and administrative costs.

Major Performing Arts Groups

In 2015-16, the Home Affairs Bureau provided about \$334 million to support nine major performing arts groups: the Chung Ying Theatre Company, City Contemporary Dance Company, Hong Kong Ballet, Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, Hong Kong Dance Company, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Hong Kong Repertory Theatre, Hong Kong Sinfonietta and Zuni Icosahedron.

Arts and Sport Development Fund

The arts portion of the Arts and Sport Development Fund subsidises long-term arts and cultural development through investment returns generated by seed money of \$1.5 billion injected in 2010-11. Under the arts portion, the Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme disburses about \$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 73 projects. Another \$30 million is earmarked annually 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 2016, it granted about \$9.4 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 is used mainly to support cultural exchanges. In 2016, \$3.8 million was approved for 68 such projects.

Lord Wilson Heritage Trust

The Lord Wilson Heritage Trust provides funding to community organisations and individuals to undertake heritage activities and research projects. Eleven heritage-related projects worth about \$2.26 million were approved in 2016.

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. Nine scholarships worth about \$3.52 million were awarded in 2016.

Art Development Matching Grants Pilot Scheme

A new \$300 million Art Development Matching Grants Pilot Scheme was launched in June to widen the sources of funding of arts groups and arts organisations and to encourage community support for arts and cultural development.

Culture and Arts Venues

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department manages 16 performance venues.

Hong Kong Cultural Centre

The Hong Kong Cultural Centre is 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 2016, more than 608,000 people attended 673 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 2016, about 374,000 people attended 636 events held in the concert hall and the theatre.

Yau Ma Tei Theatre

Yau Ma Tei Theatre, the only surviving pre-war cinema building in the urban area, is a dedicated venue to nurture young talent for Cantonese opera. In 2016, about 62,460 people attended 281 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 2016, 38 and 120 events were staged in the coliseum and the stadium, attracting around 1,458,000 and 333,000 spectators respectively.

Venue Partnership Scheme

This scheme fosters partnerships between the department's performance venues and performing arts groups. Its main aim is to enhance 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, and encourage community involvement in the arts. Some 717,700 people attended or took part in 779 stage performances and 1,104 educational, promotional and audience-building activities organised by the venue partners in 2016.

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 2016: the main superstructure works of the Xiqu Centre and M+, a new museum of visual culture, continued to move full steam ahead; the M+ Pavilion, formerly known as the Arts Pavilion, opened in July; foundation works for the Lyric Theatre Complex started in January; and construction of the Ark Park and Freespace, including a black box theatre and an outdoor stage, began in July. The Nursery Park remains open for public enjoyment while works on the rest of the Art Park continue.

To nurture new audiences and raise public awareness of the project, the WKCD Authority initiated and co-presented events that included *Rising Stars of Cantonese Opera II* in August; *Antigone*, performed on the rooftop of the WKCD Authority project site office in November; two exhibitions held at the M+ Pavilion; and a new season of Freespace Happening at the Nursery Park from September featuring free outdoor performing arts events.

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 2016, the system issued about 3.9 million tickets with proceeds of more than \$1,162 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, arts administrators and budding artists by providing opportunities to receive training, cultural exchanges and internships both in Hong Kong and

abroad. In 2016, it offered Arts Administration Scholarships (Local/Overseas), Hong Kong Scholarships on the Clore Leadership Programme, Hong Kong Scholarships on the International Leadership Programme in Visual Arts Management, Mori Art Museum Internships, ImPulsTanz – Vienna International Dance Festival Internships and Sage Gateshead Internships. The Overseas Training for Arts Administrators, Arts Administration Internship Scheme and Arts Production Internship Scheme continued.

Major promotional events under the council included the 5th Large-Scale Public Media Art Exhibition: Human Vibrations, Hong Kong Arts Development Awards 2015 and 8th Arts Ambassadors-in-School Scheme.

For the first time, the council led Hong Kong delegations comprising local arts groups and artists to take part in the Internationale Tanzmesse nrw, Gwangju Biennale and OzAsia Festival. It also organised the 2nd edition of the International Arts Leadership Roundtable, and co-organised the 8th Arts Forum for Cross-Straits, Hong Kong and Macao with the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles.

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

During the year, the council took part in the 15th Venice Biennale International Architectural Exhibition in collaboration with the Hong Kong Institute of Architects Biennale Foundation and co-presented the Response Exhibition of the 56th Venice Biennale International Art Exhibition in Hong Kong with M+.

The council's main tasks include arts research and policy advocacy. In 2016, 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 2015 and published a series of yearbooks on the arts in collaboration with professional and academic groups.

In 2016, the council launched the HKADC Matching Fund Scheme to help small and medium-sized arts organisations take part in the Home Affairs Bureau's Art Development Matching Grants Pilot Scheme.

Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts

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

In 2016, 826 students enrolled in undergraduate and post-secondary programmes in the six performing arts disciplines. Another 143 students were pursuing master's degree programmes in dance, drama, film and television, music, and theatre and entertainment arts. The academy

also admitted more than 630 students to its junior programmes and over 3,000 students to its Extension and Continuing Education for Life programme.

Hong Kong Arts Centre

The self-financing Hong Kong Arts Centre in Wan Chai promotes contemporary arts and culture. It conducts programmes featuring works of local and overseas artists, and provides 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 adopts 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. A diverse cultural programme of theatre, dance, music and exhibitions runs throughout the year.

In 2016, the Fringe Club showcased 30 exhibitions, 120 live music performances and 180 drama and dance performances. A cultural heritage leadership programme entitled Learn • Play • Lead, funded by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, was launched in April.

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 facilities, including the Central Courtyard, galleries and the Jockey Club Black Box Theatre, for arts and cultural activities.

The centre's large-scale public programmes include the annual JCCAC Festival in December, the quarterly Handicraft Fair and regular free events such as open-air film screenings. It hosted almost 310,000 visitors in 2016.

Major Performing Arts Groups

Chung Ying Theatre Company

In 2016, Chung Ying's *The Big Big Day* and *Tuesdays with Morrie* returned to the stage. The theatre company also presented *Possible Worlds*, *Nonsense A-Men!* and *Confucius 63*. Dedicated to promoting drama in the Cantonese and English languages, it brought *Months on End* to Guangzhou and joined hands with a British playwright to perform *A Tale of Two Cities: Blood for Blood* in Hong Kong and at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. It also engaged more than 100,000 participants through educational programmes and other activities.

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. It organises courses and leads local young choreographers and dancers to the Mainland for performances and exchanges. In 2016, the dance company presented five original productions, hosted the Jumping Frames International Dance Video Festival and performed in Australia and the Mainland. It also set up the City Contemporary Dance Laureate awards to recognise individuals who have contributed to the development of dance in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong Ballet

Hong Kong Ballet is one of Asia's premier classical ballet companies. It gave 45 performances locally in 2016, including the world premieres of Fei Bo's *Shenren Chang* and Edwaard Liang's *Sacred Thread*, Val Caniparoli's *Lady of the Camellias*, and *Ballet Classics for Children: The Sleeping Beauty*. The ballet company also toured North America and participated in the Fall For Dance Festival. More than 20,000 young people enjoyed its extensive educational and outreach programmes.

Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra

The Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra presented over 140 concerts and arts education activities, and organised *Music without Bounds – International Composers' Summit*, a three-day symposium with attendees from 13 countries and regions.

Hong Kong Dance Company

The Hong Kong Dance Company promotes Chinese dance. It staged 58 performances in 2016, including *Dream of the Past: Ancient Chinese Court Dances*, *Storm Clouds*, *Saturday Whispers*, *Reveries of the Red Chamber*, *Chinese Hero: A Lone Exile*, *8/F Platform X - A Decade of Creativity*, outdoor dance gala *Chinese Folk Dance Fiesta*, and shows in Seoul, Tokyo and London, reaching more than 43,500 people.

Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra is the city's largest professional musical organisation, presenting more than 150 concerts every year featuring international and local conductors and soloists. In 2016, the orchestra performed Part 2 of Wagner's four-opera cycle *The Ring of the Nibelung – Die Walküre*, and offered free concerts including the popular outdoor *Symphony Under The Stars*. More than 40,000 young people participated in its educational programmes. The orchestra also toured the Mainland.

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 2016 included *1894 Hong Kong Plague – a Musical*, *Footprints in the Snow*, *Whose Wife is it Anyway?*, *The Sin Family*, *Three Brothers* and *Hu Xueyan, my Dear*. It also presented the second International Black Box Festival, extended its arts educational programmes, and toured Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Tianjin, Kaohsiung and Macao.

Hong Kong Sinfonietta

The Hong Kong Sinfonietta is one of Hong Kong's leading symphony orchestras. It gave about 120 performances in 2016, collaborating with renowned artists such as Vilde Frang, Fazıl Say and Daniel Müller-Schott. The orchestra also made its debuts in Singapore, Portugal, Taipei and Kaohsiung.

Zuni Icosahedron

Zuni Icosahedron's original theatre productions included *Sigmund Freud in Search of Chinese Matter and Mind*, *Wittgenstein*, *Mahjong History Theatre: Death of Old China* and *Love Comedy on the Rocks*. It also presented an arts education programme, *Creative Playground*, co-created a new work, *Lord Guan Yu on Stage*, with the Guo Guang Opera Company and performed *Flee by Night* in Berlin.

Culture and Arts Presentations

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department presents quality cultural programmes throughout the year. In 2016, more than 370,000 people attended 911 performances featuring local and visiting artists and arts groups. Visiting musicians and groups included The Philadelphia Orchestra, The English Concert, Ensemble intercontemporain, Les Vents Française, Joshua Bell, Murray Perahia, Julia Fischer and Mischa Maisky. Visiting dancers and groups included Carlos Acosta, María Pagès Compañía from Spain and the Royal New Zealand Ballet. Visiting multi-arts and theatre programmes included *The Tiger Lillies Perform Hamlet* by Theatre Republique from Denmark, *Beijing Fayuansi* by the National Theatre of China and *Richard III* by Schaubühne Berlin from Germany. A special series, Circus in Town, featured two visiting circus groups, Cirque Éloize from Canada and NoFit State Circus from the United Kingdom. A thematic series, Shakespeare Year, marked the 400th anniversary of the bard's death.

To support emerging local artists, performance platforms were created in the Our Music Talents series, Dance On series and New Energy series.

Chinese opera audiences were treated to the department's seventh Chinese Opera Festival in the summer and annual Cantonese Opera Day in November.

Arts Education and Audience-building Projects

In 2016, the department organised 1,078 arts education and audience-building activities in schools, community halls and other public venues to promote the arts and encourage participation in cultural activities.

The department also sought to motivate students to engage in arts and cultural activities by extending its collaboration with the Education Bureau in designing arts education programmes which tied in with the school curriculum. To develop community arts and widen the audience base, two special themes were set for the 2016 Community Cultural Ambassador Scheme: 'Enhancing the Participation of People with Different Abilities in Performing Arts' and 'From Family'.

Major Culture and Arts Events

Hong Kong Arts Festival

The 44th annual Hong Kong Arts Festival consisted of 15 world premieres and 12 Asian premieres, including the festival's own productions: *Danz Up*, New Stage Series: *Chinese Lesson* and Tang Shu-wing Theatre Studio's *Macbeth*. Other highlights included the festival opening performance of *La Verità* by Compagnia Finzi Pasca; Teatro Regio Torino's opera *Simon Boccanegra* and *Requiem* by Verdi; the festival finale performance of *The Sleeping Beauty* by the Mikhailovsky Ballet; Thomanerchor Leipzig and the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig's *St Matthew Passion*; Cantonese opera *Li Bai: The Immortal Poet*, and the Hong Kong Jockey Club Contemporary Dance Series. The festival's 119 performances and 372 associated outreach and educational events attracted over 150,000 people.

International Arts Carnival

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department's annual International Arts Carnival in July and August opened with *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by Theater Hikosen from Japan. Some 95,000 people attended the carnival's 330 events, which included puppet musical theatre, physical theatre, clown theatre, interactive theatre, multimedia dance, music and magic.

New Vision Arts Festival

The department's eighth edition of the New Vision Arts Festival continued to showcase innovative cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary performances with an Asian focus. Local and overseas artists and groups included the Sasha Waltz & Guests, Akram Khan Company, Soumik Datta, Ryoji Ikeda, Li Liuyi Theatre Studio, Tsai Ming-liang and GayBird. The festival's 140 events attracted an audience of more than 70,000.

Chinese Opera Festival

The department's seventh Chinese Opera Festival featured Cantonese opera, Peking opera and other regional genres. There were also Kunqu opera and *Kunqu* performances that paid tribute to Tang Xianzu, the great playwright of the Ming dynasty. About 46,000 people attended the festival's 69 events.

Hong Kong Week 2016@Taipei

The fifth Hong Kong Week in Taipei, presented by the Hong Kong-Taiwan Cultural Cooperation Committee, ran from 11 November to 10 December with two exhibitions, 11 performances and 12 extension activities, attracting a total attendance of more than 23,000.

Muse Fest HK

Riding on the success of the first Muse Fest HK held in 2015, the department organised the second Muse Fest HK from 25 June to 10 July 2016 with 'See More' as the theme. It featured more than 100 programmes organised by the department's 14 museums, five cultural venues, four museum-related disciplines, and non-LCSD museums and cultural institutes, attracting more than 320,000 attendees.

Museums

Hong Kong Museum of Art

The Hong Kong Museum of Art launched the 'Living with Bamboo: Museum of Art is Here' educational programme in September. It organised 'Listen to Hong Kong' and 'Gone with the Wings' at the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre in September and November respectively. 'Lost Treasures of the *Shiqu Baoji* in Hong Kong – Selection of Works from the Xubaizhai Collection' featured 13 works previously held in the imperial collection of the Qing dynasty at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum from November 2016 to March 2017. In December, 'Bear in Mind' was hosted in the Art Square of Salisbury Garden. And following a successful pilot scheme, the second phase of the Jockey Club's 'Museum of Art on Wheels' outreach learning programme was launched in October. Themed 'Hong Kong Sign • Hong Kong Signature', this mobile museum showcased works by famous calligraphers, fun words found across the city and distinctive artworks by contemporary artists, enabling viewers to discover Hong Kong's hybrid culture.

The Museum of Art co-organised with the Dongguan Museum 'The Arts of Deng Erya and Huang Bore' exhibition, featuring paintings and calligraphies by the two masters. It also joined hands with museums in Guangdong and Macao to co-organise a touring exhibition, 'Maritime Porcelain Road: Relics from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Museums', to Hubei Province and Shenzhen, displaying 180 sets of export ceramics to signify the importance of Chinese export ceramics in the world.

The Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware, a branch of the Museum of Art, continued to feature its collection of tea ware and related implements from the collection of the late Dr K S Lo, as well as rare Chinese ceramics and seals donated by the K S Lo Foundation. Regular activities introduced the art of tea drinking. It launched the '2016 Tea Ware by Hong Kong Potters' in December, featuring award-winning works selected from a competition of the same name. These functional and creative tea wares displayed new concepts and styles of local tea ware creation. In all, the museum drew 188,744 visitors in 2016, during which it also renovated the historical Flagstaff House.

The Museum of Art was closed on 3 August 2015 and began renovations in end-2015. It will reopen in mid-2019.

Hong Kong Museum of History

The Hong Kong Museum of History runs the permanent exhibition, 'The Hong Kong Story'. It staged six other exhibitions in 2016: the 'Exhibition Relating to the Public Consultation on the Reassembly of Queen's Pier', '*Mare Nostrum*: Roman Navy and Pompeii', 'Hong Kong Export Credit Insurance Corporation 50th Anniversary Exhibition', 'Inspiring Insights into Dr Sun Yat-sen and His Time', 'Across the Oceans: the Local Connections and Global Dimensions of China's Maritime Silk Road' and 'Connecting UK & HK: A Review of Its Aviation Development'. More than 855,800 people visited during the year.

Two special programmes were continued to enable community groups to better understand the city's history and cultural heritage. 'Inclusive Life: Museum for All – Interactivity Scheme'

offered people with disabilities special guided tours and workshops, while 'Caring for the Community' held outreach activities for ethnic minority groups, youngsters, the elderly, families and new immigrants.

The museum maintained close collaboration with the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Chinese University of Hong Kong (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. Story-telling tours and interactive historical dramas were particularly well received by visitors as they were immersed in the display of historical artefacts and got to know more about the history in a fun and relaxing way.

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 also worked 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, holds the permanent exhibition, '600 Years of Hong Kong's Coastal Defence'. It also staged 'Braving the Storm: Hong Kong under Japanese Occupation' and 'From Son of Heaven to Commoner: Puyi, the Last Emperor of China' in 2016. It also organised a flag-raising ceremony on National Day and student workshops and guided tours for the School Culture Day Scheme. More than 164,500 people visited in 2016.

The Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum, housed in the historic Kom Tong Hall in Central, has two permanent exhibitions relating to Dr Sun's life and career. Two special exhibitions were held in 2016: 'Commentary x Humour = Cartoons Before and After the 1911 Revolution' and 'A Visionary Thinker: Dr Sun Yat-sen and His Blueprint for Economic Development' to commemorate his 150th birth anniversary. The museum celebrated its 10th anniversary by holding a concert of Cantonese opera excerpts and a silent interactive theatre event. It received almost 86,660 visitors during the year.

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 77,700 people visited in 2016.

The Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum in Sham Shui Po and the Law Uk Folk Museum in Chai Wan attracted nearly 39,200 and more than 16,400 visitors respectively.

Hong Kong Heritage Museum

The Hong Kong Heritage Museum is devoted to exploring the city's diverse cultures through exhibitions on art, design and history. Highlights of the year included 'Claude Monet: The Spirit

of Place', a collaboration with Le French May and the Réunion des musées nationaux – Grand Palais. This featured some of Monet's most emblematic artworks held in French public and private collections. 'Freeman Lau & Design: Inter-dependent Decisions' and 'Fashion + Paper, Scissors and Rock' promoted local graphic and fashion designs.

The museum also cooperated with the Tsui Art Foundation to organise 'A Glimpse of Tsui's Collection', introducing fine works of applied art. 'Ceremony and Celebration: The Grand Weddings of the Qing Emperors' showcased exhibits selected meticulously from the collections of the Palace Museum to introduce the processes of imperial weddings and deepen understanding of the rituals of the grand weddings of Qing emperors.

The museum conducts an Arts Buddies project jointly with the Education Bureau, Arts Development Council, CUHK's Office of the Arts Administrator and HKBU's Institute of Creativity. It also runs a MuseKids programme to stimulate children's interest in museum learning and the annual MuseTeens training programme for teenagers to enrich their understanding of the museum's work and collections.

The Heritage Museum manages two branch museums, namely the Railway Museum in Tai Po and the Sheung Yiu Folk Museum in Sai Kung Country Park. The former is housed in a station building constructed in 1913, while the latter is located in a Hakka village built in the late 19th century.

The Heritage Museum, Hong Kong Railway Museum and Sheung Yiu Folk Museum attracted some 723,437, 251,538 and 41,879 visitors respectively in 2016.

Hong Kong Science Museum

In 2016, the Hong Kong Science Museum presented the 'Collider: Step inside the World's Greatest Experiment' exhibition, introducing the world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator, the Large Hadron Collider, which helped uncover the secrets of the universe through particle physics experiments. Other major exhibitions included 'Animal Grossology', which provided interesting and funny facts about the disgusting behaviours of some animals, and 'T-Rex Revealed – The Augmented + Reality Experience', which integrated cutting-edge technology with the latest scientific discoveries about the tyrannosaurus, creating for visitors an immersive and adventurous experience in the vivid world of dinosaurs. More than 1,153,600 visited during the year.

The museum cooperated with 40 scientific and government bodies to present HK SciFest 2016, offering 126 programmes for families and the public. 'Science Alive 2016', catering for students, showcased examples of 'impossible to possible' science in the realms of physics, biology and chemistry. Through the Young Scientists Study Tour, 20 secondary students and three teachers visited the European Organisation for Nuclear Research and other research institutes in Switzerland and participated in workshops, elevating their understanding of the latest science and technology.

At the museum's Meet the Shaw Laureates 2016 public forum, winners of the Shaw Prize shared the challenges and joys of doing science.

Hong Kong Space Museum

The Hong Kong Space Museum organises regular astronomy activities on-site and holds stargazing and family programmes at its Astropark and iObservatory in Sai Kung. In 2016, it presented two Omnimax Shows, one 3D Show, two Sky Shows and four school shows at its Stanley Ho Space Theatre.

On 9 March, a partial solar eclipse was visible in Hong Kong. Riding on this special astronomical phenomenon to promote astronomy, the museum conducted observation activities at the Tsim Sha Tsui waterfront and Central's Statue Square. About 450 people took part.

The permanent exhibition halls were closed for exhibit renewal in 2016. During this closure, the museum launched a new outreach programme, 'Stargazing@School', bringing a portable planetarium and telescopes to schools to introduce stargazing and constellations to primary and secondary students.

Some 226,000 people attended shows in the space theatre, while more than 29,000 took part in the educational and extension programmes.

Hong Kong Film Archive

The Hong Kong Film Archive offers the permanent exhibition, 'In Memory of Queen's Theatre'. It organised four thematic exhibitions in 2016: 'Behind the Glamorous Scene – 80th Anniversary of Cathay', 'The Great Entertainer: The Heyday of Cinema City', 'Light and Shadow: Tricks and Treats Workshop-cum-Exhibition' and 'Sketches in Motion: Storyboards of Hong Kong Cinema'. More than 169,320 visitors were recorded during the year.

The archive acquired 256 films and 24,483 film-related materials, including film pre-print materials such as picture negatives, digital intermediates, soundtracks, subtitles, inter-picture negatives, inter-positives, film prints, footages, magnetic tapes and trailers. Major acquisitions included 35mm pre-print materials from four titles and 12 titles donated by We Pictures and Applause Pictures respectively. First Distributors (HK) donated 16mm, 17.5mm and 35mm pre-print materials from 103 titles dating from 1968 to 2008, while 17.5mm and 35mm pre-print materials from 128 titles dating from 1990 to 2012 and 204 film-related materials such as digital betacam tapes, betacam SP tapes, posters and documents were acquired from Universe Films Distribution. 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 70 static and 12 mobile libraries and a books registration office. The libraries hold 12.52 million books and more than 1.83 million items of multimedia material, serving almost 4.45 million registered book borrowers and lending more than 50.5 million books and other library materials in 2016.

Hong Kong Central Library

The Hong Kong Central Library is a major information and cultural centre, with a stock of more than 2.68 million books and other reading materials, 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 thematic cultural programmes and public lectures, and promotes library resources and a culture of reading to the public.

Improvements to Library Services

Two new libraries were opened in 2016. Fanling South Public Library was fully commissioned in August and Yuen Chau Kok Public Library began phased commissioning in December, strengthening library service in North District and Sha Tin.

The public libraries work closely with District Councils and local groups to set up community libraries, which are offered block loans of library materials. To help develop Hong Kong into an age-friendly city, the department enhances library facilities and organises more library activities to promote reading among senior residents.

Reference and Information Services

Professional reference and information services are available at the Central Library and the public libraries of City Hall, Kowloon, Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai, Sha Tin, Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun. While the Central Library holds a large collection of reference materials on Hong Kong studies and international organisations, Kowloon Public Library, Sha Tin Public Library, Tsuen Wan Public Library and Tuen Mun Public Library provide thematic collections: 'Education Resource Centre Collection', 'Sports and Fitness Collection', 'Modern Living Collection' and 'Food and Nutrition Collection' respectively. In 2016, the public libraries handled 3.36 million enquiries.

Information Technology and Digital Library Services

The public libraries provide more than 1,900 computers giving public access to the libraries' electronic resources and the internet. Online service is an integral part of the libraries' reference and information services. About 65 e-databases are available to library users and about 240,000 e-books are available to registered members for remote internet access. The department upgrades and improves the computing facilities provided for public use. It replaced 117 self-charging terminals in 2016, enabling users to enjoy faster self-service.

Outreach Programmes and Promotion of Reading and Literary Arts

In 2016, the public libraries conducted 22,396 outreach programmes, including storytelling sessions and exhibitions, to promote interest in reading. Riding on the Rio 2016 Olympics, the 4 • 23 World Book Day Creative Competition adopted the theme 'Healthy Body • Healthy Mind' and an exhibition, 'All About Sports Events', was organised during the Summer Reading Month. The 11th Hong Kong Literature Festival, held in the middle of the year, was themed 'My Way, My Literature'.

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 2016, the office registered 14,475 books and 9,020 periodicals, and issued 965 publisher prefixes totalling 16,850 ISBNs.

Heritage

Cantonese Opera

The government is keen to preserve, promote and develop Cantonese opera in Hong Kong. The Ko Shan Theatre New Wing provides a 600-seat auditorium and ancillary facilities for performances, training and rehearsals. In 2016, more than 81,000 people attended about 200 performances at the auditorium.

The Academy for Performing Arts offers the city's first Cantonese opera degree course. The Arts Development Council provides funding to the Cantonese Opera Academy of Hong Kong to organise training programmes.

Intangible Cultural Heritage

The government enhances measures to safeguard intangible cultural heritage (ICH), including the identification, documentation, research, preservation, promotion and transmission of such heritage. Items that had higher cultural value and an urgent need for preservation were selected for the first representative list of ICH.

The ICH Office made use of the Sam Tung Uk Museum to set up the Hong Kong Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre as a display and resource centre. The centre opened in June, attracting 102,770 visitors.

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 11 heritage-related projects in 2016, bringing the total to 207 since its establishment in 1992.

Conservation Office

The Conservation Office conducts conservation treatment on museum artefacts, including paintings, prints, historical documents, textiles, metals, ceramics, sculptures, organic objects and archaeological finds. It carries out 17 projects of scientific research and analyses as necessary. More than 430 artefacts were treated in 2016.

Riding on the success of the first Conservation Clinic in 2015, the office continued to provide consultation on the care of participants' treasures under Muse Fest HK 2016. It also held 76 educational workshops and behind-the-scenes laboratory tours. In total, the office received

over 2,700 participants including students, and registered about 13,000 service hours contributed by 175 volunteers.

The office was represented at three international conferences – the International Symposium on National Art Collection's Conservation held in Beijing in July, IIC Los Angeles Congress held in the US in September, and 2016 International Conference on the Preservation and Conservation for Rare Books held in Guangzhou in November. For the first time, the office organised a seven-day Greater Pearl River Delta Conservation Training Workshop in November to promote professional exchange and development among conservation practitioners in Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macao.

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 nine scholarships in 2016, bringing the total to 306 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 45 LCSD trainee placements in 2016. The department also sponsored its 20 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 educational programmes and gaining hands-on experience in curating exhibitions and projects. There were 24 trainee placements in 2016.

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 round the world. In 2016, it provided music training for 9,022 trainees and recorded 163,577 participants in its promotional activities.

Visual and Public Art

Art Promotion Office

In 2016, the Art Promotion Office put the exhibition '2016 Hong Kong – Macao Visual Art Biennale: Interactive Times' on tour to the Beijing Minsheng Art Museum, the Silk Road (Dunhuang) International Cultural Expo in Dunhuang, Gansu, as well as the Henan Art Museum in Zhengzhou, Henan. The office also organised three exhibitions locally under the 6th Artists in the Neighbourhood Scheme.

A public art project, 'City Dress-up: Seats • Together', organised by the office will see 20 local architects, artists and designers create 20 sets of appealing and courtesy seats at 20 locations across the territory by mid-2017, so as to inject more art elements into the environment and provide more opportunities to appreciate art.

Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre (vA!)

Managed by the Art Promotion Office, the Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre organises visual arts activities and provides facilities for hire, including well-equipped art studios, multi-purpose rooms, a lecture theatre and an exhibition hall. The centre's major programmes included 'Post Pixel. Animamix Biennale 2015-16' and the 'Art Specialist Course 2015-16 Graduation Exhibition'.

Oil Street Art Space (Oi!)

New initiatives to nurture young artistic talent and invite community engagement in 2016 included the 'Before • After' exhibition, 'Doing Nothing Garden' by Song Dong, 'Montage Express', and two exhibitions under the 6th Artists in the Neighbourhood Scheme.

Public Art Projects

Other than the 'City Dress Up: Seats • Together' project, public art projects launched by the Art Promotion Office in 2016 included the 'Hi! Houses' public art project, 'Art Display @ TI Tower – #ArtTravellers' exhibition series and 'Public Art Scheme of Tsun Yip Street Playground'. The public art project 'ARTivating Public Buildings', launched in 2014-15, would be extended to July 2017.

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