

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 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.

The department also issues and renews licences for places of amusement. In 2018, it processed 54 applications for billiard establishments, six 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 2018, the department planted 2.14 million trees, shrubs and other plants, and enhanced the landscaping at about 17 hectares of park and roadside amenity areas.

Hong Kong Park

Hong Kong Park occupies 8.16 hectares at the former military barracks in Central District. The park 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 550 birds of 70 species are kept. In 2018, two 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 300 begonias representing over 50 species were featured in a begonia exhibition at the Display Plant House from December 2017 to January 2018.

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. Twelve endangered species of mammals, birds and reptiles lived there in 2018. The bird collection comprises about 160 birds of 40 species. The mammal collection consists of about 70 animals of 14 species, mainly primates. More than 600 species of trees, shrubs, creepers and foliage plants thrive in the garden. The medicinal plant collection and a greenhouse help promote public interest in 500 or more species of herbs, orchids, ferns and indoor plants. An education and exhibition centre provides teaching facilities for guided visits and for the display of 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. 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 nature-based tourism, and gives visitors the opportunity to appreciate wetlands and local wildlife in an open and natural setting.

Hong Kong Unesco Global Geopark

Extending from Sai Kung to the north-eastern New Territories is the Hong Kong Unesco Global Geopark. This area of natural heritage comprises spectacular hexagonal volcanic rock columns of a size and composition rarely found elsewhere in the world, and sedimentary rocks of over 400 million years old that are 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. Visitors can sign up for a guided tour or pick up a self-guided tour map at the centre.

Green Hong Kong Campaign

This campaign raises awareness of the importance of greening the environment. The LCSD provides at least one community garden in each of the 18 districts. In 2018, the districts conducted more than 50 gardening courses and 20 community planting activities. About 430 local celebrities joined the Green Ambassador Scheme, over 7,600 people joined the Green Volunteer Scheme to promote community greening and 884 schools and kindergartens took part in a Greening School Subsidy Scheme to promote environment-friendly initiatives. About 385,600 students from 1,188 schools participated in a One Person, One Flower Scheme. They received seedlings to plant at home or school.

Hong Kong Flower Show

Held every March at Victoria Park, this event provides a good opportunity for hundreds of thousands of Hong Kong people and horticultural lovers the world over to appreciate the beauty and diversity of flowers and to share their experiences in flower cultivation. Over 200 participating organisations from Hong Kong, the Mainland and overseas drew a record-breaking 720,000 visitors in 2018.

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 rugby matches and large-scale community activities. Events held during the year included the popular annual Hong Kong Sevens, the 3rd Women Guangdong-Hong Kong Cup and 40th Guangdong-Hong Kong Cup, as well as two Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Champions League 2018 group stage matches.

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 football national squad. Events hosted in 2018 included the Super Rugby tournament, an AFC Champions League 2018 group stage match and a friendly match between Hong Kong and Thailand.

Kai Tak Sports Park

The contract for the design, construction and operation of the Kai Tak Sports Park was awarded in December 2018. Scheduled for completion in 2023, the 28-hectare Kai Tak Sports Park will become the biggest sports venue in Hong Kong. It will provide world-class, multi-purpose facilities, including a 50,000-seat stadium, a 10,000-seat indoor sports centre, a 5,000-seat sports ground and open space, to hold major international sports events and community sports activities.

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. Events held at these centres draw some 120,000 participants annually. The department 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. These holiday camps attract about half a million day visitors and overnight guests every year. In addition, the department subsidises 11 non-governmental organisations to run 24 holiday camps and sea activity centres, which registered over 940,000 participants in 2018.

Beaches and Swimming Pools

Swimming is one of Hong Kong's most popular summer pastimes. The department manages 41 gazetted public beaches and 44 public swimming pool complexes.

Other Recreation and Sports Venues

The department manages 100 sports centres, 252 tennis courts, 292 squash courts, 25 sports grounds, four driving ranges and two public riding schools. Works for 12 other major projects are under way.

Recreation and Sports Organisations

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

Hong Kong Sports Institute Limited

The sports institute seeks to provide an environment in which sports talent can be identified and nurtured. Its state-of-the-art facilities enable the training of high-performance athletes. Other forms of support given to athletes include coaching and training, sports science and sports medicine, and education and employment training. The institute's Elite Training Programme renders dedicated support to athletes in 19 Tier A sports: athletics, badminton, billiard sports, cycling, fencing, gymnastics, karatedo, rowing, rugby sevens, sailing, skating, squash, swimming, table tennis, tennis, tenpin bowling, triathlon, windsurfing and wushu. It also supports athletes in 13 Tier B sports: dance sports, dragon boat, equestrian, golf, judo, kart, lawn bowls, life saving, mountaineering, orienteering, roller sports, shuttlecock and taekwondo. Outstanding athletes whose sports fall outside these two tiers are covered under an Individual Athletes Support Scheme and a Disabled Sports Elite Training Programme. A pilot scheme

introduced by the bureau in December 2017 establishes a system for full-time athletes of disability sports, with the Indonesia 2018 Asian Para Games as the testing ground.

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 Committees. The federation organises Hong Kong's participation in all major international, continental and regional multi-sports games, such as the summer and winter Olympic Games and the summer and winter Asian Games.

With a membership of 79 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 activities related to their sports, including recreational programmes for the community, and training programmes and competitions for novices and elite athletes locally. They organise and sanction participation in overseas competitions and train coaches and referees. They also enforce local and international rules and regulations and represent Hong Kong at IF and AF meetings.

The federation coordinates the annual Festival of Sport from April to May each year, featuring about 80 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, notably through the Hong Kong Olympic Academy, which offers sports management and sports science courses.

Under the support of the government and commercial sponsors, the federation organises the annual Hong Kong Sports Stars Awards to recognise the achievements of top athletes.

The federation also helps athletes through its Hong Kong Athletes Career and Education Programme to obtain educational qualifications and a career after retiring from athletic life. Funded by sponsors, a separate charitable company set up under the federation operates the Sports Legacy Scheme to develop the potential of students through a team of retired and retiring athletes.

The independent Hong Kong Anti-Doping Committee, formed under the auspices of the federation, plans and implements education and testing programmes to enforce a dope-free environment for fair play under the guidance of the World Anti-doping Agency.

Hong Kong Paralympic Committee and Sports Association for the Physically Disabled

The Hong Kong Paralympic Committee and Sports Association for the Physically Disabled promulgates the paralympic movement in Hong Kong and helps local para athletes achieve sporting excellence.

The association staged the biennial Hong Kong Paralympic Day during the year to raise awareness about para sports in the territory and encourage people with impairments to

participate in sports. In October, Hong Kong achieved its best results at the Asian Para Games with 48 medals, comprising 11 golds, 16 silvers and 21 bronzes, and ranked 10th out of 43 participating countries and territories.

With the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games qualifiers under way, the association is offering athletes the best possible support in their quest to gain entry to the Games. At the same time, it will continue to identify and nurture young para athletes to shine in international sporting events.

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. These activities include training sessions and competitions. The association's training programme caters for all levels of ability.

Intellectually disabled athletes won 83 medals during the year, comprising 34 golds, 24 silvers and 25 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 two golds, two silvers and three bronzes at the Copenhagen 2018 World Para Swimming World Series in Denmark; one silver at the Sheffield 2018 World Para Swimming World Series in the United Kingdom; one bronze at the 2018 Japan Para Athletics Championships in Gunma; one gold, two silvers and four bronzes at the PTT Indonesia Open 2018 in Jakarta; and two golds, three silvers and one bronze at the 2018 PTT Thailand Open in Chiang Mai.

Hong Kong athletes also achieved excellent results at these Special Olympics events: figure skating in the Vienna Special 2018 in Austria; the 9th Special Olympics Middle East and North Africa Regional Games in Abu Dhabi; football in the 7th Special Olympics Games of the People's Republic of China in Fuzhou; 2018 Soea Unified Schools Football League in Shanghai; 2018 Soea Regional Bocce Competition in Hong Kong; 2018 SOM Table Tennis Competition in Macao; and 2018 Special Olympics East Asia Regional Athletics Competition in Taoyuan, Taiwan.

Hong Kong Jockey Club

The Hong Kong Jockey Club is a world-class racing club that acts continuously for the betterment of society. Through its integrated business model of racing and racecourse entertainment, a membership club, responsible sports wagering and lottery, and charity and community contribution, the club generates economic and social value for the community.

In 2017-18, the club returned 79.4 per cent of its wagering and lottery revenue to Hong Kong, paying \$22.6 billion in tax and approving \$4.2 billion in donations to 222 charity and community projects. It is the territory's largest single taxpayer, contributing 6.9 per cent of all taxes collected by the Inland Revenue Department in 2017-18. The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust is one of the world's top 10 charity donors.

Fundamental to the club's success is its world-class racing, with Hong Kong home to 12 international Group One races, including the Hong Kong International Races, widely regarded as the Turf World Championships. Eleven Hong Kong races ranked in the World's Top 100 Group

One/Grade One Races for 2018, with seven being in the top 50. Hong Kong also had 25 horses in the World's Best Racehorse Rankings for 2018, including the joint best miler globally. 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. Indeed, in 2018, for the first time, Hong Kong horses won all four of the Hong Kong International Races.

The quality of Hong Kong racing and racecourse entertainment makes it the territory's most popular spectator sport, attracting an attendance of 2.1 million in 2017-18. It is also developing a global fan base, with commingled wagering contributing significantly to racing turnover.

In August, Hong Kong racing entered a new era with the opening of the Hong Kong Jockey Club Conghua Racecourse in Guangzhou. Providing state-of-the-art training and horse care, Conghua is an essential platform in further developing Hong Kong's world-class racing. Its location in the Mainland's only large-scale, internationally recognised equine disease-free zone, coupled with professional training provided to Mainland employees, also enables Conghua to support the development of the equine industry in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

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 public demand for betting and assists the government in combating illegal gambling. The club holds the highest Level 4 accreditation under the World Lottery Organisation's Responsible Gambling Framework.

In addition to its tax contribution, the club supports the community through its charities trust. The trust serves 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 services; sports and recreation; and youth development. Thanks to improved business performance, regular charity donations quadrupled between 2007-08 and 2017-18.

In May, following a major project to restore and revitalise the Central Police Station compound, the club opened Tai Kwun – Centre for Heritage and Arts on the site. The number of visits topped one million within its first five months of operation.

Drawing on its sporting expertise, the club promotes community football and equestrian sport, while through its Riding High Together festival, which 45,000 people attended in 2018, it educates and inspires the wider community.

The club will continue to take forward its world-class racing, and through its integrated business model support the economic and social development of Hong Kong.

Outward Bound Hong Kong

Outward Bound Hong Kong (OBHK) provides personal development programmes for Hong Kong 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 international

Association for Experiential Education. As part of Outward Bound International, OBHK benefits from the network of over 35 centres round the world.

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. Programmes are designed to foster confidence, responsibility, leadership, teamwork, creative thinking, problem solving and social responsibility. The organisation utilises challenges in the outdoors to help participants gain insights and skills that can be applied to work and everyday situations. In 2018, about 6,000 people joined its programmes in Hong Kong.

OBHK is a not-for-profit organisation based in Sai Kung, with its headquarters located at Tai Mong Tsai and an island base on Wong Wan Chau. Its facilities include a 67-foot sail training yacht named the *Spirit of Outward Bound Hong Kong*, a world-class challenge ropes course and a fleet of expedition sea kayaks and open-rigged sailing ketches. All the resources are checked regularly and maintained according to international safety standards.

The organisation's public courses cater to people of different ages and needs, taking participants to remote and scenic areas of Hong Kong that most are unaware exist. Hong Kong residents can reclaim up to 80 per cent of the fees of programmes subsidised by the government's Continuing Education Fund. These programmes help individuals become more confident and effective, equipped to handle daily challenges in their lives and careers.

OBHK's corporate department, Outward Bound Professional, works with companies to design programmes that help their staff become more resilient, communicative, cohesive and innovative, ultimately benefiting the company itself. Programmes are also devised with schools, colleges, universities and charities to help their students become high-performing and competent leaders.

Adventure-Ship

Adventure-Ship, a charity registered in 1977, provides educational training and recreation at sea for young people on board a sailing junk called the *Jockey Club Huan*, in the first charitable programme of its kind in Hong Kong. The charity promotes personal development with its theme of 'learning by experience'. It is a member of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, and is funded mainly by the Community Chest and Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust.

All young people above the age of nine are welcome to join the programme, but preference is given to disabled and underprivileged youths. About 10,000 people take part each year.

The 34.5-metre aluminium-hulled, three-masted, traditional-rig *Jockey Club Huan* accommodates up to 60 people. She is equipped with modern navigational devices in addition to various amenities and barrier-free training facilities tailored for trainees with disabilities.

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 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.

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.

The association's annual Ngong Ping Charity Walk, held in January at North Lantau Island Country Park, attracted nearly 1,500 participants and raised much needed funds for hostel enhancement, environmental protection and the association's conservation projects.

Sporting Achievements

Hong Kong took its medal tallies at both the 2018 Asian Games and Asian Para Games to new heights, extending its victories to more sports than before. At the Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang, Indonesia, the city clinched 46 medals, comprising eight golds, 18 silvers and 20 bronzes. The men's rugby sevens team and equestrian rider Jacqueline Siu Wing-ying won Hong Kong's first golds in their respective sports, while the squash team outdid themselves with two golds and two silvers, including a gold from Au Chun-ming playing against his teammate Lee Ho-yin in the men's singles finals. Among the cyclists' three golds, four silvers and one bronze, Sarah Lee Wai-sze defended her titles in both the women's keirin and sprint. Gymnast Shek Wai-hung also retained his gold in the men's vault. Other breakthroughs included hurdler Lui Lai-yiu becoming Hong Kong's first female medallist in athletics, Tang Chun-man and Tse Ying-suet winning the city's first silver in badminton mixed doubles, and the fencing team scoring their best results with two silvers and six bronzes.

At the Asian Para Games in Jakarta, Hong Kong was similarly at its best with 48 medals, consisting of 11 golds, 16 silvers and 21 bronzes. The swimmers won three golds, two silvers and a bronze, with Chan Yui-lam breaking the Asian record in the women's 100m butterfly S14 and Tang Wai-lok breaking the games' record in the men's 200m freestyle S14. The wheelchair fencers collected one gold, three silvers and seven bronzes, while the table tennis team garnered two golds, three silvers and five bronzes and the badminton players, a gold, a silver and two bronzes.

In other remarkable results, two Hong Kong athletes became world number one – billiard player Ng On-ye and fencer Vivian Kong Man-wai reigned respectively in women's snooker and

women's epee, with Ng On-yea also claiming her third world championship title in the World Ladies Billiards and Snooker World Women's Snooker Championship 2018 held in Malta. Mixed pair Doo Hoi-kem and Wong Chun-ting won Hong Kong's first gold in the 2018 International Table Tennis Federation World Tour Grand Finals held in Incheon, Korea. Grace Lau Mo-sheung won Hong Kong's first bronze in the 24th World Karate Federation Senior World Championships in Madrid. At the 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, the city scored three victories, including its first athletic track medal in the hurdles, a bronze by Addis Wong Lok-hei.

Recreation and Sports Programmes

In 2018, the LCSD organised some 38,000 recreation and sports programmes for about 2.3 million participants of all ages and abilities at a total cost of \$180 million.

District Sports Teams Training Scheme

A total of 9,074 young people took part in 244 district team events about basketball, football, handball and fencing.

Young Athletes Training Scheme

Training was conducted for 29,665 teenagers in 30 sports disciplines.

School Sports Programme

The programme provided 8,541 sporting events for 635,212 students at 992 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, supports about 430 community sports clubs in organising 2,350 sports training activities for 51,000 participants. Seminars and management development programmes are formulated for some 400 sports volunteers to help them run the clubs.

Sports Subvention Scheme

The department subvents the NSAs and other sporting organisations for sports promotion and development. The subvention covers office and personnel expenses and spending on NSA programmes. In 2018, subventions totalling about \$321 million were allocated to 60 NSAs and 24 sport organisations, which organised 10,720 sports programmes for 749,250 participants. Local and international events staged by the subvented NSAs included the International Handball Federation Trophy, Boccia International Sports Federation – Hong Kong Boccia World Open, Asian Cup (Bouldering), 3rd Asian Youth Athletics Championships and Hong Kong Race Week. The subsidies also went towards supporting the NSAs in strengthening squad training and in helping athletes to represent Hong Kong in overseas competitions.

To enhance the NSAs' corporate governance, the department organises seminars that raise awareness among NSA office bearers and management staff of their roles and responsibilities in

effective board practices, strategic planning and risk management. Over 260 NSA representatives attended the seminars in 2018.

'M' Mark

The 'M' Mark system aims to solicit 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 2018.

Corporate Games

The biennial Corporate Games, organised by the department, is a major multi-sport event designed for working people. In 2018, over 9,200 employees from 217 industrial, commercial and governmental organisations took part in 11 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 a similar age. The 2018 event attracted 5,094 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 organised jointly by the LCSD and the Department of Health. It recorded more than 92,000 attendees in about 1,400 programmes in 2018. The LCSD's 'Sport For All Day' every August promotes sport for all in the community by holding free recreation and sports programmes at designated sports centres in all 18 districts and opening most of the fee-charging leisure facilities to the public free of charge. In 2018, the event adopted 'Stay Active, Healthy and Happy!' as its slogan and registered over 220,000 participants.

Hong Kong Games

The Hong Kong Games, held biennially, promotes a stronger sporting culture in the community through competitions and community participation programmes. Open selection of athletes from the 18 districts was launched in July 2018 for the inter-district sports competitions of the 7th Hong Kong Games, to be held from April to May 2019.

Culture and Arts Funding

Capital Funding

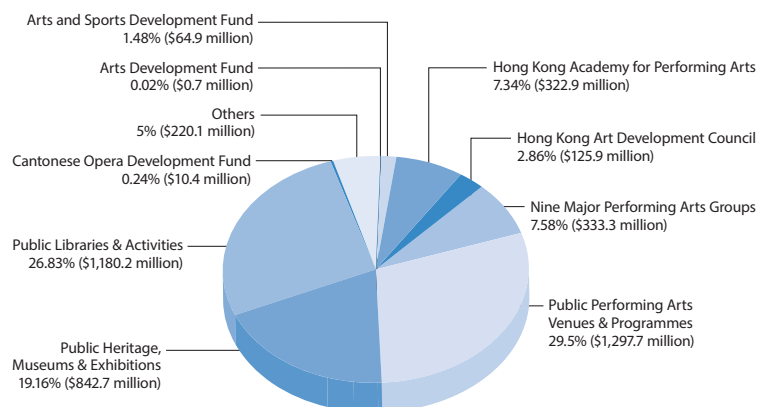
The government granted an upfront endowment of \$21.6 billion to the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority in 2008 to develop the West Kowloon Cultural District so as to meet the long-term infrastructural and developmental needs of Hong Kong's arts and culture. Separately, the LCSD's East Kowloon Cultural Centre was granted \$4.17 billion and will be completed in late 2020 to provide a 1,200-seat auditorium and a 550-seat theatre. The government has also set aside \$20 billion to improve and develop cultural facilities in the next 10 years, including the construction of a New Territories East Cultural Centre and Heritage Conservation and Resource Centre.

Recurrent Funding

In 2017-18, the government earmarked about \$4.4 billion, excluding capital works expenditure, for arts groups, education and promotion, and administration. Of this sum, about \$333 million went into supporting 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.

Chart 1

Provision for Arts and Culture 2017-18



Total government expenditure on arts and culture in 2017-18 was \$4.4 billion.

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. 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 100 projects. Around \$30 million is also 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 2018, it granted about \$10.4 million to support 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 to support cultural exchanges. In 2018, \$4.8 million was approved for 93 such projects.

Lord Wilson Heritage Trust

The Lord Wilson Heritage Trust provides funding for community organisations and individuals to implement heritage-related projects. Six projects worth about \$1.24 million were approved in 2018.

Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund awards scholarships to candidates of outstanding calibre to pursue further studies or training in music or dance in or outside the city. Thirteen scholarships worth \$4.14 million were awarded in 2018.

Art Development Matching Grants Scheme

The bureau's \$800 million Art Development Matching Grants Scheme seeks to widen funding sources for arts groups and to encourage community support for arts and cultural development. It matches the private donations and sponsorships raised by eligible arts groups by providing the corresponding grants.

Culture and Arts Venues**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.

Part of the Art Park and promenade is open for public enjoyment. The other arts and cultural facilities made significant progress in 2018: the Xiqu Centre held a stage dedication at its Grand Theatre in December and prepared for the formal opening and start of operation; the M+ museum building was topped out in November; interior fitting-out works for Freespace and excavation and lateral support works for the Lyric Theatre Complex were in progress; and the ground-breaking ceremony of the Hong Kong Palace Museum was held in May.

To prepare for the usage of its venues, the WKCD Authority initiates and co-presents events that develop the capacity of the local arts and cultural sector, develop audiences, engage the community and youth and nurture young artists. Major initiatives during the year included the West Kowloon 101 series, Hong Kong International Black Box Festival, *Farewell My Concubine (New Adaptation)*, M+ Screenings series, M+Matters series, four exhibitions held at the M+ Pavilion and, from September, a new season of Freespace Happening at the Art Park featuring free outdoor performing arts.

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 round the world. It has three main performance venues: the Concert Hall, seating 2,019 patrons; the Grand Theatre, 1,734; and the Studio Theatre, 496.

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.

Yau Ma Tei Theatre

Yau Ma Tei Theatre, the only surviving pre-war cinema building in the urban area, is dedicated to nurturing young talent for Cantonese opera. The Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong presented works by playwrights Tsui Tsz-long and Poon Cheuk, including *The Princess in Distress* and *War and Never-ending Love*, under the Cantonese Opera Young Talent Showcase in 2018.

Regional and District Civic Centres and Theatres

The LCSD runs 11 regional and district civic centres: the Sheung Wan and Sai Wan Ho civic centres on Hong Kong Island; 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 host mega sports events, pop concerts, major celebrations and other activities. During the year, 36 and 122 events were held at the coliseum and the stadium respectively.

Venue Partnership Scheme

This scheme fosters partnerships between the department's performance venues and performing arts groups. It aims to enhance the image and character of individual venues and their partners, expand the audience base, optimise usage of venue facilities, develop marketing strategies and encourage community involvement in the arts. The venue partners organised 725 stage performances in conjunction with 1,163 educational, promotional and audience-building activities in 2018.

Urban Ticketing System

The Urban Ticketing System is one of the most widely used computerised ticketing systems locally. It provides ticketing services over the counter at more than 30 outlets, and via the internet, telephone and a mobile application. In 2018, the system issued 4.16 million tickets with proceeds of more than \$1.25 billion.

Culture and Arts Organisations

Hong Kong Arts Development Council

The Hong Kong Arts Development Council operates grant schemes and plans, promotes, funds and supports the overall development of the arts. It is a beneficiary of the bureau's Art Development Matching Grants Scheme and implements its own matching fund scheme to help small and medium-sized arts organisations.

The council grooms artists, curators, arts administrators and other arts professionals by providing opportunities for training, cultural exchange, internship and attachment in Hong Kong and abroad. In 2018, it offered 12 talent nurture schemes, including local and overseas arts administration scholarships and the Professional Attachment at Mori Art Museum in Japan.

Large-scale promotional events under the council include the Hong Kong Arts Development Awards, Arts Ambassadors-in-School Scheme, Jockey Club New Arts Power, and the co-production of the television programme *Artspiration* with Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK). The council also supports local artists and arts groups to participate in events elsewhere; in 2018, they took part in the Meet in Beijing Arts Festival, *internationale tanzmesse nrw* in Germany, 'Classical: Next Music Expo' in the Netherlands and the Cinars in Canada. In addition, the council worked with M+ to present the International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale – Hong Kong Response Exhibition and organised the International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia – Hong Kong Exhibition jointly with the Hong Kong Institute of Architects Biennale Foundation.

During the year, the council launched an Arts-in-School Partnership Scheme to foster cooperation between arts groups and schools while promoting better use of school premises as arts space. It also opened two new arts spaces in Kwun Tong.

Arts research and policy advocacy are part of the council's main tasks. Through an annual survey, it collects data on visual arts exhibitions, arts performances and film screenings. A series of yearbooks on the arts is published 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: Chinese opera, dance, drama, film and TV, music, and theatre and entertainment arts.

During the year, 840 students enrolled in undergraduate and post-secondary programmes in the six performing arts disciplines. Another 137 students were pursuing master's degree programmes in dance, drama, film and TV, music, and theatre and entertainment arts. The academy also admitted more than 630 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 in Wan Chai promotes contemporary arts and culture. It features the 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.

In 2018, the Fringe Club showcased over 400 exhibitions and live music, drama and dance performances. It launched a jazz music development project titled Jazz-Go-Central, Jazz-Go-Fringe, funded by the Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme, to organise concerts, master classes, open rehearsals and other programmes.

Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre

The Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre is a multidisciplinary arts village and arts centre housed in a converted nine-storey decommissioned factory estate in Shek Kip Mei. It rents studio facilities to more than 140 artists and cultural organisations, and provides exhibition and performance facilities, including the Central Courtyard, galleries and the Jockey Club Black Box Theatre.

Large-scale public programmes include the annual JCCAC Festival, the quarterly Handicraft Fair, open-air film screenings, exhibitions and docent guided tours. The programmes attracted about 320,000 visitors in 2017-18.

Major Performing Arts Groups

Chung Ying Theatre Company

The company is a professional theatrical arts group. In 2018, it joined hands again with counterparts in Guangdong and Macao to present *Confucius: 63 Revisited* in Macao and Foshan, following the success of the Cultural Exchange Scheme the previous year.

City Contemporary Dance Company

As a professional modern dance group, the company nurtures creative dance talent in the context of contemporary China. In 2018, the company launched the Jockey Club Contemporary Dance Literacy and Learning Project. It also brought young local choreographers and dancers to showcase their new works in the Mainland, and toured Australia and Malaysia.

Hong Kong Ballet

This is one of Asia's premier ballet companies. In 2018, it staged the Asian premiere of Septime Webre's *Alice (in wonderland)* and the *1st Annual International Gala of Stars*, and launched a two-year project, *Ballet in the City*. The company also toured Germany, Serbia, Spain and Taiwan.

Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra

The orchestra is the only professional, full-sized Chinese orchestra in Hong Kong. During the year, it performed in Singapore and toured various cities in the Mainland, covering concert halls, universities, stadiums and historical monuments.

Hong Kong Dance Company

The company promotes Chinese dance with Hong Kong characteristics. It staged more than 60 performances in 2018, including *Dream of the Past: Ancient Chinese Court Dances*, *Waiting Heart* and *Liu San Jie*, and also toured Seoul and Taipei, reaching an audience of 49,000.

Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Recognised as Asia's foremost classical orchestra, the musicians present over 150 concerts every year featuring international and local conductors and soloists, and offer free programmes including the popular outdoor concert *Symphony Under The Stars* and educational activities for youngsters. During the year, more than 200,000 music lovers attended the events, including the successful conclusion of an epic four-year journey through Wagner's *Ring Cycle*. The live performances and CD recordings were well received by both audiences and critics.

Hong Kong Repertory Theatre

The company seeks to develop creative and diverse theatrical productions of Chinese and western works and local originals. Its 17 productions in 2018 included *The Big Meal*, *Principle*, *An Unjust Good Fellow*, and the Hong Kong International Black Box Festival co-presented with the WKCD. In a tour of Mainland cities, the company's *Hu Xueyan*, *My Dear* garnered six major awards at the Chinese Theatre Awards and was among the Top 10 Best Productions at the Beijing News Drama Awards.

Hong Kong Sinfonietta

This symphony orchestra is renowned for its innovative programming and audience development efforts. In 2018, it gave over 100 performances and organised the 1st Hong Kong International Conducting Competition. Apart from premiering new orchestral and chamber works, the company also presented a month-long crossover project, *Notating Beauty That Moves*, and released a CD of Cantonese musical *The Passage Beyond in Concert*.

Zuni Icosahedron

This is an experimental theatre company. Its 2018 theatre season, *Theatre is Technology*, included *Experimental Naamyam Hong Kong – Blind Musician Dou Wan*; *Z/Z Twin Lab*, a cooperative piece with the Zurich University of the Arts; *Hong Kong Belt-Road City-to-City Cultural Exchange Conference 2018 – Asian Strategy*; and *The Interrupted Dream and Heavenly Palace* in One Belt and One Road Experimental Theatre.

Culture and Arts Presentations

The LCSD presents quality cultural programmes throughout the year. In 2018, more than 330,000 people attended 932 performances featuring local and visiting artists and arts groups. Visiting musicians and groups included Magdalena Kožená and the Basel La Cetra Baroque Orchestra, Paco Peña and Friends, Dang Thai Son, Ton Koopman and the Amsterdam Baroque Choir, the Artemis Quartet, Evgeny Kissin, the Kodály Quartet, Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia – Roma, Pablo Ziegler Latin Jazz Trio and Ron Carter Trio. Visiting dance programmes included *Akram Khan's Giselle* by the English National Ballet and *Zaguán & Alento* by Ballet Nacional de España.

Specially curated programmes provide performance platforms for local and visiting artists and opportunities for cultural exchange. In 2018, these programmes included Our Music Talents, City Hall Virtuosi, Jazz Marathon, Jazz Up, Music Delight, Guangdong Music, New Force in

Motion, Dance On, From Puppets to Humans, Cheers!, New Energy, Re-run Run Shows and Culture of the Silk Road.

The department also organised more than 520 film and media arts programmes accompanied by extension activities, attracting over 70,000 people, as well as 24 major carnivals and territory-wide activities and 611 free district art shows, drawing over 1,059,900 people.

Arts Education and Audience-building Projects

In 2018, the department organised 1,149 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. Two themes were set for the 2018 Community Cultural Ambassador Scheme: 'Performing arts project themed with district characteristics' and 'Performing arts project designed for children'.

Greater Bay Area Cultural Exchange

The department is supporting more local arts groups and artists to take their art to cities within the Greater Bay Area. In 2018, a collaboration network with major venue operators in the Greater Bay Area was established and 18 performances and cultural exchange activities were presented in five cities, attracting over 15,000 people.

Major Culture and Arts Events

Hong Kong Arts Festival

The 46th Hong Kong Arts Festival presented 15 world premieres and 13 Asian premieres. Highlights included the festival opening performance of *Anna Karenina* by Ballett Zürich, Beijing opera *Princess Changping* by the China National Peking Opera Company, *Pelléas et Mélisande* by Welsh National Opera, the State Academic Symphony Orchestra of Russia 'Evgeny Svetlanov', *Whipped Cream* by American Ballet Theatre and the festival finale by the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra and Estonian National Male Choir. The festival showcased 130 performances, an exhibition and about 470 outreach and educational events, attracting over 300,000 people.

International Arts Carnival

The department's annual International Arts Carnival in July and August opened with *Hansel and Gretel* by the Scottish Ballet. Over 87,000 people attended the carnival's 308 events featuring ballet, music theatre for babies, a multimedia circus, magic and shadow puppetry.

New Vision Arts Festival

The department's ninth edition of the New Vision Arts Festival presented cutting-edge shows including *Tree of Codes* and *AquaSonic*, as well as immersive activities under a mini-festival, ArtSnap. The 196 events attracted more than 75,000 people.

Chinese Opera Festival

The department's ninth Chinese Opera Festival featured Cantonese opera, Peking opera and other regional genres. About 28,000 people attended the 56 events.

Hong Kong Week 2018@Taipei

The seventh Hong Kong Week in Taipei, presented by the Hong Kong-Taiwan Cultural Cooperation Committee, ran from 30 November to 16 December with eight performances, one exhibition and 14 extension activities, attracting an attendance of more than 39,000.

Muse Fest HK

The fourth edition of Muse Fest HK ran from late June to early July with the theme, 'Museum is typing...'. It brought together 14 museums, five other cultural venues and four museum-related disciplines under the department to organise 104 programmes. Five museums from Japan and 13 other museums from Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macao were invited as museum partners along with two other local organisations to promote a museum culture. The museum festival attracted more than 330,000 people.

Museums

The LCSD manages 14 museums, two visual arts centres, a film archive and two heritage centres.

Hong Kong Museum of Art

The Hong Kong Museum of Art, its site in Tsim Sha Tsui now under renovation, hosted 'Growing City • Growing Home' in Salisbury Garden from December 2017. Large-scale installations by local artists Kevin Fung and Stanley Siu were featured to stimulate reflection on the changing cityscape and living environment.

The third phase of the Jockey Club's 'Museum of Art on Wheels' outreach learning programme ended in September. A moving art museum designed for primary and secondary students, it tours various schools and the community, bringing art appreciation to every corner of the city during the museum's renovation. Since the 2015-16 school year, the mobile museum had visited 304 schools and served over 160,000 students and members of the public.

To promote Hong Kong art, the Museum of Art jointly organised the exhibition, 'In Search of Zen – The Art of Lui Shou-kwan', with the Chinese University of Hong Kong's (CUHK) Art Museum and the National Art Museum of China at the latter's venue in Beijing from March to April. An accompanying gallery talk, 'Lui Shou-kwan and Hong Kong Ink Art', introduced Lui Shou-kwan's artistic accomplishments and the development of the new ink art movement in Hong Kong to the Beijing audience.

The Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware, a branch of the Museum of Art, features 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 introduce the art of tea drinking. The museum organised the 'Tea Ware by Hong Kong Potters 2018' exhibition in December, at the same time displaying works from the 1986 to 2016 competitions at Hong Kong

International Airport that were functional yet creative, presenting new styles of local tea ware creation. Another exhibition, 'Behind the Art: Chinese Export Tea Ware', was organised jointly with the CUHK's Art Museum from April to October. The tea ware museum welcomed 201,281 visitors in 2018.

Hong Kong Museum of History

The Hong Kong Museum of History in Tsim Sha Tsui runs the permanent exhibition, 'The Hong Kong Story'. It staged five other exhibitions in 2018: 'Miles upon Miles: World Heritage along the Silk Road', 'An Age of Luxury: the Assyrians to Alexander', 'Gilded Glory: Chaozhou Woodcarving', 'Through Thick and Thin: 150 Years of the Hong Kong Fire Services' and 'Ying Wa College Bicentenary Exhibition – A Legacy to Hong Kong History'. More than 1,203,800 people visited during the year.

Two special programmes enable community groups to understand the city's history and cultural heritage. 'Inclusive Life: Museum for All – Interactivity Scheme' offers people with disabilities guided tours and workshops, while 'Caring for the Community' holds outreach activities for ethnic minorities, youngsters, the elderly, families and new immigrants.

The museum works with the CUHK, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU), Education University of Hong Kong, Lingnan University and Chu Hai College of Higher Education to organise public seminars and lectures on the history and culture of Hong Kong. A new initiative, Journey for Creative Minds, helps the elderly know more about cross-border art and culture in a fun way.

At schools, the museum organises teacher seminars, a school competition and the Future Curator Training Course to enhance teachers and students' understanding of Hong Kong's history and culture.

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 is converted from the old Lei Yue Mun Fort in Shau Kei Wan. It holds the permanent exhibition, '600 Years of Hong Kong's Coastal Defence', and organises educational programmes such as field trips to places of military interest. In 2018, the museum organised a special exhibition, 'The Great War at Its Centenary', as well as roving exhibitions to arouse students' interest in learning Hong Kong's military history. The museum attracted over 98,800 visitors in 2018 before it was closed on 17 September for a revamp. The renovated museum will reopen in 2020.

Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum, housed in the historic Kom Tong Hall in Central, runs two permanent exhibitions about Dr Sun's life and career, and organises educational programmes relating to the man and Central and Western District. In 2018, the museum staged the 'Seek See Sit! Bench Design Exhibition' and 'The Beiyang Warlords: War and Politics' exhibition. It attracted over 90,700 visitors during the year.

The Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery in Quarry Bay Park displays the decommissioned fireboat, relics and literature on the history of fireboats and sea rescue. In 2018, the exhibition gallery held a Fun Day with the Fire Services Department and allowed members of the public to learn more about the history of the *Alexander Grantham* and sea rescue services in Hong Kong. Some 64,700 people visited during the year.

Hong Kong Heritage Museum

Hong Kong Heritage Museum in Sha Tin explores the city's diverse cultures through exhibitions on art, design and history. The highlight of the year was the 'Digital Dunhuang – Tales of Heaven and Earth' exhibition, a collaboration with the Dunhuang Academy that showcased achievements of the Dunhuang Academy's digitisation project over the past few years and the art and culture of Dunhuang caves through newly developed multimedia programmes. The museum also worked with RTHK to present the '90 Years of Public Service Broadcasting in Hong Kong' exhibition and cooperated with the Hong Kong Ceramics Research Society to present the 'Golden Splendours: 20th-century Painted Porcelains of Hong Kong' exhibition.

Other events included the 'Claylaboration – Contemporary Ceramic Art' exhibition and the 'Projects • Objects • Play – Tommy Li P.O.P. Design Show', which was part of a continuing designer exhibition series.

The museum conducts an Arts Buddies project jointly with the Education Bureau, Arts Development Council, HKBU and CUHK. It also runs a MuseKids programme to stimulate children's interest in museum learning, and the annual MuseTeens: Youth Leadership Scheme to enrich teenagers' understanding of the museum's work and collections.

Heritage Museum manages two branch museums, namely Railway Museum in Tai Po and Sheung Yiu Folk Museum in Sai Kung Country Park. The former is situated in the old Tai Po Market Railway Station with a station building constructed in 1913, while the latter is located in a Hakka village built in the late 19th century. Heritage Museum, Railway Museum and Sheung Yiu Folk Museum attracted 733,811, 274,903 and 40,177 visitors respectively in 2018.

Hong Kong Science Museum

In 2018, Hong Kong Science Museum in Tsim Sha Tsui jointly presented with the Palace Museum the 'Treasures of Time' and 'Landscape Map of the Silk Road' exhibitions. 'Treasures of Time' merged science, history and art in a display of 120 clocks and watches from the Palace Museum's collection. Through these timepieces, visitors learned about the mechanisms of mechanical clocks from a scientific perspective and about their historical meaning and technological achievements. The 'Landscape Map of the Silk Road' showcased a 30m-long handscroll created for a Ming-dynasty emperor and introduced the tools and techniques used in ancient Chinese and modern cartography. Other major exhibitions included 'Above and Beyond', which presented interactive exhibits designed with new technology to give visitors an insight into the science of flight and the challenges of exploring outer space. 'Sophie – IVE's Solar Cars Driving the Future' was about Sophie, the solar car engineering project of the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education. More than 1,276,000 visitors came during the year.

The museum also cooperated with 91 scientific and government bodies to present HK SciFest 2018. During the Croucher Science Week, science communicators were invited from Australia, New Zealand and the UK to engage students and families in a series of science-related activities. Through the Young Scientists Study Tour, 20 secondary students and three teachers visited London Natural History Museum, London Science Museum and research institutes in the UK.

Hong Kong Space Museum

Hong Kong Space Museum in Tsim Sha Tsui organises regular astronomy activities on-site and holds stargazing and family programmes at its Astropark and iObservatory in Sai Kung. Its Stanley Ho Space Theatre is equipped with digital planetarium projection and sound systems and offers Omnimax, 3D Dome and Sky shows.

The permanent exhibition halls, namely, Hall of the Cosmos and Hall of Space Exploration, were reopened in April after renovations. There are about 100 exhibits, mostly with interactive designs.

Under a Young Astronaut Training Camp, 30 secondary students visited major aerospace facilities in Beijing and Jiuquan from 30 July to 6 August. The trip was jointly organised with the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, China Astronaut Research and Training Centre and Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre to broaden students' horizons.

In 2018, some 808,000 people visited the museum's exhibitions and attended shows in the Space Theatre, while more than 27,000 took part in the educational and extension programmes.

Hong Kong Film Archive

The Hong Kong Film Archive in Sai Wan Ho offers the permanent exhibition, 'In Memory of Queen's Theatre'. It organised three exhibitions in 2018 – 'More Than a Piece of Paper: Rediscovering Hong Kong Movie Posters', 'Their Glory Days' and 'One Plus One Equals More than Two: Comedy Duos of Hong Kong Cinema' – as well as 186 screenings, seminars and post-screening talks. More than 156,120 visitors were recorded during the year.

The archive is duplicating the film scripts and censor documents of Hong Kong films from the late 1950s to early 1960s from the New York State Archives.

In 2018, it acquired 74 film titles and 5,474 film-related materials, including picture negatives, soundtracks, subtitles, inter-negatives, inter-positives, film prints, magnetic sound films, trailers and digital cinema packages. Major acquisitions included 35mm film prints of 21 titles dating from 1994 to 2001 and donated by Fortune Star Media, and 12 titles dating from 1994 to 2008 and donated by Block 2 Pictures. Golden Scene donated 1,187 film-related materials such as posters, stills and newspaper clippings, while First Distributors (HK) donated around 500 audio-visual materials, mostly betacam tapes.

Public Libraries

The LCSD operates 70 static and 12 mobile libraries and a books registration office. The libraries hold 13.14 million books and more than 1.85 million multimedia items, serving almost 4.6

million book borrowers and lending more than 48 million books and other library materials in 2018.

Hong Kong Central Library

The Hong Kong Central Library is a major information and cultural centre, with a reference and lending stock of more than 2.75 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 cultural programmes and public lectures, and promotes a culture of reading as well as information dissemination.

Improvements to Library Services

The city's second self-service library station, located at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre in Tsim Sha Tsui, was launched in December 2018, offering more round-the-clock public library services after the city's first self-service library station was launched in Eastern District in 2017.

The public libraries work closely with district councils and local groups to set up community libraries, which are offered block loans of library materials. Age-friendly measures include enhancing library facilities and promoting 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. The Central Library's reference collection covers subjects including Hong Kong studies and international organisations, while other major libraries also offer specialised thematic collections. The City Hall Public Library has collections about business and industry, creativity and innovation resources and the Basic Law. The Kowloon, Sha Tin, Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun libraries provide collections on educational resources, sports and fitness, modern living and food and nutrition respectively.

Information Technology and Digital Library Services

Online service is integral to the public libraries' reference and information services. The libraries provide more than 1,900 computers giving public access to their electronic resources and the internet. More than 290,000 e-books are available to registered members for remote internet access. The libraries also subscribe to over 70 e-databases, some of which are accessible through the internet to library cardholders outside the library. In January, the mobile application My Library was launched to accept payment of library fines and other charges.

Promotion of Reading and Literary Arts

During the year, the public libraries conducted over 23,600 library and outreach programmes to promote interest in reading. A citywide campaign, 'Discover and Share the Joy of Reading', was launched jointly with the Education Bureau and Information Services Department. Special

large-scale programmes included the 'Reading KOL' Short Video Competition and a Pop-up Library series held outside library venues to extend the pleasure of reading to the public. As a tie-in, the 4.23 World Book Day Creative Competition adopted the theme 'My Library'.

Books Registration Office

The Books Registration Office registers local publications and monitors the use of the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) system. It publishes the *Catalogue of Books Printed in Hong Kong* in the Government Gazette every three months. The catalogue can also be viewed on the internet. In 2018, the office registered 12,880 books and 7,407 periodicals, and issued 940 publisher prefixes totalling 20,020 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. Its Cantonese Opera Education and Information Centre provides digitised and interactive Cantonese opera resources.

The Academy for Performing Arts offers the city's first Cantonese opera degree course. The Arts Development Council funds training programmes conducted by the Cantonese Opera Academy of Hong Kong.

Intangible Cultural Heritage

The Intangible Cultural Heritage Office organised activities during the year to enhance public knowledge of the items listed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Hong Kong. The office is set to implement a funding scheme to engage the community in safeguarding and promoting intangible cultural heritage.

The government's Hong Kong Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre is a display and resource centre set up at Sam Tung Uk Museum in Tsuen Wan. It attracted 111,265 visitors in 2018.

Lord Wilson Heritage Trust

This trust aims to preserve and conserve Hong Kong's human heritage by organising activities and funding community organisations and individuals to implement heritage-related projects. It approved six heritage-related projects in 2018.

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. Scientific research and analyses were carried out to complement the conservation work for 283 artefacts in 2018.

A conservation virtual reality game was launched at Muse Fest HK, attracting 1,635 participants to experience the fun of being conservators as they navigated the museum gallery to complete exigent conservation missions. The office also held 50 educational workshops and behind-the-

scenes laboratory tours. In total, it received over 2,400 participants including students, and registered about 10,500 service hours contributed by 172 volunteers.

Nurturing Talent

Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund

Scholarships are awarded to candidates of outstanding calibre to pursue postgraduate studies in music or dance at degree-awarding tertiary education institutions in Hong Kong; professional music or dance training at world-renowned institutions; or less formal studies, projects or creative work outside Hong Kong. The fund awarded 13 scholarships in 2018.

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. In 2018, the number of trainee placements was increased from 32 to 37 per year and the scope was expanded to cover cultural exchange. The LCSD 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. In 2018, the number of trainee placements was increased to 20 and the scope was expanded to cover science students. Trainees are attached to the Museum of Art, Museum of History, Heritage Museum, Science Museum, Space Museum, Film Archive, Art Promotion Office, Intangible Cultural Heritage Office and Conservation Office to receive two years of on-the-job training in museum management or conservation services.

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 music sharing among young local musicians and their counterparts round the world. In 2018, it provided music training for 8,969 trainees and recorded 206,411 participants in its promotional activities.

Visual and Public Art

Art Promotion Office

At the invitation of the Executive Committee of Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale, the Art Promotion Office commissioned the construction of a Hong Kong House in Echigo-Tsumari in Japan to showcase Hong Kong's art and artistic talent to audiences worldwide. Hong Kong House presented its inaugural exhibition from July to October, featuring artworks created by local artists Leung Chi-wo and Sara Wong. The office also toured the exhibition '2018 Hong Kong –

Macao Visual Art Biennale' to Minsheng Art Museum in Beijing, the Silk Road International Cultural Expo in Dunhuang and Zhejiang Art Museum in Hangzhou.

Other public art projects staged by the office included 'Hi! Hill', '#ArtTravellers Exhibition Series III: Tracing along the Green Blades' and 'Augmented Reality Public Art Initiative'.

Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre (vA!)

Managed by the Art Promotion Office, the Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre is an open, multidirectional art space that focuses on art learning, research and exchange. It organises arts activities and provides facilities for hire, including well-equipped art studios, multi-purpose rooms, a lecture theatre and an exhibition hall. Major programmes included the Art Specialist Course 2017-18, media art projects, '#You #Me #OurSelfies' and 'Secret Garden' exhibitions, the 'sound in the city' exhibition series and *18 Scenes in a Cage* media art performance.

Oil Street Art Space (Oi!)

Oi! is a platform for art practitioners to realise their artistic creations and invite community engagement. Projects in 2018 included the 'back to the basics' exhibition series, 'Xchange: Social Gastronomy', 'Play to Change', and four exhibitions under the 'Sparkle!' Exhibition Scheme.

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