

## **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 LCSD 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 district councils, national sports associations (NSAs) 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 2019, it processed 51 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 2019, the department planted 2.75 million trees, shrubs and other plants, and enhanced the landscaping at about 27 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 facilities 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 530 birds of nearly 65 species are kept. 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 500 bromeliads representing over 50 species were featured in a bromeliad exhibition at the Display Plant House from December 2018 to January 2019.

### ***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. In 2019, the animal collection comprised about 160 birds of more than 30 species, over 20 reptiles of five species, and about 70 mammals of 14 species, mainly primates. More than 900 species of trees, shrubs, creepers and foliage plants thrive in the garden, where the medicinal plant collection and a greenhouse promote public interest in 500 or more species of herbs, orchids, ferns and indoor plants. An education and exhibition centre offers guided visits and displays 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 2019, the districts conducted more than 60 gardening courses and 16 community planting activities. About 430 local celebrities joined the Green Ambassador Scheme, over 6,500 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 383,500 students from 1,200 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. It recorded over 260 participating organisations from Hong Kong, the Mainland and overseas and more than 630,000 visitors in 2019.

## **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. Apart from local league matches, international events held during the year included the popular annual Hong Kong Sevens, the Guangdong-Hong Kong Cup, Chinese New Year Cup, Liverpool Football Club Legends vs Borussia Dortmund Legends, Kitchee vs Manchester City, and three Fédération Internationale de Football Association World Cup Qatar 2022 and Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Asian Cup China 2023 Preliminary Joint Qualification Round 2 (Group C) matches.

### **Mong Kok Stadium**

The 6,000-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 international matches. Events hosted in 2019 included the AFC Champions League 2019 group stage match.

### ***Kai Tak Sports Park***

The Kai Tak Sports Park will provide world-class, multi-purpose facilities, including a 50,000-seat stadium, a 10,000-seat indoor sports centre, a 5,000-seat public sports ground and landscaped open space, to hold major international sports events and community sports activities. The contract for the design, construction and operation began in February 2019. Construction is under way and the project is scheduled for completion in 2023.

### ***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 drew some 106,000 participants in 2019. 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 attracted about 456,000 visitors and overnight guests during the year. In addition, the department subsidises 11 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to run 24 holiday camps and sea activity centres, which registered over 940,000 participants in 2019.

### ***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 101 sports centres, 252 tennis courts, 292 squash courts, 25 sports grounds, four driving ranges and two public riding schools. Works for 10 other major projects are under way.

## **Recreation and Sports Organisations**

### ***Sports Commission***

The Sports Commission advises the government 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 Hong Kong Sports Institute Limited is Hong Kong's elite sports training centre for the nurture of elite and potential athletes. It provides athletes with state-of-the-art facilities and comprehensive support, including scientific conditioning, sports science, sports medicine and dual career development in education and sports training. The Elite Training Programme supports athletes in 20 Tier A sports, namely athletics, badminton, billiard sports, cycling, equestrian, fencing, gymnastics, karatedo, rowing, rugby sevens, sailing, skating, squash, swimming, table tennis, tennis, tenpin bowling, triathlon, windsurfing and wushu, and six Tier A disability sports, namely boccia (physical disability), para badminton (physical disability), para table tennis (physical disability), wheelchair fencing (physical disability), para swimming (intellectual disability) and para table tennis (intellectual disability). It also provides suitable support to athletes in 13 Tier B sports, comprising contract bridge, dance sports, dragon boat, golf, judo, kart, lawn bowls, life saving, mountaineering, orienteering, roller sports, shuttlecock

and taekwondo, and two Tier B physical disability sports, comprising para lawn bowls and para tenpin bowling. Outstanding athletes whose sports fall outside these two tiers are covered under an Individual Athletes Support Scheme.

### ***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 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, 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 promotes the Paralympic movement in Hong Kong and helps local para athletes achieve sporting excellence. It identifies and nurtures young para athletes to shine in international sporting events.

The government implemented the Elite Vote Support Scheme for para sports during the year to provide subvention to support elite para sports more systematically, and to provide para athletes with support in full-time training and direct financial needs. In May, the association hosted the Boccia International Sports Federation – Hong Kong Boccia World Open for over 200 top athletes, coaches and team officials. Hong Kong captured one gold, one silver and one bronze, placing second out of 18 participating countries and territories. Separately, 76 athletes brought home seven golds, eight silvers and 12 bronzes in athletics, boccia, swimming, table tennis and para dance sport from the National Games for Persons with Disabilities.

With the final phase of the Tokyo Paralympic Games qualifiers under way, the association is providing athletes with the best possible support in their quest to gain entry to the Games.

### ***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 a positive attitude through sport, and to facilitate their integration into the community. Its training programme caters for all levels of ability.

Intellectually disabled athletes make the most of the many international competitions they take part in to sharpen their skills and bring glory to Hong Kong. They won 226 medals during the year, comprising 97 golds, 71 silvers and 58 bronzes. Highlights included one gold, one silver and three bronzes in the Melbourne World Para Swimming World Series in Australia; two bronzes in the Dubai World Para Athletics Grand Prix in the United Arab Emirates; one gold, one silver and two bronzes in the PTT Costa Brava Spanish Open; four silvers and one bronze in the Singapore World Para Swimming World Series; one silver in the PTT Polish Open in Wladyslawowo; one gold, one silver and one bronze in the Asian Para Championships in Taiwan; one silver and one bronze in the PTT Japan Open in Tokyo; five golds, eight silvers and seven bronzes in the National Games for the Disabled in Tianjin; one silver and one bronze in the PTT Czech Open in Ostrava; one bronze in the London World Para Swimming Championships in the United Kingdom; and 10 golds, 12 silvers and nine bronzes in the Brisbane International Federation for Athletes with Intellectual Impairments Global Games in Australia.

Hong Kong athletes also achieved excellent results at these Special Olympics events: the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Abu Dhabi; Gothia Special Olympics Trophy in Gothenburg; the SOEA Unified Schools Football League in Kunming; the National Special Olympics Games in Tianjin; the Special Olympics Macao Table Tennis Competition; the SOEA Regional Unified Basketball Competition in Xi'an; the Special Olympics Asia Pacific Unified Badminton Championship in Bangkok; and the Special Olympics Southeast Asia Unified Football Tournament in Singapore.

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

The Hong Kong Jockey Club has been working for the betterment of society for over a century. Through its integrated business model of racing and racecourse entertainment, a membership club, responsible sports wagering and a lottery, and charities and community contributions, the club generates substantial economic and social value for the community.

In 2018-19, the club returned 78.1 per cent of its wagering and lottery revenue to Hong Kong, paying \$23.3 billion in tax and approving \$4.3 billion in donations to 294 charity and community projects. It is the territory's largest single taxpayer.

These returns, which set a new record for the club, are the result of a systematic strategy to bring world-class racing to Hong Kong. Today, Hong Kong is home to 12 international Group One races, including the Hong Kong International Races, widely recognised as the Turf World Championships, and Champions Day, which enjoyed a highly successful second edition in 2019. Ten of these races ranked in the World's Top 100 Group One/Grade One Races for 2019, with five being in the top 25. Hong Kong also had 20 horses in the World's Best Racehorse Rankings for 2019, including *Beauty Generation*, the world's top miler.

The success of the club's strategy is manifest in the growing popularity of Hong Kong racing overseas, with commingling, first introduced in 2014-15, accounting for 15 per cent of total racing turnover in 2018-19. With partners in 14 countries and jurisdictions, Hong Kong is fast emerging as a global hub for commingling.

Laying the foundation for the next phase of growth is Conghua Racecourse in Guangzhou. Opened in 2018, it provides state-of-the-art training and care to the club's horses. Conghua also has great potential to support 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. It holds the highest Level 4 accreditation under the World Lottery Organisation's Responsible Gambling Framework.

The club's business success has enabled the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust to quadruple its donations over the last 11 years. It is now one of the world's top 10 charity donors. In 2018-19, the club donated 95 per cent of its operating surplus after tax to the trust.

These donations contribute to 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.

One major project, the restoration of the Central Police Station compound and its revitalisation as Tai Kwun – Centre for Heritage and Arts, celebrated its first anniversary in 2019. With 3.4 million visitors in its first year, Tai Kwun also received the Award of Excellence, the highest possible, in the 2019 Unesco Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.

Drawing on its sporting expertise, the club promotes community football and equestrian sport. Notably, club-supported riders won gold for Hong Kong at the 2018 Asian Games and a gold, three silvers and a bronze at the 2019 FEI Asian Championships.

The club looks forward to more sporting success and, above all, to maintaining its support for the betterment of society, which is, and always will be, its purpose.

### **Outward Bound Hong Kong**

Outward Bound Hong Kong (OBHK) is a non-profit organisation providing personal development programmes for people to learn essential life skills and reach their maximum potential. It is accredited by the Association for Experiential Education, and as part of Outward Bound International, OBHK benefits from the network of over 35 schools around 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, mental well-being and social responsibility. The organisation uses challenges in the outdoors to help participants gain insights and skills that can be applied to work and everyday situations. In 2019, over 6,000 people joined its programmes in Hong Kong.

OBHK is based in Sai Kung, with its headquarters located at Tai Mong Tsai and a remote 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. More than 43 per cent of Outward Bound's students receive funding to join a course.

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 with schools, colleges, universities and charities help their students become resilient and compassionate 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, with preference given to disabled and underprivileged youths. About 10,000 people take part each year.

The 34.5m 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 is 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 encourages 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 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 in North Lantau Island Country Park, attracted nearly 1,500 participants and raised much needed funds for hostel enhancement, environmental protection and conservation projects.

### **Sporting Achievements**

Hong Kong athletes attained outstanding achievements in 2019. Cyclist Sarah Lee Wai-size captured gold medals in both the sprint and keirin events in the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) World Track Championships, and also clinched eight medals in the six UCI Track Cycling World Cup events of the year. She was ranked world number one in women's keirin and sprint, the first such achievement in Hong Kong's cycling history. The cycling team secured five and nine medals in the Asian Road Championships and Asian Track Championships respectively. Billiard player Ng On-yeek won a gold in the International Billiards and Snooker Federation's World Snooker Championships and ranked second in the world. The wushu team returned from the World Wushu Championships in Shanghai with five golds, four silvers and a bronze. Fencer Vivian Kong Man-wai won a bronze in the epee event in the World Fencing Championships. The fencing team also won a silver and three bronzes in the Asian Fencing Championships. In table tennis, both the mixed doubles pair of Wong Chun-ting and Doo Hoi-kem and the men's doubles pair of Wong Chun-ting and Ho Kwan-kit held the world number one spot during part of the year. Para badminton athletes Chan Ho-yuen, Chu Man-kai and Wong Chun-yim won a gold and two silvers in the Badminton World Federation's Para-Badminton World Championships. Mr Chan, ranked world number two, was named one of Ten Outstanding Young Persons by the Junior Chamber International Hong Kong.

Hong Kong also achieved outstanding results in two major multi-sport games, including the National Youth Games in Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, where the city's youth athletes fetched 11 golds, 12 silvers and 17 bronzes, with the breaking of Hong Kong's youth records in five athletics and swimming events. In the National Games for Persons with Disabilities in Tianjian, the Hong Kong delegation clinched seven golds, eight silvers and 12 bronzes, setting four new swimming records in the games.

The government has been providing full support to Hong Kong athletes in their preparations for and participation in the upcoming Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games. As at end-2019, Hong Kong athletes had qualified for 10 and six events respectively.

### **Recreation and Sports Programmes**

The Home Affairs Bureau and other organisations, including the LCSD, Department of Health, Education Bureau, Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, NSAs, district sports associations and schools, provide community sports activities at various levels, encouraging people of different backgrounds, ages, abilities and interests to participate in sports regularly so as to promote the culture of 'Sport for All'. In 2019, the LCSD organised some 38,400 recreation and sports programmes for about 3.1 million participants of all ages and abilities at a total cost of \$210 million.

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

A total of 8,984 young people took part in 240 district team events about basketball, football, handball and fencing.

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

Training was conducted for 29,940 teenagers in 32 sports disciplines.

#### ***Community Sports Club Project***

The project, organised by the LCSD in collaboration with the NSAs, supports about 430 community sports clubs in organising 2,350 training activities for 51,000 participants. Seminars and management development programmes are formulated for over 400 sports volunteers to help them run the clubs.

#### ***Promotion of School Sports***

The School Sports Programme provided 8,551 sporting events for 612,762 students at 944 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.

The Student Athlete Support Scheme, launched in the 2013-14 school year, is a collaboration between the Home Affairs Bureau and the Hong Kong Schools Sports Federation to help students with financial needs develop their sports potential and pursue sporting goals. In the 2017-18 school year, \$6.56 million was allocated to 594 participating schools, benefiting over 18,000 students.

The Opening Up School Facilities for Promotion of Sports Development Scheme, launched jointly by the Home Affairs and Education bureaus in the 2017-18 school year, provides a subsidy to encourage schools to make their facilities available to sports organisations for the staging of sports activities. In the 2019-20 school year, 266 sports programmes were held by 36 sports organisations at 56 schools under the scheme.

### **Major Sports Events**

Hong Kong is a hub for major international sports events. The 'M' Mark system aims to solicit commercial and community support for NSAs to develop sustainable major international sports events. Under this system, the Home Affairs Bureau provides comprehensive support, including matching funds, direct grants, and venue and marketing subsidy support, to NSAs to hold world-class sports events. Fifteen events were awarded 'M' Mark status in 2019.

### **'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 91,500 attendees in about 1,470 programmes in 2019. The LCSD's 'Sport For All Day' promotes sport for all in the community every August 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 2019, the event registered over 180,000 participants.

### **Hong Kong Games**

The biennial Hong Kong Games promote a stronger sporting culture in the community through competitions and community activities. The 7th edition was held in 2018 and 2019, registering 3,344 athletes. Over 900,000 people took part in sports competitions and related community programmes.

## **Sports Funding**

### **Recurrent Government Funding**

The government promotes sports development in Hong Kong by encouraging sports in the community, supporting elite sports and projecting the city as a centre for major international sports events. In 2018-19, over 80 per cent of the \$5.2 billion in overall government spending on sports development went into community-level sports promotion.

### **Arts and Sport Development Fund**

The sports portion of the Arts and Sport Development Fund is a major funding source for sports development in Hong Kong. It supports athletes' preparations for and participation in major international competitions; the local hosting of international sports events by NSAs and other sports organisations; the upgrading of school and district programmes to boost community participation; and the development of local football, team sports, and one-off initiatives that are important for the development and promotion of sport in Hong Kong. In the 2018-19 Budget, the government announced an injection of \$1 billion into the sports portion of the fund, which approved \$124 million for 165 projects in 2018-19.

### ***Sports Subvention Scheme***

The LCSD subsidises NSAs and other sports organisations in sports promotion and development. In 2019, subventions totalling about \$389 million were allocated to 60 NSAs and 24 other sports organisations, which held 10,750 programmes for 750,100 participants. Local and international events staged by the subvented NSAs included the Asian U-22 (Men & Women) Handball Championships, Boccia International Sports Federation – Hong Kong Boccia World Open, East Asian Karate Federation Championships, East Asian Muaythai Championships and Hong Kong Race Week. In the 2019-20 Budget, the government announced allocating additional resources of about \$100 million to NSAs in the next two years to support their participation in overseas competitions, offer more squad training programmes and support underprivileged athletes.

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 220 NSA representatives attended the seminars in 2019.

### ***Sir David Trench Fund for Recreation (Main Fund)***

The Sir David Trench Fund for Recreation (Main Fund) supports NSAs, district sports associations, schools and NGOs to buy equipment and build facilities for physical education and sporting activities. It places emphasis on generating long-term benefits, encouraging the purposeful use of leisure by young people and promoting sports in the community.

### ***Elite Athletes Development Fund***

The Elite Athletes Development Fund provides a stable financial source for the sports institute to develop elite sports. It received a \$6 billion injection from the government in 2018-19.

### ***Hong Kong Athletes Fund***

The government's Hong Kong Athletes Fund provides education grants for eligible athletes, one-off grants for eligible retired athletes at the time of retirement from sports training through the Elite Athletes Performance Recognition Scheme, and cash incentives through the Youth Athletes Scholarship Awards for junior athletes participating in major sports events. In the 2019-20 Budget, the government announced an injection of \$250 million to increase scholarship awards to support the dual career development of athletes and provide more cash incentives for full-time athletes when they retire from sports.

## **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 (WKCD) 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 is targeted to be completed in 2021 for commissioning in 2022 to provide a 1,200-seat auditorium and a 550-seat theatre. The government also set aside \$20 billion in 2018 to improve and develop

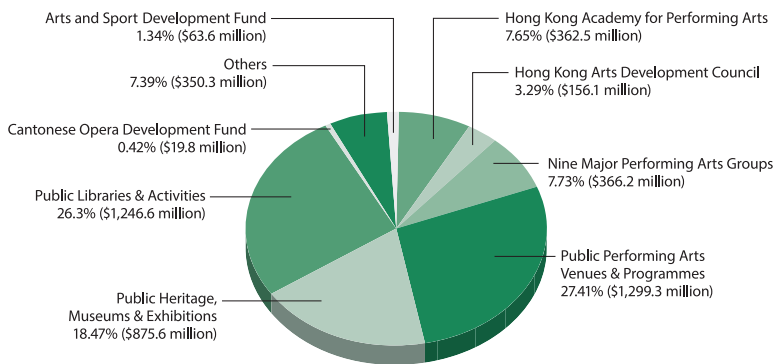
cultural facilities in 10 years, including the construction of a New Territories East Cultural Centre and a Heritage Conservation and Resource Centre.

### Recurrent Funding

In 2018-19, the government earmarked \$4.74 billion, excluding capital works expenditure, for arts groups, education and promotion, and administration. Of this sum, about \$366.2 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 2018-19



Total government expenditure on arts and culture in 2018-19 was \$4.74 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 116 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 2019, it granted about \$19.8 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. It approved \$5.2 million in 2019 for 103 such projects.

### **Lord Wilson Heritage Trust**

The Lord Wilson Heritage Trust provides funding for community organisations and individuals to implement heritage-related projects. Fifteen projects worth \$4.19 million were approved in 2019.

### **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. Fifteen scholarships worth \$6.56 million were awarded in 2019.

### **Art Development Matching Grants Scheme**

The bureau's \$800 million Art Development Matching Grants Scheme seeks to widen funding sources for arts groups and 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 WKCD, set to stretch across 40 hectares along Victoria Harbour, 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 WKCD is progressing from the project planning and construction phase to the operational phase. The Xiqu Centre, dedicated to the conservation and promotion of the xiqu art form, held its grand opening in January while Freespace, Hong Kong's new centre for contemporary performances and a creative space for cutting-edge productions, came into operation in June. The Art Park is the green heart of the WKCD, featuring a diversity of trees and plants spread across open lawns. The waterfront promenade is lined with cafes and restaurants, and has become a popular place to take sunset photographs against the backdrop of Victoria Harbour. Major facilities, including the M+ museum, Hong Kong Palace Museum and Lyric Theatre Complex, are scheduled for completion in the next few years.

The WKCD Authority initiates and co-presents arts and cultural programmes to develop the capacity of the local arts and cultural sector, build audiences, engage the community and youth and nurture young artists. Major initiatives during the year included xiqu performances delivered during the grand opening and opening season of the Xiqu Centre, the Tea House Theatre Experience presented by the Xiqu Centre's own Tea House Rising Stars Troupe, *Farewell My Concubine (New Adaptation)*, the inaugural Freespace Jazz Fest at the Art Park and Freespace, the Sigg Prize exhibition at the M+ Pavilion, M+ at Art Basel Hong Kong and a preview exhibition of the Hong Kong Palace Museum at Fine Art Asia.

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. It has three main performance venues: a 2,020-seat concert hall, a 1,734-seat grand theatre and a 496-seat studio theatre.

### ***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 1,430-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. Its venue partner is the Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong.

### ***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, 30 and 115 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 683 stage performances in conjunction with 1,141 educational, promotional and audience-building activities in 2019.

### ***Urban Ticketing System***

The Urban Ticketing System is one of the most widely used computerised ticketing systems locally. It provides counter ticketing services at more than 20 outlets, and via the internet, telephone and a mobile application. In 2019, the system issued 3.52 million tickets with proceeds of more than \$1.16 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 locally and abroad. In 2019, it offered 14 talent nurture schemes, including artistic internship schemes for music, dance, drama and xiqu, and a scholarship for professional attachment to public programmes at Tate Modern in Britain.

Large-scale promotional events under the council include the Hong Kong Arts Development Awards, Arts Ambassadors-in-School Scheme and Jockey Club New Arts Power. The council also supports local artists and arts groups to participate in events elsewhere; in 2019, they took part in the Meet in Beijing Arts Festival, China International Youth Arts Festival, Festival Hong Kong 2019 – A Cultural Extravaganza@Shanghai and Classical: Next Music Expo in the Netherlands. In addition, the council worked with M+ to take part in the International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale and organised the Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition – Hong Kong Response Exhibition jointly with the Hong Kong Institute of Architects Biennale Foundation and the Planning Department.

The council runs 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 operates one arts space each in Aberdeen and Tai Po, and two in Kwun Tong.

Arts research and policy advocacy are part of the council's main tasks. Through an annual survey, it collects data on performing arts, visual arts, film and literary arts activities. Publications on the arts are produced yearly 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, 865 students enrolled in undergraduate and post-secondary programmes in the six performing arts disciplines. Another 130 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 3,200 students to its Extension and Continuing Education for Life programme.



### **Hong Kong Arts Centre**

The self-financing Hong Kong Arts Centre 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. In March, it received a Restoration – Conservation Award from the Hong Kong Institute of Architectural Conservationists for its work on preserving and upgrading the facilities.

The Fringe Club 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 2019, it showcased over 200 exhibitions and live music, drama and dance performances.

### **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 over 280,000 visitors in 2018-19.

## **Major Performing Arts Groups**

### **Chung Ying Theatre Company**

The company is a professional theatrical arts group. In 2019, it staged *All My Life I Shall Remember*, based on the life of 'immortal songwriter' Chen Gexin, with composer Chen Gang invited as music director to reconstruct the touching life of his late father on stage.

### **City Contemporary Dance Company**

The company is a professional modern dance group that nurtures creative dance talent in the context of contemporary China. Its 40th anniversary was celebrated in 2019, during which the company created new works and brought talented local choreographers and dancers to Beijing, Guangzhou, Xi'an, Wuhan, Shenzhen and Taipei. The company also took part in the National Day Parade in Beijing to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

### **Hong Kong Ballet**

This is one of Asia's premier ballet companies. In 2019, it staged the Asian premieres of Septime Webre's *The Great Gatsby* and *Peter Pan* as well as the *International Gala of Stars*, and launched WearDance, a cross-border project combining ballet and fashion. The company also toured Shenzhen and Shanghai.

### **Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra**

The orchestra is the only professional, full-sized Chinese orchestra in Hong Kong. During the year, the orchestra performed in Japan, Greece and the Mainland of China, where it took part in the China Shanghai International Arts Festival Hong Kong Cultural Week, Festival Hong Kong 2019 – A Cultural Extravaganza@Shanghai and concerts in Baoding, Harbin and Linyi.

### **Hong Kong Dance Company**

The company promotes Chinese dance with Hong Kong characteristics. It staged 66 performances in 2019, including *Red Poppies* and *L'Amour Immortel*. The company also performed *The Legend of Mulan*, *L'Amour Immortel* and *Four Seasons and The Butterfly Lovers* in Minsk, Shanghai, Hangzhou and Shenzhen, and researched into Chinese martial arts and Chinese dance.

### **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra**

For the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, 2019 was a year of significance. The orchestra won the prestigious Gramophone Orchestra of the Year Award, the first in Asia to receive this accolade. It toured extensively in the Mainland, holding hugely successful concerts in Zhuhai, Guangzhou, Foshan and Shanghai. Collaborative education and outreach programmes were launched, including the HK Phil x Tai Kwun: Chamber Music Series, the Swire Classics Insights Series and an inclusive concert led by music director Jaap van Zweden. The orchestra presents more than 150 concerts annually that draw over 200,000 music lovers.

### **Hong Kong Repertory Theatre**

The company seeks to develop creative and diverse theatrical productions of Chinese and western works and local originals. Its nine productions in 2019 included the musicals *La Cage aux Folles* and *The Good Person of Szechwan*, the latter being co-produced and performed with the Actors' Family, and *A Dream Like a Dream*. The company also toured Mainland cities and Macao, where *The Marriage* won the Best Supporting Actress and Best Scenic Design prizes at the Chinese Theatre Awards.

### **Hong Kong Sinfonietta**

The symphony orchestra is internationally renowned for its innovative programming and audience development efforts. It celebrated the 20th anniversary in 2019, during which it presented the premieres of a number of local and international commissions and was invited to perform its award-winning crossover production, *A Soldier's Story 5.0*, in Tokyo and Taiwan to critical acclaim. At home, the orchestra held sold-out concerts at Le French May and the Hong Kong Arts Festival.

### **Zuni Icosahedron**

Zuni is Hong Kong's pioneer troupe of experimental theatre. During 2019, it presented the Architecture is Art Festival with the theme 'Beautiful Space'. Festival highlights included *Architecture Music Theatre – In Praise of Shadows*, *Experimenting the Extinct Sounds – Rotten Big Ass*, Hong Kong Belt-Road City-to-City Cultural Exchange Conference 2019: International Cultural Exchange – Strategies and the Future, and *The Interrupted Dream: Chinois Dream at Château de Versailles* presented in One Belt One Road Experimental Theatre.

## **Culture and Arts Presentations**

The LCSD presents quality cultural programmes throughout the year. In 2019, more than 270,000 people attended 907 performances featuring local and visiting artists and arts groups. Highlights included celebratory programmes for the 30th anniversary of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, presented by renowned artists and groups such as the London Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Sir Simon Rattle with pianists Emanuel Ax, Colleen Lee and Aristo Sham; Anne-Sophie Mutter; and Cappella Andrea Barca led by Sir András Schiff. Other highlights were *The Great Tamer* by Dimitris Papaioannou, *Xenos* by Akram Khan Company, and Terayama Shuji's *Nuhikun (Directions to Servants)*.

Specially curated programmes provide performance platforms for local and visiting artists and opportunities for cultural exchange. In 2019, these series of programmes included Our Music Talents, City Hall Virtuosi, Jazz Up, Music Delight, Guangdong Music, New Force in Motion, Beyond Multi-arts, Cheers!, New Energy and Re-run Run Shows.

The department also organised more than 520 film and media arts programmes accompanied by extension activities, attracting over 73,000 people, as well as 17 major carnivals and territory-wide activities and 594 district cultural programmes, drawing over 1,218,000 people. To promote arts in the community, the department launched the Community Arts Scheme in Wan Chai and Sai Kung in 2019-20 in collaboration with District Councils and non-governmental district organisations. The scheme is proposed to be extended to all 18 districts to replace the District Free Entertainment Programmes, which have been organised since 1968.

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

In 2019, the department organised 1,174 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 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. The department also runs the Community Cultural Ambassador Scheme.

## **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 2019, a collaboration network with major venue operators in the Greater Bay Area was established, and 96 performances and cultural exchange activities were presented in seven cities, attracting over 37,000 people.

## **Major Culture and Arts Events**

### **Hong Kong Arts Festival**

The 47th Hong Kong Arts Festival featured over 1,700 international and local artists in 166 performances, with about 420 complementary outreach and education activities, attracting over 300,000 people. The 15 world premieres and 16 Asian premieres included the Hong Kong

Arts Festival productions *Always by Your Side* and *Gangsters of Hong Kong*. Other highlights included the festival opening Marin Alsop with the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra, Richard Wagner's *Tannhäuser* by Oper Leipzig with Gewandhausorchester Leipzig and Chor der Oper Leipzig, and the Cantonese opera *Pavilion of a Hundred Flowers (Reboot)* by Fredric Mao.

### **International Arts Carnival**

The department's annual International Arts Carnival in July and August opened with *The Heart of Robin Hood* by Vesturport. Over 85,000 people attended the carnival, which presented 268 events featuring theatre, music, baby opera, dance, puppet theatre, circus and multimedia music theatre.

### **World Cultures Festival**

The department's World Cultures Festival – The Nordics, the eighth edition of the festival, featured the most pioneering and representative performing arts from the region. The 125 events, which included the opening show, contemporary opera *Autumn Sonata*, drew more than 60,000 people.

### **Chinese Opera Festival**

The department's 10th Chinese Opera Festival featured Cantonese opera, Peking opera, kunqu opera and other regional genres. The 63 events attracted more than 27,000 people.

### **Hong Kong Week 2019@Taipei**

The eighth Hong Kong Week in Taipei, presented by the Hong Kong-Taiwan Cultural Cooperation Committee, ran from 18 to 29 September with seven performances, one talk, one exhibition and 15 extension activities, attracting an attendance of more than 33,000.

### **Festival Hong Kong 2019 – A Cultural Extravaganza@Shanghai**

The first Hong Kong Week in the Mainland, Festival Hong Kong 2019 – A Cultural Extravaganza@Shanghai, was presented from 1 to 23 November in Shanghai to promote Hong Kong artists and arts groups and enhance cultural exchange with Mainland cities. The festival showcased performing arts, exhibitions and films in 90 performances and activities, drawing around 400,000 people.

### **Muse Fest HK**

The fifth edition of Muse Fest HK ran from late June to early July with the theme, 'Curating the New'. It brought together 14 museums, three other cultural venues and three museum-related disciplines under the department to organise 95 programmes. Two museums from Singapore and 16 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 festival attracted more than 330,000 people.

## **Museums**

The LCS D manages 14 museums, two visual arts centres and a film archive.

### **Hong Kong Museum of Art**

After major expansion and renovation works, the Hong Kong Museum of Art reopened on 30 November in Tsim Sha Tsui with 40 per cent more exhibition space, which includes the Lab and the Attic, located on the top floor of the museum, and the Wing (Upper) and the Wing (Lower), located in the new annex block. A pair of new donation galleries, the Wu Guanzhong Art Gallery and the Chih Lo Lou Gallery of Chinese Painting and Calligraphy, were inaugurated to honour two internationally important donations the museum received in 2018.

Upon its reopening, the museum presented 11 exhibitions, comprising a series of collection exhibitions representing the cultural legacy in the museum holdings, namely 'Ordinary to Extraordinary: Stories of the Museum', 'From Dung Basket to Dining Cart: 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Wu Guanzhong', 'A Pleasure Shared: Selected Works from the Chih Lo Lou Collection', 'The Wisdom of Emptiness: Selected Works from the Xubaizhai Collection', 'Lost and Found: Guardians of the Chater Collection' and 'The Best of Both Worlds: Acquisitions and Donations of Chinese Antiquities'; exhibitions and displays that showcased Hong Kong art lineage, namely 'Classics Remix: The Hong Kong Viewpoint', 'Hong Kong Experience • Hong Kong Experiment', 'The Breath of Landscape' and 'Rediscovering Landscape'; and an international blockbuster exhibition, 'A Sense of Place: from Turner to Hockney'. The museum welcomed 65,000 visitors in the opening weeks in 2019.

The Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware, a branch of the Hong Kong Museum of Art, features tea ware and related artefacts 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 tea demonstrations and Chinese music tea gatherings introduce the art of tea appreciation and Chinese traditional culture. The museum organised the 'Tea Ware by Hong Kong Potters 2018' exhibition in the year. The annual attendance of the museum is 148,000.

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

The Hong Kong Museum of History in Tsim Sha Tsui runs the permanent exhibition, 'The Hong Kong Story'. Highlights of the year included 'Gilded Glory: Chaozhou Woodcarving', 'The Road to Modernisation – 70 Years of the People's Republic of China' and 'Glistening Treasures in the Dust – Ancient Artefacts of Afghanistan', organised in collaboration with Guangdong Museum, the National Museum of China and the National Museum of Afghanistan respectively. More than 932,300 people visited during the year.

Two programmes help community groups 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 educational organisations to hold public seminars and lectures on the history and culture of Hong Kong. It organises 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. The museum is closed for a revamp, during which outreach programmes, such as travelling exhibitions, public lectures, family workshops, field visits to local military sites and school programmes, are arranged to promote Hong Kong's military history.

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 2019, the museum organised 'The Awakening of a Generation: The May Fourth and New Culture Movement' exhibition and a Fun Day. It attracted over 76,300 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 *Alexander Grantham* and sea rescue services in Hong Kong. In 2019, the exhibition gallery held a Fun Day with the Fire Services Department and organised visits to fireboats in service, fire stations and ambulance depots. Some 51,300 people visited the gallery 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. Major exhibitions of the year were 'A History of the World in 100 Objects from the British Museum', presented in collaboration with the British Museum, and 'The Story of Jao Tsung-i', co-presented with Jao Tsung-I Petite Ecole of the University of Hong Kong. The former explored the global story of mankind over two million years through 100 objects gathered from different regions of the world, while the latter introduced Professor Jao Tsung-I's contributions to Chinese culture.

The 'Time Will Tell / another mountainman x stanley wong / 40 years of work' exhibition was part of a continuing designer exhibition series.

The museum conducts an Arts Buddies project jointly with the Education Bureau, Arts Development Council, Hong Kong Baptist University and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. It runs a MuseKids programme to stimulate children's interest in museum learning, and the annual MuseTeens: Youth Leadership Scheme to enrich teenagers' understanding of its 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 666,162, 257,563 and 39,638 visitors respectively in 2019.

### **Hong Kong Science Museum**

In 2019, Hong Kong Science Museum in Tsim Sha Tsui jointly presented with the Palace Museum 'Unlocking the Secrets – The Science of Conservation at The Palace Museum'. The exhibition told the stories behind the conservation of cultural relics. It displayed more than 100 priceless artefacts from the Palace Museum, ranging from bronzes, clocks, textiles, thangkas, woodenware and lacquerware to inlaid works, ceramics, calligraphy and hand-painted copies of ancient paintings showcasing exquisite traditional Chinese craft techniques as well as the scientific principles and technologies applied in object restoration. Other major exhibitions included 'Winter Games', allowing visitors to explore scientific principles behind winter sports through large-scale interactive exhibits. The 'Becoming Jane – Inspiring a Shared Planet' exhibition presented the scientific discoveries of Dr Jane Goodall, a humanitarian and environmentalist who has spent many years observing chimpanzees in their native habitat. More than 1,149,000 visitors came during the year.

The museum also cooperated with 94 scientific and government bodies to present HK SciFest. During the Croucher Science Week, science communicators were invited from Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States to engage students and families in a series of science-related activities. Through the Young Scientists Study Tour, 20 secondary students visited the Science Centre Singapore and research institutes, and joined workshops in Singapore involving science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

### **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, house 100 exhibits, of which about 70 per cent are interactive. Astronomy and space science are introduced through interesting hands-on exhibits and advanced equipment presented amidst lighting effects and other furnishings.

In a Young Astronaut Training Camp, 30 secondary students visited major aerospace facilities in Beijing and Jiuquan from 27 July to 4 August. The trip was organised jointly with the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, China Astronaut Research and Training Centre and Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre to broaden students' horizons.

In 2019, some 880,000 people visited the museum's exhibitions and attended shows in the Space Theatre, while more than 16,000 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 four other exhibitions in 2019: 'Cityscape in Sight and Sound', 'Invisible Perception – Film Scores and Sound Effects', 'Celebrating Inheritance and Integration – 10th Anniversary of Inscription of Cantonese Opera onto Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity Exhibition' and 'Multifarious Arrays of Weaponry in Hong Kong

Cinema! There were also more than 210 screenings, seminars and post-screening talks. The archive received 127,530 visitors.

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

In 2019, it acquired 218 film titles and 53,029 film-related materials, including picture negatives, optical soundtracks, subtitles, inter-negatives, inter-positives, film prints, magnetic soundtracks, trailers and digital cinema packages. Major acquisitions included 35mm film prints of 158 titles dating from 1990 to 2004 and donated by the American Genre Film Archive, and 15 titles dating from 1991 to 2009 and donated by My Way Film Company. Applause Pictures donated about 40,000 film-related materials, such as photo negatives, photos and contact prints, while Twinkle donated around 2,400 film-related materials, mostly posters.

### **Public Libraries**

The LCSD operates 70 static and 12 mobile libraries and a books registration office. The libraries hold 13.29 million books and 1.83 million multimedia items, serving 4.68 million book borrowers and lending more than 45 million books and other library materials in 2019.

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

The Hong Kong Central Library in Causeway Bay is a major information and cultural centre, with a reference and lending stock of 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 reading culture and information dissemination.

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

The Hong Kong Public Libraries is operating a trial scheme to provide self-service library stations, one each on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and in the New Territories. Following the launch of the first two stations, in Eastern District and Tsim Sha Tsui in 2017 and 2018 respectively, the third self-service library station, located in Tai Wai, completed its preparations in 2019 and shall be launched in January 2020.

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 strengthen outreach reading programmes, e-book experience areas were set up in 10 shopping centres under the 'Take a Break – eReading Corner' campaign in early 2019, recording over 73,000 downloads of selected e-books during the promotional period. The Thematic Block Loan to Kindergartens, also launched in early 2019, had recorded more than 160 kindergartens using the service by the year end.



### **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 contains special collections about Hong Kong and international organisations, while 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 services are 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. For remote internet access, 338,000 e-books are available to registered members. The libraries also subscribe to over 70 e-databases, some of which are accessible through the internet to off-site library cardholders. An online patron registration platform was launched as part of the Hong Kong Public Libraries website in April, so readers can create e-accounts to borrow e-books and access diversified e-resources.

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

During the year, the public libraries conducted over 23,200 library and outreach programmes to promote interest in reading. A campaign, 'Discover and Share the Joy of Reading', was launched jointly with the Education Bureau and Information Services Department. Large-scale programmes included the Hong Kong Library Festival and Fun Reading at Your Neighbourhood – Pop-up Library series, held outside library venues to extend the pleasure of reading to the community. As a tie-in, the 4.23 World Book Day Creative Competition adopted the theme 'Let's Share the Joy of Reading'. The 15th edition of the Hong Kong Biennial Awards for Chinese Literature was held to commend local writers for creating quality Chinese literary works.

### **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 2019, the office registered 14,536 books and 6,939 periodicals, and issued 1,029 publisher prefixes totalling 16,950 ISBNs.

## **Heritage**

### **Cantonese Opera**

The government is keen to preserve, promote and develop Cantonese opera in Hong Kong. The Ko Shan Theatre New Wing has 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. In 2019, the centre received more than 22,000 visitors.

The Academy for Performing Arts runs 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 organises activities to enhance public knowledge of the items listed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Hong Kong. It launched the first round of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Funding Scheme in 2019 to engage the community in safeguarding and promoting intangible cultural heritage.

The office's Hong Kong Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre at Sam Tung Uk Museum holds exhibitions and other programmes to raise public understanding of intangible cultural heritage. It recorded over 91,000 visitors in 2019.

### ***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 15 heritage-related projects in 2019.

### ***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 376 artefacts in 2019.

The office held 30 educational workshops and behind-the-scenes laboratory tours, including demonstrations on artefact conservation during Muse Fest HK. It received around 700 participants including students, and recorded about 6,800 service hours contributed by 147 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 15 scholarships in 2019.

#### ***Arts Administrator Trainee Scheme***

The 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, event promotion and the organisation of performing arts programmes, carnivals, arts festivals and cultural exchanges. There were 37 LCSD trainee placements in 2019. The department also sponsored its 22 venue partners and the Hong Kong Arts Festival to run similar

programmes for trainees to learn about the management of performing arts groups and the organisation of arts festivals.

### ***Museum Trainee Scheme***

The scheme aims to develop museum professionals. 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. There were 20 trainee placements in 2019.

### ***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. In 2019, it provided music training for 8,929 trainees and recorded 188,551 participants in its promotional activities.

The office organises international exchanges to connect young musicians from Hong Kong and other parts of the world. The Hong Kong Youth Symphony Orchestra, trained by the office, won the gold award in the instrumental category and was named Command Ensemble in the Australian International Music Festival, while the Music Office Youth Choir won three golds at the International Johannes Brahms Choir Festival and Competition in Germany.

## **Visual and Public Art**

### ***Art Promotion Office***

In 2019, seven sets of public artworks under the Public Art Scheme of Tsun Yip Street Playground were installed to pay tribute to the industrial culture of Kwun Tong, and the playground was converted into a park. A public art programme, Take Park in Art, was launched in Happy Valley Recreation Ground, Nam Cheong Park, Aldrich Bay Park and other recreational venues to engage local communities and show the vitality of community open spaces in Hong Kong.

The Art Promotion Office also worked with the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale to showcase the works of local artist Annie Wan. It staged 'Art by Architecture – Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\ Architecture Hong Kong 2019' in Shenzhen to highlight exchange opportunities in the Greater Bay Area and overseas.

### ***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 2018-19, the media art project 'medialogue' and the 'Instrumentation' exhibition.

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

Oi! is a platform for art practitioners to realise their artistic creations and invite community engagement. Projects in 2019 included the 'Once lost but now found', 'Play to Change' and 'Beyond Boundaries' exhibition series.

***Websites***

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

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

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

Hong Kong Public Museums: [www.museums.gov.hk](http://www.museums.gov.hk)

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