

Chapter 20

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 (HAB) 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 LCSD 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 LCSD also issues and renews licences for places of amusement. In 2020, it processed 49 applications for billiard establishments, five for public bowling alleys and five for public skating rinks.

Parks and Greenery

The LCSD manages over 1,600 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 2020, the department planted 2.77 million trees, shrubs and other plants, and enhanced the landscaping at about 21 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 carnivorous plants representing over 50 species were featured in a carnivorous plants exhibition at the Display Plant House from December 2019 to January 2020.

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 2020, the animal collection comprised about 150 birds of more than 30 species, over 20 reptiles of five species, and about 75 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 about 500 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 six 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 northeastern 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. At the centre, visitors can sign up for a guided tour or pick up a self-guided tour map, and also learn more about the history and intangible cultural heritage of geopark communities.

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 2020, some activities were cancelled because of COVID-19, but the districts still conducted 43 gardening courses and three community planting activities. Over 6,800 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 378,500 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. The show was cancelled in 2020 because of COVID-19.

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. COVID-19 meant that many events were cancelled, including the Hong Kong Sevens, and those events held were mainly closed-door local football 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 staged this year included the Hong Kong Premier League and Sapling Cup.

Kai Tak Sports Park

When completed (scheduled for 2023), the Kai Tak Sports Park will provide world-class sports facilities, including a 50,000-seat main stadium, a 10,000-seat indoor sports centre and a 5,000-seat public sports ground, for international and local sports events. In 2020, the

preliminary design and piling works were largely completed and basement and superstructure works commenced.

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 29,000 participants in 2020. 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 35,000 visitors and overnight guests before the outbreak of COVID-19.

In January, in response to COVID-19, the four camps were converted into quarantine centres, temporary accommodation and community isolation facilities. By year end, around 2,700 people had been admitted into the quarantine centres, over 1,900 into the temporary accommodation and 250 into community isolation facilities.

The LCSD also subsidises 11 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to run 24 holiday camps and sea activity centres, which registered around 82,000 participants in 2020.

Beaches and Swimming Pools

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

Other Recreation and Sports Venues

The LCSD manages 102 sports centres, 252 tennis courts, 292 squash courts, 25 sports grounds, four driving ranges and two public riding schools. Works for 15 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.

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 34.5-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 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 Jockey Club

As the pandemic shut down much professional sport around the world, the Hong Kong Jockey Club continued racing, in line with government requirements and through strict health measures. The guiding principles were to protect public health and the health of customers, employees and racing personnel. A 'racing bubble' was established, with regular testing of key personnel, racecourse attendance limits, temperature checks and social distancing.

Though this necessitated a significant reduction in racecourse attendance, and the closure of Off-Course Betting Branches and the Mark Six lottery for much of the year, not a single race was lost. The Hong Kong International Races attracted top horses and leading jockeys from overseas. Hong Kong's only international sporting event of the year, the races earned accolades around the world and showcased the 'can-do' spirit of the city.

Hong Kong maintained a high standard of racing throughout the year. Nine of its 12 international Group One races featured in the World's Top 100 Group One/Grade One Races for 2020. Hong Kong also had 17 horses in the World's Best Racehorse Rankings, including *Golden Sixty*, equal 10th in the rankings and joint-third best miler in the world.

Maintaining racing also ensured the continuity of an important part of Hong Kong's sporting life, as well as providing stay-at-home entertainment. The club continued to contribute to society through its unique integrated business model of racing and racecourse entertainment, a membership club, responsible sports wagering and lottery, and charities and community contribution.

In 2019-20, the club returned 73.8 per cent of its wagering and lottery revenue to Hong Kong and donated 96 per cent of its operating surplus to the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust. The club paid \$23.3 billion in tax to the government and \$0.8 billion to the Lotteries Fund, while the trust approved \$4.5 billion in donations to 210 projects. The club is one of the world's top 10 charity donors and Hong Kong's largest single taxpayer, contributing 6.6 per cent of all taxes collected by the Inland Revenue Department in 2019-20.

The club's world-class technology, in particular its digital platform and apps, enabled the club to maintain a full wagering service throughout the pandemic. Commingling, where the club is a world leader, also saw significant growth, with 19.4 per cent of racing turnover coming from overseas.

The cross-boundary transport of horses to and from Conghua Racecourse training centre continued uninterrupted thanks to close cooperation between Mainland and Hong Kong authorities. Conghua Racecourse is contributing to the development of the equine industry in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), one of several GBA development projects announced in the Chief Executive's 2020 Policy Address.

Responding to the urgent needs of the pandemic, the club provided \$987 million in funding. This included the donation of almost 16 million face masks, a \$100 million emergency fund, free data bandwidth for low-income students, a food assistance programme, facilities enhancement for residential care homes, and support for first time job seekers. This was in addition to the club's ongoing charity support covering a wide spectrum of needs.

As Hong Kong recovers and rebuilds, the club will continue to provide its full support to the community and always work for its betterment.

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.

Although the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games was subsequently rescheduled because of COVID-19, Hong Kong athletes continued to compete at Games qualifiers in early 2020 and secured 17 slots in archery, boccia, equestrian, swimming and table tennis. The association continues to support athletes in their preparation and attempts to earn more spots in the remaining qualifiers.

During the year, the association worked out the 2021-2026 Strategic Development Plan that covers the period of two Paralympic Games and two Asian Para Games, enabling the formulation of forward-looking initiatives. The plan's 10 strategic goals comprehensively promote the development of local para sports from grassroots to elite level and will guide the association's future development.

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 to 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.

Most international competitions were cancelled or postponed in 2020 because of COVID-19, but intellectually disabled athletes made the most of those international competitions they were able to take part in to sharpen their skills and show they could successfully compete with the best. They won 11 medals during the year, comprising five golds, four silvers and two bronzes. Highlights included one bronze in the Egypt Para Open 2020 in Alexandria, and one gold and two silvers in the PTT Polish Open in Wladyslawowo.

Hong Kong athletes also achieved excellent results at the Special Olympics Sweden Invitational Games 2020 in Ostersund.

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 (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 (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 (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 (para lawn bowls and para tenpin bowling). Outstanding athletes whose sports fall outside these two tiers are covered under an Individual Athletes Support Scheme.

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 have 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 Lantau Island's Country Parks, attracted nearly 1,500 participants and raised much needed funds for hostel enhancement, environmental protection and conservation projects.

Outward Bound Hong Kong

Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2020, 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.

OBHK'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, communication, creative thinking, problem solving, mental well-being and social responsibility. OBHK uses outdoor challenges to help participants gain insights and skills that can be applied to work and everyday situations. In 2020, despite the impact of COVID-19, 1,220 people were still able to join its programmes in Hong Kong.

Based in Sai Kung, with headquarters at Tai Mong Tsai and an island base on Wong Wan Chau, OBHK's facilities include a 67-foot sail training yacht, the *Spirit of Outward Bound Hong Kong*, a world-class ropes course and a fleet of expedition sea kayaks and open-rigged sailing ketches. All these resources are maintained to international safety standards.

OBHK'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 programme fees from the government's Continuing Education Fund, and over 40 per cent of participants receive a scholarship for their course.

OBHK works with multiple community groups and social enterprises, including youth at risk, recovering drug addicts, people with disabilities and other special needs groups.

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 for schools, colleges, universities and charities help participants become resilient and compassionate leaders.

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 Committees 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 80 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 organises educational programmes for sports leaders, administrators, coaches and technical officials, notably through the Hong Kong Olympic Academy, which offers sports management and sports science courses. The impact of COVID-19 meant that events organised annually by the federation, the Festival of Sport and Olympic Day, were held online,

and the presentation ceremony for the 2019 Hong Kong Sports Stars Awards, organised by the federation to recognise the achievements of elite athletes, was postponed to 2021.

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. The Sports Legacy Scheme was set up under the federation to employ retired and soon-to-retire athletes as coaches for underprivileged students.

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.

Sporting Achievements

Most international sports events in 2020 were postponed or cancelled because of COVID-19, including the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games. The government and the Hong Kong Sports Institute continued to support athletes in their preparations for these two Games, and by year end Hong Kong athletes had qualified for 29 and 15 events at these two Games respectively.

Badminton players Ng Ka-long and Lee Cheuk-yew won bronze medals in the men's singles events at the Malaysia Masters and the Indonesia Masters respectively in January. Billiard player Ng On-yea won her first championship in 18 months at the WWS Belgian Women's Open in January, beating the world's top ranked player Reanne Evans from the United Kingdom in the final. At the Track Cycling World Championships in February, cyclist Sarah Lee Wai-sze won a bronze medal in sprint, her eighth World Championship medal. The men's foil team (fencers Cheung Ka-long, Cheung Siu-lun, Ryan Choi Chun-yin and Lawrence Ng Lok-wang) clinched Hong Kong's first Olympic qualification in the fencing team event by winning a bronze medal at the World Cup in Cairo in February. Karate athlete Grace Lau Mo-sheung won two bronze medals in the women's individual kata event at the Karate 1 Premier League competitions held at Dubai and Salzburg in February.

Swimmer Siobhan Haughey broke the Asian and Hong Kong records multiple times in 100-m and 200-m freestyle events during the International Swimming League held in Hungary from October to November. She was also named the Most Valuable Player for the second round of the league by winning five golds. Rower Chan Chi-fung broke the world records four times in the 30 minutes and four minutes events in the lightweight men's 19-29 category using the Concept2 Indoor Rower with Slides. He also set new world records for the 42,197-m (marathon) and 21,097-m (half-marathon) events.

Recreation and Sports Programmes

The HAB 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 2020, the LCSD organised some 9,800 recreation and sports programmes for about 580,000 participants of all ages and abilities.

District Sports Teams Training Scheme

A total of 5,762 young people took part in 119 district team events about basketball, football, handball and fencing.

Young Athletes Training Scheme

Training was conducted for 17,268 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 1,110 training activities for 24,000 participants. Seminars and management development programmes were conducted for over 210 sports volunteers to help them run the clubs.

Promotion of School Sports

The School Sports Programme provided 984 sporting events for 260,030 students at 435 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. Fewer programmes were held than usual because of school closures due to COVID-19.

The Student Athlete Support Scheme, a collaboration between the HAB and the Hong Kong Schools Sports Federation, helps students with financial needs develop their sports potential and pursue sporting goals. In the 2019-20 school year, \$5.45 million was allocated to 534 participating schools, benefiting over 15,000 students.

The Opening Up School Facilities for Promotion of Sports Development Scheme provides a subsidy to encourage schools to make their facilities available to sports organisations. COVID-19 reduced the number of sports programmes in the 2019-20 school year, but 123 sports programmes were held by 28 sports organisations at 48 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 HAB provides comprehensive support, including matching funds, direct grants, and venue and marketing subsidy support, to NSAs to hold world-class sports events. COVID-19 meant that only one 'M' Mark event could be held in 2020.

'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 to encourage regular exercise. Owing to COVID-19, only 382 programmes were held (instead of the usual 1,000) with attendance of around 17,000. The LCSD's annual 'Sport For All Day' went virtual because of the pandemic, with a series of online physical fitness

videos launched on the day of the event to encourage the public to exercise at home. There were over 15,000 viewers that day.

Hong Kong Games

The biennial Hong Kong Games, due to be held this year, was postponed for a year due to COVID-19. Athlete selection for the games was also postponed for a year.

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 2019-20, over 80 per cent of the \$5.8 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 2019-20, the fund approved \$180 million for 160 sports projects.

Sports Subvention Scheme

The LCSD subsidises NSAs and other sports organisations in sports promotion and development. In 2020, subventions totalling about \$409 million were allocated to 60 NSAs and 24 other sports organisations, which held 4,572 programmes for 287,060 participants. Local and international events staged by the subvented NSAs included the World Hong Kong Luminous Dragon and Lion Dance Championship 2020, Hong Kong Annual Badminton Championships 2020, Hong Kong Annual Shooting Championships 2020, Hong Kong Men's Invitational Tri-Nations Netball Tournament, Hong Kong Women Snooker Open Championship 2020 and Hong Kong Rhythmic Gymnastics Open Championships 2020-21.

To enhance the NSAs' corporate governance, the LCSD organises seminars to raise awareness among NSAs office bearers and management staff of their roles and responsibilities in effective board practices, strategic planning and risk management. Almost 250 NSAs representatives attended the seminars in 2020.

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 Hong Kong Sports Institute to develop elite sports. The fund allocated \$665 million in 2019-20 and \$737 million in 2020-21.

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. The government injected \$250 million to the fund in July to increase scholarship awards to support the dual career development of athletes and provide more cash incentives for full-time athletes upon their retirement as athletes.

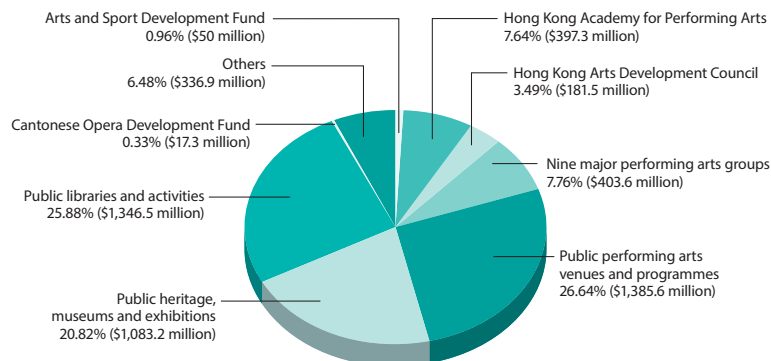
Culture and Arts Funding

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) 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. Targeted to open in 2023, it will provide a 1,200-seat auditorium, a 550-seat theatre and a testbed studio for arts technology. 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.

Chart 1

Provision for Arts and Culture 2019-20



Total government expenditure on arts and culture in 2019-20 was \$5.2 billion.

Recurrent Funding

In 2019-20, the government earmarked \$5.2 billion, excluding capital works expenditure, for arts groups, education and promotion, and administration. Of this sum, about \$403.6 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 Orchestra, Hong Kong Repertory Theatre, Hong Kong Sinfonietta and Zuni Icosahedron.

Arts and Sport Development Fund

The arts portion of the Arts and Sport Development Fund subsidises long-term arts and cultural development through investment returns generated by seed money of \$1.5 billion injected in 2010-11. The Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme seeks to develop the capacity of local artists and arts groups and to promote public-private partnership in local arts development in the form of springboard grants with matching elements and project grants. In 2020, it supported 13 projects with a total of \$40 million. 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 2020, it granted about \$17.3 million to support projects including the Venue Partnership Scheme at Yau Ma Tei Theatre, Yuen Long Theatre, Tuen Mun Town Hall and Sha Tin Town Hall.

Lord Wilson Heritage Trust

The Lord Wilson Heritage Trust provides funding for community organisations and individuals to implement heritage-related projects. Sixteen projects worth \$2.79 million were approved in 2020.

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. Eleven scholarships worth \$3.43 million were awarded in 2020.

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. The 2020-21 Budget announced an additional \$900 million would be allocated to the scheme.

Intangible Cultural Heritage Funding Scheme

The Intangible Cultural Heritage Funding Scheme, established to engage the community in safeguarding Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage, approved \$36.36 million for 39 projects, including Community-driven Projects and Partnership Projects, in 2020.

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. It aims to promote the development of arts and culture, meet the public's growing cultural needs 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. Three major venues are now in operation. The Xiqu Centre is dedicated to the conservation and promotion of the *xiqu* art form and includes among its facilities a 1,075-seat theatre. Freespace, Hong Kong's new centre for contemporary performances and a creative space for cutting-edge productions, includes a 'black box' theatre accommodating 900 people standing or 450 seated. The Art Park features 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. Other 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 nurture young artists. Major initiatives during the year included the Experimental Chinese Opera Festival 2020 at the Xiqu Centre, the Freespace Jazz Fest at the Art Park and Freespace, and the 'Shirley Tse: Stakes and Holders' exhibition at the Arts Pavilion.

The LCSD manages 14 performing arts venues and two indoor stadia.

Performing Arts Venues

With COVID-19 causing the temporary closure of performing arts venues and programme rescheduling and cancellations, rental concessions and refunds were provided to hirers and special measures were taken to safeguard public health, including disinfecting and comprehensively cleaning venue facilities and equipment. The opportunity of venue closure was also taken to bring forward various improvement works, such as the renovation of foyers and box offices and the upgrading of air-conditioning and stage equipment.

In response to venue closures and event cancellations, the LCSD's Edutainment Channel, launched in December, provides online access to programmes about culture and leisure. It includes 101 Academy, providing basic knowledge on a wide range of subjects, from art appreciation to horticulture.

Hong Kong Cultural Centre

The Hong Kong Cultural Centre is the territory's premier performing arts facility. It has three main performance venues: a 1,971-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. In 2020, six events were held at the coliseum and 15 at the stadium.

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. Affected by COVID-19, the venue partners organised 219 stage performances in conjunction with 296 educational, promotional and audience-building activities in 2020.

Urban Ticketing System

The Urban Ticketing System is one of the most widely used computerised ticketing systems locally. It provides counter ticketing services at about 20 outlets, and via the internet, telephone and a mobile application. In 2020, with fewer ticketed events, the system issued 470,000 tickets with proceeds of around \$110 million.

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's Support Scheme for Arts and Cultural Sector, launched in March to help those affected by the pandemic, had subsidised more than 3,900 arts practitioners, 63 arts groups and over 550 arts projects by year end. Its Arts Go Digital Platform Scheme was launched in July to support artists and arts groups to develop digital and virtual programmes. Tenants of arts spaces operated by the council received a three-month rental waiver from February to April, and a rental reduction of 75 per cent for the rest of the year.

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 2020, it offered 10 talent nurture schemes, including artistic internship schemes and training/attachments for arts administrators.

Large-scale promotional events, including the Hong Kong Arts Development Awards, were presented online or in other formats because of the pandemic. Online programmes were introduced for the Arts Ambassadors-in-School Scheme during school suspension. In addition, the council continued to work with M+ to co-present the International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale – Hong Kong Response Exhibition, and organised a series of online tours.

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 spaces. Under the pandemic, some schools organised online workshops and performances, while other schools continued to open their premises for arts groups with appropriate public health measures. The council also operates one arts space each in Aberdeen and Tai Po, and two in Kwun Tong. In December, a fifth arts space opened in Lai Chi Kok.

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 2020, 935 students enrolled in undergraduate and post-secondary programmes in the six performing arts disciplines. Another 134 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 690 students to its junior programmes and over 3,100 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 on fine art, and offers short programmes on a wide variety of arts subjects.

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 houses three theatres, and holds regular exhibitions in different spaces throughout the building.

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. Because of the pandemic, in 2020 the club held only 20 per cent of its usual number of activities.

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 leases 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.

Apart from arts education activities for schools, there are large-scale programmes for the public, including the annual JCCAC Festival, the quarterly Handicraft Fair, open-air film screenings, exhibitions and docent guided tours. The programmes attracted over 230,000 visitors in 2019-20.

Major Performing Arts Groups

Chung Ying Theatre Company

The company is a professional theatrical arts group. In 2020, it staged *Pride and Prejudice* and *Frankenstein: Relive*. Due to the pandemic, the company presented its productions and courses online for the first time.

City Contemporary Dance Company

The company is a professional modern dance group that nurtures creative dance talent in the context of contemporary China. In addition to two live productions on stage, the company presented programmes through live streaming in 'CCDC Digital Dance Season'.

Hong Kong Ballet

This is one of Asia's premier ballet companies. In 2020, it presented *Don Quixote*, *Lying Together* (a new short film in collaboration with Corey Baker Dance) and 'This is Wan Chai' (an art installation in collaboration with multimedia artist Jevan Chowdhury). The company also launched the HKBALLET@HOME online channel and its 'WearDance' project won two Special Awards at the HKMA/TVB Awards for Marketing Excellence.

Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra

The orchestra is the only professional, full-sized Chinese orchestra in Hong Kong. During the year, the orchestra performed in six cities in Europe and organised the first 5G 4K live concert and the award winning 'HKCO Net Festival'.

Hong Kong Dance Company

The company promotes Chinese dance with Hong Kong characteristics. In 2020, it staged a dance musical *A Tale of the Southern Sky* and streamed a dance drama *Mazu the Sea Goddess* online. *Convergence*, the culmination of a three-year interdisciplinary research study on Chinese dance and Chinese martial arts traditions, was also streamed online, along with a motion capture video, a seminar and an exhibition.

Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

The orchestra performed sold-out Beethoven 250th celebratory concerts conducted by Music Director Jaap van Zweden featuring Lang Lang. Amid pandemic uncertainties, it presented a wide range of online programmes to stay connected with music lovers across the globe, including 'Phil Your Life with Music', the first ever 5G livestreamed Season Preview Concert and the first 'Swire *Symphony Under The Stars*' online. In December, home-grown conductor Lio Kuok-man was appointed as its Resident Conductor.

Hong Kong Repertory Theatre

The company seeks to develop creative and diverse theatrical productions of Chinese and western works and local originals. Its five productions in 2020 included *Speaking in Tongues*, *Invisible Men* and *Principle*, the last of these touring Singapore for Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts. The online streaming programme series included classic productions, a creative writing scheme, *That's not true* and *Art From Home*. The company won nine awards at the Hong Kong Drama Awards and the Script/Playwright of the Year and Performer of the Year at the IATC(HK) Critics Awards 2019.

Hong Kong Sinfonietta

The symphony orchestra is internationally renowned for its innovative programming and audience development efforts. Several concerts were held to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth, as well as various online presentations under the pandemic, and a first cinema appearance with the live-recorded concert *Back On Stage*. Principal Guest Conductor Christoph Poppen and pianist Alexander Krichel became the first overseas artists to travel to Hong Kong and undertake quarantine in order to perform in the subsequent concert film *Back On Stage II (Quarantined!)*.

Zuni Icosahedron

Zuni is Hong Kong's pioneer troupe of experimental theatre. In 2020, in the light of the pandemic and with the theatre season's theme of 'Art • Society • Technology', it presented various works online. The main programmes included *The Interrupted Geng Zi Dream*, *Spirits* and *Read Sing Eileen Chang*. The company also opened up 'ZLive', a digital theatre channel.

Cultural Presentations

Programmes

In 2020, the pandemic prevented performances by visiting artistes, but around 34,000 people attended 161 performances featuring mainly local artists and arts groups with series including Our Music Talents, City Hall Virtuosi, Music Delight, Dance On and Cheers!.

Major programmes included *The Originals – Hong Kong Musicals in Concert* (curated by the award-winning composer Leon Ko) and *Traditional Set Pieces and Excerpts from Formulaic Plays in Cantonese Opera* by the Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong.

The LCSD organised more than 80 film and media arts programmes, attracting over 16,000 people, and 155 district cultural programmes, drawing over 14,000 people. It also organised 459 arts education and audience building activities in schools, community halls and other public venues to promote arts and encourage participation in cultural activities. Programmes included specially designed themes to tie in with the school curriculum, and the Community Cultural Ambassador Scheme.

WeWeWebWeb Carnival

The LCSD's new online platform, Edutainment Channel, included WeWeWebWeb Carnival, a special section providing family entertainment for children. Its 15 programmes drew 927,000 viewers.

ReNew Vision

The New Vision Arts Festival 2020, cancelled due to the pandemic, was replaced by ReNew Vision, featuring five new cyber shows which attracted around 618,000 views by year end.

Other Online Programmes

'Click for Arts' is another initiative to support the development of small and medium-sized local arts groups and artists, and to enhance audiences' awareness of arts by putting programmes online to attract more viewers. More than 25 programmes with over 65 episodes have been produced, including performances, introductory arts appreciation, interactive programmes and virtual guided tours. Online hits exceeded 185,000.

Cultural exchange programmes scheduled for 2020 with the Greater Bay Area were postponed to 2021-22. Three online programmes by local arts groups and artists were launched on Mainland online platforms in 2020, attracting over 2.5 million viewers.

Online exhibitions celebrated the 40th anniversary of Tsuen Wan Town Hall and the 20th anniversary of Yuen Long Theatre.

Major Culture and Arts Events

Hong Kong Arts Festival

Most events at the 2020 Hong Kong Arts Festival were cancelled due to COVID-19, but the festival held 100 educational events, reaching nearly 19,000 young people before venue closure.

Two Cantonese operas were rescheduled to November, and HKartsFestival@TaiKwun was presented in October as a hybrid online and in-person event, with more than 70,000 viewers watching seven sets of programmes. Five programmes of 'No Limits', co-presented with the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, were converted to online events in December because of the pandemic.

Muse Fest HK

The sixth Muse Fest HK brought together 14 museums, three other cultural venues and three museum-related disciplines under the LCSD to organise 83 onsite and online programmes. One museum from Italy and 10 museums from Hong Kong and Macao were invited to join the festival as museum partners to promote museum culture. The festival attracted an audience of more than 627,000 in person or online.

Museums

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

Hong Kong Museum of Art

In 2020, the Hong Kong Museum of Art in Tsim Sha Tsui presented 'The Hong Kong Jockey Club Series: Botticelli and His Times – Masterworks from the Uffizi', featuring 42 Renaissance masterpieces. It also staged exhibitions featuring its collections and major donations, including 'A Taste for Life: The Collection and Connoisseurship of Mr Low Chuck-tiew', 'Avowal through Withdrawal: Selected Paintings and Calligraphies from the Chih Lo Lou Collection', and the large-scale outdoor installation 'Rediscovering Landscape' trilogy at Salisbury Garden's Art Square, which won the German Iconic Design Award and was shortlisted in World Architecture Festival China in 2020. In addition, the museum launched events and programmes to promote local artists and to enhance art learning, such as 'On Your Seat, On Your Mind' Art Project, 'Where's Grandpa Ofu?' fun learning kit, and the Museum Visitor Experience Programme in collaboration with the Hong Kong Society for Education in Art. The museum attracted 238,000 visitors in 2020.

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. In addition to regular activities to promote the art of tea drinking, the museum also hosted two exhibitions in 2020: 'Tea Ware from Yixing: Gems of Zisha in the K S Lo Collection of the Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware' and 'Seal Carving in Lingnan'. The museum had more than 34,000 visitors in 2020.

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 'Glistening Treasures in the Dust – Ancient Artefacts of Afghanistan', organised in collaboration with the National Museum of Afghanistan. More than 151,400 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 lectures on Hong Kong's history and culture. It organises a school competition 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. It attracted over 13,700 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 *Alexander Grantham* and sea rescue services in Hong Kong. Some 22,600 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. To celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2020, the museum organised a multimedia display and staged a variety of special exhibitions, including '20/20 Hong Kong Print Art' and 'Between the Lines – The Legends of Hong Kong Printing' co-presented with the Hong Kong Open Printshop, and 'Hand-in-Hand for Benevolence – Tung Wah's Fundraising Culture and Social Development', jointly presented with the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals.

The 'Time Will Tell / another mountainman x stanley wong / 40 years of work' exhibition, part of a continuing designer exhibition series, won the Grand Award and the Grand Award for Culture in the DFA Design for Asia Awards 2020.

The museum organised complementary education programmes to help visitors appreciate the exhibitions. The museum's MuseKids membership scheme and MuseTeens: Youth Leadership Scheme enabled participants to explore Hong Kong's heritage and culture through a wide array of activities.

The museum manages two branch museums: 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. In 2020, the Heritage Museum had around 111,900 visitors, Railway Museum 86,800 and Sheung Yiu Folk Museum 21,000.

Hong Kong Science Museum

In 2020, Hong Kong Science Museum in Tsim Sha Tsui organised an exhibition 'Robots – The 500-Year Quest to Make Machines Human'. Featuring over 100 robots, the exhibition explores the 500-year story of humanoid robots and the artistic and scientific quest to understand what it is to be human. To complement the exhibition, the museum also presented a new local robot exhibition, 'Robohelpers', at its Telecommunications Gallery. Five sets of robots demonstrated how local scientific institutions apply robotic technologies in construction and commerce.

Jointly organised with the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, the 'Fighting Viruses – Innovations to Safeguard Our Health' exhibition provided an introduction to coronaviruses, the science behind COVID-19, antiviral treatments and preventive vaccines, as well as examples of the university's research projects and innovations related to prevention, mitigation and treatment of COVID-19. More than 124,000 visitors came during the year.

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 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 2020, some 90,000 people visited the museum's exhibitions and attended shows in the Space Theatre before its closure for renovation in May, while its educational and extension programmes had more than 16,000 participants.

Hong Kong Film Archive

The Hong Kong Film Archive in Sai Wan Ho preserves Hong Kong's film heritage, facilitates research and brings film art to the community. In 2020, it attracted more than 29,100 visitors to its permanent exhibition, 'In Memory of Queen's Theatre'; two other exhibitions 'Multifarious Arrays of Weaponry in Hong Kong Cinema' and 'A Difference Brilliance – The D & B Story'; and 50 screenings, seminars and post-screening talks.

In 2020, the archive acquired 78 film titles and 3,354 film-related materials, including picture negatives, optical soundtracks, subtitles, inter-negatives, film prints, trailers and digital cinema packages. Major acquisitions included 35mm film prints of 64 titles dating from 1994 to 2012, donated by the Media Asia Distribution (HK) Limited. A private collector donated about 1,870 film-related items, including betacam tapes, U-matic tapes, DVDs, VCDs, photos and handbills.

Public Libraries

The LCSD operates 70 static and 12 mobile libraries and a books registration office. The libraries hold 13.3 million books and 1.79 million multimedia items, serving 4.7 million book borrowers and lending more than 23 million books and other library materials in 2020. Library services and opening hours were seriously affected because of COVID-19, and libraries put more efforts into promoting the library's online resources.

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 almost 2.8 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 (HKPL) operates self-service library stations, one each on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and in the New Territories. The third self-service library station, located in Tai Wai, was launched in January, offering round-the-clock public library services.

In December, the Yau Ma Tei Public Library was relocated to new three-storey premises at 251 Shanghai Street, with improved space, environment, facilities and services.

The public libraries work closely with district councils and local groups to set up community libraries, which are offered block loans of library materials. Since April, as part of the Pilot Programme for Promotion of Local Publications and Reading Culture, additional content on local publications, such as book cover images and summaries, has been incorporated in HKPL's online catalogue.

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, 378,100 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. Readers can register via HKPL's website to create e-accounts to borrow e-books and access diversified e-resources.

Promotion of Reading and Literary Arts

During 2020, the public libraries conducted over 4,300 library activities under the 'Discover and Share the Joy of Reading' publicity campaign. During the pandemic, the libraries promoted e-reading and online activities to encourage reading at home. These included reading workshops, storytelling sessions, talks on various topics, and theatre performances. The 13th Hong Kong Literature Festival and the Hong Kong Library Festival 2020 were held with various online and onsite activities, and the Awards for Creative Writing in Chinese and the Chinese Poetry Writing Competition continued to encourage creative writing. The 'Joyful Reading at Your Neighbourhood: Library-on-Wheels' Pilot Project was launched in January, with a specially designed truck bringing books to different communities.

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 2020, the office registered 14,550 books and 5,417 periodicals, and issued 1,118 publisher prefixes totalling 19,010 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 2020, the centre received around 1,600 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 Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage. It launched the second round of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Funding Scheme in 2020 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 13,000 visitors in 2020.

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 16 heritage-related projects in 2020.

Conservation Office

The Conservation Office provides preservation and conservation services for museum artefacts, including paintings, prints, historical documents, textiles, metals, ceramics, sculptures, organic objects and archaeological finds. Scientific research and analyses were conducted to complement the conservation work for 474 artefacts in 2020.

The office held two educational workshops, demonstrating conservation of artefacts with 33 participants, and recorded about 720 service hours contributed by 70 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 11 scholarships in 2020.

Arts Administrator Trainee Scheme

The scheme aims to nurture a pool of arts administrators and stage management staff to support the development of performing arts. Arts administrator 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, while stage management trainees receive one and a half years of on-the-job training in stage operation and technical services. With additional funding from the Anti-epidemic Fund, there were 88 LCSD trainee placements in 2020. 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 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 2020.

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. Although most training classes and activities were suspended because of COVID-19, the office

continued its music training and promotional activities for 6,980 trainees and 22,632 participants in 2020.

To reduce the impact of COVID-19, the office arranged real-time online teaching, school music workshops and online exhibitions. It also produced instrumental tutorial videos for schools and the community to enjoy during the pandemic.

Visual and Public Art

Art Promotion Office

In 2020, six sets of public artworks under the 'Viva! River' art project were installed along the Tuen Mun River. A public art programme, 'Take PARKin Art II', was launched in Mody Road Garden, Jordan Valley Park, Morse 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 group L sub.

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 2019-20, the media art project 'medialogue' and the 'art talk' online broadcast.

Oil Street Art Space (Oi!)

Oi! is a platform for art practitioners to realise their artistic creations and invite community engagement. Projects in 2020 included 'The Practice of Everyday Life', 'A Chapter of Ease' and 'People-Plant-Place'.

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

Hong Kong public museums: www.museums.gov.hk

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