

Chapter 5

Culture, Sports and Tourism

The Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau was established in July 2022 to foster integration of culture, sports and tourism and create a synergy to improve the quality of life and promote economic development. The bureau aims to accelerate Hong Kong's development into an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange under the 14th Five-Year Plan, promote Chinese culture and tell the good stories of China and Hong Kong in support of national cultural development, develop Hong Kong to be a sports event capital in the region and a key tourist destination, and facilitate the development of related industries in Hong Kong. During the year, developments were seen in different aspects under the bureau's purview.

The city's newest cultural attraction, the Hong Kong Palace Museum in the West Kowloon Cultural District, opened in July showcasing priceless national treasures from the Palace Museum in Beijing. The year also marked the 60th anniversary of Hong Kong City Hall, the Hong Kong Museum of Art and Hong Kong Public Libraries. Hong Kong City Hall was declared a monument under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance in May, becoming the city's youngest monument.

Many international sports events returned to the city in 2022, including the Hong Kong Sevens rugby tournament, Hong Kong Masters snooker tournament, Hong Kong Squash Open and Hong Kong International Tennis Challenge. The staging of these events not only showcased the city's capability to host world-class events, but also brought back tourists and sent a message to the world that Hong Kong was back on stage.

The tourism industry remained hard-hit by the pandemic. The government continued to help the industry through direct financial support and different incentive schemes. The Hong Kong Tourism Board also launched various programmes to boost local consumption. To prepare for the return of visitors, the government kept working to enrich Hong Kong's tourism resources and enhance the appeal of attractions and facilities, while providing training subsidies to practitioners amid the pandemic.

To foster the industry's long-term healthy development, a new regulatory regime was fully implemented on 1 September and the Travel Industry Authority, a statutory regulatory body ensuring the professional standards of the industry, came into full operation simultaneously.

In celebration of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department implemented the Blossom Around Town programme from June to October to beautify 51 prominent parks and locations with themed garden plots and floral displays for enhancing the landscape across the territory. A series of Happy@Parks activities with various themes were also organised in six parks from June to December for families to enjoy a variety of recreational activities and games.

The bureau hosted the Asia Cultural Cooperation Forum 2022 on 14 and 15 December. With 21 participating countries and 14 overseas delegations, it was the largest event since the forum was first held in 2003.

The Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau coordinates government policies on arts and culture, sports, recreation, creative industries and tourism. It is supported by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), Create Hong Kong and Tourism Commission in implementing these policies.

The LCSD promotes Hong Kong's arts and culture, enhances its physical environment, and fosters cooperative interaction between sports, cultural and community organisations. The department also organises exhibitions, sporting events and cultural performances.

Arts and Culture Venues

The government provides the majority of arts and culture venues in Hong Kong. The LCSD manages 15 museums, 14 performing arts venues, two visual arts centres, two indoor stadia and 82 libraries. The government also established the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD), currently with five venues, as an integrated arts and cultural district. All these venues 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.

West Kowloon Cultural District

The WKCD, stretching across 40 hectares along Victoria Harbour, is an integrated arts and cultural district with world-class facilities. Five major venues are now in operation, namely the Hong Kong Palace Museum, M+, the Xiqu Centre, Freespace and the Art Park. Other major facilities, including the Lyric Theatre Complex, are planned for completion in the next few years.

PMQ

PMQ occupies the site which was the former Police Married Quarters on Hollywood Road in Central. It is a project that combines heritage conservation and provision of support to the creative industries.

The revitalised Grade 3 historical building includes spaces converted into creative studios, pop-up stores and working spaces, and creates a platform for up-and-coming design and creative entrepreneurs to interact and start their businesses. International and local design brands are also welcome to rent the spaces for showcasing and selling their products or services. In addition, world-renowned designers and artists are invited to host exhibitions, lectures and sharing sessions on their creative experiences.

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 and was declared a monument in 2022. Its main facilities include a 1,430-seat concert hall, a 463-seat theatre and an exhibition hall. To celebrate its 60th anniversary, a series of programmes was

launched during the year, including *Reflections on Refractions* by the Hong Kong Sinfonietta and a retrospective exhibition 'Imagine beyond Imagination'.

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.

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. The construction of Yau Ma Tei Theatre Phase 2 began in late 2022.

Xiqu Centre

The Xiqu Centre, with a 1,075-seat theatre, is dedicated to preserve, promote and develop the art of Chinese traditional theatre, Cantonese opera and other forms of *xiqu*.

Freespace

Freespace provides a creative space for cutting-edge productions to promote new ways of seeing and experiencing and includes a 'black box' theatre accommodating 900 people standing or 450 seated.

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.

Art Park

The Art Park is an urban oasis for recreation and relaxation, featuring a diversity of trees and plants spread across open lawns, with cafes and restaurants on the waterfront promenade.

Performing Arts Venues

To tie in with the development of arts technology, the LCSD's performance venues have gradually installed high-tech equipment including immersive audio systems and real-time stage tracking systems. During the pandemic, live streaming systems and high-resolution cameras were used to broadcast live or recorded performances. The new East Kowloon Cultural Centre is designed to be a centre for arts technology and will also establish an academy for arts technology to nurture talent for the industry.

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. The venue partners organised 510 stage performances in conjunction with 508 educational, promotional and audience-building activities in 2022.

Arts and Culture Funding

Capital Funding

The government granted an upfront endowment of \$21.6 billion to the WKCD Authority in 2008 to develop the WKCD to meet the long-term infrastructural and developmental needs of Hong Kong's arts and culture. The government also set aside \$20 billion in 2018 to improve and develop cultural facilities in 10 years, including the construction of the New Territories East Cultural Centre and Heritage Conservation and Resource Centre.

Recurrent Funding

In 2021-22, the government earmarked \$5.2 billion, excluding capital works expenditure, for arts groups, education and promotion, and administration. Of this sum, about \$402.7 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.

Cultural Exchange

The government sets aside \$50 million every year to strengthen collaboration with government authorities and cultural organisations of Mainland provinces and municipalities as well as overseas, and to support arts groups and artists to perform and stage exhibitions outside Hong Kong.

While most of the cultural exchange programmes scheduled for 2022 were postponed to 2023, a few performances and exhibitions were conducted in major cities in Canada, Japan and Poland as well as Mainland cities towards the end of the year.

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. 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 2022, it supported 16 new projects with a total of \$45.77 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 supports the preservation, promotion and development of Cantonese opera. In 2022, it granted about \$17.4 million to support relevant projects.

Lord Wilson Heritage Trust

The Lord Wilson Heritage 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. In 2022, it allocated \$1.47 million to support six projects.

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. Six scholarships worth \$3.29 million were awarded in 2022.

Art Development Matching Grants Scheme

The bureau's \$1.7 billion 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 and organisations by providing the corresponding grants.

Intangible Cultural Heritage Funding Scheme

The Intangible Cultural Heritage Funding Scheme, established to engage the community in safeguarding Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage, allocated \$85 million to 92 community-driven and partnership projects from 2019 to 2022.

Arts and Culture 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 Art Development Matching Grants Scheme and implements its own matching fund scheme to help small and medium-sized arts organisations.

The council nurtures artists, curators, arts administrators and other arts professionals by providing opportunities for training, cultural exchange, internship and attachment locally and abroad.

During the year, the council and M+ co-presented 'Angela Su: Arise, Hong Kong in Venice' as a collateral event at the Venice Biennale International Art Exhibition. The council also supported the broadcast of the performance *When Mozart Meets Da Ponte* by Bel Canto Singers on the online platform of the Meet in Beijing International Arts Festival from January to February.

To promote the integration of arts and technology, the council organised three arts tech exhibitions from July to October featuring works by 12 local artists and arts groups, with a series of public workshops, seminars and talks as well as an online interdisciplinary performance.

In December, the council hosted the 4th International Arts Leadership Roundtable themed 'Re-create', in both online and physical mode, where arts leaders from around the world shared insights on the re-creation of arts development strategies in the post-pandemic era.

The Arts Ambassadors-in-School Scheme presented the Youth Arts Week in August, which included an arts tech exhibition, online streaming, workshops and classes with more than 5,000 participants.

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. In the QS World University Rankings for Performing Arts 2022, the academy ranked first in Asia and 10th globally for the second year running.

During 2022, 894 students enrolled in undergraduate and post-secondary programmes in the six performing arts disciplines. Another 166 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 700 students to its junior programmes and around 1,300 students to its Extension and Continuing Education for Life programme.

West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

The West Kowloon Cultural District Authority was established in 2008 to develop the WKCD. It initiated and co-presented arts and cultural programmes throughout the year to develop the capacity of the local arts and cultural sector, build audiences, engage the community and nurture young artists.

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 higher 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 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 2022, 48 exhibitions and music and drama performances were organised.

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. There were around 197,000 visitors to the centre in 2021-22.

Major Performing Arts Groups

Chung Ying Theatre Company

The company is a professional theatrical arts group. In 2022, it staged *The Miracle of the Namiya General Store (Re-run)*, attracting younger audiences to the theatre.

City Contemporary Dance Company

The company is a professional modern dance group that nurtures creative dance talent in the context of contemporary China. In the 2022 dance season, it created a number of new works, including *Maria de Buenos Aires*, *Accelerating Dimension*, *Meeting In-between Time* and *Brown*.

Hong Kong Ballet

This is one of Asia's premier ballet companies. In 2022, it presented the International Arts Carnival's opening programme *Cinderella*, the *Beyond Carbon* online festival with M+, *Carmina Burana* with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and an original Hong Kong version of *The Nutcracker*. It won four awards at the Hong Kong Dance Awards 2022.

Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra

The orchestra is the only professional, full-sized Chinese orchestra in Hong Kong. During the year, the orchestra set up the first Net Concert Hall of the Chinese performing music circle and organised the Second International Symposium for Chinese Music Conducting online. The orchestra received funding from the China National Arts Fund to organise the *Trail of the Blue Dragon* concert.

Hong Kong Dance Company

The company promotes Chinese dance with Hong Kong characteristics. In 2022, it staged performances of *Nezha: Untold Solitude*, *All About the Three Kingdoms* and *Myth of the Dancing Durumi* and screened its productions *Lady White of West Lake* and *Storm Clouds* in a cinema chain. The company also toured *Convergence – Infinity of Movement and Stillness* overseas to promote Hong Kong's dance theatre works.

Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

The orchestra is recognised as one of Asia's foremost classical orchestras. In 2022, the annual extravaganza *Swire Symphony Under the Stars* was held in Central Harbourfront and live-streamed simultaneously. Resident conductor Lio Kuok-man was awarded Artist of the Year (Music) by the Hong Kong Arts Development Awards.

Hong Kong Repertory Theatre

The company develops diverse theatrical productions of Chinese and western works, and produces local originals. In celebration of its 45th anniversary in 2022, the company presented eight productions including *Love à la Zen*, *The Impossible Trial – a musical*, *Confrontations* and *The Top Restaurant*, in addition to cinema-screenings of *Principle* and *The Diary of Song*. The company won eight awards at the 30th Hong Kong Drama Awards; HKRep on Screen: *Principle* won two awards at the Asian Academy Creative Awards; and *The Last Supper* was named one of the 40 Most Influential Experimental Theatre in Contemporary China.

Hong Kong Sinfonietta

The symphony orchestra is renowned for its innovative programming. During the pandemic, it invited international artists to perform in the city and filmed episodes for the online chamber music series 'Tiny Galaxy Concerts @ Wontonmeen'. *Reflections on Refractions*, a crossover programme celebrating music and dance, was curated in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of Hong Kong City Hall and 50th anniversary of the Hong Kong Arts Festival.

Zuni Icosahedron

Zuni Icosahedron is Hong Kong's leading experimental arts group. During the year, its founder Danny Yung received the Award for Outstanding Contribution in Arts presented by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council. As the theatre season 'Zuni 40 Uncoming' marked its 40th anniversary, Zuni presented Danny Yung's *Interrupted Dream*, Mathias Woo's *Hua-yen Buddhaverse* and *Hua-yen Concert*, as well as *13.67*, *One Hundred Years of Solitude 11 – Twelve Hours audio-visual happening*, *Soundscape Magic Flute* and *Lai Chi Wow!*

Cultural Presentations

Programmes

In 2022, the LCSD organised 461 performances by local and visiting artists and arts groups with an attendance of 145,000, while 103 online episodes were produced and attracted more than 849,000 viewers. Highlights included Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra Concerts, Piano Recital by Igor Levit, *Techno Circus* by Siro-A, Tan Dun's *Sound Vision* in Chi Lin Nunnery, Cantonese Opera Day 2022, and Grand Variety Show.

Film Screenings

The LCSD organised more than 230 film screenings, online programmes and media arts programmes, attracting over 32,000 people and online viewers.

Arts Education and Audience-building Projects

The LCSD organised five major carnivals and 577 cultural programmes under the Community Arts Scheme, attracting over 720,000 participants and viewers.

It also organised 997 arts education and audience building activities in schools and public venues to encourage participation in cultural activities, including the Community Cultural Ambassador Scheme.

Greater Bay Area Cultural Exchange

While most of the cultural exchange projects with the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) scheduled for 2022 were postponed to 2023, 17 performances and activities, including live concerts, film screenings and online programmes, were conducted. The online programmes attracted over 2.2 million viewers.

Major Arts and Culture Events

Art Basel and Art Central

Art Basel Hong Kong features over 150 prominent galleries from around the world every year. Art Central showcases avant-garde work by emerging artists from around 100 contemporary art galleries annually.

Asia Cultural Cooperation Forum

The Asia Cultural Cooperation Forum aims to foster regional cultural cooperation, share good practices and promote culture and the arts. The 2022 event was held in Hong Kong in December and was the largest in scale since its launch in 2003 with 21 participating countries and 14 overseas delegations.

Hong Kong Arts Festival

The Hong Kong Arts Festival celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2022 and presented online performances by world-class international artists, including the Bavarian State Opera and Paris Opera Ballet.

Programmes of the fourth edition of the No Limits project, which promotes barrier-free environments and inclusiveness, were also converted to online events due to the pandemic, while 10 other programmes were rescheduled between July and November when venues reopened.

International Arts Carnival

The International Arts Carnival brought family audiences fun-filled stage performances and online programmes. Over 176,400 participants and 176,200 views were drawn by 99 festival activities and nine online episodes of varied programmes including ballet, musicals, drama, puppetry, music theatre, interactive installations and a multimedia concert.

New Vision Arts Festival

The annual New Vision Arts Festival presented 31 live events and 14 episodes of online programmes by local and overseas artists, attracting an audience of over 15,900 in person and 503,700 online.

International Society for the Performing Arts Congress

The Hong Kong 2022 International Society for the Performing Arts Congress was held online from 25 to 27 May under the theme 'To Connect Beyond'. It attracted about 400 leaders of the arts and cultural industry and performing arts professionals from over 30 regions.

Muse Fest HK

Muse Fest HK 2022 was held from 1 to 30 November. It brought together all LCSD museums and cultural venues to provide the public with 74 programmes, including museum sleepovers, fun days, crossover programmes, film shows, talks, workshops and exhibitions on a range of topics. The festival attracted a combined physical and online audience of more than 620,000.

Museums

Hong Kong Palace Museum

The Hong Kong Palace Museum, a collaborative project between the WKCD Authority and the Palace Museum, opened to the public in July. It has an exhibition space of 7,800 square metres and aims to promote the study and appreciation of Chinese art and culture, cultural exchange.

M+

M+, with an exhibition space of about 17,000 sq m, is a museum of contemporary visual culture presenting collections that include visual art, design and architecture as well as moving image from Hong Kong, Greater China, Asia and beyond.

Hong Kong Museum of Art

In celebration of its 60th anniversary, the Hong Kong Museum of Art presented 18 exhibitions in 2022, including 'The Road to the Baroque — Masterpieces from the Capodimonte Museum'. The finale celebration event, Night at the Museum, was held in December. It also staged the exhibition 'Palette of a Centenarian: Selected Works of Zhu Qizhan from the Jingguanlou Collection' to commemorate the opening of a new donor gallery, the Jingguanlou Gallery, and the receipt of 1,110 artworks. The museum attracted 444,000 visitors in 2022.

The museum was listed as one of the world's top 100 most popular art museums in 2021 by *The Art Newspaper*. The design of the anniversary campaign '60 Years of Cultural Dynamics' received a silver award at the DFA Design for Asia Awards 2022 and the exhibition 'In-Between' obtained a silver award at the Better Future of the Hong Kong Design Awards 2022.

The Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware, a branch of the Hong Kong Museum of Art, features tea ware and related artefacts as well as rare Chinese ceramics and seals. It received 55,000 visitors in 2022.

Hong Kong Museum of History

The Hong Kong Museum of History presented the 'Recreating a Classic: The Best Features of the Hong Kong Story', 'History Through the Lens: Photographs of Early Hong Kong' and 'Joyous Destiny: A Selection of Wedding Memorabilia from the Museum's Collections' exhibitions. More than 306,000 people visited the museum during the year.

The museum organises a rich array of education programmes to meet the needs of different audience groups. It also uploaded video recordings of talks and lectures to support history learning and research activities, and to reach out to a larger audience during the pandemic.

The Museum of History manages five branch museums: 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. It reopened to the public in November following a revamp. The new permanent exhibition narrates Hong Kong's history of coastal defence and military affairs from the Tang dynasty to its return to the

motherland, with interactive multimedia elements. The museum's Lyemun Fort Historical Trail has 24 checkpoints, providing a record of historical events that took place in the fort. The museum attracted over 29,000 visitors during the year.

Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum, housed in the declared monument Kom Tong Hall in Central, runs two permanent exhibitions about Dr Sun's life, and organises educational programmes relating to Dr Sun and the history of modern China. It attracted over 51,000 visitors in the year.

The Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery displays the decommissioned fireboat, as well as relics and materials related to the history of the fireboat and sea rescue services in Hong Kong. Some 43,000 people visited the gallery during the year.

Hong Kong Heritage Museum

The Hong Kong Heritage Museum promotes the city's rich cultural content and connects its people with global culture through exhibitions on art, design and history. The museum presented 'The Hong Kong Jockey Club Series: Dunhuang: Enchanting Tales for Millennium' with the Dunhuang Academy in August and 'The Hong Kong Jockey Club Series: Women and Femininity in Ancient China – Treasures from the Nanjing Museum' with the Nanjing Museum in November, bringing 118 sets of treasures to Hong Kong.

The museum organised talks, workshops and online programmes to deepen visitors' understanding of the exhibitions. Its MuseKids membership scheme and MuseTeens: Youth Leadership Scheme enabled participants to explore Hong Kong's heritage and culture through an array of activities.

The museum manages two branch museums: Hong Kong Railway Museum and Sheung Yiu Folk Museum. The former is situated in the old Tai Po Market Railway Station, a declared monument built in 1913. Sheung Yiu Folk Museum, originally a 19th-century Hakka village and now a declared monument in Sai Kung, reopened in late December after closing for a year for maintenance. In 2022, the Hong Kong Heritage Museum, Hong Kong Railway Museum and Sheung Yiu Folk Museum received around 328,400, 105,600 and 3,000 visitors respectively.

Hong Kong Science Museum

In 2022, the Hong Kong Science Museum jointly organised 'The Hong Kong Jockey Club Series: The Big Eight – Dinosaur Revelation' exhibition with the First Initiative Foundation to showcase eight iconic creatures from the dinosaur age and some original fossils.

The Croucher Science Week was presented online by science communicators from Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States to engage students and families in a series of science-related activities.

The museum organised a series of outreach programmes including an outreach vehicle 'Gear Up – Nano World', Science Cafe, the online QK Post and the French Science Festival to promote science in daily life. It also collaborated with public libraries to organise the 'Science x Life' popular science workshops. In 2022, the museum had more than 910,000 visitors.

Hong Kong Space Museum

The Hong Kong Space Museum organises regular astronomy activities and special exhibitions on-site, and holds stargazing and family programmes at its Astropark and iObservatory in Sai Kung. The Space Theatre's hemispherical screen is equipped with digital planetarium projection and sound systems. Four new shows were screened in 2022. The permanent exhibition halls house interactive exhibits to introduce knowledge of astronomy and space science.

In 2022, some 460,000 people visited the museum while its educational and extension programmes had more than 8,000 participants.

Hong Kong Film Archive

In 2022, the Hong Kong Film Archive presented the 'More Brilliance, Still Different – The D & B Story Redux' and 'The Queen of Huadan – Celebrating the Stage and Screen Career of Fong Yim-fun' exhibitions and screenings on special themes. It also organised educational and outreach programmes including thematic screenings at Tai Kwun and the Hong Kong Heritage Museum, and produced online teaching kits and an e-publication *Exploring Hong Kong Films of the 1930s-1940s*.

During the year, the archive acquired 418 film titles and 6,330 film-related materials. More than 44,000 visitors were attracted to its exhibitions and over 130 screenings, seminars and post-screening talks.

Public Libraries

The LCSD operates 70 static and 12 mobile libraries, and a books registration office. The libraries hold 13.45 million books and 1.73 million multimedia items, serving 4.81 million borrowers and lending more than 24.3 million books and other library materials in 2022.

Hong Kong Central Library

Hong Kong Central Library is a major information and cultural centre, with over 2.8 million library materials for reference and lending, 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.

Reference and Information Services

Professional reference and information services are available at Hong Kong Central Library and six other public libraries, namely City Hall, Kowloon, Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai, Sha Tin, Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun.

Information Technology and Digital Library Services

Online services are integral to the public libraries' reference and information services. The libraries provide more than 1,950 computers for public access to their electronic resources and the internet. More than 491,000 e-books are available to registered borrowers.

The libraries also subscribe to 83 e-databases, some of which are accessible over the internet. About 11,000 hours of digitised audio-visual recordings and over 6 million digitised pages of printed library materials, including old newspapers, photographs, maps and manuscripts, in the digital collections are available for public use at all static libraries and online.

Promotion of Reading and Literary Arts

To mark the 60th anniversary of Hong Kong Public Libraries, a 'life/Library' campaign was launched featuring thematic videos and 60 e-books selected by librarians to share different perspectives on reading. Various programmes were also organised under the Hong Kong Library Festival 2022 for the public to revisit the past and look ahead to the future. More than 15,000 reading promotion activities and library outreach programmes were held at libraries and other venues across the territory and online, while creative writing and literary arts were promoted through competitions, workshops and educational videos.

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 online.

In 2022, the office registered 11,123 books and 4,818 periodicals, and issued 691 publisher prefixes totalling 11,050 ISBNs.

Heritage

Intangible Cultural Heritage

The Intangible Cultural Heritage Office organises activities to enhance public knowledge of Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage. It launched the fourth round of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Funding Scheme in 2022 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 education and extension programmes to enhance public understanding of intangible cultural heritage. The 'Lost and Sound – Hong Kong Intangible Cultural Heritage' exhibition series showcases the wisdom of folk craftsmanship and the vibrancy of folk culture. It recorded over 38,000 visitors in 2022.

Cantonese Opera

The government is keen to preserve, promote and develop Cantonese opera in Hong Kong.

The Cantonese Opera Development Fund aims to support projects and activities relating to preservation, promotion and development of Cantonese opera. Projects supported include performances of traditional plays and new creation plays, cultural exchanges, arts education and community activities, children/youth training and performances, professional training and research and publication projects.

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

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 430 artefacts in 2022.

In addition to a live streaming session on caring for silver objects, the office held 17 extension activities, including lectures, educational workshops and laboratory visits, with a total of 454 participants.

Nurturing Talent

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. The LCSD also sponsored its 22 venue partners and the Hong Kong Arts Festival to run similar programmes.

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. The office arranges live and online music training courses and activities, which attracted over 7,100 trainees and 149,000 participants in 2022.

Visual and Public Art

Art Promotion Office

The Art Promotion Office opens up new opportunities for cross-regional collaboration and supports artists to take part in outbound art events. It worked with the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale Executive Committee to showcase the works co-created by Hong Kong artist anothermountainman (Stanley Wong) with local and Hong Kong participants in Hong Kong House in Tsunan, Japan.

The office also worked with the Hong Kong Designers Association to present the 'Art><Creativity' exhibition series in the GBA to showcase the works of Hong Kong artists and designers in Dongguan, Huizhou, Zhuhai and Zhongshan.

Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre (vA!)

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. Major programmes during the year included the art project 'mediologue: So Close, Yet So Far' and the online 'art talk' series.

Oil Street Art Space (Oi!)

Oi! is a platform for art practitioners to realise their artistic creations and engage the community. In 2022, it launched a series of projects, including 'Our Living Library', 'Joyful Trees', 'd'strict Remix', 'Digital Muse' and 'Three Gardens', to celebrate the opening of its new extension in May.

Creative Industries

Create Hong Kong

Hong Kong's creative industries cover eight sectors: advertising, architecture, design, digital entertainment, film, music, printing and publishing, and television. The government supports their development through Create Hong Kong (CreateHK), under the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau since the reorganisation of the government structure in July.

Support for Film Sector

Film Development Council and Film Development Fund

Through the Film Development Fund (FDF), CreateHK supports film productions and other film-related projects to promote the sustainable development of the film industry. It consults the Film Development Council on film development matters, including policies, strategies and arrangements to promote and develop the film industry, and strategies for the use of the FDF.

The government has injected \$1.54 billion into the fund since 2005. Around \$176 million was committed to 11 film productions and 21 other film-related projects in 2022 to nurture talents, enhance local production, expand markets and build audiences.

Nurturing Talents

The First Feature Film Initiative identifies new directors through a competition of screenplays and production proposals, and subsidises the winners to make their first feature-length commercial films. In 2022, one previous winning film was released commercially.

The Directors' Succession Scheme invites experienced directors to partner with one or two up-and-comers to co-produce films, aiming to nurture young talents and enhance the quality and quantity of local productions. In 2022, proposals from five teams were approved.

The FDF also supports the industry to provide local and overseas training to nurture talent in different areas of filmmaking, including post-production services.

Enhancing Local Production

In 2022, six films, engaging five new directors, were approved under the Film Production Financing Scheme and its relaxation plan. Five of the funded films were released commercially.

Expanding Markets and Building Audiences

Due to the pandemic, the annual Entertainment Expo Hong Kong was mainly held online, drawing an audience of around 170,000.

The FDF subsidises the distribution and publicity of Hong Kong-produced Cantonese films in the Mainland, as well as participation of Hong Kong films at international film festivals. It also subsidises screenings, seminars and film appreciation courses held by trade organisations for the local community, especially young people.

In 2022, CreateHK supported the screening of over 70 Hong Kong films at 21 international film festivals or overseas film events by direct subsidy or in collaboration with Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices. CreateHK co-organised 'Showcasing Hong Kong's Glamour in the GBA: Hong Kong Film Screening in Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Return to the Motherland' from June to August, presenting over 380 screenings of 12 Hong Kong films in six cities of the GBA.

Support for Other Creative Sectors

CreateSmart Initiative

The CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) supports promotional and nurturing projects from seven non-film creative industries, providing about \$268 million to 40 such projects in 2022.

Nurturing Talent and Facilitating Start-ups

The CSI supports multiple projects to nurture creative talents and start-ups, including the Design Incubation Programme, for design start-ups; the Fashion Incubation Programme, for up-and-coming fashion designers; the DFA Hong Kong Young Design Talent Award, which provides funding to pursue work attachments or further studies overseas; graduate programmes providing internships at digital advertising and digital entertainment companies; the Hong Kong Comics Development and Promotion Support Programme, providing training and mentoring for comic start-ups and artists with production and promotion subsidies; the Animation Support Programme, funding original animations by start-ups and small companies; the Hong Kong Game Enhancement and Promotion Scheme, funding game start-ups to enhance the quality and profitability of their products; the Next Writer Publication Funding Scheme, funding emerging writers to publish and promote their books; the Microfilm Production Support Scheme (Music), which offers funding and mentorship to advertising production companies and directors; the Fashion Atelier Certificate Programme, which upgrades designers' bespoke tailoring skills; and the Fashion X AI: International Salon project, supporting local fashion designers to use the first locally developed artificial intelligence system in fashion design. Creative talent is also sponsored to participate in digital entertainment events, such as DigiCon6 Asia.

Exploring Markets

CreateHK supports creative sectors to bring high-value customers to Hong Kong, and takes local talent and products to Mainland and overseas markets. CSI-sponsored projects in 2022 included the Publishing 3.0 – Hong Kong Smart e-Book Hub Scheme; the virtual Hong Kong Pavilion during the online South China Book Festival and offline promotions in Guangzhou bookstores; supporting the fashion trade to participate in Paris Fashion Week, Guangdong Fashion Week and Fashion Shenzhen; and the promotion of Hong Kong original art toy design with a large-scale exhibition in Bangkok.

Promoting Hong Kong as Asia's Creative Capital

Hong Kong fosters collaboration with Mainland and overseas cities to raise the profile of its creative industries locally and internationally. Events in 2022 included the fourth Hong Kong Publishing Biennial Awards to recognise outstanding local Chinese publications; the Juxtaposed 2022 Fashion Meta virtual fashion show; the international design industry event Business of Design Week; and architecture exhibitions in Hangzhou, Beijing, New York and Hong Kong, with some exhibits also showcased in Shanghai during the China International Import Expo and the Hong Kong Shenzhen Bi-city Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture in Hong Kong and Shenzhen.

Sports and Recreation

The bureau and LCSD develop elite sports, promote sports in the community and promote Hong Kong as a centre for major international sports events. They develop and coordinate the provision of quality sports and recreation facilities for leisure enjoyment, including parks, landscaped open spaces, sports grounds, playgrounds, sports centres, holiday camps, water sports centres, swimming pools and beaches; and organise and support a wide variety of sports and recreation programmes to promote community sports, identify sporting talent and raise sporting standards.

The bureau and LCSD work closely with the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, Hong Kong Paralympic Committee, national sports associations (NSAs), district councils, district sports associations and schools to promote sport for all.

The LCSD also issues and renews licences for billiard establishments, public bowling alleys and public skating rinks. In 2022, it processed a total of 61 applications.

Sports and Recreation Facilities

The LCSD manages 25 sports grounds, 105 sports centres, 61 11-a-side football pitches, 250 tennis courts, 291 squash courts, four driving ranges and two public riding schools. Works for 14 other major projects are under way.

Hong Kong Coliseum

The 12,500-seat Hong Kong Coliseum is a major multi-purpose indoor stadium which holds major international sports events, such as the Hong Kong Masters 2022.

Hong Kong Stadium

The 40,000-seat Hong Kong Stadium is the territory's largest outdoor sports venue. It is used mainly for football and rugby matches and large-scale community activities. Events held during the year included the Hong Kong Sevens, the Hong Kong Scout Rally and a friendly football match between Hong Kong and Myanmar.

Queen Elizabeth Stadium

The 3,500-seat Queen Elizabeth Stadium is another major multi-purpose indoor stadium which held major local sports events, such as the 65th Festival of Sport – Hong Kong Powerlifting

Championship, the 2022 Hong Kong Bodybuilding Championships, and the 14th Wan Chai District Dance Competition, during the year.

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 in the year included the Hong Kong Premier League, Senior Shield, Sapling Cup, Hong Kong FA Cup and a friendly football match between Hong Kong and Myanmar.

Kai Tak Sports Park

Targeted for completion in phases by end-2024, 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 sports events and large-scale community activities. Piling and basement works have been completed while superstructure works are in progress.

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 53,000 participants in 2022.

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.

To support the fight against the COVID-19 epidemic, the camps were closed and converted into quarantine centres or temporary accommodation in early 2020. In 2022, about 1,170 people were admitted into the quarantine centres and temporary accommodation and around 700 into community isolation facilities. The camps were gradually reopened for public use from the end of May. As at December, over 96,000 campers had joined the day, evening and residential camp services.

The LCSD also subsidises 11 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to run 24 holiday camps and sea activity centres, which registered around 440,000 participants in 2022.

Beaches and Swimming Pools

Swimming is one of Hong Kong's most popular summer pastimes. The LCSD manages 42 gazetted public beaches and 45 public swimming pool complexes.

Sports and Recreation Organisations

Sports Commission

The Sports Commission, comprising government officials and representatives from the sports sector, advises the government on all matters relating to sports development and oversees committees on community sports, elite sports and major sports events.

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. In February, three athletes participated in the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games, the largest-ever contingent from Hong Kong, China for a winter Olympics.

The federation has a membership of 83 NSAs and sports organisations. Most members are affiliated to their Asian federations (AFs) and international federations (IFs). The NSAs coordinate and conduct activities related to their sports, including recreational programmes for the community, and training 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 three major local annual events. The Olympic Day was held as a virtual run in 2022 due to the pandemic. The Festival of Sport held around 30 sports events and activities with the support of NSAs. The presentation ceremony for the 2021 Hong Kong Sports Stars Awards was held in August.

The federation also 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 federation 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 employs retired and soon-to- retire athletes as coaches for underprivileged students, passing the Olympic spirit to the next generations.

The Hong Kong Anti-Doping Committee, formed under the auspices of the federation, plans and implements education and testing programmes to preserve a doping-free environment for fair play in sports and to ensure Hong Kong is in compliance with the World Anti-Doping Code.

Hong Kong Sports Association for the Physically Disabled

Since its establishment in 1972, the Hong Kong Paralympic Committee and Sports Association for the Physically Disabled had taken up the dual role of a National Paralympic Committee and promoting the development of para sports in Hong Kong. To delineate these two functions, the association segregated and was renamed the Hong Kong Sports Association for the Physically Disabled on 1 April, focusing on the role to develop para sports and nurture athletes.

The association's athletes continued to excel on the international arena in 2022. Chu Man-kai won the men's SH6 singles gold medal at the 2022 Badminton World Federation Para-Badminton World Championships and became world number one for the first time. Boccia players Yeung Hiu-lam and Ho Yuen-kei climbed to women's BC2 and BC3 individual world number ones respectively after winning gold at the Bahrain 2022 World Boccia Cup.

To mark its 50th anniversary, the association launched the Athlete Coaching Education Fund to support and subsidise its current and retired squad athletes to participate in coaching courses, so as to train them into qualified coaches.

Hong Kong Paralympic Committee

With the segregation of the Hong Kong Paralympic Committee and Sports Association for the Physically Disabled on 1 April, the Hong Kong Paralympic Committee took the role as a National Paralympic Committee to coordinate Hong Kong, China's participation in international para multi-sports games. It also promotes the Paralympic movement, disseminates professional knowledge, builds relationships with NSAs and coordinates programmes for retired athletes.

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.

The pandemic caused some competitions in 2022 to be cancelled or postponed, but intellectually disabled athletes made the most of those that went ahead. They won 25 medals during the year: a gold at the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) 2022 World Para Table Tennis Championships in Granada, Spain; two golds, five silvers and four bronzes at the ITTF Thailand Para Open 2022 in Pattaya; four golds, one silver and one bronze at the Virtus Oceania Asia Games 2022 in Brisbane, Australia; and one gold, four silvers and two bronzes at the 2022 Special Olympics Invitational Shorttrack Competition in Utrecht, Netherlands.

Hong Kong Sports Institute Limited

The Hong Kong Sports Institute Limited is Hong Kong's elite sports training centre. It provides comprehensive facilities and support services to athletes, including scientific conditioning, sports science, sports medicine and dual career development in education and sports training.

The institute's Elite Training Programme covers 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 para 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 support to athletes in 13 Tier B sports and three Tier B para sports. Outstanding athletes whose sports fall outside these two tiers are covered under the Individual Athletes Support Scheme.

Sporting Achievements

Hong Kong athletes excelled at international sports events in 2022. Swimmer Siobhan Bernadette Haughey defended her women's 200m freestyle title while breaking a world record, and also won a silver medal in the 100m freestyle event at the 16th Fédération Internationale de Natation (FINA) World Swimming Championships (25m) held in Australia in December.

Fencer Cheung Ka-long captured a bronze medal at the World Fencing Championships in Egypt in July, becoming the first-ever Hong Kong male fencer to win a medal in the foil individual at the world championships, while Vivian Kong Man-wai won her second fencing world championships bronze medal in the épée individual. The fencing team also won two golds, one silver and four bronzes at the Asian Fencing Championships held in Korea in June.

The windsurfing and sailing teams won two gold, two silver and three bronze medals at the Asian Sailing Championships held in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in March. The gold medals were won by windsurfers Cheng Ching-yin and Michael Cheng Chun-leung in the iQFoil men's and RS:X men's events respectively.

The women's squash team won gold and the men's team won bronze at the 21st Asian Squash Team Championships held in Korea in November. The karatedo team won a total of two silver and four bronze medals at the 18th Asian Senior, 20th Asian Cadet, Junior and U21, and 1st Asian Para Karate Championship held in Uzbekistan in December. Chiu Chun-yin and Lau Mo-sheung took the silver medals in the male individual kata (junior) and female individual kata event respectively.

In youth events, tennis player Wong Chak-lam became the first Hong Kong junior tennis player to reach the boys' singles semi-finals at a grand slam at the US Open Tennis Championships in September. Swimmer Mak Sai-ting captured bronze in the men's 200m breaststroke event at the 8th FINA World Junior Swimming Championships held in Peru in September and was the first Hong Kong male to win a medal at the championships. Fencer Cheng Tit-nam claimed a gold in the cadet foil individual event at the World Junior and Cadet Championships in the UAE in April. The wushu team won five gold, six silver and five bronze medals at the 8th World Junior Wushu Championships in Indonesia in December, while the triathlon team won two gold, three silver and three bronze medals at the Asia Triathlon Youth Championships in Hong Kong in November.

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 bureau provides comprehensive support, including matching funds, direct grants, and venue and marketing subsidy, to NSAs to hold world-class sports events. The four 'M' Mark events held during the year were the Hong Kong Sevens, FIBA 3x3 World Tour Hong Kong Masters, Hong Kong Squash Open and Hong Kong International Tennis Challenge.

Sports and Recreation Programmes

The bureau, other government departments and related organisations, including the LCSD, Department of Health, Education Bureau, Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, Hong Kong Paralympic Committee, 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 2022, the LCSD organised 15,100 sports and recreation programmes for about 779,000 participants of all ages and abilities.

District Sports Teams Training Scheme

A total of 4,667 young people took part in 210 district team events in basketball, football, handball and fencing.

Young Athletes Training Scheme

Training was conducted for 15,484 teenagers in 34 sports disciplines.

Community Sports Club Project

The project, organised by the LCSD in collaboration with the NSAs, subvented about 430 community sports clubs in organising 2,465 sports programmes for 49,324 participants in 2022. Seminars and management development programmes were conducted for over 120 sports volunteers to help them run the clubs.

Promotion of School Sports

The School Sports Programme provided 3,851 sporting events for 308,053 students at 608 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, a collaboration between the bureau and the Hong Kong Schools Sports Federation, helps students with financial needs develop their sports potential and pursue sporting goals. In the 2021-22 school year, around \$5.96 million was allocated to 517 participating schools, benefiting about 14,200 students.

The Opening-up School Facilities for Promotion of Sports Development Scheme provides subsidies to encourage schools to make their facilities available to sports organisations. In the 2021-22 school year, 259 sports programmes were held by 42 sports organisations at 60 schools under the scheme.

'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. Due to the epidemic, 307 out of 1,000 planned programmes were held in 2022, attracting around 18,500 participants.

The LCSD's 'Sport For All Day' held every August promotes sport for all in the community by holding free sports and recreation programmes at designated sports centres in all 18 districts

and opening most of the fee-charging leisure facilities to the public for free. Sports demonstrations were featured in a live webcast via a dedicated webpage and the 'LCSD Pluss' Facebook page to encourage the public to exercise at home. In 2022, the event registered over 188,000 participants.

Hong Kong Games

The eighth iteration of the biennial Hong Kong Games was cancelled in April due to the epidemic.

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 2021-22, around 80 per cent of the \$6.13 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' preparation 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; the development of local football and team sports; and one-off initiatives that are important for the development and promotion of sport in Hong Kong. In 2021-22, the fund approved \$308 million for 133 sports projects.

Sports Subvention Scheme

The LCSD subsidises NSAs and other sports organisations in sports promotion and development. In 2022, subventions totalling about \$584 million were allocated to 62 NSAs and 40 other sports organisations, which held 8,458 programmes for 715,195 participants.

Local and international events staged by the subvented NSAs included the 2022 Asia Triathlon Youth Championships Hong Kong, 2022 iQFoil Asian Windsurfing Championships and Hong Kong Open Windsurfing Championships, Fédération Equestre Internationale Jumping World Challenge 2022 and 2022 Hong Kong Open Fencing Championships.

A signature event subvented by the department was the Hong Kong Masters 2022 snooker tournament held in October, featuring the top six world-ranking players and locals Marco Fu and Ng On-ye. The final attracted about 9,000 spectators, a world record for a snooker competition. Marco Fu made a maximum break of 147 and claimed the first runner-up place.

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. Around 200 NSA representatives attended the seminars in 2022.

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. In 2021-22, the fund approved \$20.81 million for 232 sports projects.

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 funding allocated in 2022-23 was \$737 million, alongside an additional \$91 million from the institute's fund reserves.

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.

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, sports and recreation venues, and roadside amenity areas. In 2022, the department planted 2.65 million trees, shrubs and other plants, and enhanced the landscaping at about 22 hectares of park and roadside amenity areas.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), the LCSD ran the Blossom Around Town programme from June to October, setting up themed garden plots and floral displays at 51 major parks and locations across the territory to beautify the cityscape. It also organised a series of Happy@Parks activities under various themes including toys, pets and camping in six LCSD parks, with a variety of recreational activities and games for families to enjoy. They attracted more than 16,000 participants.

Hong Kong Park

Hong Kong Park occupies 8.16 hectares at the former military barracks in Central. 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 61 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 600 rose family plants from over 50 species were featured in an exhibition at the Display Plant House from December 2021 to January 2022.

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 2022, the animal collection comprised about 195 birds of more than 40 species, over 20 reptiles of five species, and over 85 mammals of 16 species, mainly primates. More than 1,000 species of trees, shrubs, creepers and foliage plants thrive in the gardens, 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.

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 2022, some activities were cancelled because of the pandemic, but the districts still conducted 56 community garden programmes. Over 6,700 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 366,300 students from 1,207 schools participated in the One Person, One Flower Scheme, receiving seedlings to plant at home or school.

The LCSD also launched the Flower Appreciation website to inform the public about occasions and locations for flower appreciation.

Hong Kong Flower Show

The Hong Kong Flower Show provides an 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. Due to the epidemic, the 2022 flower show was cancelled.

Inclusive Park for Pets

The LCSD opens up some existing parks as Inclusive Park for Pets to enable pet owners and other park users to use the facilities together. There are 116 such parks across the territory.

Travel and Tourism

The pandemic continued to severely affect tourism in Hong Kong in 2022. There were, however, signs of gradual recovery from the middle of the year, as the pandemic stabilised and the government eased the anti-epidemic measures. Visitor arrivals rose from 91,400 in 2021 to 604,600 in 2022, but it still saw a 99 per cent drop from the pre-pandemic level.

Despite this, the government continued to implement various initiatives under the Development Blueprint for Hong Kong's Tourism Industry, promulgated in 2017. The blueprint sets out the strategy to develop Hong Kong into a world-class premier tourism destination.

Support Measures for Tourism Industry

The government made a cumulative commitment of about \$3.6 billion of direct financial support to the tourism industry in the face of the pandemic.

Other support measures include the Travel Agents Incentive Scheme and the Green Lifestyle Local Tour Incentive Scheme, the government's waivers of travel agent and hotel licence fees and monthly fixed rent and management fees for the operator of Kai Tak Cruise Terminal; the Travel Industry Authority's (TIA) waivers of travel agent, tourist guide and tour escort licence fees; the Hong Kong Tourism Board's (HKTB) waivers of participation fees in travel trade shows and missions, application fees of the Anti-epidemic Hygiene Measures Certification Scheme, and membership renewal fees under the Quality Tourism Services Scheme; subsidies for tourist guides to complete the Continuing Professional Development Scheme and for travel trade practitioners on licensing-related training.

Inbound Tourism

MICE

Hong Kong is a premier Meetings, Incentive Travels, Conventions and Exhibitions (MICE) destination, offering world-class convention and exhibition facilities and a diversified range of tourist attractions. Owing to the pandemic, a large number of MICE events in Hong Kong were cancelled, postponed or switched to virtual format in 2022.

Cruise Tourism

Amid the pandemic, the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal only handled four ship calls in 2022 with around 12,000 passengers. The terminal was deployed as a quarantine and isolation facility between mid-February and end-November and the berthing of cruises was suspended during this period.

Mega Events

The government supports staging large-scale events varying in nature to tie in with the policy objectives of product diversification and promoting a positive local ambience and international tourism image. In 2022, mega events gradually resumed as anti-epidemic measures were relaxed. The HKTB relaunched its iconic events including Arts in Hong Kong, Hong Kong Harbour Fiesta, Hong Kong Wine & Dine Festival, Hong Kong Cyclothon, Hong Kong WinterFest and Hong Kong New Year Countdown Celebrations, while supporting other citywide events such as the Hong Kong Sevens, Art Basel Hong Kong, Art Central and French May.

Green Tourism

The Great Outdoors Hong Kong campaign promotes the city's natural landscape, rich biodiversity, hiking trails, cycling routes, the Hong Kong Unesco Global Geopark and trail running events via the HKTB's promotion channels. In 2022, the HKTB continued its '360 Hong Kong Moments' campaign, using videos and virtual tours to create an immersive experience of Hong Kong's natural gems for global audiences. To enhance facilities at hiking trails with tourism appeal, the government began improvement works to the Lion Rock Historic Walk and the path between Sweet Gum Woods and Wong Nai Tun Reservoir.

Cultural and Heritage Tourism

The three-year Cultural and Heritage Sites Local Tour Incentive Scheme, with a funding commitment of \$600 million, encourages the travel trade to develop more tourism products and itineraries with cultural and heritage elements, enabling the local community as well as visitors to learn more about local culture and heritage.

Tourism Infrastructure, Facilities and Attractions

Hong Kong's most popular sightseeing spot is The Peak, which provides a panoramic view of Hong Kong Island, the Kowloon Peninsula and Victoria Harbour. Other attractions include theme parks, temples, heritage sites, the natural landscape, and the many shops that have earned Hong Kong the reputation as a shoppers' paradise. Accommodation options are also extensive. As at the year end, 319 hotels and 1,353 licensed guesthouses provided about 89,200 and 11,500 rooms respectively.

Ocean Park

Ocean Park is taking forward its future strategy to transform into a destination which focuses on conservation and education, grounded in nature and complemented by adventure and leisure elements to enhance visitor experience.

The Fullerton Ocean Park Hotel Hong Kong opened in July, next to the all-weather water park, Water World, creating synergy to enhance Ocean Park's appeal as a resort destination. Marine tours were launched with the opening of the temporary landing facility at Tai Shue Wan in August.

A Symphony of Lights

'A Symphony of Lights' is a nightly multimedia light and sound show staged on both sides of Victoria Harbour, which symbolises Hong Kong's dynamic energy and contrasting culture. To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, a special edition was staged in July.

Hong Kong Disneyland Resort

Hong Kong Disneyland Resort is one of the best and most popular themed resorts in Asia. In June, the resort debuted a new night-time spectacular, *Momentous*, at the Castle of Magical Dreams.

Wetland Park

The 61-hectare Hong Kong Wetland Park is home to an assortment of wildlife. The recreated wetlands, exhibition galleries, theatre and other facilities all underline the importance of wetlands to civilisation and biodiversity conservation. Work to upgrade the exhibition and visitor facilities continued in 2022 to enhance the park's appeal as an eco-tourism attraction.

Ngong Ping 360

The Ngong Ping Cable Car offers a spectacular 25-minute journey with views of the flora and fauna of North Lantau Country Park, Tung Chung Bay, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge

(HZMB) and Hong Kong International Airport. It takes visitors to Ngong Ping Village, which is designed in a Chinese architectural style with attractions including the Cable Car Discovery Centre, Motion 360 and Walking with Buddha. Visitors can also visit the Tian Tan Buddha, Po Lin Monastery, Ngong Ping Piazza and Wisdom Path on Lantau Island.

In December, the cable car launched a new cabin type, Crystal+, with fully transparent sides and bottom, offering unobstructed views of Lantau Island.

Peak Tram

Operating since 1888, the Peak Tram is a funicular railway offering a unique view of the ridgeline and skyscrapers of the city. It reopened in late August following an upgrade which includes new tramcars with much enhanced capacity; an expanded, covered and temperature-controlled waiting area at the lower terminus in Central; and a renovated upper terminus at the Peak.

Hong Kong Tourism Board

The HKTB is a statutory government-subsidised organisation that markets Hong Kong round the world as a preferred travel destination. It comprises 20 members who represent various tourism-related sectors and communities. In addition to its Hong Kong head office, the board has 15 offices worldwide and representatives in seven source markets.

The board has six visitor centres locally: two at the airport and others at Tsim Sha Tsui Star Ferry Concourse, Hong Kong West Kowloon Station, HZMB Hong Kong Port and Kai Tak Cruise Terminal. Travel information is also available via HKTB's website (in 13 languages), DiscoverHongKong.com, and social media channels.

With inbound travel yet to fully resume in 2022, the HKTB extended the 'Holiday at Home' campaign, rolled out in 2020, with a series of Spend-to-Redeem programmes to encourage the public to spend in local dining and shopping outlets and support tourism-related sectors.

Service Quality

Honest and Quality Tourist Services

The government works closely with the tourism industry and related organisations to promote honest and good quality services for tourists.

The TIA, upon its full operation in September, has taken over from the Trade Industry Council of Hong Kong the roles of regulating the tourism industry. The government cooperates with the TIA to protect consumers' interests and ensure the tourism market's healthy development and operation. Laws such as the Trade Descriptions Ordinance prohibit unfair trade practices and protect consumers' legitimate interests.

The TIA also operates an Administrative Scheme for Registered Shops, which allows Mainland tour group members who are not satisfied with their purchases to return the goods and seek refunds within 180 days of purchase, provided that the goods are in proper condition.

The HKTB's Quality Tourism Services (QTS) Scheme encourages shops, restaurants and visitor accommodation facilities to offer good service. As at December, 1,135 establishments with 7,593 outlets and 228 rooms had earned QTS accreditation.

Hospitality Initiatives

Hospitality is essential to sustaining tourism. Every year, the government runs a Hong Kong Young Ambassador Scheme to train about 250 young people to be polite and helpful to visitors and to develop a strong hospitality culture in schools and the community.

Easier Entry for Visitors

Hong Kong is one of the world's most visitor-friendly cities. Visitors from some 170 countries and territories enjoy visa-free access for stays of seven to 180 days. The Mainland's Individual Visit Scheme permits residents of 49 designated Mainland cities to visit Hong Kong on their own instead of travelling in tour groups.

Protection of Travellers

Under the Travel Industry Ordinance, travel agents and tourist guides must obtain a licence from the TIA to carry out travel business and receive inbound visitors respectively. As at end-2022, Hong Kong had 1,624 licensed travel agents and 5,459 licensed tourist guides.

The statutory Travel Industry Compensation Fund provides ex gratia payments of 90 per cent of the loss of outbound fares to outbound travellers in the event of a travel agent default. In 2022, ex gratia payments of around \$1.37 million were paid to 388 travellers affected by 82 default cases. The fund also offers aid in cases of outbound travellers who sustain injuries or die in accidents in the course of an activity arranged by a travel agent. No such payments were made in 2022.

Tourism Cooperation

The Culture and Tourism Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area promulgated on 30 December 2020 provides directions for the cultural and tourism development of the GBA. It also sets out the directions for development of the GBA into an exchange hub for culture between East and West and a world-class tourism destination.

The HKSAR Government, the Macao Special Administrative Region Government and the governments of the nine Mainland cities in the GBA jointly established the Tourism Federation of Cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Joint Regulatory Alliance of the Tourism Market of 9+2 Cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to promote tourism cooperation and development within the region.

Hong Kong is a member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Tourism Working Group and the Pacific Asia Travel Association, and an associate member of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation.

Websites

Create Hong Kong: www.createhk.gov.hk

Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau: www.cstb.gov.hk

Film Development Council: www.fdc.gov.hk

Film Services Office: www.fso.createhk.gov.hk

Flower Appreciation: www.fa.gov.hk

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

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

Hong Kong Tourism Board: www.discoverhongkong.com

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

Meetings and Exhibitions Hong Kong: www.mehongkong.com

Tourism Commission: www.tourism.gov.hk