

Arts, Culture and Sports

Overview

Hong Kong is developing hardware and software to promote the long term development of the culture and sports sectors. This ties in with the city's positioning as an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange, as set out in the National 14th Five-Year Plan.

The current-term Government is committed to fostering the cultural development of Hong Kong to expedite its progression into an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange by mapping out a **Blueprint for Arts and Culture and Creative Industries Development**, nurturing a diverse talent pool, enriching arts, cultural and creative content, and upgrading cultural infrastructure to further enhance the ecosystem for the relevant industries.

Arts and culture

Hong Kong has:

- **15 museums, two art spaces and 16 performance venues** under the management of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) attract more than 6.3 million visitors and 2.9 million attendees in 2023 respectively. According to a **10-year development blueprint for arts and cultural facilities**, the number of LCSD's museums will be increased to over 20 and the number of seats at performance venues will be increased by about 67% by 2032.
- A museum to showcase the development and achievements of our country and a new Chinese Culture Experience Centre will be set up in the Northern Metropolis and the historic buildings of Kowloon Park respectively.
- In 2024, the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence was converted into the **Hong Kong Museum of the War of Resistance and Coastal Defence**, focusing on the history of the War of Resistance, to cultivate a stronger sense of national esteem and patriotism.
- Over 6,100 performing art programmes/activities were presented and sponsored by the LCSD attracting over 2.1 million spectators/participants in 2023.
- **Major performing arts groups:** 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.
- **Major arts and cultural events:** Hong Kong Fashion Fest, Art Basel Hong Kong, Art Central, Chinese Culture Festival (including the Chinese Opera Festival), French May Arts Festival, Hong Kong Arts Festival, Hong Kong International Film Festival, Hong Kong Film Awards, Hong Kong Performing Arts Expo, Entertainment Expo Hong Kong, Asian Film Awards, Hong Kong-Asia Film Financing Forum, Ink Asia, Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival, Museum Summit, International Arts Carnival and Asia+ Festival.
- **West Kowloon Cultural District** is one of the world's largest cultural projects. Spanning 40 hectares along the shore of Victoria Harbour, the district offers diversified arts and cultural programmes and world-class facilities, including M+, Hong Kong Palace Museum, Xiqu Centre, Freespace, Art Park and WestK Performing Arts Centre (expected to be completed in 2026).
- **Tai Kwun – Centre for Heritage and Arts**, encompassing 16 heritage buildings, including the former

Central Police Station, Victoria Prison and Central Magistracy, is a cultural hub offering multi-purpose venues for a variety of local, national and international artistic offerings.

- **PMQ**: revitalised site of the former Police Married Quarters on Hollywood Road, is a creative industries landmark that is home to 100+ local young create-preneurs and hosts creative and design events.
- **The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts** (HKAPA) ranks first in Asia in the category of Performing Arts. HKAPA provides professional undergraduate education and practice-based postgraduate studies in Chinese Opera, Dance, Drama, Film and Television, Music, and Theatre and Entertainment Arts. HKAPA plans to establish another campus in the Northern Metropolis and to increase the proportion of non-local students.
- **Hong Kong Arts Development Council** (HKADC) is a statutory body set up to devise, promote and support the broad development of the arts in Hong Kong, with grant allocation, policy and planning, advocacy, promotion and development, and programme planning as its main roles. HKADC supports the development of small and medium-sized arts groups, nurturing emerging artists and encouraging members of the public to appreciate and participate in the arts and cultural activities through its various funding schemes and programmes since setup.

Other initiatives

- The **Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency** was restructured from Create Hong Kong in June 2024 to promote the development of the arts, culture and creative sectors.
- The **Chinese Culture Promotion Office**, established in March 2024, plans and implements programmes to promote Chinese culture and history, including the **Chinese Culture Festival**, which will be organised annually starting 2024.
- The **Mega Arts and Cultural Events Fund** launched in 2023 targets mega arts and cultural events organised by the private sector and non-government organisations in Hong Kong. It aims to attract and support international and large-scale arts and cultural events to be held in Hong Kong, with a view to further developing the city into an "arts and cultural hub".
- The HKSAR Government allocated a total of \$97.71 million to HKADC for implementing the **Arts Talents Internship Matching Programme** and **Emerging Artists Development Grant** in order to strengthen the training of local arts and cultural talents.
- In 2022, the HKSAR Government took forward policy measures to support the awardees of the China National Arts Fund (CNAF) in Hong Kong by providing them funding to conduct cultural exchange activities outside Hong Kong with the CNAF selected pieces, with a view to bringing recognised quality arts projects to the international community, promoting Chinese culture, and telling the good stories of Hong Kong.
- An amount of \$30 million has been allocated to implement an **Arts Technology Funding Pilot Scheme** to encourage the nine major performing arts groups to apply arts technology.
- **Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme** was launched in 2011 to nurture small and medium-sized arts groups and budding artists.
- The first **Hong Kong Performing Arts Expo** was held in October 2024, attracting over 1,600 arts leaders and practitioners from over 60 countries and regions.
- **Signature Performing Arts Programme Scheme** was launched in 2024 to support representative and large-scale local programmes, providing each successful applicant a direct subsidy of up to \$10

million for a maximum period of three years and a matching subsidy of up to \$5 million to each selected proposal to match private sponsorship raised and income received. The Government has allocated \$37 million over six years starting from 2022-23 to provide professional training for the conservation staff of the LCSD and the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority and increase the number of places under the museum trainee (conservation) programme and the summer internship programme.

- **Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC) will be restructured**, with a view to enhancing its functions to better support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the design industry in Hong Kong, drive the local industry to “go global” and explore more business opportunities, and bring in international brands to foster internationalisation of the Hong Kong design industry.
- **Sham Shui Po Design and Fashion Project Base** (branded as the **DX Design Hub**) was inaugurated in end 2024 and is operated by the HKDC. It aims at nurturing young design talents and fashion designers, supporting design start-ups and helping boost the local economy.
- **Invigorating Island South** initiative to enhance cultural and leisure facilities in Wong Chuk Hang, Aberdeen and Ap Lei Chau, and to expedite the redevelopment/conversion of old industrial buildings in Wong Chuk Hang to provide more operating space for arts and culture.
- To further promote the exchange of culture and arts in the Greater Bay Area (GBA), starting from the financial year 2023-24, \$135 million will be spent over five years to support Hong Kong performing arts groups and artists taking part in performances and productions in the GBA. Each year, 1,000 Hong Kong artists are expected to participate in these activities in front of an audience of 40,000 in the GBA.

CreateSmart Initiative (CSI)

- **Since CSI was launched in 2009, over \$3.2 billion had been allocated** to help the creative sector organise about 760 projects in Hong Kong, the Mainland and overseas, benefiting around 27,000 small and medium enterprises and generating over 30,000 jobs and over 90,000 nurturing opportunities.
- **The 2024-25 budget will inject an additional \$2.9 billion to the CSI** to continue to support the development of the seven non-film sectors of creative industries, and to encourage more cross-sectoral and cross-genre collaboration on creative and cultural programmes.
- The CSI will also provide **funding support for the HKDC and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council to implement flagship events and incubation programmes**, and funding support for the operation and activities of the DX Design Hub to nurture design talents and assist start-ups to build their brands, and help boost the local economy.
- From 2024 onwards, about 50 projects under the CSI will be subsidised annually.

Pop culture and film

- Since 2005, the Government has injected a total of \$1.54 billion into the **Film Development Fund (FDF)** to support the local film industry along four strategic directions, namely nurturing talent, enhancing local production, expanding markets and building the audience. Over 100 emerging directors and producers were engaged in some 100 approved films. The Government injected about \$1.4 billion into the FDF in 2024/25.
- To promote Hong Kong's pop culture to go global, the Government strives to expand the industry's development capacity with three foci on film, TV and streaming platforms respectively.
- The inaugural **Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival** was launched in 2023, and the second one was held

from April to July 2024, with more than 20 exciting programmes and activities attracting participation of around 640,000.

- The Government supports through FDF collaboration between local and Asian production teams for co-production of films and development of new content on streaming platforms by cross-sectoral production teams to facilitate Hong Kong film industry to enter new distribution markets.
- The **Film Financing Scheme for Mainland Market** launched in 2024 will support Hong Kong film companies and Mainland cultural enterprises to invest in the productions of Hong Kong directors for release in the Mainland market.
- The **Hong Kong-Europe-Asian Film Collaboration Funding Scheme**, also launched in 2024, aims to subsidise film projects co-produced by Hong Kong filmmakers and their Asian and European counterparts in order to enhance international exchanges and nurture talent, thereby enabling Hong Kong films to go global.
- The Government will provide financial support in 2025 to the film industry under the FDF to produce films that promote Chinese culture, for showcasing the fine traditional Chinese culture to the audience.

Intangible cultural heritage

- **Cantonese opera** – first Hong Kong item inscribed on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization’s (UNESCO) “Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity” in September 2009.
- Twelve items of intangible cultural heritage of Hong Kong are inscribed onto “**The National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage**”: Cantonese opera; Hakka unicorn dance in Hang Hau in Sai Kung; *Quanzhen* temples Taoist ritual music; Cheung Chau *Jiao* Festival; Tai O dragon boat water parade; Yu Lan Festival of the Hong Kong Chiu Chow community; Mid-Autumn Festival – the Tai Hang fire dragon dance; Wong Tai Sin belief and customs; Tin Hau Festival in Hong Kong; herbal tea; the arts of the *guqin* (the craft of *qin* making); and Hong Kong cheongsam making technique.
- The above items, together with *nanyin* (southern tunes); spring and autumn ancestral worship of clans; Mid-Autumn Festival – the Pok Fu Lam fire dragon dance; Taoist ritual tradition of the *Zhengyi* school; *sek pun* (basin feast); Hong Kong-style milk tea making technique; paper crafting technique; Hong Kong *kwan kwa* wedding costume making technique; and bamboo theatre building technique, form the first “**Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Hong Kong**”, which was announced in August 2017. There are currently 24 items on the representative list, including four items added in December 2024, namely Lantern Lighting Ritual, Tai Po Night Dragon Boat Parade, Yu Lan Festival and Guangcai (Canton Famille Rose Porcelain) Making Technique.

Sports

The Government is committed to promoting sports in the community, supporting elite sports, promoting Hong Kong as a centre for major international sports events, enhancing professionalism and developing sports as an industry. The bulk of Government spending on sports development goes to the promotion of sports in the community, which accounts for over 80% of overall expenditure.

Hong Kong has:

- 105 public **indoor sports centres** with an average usage rate of the main arenas at about 94% in 2024.
- 46 public **swimming pool complexes** with attendance of over 12.5 million in 2024.

- The **Hong Kong Sports Institute** (HKSI), which supports around 1,580 athletes (including around 680 full-time athletes), provides elite sports training for 20 Tier A sports and six Tier A disability sports. The **new facilities building of the HKSI** was commissioned in December 2024, providing more advanced training facilities for elite athletes. The Government has also allocated additional resources to enhance its Sports Medicine Centre.
- **Major sports events** include: Hong Kong Marathon, Hong Kong Sevens, FIVB Volleyball Nations League Hong Kong, Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Races, Hong Kong Open Badminton Championships, Hong Kong Open (Golf), FIBA 3x3 World Tour Hong Kong Final, Hong Kong Tennis Open, Hong Kong Squash Open, Hong Kong Cricket Sixes, World Taekwondo Poomsae Championships, WBSC Baseball5 World Cup, FIE Foil World Cup, IBF World Cup, World Triathlon Cup Hong Kong as well as LIV Golf Hong Kong.

Other initiatives

- The Government launched in January 2022 a \$300 million **Sports Science and Research Funding Scheme**, which is jointly financed with the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust with the aim of strengthening support in sports science and sports medicine to enhance the competitiveness of athletes at international sports events.
- The Government will continue to provide support for retired athletes and allocate more resources to expand the existing **Retired Athletes Transformation Programme**. The target is to double the number of retired athletes joining the programme within five years from 2022-23 to provide them with more opportunities for career transformation. Besides, the Government launched a **five-year pilot programme on career and education for athletes with disabilities** in 2023 to equip athletes with the knowledge and skill necessary for transformation and development after retirement, and provide them with placement opportunities.
- The Government has substantially increased the yearly subvention for the **Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China** and over 60 **national sports associations** (NSAs) since 2020-21, to enhance the promotion and development of sports in the community, youth training programmes, public participation, squad training at all levels, overseas exchange programmes/competitions; and enhance the corporate governance of NSAs. NSAs can also make use of the additional resources to improve their manpower and staff remuneration. The total amount of subvention has been increasing progressively from about \$300 million in 2019-20 to more than \$500 million from 2023-24 onwards.
- The Government will continue to strengthen the promotion of urban sports which are popular among the youth in recent years (including 3-on-3 basketball, futsal, sport climbing, skateboarding and breaking). Through the **Urban Sports Funding Scheme**, subsidy is provided to primary and secondary schools and eligible organisations for organising training courses and activities on urban sports, providing no less than 8,000 young people with the opportunity to take part in the sports every year.
- The **Development Programme for Team Sports 2024-27** has been launched since January 2024 to provide additional funding to NSAs of eligible team sports and support members of national squads and second-tier squads, with the aim of continuing to help enhance the performance of team sports progressively, and increase their chances of attaining elite sports status in future.

Kai Tak Sports Park

Opening in March 2025, the Kai Tak Sports Park is the largest sports infrastructure ever in Hong Kong. It will boost sports development and inject impetus into related industries such as recreation, entertainment and tourism, and also mega-event economy.

Sports and recreation facilities

- To make the public play spaces more innovative and fun as well as to meet the aspirations of local residents, the Government announced in 2019 the launching of a five-year plan to transform more than 170 public play spaces under the management of the LCSD. Since 2020, a total of 116 transformation projects have been rolled out in phases.
- The 2021-22 Budget earmarked \$318 million to implement a five-year plan for upgrading over 70 football pitches under the management of the LCSD. Since 2021-22, over 50 projects have been implemented.
- The Government will continue to implement the **10-year development blueprint for sports and recreation facilities**, providing about 30 diversified facilities by phases, such as sports centres, swimming pools, sports grounds and parks.
- To allow users to store or retrieve data of their physical activities and access information on sports and health via mobile applications, the Government will set up self-test fitness corners at sports centres and introduce smart fitness equipment to outdoor recreation venues under the management of the LCSD from 2024 onwards.

15th National Games 2025

Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao will co-host the 15th National Games in 2025. Hong Kong will spare no effort to work closely with the relevant ministries of the Central Government, the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government on the preparatory work and follow the Central Authorities' requirement of striving for a "simple, safe and wonderful" Games.

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