

Hong Kong residents have access to a wide range of sports, recreational and cultural facilities. Many of these are built and managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD). The main objective of the department is to enrich the community's quality of life through the promotion and provision of recreational and cultural facilities and activities.

**Leisure Services:** The LCSD provides facilities to foster public participation in recreation and sports activities and organises a wide range of programmes. It also beautifies the environment through planting of trees and other plants in public parks and amenity areas.

**Recreational and Sports Venues:** There are a great number of facilities to provide leisure services, including 25 sports grounds, 44 swimming pool complexes, 42 gazetted bathing beaches, 103 sports centres, 83 turf pitches, 235 hard-surfaced mini-soccer pitches, 538 basketball courts, 254 tennis courts, 291 squash courts and 670 leisure venues providing children's playgrounds. Other facilities such as hockey pitches, horse riding schools and golf driving ranges are also provided. The LCSD also manages five water sports centres (Stanley Main Beach, St Stephen's Beach, Chong Hing, The Jockey Club Wong Shek and Tai Mei Tuk) and four holiday camps (Lei Yue Mun Park, Lady MacLehose Holiday Village, Sai Kung and Tso Kung Tam Outdoor Recreation Centres). The four holiday camps had been converted into quarantine centres, temporary accommodation or community isolation facilities since January 2020 so as to tie in with the Government's preventing and combating COVID-19 measures as well as to alleviate the effects of the public health emergency triggered by COVID-19. The 12 500-seat Hong Kong Coliseum and the 3 500-seat Queen Elizabeth Stadium are the focal points for important indoor sporting events while the 40 000-seat Hong Kong Stadium is a major venue for staging large-scale sporting and spectator events.

**Recreation and Sports Activities:** The LCSD organises and promotes various leisure activities for people of all ages. In 2021-22, the department organised some 23 000 recreation and sports activities for 860 000 participants of all ages and abilities.

To encourage the public to improve their health through participating in physical activities and sports, the LCSD and the Department of Health jointly organised the Healthy Exercise for All Campaign. Due to the impact of COVID-19, only 279 out of about 1 000 planned programmes could

actually be organised in 2021-22. These attracted around 26 000 participants in total. Those programmes included Dance Night under Dance for Health, QualiWalk, Hiking Scheme, Rope Skipping Activities, Fitness Training Courses for Children and Outreach Fitness Programmes for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly. Besides, the LCSD produced some health education and physical exercise-related materials in the form of leaflets, booklets, and a series of Hiking Scheme and exercise demonstration videos, which were also uploaded onto a dedicated webpage in the LCSD website, so as to encourage a healthy lifestyle through regular participation in physical activities and sports.

To intensify the promotion of Sport for All in the community and to support the National Fitness Day, the LCSD organised the Sport For All Day in August 2021. With dance as the focal sport, various related sports participation sessions were offered for the public. A series of free sports and recreation programmes were also offered at designated LCSD venues across the 18 districts, while most of the LCSD leisure facilities were open for free use by the public to enhance public interest in sporting activities and encourage the pursuit of a healthy lifestyle through regular participation in sporting and physical exercises. Sports demonstrations were webcasted through the dedicated webpage and online platforms on that day, with a view to encouraging members of the public to exercise at home amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Sports Subvention Scheme provides financial assistance to National Sports Associations (NSAs) and Sports Organisations (SOs) for organising sports programmes and training athletes. In 2021-22, the scheme provided subventions for NSAs and SOs to organise some 9 550 sports promotion events for about 525 760 participants. The scheme includes the Young Athletes Training Scheme to identify talented young players and District Sports Teams Training Scheme for enhancing a stronger sense of belonging among residents.

The School Sports Programme and the Community Sports Club Project, launched by the department, have been further promoting sports and cultivating a new sport culture in Hong Kong. The aim of the two programmes is to provide more opportunities for students and members of the public to participate in sports. Due to the impact of COVID-19, only 2 994 out of 6 840 planned School Sports Programmes were organised with 306 340 students participating in 2021-22. Subsidies were granted for community sports clubs to organise about 1 980 sports development programmes for some 41 180 participants.

**Hong Kong Games (HKG):** With a view to further promoting Sport for All in the community, the LCSD collaborated with the Sports Commission and its Community Sports Committee, 18 District Councils, the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China and the relevant NSAs to hold the HKG biennially from 2007 onwards. The 8th HKG, originally scheduled to be held from 2020 to 2021, was postponed for a year to 2021 and 2022 due to COVID-19. A series of diversified community participation programmes were launched in 2021-22 to disseminate exercise and health messages to the public, including one webinar of the Hong Kong Games – The New Normal of Sports and Wellness Series with attendance of 1 010; and six Star-studded Classroom – Elite Athletes' Demonstration and Exchange Programmes and one Sports Seminar with a total attendance of 371. In addition, the 8th HKG district athletes selection had commenced from October 2021, but due to impact of the fifth wave of epidemic, the remaining district selection competitions scheduled in January 2022, the inter-district sports competitions and community participation programmes originally scheduled for February to May 2022 could not be held. Taking into consideration of the uncertain factors in organising the 8th HKG, the LCSD had announced the cancellation of the 8th HKG.

**Horticulture and Landscape Services:** The LCSD is responsible for improving the environment with landscape planting, beautification schemes and tree preservation. It manages 1 681 parks and gardens of various sizes, including 26 major parks throughout Hong Kong.

Since 2000, the LCSD has been holding the annual Hong Kong Flower Show at Victoria Park. The show is a highlight in the local horticultural calendar. It provides a good opportunity for hundreds of thousands of local citizens and plant lovers from all over the world to appreciate the beauty of flowers and share their experiences in horticulture. Featuring gorgeous landscape displays and beautiful floral arrangements, the show also offers a rich diversity of fringe activities for the enjoyment of visitors of all ages including music and cultural performances, floral art demonstrations, guided tours, horticultural talks, drawing and photo competitions, green activities workshops and fun games. However, the Hong Kong Flower Show 2022, originally scheduled to be held from March 11 to 20 at Victoria Park, was cancelled amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

To enhance public awareness about greening the environment, a series of interesting and educational green activities such as Green Volunteer Scheme, Greening School Subsidy Scheme, 'One Person, One Flower' Scheme, Community Garden Programme, Community Planting Day, Horticulture Education Exhibition, horticultural courses and seminars are also organised for public participation every year.

**Cultural Services:** The LCSD provides a wide range of performance facilities, cultural and entertainment programmes to promote the development and appreciation of

performing and visual arts. Apart from managing 16 performance venues, the department also stages presentations of various art forms as well as international festivals and arts education activities. It offers concessionary discounts to full-time students, senior citizens and people with disabilities.

**Major Performance Venues:**

**Hong Kong Cultural Centre:** Opened in 1989, the Hong Kong Cultural Centre has since been a major performing arts venue attracting overseas leading artists and local major performing companies, and a prime performance venue for large-scale arts festivals. It houses a 1 971-seat Concert Hall, a 1 734-seat Grand Theatre and a 303-496 seat Studio Theatre.

**Hong Kong City Hall:** Established in 1962, the Hong Kong City Hall is the first multi-purpose cultural complex built to enhance the quality of life amongst the Hong Kong community. Its classic Bauhaus-style of architecture has made it one of Hong Kong's landmarks since inception. The complex was designated as a Grade 1 historic building by the Antiquities Advisory Board in late 2009. Hong Kong City Hall plays an important role in popularising the arts and promoting Eastern and Western cultures. Its facilities include a 1 430-seat Concert Hall, a 463-seat Theatre, a Recital Hall, an Exhibition Hall and an Exhibition Gallery.

**Yau Ma Tei Theatre:** The Theatre was constructed in 1930 and is a Grade 2 historic building. The Theatre and the adjacent Red Brick Building (Grade 1 historic building) have been revitalised as a performance base dedicated to Chinese opera performances and activities, and as a training and performance venue for budding Cantonese opera talents. It was reopened in 2012 to house a 300-seat Theatre.

**Hong Kong Coliseum and Queen Elizabeth Stadium:** Opened in 1980 and 1983 respectively, the 3 500-seat Queen Elizabeth Stadium and the 12 500-seat Hong Kong Coliseum are two well-equipped multi-purpose indoor stadia most suitable for large-scale sports, cultural and entertainment programmes. The Coliseum in particular is a leading venue for major international sports events, cultural and entertainment spectacles such as pop concerts.

**Other Venues:** Other performance venues in the territory including Sha Tin Town Hall, Tsuen Wan Town Hall, Tuen Mun Town Hall, Kwai Tsing Theatre, Yuen Long Theatre, Sheung Wan Civic Centre, Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre, Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre, Ko Shan Theatre and New Wing, North District Town Hall and Tai Po Civic Centre are the foci for cultural activities in the community level.

**Cultural Festivals and Performances:** Cultural life of Hong Kong is enriched by the year-round cultural and entertainment programmes organised by the LCSD. The LCSD strives to present world-class programmes by top-notch overseas artists to broaden the horizons of audience and arts

practitioners as well as promoting Hong Kong as an international cultural metropolis. As continuously impacted by the pandemic in 2021-22, all visiting programmes were either cancelled or postponed. For support of local arts and arts practitioners, the LCSD further collaborated with local arts groups and artists to curate and produce a series of online programmes for uploading to the department's Edutainment Channel under the Click for Arts series. Ranging from performances to arts appreciation, the series brings an array of programmes in different art forms, including selections from the well-received 'Cheers!' series, for public enjoyment from the comfort of their homes. Meanwhile, screening of selected visiting programmes on the panoramic screen of performing arts venues were arranged. Individual local performances under the series City Hall Virtuosi, Our Music Talents, Jazz Up, Music Delight and Regional Music of China were staged as scheduled in 2021-22.

Under the pandemic situation, the annual Chinese Opera Festival originally scheduled for June to August was cancelled, while the annual Cantonese Opera Day was held at indoor venues in November, enjoyed by more than 5 000 people. Meanwhile, the annual International Arts Carnival (IAC) held in July and August provides children and their families with fun-filled cultural programmes and interactive activities during summer, and the annual New Vision Arts Festival (NVAF) held in October and November introduced to Hong Kong audiences pioneering, trendsetting and groundbreaking performing arts from around the world. In 2021-22, both the IAC and NVAF took a two-pronged approach presenting live performances and online programmes by local and overseas artists side-by-side, with 214 live programmes attracting around 50 000 participants, and 48 episodes of online programmes drawing over 654 000 views. In light of the gradual stabilisation of the epidemic situation, Mid-Autumn Lantern Decorations were organised in September and attracted more than 380 000 participants.

On top of these cultural and entertainment events, audience building and arts education activities were also presented together with local arts groups and educational and district organisations to promote art appreciation in the community and schools. A total of 959 arts education and audience building activities were organised, attracting more than 161 000 participants. To further promote arts development and enhance artistic ambience in the community, the LCSD extended the Community Arts Scheme to all 18 districts in 2021-22. A total of 542 community arts activities were organised, attracting more than 68 000 participants. On cultural exchange, to enable audience in the Greater Bay Area and the Mainland to continue enjoying local productions, the LCSD presented the Hong Kong Week in Guangzhou during April to June 2021 in a hybrid of physical and online events. The festival showcased 15 programmes including performing arts, exhibitions and film screenings in 57 performances and activities with a total attendance of 56 990 and viewership of over 2.58 million. The LCSD also collaborated with its venue partners in the Greater Bay Area to produce five free online / in-venue screening programmes and attracted around 3 million views / attendances.

Most of the performances of the 50th Hong Kong Arts Festival in 2022, presented by the Hong Kong Arts Festival Society, were either conducted on-line for charged / free viewing or postponed.

**Music Office:** Established in 1977, the Music Office, promotes knowledge and appreciation of music in the community, especially among young people, through the provision of instrumental and ensemble training and the organisation of diverse music activities with a view to building a new generation of concert audiences. In 2021-22, it provided music training to more than 6 800 trainees and organised close to 260 activities attracting about 90 300 participants.

**URBTIX:** Since its inception in 1984, URBTIX (Urban Ticketing System) has become one of the most widely-used ticketing systems in Hong Kong offering convenient and reliable ticketing services for the public through its wide network of 18 outlets, and via internet, mobile app and telephone booking services. In 2021-22, \$489 million was processed through URBTIX for around 1.71 million tickets for some 5 200 performances.

#### ***Other Performance Venues and Performing Companies in Hong Kong:***

**Hong Kong Arts Centre (HKAC),** established in 1977, is a non-profit organisation operating under a self-financing model, devoting itself to the development of contemporary arts and cultures for years. The HKAC's main building in Wan Chai is equipped with facilities including theatres, a cinema, galleries, classrooms, studios and restaurants, providing a wide range of programmes featuring performing arts, visual arts, film and video arts every month while planning public art projects, conferences and more. The Hong Kong Art School (HKAS) under the HKAC is an accredited institute established in 2000. The award-bearing curriculum offered by the HKAS focuses mainly on the area of Fine Art (ceramics, painting, photography and sculpture), with academic levels ranging from Higher Diploma to Bachelor Degree and Master Degree.

**The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts,** established in 1984, offers professional education, training and research facilities in the performing arts: music, dance, drama, theatre and entertainment arts, film and television, and Chinese opera. Its education philosophy reflects Hong Kong's cultural diversity underscored by Chinese and Western traditions, and an emphasis on interdisciplinary learning.

In 2021-22, the academy enrolled 880 students for undergraduate and post-secondary programmes in its six performing arts disciplines, and attracted 148 students to pursue master's degree programmes in dance, music, drama, film and television, and theatre and entertainment arts. It admitted more than 660 students to its junior programmes and around 2 000 students to its Extension and Continuing Education for Life programme.

**Major Performing Arts Companies:**

**The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra**, became fully professional in 1974, is the first and largest professional symphony orchestra in Hong Kong that presents a broad-based repertoire, including classical music and contemporary works.

**The Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra**, founded in 1977, is the only professional Chinese orchestra in Hong Kong that presents symphonic music based on traditional folk repertoire and full-scale contemporary compositions.

**Hong Kong Sinfonietta**, founded in 1999, is a professional orchestra which presents a broad-based repertoire (including standard classical music, contemporary works, original crossover productions) and provides accompaniment to ballet and opera performances.

**The Hong Kong Repertory Theatre**, established in 1977, is a professional theatre company that produces a diverse repertoire of Chinese and overseas classics, and develops quality local works.

**Chung Ying Theatre Company**, founded in 1979, is a professional theatre company dedicated to creating high quality theatrical productions and promoting theatrical arts education through diversified activities.

**Zuni Icosahedron**, founded in 1982, is a multimedia experimental theatre company that makes creative attempts in the various aspects of theatre, and participates in arts education, arts criticism and international cultural exchanges.

**The Hong Kong Dance Company**, founded in 1981, is a professional Chinese dance company which aims to promote Chinese dance and dance drama in a unique Hong Kong style.

**Hong Kong Ballet**, founded in 1978, is a professional dance company which presents a broad-based repertoire, including classical ballets, contemporary works and original productions.

**City Contemporary Dance Company**, founded in 1979, is a professional modern dance company that nurtures talents in the contemporary dance field. It also actively stages performances overseas.

**Heritage and Museums:** The LCSD endeavours to provide and develop museums and related services to build up historic, art and science collections, preserve local cultural heritage and promote public appreciation for it.

The LCSD manages two art museums – Hong Kong Museum of Art and Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware; two science and technology museums – Hong Kong Science Museum and Hong Kong Space Museum; nine history and folk museums – Hong Kong Museum of History, Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence, Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum, Lei

Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum, Law Uk Folk Museum, Sheung Yiu Folk Museum, Sam Tung Uk Museum, Hong Kong Railway Museum and Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery; a cross-disciplinary museum – Hong Kong Heritage Museum; Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre and Oi! art space of the Art Promotion Office; and Hong Kong Film Archive.

The Hong Kong Museum of Art plays an important role in bringing to Hong Kong a multicultural vision of world art and culture through exhibition programmes with an international perspective. The Hong Kong Science Museum, with its predominantly interactive exhibits, illustrates various scientific principles and the ways technology is used to improve the quality of life. The Hong Kong Space Museum serves to popularise astronomy and space science. The Hong Kong Heritage Museum features a variety of specially designed exhibition possibilities to cover different aspects of history, arts and culture. The Hong Kong Museum of History collects, conserves, processes, studies and displays cultural objects which are closely related to the history and ethnography of Hong Kong and the South China area. The Hong Kong Film Archive's major functions are to acquire, preserve, catalogue and document Hong Kong films and related materials. The Art Promotion Office is responsible for the promotion of public and community art in Hong Kong. The Intangible Cultural Heritage Office is responsible for the safeguarding, research and promotion of the intangible cultural heritage of Hong Kong.

The LCSD museums organise large-scale thematic exhibitions every year as well as year-round extension activities to raise interest and popularise museum services. Major exhibitions organised in 2021-22 included *Mythologies: Surrealism and Beyond – Masterpieces from Centre Pompidou*, *Tsar of All Russia. Holiness and Splendour of Power* and *The Science Behind Pixar*. The total attendance of museums in 2021-22 was about 3.27 million. As at March 2022, the LCSD museums have acquired about 1 614 800 items of collection in which about 303 800 items are historic, art and science objects and about 1 311 000 items are film and film-related materials.

**Public Libraries:** With its 70 static libraries and 12 mobile libraries, the LCSD provides an accessible and efficient service to users in meeting community's needs for knowledge, information, research, life-long learning, continuous education and profitable use of leisure time, and promotes reading and literary arts actively. It also manages the Books Registration Office which helps preserve Hong Kong's literary heritage through the registration of local publications. The library system has a comprehensive collection of library materials which include over 13.43 million items of books and 1.76 million items of multimedia publications. It has over 4.77 million registered borrowers, who borrowed more than 28.07 million items of books and other library materials during 2021-22. During the intermittent closure of libraries in the COVID-19 epidemic, the Hong Kong Public Libraries put efforts in promoting its online resources and e-reading, and provided access to 418 000 e-books for public use via the internet. An array of activities for people of all ages are organised in and

outside of library venues across the territory and via the online platforms in promotion of culture, reading and knowledge dissemination. In 2021-22, more than 14 000 extension activities programmes and about 198 online programmes were held. Hong Kong Central Library is the largest purpose-built public library in Hong Kong. Apart from being the hub of the public library network as well as the major information centre of Hong Kong, it also organises a diversity of cultural programmes for the general public.