

Quality Services for Quality Life

LCSD Annual Report 2023 - 2024

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01 FOREWORD



With the resumption of many large-scale cultural and sports events, the year 2023 proved a noteworthy one for the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD). These events brought in major acts and artists from overseas after several years of pandemic constraints, as well as showcasing the sporting and cultural talents of Hong Kong to the world.

Culturally, the year has been very rich. We were delighted to welcome back the New York Philharmonic under its world-class conductor Jaap van Zweden. This was the orchestra's first visit to the city since 2008. Their concerts captivated audiences at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, and were also broadcast live on television and radio. Our Great Music 2023 programme brought other major international performers to Hong Kong as well, including renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma and pianist Kathryn Stott in an exhilarating duo recital, and Grammy Award winner Eliane Elias making her Hong Kong debut with an evening of distinctive Latin jazz masterpieces.

The year has also been an opportunity to showcase some of Hong Kong's best and most unique cultural experiences to the world. One such experience, not found anywhere else, is the famous Bun Carnival on Cheung Chau Island. The grand finale Bun-Scrambling Competition, witnessed by around 1 400 spectators, provided a fitting climax to the event, in a nerve-racking three minutes in which 12 athletes scaled the bun tower to earn victory.

Hong Kong's homegrown popular culture has been hugely influential across the region and is a treasured part of our city's collective memories. In celebration, we launched the



inaugural Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival in 2023. This multi-faceted exploration featured some of Hong Kong's best local music, movies and most-loved homegrown stars. Special exhibitions on local icons Leslie Cheung and Anita Mui were included in the programme along with displays, film screenings and talks on Hong Kong arts and costumes, comics, and Cantopop music. There were also many live performances. The festival struck a deep chord among locals and visitors alike, with the 'Miss You Much Leslie' exhibition alone attracting over 370 000 visitors over its six-month period.

In our mission to promote Chinese culture, a highlight of the year was the Chinese Opera Festival 2023. It presented some magnificent performances of different regional opera genres by notable local and national troupes, including a grand finale show held in a traditional bamboo theatre erected in Victoria Park. Our efforts in this field celebrated a new milestone in March 2024 with a ceremony marking the establishment of the Chinese Culture Promotion Office, a dedicated office that will coordinate our future effort endeavours in this field. Our various promotional efforts have been well supported by our two distinguished Ambassadors for Cultural Promotion for Hong Kong: noted composer and conductor Tan Dun, and more recently, the innovative contemporary Chinese artist Xu Bing. Both these distinguished practitioners are personally contributing to our mission of fostering Hong Kong's cultural development and strengthening its role as an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchanges.

Our LCSD museums have also achieved some remarkable results over the course of the year. One of the most significant museum events of the period was a generous donation of HK\$100 million made to the Hong Kong Museum of Art (HKMoA) by Mr Wu Keyu, the son of Wu Guanzhong, a master artist in the Chinese and international art scene of the 20th century. The donation will be used to establish the Wu Guanzhong Art Sponsorship, a new and important resource for promoting Wu's art in particular, and related Chinese modern art in general. The HKMoA also celebrated its 3 millionth visitor since its reopening in 2019, while our other museums also drew large crowds to several spectacular exhibitions. In total, our 15 museums and two art spaces attracted over 7 million visitors in 2023-24, a figure that bears witness to the wide range of compelling exhibitions and side events they made available to the public throughout the year.



The LCSD has also been heavily involved in initiatives outside Hong Kong to promote our city's culture and talents. One was Hong Kong Week 2023@ Bangkok in October and November 2023, in collaboration with Thailand's Ministry of Culture. Delivering a rich array of concerts, performing arts programmes, exhibitions and film screenings to Thai audiences, the event proved a powerful showcase of our local talents among our Asian neighbours.

On the sporting front, we actively supported our Hong Kong athletes' participation in several national and regional competitions, where they could test themselves against their peers. The department undertook a number of initiatives to promote Hong Kong's presence at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, the 4th Asian Para Games in the same city, the 1st National Student (Youth) Games in Nanning and the 14th National Winter Games in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. This included setting up Live Zones for the Asian Games and Asian Para Games where the public could watch live broadcasts of the competitions, as well as organising Launching Ceremonies and Welcome Home receptions for our dedicated sporting representatives.

Some of our efforts during the year were directed towards supporting initiatives to rekindle our city's famous nightlife atmosphere. Echoing the Night Vibes Hong Kong campaign, we extended the opening hours of three of our most popular museums on weekends and public holidays and organised evening lantern carnivals throughout the Mid-Autumn Festival period. These initiatives encouraged both locals and visitors to come out in the evenings and enjoy the unique excitement of Hong Kong at night. In a similar vein, as the year concluded, we commenced preparations for the mega-event Art@Harbour 2024, a large-scale project integrating art, science and technology running from March that involved erecting striking light and sculpture installations on both sides of the harbour for free public enjoyment. The LCSD's new intelligent sports and recreation services booking and information system, SmartPLAY, was launched in November 2023, replacing our old Leisure Link Computerised Booking System. SmartPLAY considerably streamlines the process of booking leisure facilities and offers a series of useful personalised services, handy e-notifications, and an expanded range of payment options. It can also handle up to 10 000 concurrent users (up from 1 000 previously).

01 FOREWORD

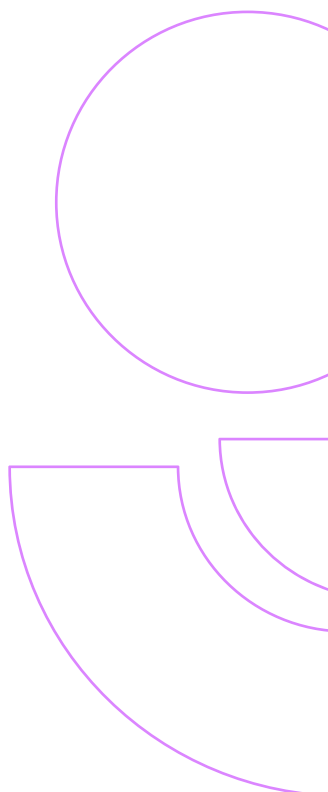


Meanwhile, we have continued to make our venues and events as accessible as possible to all. This year we launched a new Community Care Series of programmes and measures for senior citizens, people with disabilities, and others with special needs, supported by a new Community Care page on our Edutainment Channel. During the year, we also opened up our leisure and cultural facilities for free public use on two occasions: first, on July 1 in celebration of the 26th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong SAR, and again on October 1, to celebrate the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. These are just a few of the highlights in what has been a fruitful year for the LCSD. This Annual Report offers a comprehensive review of the full scope of our efforts in 2023-24, from pop concerts to park maintenance, from carnivals to mega events. It has been a privilege for me to oversee the work of a department dedicated to serving Hong Kong's cultural and leisure needs, promoting Chinese culture, and supporting the efforts to make our city a centre for international cultural exchange and a popular tourist destination.



Vincent Liu

Director of Leisure and Cultural Services



02 PERFORMANCE PLEDGES



Leisure Services

- We pledge to provide facilities that foster public participation in recreational and sports activities, and to organise a wide range of programmes that enrich the quality of life of the community.
- We pledge to maintain hire charges and programme fees at a level affordable to the general public. We will continue to offer concessionary rates for the elderly, full-time students, and persons with disabilities together with their carers.
- We pledge to provide, manage and maintain safe and high-quality recreation and sports facilities for the general public.

Cultural Services

- We pledge to provide civic centre facilities and cultural and entertainment programmes, and to promote the development and appreciation of the performing and visual arts.

02 PERFORMANCE PLEDGES



Cultural Services

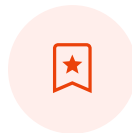
- We pledge to provide quality services for all library users that meet the community's need for knowledge, information and research; to support life-long learning, continuous education and the profitable use of leisure time; and to promote reading and local literary arts.
- We pledge to preserve the local cultural heritage and to promote its appreciation by providing and developing museum and related services. We will also promote the visual arts and Hong Kong artists and, through a variety of education activities, help foster a sense of identity among the people of Hong Kong.

03 VISION, MISSION & VALUES



Our Vision

Sets out the goals that our staff should be working to achieve.



Our Mission

To lay down the actions clearly that are required to turn the vision into reality.



Our Values

To outline the behaviour and performance that we aim to foster among our staff, and highlight the culture that we wish to nurture.

Our Vision is to:

provide quality leisure and cultural services commensurate with Hong Kong's development as a world-class city and events capital.

Our mission is to:

- enrich life by providing quality leisure and cultural services for all;
- promote professionalism and excellence in leisure pursuits and cultural services;
- promote synergy with sports, cultural and community organisations in enhancing the development of arts and sports in the territory;
- preserve cultural heritage;

03 VISION, MISSION & VALUES



Our mission is to:

- beautify the environment through tree planting;
- achieve a high level of customer satisfaction; and
- build a highly motivated, committed and satisfying workforce.

We achieve our mission by embracing these core values:

Customer focus

We continue to respond to customer needs and pledge to provide services in a courteous and user-friendly manner.

Quality

We pledge to deliver high-quality services in a cost-effective manner.

Creativity

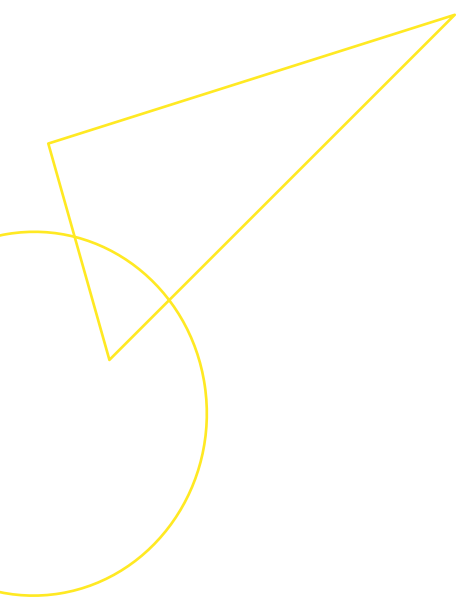
We continue to encourage diversity and to value original ideas.

Professionalism

We uphold the highest standards of professionalism and ethics while maintaining a high level of performance.

Result oriented

Our focus at all times is to achieve the best results possible.



03 VISION, MISSION & VALUES



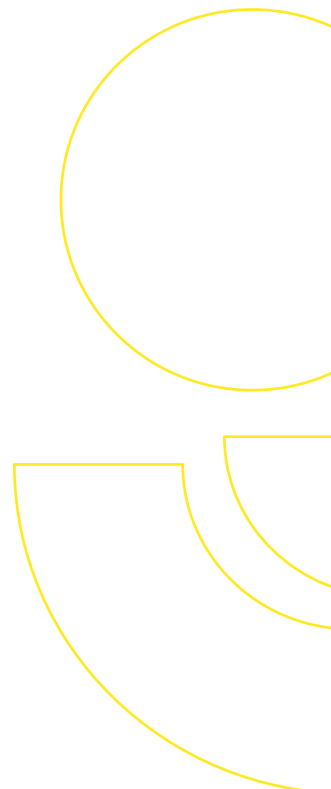
Our mission is to:

Cost-effectiveness

We are committed to reaching our goals in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

Continuous improvement

We seek to continually improve our services and to respond proactively in meeting the changing needs of the community.



04 LEISURE SERVICES

LEISURE SERVICES



The Leisure Services Branch of the LCSD is responsible for developing and managing recreational and sports facilities throughout Hong Kong, and for organising a wide range of community recreational and sports programmes. Its remit also includes planting and maintaining trees and shrubs in public parks and recreational areas, and organising community greening initiatives.

The branch works closely with the 18 District Councils in planning and developing new recreational and sports facilities. In considering the development of new facilities, the department takes into consideration the needs of local communities and existing recreational facilities provided by the private sector and similar facilities in neighbouring districts.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS FACILITIES



The LCSD maintains and operates 26 major parks, 42 gazetted beaches, 45 swimming pools, four holiday camps and five water sports centres in Hong Kong. It maintains children's playgrounds in 680 locations.

The department also manages two large-scale outdoor stadia, 25 sports grounds and 105 sports centres, and maintains 240 hard-surface soccer pitches and 81 turf pitches. Its specialist facilities for other sports include one rugby and two hockey pitches, 250 tennis courts, four golf driving ranges, and 291 squash courts. Details of these facilities can be found in Appendix 6 of this report.

New Facilities

A revamped children's playground in Sham Shui Po Park opened for public use on November 26, 2023. The new innovative inclusive playground now occupies an area more than four times bigger than the original children's playground, at around 6 400 square metres. Public feedback from surveys and questionnaires was taken into account in the playground design, in line with the Transformation of Public Play Spaces plan.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS FACILITIES

New Facilities

The playground design has 'nature' as its theme, and 'sand', 'plants' and 'water' as the main design elements, reflected in three themed areas: 'Sandy Bunker', 'Jungle Meadow', and 'Oasis Spring'. The play space contains different types of swings and slides of different heights, and one of the slides, a spiral tube slide connected to the climbing tower at 'Sandy Bunker', has the highest and longest slide tube in all the playgrounds managed by the LCSD. Over six metres high and over 13 metres long, this slide is the ultimate in fun for young users.



After being converted into an innovative inclusive playground, the children's playground in Sham Shui Po Park opened to the public on November 26, 2023.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS FACILITIES

New Facilities

Tying in with the Second Phase Opening of Sha Tau Kok, the new Chung Ying Street Garden, situated in front of Chung Ying Street Checkpoint in North District, opened to the public on January 1, 2024. Occupying an area of 1 300 square metres, the facilities include pleasant landscaped sitting-out areas, leisure facilities and drinking fountains. There is also a viewing deck where visitors can look across Chung Ying Street and take pictures, against a replica of an old Hong Kong railway station and an actual-size model of a locomotive engine.



The LCSD mascots on display at Chung Ying Street Garden, each wear T-shirts incorporating features relating to Sha Tau Kok.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS FACILITIES

New Facilities

Cha Kwo Ling Promenade opened to the public on August 24, 2023, consisting of a landscaped deck that covers an area of around 11 000 square metres and connects with the adjacent waterfront area. The landscaped deck has been built on the rooftop of the Drainage Services Department's Kwun Tong Sewage Pumping Station. It offers a wide range of facilities, such as pavilions, landscaped areas, lawns, fitness equipment, children's play facilities and a water play area. The adjacent waterfront area also serves as an Inclusive Park for Pets, a place where pet-owners can take their pets for a stroll. Cha Kwo Ling Promenade welcomed over 100 000 visitors in 2023-24 following its opening in August 2023.



The purple flowers of *Tabebuia impetiginosa* bloom for the first time at Cha Kwo Ling Promenade, which opened to the public on August 24, 2023.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS FACILITIES

New Facilities

Blake Gardens reopened on July 4, 2023 for public use after improvement works for the ball courts had completed. These involved beautification and renovation works to the ball court surfaces, the spectator stands and the fences at Blake Gardens. The enhancements have injected new art and design elements into the facilities, enhancing the vibrancy and appeal of the venues.



Six ball courts at Blake Gardens have been beautified, and art and design elements incorporated into the facilities there.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS FACILITIES



Parks

Park Enhancements

In total, the LCSD manages 1 689 parks and gardens across Hong Kong. In 2023-24, the department continued to enhance the facilities or improve the soft landscape features at some of these venues, as well as adding further elderly-friendly facilities such as fitness equipment in parks to encourage active and healthy ageing. To date, over 3 000 pieces of elderly fitness equipment have been installed at more than 550 outdoor leisure venues.

The major parks under the management of the department are described below.

Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens

The 5.6-hectare Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens, overlooking Central District, is home to approximately 160 birds, 90 mammals and 20 reptiles, and serves as a conservation centre for 34 species of endangered animals. The gardens' Ring-tailed Lemur, White-faced Saki and Bali Myna species all bred successfully during the year.

Around 1 000 species of plants grow in the gardens, which include a greenhouse and various themed gardens. Guided tours of the gardens are run regularly. An on-site education and exhibition centre holds regular displays of botanical and zoological specimens, and also runs educational programmes for the public.

The gardens also contain a clinic run by the department's Veterinary Section, which is responsible for caring for the health of all animals living in parks managed by the LCSD.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS FACILITIES

Parks



Participants in the 'Meet-the-Zookeepers' activity listen to the gardens' zookeepers sharing their experience in primate and bird care and animal conservation.

Hong Kong Park

The 8.16-hectare Hong Kong Park includes an aviary and a conservatory, set in extensive gardens that include some fine water features. The park also holds a squash centre, a sports centre, a children's playground and a restaurant.

Around 540 birds of 61 different species live in the aviary. The Bali Mynah species bred successfully during the year. The conservatory, which includes a Display Plant House, a Dry Plant House and a Humid Plant House, holds over 260 species of plants from a wide variety of plant families typically found in tropical, subtropical and desert habitats.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS FACILITIES

Parks

Victoria Park

At over 19 hectares, Victoria Park is the largest park on Hong Kong Island. It holds many sporting and exercise facilities, including a swimming pool complex, soccer pitches, basketball courts, tennis courts, handball cum volleyball courts, roller skating rinks, a bowling green, fitness stations and jogging trails. Other features include a large central lawn, a bandstand, children's playgrounds and a model boat pool.



The Bank of China Hong Kong Tennis Open, one of the tournaments on the world-renowned Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Tour, returned to Hong Kong after 21 years. It was held at the Victoria Park Tennis Courts from December 31, 2023 to January 7, 2024.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS FACILITIES



Parks

Kowloon Park

The 13.3-hectare Kowloon Park sits in the heart of Tsim Sha Tsui. Its many indoor and outdoor recreational facilities include a hard-surface soccer pitch, a sports centre and a swimming pool complex.

The park's attractive gardens and walks include a Water Garden, a Sculpture Garden, a Woodland Walk and a Tree Walk, where visitors are introduced to 35 of Hong Kong's most common flowering tree species. The Sculpture Garden and the adjacent Sculpture Walk feature varied pieces by local and overseas artists.

The park also contains a landscaped bird lake that is home to a flock of over 130 Greater and Lesser Flamingos, and an aviary containing many other bird species, including the endangered Yellow-Headed Amazon Parrot.

The park hosts a Kung Fu Corner on Sundays and an Arts Fun Fair on Sundays and public holidays. Regular morning birdwatching activities are held that introduce common bird species in the park, while community events such as carnivals and outdoor exhibitions are regularly staged in the piazza.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS FACILITIES

Parks



The aviary in Kowloon Park features many unusual bird species, including the endangered Yellow-Headed Amazon Parrot.

Tai Po Waterfront Park

The 22-hectare Tai Po Waterfront Park includes a 1 000-metre promenade, an amphitheatre, a central water feature, a sheltered viewing terrace and children's play areas. Physical activities are served by fitness stations, jogging trails, bowling greens, a gateball court and a kite-flying area. The 32-metre Spiral Lookout Tower offers panoramic views of Tolo Harbour and the surroundings. The park contains a Floral Display along with several themed gardens, including Scented, Malvaceae, Western, Ecological, Palm, Herb, Fig, Camellia, Anthurium, Heliconia and Ginger Gardens. It also holds a specialist Insect House, visited by around 98 000 people in 2023-24.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS FACILITIES



Parks

Tuen Mun Park

The 12.5-hectare Tuen Mun Park contains a large artificial lake and a waterfall, and a popular Reptile House. The Reptile House welcomed around 273 000 visitors in 2023-24, and hosted 341 group visits.

Other features and facilities at the park include a barrier-free children's playground, a model boat pool, an amphitheatre, a roller-skating rink, a conservation corner, pebble walking trails, several pavilions, and a multi-game area.

Pet Gardens

The LCSD has made available fully fenced pet gardens, where pet owners can give their pets off-leash fun and exercise, at 52 of its leisure venues. Consultations are ongoing with District Councils on suitable sites for more pet gardens.

Inclusive Parks for Pets

A trial scheme called Inclusive Parks for Pets (IPP) was launched by the LCSD in January 2019, under which six parks in different districts were opened up for people accompanied by their pets. The success of the trial scheme led to the six pilot venues being regularised as IPPs in 2021. Since February 2021, more IPP venues have been added in various districts following consultation with relevant local stakeholders. As at the end of March 2024, there were 175 IPPs across the territory.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS FACILITIES



Beaches and Swimming Pools

In 2023-24, around 7.21 million people visited beaches managed by the LCSD and around 12.14 million made visits to our public swimming pools during the year.

Water Sports Centres

The LCSD manages five water sports centres, namely Chong Hing, Stanley Main Beach, St Stephen's Beach, Tai Mei Tuk, and the Jockey Club Wong Shek. During the year, 89 100 people participated in activities held at these centres.

Holiday Camps

The LCSD manages four holiday camps, namely the Lady MacLehose Holiday Village, the Sai Kung Outdoor Recreation Centre, the Tso Kung Tam Outdoor Recreation Centre, and Lei Yue Mun Park.

In 2023-24, these four holiday camps attracted about 347 400 visitors and overnight guests throughout the year. In addition, the department provides subsidies to 11 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for them to run 24 holiday camps and sea activity centres. Over 870 000 participants registered for events at these venues during the year.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS FACILITIES

Other Venues for Major Sports Events

Stadia

Hong Kong Stadium, with a capacity of 40 000, is one of Hong Kong's biggest venues for sports and community events. Events held there during the year included the Hong Kong Sevens, qualifying matches for the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup 2026 and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Asian Cup 2027, AFC Champions League group stage matches, two Hong Kong international football friendly matches against Thailand and Brunei Darussalam, and some large-scale community events. In total, the stadium hosted over 257 000 spectators throughout the year.



Elite footballers compete in the FWD Insurance Chinese New Year Cup 2024, held at Hong Kong Stadium on February 13, 2024.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS FACILITIES

Other Venues for Major Sports Events

Mong Kok Stadium, with a seating capacity of 6 668, is one of the main venues for the Hong Kong Premier League. In 2023-24, a total of 59 events were held at the stadium, including AFC Champions League games, qualifying matches for the FIFA World Cup 2026 and AFC Asian Cup 2027, and Hong Kong Premier League matches. Some non-sports events were also organised at the venue, including a flower trading activity and the Hong Kong Girl Guides Annual Parade. More than 200 000 patrons visited the venue in total during the year.



The Hong Kong Premier League Cup Final, between Lee Man and Kitchee, was held at Mong Kok Stadium on January 1, 2024.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS FACILITIES

Other Venues for Major Sports Events

Hong Kong Velodrome

The Hong Kong Velodrome holds a 250-metre indoor cycling track in an arena with a seating capacity of 3 000. It also has international-standard supporting facilities and a multi-purpose arena, as well as a fitness room, a table tennis room, a dance room and a children's play room. The velodrome is the main training base for the Hong Kong Cycling Team, and regularly hosts large-scale and high-level track-cycling competitions. It hosted the 2023 Hong Kong International Track Cup from May 26-28, 2023, where some 100 elite cyclists from 14 countries and regions competed. The 2024 Tissot UCI Track Nations Cup – Hong Kong, China was held from March 15-17, 2024, attracting around 400 world class cyclists from 49 countries and regions.



The 2023 Hong Kong International Track Cup, a Class I track cycling race sanctioned by the Union Cycliste Internationale, was held at the Hong Kong Velodrome from May 26-28, 2023.



The 2024 Tissot UCI Track Nations Cup – Hong Kong, China was held from March 15-17, 2024. The Nations Cup consists of three series of races, with this year's Hong Kong series being one of the last two qualifying events for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS FACILITIES

Venue Management Initiatives and Improvements

SmartPLAY System

The LCSD has launched a new intelligent sports and recreation services booking and information system called SmartPLAY, replacing the Leisure Link Computerised Booking System which had in use for over 20 years. The SmartPLAY system provides users with more efficient, convenient and user-friendly ways of booking leisure facilities and enrolling in community recreation and sports programmes. The system makes use of the Internet, mobile apps and 383 new smart self-service stations in 249 leisure venues (including the 18 District Leisure Services Offices) to manage the booking of public sports and recreation services, giving members of the public access to its services anytime and anywhere.

Phase 1a of SmartPLAY, the user registration phase, was launched on July 3, 2023. Phase 1b began on November 9, 2023, when core functions such as facility booking, programme enrolment, venue/facility management, programme management, balloting and allotment, attendance management, e-payment and mobile app were made available.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS FACILITIES



Venue Management Initiatives and Improvements

Anti-touting measures

In recent years, the LCSD has adopted a multi-pronged approach to combatting touting activities, including enhancing booking arrangements, imposing penalty arrangements and stepping up inspections. To combat user permit touting at sports and recreation facilities more effectively, the LCSD also incorporated functions addressing this issue into the newly launched SmartPLAY system. Apart from requiring real-name registration, the SmartPLAY system requires members of the public to declare and undertake that they will be present during the use of the booked session and that the user permit will not be transferred by any means to another person in the course of their booking and signing-in for sessions. Any person who is found to have transferred their booked session may have committed the offence of fraud under section 16A of the Theft Ordinance (Cap. 210) and be liable to prosecution, with the risk of imprisonment for up to 14 years upon conviction. In addition, the LCSD has stepped up its monitoring and will take appropriate follow-up actions in suspected cases of unauthorised transfer.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS FACILITIES



Venue Management Initiatives and Improvements

Sports Turf Management

The LCSD's Sports Turf Management Section (STMS) provides professional advice and technical support for managing and maintaining the natural turf pitches under the care of the department. These include the pitches at Hong Kong Stadium and Mong Kok Stadium, along with pitches designated for use by the Hong Kong Premier League, and natural turf sports surfaces used by the community. The STMS is responsible for passing on turf maintenance knowledge and skills to venue management staff and making recommendations for maintaining turfgrass quality at all the LCSD's natural turf sports pitches.

Automated External Defibrillators

The LCSD has installed Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) at most of its recreational venues with active sports facilities, both fee charging and non-fee charging, with public access available in emergencies. They have now been installed at over 530 leisure venues, including land-based and aquatic venues, holiday camps, water sports centres, and recreation and sports centres. We regularly review the provision of AEDs, and will continue to install AEDs at other popular venues as appropriate, with priority being given to high-usage venues.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS FACILITIES

Venue Management Initiatives and Improvements

Work Improvement Teams

The LCSD operates the Work Improvement Teams (WITs) scheme at many of its leisure venues, including holiday camps, water sports centres, swimming pools, beaches, sports centres, parks and playgrounds. WITs are small teams of staff whose aim is to devise self-initiated strategies to enhance the attractiveness of their venue for users at every level. In 2023-24, there were 287 WITs in operation. In view of their success, the department is working towards setting up WITs at all its major leisure venues.

Free Use Scheme

The department's Free Use Scheme, aimed at maximising the usage of certain recreational facilities, continued to operate throughout 2023-24. The scheme gives eligible organisations free access to the main arenas and activity rooms of all sports centres, squash courts, hockey pitches, outdoor bowling greens and obstacle golf courses between opening and 5 pm on weekdays (except public holidays), from September 1 to June 30 of the following year. Users eligible under the scheme include schools, National Sports Associations, district sports associations and non-governmental organisations receiving subventions allocation from Social Welfare Department.

Facilities for National Sports Associations

The LCSD provides National Squad Training Centres for 39 sports associations. These centres are equipped with a wide range of training facilities for both individual athletes and national squads.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS PROGRAMMES



The LCSD organises a diverse range of recreational and sports activities for different groups, in line with its mission to promote Sport for All and to encourage people of different age groups and abilities to lead active and healthy lives. These include district-based sports training courses, competitions, and recreational activities.

In 2023-24, the department organised around 35 200 recreational and sports activities for some 2 060 000 participants of all ages and abilities. Major and territory-wide events held in the year included the Hong Kong Games, Sport For All Day, and the Healthy Exercise for All Campaign.

Healthy Exercise for All Campaign

The department runs the Healthy Exercise for All Campaign annually in conjunction with the Department of Health, across all 18 districts in Hong Kong. The campaign typically includes inclusive community activities such as fitness programmes for children, persons with disabilities and the elderly, as well as QualiWalk, Hiking Scheme, Dance for Health, and Rope Skipping for Fun activities. This year, about 96 800 participants took part in over 1 190 activities.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS PROGRAMMES

Healthy Exercise for All Campaign

Under the campaign, the department offers a free exhibition panel loan service that can be used by local organisations to promote their work in fostering a sporting culture and a healthy lifestyle. Other useful information, including videos of exercise demonstrations and hiking information under the campaign, is also made available to the public via leaflets, booklets and the dedicated campaign website at www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/healthy. In addition, DVDs containing exercise demonstration videos are available at elderly centres and disabled centres for the use of their members.

Sport For All Day 2023

Sport For All Day 2023 was held on August 6. Adopting the slogan 'Stay Active, Healthy and Happy!', the event encouraged members of the public to exercise regularly and incorporate physical activities into their daily lives.

On the event day, most of the LCSD's leisure facilities were open for free use by members of the public. Over 160 000 people took advantage of this, while more than 21 000 people took part in free programmes that were also organised at designated sports centres in the 18 districts. In addition, over 15 000 viewers viewed a webcast of sports demonstrations on the event day through a dedicated website and online platform.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS PROGRAMMES



The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, interacts with fencing athletes on Sport For All Day 2023.



Participants take part in a Sport Demonstration and play-in on Sport For All Day 2023.

Corporate Games

The Corporate Games is a major multi-sport event held every two years, specifically for employees of local public and private sector organisations. Its goal is to encourage regular exercise among these workers, while also promoting team spirit and fostering a sense of belonging to an organisation.

The Corporate Games 2023 was held from February to October 2023 at various recreational venues throughout Hong Kong. Over 7 700 people from 231 organisations took part in its 11 sports competitions.

Masters Games

The Masters Games is held biennially with the aim of inspiring people aged 35 or above to maintain their physical and mental health by competing against individuals of a similar age. The Masters Games 2023 was held from June to December 2023 and attracted about 4 600 competitors in six events, namely tai chi, tennis, table tennis, swimming, badminton and distance run.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS PROGRAMMES

School Sports Programme

The School Sports Programme (SSP), which is coordinated and subvented by the LCSD, is organised by various National Sports Associations (NSAs) in collaboration with the Education Bureau. This programme has a number of related aims, which include increasing opportunities for students to participate in sport regularly, raising sporting standards among students, identifying talented young sportsmen and women for further training, and fostering a sporting culture in schools.

The SSP includes seven subsidiary programmes and schemes: the Sport Education Programme, the Easy Sport Programme, the Outreach Coaching Programme, the Sport Captain Programme, the Joint Schools Sports Training Programme, the Badges Award Scheme, and the Sports Award Scheme. In 2023-24, 50 NSAs organised more than 7 000 sport activities under the SSP for over 520 000 students.



The 2023 School Sports Programme Prize Presentation Ceremony cum Carnival, held in July 2023, recognised the active participation of schools and students in the programme.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS PROGRAMMES

Sports Training Programmes for Persons with Disabilities

The Sports Training Programmes for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) is a scheme designed to encourage PWDs to get involved in sports activities. These programmes are available free to PWDs with physical and intellectual disabilities, hearing or visual impairments, those suffering from chronic illnesses or autism, and those recovering from mental illness. In 2023-24, over 90 training programmes were held for about 1 200 PWDs, covering activities such as badminton, body-mind stretch, table tennis, fitness exercises, modern dance, wheelchair tennis and hydro fitness.

Community Sports Club Project

The Community Sports Club (CSC) Project provides technical and financial support to CSCs for organising sports development programmes. It also arranges seminars, training courses and workshops to improve the management skills and technical knowledge of CSC leaders. It aims to improve sporting standards at the community level, promote and strengthen youth sports development, encourage lifelong participation in sports, and attract sports volunteers. A total of 33 NSAs and around 430 CSCs have now joined the CSC Project. In 2023-24, around 3 140 CSC programmes were organised for about 64 000 participants.

District Sports Teams Training Scheme

The 18 districts have been supported in setting up their own football, basketball, handball and fencing teams by the respective NSAs. About 5 800 people participated in these district teams in 2023-24, taking part in 182 training activities and inter-district competitions.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS PROGRAMMES

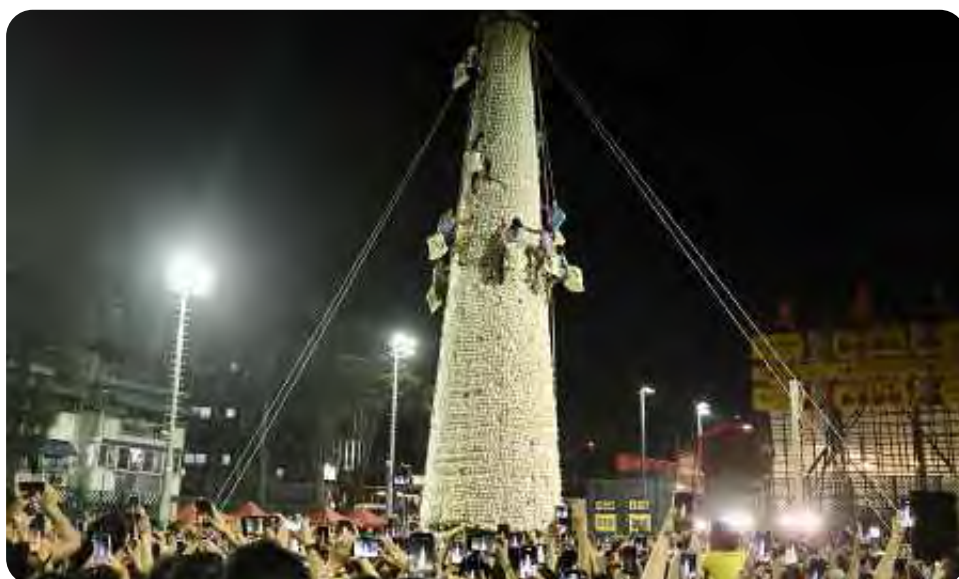
Young Athletes Training Scheme

The Young Athletes Training Scheme identifies promising young sporting talent in Hong Kong. Under the scheme, young athletes with potential are given opportunities to be selected for further training by NSAs, and may be invited to join national squads and take part in international competitions.

In 2023-24, the scheme attracted about 29 850 participants, who took part in about 800 activities in 34 sports disciplines. In total, 690 high potential young athletes were identified by NSAs and offered further training.

Bun Carnival 2023

Of particular significance in 2023 was the revival of the Cheung Chau Bun Carnival following the pandemic years. More than 5 000 members of the public participated in the carnival events held from April 16 to May 27, 2023, jointly presented by the department together with local organisations. The return of the carnival was highly anticipated, with the event attracting extensive coverage from the media and becoming the talk of the town.



The Bun Scrambling Competition is a significant annual event on Cheung Chau.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS PROGRAMMES

'The Evergreen' Awards Scheme

'The Evergreen' Award Scheme is a scheme designed to encourage the elderly to take advantage of the various leisure facilities available at LCSD parks to enhance their quality of life. Under the scheme, people aged 60 or above who visit three checkpoints at a designated park can stamp their park visit record card with a stamp found at each checkpoint. The first 18 000 senior citizens who collect 15 different stamps from five designated parks are entitled to redeem a gift.



A park checkpoint where the elderly can stamp their park visit record card for 'The Evergreen' Award Scheme.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS PROGRAMMES

‘Umbrellas for Loan by Elderly Park Visitors’ Scheme

The ‘Umbrellas for Loan by Elderly Park Visitors’ Scheme has been launched at 18 designated LCSD parks to provide elderly visitors with even greater convenience during their park visits. After a simple registration procedure, elderly persons aged 60 or above can borrow umbrellas in rainy weather. When finished, they simply need to return the umbrellas to the park offices or place them in designated umbrella drop boxes before leaving the park on the same day.



An umbrella collection box installed at a park under the ‘Umbrellas for Loan by Elderly Park Visitors’ Scheme.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

SPORTS SUBVENTION SCHEME



The LCSD administers the Sports Subvention Scheme, which provides funding support to National Sports Associations (NSAs) and other sports organisations with the aim of promoting and developing sports in Hong Kong. In 2023-24, subventions amounting to around \$600 million were provided to these bodies, supporting the organisation of over 11 000 sports programmes for about 783 000 participants.

In 2023-24, a total of 108 international events were held under the scheme. Major events included the 1st Asian Para Tenpin Bowling Championships; the 2023 ACC Women's Emerging Teams Asia Cup (T20); the Nautique IWWF Asia Wakefest Hong Kong 2023; the WTT Youth Contender Hong Kong 2023; the Hong Kong Open Figure Skating 2023/2024; the 2023 Asia Triathlon Cup and Asia Triathlon Youth Championships Hong Kong; the East Asian Muaythai Championships 2023; the WDSF World Championship Adult Formation Latin-Hong Kong 2023; Super Sixes-Hong Kong; Hong Kong Race Week 2024; the 28th Asian Cities Taekwondo Championships; the World Hong Kong Luminous Dragon and Lion Dance Championship 2024; and the FIFA World Cup 2026 Preliminary Competition and AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 Qualifiers Preliminary Joint Qualification Round 2 (Hong Kong, China vs Uzbekistan).

04 LEISURE SERVICES

SPORTS SUBVENTION SCHEME



The Hong Kong, China Para Tenpin Bowling Team march in for the opening of the 1st Asian Para Tenpin Bowling Championships.



A Japanese athlete at the Nautique IWWF Asia Wakefest Hong Kong 2023, performs an ambitious manoeuvre.



A skater leaps high in front of the judging panel at the Hong Kong Open Figure Skating 2023/2024.



A moment from a performance by German group Blau Weiss Buchholz at the WDSF World Championship Adult Formation Latin - Hong Kong 2023.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

SPORTS SUBVENTION SCHEME



Taekwondo athletes showcase their high kicks at the 28th Asian Cities Taekwondo Championships.



The Hong Kong, China Lion Dance team competing in the World Hong Kong Luminous Dragon and Lion Dance Championship 2024, held at the Hong Kong Coliseum.

A total of 528 local competitions were also organised by NSAs with assistance from the scheme. Major local competitions included the 48th Special Olympics Hong Kong Regional Athletic Meet; the Hong Kong Annual Badminton Championships 2023; the Hong Kong Para Swimming Championships 2023; the Hong Kong Bodybuilding Beach Championships; the Hong Kong Artistic Gymnastics Open & Novice Championships; the Hong Kong Orienteering Ranking League 2023; the Hong Kong Rowing Schools Championships 2023; the 26th Hong Kong Life Saving Marathon; the Hong Kong Basketball League 2023; the Hong Kong Canoe Polo Open Championships 2023; the Hong Kong Dragon Boat Championships 2023; the Gateball Association Challenge Cup 2023-24; and the Hong Kong Ladies Close Amateur and Mid Amateur Championships 2024.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

SPORTS SUBVENTION SCHEME



Contestants display their fine physiques at the Hong Kong Bodybuilding Beach Championships.



An athlete performing an aerial cartwheel on the balance beam, at the Hong Kong Artistic Gymnastics Open & Novice Championships.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

PILOT SCHEME ON SUBVENTION FOR NEW SPORTS



A total subvention payment of \$2.1 million on a project basis was granted to 21 eligible sports organisations in 2023-24 under the Pilot Scheme on Subvention for New Sports. These included organisations for Cheerleading, Dodgeball (two), Floorball, Functional Fitness, Health Qigong, Kabaddi, Kin-Ball, Kurash, Kyudo, Molkky, Nunchaku, Paragliding, Pétanque, Pickleball, Sambo, Sepak Takraw, Sport Stacking, Standup Paddle, Tchoukball and VX ball. The money was used to organise more than 300 programmes for around 12 800 participants in total. Launched in 2021-22 following the Comprehensive Review of Sports Subvention Scheme, the Pilot Scheme on Subvention for New Sports is designed to support the promotion and development of new sports in the community.



About in the Men's youth division of the Hong Kong Kurash Federation Championships, held at the Sham Shui Po Sports Centre.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

THE 19TH ASIAN GAMES AND THE 4TH ASIAN PARA GAMES, HANGZHOU



The 19th Asian Games was held from September 23 to October 8, 2023 in Hangzhou, China, and a delegation of 681 athletes travelled from Hong Kong to compete in 40 sports events at the games. The Hong Kong team won a total of 53 medals, comprising 8 gold, 16 silver and 29 bronze. The Government hosted a welcome home ceremony at the Hong Kong International Airport on October 9, to greet the Hong Kong athletes on their return and celebrate their outstanding performance.



A welcome home ceremony was held at Hong Kong International Airport on October 9, 2023 to greet the Hong Kong athletes returning from the 19th Asian Games, Hangzhou and celebrate their outstanding performance.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

THE 19TH ASIAN GAMES AND THE 4TH ASIAN PARA GAMES, HANGZHOU

The 4th Asian Para Games, specifically organised for athletes with disabilities, was held from October 22-28, 2023 in Hangzhou, China. The Hong Kong delegation comprised 98 athletes and 78 officials. Our athletes competed in 11 sports events, winning a total of 47 medals (8 gold, 15 silver and 24 bronze). A welcome home ceremony at the Hong Kong International Airport was organised by the Government on October 29 to greet the Hong Kong athletes on their return.



A welcome home ceremony was held at Hong Kong International Airport on October 29, 2023 to greet the Hong Kong athletes returning from the 4th Asian Para Games, Hangzhou.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

THE 19TH ASIAN GAMES AND THE 4TH ASIAN PARA GAMES, HANGZHOU

During the 19th Asian Games and the 4th Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, the department set up Live Zones at designated sports centres across the 18 districts where events at the games were broadcast as they happened. The Live Zones enabled members of the public to enjoy the ambience of these spectacular sports events and cheer on the Hong Kong athletes, and attracted a cumulative total of over 63 700 people during the games period.



Members of the public watch the Games at the Live Zone.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

THE 14TH NATIONAL WINTER GAMES



The 14th National Winter Games (NWG) were originally scheduled to be held in February 2020 in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, but were postponed until February 17-27, 2024 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 38 Hong Kong athletes participated in the figure skating, alpine skiing and men's youth ice hockey competitions. The men's youth ice hockey team finished their competition in fifth place.



A flag presentation ceremony for the Delegation to the 14th National Winter Games was held at Kowloon Park Sports Centre on February 2, 2024.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

THE 1ST NATIONAL STUDENT (YOUTH) GAMES



This year, the National Student Sports Games and the National Youth Games were merged into a single event as the 1st National Student (Youth) Games, held in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in November 2023. A total of 720 Hong Kong athletes took part in 34 competitions at the games, between them winning 48 medals (10 gold, 15 silver, 23 bronze), while 239 of the athletes achieved a top eight position in their competition events.



Hong Kong athletes competing at the 1st National Student (Youth) Games.



Hong Kong athletes competing at the 1st National Student (Youth) Games.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

THE 9TH HONG KONG GAMES



Held biennially since 2007, the Hong Kong Games (HKG) is a territory-wide multi-sport event that provides residents of different districts with opportunities for participation, exchange and co-operation in the field of sports. The event also encourages members of the public to participate in sports, thereby promoting the Sport for All culture at the community level. The HKG is organised by the Sports Commission and coordinated by its Community Sports Committee. Co-organisers include the Home Affairs Department, the LCSD, the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, and relevant National Sports Associations.

The 9th HKG included an inter-district sports competition and a series of community participation programmes, which were held on different occasions across 2023 and 2024. From July 2023, the 18 Districts conducted open selection exercises to select athletes to represent their districts in the HKG. Over 4 600 athletes from the 18 Districts competed in eight sports, namely athletics, badminton, 3-on-3 basketball, futsal, swimming, table tennis, tennis and volleyball. Also included as demonstration competitions were women's futsal and three new urban sports, namely breaking, sport climbing and skateboarding.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

THE 9TH HONG KONG GAMES

A series of community participation programmes were organised to encourage support for and participation in the HKG. These included a launching event, a sports seminar, eleven elite athletes' demonstration and exchange programmes delivered by elite athletes, the HKG Run and Exercise Together, Sports Legacy – Exercise to Get Super Fit, the 18 Districts' Pledging cum Cheering Team Competition, a vitality run, a photo contest, a grand opening ceremony and a closing cum prize presentation ceremony. Members of the public could also vote for My Favourite Sporty District, and were invited to guess the overall champion of the 9th HKG. To promote sports for the disabled, a wheelchair 3-on-3 basketball competition, a boccia competition, and table tennis and swimming competitions for people with intellectual disabilities were included in the HKG.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

SPORTS EXCHANGES



Sports Exchange and Co-operation Programmes

One exchange programme with a Mainland city took place during the year, which was organised under the Hong Kong and Shanghai Administration of Sports Exchange and Co-operation Agreement.

Date	Event	Location
July 24-28, 2023	Hong Kong and Shanghai Summer Sports Camp for Youth	Shanghai

Youth Sports Exchange Programme

The Youth Sports Exchange Programme, funded by the Sports Subvention Scheme, organises sports exchange programmes with overseas destinations and the Mainland (including Mainland cities in the Greater Bay Area). Under the Youth Sports Exchange Programme, the LCSD has been providing funding support to various National Sports Associations (NSAs). In 2023-24, 21 NSAs received subvention payments which they used to organise 28 programmes, for over 500 participants.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

THE GUANGDONG/HONG KONG/MACAO YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAMME



Football Exchange Programme

The 2023 Guangdong (GD)/Hong Kong (HK)/Macao Youth Football Exchange Programme was held from September 8-10, 2023 in Macao. Due to adverse weather on September 8, the Hong Kong Team was only able to participate in the matches held on the subsequent two days of the programme. The Hong Kong Team won the Championship in both the 10-11 and 12-13 age groups.

International Sporting Goods Fair

The GD/HK/Macao International Sporting Goods Fair was held at the China Import and Export Fair Complex from November 17-19, 2023, attracting almost 13 000 visitors according to figures provided by the organiser.

Basketball Exchange Programme

The 15th GD/HK/Macao Youth Basketball Exchange Programme was held from January 12-14, 2024 in Hong Kong. Apart from the main competition tournament, the event also included skills challenges, sightseeing and a farewell lunch cum prize presentation ceremony. Six basketball teams, three men's and three women's teams, participated in the event. Both the Hong Kong Men's and the Hong Kong Women's teams took the 1st runner-up prize in their categories.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

HORTICULTURE AND AMENITIES



Zoological and Horticultural Education

The LCSD runs several zoological and horticultural education programmes for the public every year. In 2023-24, around 25 600 people participated in 525 zoological programmes offered by the department, while around 29 000 took part in 349 horticultural programmes. Among these, the department organised around 700 education programmes for approximately 19 400 school students, and ran nine courses on conservation topics for members of the public.

During the year, the department staged a zoological education exhibition at the Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens, and a horticultural education exhibition at Kowloon Park. The exhibition materials then rotated for display at Hong Kong Park, Kowloon Park, the Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Tai Po Waterfront Park, Tuen Mun Park, Yuen Long Park, Tsing Yi Park, North District Park and Lai Chi Kok Park. These exhibitions attracted around 23 600 visitors in total.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

HORTICULTURE AND AMENITIES



Exhibition panels for the Horticultural Education Exhibition 2023, held in Kowloon Park.



Members of the public take part in stall games set up for the Zoological Education Exhibition 2023, held at the Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens.

Tree Management

The LCSD manages and maintains around 543 000 trees. Of the 446 trees currently on the Government's Register of Old and Valuable Trees, 313 are maintained by the department.

Six regional tree teams carry out tree management work for the department. In 2023-24, the LCSD continued to conduct regular inspections of the trees under its care, and carried out tree maintenance and trimming work on 55 952 trees.

A total of 3 255 trees were planted in 2023-24, with 917 of these planted along roadsides and 2 338 in parks and gardens. Among the total, 1 639 were attractive flowering trees such as Yellow Pui, Golden Penda, Queen Crape Myrtle, Spider Tree and Pink Trumpet Tree.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

HORTICULTURE AND AMENITIES

Horticultural and Landscape Services

The LCSD plays an active part in greening urban Hong Kong. We monitor planting programmes in all districts, including planting on development sites. During the year, our Tree Preservation Board held 26 meetings to examine 17 tree preservation and removal proposals associated with works projects, and preserved 950 trees at risk of being removed.

The LCSD also assists in vetting landscape designs submitted for open spaces and roadside amenities under development. These have included the designs for the Kai Tak Development, the Development of Lok Ma Chau Loop, the Development of Fanling North and Kwu Tung North New Development Area, and the Boardwalk underneath the Island Eastern Corridor. In 2023-24, we completed landscape improvements for 24 hectares of existing venues, roadside amenities and vacant government land.

We maintain and periodically review our policies and guidelines according to the latest horticultural and arboricultural standards.



A landscaped roundabout near Tuen Mun Road Bus Interchange (Towards Tuen Mun) at Castle Peak Road in Tuen Mun District.



A landscaped roadside planter at Tunnel Approach Rest Garden in Wan Chai District.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

GREEN PROMOTION



Hong Kong Flower Show 2024

The Hong Kong Flower Show 2024, held from March 15 to 24 in Victoria Park, this year featured the colourful *Angelonia* as its theme flower under the theme 'Floral Joy Around Town'. As always, the event presented to visitors a rich profusion of exquisite potted plants, beautiful floral arrangements and gorgeous landscape displays. The show welcomed over 229 participating organisations in total, including 81 exhibitors from 12 countries, and attracted over 650 000 visitors.



Light sculptures projected in 3D onto a themed floral wall and a colourful sea of tulips created some magnificent night-time visual effects.



Major landscape displays around the showground were themed around popular fairy tales.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

GREEN PROMOTION

Hong Kong Flower Show 2024

Many different educational and recreational activities were organised for visitors to the show, including student drawing, photography and plant exhibit competitions, various music and cultural performances, demonstrations of floral art, horticultural seminars and workshops on greening activities, guided visits, recreational programmes, and games for parents and children. The show also hosted commercial stalls where visitors could purchase flowers, horticultural products, and photographic equipment.



The Peking Beauty flower plot, inspired by female headdresses from Peking opera, proved a popular photo-taking hot-spot.



A few of the approximately 2 200 student entrants in the student drawing competition of the Hong Kong Flower Show 2024 work intently on their artworks.



One of the main attractions of the Hong Kong Flower Show 2024 was the Sunflower Field, dotted with giant bubbles, which proved an excellent 'immersive' photo spot.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

GREEN PROMOTION

Hong Kong Flower Show 2024

Once the show finished, a number of Green Recycling Day activities were held, with over 320 volunteers assisting in separating and collecting reusable and recyclable materials at the showground. Flowers suitable for replanting and landscape displays that could be reused were relocated to LCSD parks and amenity areas. Another 10 000 potted plants suitable for replanting were distributed to some 70 participating organisations, while around 3 000 pots of Angelonia were given away to members of the public to encourage greening within the community.



Around 3 000 pots of flowers were distributed to members of the public for replanting, to encourage greening in the community.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

GREEN PROMOTION



Flower Viewing Website

The department's dedicated flower viewing website (www.fa.gov.hk) contains information about some of the best-loved species of flowering plants growing in parks and gardens across Hong Kong, including their current flowering status. The website also serves as a one-stop platform for information about and appreciation of flowers. In December 2023, a new 'Photo Sharing' function was added, enabling users to upload their own photos of flowers onto the website.

Green Hong Kong Campaign

To promote greening, the LCSD conducted a total of 92 outreaching greening promotional activities including roving exhibition at leisure venues in the 18 districts and outreaching greening activities to organisations and schools for about 35 300 participants during the year.

The department continued to run its Green Volunteer Scheme, served by over 6 900 Green Volunteers from the 18 districts. In 2023-24, these volunteers took part in 390 greening and green promotional activities, either by undertaking voluntary services at the events or serving as stewards.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

GREEN PROMOTION

Green Hong Kong Campaign



A Tree Walk cum Risk Assessment programme was held at Quarry Bay Park to enhance Green Volunteers' knowledge of trees and horticulture and help them better promote green consciousness in the community.

Under the Community Garden Programme, the department organised 64 gardening programmes in which 12 590 people took part. These programmes encouraged community-level greening activities and the adoption of green practices, and helped raise public awareness of the importance of environmental protection. Across the 18 districts, 29 community gardens have now been set up.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

GREEN PROMOTION

Green Hong Kong Campaign



Members of the community garden programme take part in a course at the garden plots in Kowloon Tsai Park.

In conjunction with District Councils and local community groups, the LCSD also organised 18 Community Planting Days throughout the year. Over 4 060 members of the public took part in these, helping to plant out almost 18 000 trees and shrubs.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

GREEN PROMOTION

Green Hong Kong Campaign



Adults and youngsters work together on a greening activity, part of a community planting day held in Tai Po District.

The Greening School Subsidy Scheme, part of the school greening programme, provided subsidies of \$3.23 million to 891 schools and kindergartens in the year. This is money earmarked for making school campuses greener and providing green educational activities for students, with the assistance of part-time instructors. Following assessment of the various school greening projects, a Greening School Project Award was publicly announced and presented to each winning school to acknowledge their outstanding achievements and contributions to campus greening. In addition, around 371 200 school students were given pots of seedlings under the 'One Person, One Flower' Scheme, which encourages young people to grow their own plants.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

GREEN PROMOTION



The Greening Project created by the winning school of the Greening School Subsidy Scheme 2023-24.



Students with their flowers, distributed under the One Person One Flower Scheme 2023-24.

Shining City Project

The Shining City Project was launched in response to the Policy Address 2023, with the aim of enhancing the beautification of our city. Key foil of the project include developing the Shing Mun River and the Yuen Long Nullah into two flower viewing hotspots; implementing landscaping improvements on the central dividers and roundabouts of major roads during major festivals covering nine locations with a total area of 10 000 square meters; and adding art and design elements at suitable sports pitches and courts and on the external walls of sports venues and washrooms.



A beautifully landscaped central median on Connaught Road Central in Central & Western District.



An immaculately landscaped amenity plot on the Sheung Hing Street Roundabout in Ho Man Tin, Kowloon City District.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

LICENSING



The LCSD is the licensing authority for officially designated Places of Amusement. As at March 2024, these licensed venues included 49 billiard establishments, five public bowling alleys and eight public skating rinks.

04 LEISURE SERVICES

MAJOR RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS EVENTS



Date	Event
February – October 2023	Corporate Games 2023
May 26-28, 2023	2023 Hong Kong International Track Cup
May 26-31, 2023	1st Asian Para Tenpin Bowling Championships
June 13-18, 2023	FIVB Volleyball Nations League Hong Kong 2023 presented by China Life (Overseas)
June 13-21, 2023	2023 ACC Women's Emerging Teams Asia Cup (T20)
June 24-25, 2023	2023 Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Races
June – December, 2023	Masters Games 2023
July 20-23, 2023	Nautique IWWF Asia Wakefest Hong Kong 2023
August 7-13, 2023	WTT Youth Contender Hong Kong 2023
September 12-17, 2023	VICTOR Hong Kong Open Badminton Championships 2023 part of the HSBC BWF World Tour Super 500
October 2-5, 2023	Hong Kong Open Figure Skating 2023/2024
October 6-8, 2023	Aramco Team Series presented by PIF – Hong Kong
October 7-15, 2023	Prudential Hong Kong Tennis Open 2023

04 LEISURE SERVICES

MAJOR RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS EVENTS

Date	Event
November 9-12, 2023	Hong Kong Open 2023
November 11-12, 2023	FIA World Rallycross Championship Hong Kong, China – Season Finale 2023
November 12, 2023	New World Harbour Race 2023
November 19, 2023	2023 Asia Triathlon Cup and Asia Triathlon Youth Championships Hong Kong
November 19, 2023	Bank of China (Hong Kong) Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HK Section) Half Marathon 2023
November 23-26, 2023	East Asian Muaythai Championships 2023
November 25-26, 2023	FIBA 3x3 World Tour Hong Kong Masters 2023
November 27 – December 3, 2023	TTI Milwaukee Hong Kong Squash Open 2023
December 15-16, 2023	WDSF Breaking for Gold World Series – Hong Kong 2023
December 18, 2023	WDSF World Championship Adult Formation Latin – Hong Kong 2023
December 29-31, 2023	Super Sixes – Hong Kong
December 31, 2023 – January 7, 2024	Bank of China Hong Kong Tennis Open 2024
January 30 – February 4, 2024	Hong Kong Race Week 2024
February 17-27, 2024	14th National Winter Games
February 25, 2024	The 9th Hong Kong Games – The 18 Districts' Pledging cum Cheering Team Competition
March 3, 2024	The 9th Hong Kong Games – The Jockey Club Vitality Run
March 8-10, 2024	LIV Golf Hong Kong 2024

04 LEISURE SERVICES

MAJOR RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS EVENTS

Date	Event
March 9-10, 2024	The 28th Asian Cities Taekwondo Championships
March 9-10, 2024	World Hong Kong Luminous Dragon and Lion Dance Championship 2024
March 15-17, 2024	2024 Tissot UCI Track Nations Cup – Hong Kong, China
March 21, 2024	FIFA World Cup 2026 Preliminary Competition and AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 Qualifiers Preliminary Joint Qualification Round 2 (Hong Kong, China vs Uzbekistan)
March 23-24, 2024	2024 World Triathlon Cup – Hong Kong

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

CULTURAL SERVICES



The Cultural Services Branch of the LCSD organises cultural and entertainment programmes to promote culture and the arts in Hong Kong. It also manages the department's existing performance venues and plans for new ones to meet demand. In addition, the branch is responsible for Hong Kong's public museums and their related museum services, as well as for providing public library services and promoting reading and the literary arts.

In total, the LCSD manages 15 performing arts venues, 15 museums, two art spaces, two indoor stadia, and 71 static and 12 mobile libraries.

The Cultural Services Branch is supported by 267 expert advisers who provide specialist input on issues relating to the performing arts, the literary arts, and museum activities. They include artists, authors, academics and others who have made significant contributions in their fields.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

PERFORMING ARTS



In 2023-24, the department delivered numerous festivals, performances and audience-building activities, with contributions from local and international artists in a hybrid of live and online formats. It also continued to manage many of Hong Kong's leading performance venues.

Hong Kong Cultural Centre

The Hong Kong Cultural Centre is the city's premier performing arts venue. In 2023-24, a total of 585 performances were held in its 1 971-seat Concert Hall, 1 734-seat Grand Theatre, and 496-seat Studio Theatre, which together attracted over 512 000 patrons. The cultural centre hosted a diverse array of performing arts events by internationally renowned artists and arts groups throughout the year, delivering some innovative and inspirational experiences in the performing arts to audiences. Performers and performing groups included the Peking Opera Theatre of Beijing, the New York Philharmonic, Kodo (Japan), Hofesh Shechter Company (UK), the Bavarian State Opera (Germany), Shanghai Ballet, Niu Niu & Théo Fouchenneret, Yo-Yo Ma & Kathryn Stott, Dimitris Papaioannou, Seong-Jin Cho, Tan Dun and Angélique Kidjo.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

PERFORMING ARTS



The Chinese Opera Festival 2023 kicked off with three performances by the Peking Opera Theatre of Beijing that highlighted the artistic legacy of Peking Opera master Zhang Junqiu.



The award-winning Bavarian State Opera returned to Hong Kong for the opening of the 2024 Hong Kong Arts Festival, performing the Hong Kong premiere of Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*.

Hong Kong City Hall

Hong Kong City Hall was the first multi-purpose cultural complex in Hong Kong, and has long served as an important cultural centre and nurturer of local artistic talent. It was declared a monument under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance in 2022. In 2023-24, over 520 performances were held in the venue's 1430-seat Concert Hall and 463-seat Theatre, attended by approximately 281 000 patrons.

Some of the renowned arts groups and artists that performed at Hong Kong City Hall during the year included The Koryu Nishikawa Troupe (Japan), the Bavarian State Orchestra (Germany), Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord (France), Philip Glass / Phelim McDermott, Sun Yu, Wan Xing, Lise de la Salle, Anil Singh and Miwa Matreyek. Several local artists also performed at the venue, including Charles Tam, Chemie Ching, Yanki Ma, Xu Lingzi and Ng Hiu-hung.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

PERFORMING ARTS



Improvement Works and Service Enhancements

The Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre underwent major renovation and improvement works during the year, which involved the overall refurbishment and enhancement of the public facilities and facilities available for hire and the replacement of the building services installations. In addition, innovative stage equipment and technology was installed to meet the needs of the performance arts sector, including an immersive sound system, a projection mapping system, a tracking enabled audio-visual-light system and a live streaming system.

Progress continued on the construction of Phase two of the Yau Ma Tei Theatre. The project involves extending the existing foyer and side stage as well as adding new rehearsal, training and ancillary facilities. These improvements will enhance the theatre's functionality as a professional performance venue for nurturing Cantonese opera talent.

The Tai Po Civic Centre has been undergoing a facility upgrading project, involving expanding the Auditorium, the Black Box Theatre and the function rooms and foyer area, and enhancing the venue's indoor and outdoor facilities. Plans are also in place to introduce innovative technology and equipment, such as an immersive sound system, to meet the requirements of the performing arts sector and give the Tai Po district a truly professional performance venue.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

PERFORMING ARTS

Improvement Works and Service Enhancements

The Yuen Long Theatre has served the arts community for over two decades now. From January to June 2023, the first phase of major renovation and improvement works was carried out. The second phase followed from March to June 2024, when the escalator in the foyer was replaced and further enhancements made to the functionality of the stage machinery and automation system in the Auditorium. The theatre's ancillary facilities were also upgraded to better suit current requirements for professional performance venues.

Tsuen Wan Town Hall also underwent facility improvement and renovation works from November 2023 to February 2024. The project included the rejuvenation of the foyers, and replacement of the acoustic doors of the Auditorium to enhance the overall acoustics of the venue. Refurbishments were also carried out on the lecture room, conference room and dressing rooms of the Auditorium and the Cultural Activities Hall, and the public toilets.



The completion of a Foyer Rejuvenation Project resulted in a major enhancement to the overall ambience of the public areas of the Tsuen Wan Town Hall.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

PERFORMING ARTS



Community Arts Facilities

The LCSD manages a network of local community arts venues where culture and arts events are staged. The larger of these venues include the Sha Tin, Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun town halls and the Kwai Tsing, Yuen Long and Ko Shan theatres, while smaller venues are represented by the Sai Wan Ho, Sheung Wan, Ngau Chi Wan and Tai Po civic centres, and the North District town hall. These LCSD facilities are also available for hiring by cultural organisations. In 2023-24, around 4 200 performances were held at these venues, attracting around 1.13 million patrons in total.

Our venue sponsorship scheme offers free use of these facilities to district arts groups involved in organising cultural activities for local communities. In 2023-24, the scheme benefited around 60 such arts groups, which delivered over 430 activities in LCSD venues for about 60 000 people.

Support for Cantonese Opera

The LCSD operates a priority hiring policy that gives professional Cantonese opera troupes priority for hiring the Ko Shan Theatre, and priority hiring for specific periods at five other performance venues.

The Ko Shan Theatre has a 1 031-seat Theatre, while the Ko Shan Theatre New Wing offers its 596-seat Auditorium specially designed for staging Cantonese opera. In 2023-24, around 273 000 people attended 635 performances in the Ko Shan Theatre. The venue's Cantonese Opera Education and Information Centre provides Cantonese opera resources, which are digitised and interactive. It welcomed around 15 000 visitors in 2023-24.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

PERFORMING ARTS



Support for Cantonese Opera

Another venue devoted to Chinese opera is the 300-seat Yau Ma Tei Theatre. Built in 1930, the theatre is the only surviving pre-war cinema building in the urban area of Hong Kong, and has been classified as a Grade 2 building by the Antiquities Advisory Board. The theatre and the adjacent Grade 1 Red Brick Building have become important training and performance venues for Cantonese opera artists. The venue has been closed temporarily while the construction of Yau Ma Tei Theatre Phase two is underway.

Planned New Facilities

Construction works began in July 2023 on the New Territories East Cultural Centre (NTECC) in Fanling for target completion in around four and a half years. The NTECC will house a 1 400-seat auditorium, a 700-seat theatre, and a 180-seat multi-purpose studio. It will also contain a purpose-built children's theatre, and two incubator rooms equipped with professional stage facilities for experimentation and new work, each of which will be the first of their kinds in Hong Kong.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

PERFORMING ARTS

Development of Arts Technology

The LCSD is taking the lead in realising the government's policy initiative for promoting Arts Technology (Arts Tech), unveiled in the Chief Executive's Policy Addresses of 2019 and 2020. Positioned as a pioneer Arts Tech flagship venue in Hong Kong, the East Kowloon Cultural Centre (EKCC) is undergoing internal facility installation and optimisation and has opened its outdoor spaces by phases starting from October 2023. It comprises a 1 200-seat multipurpose proscenium theatre, The Hall, and a 500-seat thrust stage called The Theatre, along with three studios for different art forms with seating capacities of 120 to 360 seats, and three rehearsal rooms. One of the studios at the EKCC will be set up as a testbed studio to be known as The Lab to support artists and technology professionals looking to explore the convergence of the arts and technology. To support the sustainable development and application of Arts Tech in stage performances, the EKCC Academy for Arts Tech rolled out a 24-month Arts Tech Trainee Programme from February 2024. Under the programme, full-time trainees attend structured hands-on training sessions where they acquire the software skills and practical insights needed to support their work on Arts Tech productions.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

PERFORMING ARTS

Development of Arts Technology



The East Kowloon Cultural Centre, positioned as a pioneering Arts Tech flagship venue in Hong Kong, is now undergoing internal facility installation and optimisation.

Venue Partnership Scheme

The fifth round of the LCSD's Venue Partnership Scheme is currently underway, running from April 2022 to March 2026. The scheme supports performing arts groups by providing them with work spaces, offering them priority use of venue facilities, delivering essential funding, and assisting them with their publicity efforts. By these means, it is helping to raise the public image and increase the audiences of the selected performing arts groups, while also optimising the use of the LCSD's venue facilities and encouraging wider community involvement in the arts.

In 2023-24, the LCSD's 22 venue partners (which include individual groups, joint groups and consortia) presented over 740 performances and engaged in about 800 audience-building activities, attracting around 686 000 attendees in total.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

PERFORMING ARTS

Venue Partnership Scheme

Date	Event
(1) Hong Kong City Hall	Hong Kong Sinfonietta Hong Kong Repertory Theatre
(2) Hong Kong Cultural Centre	Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra Hong Kong Ballet Zuni Icosahedron
(3) Kwai Tsing Theatre	Chung Ying Theatre Company Wind Mill Grass Theatre
(4) Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre	E-Side Dance Company Jumbo Kids Theatre and Make Friends with Puppet
(5) North District Town Hall	Hong Kong Theatre Works
(6) Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre	The Absolutely Fabulous Theatre Connection
(7) Sha Tin Town Hall	Hong Kong Dance Company The Cantonese Opera Advancement Association Trinity Theatre and The Radiant Theatre
(8) Sheung Wan Civic Centre	iStage and Pants Theatre Production
(9) Tsuen Wan Town Hall	Jazz World and Count-in Music Ming Ri Institute for Arts Education
(10) Tuen Mun Town Hall	Spring-Time Experimental Theatre and Glory Chinese Opera Institute POP Theatre
(11) Yau Ma Tei Theatre	The Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong
(12) Yuen Long Theatre	Hong Kong Performing Stage of Cantonese Opera

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

PERFORMING ARTS



Arts Administrator Trainee Scheme

The Arts Administrator Trainee Scheme trains young arts administrators and stage management staff, and thus acts as a pipeline to deliver essential talent for the future administration and development of Hong Kong's cultural scene. In 2023-24, there were 28 placements of arts administrator trainees and stage management trainees under the scheme.

Arts administrator trainees undergo a programme that coaches them in the basics of venue operations, facility management, event promotion, and the organisation of performing arts programmes, carnivals, arts festivals and cultural exchange activities. The separate 18-month stage management trainee programme provides trainees with on-the-job training in stage operation and technical services.

During the year, the LCSD also provided sponsorship to its 22 venue partners, along with the Hong Kong Arts Festival Society, enabling these organisations to take on 46 trainees in the management of performing arts groups and arts festivals.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS



The LCSD's Cultural Presentations Section organises performing arts programmes in music, dance, Chinese opera, theatre and multi-arts, by both local and visiting artists and arts groups, in styles ranging from traditional to modern and avant-garde. In 2023-24, many visiting programmes attracted full-houses including concerts given by the New York Philharmonic, a Duo Recital by Yo-Yo Ma (cello) & Kathryn Stott (piano), *Warabe* Japanese Taiko performance by Kodo, Tan Dun WE-Festival: Tan Dun: BACH Rock & Hanggai - When BACH meets GENGHIS KHAN, *The Journey of a Legendary Landscape Painting* by the China Oriental Performing Arts Group, *Passengers* by The 7 Fingers from Canada. Other programmes, including the China Broadcasting Chinese Orchestra, Tan Dun WE-Festival: Opera and Dance Theatre, *Blossoms* (Part I) performed in the Shanghai dialect, Solo Play: *JARMAN* by Mark Farrelly from the UK, *Hachioji Kuruma Ningyo* by The Koryu Nishikawa Troupe from Japan were also well-received by the audience. Online live streaming and repeat concerts were arranged for the concerts by the New York Philharmonic. The LCSD also supported local arts practitioners through programme series such as 'City Hall Virtuosi', 'Our Music Talents', 'New Force in Motion', 'Dance On', 'Solo Play', 'New Energy', and 'Cheers!'. In total, 750 performances were staged in the year, attended by over 259 000 people.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS



The New York Philharmonic joined hands with maestro Jaap van Zweden and violinist Hilary Hahn to deliver an enchanting performance of Brahms' Violin Concerto at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre.



World-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma and his longtime collaborator pianist Kathryn Stott staged a fabulous recital that included works by Shostakovich, Franck, Dvořák, Pärt, Fauré, Sérgio Assad and Boulanger, with encore pieces by Elgar and Kreisler.



The China Broadcasting Chinese Orchestra, under the baton of conductor Pang Kapang, performed a series of traditional Chinese music pieces in a concert held at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre.



Warabe blended different forms of taiko performance in a celebration of the unique sounds and splendid physicality of Kodo.



A collaboration between musicians from Kodo and local group Refiner Drums blended Japanese taiko and Chinese drum music, and showcased the performers' remarkable skills and unique styles.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS



With renowned rock band Hanggai and the Changsha Symphony Orchestra, artistic director and conductor Tan Dun used works by J.S. Bach, 'the father of classical music', to engage in a dialogue with Mongolian rock music, pairing the music with digital animations and multimedia technology.



Artistic director Tan Dun engaged in discussions with local and visiting arts professionals, gave live performances including world premieres by composers Kam Shing-hei (Hong Kong) and Liu Junhao (Shanghai), and performed a tribute to John Cage, his friend and mentor.



Before the performance of dance theatre *The Rite of Spring* by renowned choreographer Yang Liping, Yang and Maestro Tan Dun shared details of their personal experiences of growing up in Hunan and Yunnan, as well as accounts of their individual artistic journeys to the international stage.



Local artists Candice Chung (soprano), Rachel Cheung and Tsang Hin-yat (piano duo) joined hands with the New York Bard Percussion Ensemble to perform the mini opera *Deer of Nine Colours*, conducted by Maestro Tan Dun.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS



Two extra performances of Poetic Dance: *The Journey of a Legendary Landscape Painting* by the China Oriental Performing Arts Group were arranged after tickets for the original three performances sold out quickly. All five performances attracted full houses and garnered enthusiastic applause.



A moment from the performance of Theatre in Shanghai Dialect *Blossoms* (Part I), in the Grand Theatre of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre.



The Koryu Nishikawa Troupe, a Japanese traditional cart puppetry company, made its Hong Kong debut with three puppetry performances that showcased this important example of intangible folk cultural heritage from the late Edo period.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS

The 11th Chinese Opera Festival, packed with stage performances and fringe activities, drew an audience of 45 000. The festival presented a range of opera genres; the opening programme was performed by the Peking Opera Theatre of Beijing and there were also performances of Kunqu Opera, Yue Opera, Wu Opera and Sichuan Opera, while Han Opera and Qu Opera made their Hong Kong debuts. The grand finale, *Bless This Land* – Cantonese Opera Showcase under the Bamboo Theatre at Victoria Park, brought the festival to a fitting grand-scale conclusion. The annual large-scale free-admission event Cantonese Opera Day was held at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre in November 2023, when the achievements of young talents in preserving and promoting the culture of Cantonese Opera went on show. The LCSD provided further development support for several performing arts groups and organisations, including the City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong, Opera Hong Kong, Musica Viva, Musicus Society, The Chopin Society of Hong Kong, Premiere Performances, the Windpipe Chinese Music Ensemble, Hong Kong Dance Alliance Limited, Hong Kong Dance Federation, The Hong Kong Ballet Group, and The Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong.



The Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong performed the Cantonese Opera formulaic play *Fan Lihua Executes Her Son* as part of the '*Bless This Land*' – Cantonese Opera Showcase under the Bamboo Theatre at Victoria Park.



Local child performers from the Yeung Ming Cantonese Opera Troupe performed an excerpt from *The Warrior's Marriage* on Cantonese Opera Day 2023.

The LCSD also continued to support local arts practitioners in collaborations on a series of live and recorded programmes. Almost 20 episodes were produced under the 'Click for Arts' online platform, catering to public interest in learning more about the arts.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

FESTIVALS



In 2023, the International Arts Carnival and the New Vision Arts Festival (NVAF) were again able to present visiting overseas programmes alongside local productions. Both events offered a rich mix of live performances and online programmes.

International Arts Carnival 2023

Held in July and August, the International Arts Carnival 2023 featured different arts groups and artists in eight stage programmes and two free online programme series. In total, the carnival delivered around 80 live performances and five online video episodes, which attracted over 38 000 attendees and 208 000 views respectively. These wide-ranging child- and family-oriented programmes included a ballet performance incorporating arts tech, an a cappella music theatre, an acrobatic show, a concert, a multimedia theatre, an interactive dance for babies and other theatrical performances.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

FESTIVALS

International Arts Carnival 2023

The carnival welcomed many local and visiting artists. The opening programme, *Sam and Her Amazing Book of Dinosaurs*, was a joint production by 59 Productions (UK) and the Hong Kong Ballet. It seamlessly blended arts tech and ballet, with sparkling ballet dancers dancing against a projection of vivid dinosaur animations. Award-winning Spanish acrobatic group Vaivén Circo's *Esencial* was performed on a set inspired by Waldorf Rainbow building blocks. Local dance artists Alice Ma, Ronly Kong and Mary Jane Tang designed an interactive dance show for babies, *Living Creatures*, which utilised dance, music, lighting and props as well as the surrounding environment to stimulate sensory development in the babies attending.



A joint production by the Hong Kong Ballet and 59 Productions (UK), *Sam and Her Amazing Book of Dinosaurs* blended arts tech with ballet, with ballet dancers sharing the stage with dinosaur animations.



Acrobats from Vaivén Circo (Spain) showcased their remarkable acrobatic skills in *Esencial*.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

FESTIVALS

New Vision Arts Festival 2023

The New Vision Arts Festival is an annual event that has taken place every October and November since 2020, showcasing innovative and interdisciplinary works by local and visiting artists. The festival returned on a full scale in 2023, presenting 55 stage performances and extension activities that drew a total audience of over 20 000. The festival also featured seven online programme episodes that attracted a viewership of over 159 000.

The Hofesh Shechter Company from the United Kingdom opened the festival with their double bill, *Double Murder*, featuring the macabrely comedic *Clowns* and the hopeful *The Fix*. Greek choreographer Dimitris Papaioannou's *INK* transported audiences to a surreal realm of ever-flowing water, with a highlight being a dynamic duet between Papaioannou and his German collaborator Šuka Horn. *Tao of Glass*, co-created by minimalist music legend Philip Glass and British Olivier award-winning director Phelim McDermott, captivated through its unique blend of storytelling, puppetry and Glass's music. The festival also presented two innovative co-commissioned works: *The Once and Future*, a film by Singaporean filmmaker Yeo Siew Hua that integrated laser projections and live music, with a score by Eugene Birman performed by members of the Berliner Philharmoniker; and *Book of Mountains and Seas*, a vocal theatre piece with music by Huang Ruo, massive puppetry by Basil Twist, and choral performances by Ars Nova Copenhagen and percussionists Karen Yu and Samuel Chan from Hong Kong. Elsewhere, *RAIN*, a contemporary dance adaptation of Somerset Maugham's short story by Japanese artists Ryu Suzuki, Shinji Ohmaki and evala, exemplified the festival's commitment to cross-cultural exchange.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

FESTIVALS

New Vision Arts Festival 2023

This production featured Japanese dancers alongside Hong Kong's Ray Cheung and Zhang Yutong, selected through an audition organised by the festival and the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.



Double Murder was a co-commissioned double-bill by the Israeli-British choreographer Hofesh Shechter, featuring two contrasting contemporary dance pieces, *Clowns* and *The Fix*.



Created and performed by the internationally-acclaimed Greek choreographer Dimitris Papaioannou and performed on a stage covered with water, *INK* juxtaposed stillness and violence in a metaphorical push-and-pull dance between two figures.

Locally, Hong Kong's creative talents contributed many original productions to the festival. These included *In the Name of Hanjin*, an immersive audio theatre created by the musical polyglot Hanjin Tan; *The Old Man and His Sea*, a reimagining of Hemingway's classic short novel through the juxtaposition of non-verbal contemporary theatre and Cantonese opera by Yuen Siu-fai and Tang Shu-wing; and *Bach im Theater: St. John Passion*, a performance that bestowed the crucifixion story and Bach's choral masterpiece with a new character, curated by choral artist Patrick Chiu, choreographer Ivanhoe Lam, and SingFest, and featuring performers from a variety of ethnicities and backgrounds. The International Association of Theatre Critics (Hong Kong) further enriched the festival experience by curating five weekend talks involving veteran cultural and arts practitioners, and sharing online reviews to help deepen audience engagement with the stage programmes.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

FESTIVALS



Derived from Hemingway's classic novel, *The Old Man and His Sea* was a collaboration between two veteran artists, Yuen Siu-fai from Cantonese Opera and Tang Shu-wing from the theatre, that reimagined the interactions between an old man and his granddaughter across parallel time and space. Yuen also performed the title role in the Cantonese Opera adaptation of the novel, for which he penned a new libretto.



Fusing Baroque music and contemporary theatre, Patrick Chiu and Ivanhoe Lam reinterpreted Bach's choral masterpiece with new character brought into the crucifixion story. The ensemble was formed by performers from Hong Kong, Germany, Japan and the USA, under the baton of Wolfgang Katschner

Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival 2023

The Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival is an annual event organised by the department in collaboration with industry stakeholders and arts communities. This initiative aligns with the government's commitment, announced in the 2022 Policy Address, to foster the cultural development of Hong Kong and transform the city into an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange.

The first Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival was launched in April 2023 to showcase the city's distinctive cultural characteristics, its diverse and inclusive creativity, and its unique pop culture. For it, the department presented or sponsored over 20 programmes that included performing arts programmes, film screenings, thematic exhibitions and a series of outdoor and outreach activities, which together attracted about 530 000 on-site visitors and 75 000 online viewers.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

FESTIVALS



Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival 2023

The programmes revisited some of the masterpieces of Hong Kong's pop culture golden era from different perspectives, and included tribute events for the legendary artists Leslie Cheung and Anita Mui. In rejuvenating many all-time classics by incorporating new elements, the festival effectively demonstrated the heritage, transmission and ongoing evolution of local pop culture.

Highlights included the pre-festival Miss You Much Leslie Exhibition which attracted not only local fans but many from the Mainland and abroad; the opening programme 'When Leslie & Anita Meet Hei & Gin' featuring a live performance by singer Gin Lee and renowned music producer Chiu Tsang-hei before a screening of *Who's the Woman, Who's the Man* (1996); an Outdoor 'Music x Film Marathon' that featured cross-generational singers and bands, with young performers singing along with the audience to famous movie songs by Leslie and Anita; and the signature outreach programme 'Movie Tram', which offered 48 walk-and-ride guided tours of different filming locations in Central & Western District.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

FESTIVALS



The opening programme of the Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival 2023 showcased a live performance by Chiu Tsang-hei and Gin Lee, featured theme songs from films starred in by Leslie Cheung and Anita Mui, followed by a film screening of *Who's the Woman, Who's the Man* (1996).



The Outdoor 'Music x Film Marathon' brought together artists from different generations in a collaboration that showcased the ongoing vitality of Hong Kong's pop culture.



'Movie Tram' offered a walk-and-ride experience, with participants getting to explore the street shooting locations of various Hong Kong films and hear stories by film specialists on the tram.



Over 370 000 people visited the six-month Miss You Much Leslie Exhibition.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

FESTIVALS

Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival 2023

The department also strove to promote Hong Kong's pop culture and young talents beyond the city and build wider audiences. Its *Indie Debut* programme was broadcast on online platform 'Poly Cloud Theatre' of the Greater Bay Area, and the well-received film screening series 'Revisiting the Glory Days — The Legacy of Leslie and Anita' was presented in Wuhan and Shanghai.



Ten films across different genres and themes were selected for presentation in Shanghai and Wuhan, all showcasing the charisma of screen icons Leslie Cheung and Anita Mui.



Indie Debut, featuring local young indie musicians, was broadcast through the online platform 'Poly Cloud Theatre' in order to reach audiences across the Greater Bay Area.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

FESTIVALS

Asia+ Festival 2023

The inaugural Asia+ Festival was launched in October 2023 in support of the government's plans to develop Hong Kong into an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange. Presented by the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau and organised by the LCSD, the Asia+ Festival celebrated the cultural diversity of Asia and the Belt and Road regions and was supported by many different Consulates and overseas cultural organisations in Hong Kong. Running from October to November 2023, the festival presented a total of 11 events made up of about 30 performances and activities that featured artists and arts groups from 23 countries. Its wide range of stage performances included dances and musical and concert events, along with exhibitions and an outdoor carnival that showcased the unique arts and cultures of different regions. More than 62 000 people attended the festival overall.



Asia+ Festival: Asian Ethnic Cultural Performances 2023 delivered performances and exhibitions that showcased cultures from Asia and the Belt and Road countries and regions.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

FESTIVALS



Asia+ Festival 2023

The first Asia+ Festival was recognised as one of the Hong Kong-related Practical Cooperation Deliverables in the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation hosted by President Xi in October 2023, and was named as the 21st item in the list of 'People's Livelihood and People-to-people Connectivity Projects'. The festival has been developed as a brand for promoting arts and cultural collaborations and as a platform for sustainable cultural exchange.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

ARTS EDUCATION AND AUDIENCE-BUILDING PROGRAMMES



For Schools

The LCSD's 'School Performing Arts in Practice Scheme' continued to provide opportunities for local arts groups to work on arts education projects at schools during the year. Under the scheme, students attended a series of training activities before taking part in performances, in the process experiencing art first-hand and learning about pathways for further study. In the 2023-24 school year, 11 projects were presented that spanned music, English musical, dance, drama, puppetry and Cantonese opera. They were undertaken by the Chung Ying Theatre Company, the City Contemporary Dance Company, Hong Kong Ballet, Musical Dreams Theatrical, the Hong Kong International Drummer Festival, Prospects Theatre, Yat Po Singers, Move Beyond, Make Friends with Puppet, Shakespeare4All and the Kim Sum Cantonese Opera Association.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

ARTS EDUCATION AND AUDIENCE-BUILDING PROGRAMMES

For Schools



Primary students performing in the finale performance of the year-long 'Cantonese Opera in Practice Project', organised by the Kim Sum Cantonese Opera Association under the 'School Performing Arts in Practice Scheme'.

The 'School Culture Day Scheme' encouraged schools to arrange visits by students to LCSD performance venues, museums and libraries during school hours and take part in cultural activities which integrate art, history and science topics into the academic curriculum. Parents were also invited to attend some of these activities. In the 2023-24 school year, 385 programmes and activities were held under the scheme.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

ARTS EDUCATION AND AUDIENCE-BUILDING PROGRAMMES

For Schools



Dance programme *Flowmoji* by Unlock Dancing Plaza Limited was tailor made for kindergarten students under the 'School Culture Day Scheme'.

The 'Arts Experience Scheme for Senior Secondary Students' delivered programmes on Aesthetic Development in Other Learning Experiences under the Senior Secondary Curriculum. A total of 12 programmes were held under this scheme in the 2023-24 school year, covering art forms such as dance, drama, music, Cantonese musical, Western opera, Cantonese opera and multimedia arts. Arts groups organising the projects included the Chung Ying Theatre Company, the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre, Hong Kong Dance Company, Zuni Icosahedron, Theatre Space, Musical Trio, Bel Canto Singers, Musica Viva, and the Cantonese Opera Promotion Centre.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

ARTS EDUCATION AND AUDIENCE-BUILDING PROGRAMMES

For Schools

The 'General Education in Arts Programme for Tertiary Students Scheme' offered tertiary students a wide range of training and exchange activities designed to help them learn more about performing arts and create their own works under professional guidance. The finale performance of the multi-arts project *Love-in-idleness* by Théâtre de la Feuille for the 2022-23 programme was staged in November 2023, when the student participants of the programme presented their own version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in a performance integrating literature, theatre and technology. The project under the programme for the 2023-24 school year, namely Discovering Musicals by Actors' Family, offered a general training course in Cantonese musical in which tertiary students could learn about composition, production and performance. Their finale performance would be staged in September 2024.



The finale performances of the multi-arts project *Love-in-idleness* by Théâtre de la Feuille, under the 'General Education in Arts Programme for Tertiary Students Scheme', showcased the student participants' own version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* which integrated literature, theatre and technology.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

ARTS EDUCATION AND AUDIENCE-BUILDING PROGRAMMES

For Schools

The 'Arts on Air – Creative Arts Project in Primary Schools', a scheme organised during the year in collaboration with Fong Fong Projet d'Art, made use of radio drama as its creative medium. The aim was to cultivate interest in the performing arts among junior primary students. In light of the success of the project, an 'Arts on Air for Secondary Schools' programme was rolled out for the 2023-24 school year to extend the project to secondary schools.



Primary students participating in the radio drama creation workshop organised by Fong Fong Projet d'Art under 'Arts on Air: Creative Arts Project in Primary Schools'.



Secondary students participating in the radio drama training workshop organised by Fong Fong Projet d'Art under 'Arts on Air for Secondary Schools'.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

ARTS EDUCATION AND AUDIENCE-BUILDING PROGRAMMES

In the Community

The 'Community Cultural Ambassador Scheme', an audience building project at the community level, aims to make the arts more accessible to the general public across the city. A total of 20 arts groups or artist ensembles participated in the 2023 edition.

In total, the LCSD organised over 1 200 arts education and audience building performances/activities in the year, with the total audience numbers of around 194 000.



Alter your Path when Impassable, a Cantonese musical by Drama Gallery under the 'Community Cultural Ambassador Scheme' offered audiences a glimpse of the history behind the Che Kung Temple.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

CARNIVALS AND COMMUNITY ARTS PROGRAMMES



The LCSD organised a number of territory-wide carnivals in celebration of traditional festivals during the year. These included large-scale lantern carnivals for major occasions such as the Mid-Autumn Festival and Chinese New Year, which included performances of ethnic songs and dances by arts troupes from the Mainland. The lantern carnivals also featured elements of intangible cultural heritage (ICH), such as a fire dragon dancing parade, traditional handicraft demonstrations by artists from Guangdong, Macau and Hong Kong, and other traditional arts and culture activities. As usual, thematic lantern displays and lantern installations were set up in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza, and a number of Youth Nights were organised during the lantern carnivals for young performers to display their talents. Both the traditional lanterns and other more modern lighting installations proved highly popular, drawing around 1.13 million viewers.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

CARNIVALS AND COMMUNITY ARTS PROGRAMMES



Autumn's Moonlit Charm by Chen Zhitang (the representative inheritor of Foshan lanterns), was a highlight of the Mid-Autumn lantern decorations in Victoria Park.

Two highlights of the newly launched Asia+ Festival were the Asia Ethnic Cultural Performances 2023 Carnival and Charm of Hues – National Costume and Headdress Exhibition. Designed to promote and celebrate racial and ethnic diversity, the carnival and the exhibition were held in collaboration with the Consulates-General of Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kuwait, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Mongolia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Türkiye, the United Arab Emirates and Vietnam. Over 52 000 people attended, while an online programme that concluded the physical event drew over 112 000 views.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

CARNIVALS AND COMMUNITY ARTS PROGRAMMES

18dART – Community Arts Scheme

In its efforts to promote the performing arts in the community, the LCSD has joined hands with district organisations in the 18dART Community Arts Scheme. The scheme, which offers tailor-made arts activities by small- and medium-sized professional arts groups, began in several districts in 2019-20, and was later extended to all 18 districts in 2021-22.

In total, the LCSD organised over 700 community cultural activities and more than 30 online programmes in 2023-24, enjoyed by around 98 000 participants and 28 000 viewers respectively.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

CULTURAL EXCHANGES



Exchanges with the International Community

In 2023, Chinese composer and conductor Tan Dun was appointed as Hong Kong's first Ambassador for Cultural Promotion by the Culture, Sports, and Tourism Bureau (CSTB). Since then, Tan Dun has curated a large-scale arts project, the Tan Dun WE Festival, inviting both local and visiting artists to participate with a view to promoting international cultural exchange. He has also established platforms that enabled 10 Hong Kong young artists to participate in 10 international programmes, resulting in a total of 13 performances and activities in the Mainland and overseas that attracted audiences of over 18 000.



Young Hong Kong musicians Nina Wong (violin), Rachel Cheung (piano) and Jia Nan (cello) performing under the baton of the Ambassador for Cultural Promotion, Tan Dun.



The performances of the Hong Kong vocalists, mezzo-soprano Samantha Chong, soprano Louise Kwong, and tenor Chen Chen, were favourably reviewed by some UK critics.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

CULTURAL EXCHANGES

Exchanges with the International Community

With the aim of extending the Ambassador for Cultural Promotion scheme to other arts fields, on March 28, 2024 the CSTB appointed Chinese contemporary artist Xu Bing as Hong Kong's second Ambassador for Cultural Promotion, for a period of around five years. This appointment was made to align with one of the goals of the National 14th Five-Year Plan, namely to foster the cultural development of Hong Kong and strengthen its role as an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchanges. Xu Bing has an extensive global network and much experience in teaching and cultural exchange. The LCSD will work closely with him in efforts to help local young art talent participate in internships or art exchange programmes on the Mainland and abroad, thus broadening their horizons in the arts and cultural development.



Having been appointed Ambassador for Cultural Promotion from 2024, Xu Bing conducted a well-received sharing session on the relationships between contemporary art and its social context.



The two Ambassadors for Cultural Promotion, Tan Dun and Xu Bing, shared their future plans and visions for Hong Kong's cultural development in a conversation session held after the appointment ceremony.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

CULTURAL EXCHANGES

Exchanges with the International Community

LCSD arts managers, curators, librarians and stage managers continued to attend international conferences and festivals in the year to stay abreast of new developments in arts and culture, and to locate quality programmes to bring to Hong Kong. In 2023-24, the overseas exchange programmes and international conferences organised by the LCSD or attended by its representatives included:

- London Design Festival (UK);
- Weltformat Graphic Design Festival (Switzerland);
- Giant Screen Cinema Association 2023 International Conference (USA);
- Library Fair 2023 in Yokohama (Japan);
- China Shanghai International 10 – Children's Book Fair (the Mainland);
- 2023 Pacific Music Festival in Sapporo (Japan);
- The British Council Cultural Skills Programme 2023-24, Delegation Visit to the United Kingdom (UK);
- 14th Biennial North American Textile Conservation Conference (online, USA);
- MuseumNext 'Museum Digital Summit' (online, Hong Kong); and
- Hong Kong International Cultural Summit (online, Hong Kong)

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

CULTURAL EXCHANGES

Exchanges with Mainland China and Macao

The 21st edition of the Greater Pearl River Delta (GPRD) Cultural Co-operation Meeting took place in Zhongshan on June 26-27, 2023. This was jointly presented by the CSTB of the HKSARG, the Department of Culture of Guangdong Province and the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macao Special Administrative Region. Participants at the two-day meeting discussed topics and trends in the world of culture and the arts. Another initiative 'A Showcase of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Cantonese Opera Masters' was also held this year.

One major performing arts initiative held under the GPRD Cultural Co-operation framework is the annual Cantonese Opera Day, held on the last Sunday of November each year. This year, Cantonese Opera Day was held in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, with an attendance of over 5 000 people.

GPRD cultural co-operation initiatives on the library front in 2023-24 included a creative competition on the theme 'Tasty Reading', jointly organised by the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL), the Sun Yat-sen Library of Guangdong Province, the Shenzhen Library, the Shenzhen Children's Library and the Macao Public Library. This was held to support 4·23 World Book Day on April 23. In September 2023, librarians from the HKPL attended the Chinese Library Annual Conference in Zhengzhou and a forum in Zhongshan organised by the Sun Yat-sen Library of Guangdong Province, the Library Society Guangdong, and the Zhongshan Municipal Bureau of Culture, Sports, Tourism, Radio & Television. In November 2023, representatives from the HKPL attended the 16th Council Meeting of the Conference on Cooperative Development and Sharing of Chinese Resources (CCDSCR) in Beijing, organised by the National Library of China, and also a Library forum in Shenzhen organised by the Shenzhen Library.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

CULTURAL EXCHANGES



Exchanges with Mainland China and Macao

The exhibition titled A Tale of Three Cities: Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) and Export of Silk Products in the Ming and Qing Dynasties is a collaborative travelling exhibition on the history and art of silk and silk production in the region. After having toured to the Guangdong Museum and the Macao Museum between December 2020 and June 2022, the exhibition's final stop was at the Hong Kong Museum of Art (HKMoA), from September to December 2023.

The Greater Bay Area (GBA)

The LCSD has been active in supporting local arts groups and artists in their efforts to perform and engage in cultural exchange activities in cities in the GBA. With the lifting of travel restrictions in early 2023, cultural exchange programmes touring to GBA cities were gradually resumed which included the performance in Jiangmen for the first time. About 110 live performances in eight GBA cities and six online programmes were conducted, attracting over 25 000 audience and over 440 000 views in total. Local arts groups and artists participated in major arts festivals held in the GBA such as the 3rd Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Culture and Arts Festival, and Guangzhou Jazz Festival 2023.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

CULTURAL EXCHANGES

The Greater Bay Area (GBA)



Producer Works Theater's vibrant children's picture book musical *Miu Miu's Secret Planet* had its Shenzhen debut, where it captivated audiences in a colourful performance.

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Museum Alliance was established on November 23, 2023, initiated by 24 museums in the area, including the Hong Kong Museum of History, HKMoA, and the Hong Kong Heritage Museum. The alliance will collaborate on museum exhibition exchanges, personnel training, event planning, conservation and research.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

CULTURAL EXCHANGES

Hong Kong Week 2023@Bangkok

This year the LCSD presented the first overseas Hong Kong Week in Bangkok, running from October 21 to November 12, 2023. The event included nine programmes and a total of over 60 events, including stage performances, film screenings, thematic exhibitions and audience-building activities. Over 300 performing artists and supporting staff from both places took part in the festival, which attracted a total attendance of over 781 000.

Participating arts groups and institution included the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Hong Kong Dance Company, The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Respire Harmonica Ensemble and SENZA A Cappella. Hong Kong Week 2023@Bangkok also included two thematic exhibitions, namely the Hong Kong Intangible Cultural Heritage Carnival and JUXTAPOSED 2023 Hong Kong Fashion in Bangkok, in addition to film programmes titled 'Movies to GO – Border Crossings in Hong Kong Cinema – Thailand' and 'Next Generation: Emerging Directors Exhibition & Hong Kong Film Gala Presentation'.



Hearty applause by the Thai audience greeted the opening concert of Hong Kong Week 2023@Bangkok, 'Shostakovich Piano Concerto' performed by the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra.



A local audience enjoys a performance by SENZA A Cappella at a shopping mall in Bangkok.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

CULTURAL EXCHANGES



Exchanges with Consulates- General

The LCSD regularly collaborates with Consulates-General in Hong Kong to bring high-quality cultural programmes from many countries to Hong Kong, in an effort to enrich understanding of and respect for world cultures in the community. In 2023-24, the department sponsored venues for four events presented by Consulates-General. They were The International James Joyce presented by the Consulate General of Ireland, Hong Kong; Walk into the World of German Tales presented by the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany Hong Kong; Spirou, a childhood under the Occupation presented by the Consulate General of Belgium in Hong Kong; and the Opening Ceremony of the Francophonie Festival presented by the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong & Macau.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

FILM ARCHIVE AND FILM AND MEDIA ARTS PROGRAMMES



Hong Kong Film Archive (HKFA)

The HKFA acquires, preserves, catalogues and documents Hong Kong films and related materials. It also organises retrospective screenings, thematic exhibitions, symposiums, seminars and other activities on films. Its facilities include a cinema, an exhibition hall, a resource centre and four temperature-controlled collection stores. In 2023-24, the HKFA welcomed over 96 000 visitors.

During the year, the HKFA organised two thematic exhibitions: 'Tango Between Images – Hong Kong Films & Comics', and 'Cinderella and Her *Qipao*', both of which were parts of the Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival 2023. It also organised a small-scale exhibition titled '*Farewell to My Concubine* Poster Exhibition (Overseas Versions)'. In total, all three exhibitions attracted over 62 000 visitors.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

FILM ARCHIVE AND FILM AND MEDIA ARTS PROGRAMMES



The exhibition *Tango Between Images* – Hong Kong Films & Comics explored how both local and overseas comics served as a source of inspiration for the golden age of Hong Kong cinema.



Part of the Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival 2023, the exhibition *Cinderella and Her Qipao* showcased qipaos from a selection of films and recreated the cultural landscape of the city in its earlier days.

Exchanges with the International Community

The HKFA also organised over 330 in-house film screenings, post-screening talks and seminars throughout the year, attended by about 19 000 visitors. On top of regular series like ‘Archival Gems’ and ‘Morning Matinee’, it curated various thematic programmes. These included a programme in support of UNESCO’s World Day for Audiovisual Heritage, as well as others titled ‘Cine Memories of the War of National Resistance’, *Restored Treasures – Screenings of Farewell to My Concubine* (1993) 4K Restored Classic (Hong Kong Premiere), *The Wild Wild Rose* (4K Restored Version), the ‘Movie Talk’ series, screening programmes ‘Revisiting the Glory Days – The Legacy of Leslie and Anita’ and ‘From Panel to Big Screen – Panorama of Hong Kong’s Comics-Inspired Films’ (as programmes of the Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival 2023); and ‘From the Heart – Celebrating the 70-year Career of Yuen Siu-fai’, featuring five of Yuen’s most accomplished films.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

FILM ARCHIVE AND FILM AND MEDIA ARTS PROGRAMMES



To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Chinese cinema classic *Farewell to My Concubine* (1993), the film's presenter Tomson (Hong Kong) Films Co., Limited commissioned and financed a 4K digital restoration of the film, and authorised the Hong Kong Film Archive (HKFA) to present its Hong Kong premiere at the Grand Theatre of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre.



The HKFA launched Revisiting the Glory Days – The Legacy of Leslie and Anita, a package of 20 films featuring the late Leslie Cheung and Anita Mui. The programme also examined the role played by cinema in the development of Hong Kong popular culture.

Exchanges with the International Community

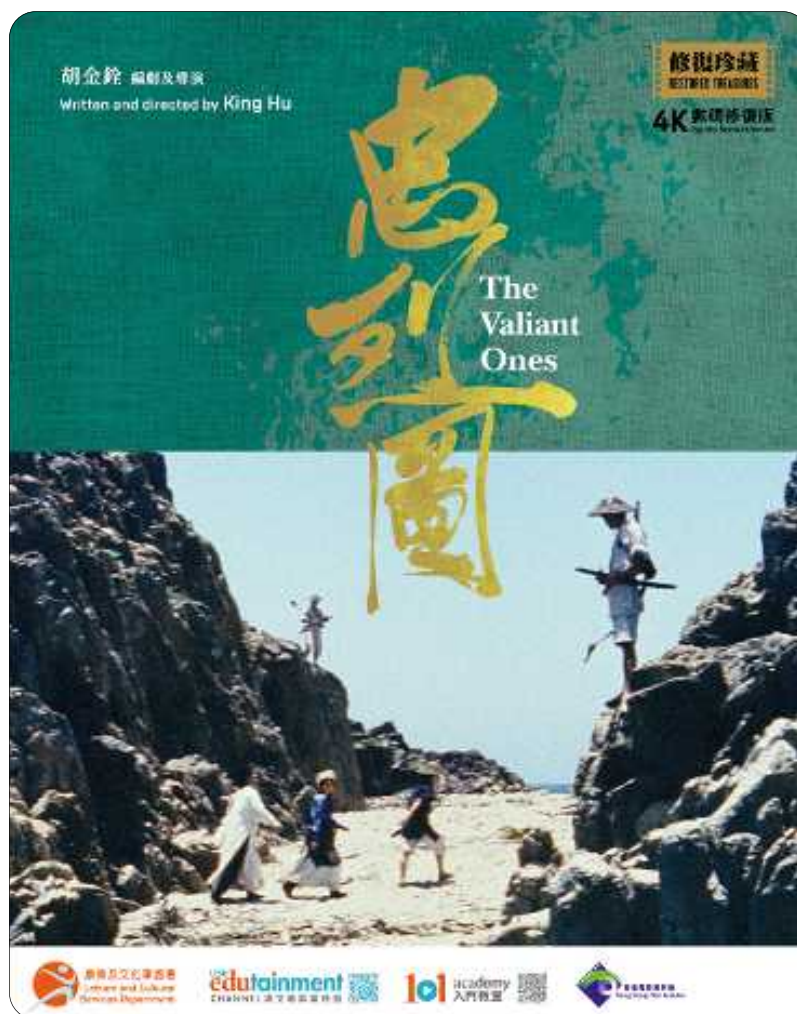
The HKFA continued to expand the 'Movies to GO' series in collaboration with various museums and arts organisations in Hong Kong, the Mainland and overseas. Notable film programmes included 'Hong Kong Museum of Art X Hong Kong Film Archive – Movie Date at the Museum', and 'Tai Kwun Movie Steps X Hong Kong Film Archive – A Touch of Youth'. In addition, the HKFA collaborated with the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Shanghai, the Shanghai Film Museum and the Shanghai Film Archive to present 'Revisiting the Glory Days – The Legacy of Leslie and Anita' screenings in Shanghai. The HKFA also co-curated with the Thai Film Archive to present a new film programme 'Border Crossings in Hong Kong Cinema – Thailand', as part of the 'Movies to GO' series for Hong Kong Week 2023@Bangkok. In total, an approximate of 30 000 people attended over 130 outreach activities organised by the HKFA.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

FILM ARCHIVE AND FILM AND MEDIA ARTS PROGRAMMES

Exchanges with the International Community

The HKFA also released Restored Treasures *The Valiant Ones* (1975) (Blu-ray Disc) in the year. This film, directed by King Hu, the globally acclaimed Chinese director, is the first 4K digitally restored cinematic work to be released by the HKFA. Additionally, the HKFA launched an 'All About Films – Filmmakers' Oral History Online' video series to help the public learn more the development of the local film industry. The first series focuses on D & B Films Company, an influential film enterprise in the 1980-1990s.



The Valiant Ones (1975) is the first film to have been issued in a 4K digitally restored version by the HKFA. It was directed by King Hu, the internationally celebrated Chinese director.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

FILM ARCHIVE AND FILM AND MEDIA ARTS PROGRAMMES

Exchanges with the International Community

In 2023-24, 405 film titles and around 13 500 film-related materials, including picture negatives, optical soundtracks, subtitles, inter-negatives, film prints, trailers and digital cinema packages were acquired. One major acquisition was the 35mm film materials relating to about 290 titles dating from 1971 to 2005, donated by Fortune Star Media Limited. In addition, renowned art director and costume designer Mr Yee Chung-man donated over 2 000 film-related items, including awards, posters, clippings, document, drawings, stills and books.

Film and Media Arts Programmes

The Film Programmes Office is responsible for promoting the appreciation and development of film and the media arts in Hong Kong. In 2023-24, the office collaborated with Consulates-General, film and media arts organisations and cultural institutes to organise screening programmes, talks, seminars and workshops on film and media arts topics. In total it presented, jointly presented or sponsored nearly 340 film screenings, audience building and film appreciation activities, attracting over 45 000 attendees.

Highlight events of the year included the International Children's and Youth Film Carnival 2023, Sci-Fi-Sci 2023, Critics' Choice 2023, Chinese Film Panorama 2023, a programme contributed to Muse Fest 2023: A Fiesta of Imagination, and themed education programmes for students on appreciating Hong Kong animation and production design.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

FILM ARCHIVE AND FILM AND MEDIA ARTS PROGRAMMES



Children take part in an interactive session led by host Raymond Chan (far left) in the 'World Animation & Shorts Programme', part of the International Children's & Youth Film Carnival 2023.



Audiences observe the night sky in the post-screening event 'Special Programme – Dome Show and Stargazing Night', under the International Children's & Youth Film Carnival 2023.



A post-screening talk for *The Cord of Life* (2023) was given by director Qiao Sixue (left) and guest lecturer Francis Ko from Hong Kong Baptist University, as part of the Chinese Film Panorama 2023.



A post-screening talk for *Frankenstein* (1931) was given by film critic Ernest Chan, part of 'Muse Fest HK 2023: A Fiesta of Imagination – film screening'.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

FILM ARCHIVE AND FILM AND MEDIA ARTS PROGRAMMES

Film and Media Arts Programmes

The office also launched two thematic programmes, along with the 'INSPIRE' Series and a winter film festival. The first thematic programme, 'Multiverse in Film Arts', invited six distinguished local production/image designers to share their insights with the audience. The winter film festival held over Christmas and New Year, 'Imagine Fest', had the imagination at its core, and featured a number of highly imaginative and emotionally engaging science fiction and fantasy movies.



A post-screening talk for *The Silent War* (2012) was given by production designer Man Lim-Chung (right), with moderator Cecilia Wong, under the 'INSPIRE Series: Multiverse in Film Arts'.



A seminar on 'How to construct the cinematic world – A conversation among director, production designer and costume designer' for *Where the Wind Blows* (2023) was given by (from left) director Philip Yung, production designer Bill Lui and image director Dora Ng, with moderator Cecilia Wong, under the 'INSPIRE Series: Multiverse in Film Arts'.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

FILM ARCHIVE AND FILM AND MEDIA ARTS PROGRAMMES



A seminar titled 'To Infinity and Beyond – The Power of Animated Fantasies' was given by Hong Kong animators Lee Kwok-wai, Nic Ho, Mak Siu-fung and Tsui Ka-hei, with curator Ernest Chan, under the 'Imagine Fest'.



Family participants take part in a post-screening workshop of *A Trip to the Moon* (1902), one of the 'STEAM Laboratory: Animate It!' events in the 'Imagine Fest's fringe activity programme.



A post-screening talk for *Table for Six* (2022) was given by production designer Irving Cheung (right), with moderator Cecilia Wong, under the 'School Culture Day 2023/24' programme.



A book signing session by Lai Ho (right), author of the original story, after a screening of *The Great Detective Sherlock Holmes: The Greatest Jail-Breaker* (2019), under the 'School Culture Day 2023/24' programme.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

FILM ARCHIVE AND FILM AND MEDIA ARTS PROGRAMMES



Film and Media Arts Programmes

The LCSD continued to provide support to the Hong Kong Film Awards Association for the annual Hong Kong Film Awards Presentation Ceremony, the Hong Kong Arts Centre for its organisation of the annual ifva (Incubator for Film and Visual Media in Asia) event, as well as Microwave Company Limited for the Microwave International New Media Arts Festival. These events, which included some online activities, encourage creative, independent productions of short films, videos, animation and media arts.

The LCSD also continued its support to Consulates-General and cultural organisations for the running of film programmes. In 2023-24, it sponsored the Korean Cultural Centre in Hong Kong's presentation of the Korean Independent Film Showcase, the Alliance Française de Hong Kong's organisation of the 52nd French Film Festival, and the Goethe-Institut Hongkong's running of the German Film Forum and the German Film Festival.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSIC OFFICE (MO)



The MO promotes knowledge and appreciation of music in the community, especially among young people. In the year, an approximate of 4 500 trainees enrolled in about 900 classes of the Instrumental Music Training Scheme, while around 1 400 members took part in the 20 youth orchestras, bands and choirs under the office. Over 1 900 participants attended around 190 short-term music interest courses, while about 430 music-related activities, including a variety of educational music programmes, were enjoyed by around 190 000 people.

The MO marked its 45th anniversary since establishment in 2022-23; when society resumed normalcy in 2023-24, the MO orchestrated the year-round '45+th Anniversary Celebration Programmes', including the 'Carry the Music On' concert series, to showcase the abundant fruits of its music training and music promotion services over the decades. The MO's youth exchange programme was relaunched in the year, with the Hong Kong Youth Chinese Orchestra embarking on a tour to Xi'an in December 2023. The MO also kicked off a new collaboration with the Education Bureau with the premiere of two orchestral works written by secondary student composers, who received mentorship from veteran musicians, in the Hong Kong Youth Symphony Orchestra Annual Concert in January 2024. The office also contributed music programmes to events organised by fellow LCSD offices, such as the International Arts Carnival, the Muse Fest HK and the Cantonese Opera Day.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSIC OFFICE (MO)



The MO kickstarted its collaboration with the Education Bureau with the debut of two mentorship student orchestral works in the Hong Kong Youth Symphony Orchestra Annual Concert, held in January 2024.



The MO contributed music programmes to various LCSD events, such as Cantonese Opera Day 2023.



A year-round series of events was held successfully from April 2023 to April 2024 under the 'MO 45th+ Anniversary Celebration Programme'.



The MO's relaunched youth music exchange programme saw the Hong Kong Youth Chinese Orchestra embark on a tour to Xi'an in December 2023.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

INDOOR STADIA



The 12 500-seat Hong Kong Coliseum (HKC) and the 3 500-seat Queen Elizabeth Stadium (QES) are the territory's two major multi-purpose indoor stadia. Their flexible staging and seating configurations can accommodate major events such as sports tournaments, pop and classical music concerts, entertainment spectacles, and celebratory and ceremonial events.

In 2023-24, numerous pop concerts were staged at the HKC and the QES, as well as some major local and international sports events. The latter included the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball's Volleyball Nations League Hong Kong 2023 and the Hong Kong Open Badminton Championships 2023 at the HKC. Major local sports events included the 2023 Asian/Pacific/African Powerlifting & Bench Press Equipped and Classic Championships, the World Table Tennis Youth Contender Hong Kong 2023, East Asian Muaythai Championships 2023, the 66th Festival of Sport – Hong Kong Powerlifting Championships, Hong Kong Bodybuilding Championships cum 11th South China Bodybuilding Invitational Championships, DanceSport Asia Asian Single Dance Championship – Hong Kong and the 15th Wan Chai District Dance Competition at the QES. A total of 127 events were held at the two stadia in the year, with around 1.28 million attendees.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

INDOOR STADIA



Audiences lapped up the glorious singing of Jacky Cheung during the Hong Kong leg of his concert tour at the Hong Kong Coliseum in December 2023 and January 2024.



Cantopop duo Twins performed songs and dances that brought back many audience memories during concerts at the Hong Kong Coliseum in January and February 2024.



Sam Hui, the 'God of Song', during one of his concerts at the Hong Kong Coliseum in March and April 2024.



Hong Kong badminton duo Tse Ying-suet and Jordan Tang Chun-man competing in the Hong Kong Open Badminton Championships 2023 at the Hong Kong Coliseum in September 2023.



Volleyball players in full flight in the FIVB Volleyball Nations League Hong Kong 2023 at the Hong Kong Coliseum in June 2023.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

INDOOR STADIA



A Hong Kong team competing in the World Table Tennis Youth Contender Hong Kong 2023, staged at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium in August 2023.



Two players spar with feet and fists in the East Asian Muaythai Championships 2023, held at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium in November 2023.



Athletes showed off their strength in the 2023 Asian/Pacific/African Powerlifting & Bench Press Equipped and Classic Championships, held at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium in June 2023.



A dancer attempts a difficult move in the dance battle of the World DanceSport Federation Breaking for Gold World Series – Hong Kong 2023, held at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium in December 2023.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

URBAN TICKETING SYSTEM (URBTIX)



The URBTIX offers convenient and reliable ticketing services for event presenters and the general public. It serves over 50 regular venue facilities, both LCSD and non-LCSD. There are 17 URBTIX outlets, 15 of which are located in LCSD venues.

Since its launch of a new ticketing system in December 2022 that provides an enlarged system capacity and improved capabilities, and enhances user experience, URBTIX has continued to offer event presenters an array of ticketing solutions they can adopt according to the needs of their events. These include an e-ticket option in addition to paper tickets, real-name registration for ticket purchases, allocation of ticket purchase timeslots by ballot, and other enhanced functions that have been made available progressively. Under the current system, members of the public can purchase tickets at URBTIX outlets and self-service ticketing kiosks at specific performance venues and major museums, through the telephone booking hotline, and via the 24-hour booking services available at the URBTIX website and mobile app. A variety of e-payment options are offered by these ticketing channels. In 2023-24, URBTIX issued about 3.8 million tickets for over 7 000 performances, recording ticket sales of \$1,129 million.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

PUBLIC LIBRARIES



The LCSD operates the Hong Kong Public Library (HKPL) network of 71 static and 12 mobile libraries, and manages the Books Registration Office. The library system provides free library and information services to meet the community's needs for information, research and recreation, and to support life-long learning. The HKPL also promotes reading and the literary arts, and offers library extension activities for people of all ages.

For its 4.87 million registered borrowers, the HKPL stocks a comprehensive collection of 13.65 million books and 1.70 million multimedia materials. In the year, users borrowed more than 29.19 million books and other library materials.

The flagship Hong Kong Central Library in Causeway Bay contains more than 2.88 million library items and a wide range of library facilities. It includes an Arts Resource Centre, the Multimedia Information System (MMIS), about 480 computer workstations providing access to the HKPL network and its electronic resources, a central reference library with six subject departments, a Hong Kong literature room, a map library, a language learning centre, a young adult library, and a toy library.

Facilities available for hire at the Hong Kong Central Library include a 1 540 square metre exhibition gallery, a 290-seat lecture theatre, two activity rooms, a music practice room, and eight discussion rooms

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

PUBLIC LIBRARIES



A Multi-Purpose Display and Reading Area of the Hong Kong Central Library was opened in March 2023 at the Sham Shui Po Leisure and Cultural Building. The area, which covers about 640 square meters, is designed to host regular thematic exhibitions introducing the collections and resources available at the Hong Kong Central Library. The area will also show library online programmes and live broadcast subject talks being held at the Hong Kong Central Library.

Public Libraries Advisory Committee

The Public Libraries Advisory Committee, consisting of professionals, academics, and prominent community and government representatives, advises the Government on strategies and measures for developing the HKPL's facilities and services, as well as on the promotion of reading, lifelong learning and literary arts. Three meetings of the Committee were held in 2023-24.

Community Involvement Programme

In 2023-24, the HKPL continued to organise activities to promote reading in local communities.

Using funds under the Community Involvement Programme, the HKPL organised over 3 900 extension activities during the year to encourage reading in the community. These included activities under the titles 'Explore STREAM with Po Po' in Sham Shui Po District, 'Summer Theatre – Journey to the West' in Sai Kung District, 'Social Inclusion Parent-child Eco Workshops' in Yau Tsim Mong District, 'Fun·STEM·Libraries' in Kowloon City District, 'Let's Explore Art Workshop Series' in Southern District, and 'Scenic Hiking Trails Series in Tuen Mun'.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

PUBLIC LIBRARIES



Community Involvement Programme

The HKPL also organised extension activities designed to raise public interest in and knowledge of Chinese history and culture. These included 'Workshop on Folk Crafts' in Kwun Tong District, 'Appreciation of Arts and Literature – Chinese Traditional Arts and Cultural Heritage in Hong Kong' in Kwai Tsing District, Subject Talk Series on 'Commemorative Activities for Hong Kong under Japanese Occupation' in Sha Tin District, 'Traditional Arts and Crafts @ North District', 'Splendid Chinese Culture' Series in Yuen Long District, 'It's all about Chinese Culture' Series in Islands District, and 'Not Just a Child's Play – Reading & Cantonese Opera Fun Day' in Tai Po District.

District Minor Works Programme

The HKPL continued to carry out projects to enhance its district library facilities and reading environments in the year. Enhancement projects financed by the District Minor Works Programme in 2023-24 included air-conditioning system replacement work, installation of air purifiers, replacement of water dispensers, and general refurbishment works in some libraries.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Information Technology applied to Library Services

The HKPL's library system offers a comprehensive range of automated library services, and convenient access to library information and transactions. Its 24-hour online library services (available via the internet or a mobile app) enable round-the-clock catalogue searching, reservation and renewal of library materials, and payment of fines and fees. New self-checkout machines enabled with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology have been deployed to libraries in phases since the end of 2022, leading to enhances in efficiency and improved self-service user experience.

The HKPL's digital library system, the MMIS, allows for 24-hour one-stop searching of over 6 million pages of digitised materials, including old Hong Kong newspapers, photos, house programmes and posters relating to the performing arts, maps and manuscripts, along with about 11 000 hours of digitised audio-visual recordings. The MMIS can be browsed online, and via some 1 400 workstations at the Hong Kong Central Library and the other 70 static libraries.

The HKPL also manages the Hong Kong Memory portal, a multimedia website that consolidates local historical and cultural heritage resources. The materials include documents, photographs, posters, sound recordings, motion pictures and videos. These are organised into 47 thematic collections, 20 virtual exhibitions and over 100 oral history records for public access. In collaboration with museums under the department, three new collections were added in 2023-24, namely Seal Carving in Lingnan; Literary Giant - Jin Yong and Louis Cha; and A Century of Fashion: Hong Kong Cheongsam Story.

During the year, more than 19 million visits were made to HKPL websites or related online services.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Reference and Information Services

The Hong Kong Central Library and six other major libraries – City Hall, Kowloon, Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai, Sha Tin, Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun – provide reference and information services, and electronic resources. The Central Reference Library, which consists of six subject departments, hosts special collections and the depository collections of nine international organisations.

The HKPL provides 82 e-databases and 533 000 e-books. Registered members can access the e-books and 41 e-databases remotely, while the remaining 41 e-databases are licensed for use at designated libraries during opening hours. The MMIS provides 24-hour access to digitised library materials beyond the library walls, as well as e-books and online databases.

Specialised reference services are available from the Arts Resource Centre, the Hong Kong Literature Room and the Map Library in the Hong Kong Central Library. Heritage documents are also collected through regular Documents Collection Campaign for preservation, research and study. The City Hall Public Library offers specialised reference services through its Business and Industry Library, its Creativity and Innovation Resource Centre, and the Basic Law Library. The Kowloon Public Library provides specialised resources and services through its Education Resource Centre. The Sha Tin Public Library hosts a thematic collection and a webpage providing sports and fitness resources, the Tuen Mun Public Library holds a thematic Food and Nutrition Collection, while the Tsuen Wan Public Library's Modern Living Collection is designed to support green, healthy and stylish living. These wide-ranging reference materials and thematic resources are promoted through workshops, library visits and subject talks, in collaboration with the Education Bureau, academics, and non-governmental organisations involved in specific areas.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Extension Activities and Promotion of Reading

In 2023-24, the LCSD continued to promote a reading culture in the community through both on-site programmes and hybrid presentations of selected events of its signature programmes. The 23rd of April was designated as the fixed date for Hong Kong Reading for All Day from 2024 onward, as announced at the '4.23 World Book Day: Fun Reading for All' cum '4.23 World Book Day Creative Competition Prize Presentation Ceremony' in 2023.

The Summer Library Festival 2023 ran from July to August 2023 under the theme 'Nature Fun', aimed at children, teenagers and adults alike. Activities included a Fun Day held at D-Park, handicraft workshops, story theatres, online reading clubs, storytelling and sharing sessions, subject talks, book displays, original musicals and interactive storytelling devices. Other reading promotion activities held in the year included Meet-the-Authors 2023: The Amazing Journeys of Writers, the Story Ambassador Programme, and Joyful Reading Moment I & II.



This musical performance, held under the Summer Library Festival 2023, conveyed important messages about the importance of environmental protection.



Under the theme 'A Walk to Children's Classics', participants could use an interactive storytelling device to control avatar characters through motion detection.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

PUBLIC LIBRARIES



Parents and their children took part together in an upcycling toys workshop designed to reinforce the slogan 'use less, waste less'.



Many participants joined this live-streaming workshop on weaving a straw grass wreath.

Extension Activities and Promotion of Reading

During the year, HKPL's two outreach trucks namely the Library-on-Wheels visited 50 venues, including housing estates, parks, primary schools, and also turned up at six pop-up library events. To entice preschoolers to read, selected books categorised into six themes were offered for block loan by kindergartens. To enrich the reading experience of the preschoolers, outreach activities including storytelling theatre and storytelling sessions were presented to some kindergartens which borrowed the thematic block loan in school year 2023-24. Besides, HKPL also organised the Thematic Book Cart Outreach Programme for primary schools in school year 2023-24. About 200 titles of books on STEAM subjects carried by specially designed book carts in dinosaur theme were on roving display to four primary schools together with a variety of activities to create a reading atmosphere at the schools.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

PUBLIC LIBRARIES



The Library-on-Wheels was turned into a moving theatre, where parents and children could participate in weekend storytelling sessions.



Students enjoy the Library-on-Wheels, reading books and taking advantage of library services while at school.



Patrons enjoy leisure reading and paired reading sessions in the Central and Western District Promenade.



Visitors enjoying reading activities at the 'Pop-up Library@Hong Kong Flower Show 2024'.



This thematic storytelling theatre at a kindergarten generated a vibrant atmosphere.



Dinosaur book carts with thematic books were used to introduce students to the delights of reading.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Extension Activities and Promotion of Reading

In late November 2023, the HKPL organised a 'Young Storytelling Ambassador Scheme', designed to recruit and train young people to become Young Storytelling Ambassadors. The scheme aims to help participants learn how to tell stories in ways that will captivate audiences and enhance the pleasure of reading, further promoting a reading culture in the community. A total of 35 local senior secondary students and full-time tertiary students were selected for the scheme, with the training sessions commencing in March 2024.



On Orientation Day, these Young Storytelling Ambassadors gave their full attention during an introduction to public library services.



Young Storytelling Ambassadors attended a training session to prepare them for undertaking public storytelling in the future.

121 online programmes were organised in the year, including events in the signature programmes presented in a hybrid mode to cater for both live audiences and online viewers as well as some talks for onsite audiences given in the year that were recorded for sharing on e-platforms. The National Security Education picture book for children, *Wonders of the Stars*, was animated and retold by a Storytelling Ambassador, to raise awareness of national security and boost a sense of patriotism among children.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Extension Activities and Promotion of Reading



The National Security Education Picture Book for Children, *Wonders of the Stars*, was animated and read by a Story Ambassador to raise awareness of national security and deliver the message 'Uphold National Security, Safeguard Our Home'.

In 2023-24, over 21,800 reading promotion activities and library outreach programmes were organised directly by the HKPL network or through collaborations with strategic partners such as education sector and community organisations.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Extension Activities and Promotion of Reading

The 'life/LIBRARY' publicity campaign, first launched for the 60th anniversary of the HKPL in 2022, continued into 2023 with refreshed key visuals to encourage readers to integrate reading into their daily life. A Celebrity Talk 'From Pages to Visions of Light' was held on 4.23 World Book Day, in which film director Kearen Pang shared her reading habits and discussed the impact of reading on her career in film and theatre. The HKPL also participated in the Hong Kong Book Fair to promote e-resources, and staged an online to offline Facebook campaign in the summer to enhance user engagement and promote quality reading. Online and social media platforms were heavily utilised to support the publicity campaign and online programmes, with key e-platforms utilised being the Reading is Joyful thematic website and its Facebook and Instagram Pages, the HKPL YouTube Channel, and the LCSD Edutainment Channel.

The LCSD regularised the Programme for Promotion of Local Publications and Reading Culture in April 2023 to continue supporting local authorship and publications, encourage the local publishing sector to leverage electronic platforms, and promote a quality reading culture in Hong Kong. Apart from its existing electronic database of book data, the Programme has added a new element of local e-books to further promote local publications. In the year, the HKPL also invited local authors to take part in library promotion activities under the Programme, such as through its Joyful Reading Moment and Meet-the-Authors events.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

PUBLIC LIBRARIES



Handicraft specialists shared details of minibus sign calligraphy with participants, and enhanced their knowledge of related art and culture.



Speakers share travel experiences, family travel tips and good reads in an online talk.

Promotion of Literary Arts

In 2023, HKPL organised the 33rd Chinese Poetry Writing Competition to foster public interest in classical Chinese literature, and continued to present well-received talks on a variety of literary topics. Leveraging the e-platform on the LCSD Edutainment Channel, it produced two 101 Academy Series – Appreciation of Literature and Literary Map of Hong Kong – to introduce different literary genres, classic works of literature, and literary writers. In 2023-24, the series delivered a total of 26 episodes in six programmes: Literary Map of Hong Kong: Ye Si, Lunyu: To Be a Benevolent Person, Travel with Literature, Thirty-six Strategies, Myths in Literature: The Stories of the Gods and Goddesses, and Cats in Literature. Other highlight programmes included Creative Writing Workshops for Youths, Interflow and Group Reading Workshops, all of which encouraged creative writing and promoted local literary arts to the public, in particular young people.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

PUBLIC LIBRARIES



Guests and winners at the prize presentation ceremony of the 33rd Chinese Poetry Writing Competition in 2023.



The Chinese music performers gave a captivating live rendition of Naamyam.

Community Collaboration

The HKPL continued to collaborate with the Education Bureau (EDB) on the Library Cards for All School Children Scheme. It also organised briefing sessions on library resources and facilities for teachers and teacher-librarians, aimed at encouraging students and teachers to use the public library services and collections. With the support of the EDB, the HKPL engaged native English-speaking teachers to deliver storytelling sessions in public libraries. Sixteen public libraries continued to stock Hong Kong Metropolitan University course materials, designed for self-learning.

The Libraries@neighbourhood – Community Libraries Partnership Scheme promotes reading at the community level and brings library services within easy reach of local residents. The HKPL works with non-profit-making organisations and local community groups to develop these community-based library services. Participating organisations and groups are offered block loans of library materials and given professional advice on setting up community libraries that meet the needs of their target clients. In 2023-24, around 180 community libraries were in operation.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

PUBLIC LIBRARIES



Books Registration Office

The Books Registration Office registers local publications and monitors the use of the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) system. Every quarter it publishes *A Catalogue of Books Printed in Hong Kong* in the *Government Gazette*, also accessible online. In 2023-24, the office registered 12 670 books and 4 191 periodicals, and issued 575 publisher prefixes conforming to ISBN.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS



The LCSD manages two art museums – the Hong Kong Museum of Art (HKMoA) and the Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware; two science and technology museums – the Hong Kong Science Museum (HKScM) and the Hong Kong Space Museum (HKSpM); nine history and folk museums – the Hong Kong Museum of History (HKMH), the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence, the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum, the Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum, the Law Uk Folk Museum, the Sheung Yiu Folk Museum, the Sam Tung Uk Museum, the Hong Kong Railway Museum and the Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery; a cross-disciplinary museum – the Hong Kong Heritage Museum (HKHM); as well as the Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre (vA!) and Oi!, the art spaces of the Art Promotion Office (APO); and the Hong Kong Film Archive (HKFA). The Five-Year Corporate Business Plan of the public museums for 2022-27 lays out the vision, mission and core values of the museums and their plans for achieving excellence.

In 2023-24, more than 7 million visitors patronised the LCSD's museums.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Museum Advisory Committee

The Museum Advisory Committee advises on issues pertaining to the LCSD's museums and related offices, including museum image-building and branding, strategies for business development, and measures for enhancing operational efficiency. The committee is supported by three standing sub-committees on art, history and science. Comprised of professionals, academics, museum experts, collectors, art promoters, entrepreneurs, marketing and public relations experts, and community leaders, the committee commenced its fourth two-year term on October 20, 2022.

Intangible Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee

The Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Advisory Committee monitors and advises on Hong Kong's ICH. The committee, which comprises local academics, experts and prominent community figures, commenced its eighth term on January 1, 2023. Its terms of reference cover the safeguarding of local ICH through research, promotion, enhancement, transmission and revitalisation. Two sub-committees have been set up under the ICH Advisory Committee since 2021. One is the Sub-committee on ICH Funding Scheme, which advises on issues related to the Funding Scheme, and the other the Sub-committee on ICH Items, which advises on the review and updating of the inventory and representative list of ICH in Hong Kong.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Muse Fest HK 2023

Running throughout November 2023, the ninth Muse Fest HK brought together 15 museums and two art spaces and three museum-related offices under the LCSD in an interesting and colourful mix of programmes and activities for the public.

More than 80 onsite and online programmes were organised in five series, namely 'Signature – Special', 'Experience – Fun', 'Crossover – Collaboration', 'Exhibition and Film Show' and 'Extension Activity', catering for people from all walks of life.

Under the theme Hong Kong H.A.S. (History. Arts. Science.) Museums, the festival included such highlights as 'A Fiesta of Imagination' featuring crossover programmes with various cultural sections under the LCSD, an 'After-Dark Safari Party' night event at the Hong Kong Science Museum, 'Oi! Night Walk' walking theatre at Oi!, and much more. A diverse range of other activities was organised, including fun days, talks, workshops, a mega sale of selected museum publications and souvenirs, and an array of exhibitions. The festival attracted more than 520 000 people, attending in person or online.



'A Fiesta of Imagination' was a highlight of the Muse Fest HK 2023, featuring crossover programmes with the Music Office, the Hong Kong Public Libraries, the Community Programmes Office, and the Film Programmes Office.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Art@Harbour 2024

Following its successful debut in 2022, LCSD presented the second edition of the large-scale outdoor art event Art@Harbour in 2024. This consisted of teamLab: Continuous and Science in Art held in Tamar Park and the Central and Western District Promenade (Central Section), and another three projects held in Tsim Sha Tsui, organised by project partners K11 Group, Sino Group and First Initiative Foundation. The event featured art installations and digital art façades by international and local artists, all of which integrated art, science, and technology and transformed the Victoria Harbour waterfront promenade into a cultural stage for display. The Art@Harbour 2024 project proved highly successful, exceeding original attendance estimates by attracting a total of over 2 million visitors. This collaboration between the government and private organisations delivered the Hong Kong public and tourists a rich artistic experience and helped highlight the vibrancy of the city. We hope to continue receiving community support in our efforts to showcase the beauties of Victoria Harbour and transform Hong Kong into an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS



Visitors touring the teamLab: Continuous exhibition with its colour-changing luminous ovoids.



Visitors are captivated by the colourful luminous exhibits at the teamLab: Continuous exhibition.



The playful and interactive art installations of Science in Art stimulated visitors' interest in science.



Artist Alicja Kwade's sculpture *l'ordre des mondes (Totem)*, presented by the K11 Group on the Tsim Sha Tsui harbourfront, encouraged passersby to contemplate their relationship with the universe.



Sino Group and local art organisation HKWALLS created the large-scale digital art installation *Chromaflux*.



The First Initiative Foundation presented 'Voyage with Van Gogh', a multi-sensory LED art installation at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Museum Volunteer Scheme

Since its establishment in June 2017, the 880-member museum volunteer team has offered support to LCSD museums and offices in areas such as visitor services, outreach programmes, education activities, conservation, focus groups, and events.

In 2023, more than 70 different volunteer programmes were organised, for which volunteers contributed more than 6 700 service hours. In addition to providing customer services for various museums, volunteers also supported events such as Muse Fest, Night Vibes Hong Kong, Pop Culture Festival and Art@Harbour by acting as event ambassadors, as well as the public engagement project Listening & Wonder Museum for which they hosted museum tours for elderly groups.



More than 70 different volunteer programmes were organised in 2023, contributing more than 6 700 service hours. Volunteers provided customer services for various museums, as well as supporting the Muse Fest, Art@Harbour, various special exhibitions, and the public engagement project 'Listening & Wonder Museum'.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Museum Trainee Scheme

The Museum Trainee Scheme develops museum professionals for the future. In 2023-24, there were 18 trainee placements as part of the scheme. Trainees receive two years of on-the-job training in museum management or conservation work, through attachments to the HKMoA, the HKMH, the HKHM, the HKScM, the HKSpM, the HKFA, the APO, the ICH Office or the Conservation Office. The training gives trainees hands-on experience in organising exhibitions and education programmes.

Little Museum KOLs

The third edition of the Little Museum KOL programme was organised from July to November 2023. Through guided tours, workshops and museum activities, 50 primary school students were trained as little museum KOLs. They also collaborated with museum curators to deliver a series of talks and videos to introduce fun facts across various science topics. By the end of the programme, the little museum KOLs had published around 170 posts on social media sharing their experiences of and passion for museums, which generated more than 7 500 likes and comments.



The Little Museum KOLs formed a stellar team unravelling the mystery of Science at the Science Discovery Talk at the Muse Fest HK 2023.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

New Projects for Museum Development

The new Heritage Conservation Resource Centre (HCRC), currently under construction in Tin Shui Wai, is targeted to open in 2028. The HCRC will offer visitors a brand new visiting experience, including many hands-on object learning opportunities and close range viewing and appreciation of artefacts. It will also serve as a platform for nurturing local conservators, promoting cultural exchanges, and driving heritage conservation in Hong Kong. More broadly, it aims to enhance public understanding of and interest in culture, art, history, science and heritage conservation, and to facilitate Hong Kong's development as an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange.

Hong Kong Museum of Art (HKMoA)

A major custodian of fine art in Hong Kong, the HKMoA aims to lead the way in taking a new look at tradition, making art relevant to today and connecting art with people, all from a uniquely Hong Kong viewpoint. The HKMoA's popularity among the local public and tourists has remained strong, with the number of visitors reaching a new high since its reopening following major renovation in 2019. The HKMoA welcomed its three millionth visitor on March 6, 2024.

Exhibitions staged by the HKMoA during the year included Love Letters: Everlasting Sentiments from the Xubaizhai Collection, Art Personalised: Masterpieces from the HKMoA, A Match Made in Painting: Selected Works of Xie Zhiliu and Chen Peiqiu from the Jingguanlou Collection, Beyond Blessings: Birthday Greetings for the Master of Chih Lo Lou, Boundless Universe: Calligraphy by Jat See-yeu, Small Small World Panorama, Wu Guanzhong Art Sponsorship: Dialogue with 20th Century Chinese Art Series: True Likeness: The Art and Collection of Jingguanlou, Wu Guanzhong Art Sponsorship Thematic Exhibition Series: Wu Guanzhong: Between Black and White and Seeing Art Anew: Mounting and Conservation of the Chinese Painting and Calligraphy.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS



The exhibition Love Letters: Everlasting Sentiments from the Xubaizhai Collection showcased over 50 works that explored the reserved and implicit emotion evident in traditional Chinese painting and calligraphy.



Mr Xie Dingwei (right), son of the Shanghai School artist couple Xie Zhiliu and Chen Peiqiu, guided a special tour for the public for the exhibition A Match Made in Painting.



Hong Kong artists Keith Lam and Seth Hon transformed the gallery into a paddy field and projected scenes of the four seasons painted by masters of the Shanghai School Xie Zhiliu and Chen Peiqiu onto the field with AI.



The exhibition Boundless Universe: Calligraphy by Jat See-yu guides audiences into the world of Jat See-yu's calligraphy from four perspectives, allowing visitors to experience his passion for preserving tradition, his open-minded approach to life, and his innovative pursuits in the face of changing times



The exhibition Seeing Art Anew: Mounting and Conservation of the Chinese Painting and Calligraphy explores traditional Chinese art from artistic and scientific perspectives. An interactive wall featuring augmented reality technology showcases the mounting steps of Chinese painting and calligraphy.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Hong Kong Museum of Art (HKMoA)

The HKMoA also collaborated with the Guangdong Museum and the Macao Museum to present the exhibition *A Tale of Three Cities: Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and Export of Silk Products in the Ming and Qing Dynasties*. The exhibition featured 108 sets of exhibits from the three museums, presenting the environment of the GBA and its silk production activity during the period. It also explored connections between the three places and the history of cultural exchanges between East and West through the export of silk.



A variety of silk products were displayed in the exhibition *A Tale of Three Cities: Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and Export of Silk Products in the Ming and Qing Dynasties*, enabling visitors to appreciate the craftsmanship of Chinese silk and understand the importance of the Maritime Silk Road.

The HKMoA joined hands with The Uffizi Galleries in Italy to present the exhibition *The Hong Kong Jockey Club Series: Titian and the Venetian Renaissance* from the Uffizi, showcasing the world-renowned collection of the Uffizi. The exhibition featured classic works by Titian and other Venetian master painters such as Giorgione, Tintoretto and Veronese. All 50 exhibits were on display in Hong Kong for the first time, and many of them had never been previously exhibited in Asia.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS



The exhibition Hong Kong Jockey Club Series: Titian and the Venetian Renaissance from the Uffizi showcased 50 artworks from the collection of the world-renowned Uffizi Galleries in Italy.



An interactive display in the exhibition used photos of visitors to create portraits in Titian's style of painting.

Hong Kong Museum of Art (HKMoA)

The exhibition Harbour Wonder, in Art Square at Salisbury Garden, presented two large-scale art installations by local artists Chan Wai-lap and Tsoi Wai-kuen, each of which were designed to engage in dialogue with the nearby Victoria Harbour.



Two large-scale public art installations, displayed in Art Square in the forecourt of the Hong Kong Museum of Art, encourage the public to re-imagine the nearby harbour.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Hong Kong Museum of Art (HKMoA)

The HKMoA received a number of generous donations in the year. In July 2023, Ms Chiu Wai-yee donated 37 artworks to the museum, including works by the two late artists Tong King-sum and Cheung Yee. The donation included sketches, wood sculptures and woodblock prints by Tong, classic paper casting works and digital prints with tortoise-shell motifs by Cheung, and a portrait of Tong painted by Ms Chiu.



Ms Chiu Wai-yee, wife of the late renowned Hong Kong artist Tong King-sum, has generously donated 37 artworks by Tong and the late Hong Kong artist Cheung Yee. Photo shows Chiu (left) and the Museum Director of the Hong Kong Museum of Art, Dr Maria Mok (right).

In August 2023, the HKMoA received a donation from Mrs Josephine Sin of 490 sets of Chinese snuff bottles from the Fuyun Xuan Collection. Representing the lifelong collection of late local collector Mr Christopher Sin, this donation is the most extensive and comprehensive of its kind ever received by a museum in Hong Kong, and includes a wide array of snuff bottles in varying forms, materials, and designs.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Hong Kong Museum of Art (HKMoA)

In December 2023, the family of Jat See-yeu donated 123 valuable artworks to the HKMoA, the largest single donation of calligraphy works by an individual Hong Kong artist ever received by the museum. Some of the newly donated items were featured in the exhibition *Boundless Universe: Calligraphy by Jat See-yeu*, which gave the public an opportunity to engage with this Hong Kong artist's work and see his passion for combining tradition with innovation.

In March 2024, the HKMoA was honoured to receive a generous sponsorship donation of \$100 million from Mr Wu Keyu, the son of the art master Wu Guanzhong. The 'Wu Guanzhong Art Sponsorship' will go towards promoting the art of Wu Guanzhong and related modern Chinese art. With support from the sponsorship, three programmes were launched that offered fresh perspectives on Wu's classic works and innovative spirit. They were (i) Thematic Exhibition Series: 'Wu Guanzhong: Between Black and White', which presented a fine selection of Wu Guanzhong's works, (ii) Dialogue with 20th Century Chinese Art Series: 'True Likeness: The Art and Collection of Jingguanlou', which staged a selection of Dr Leo Wong Kwai-kuen's 20th century Chinese art collection and his photographic works, and (iii) Cross-disciplinary Series: 'Wu Guanzhong x Chris Cheung', which featured two site-specific installations by local artist Chris Cheung and his creative team XCEED.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS



Mr Wu Keyu, the son of the late renowned artist Wu Guanzhong at the Acknowledgement Ceremony for the 'Wu Guanzhong Art Sponsorship' cum Opening Ceremony of the Sponsored Exhibitions.



The exhibition Wu Guanzhong: Between Black and White guides the audience in appreciating Wu Guanzhong's distinctive chromatic aesthetics and exploring the boundless passion and imagination evoked within the interplay between black and white.



Chinese paintings and calligraphy from the Jingguanlou Collection were juxtaposed with photographic works by Dr Leo Wong Kwai-kuen in the True Likeness exhibition.



'Wu Guanzhong x Chris Cheung' features the Wu Guanzhong-inspired art installation, *Sentient pond*, by local artist Chris Cheung and his team.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS



Hong Kong Museum of Art (HKMoA)

With sponsorship from the Helen Kwok Foundation and the Friends of Hong Kong Museum of Art, the museum also promoted international scholarly exchanges in the arts through its Curatorial Development Programme. The inaugural guest of the programme was Dr Patrick Conner, renowned scholar in China trade art from England, who was invited to conduct a research visit to the museum from January to March 2024. In that time he studied the museum's China Trade Art collection, shared his knowledge with the curatorial team, and delivered two public lectures to promote China trade paintings to a wider audience.

The museum has shared Chinese art-related learning resources with the online platforms the Smithsonian Learning Lab and Museums for Digital Learning.

During the year, the HKMoA attracted over 1.55 million visitors. It was listed among the world's 100 most popular art museums in 2023 by an international art publication.

Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware

The Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware is a branch of the HKMoA. Its collection features tea ware and related artefacts from the collection of the late Dr K. S. Lo, as well as rare Chinese ceramics and seals donated by the K. S. Lo Foundation. In 2023-24, the museum organised the exhibitions The Art of Living: Stationery, and Tea Accessories of the Chinese Literati, and also set up an interactive installation targeting younger audiences. The museum welcomed over 94 000 visitors during the year.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Hong Kong Museum of History (HKMH)

The HKMH aims to broaden visitors' horizons through its explorations of history and the unique stories of Hong Kong. In addition to its permanent exhibition, the museum regularly presents various special exhibitions on its own and in conjunction with other museums and cultural organisations from Hong Kong, the Mainland, and overseas.

During the year, the museum presented an exhibition titled *Recreating a Classic: The Best Features of The Hong Kong Story*, and also jointly staged the *China Manned Space Exhibition* with the Hong Kong Science Museum. The first of these presented the essence of *The Hong Kong Story* exhibition, which is currently undergoing a comprehensive renovation, while the second centred around the history of China's manned space development.

The museum's online platform 'e-Go!' continued to provide diversified programmes of selected previous exhibitions, lectures, and performances, as well as series designed to engage with the public.

Throughout the year, the museum organised over 1 300 sessions of educational and extension activities, including onsite and online lectures, workshops, competitions, and family and outreach programmes.

During the year, the museum welcomed over 586 000 visitors. In addition to the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence and the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum, the HKMH also manages three small branch museums – the Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery in Quarry Bay Park, the Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum in Sham Shui Po, and the Law Uk Folk Museum in Chai Wan. They welcomed approximately 63 000, 30 000 and 19 000 visitors respectively during the year.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Hong Kong Museum of History (HKMH)



Visitors take photos with firefighters during the Fun Day held at the Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery.

Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence

The Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence, a branch of the HKMH, occupies the site of the hundred-year-old Lyemun Fort in Shau Kei Wan. The permanent exhibition and the historical trail showcase the history of the War of Resistance, and the changes in Hong Kong's coastal defence and military affairs from the Tang dynasty to Hong Kong's return to the Motherland.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence

During the year, the museum organised site visits to historical relics of the War of Resistance, taking participants to sites and memorial facilities in Wu Kau Tang and Sha Tau Kok, Sai Kung, Yuen Long, and Central which aimed to deepen their understanding of the history of the War of Resistance in Hong Kong and the Hong Kong and Kowloon Independent Brigade of the East River Column. A National Day Flag Raising Ceremony cum Drill Performance was also organised on October 1, 2023, providing the public with an opportunity to celebrate National Day and helping to raise awareness of national identity. The museum welcomed over 168 000 visitors throughout the year.



To celebrate the National Day, the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence and local youth uniform organisations jointly presented the National Day Flag Raising Ceremony and drill performances on October 1, 2023.



Participants visited the historical relics of the War of Resistance in Sha Tau Kok to learn about the history of the Hong Kong and Kowloon Independent Brigade of the East River Column.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum

The Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum, housed in Kom Tong Hall, has two permanent exhibitions covering Dr Sun's life and his connections with Hong Kong. From December 2023 to March 2024, the museum staged an exhibition titled Learning through play: Old textbooks, toys and games. This exhibition showcased different types of Chinese textbooks that were published in Mainland China and Hong Kong from the early to the mid-20th century, giving a glimpse into the development of textbooks and the importance of children's play in teaching. Fun Days were also organised in November 2023 with a wide array of activities, including a public lecture and musical performance and workshops. During the year, the museum welcomed around 90 000 visitors.



The Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum staged an exhibition titled Learning through play: Old textbooks, toys and games from December 2023 to March 2024.



Visitors enjoying a special programme at the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum Fun Day.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Hong Kong Heritage Museum (HKHM)

The HKHM presented a series of well-received thematic exhibitions in 2023-24 that highlighted the splendour, excitement, diversity, and forward-looking nature of Hong Kong's popular culture. To complement the exhibitions, HKHM also organised a unique mix of history, art, and culture events. Attracting a total attendance of over 766 000 in 2023-24, the museum was listed among the world's 100 most popular art museums in 2023 by an international art publication.

During the year, HKHM collaborated with the Palace of Versailles and the French May Arts Festival to present the exhibition *Virtually Versailles*, which offered visitors an inspirational and immersive virtual visitation experience. The exhibition *Po Leung Kuk 145th Anniversary: Building Charity with Benevolence*, organised in collaboration with Po Leung Kuk, retraced the history of this major charity organisation. Exhibitions on Hong Kong popular culture themes included the *Miss You Much Leslie Exhibition*, *Out of Thin Air: Hong Kong Film Arts & Costumes Exhibition*, *Bruce Lee: a Timeless Classic*, and *Timeless Diva: Anita Mui*. To foster professional design exchanges between Hong Kong and the rest of the world, the museum launched a call for entries for the *Multiverse – Hong Kong International Poster Triennial 2024*, inviting designers worldwide to submit posters for the competition. Paying tribute to one of the most famous designers in Hong Kong, the exhibition *Reflection – Art & Design of Hon Bing-wah* gave visitors the opportunity to appreciate the diverse forms of art and design produced by this respected figure.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS



The exhibition Timeless Diva: Anita Mui features exquisitely crafted stage costumes and vinyl records of Anita Mui, selected from the collections of the Hong Kong Heritage Museum.



Visitors take photos of the Bruce Lee life-sized bust at the exhibition Bruce Lee: a Timeless Classic.



A reconstructed dressing room gives visitors a realistic glimpse of behind-the-scenes film production, in the exhibition Out of Thin Air: Hong Kong Film Arts & Costumes.



Virtually Versailles, the world's first immersive exhibition on the Palace of Versailles, introduced striking multi-media installations that gave visitors a multi-sensory experience.



The exhibition Reflection - Art & Design of Hon Bing-wah featured over 100 art and design works by renowned Hong Kong design pioneer Hon Bing-wah, created from the 1970s on.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Hong Kong Heritage Museum (HKHM)

Throughout the year, HKHM organised education and extension programmes that included thematic lectures, hands-on workshops, performing arts performances, a fun day, and various online and outreach programmes. The lecture series for the exhibitions Miss You Much Leslie and Timeless Diva: Anita Mui were well-received by the public. To celebrate 50 years of Bruce Lee's legacy, the museum worked closely with the Bruce Lee Foundation in the United States to present Asia's first Camp Bruce Lee. It offered a wide range of summer programmes, including a gallery tour, special workshops, and daily martial arts activities, all aimed at exploring Bruce Lee's rich legacy. HKHM also presented Love Hong Kong: Fun@HKHM in November 2023, an event that enabled visitors to immerse themselves in a variety of fascinating programmes and engaging activities, and delve into the rich history, art, and culture showcased in our museum.



Close friends of Anita Mui were invited to attend a sharing session on Anita Mui's life and career for the exhibition Timeless Diva: Anita Mui.



The Hong Kong Heritage Museum and the Bruce Lee Foundation jointly organised Asia's first Camp Bruce Lee in Hong Kong, to celebrate 50 years of Bruce Lee's legacy.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Hong Kong Heritage Museum (HKHM)

With a view to inspiring children and teenagers with a love for museums, art and history, HKHM continued to run the MuseKids Membership Scheme throughout the year and organised monthly children's workshops on various topics to coincide with the exhibitions. It also organised the MuseTeens: Youth Leadership Scheme 2023 during the summer holidays, to nurture a fresh batch of young museum-lovers. To celebrate the 110th anniversary of the old Tai Po Market Railway Station and welcome the new exhibit Diesel Electric Engine No. 60, the MuseTeens: Youth Leadership Scheme 2023 organised a series of activities introducing participants to the historical development of Hong Kong's railway service and the special architectural characteristics of the station.



Children and their parents worked together to create artworks at a Weekend Family Party workshop organised by the Hong Kong Heritage Museum.



MuseTeens participants hear stories about the retired locomotives on display at the Hong Kong Railway Museum.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Hong Kong Heritage Museum (HKHM)

Co-organised with the Education Bureau and the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, the museum's Arts Buddies programme gave secondary school students the opportunity to learn more about local art and culture. The museum also supported some local non-profit making organisations in hosting programmes for target audiences such as teachers, students, families and persons with disabilities. Meanwhile, HKHM continued to reach out to the audience beyond the gallery, especially to the younger generation by disseminating the museum experience through social media and online platforms such as Instagram and YouTube.



Arts Buddies enjoy a tour led by Hong Kong artist Mr Ricky Yeung, which explored the exhibition The Reflection – Art & Design of Hon Bing-wah.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Hong Kong Heritage Museum (HKHM)

The Hong Kong Railway Museum welcomed around 246 100 visitors in the year. In early October 2023, a locomotive that served Hong Kong for nearly five decades, Diesel Electric Engine No. 60, was added to the museum's collection. The museum also staged a new photo exhibition, titled Stories Behind Built Heritage: Old Tai Po Market Railway Station Celebrates 110 Years. Elsewhere, the Sheung Yiu Folk Museum attracted around 38 000 visitors.



Diesel Electric Engine No. 60 – 'Peter Quick' (L60) is now on display at the Hong Kong Railway Museum.



A photo exhibition was organised to mark the 110th anniversary of the opening of the Old Tai Po Market Railway Station at the Hong Kong Railway Museum.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Hong Kong Science Museum (HKScM)

The HKScM promotes science and technology to the public through interactive hands-on exhibits, informative programmes and exhibitions.

The museum's new permanent exhibition, the Palaeontology Gallery, has been open to the public since September 2023. With Extinction-Resilience as its theme, the gallery presents the challenges faced by organic life since the Ediacaran Period 635 million years ago, and the evolutionary stages it has undergone.



The animatronic dinosaur 'Paul the *T. rex*' captivated visitors to the Extinction · Resilience exhibition in the Palaeontology Gallery of the Hong Kong Science Museum.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Hong Kong Science Museum (HKScM)

The museum organised a number of thematic exhibitions in the year. One was the China Manned Space Exhibition, jointly staged with the HKMH, which highlighted the extraordinary achievements of China's manned space programme and looked at its future development. The exhibition Material Tales – The Life of Things explored different materials, tracing their journeys from their origins to their transformation into everyday products through humans' ingenious utilisation of technology and design. Another exhibition, Science Fiction: Voyage to the Edge of Imagination, highlighted the intriguing relationships between groundbreaking scientific advancements and some renowned works of science fiction.



Visitors study the intravehicular space suit on display at the China Manned Space Exhibition.



Guided by a docent, visitors learn how humans transform raw materials into everyday products through innovative technology and design in the exhibition Material Tales – The Life of Things.



The exhibition Science Fiction: Voyage to the Edge of Imagination explores potential biomechanical technologies for improving human lives in the 'Bio Lab' zone.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Hong Kong Science Museum (HKScM)

The Shaw Prize 2023 Exhibition, held from November 2023 to January 2024, introduced the Shaw Laureates 2023 and their outstanding contributions, as well as providing visitors with basic scientific information about the academic fields the laureates work in.

To complement the visit to Hong Kong of China's first domestically built polar research icebreaker, 'Xuelong 2', the museum organised the exhibition titled Polar Research and Climate Change. This exhibition introduced the polar regions and China's polar research facilities, and highlighted the efforts being made by China and Hong Kong to combat climate change.



Students and guests study a 1:100 scale model of Xuelong 2, China's first domestically built polar research icebreaker, in the exhibition Polar Research and Climate Change.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Hong Kong Science Museum (HKScM)

The museum's Science Promotion Unit collaborated with the Art Promotion Office to organise the Science in Art exhibition for the Art@Harbour 2024 event, featuring interactive art installations that explored the nature and properties of light. The unit also launched the QK Post Roadshow to promote everyday science at community venues, and during the Hong Kong Flower Show 2024, it presented a flower themed edition to introduce the science of flowers. In addition, the unit continued with its Gear Up - Nano World outreach programme, bringing interactive exhibits on nanoscience to schools and local communities. QK Kitchen cooking workshops taught participants more about food and cooking science. The unit also jointly organised the French Science Festival with the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau.



The QK Post Roadshow, displayed at the Central Market, showcased selected QK Posts and images designed to stimulate public interest in science in daily life.



A flower-themed edition of the QK Post Roadshow at the Hong Kong Flower Show 2024 featured an exhibition and workshop exploring the fascinating science of flowers.

During the year, around 1.35 million people visited the exhibitions and took part in the museum's education and extension activities.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Hong Kong Space Museum (HKSpM)

The HKSpM promotes astronomy through exhibitions, planetarium shows and extension activities. Its Space Theatre presents regular Dome Shows, 3D Dome Shows and Sky Shows, while permanent and special exhibitions are in place to introduce and explain astronomy and space science.

In 2023-24, the museum organised two special exhibitions: Nicolaus Copernicus: Life and Work, and Black Hole: the Information Barrier. These exhibitions placed spotlights on various aspects of astronomy, including its history and the knowledge of the universe that it has opened up for us. Additionally, a new permanent interactive exhibition, Golden Eye on the Cosmos - James Webb Space Telescope, was introduced that highlights the innovative technologies of the James Webb Space Telescope and describes its science goals.



A visitor uses virtual reality goggles to experience falling into a black hole in the exhibition Black Hole: the Information Barrier.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Hong Kong Space Museum (HKSpM)

The museum arranged live streaming of five major astronomical events in 2023-24: the Partial Solar Eclipse on April 20, 2023, the Perseid Meteor Shower on August 13, 2023, the Partial Lunar Eclipse on October 29, 2023, the Night Sky on November 21, 2023 and the Geminid Meteor Shower on December 14, 2023. They attracted over 94 000 views.

The HKSpM continued the outreach programme in 2023-24. Museum staff delivered educational activities including talks and workshops to about 1 400 students from different primary schools.



Museum staff and volunteers joined hands in an outreach programme to introduce the solar system to primary school students.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Hong Kong Space Museum (HKSpM)

The museum's stargazing mobile app, Star Hoppers, has now been downloaded more than 375 000 times since its launch in 2014. Targeting anyone who enjoys stargazing, the app features Chinese and Western star charts, audio stories of the constellations, and information about astronomical events and related activities.

During the year, the museum put on two Sky Shows, two 3D Dome Shows, two Dome Shows and five School Shows. The Space Theatre programmes attracted over 329 000 visitors.

Five School Shows on interesting topics, such as the science behind the seasons and the discovery of exoplanets, can be booked by schools for viewing in the Space Theatre. Screenings for teachers were co-organised with the EDB, and education kits have been produced for students who have watched the shows.

In addition to providing the latest news from the museum, the museum's website and social media platforms contain many online astronomy resources and are regularly updated with new developments in astronomy and space science.

The museum organised over 250 extension and education activities targeting different age groups in the year, which attracted around 14 000 participants in total.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Art Promotion Office (APO)

With different partners, the APO organised a series of community and public art projects in 2023-24 designed to enrich Hong Kong's cultural life and encourage public appreciation of art. Projects were also staged in the GBA and in overseas cities to promote local arts and culture.

The APO invited a guest curator to lead a pilot scheme to beautify three of the LCSD's sports courts, by developing a new design for them incorporating art elements and utilising community engagement. To further broaden its audience base, the APO collaborated with the Hong Kong International Airport in a project to digitally showcase a series of four animations that used collection images from the HKHM and the HKMoA. The animations were displayed at the Hong Kong International Airport between September and December 2023.



Chao Shao-an's work *Kapok blossoms*, from the image collection of the Hong Kong Heritage Museum, was animated and displayed on a massive screen at the Hong Kong International Airport.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Art Promotion Office (APO)

To foster cultural exchange within the GBA, the APO collaborated with the Hong Kong Designers Association on the second round of the 'Art>2023 and January 2024. The exhibitions, which took place in Jiangmen, Zhaoqing and Shenzhen, showcased the works of Hong Kong artists and designers or designer groups, and helped connect Hong Kong with other cities in the GBA.



Children admire *After Rain Comes The Rainbow – Don't Worry. Be Happy.*, created by Hong Kong designer Alex King for the 'Art><Creativity' Exhibition Series in the Greater Bay Area – The Concrete Jungle, held in Zhaoqing.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Art Promotion Office (APO)

To highlight Hong Kong artist's presence in the international art scene and coincide with the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale, one of the world's largest international outdoor art festivals, the sixth Hong Kong House exhibition was held from July to November 2023 in Tsunan, Niigata Prefecture, Japan. The exhibition, titled A DOUBLE LISTEN: Yama no Oto, was created by Hong Kong art group Toolbox Percussion. The APO also collaborated with the Oku-Noto Triennale Executive Committee to jointly organise the Station by the Sea at Oku-Noto Triennale 2023 – Residence and Exhibition Programme, and to present work titled Land of Unknowing Sceneries by Hong Kong artist Anthony Ko from September to November in Suzu, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan.



A visitor admires the artwork *Secret Express* by Hong Kong artist Anthony Ko, created for the 'Station by the Sea at Oku-Noto Triennale 2023 – Residence and Exhibition Programme'.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Art Promotion Office (APO)

The APO collaborated with the HIAP – Helsinki International Artist Programme in jointly organising the ‘Residence Programme and Work Presentation@Suomenlinna’ in Finland, in which Hong Kong artist Margaret Chu took part between May and July 2023.



Hong Kong artist Margaret Chu chats about her work during the Open Studios Events in Residence Programme and Work Presentation@Suomenlinna.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Oil Street Art Space (Oi!)

Oi! is an open platform that promotes art at the community level, encourages collaboration and co-creation in art, and provides a space for young artists to exchange ideas. Oi! completed an expansion project in 2022 in which an adjacent public open space of over 3 000 square metres was integrated with the existing premises. The new space includes a project titled Joyful Trees (*Arbores Laetae*), designed by architectural group Diller Scofidio + Renfro, which animates the seemingly rigid landscape elements of trees. Another project, The Digital Cuboid: Virtual Realm, allows viewers to immerse themselves in 3D animations displayed on a large high-definition outdoor screen.



Families listen to stories about nature at the Storytelling Workshop of Joyful Trees (*Arbores Laetae*).



MPU-Continents, created by art group CT.LAB, invited visitors to explore the potential of artificial intelligence for understanding personal emotions.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Oil Street Art Space (Oi!)

In 2023-24, Oi! hosted a community engagement project titled The Unexplored Flavour: x, which presented a series of participatory activities that encouraged visitors to find new inspiration with their tongues and awake neglected flavours in their everyday lives. Its O! What if...Ideas in Action project explored issues concerning ageing, providing a platform for co-creation and the sharing of thoughts and experiences among different age groups in the community. In addition, Oi! invited Hong Kong artists to showcase their creativity at Oi! Warehouse 1 and 2 through its Oi! Artist-in-Residence and Exhibition Programmes.



In the workshop 'The Unexplored Flavour: x', participants combined ingredients into unique food sculptures and preserved them in glass jars.



'OK de Cafe' transformed a cognitive assessment test into a set of visualisation tools in a café setting at 'Oi! Kitchen', helping the public understand more about dementia.



Citizens' ideas on ageing are collected and transformed into a collection of wearables. Participants are encouraged to 'dress-up' with these creations and share their personal views on the ageing process.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Oil Street Art Space (Oi!)

Oi! also presented a series of exhibitions showcasing the work of both Hong Kong and international artists. Toolbox Percussion was invited to curate a sound art exhibition in collaboration with composer Fung Lam and artists Louis Siu, Chan Wai-lap, Cam Wong and Simo Tse for the 'Oi! Spotlight' Series. The series also featured renowned British artist Gary Card's first large-scale solo exhibition in Hong Kong, People Mountain People Sea, for which he transformed the century-old warehouse into an immersive contemporary multimedia art space. In collaboration with the University of Hong Kong's University Museum and Art Gallery, Oi! also hosted the 'Archaic Curator' Series: Kings' Inscriptions·Contemporary Interpretations, in which local and international artists of different generations responded to Chinese calligraphy and ink rubbings through various contemporary media. As part of the 'Oi! OnSite' Series, Hong Kong artist Silas Fong created artistic installations works that invited audiences to explore connotations of and personal emotions relating to 'food' in a site-specific game setting.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS



Visitors in a mirrored room filled with animated video installations, part of the exhibition 'Oi! Spotlight: People Mountain People Sea' by Gary Card.



Drawing inspiration from frequently overlooked sounds and objects, the artists of the exhibition 'Oi! Spotlight: encounters: oi! oi! oi!' used parts from percussion instruments and mechanical devices to help visitors rediscover forgotten sounds in our daily lives.



In the exhibition 'Archaic Curator Series: Kings' Inscriptions · Contemporary Interpretations', the artist demonstrates how to create artworks through hands-on rubbing.



In the 'SAD Kitchen: Oi! Guide – A Comfort Food Journey', audiences explored hidden psychological test questions in a site-specific game setting.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre (vA!)

vA! is an open, multi-directional art space that emphasises art education, research and exchange. Its vibrant creative atmosphere is supported by specialised equipment and exhibition space.

In 2023-24, vA! curated the exhibition vA! Spotlight – Park Solo, which featured playful art installations by Debe Sham that transformed vA! into an unusual participatory space where visitors could reflect on the arts through insights gained from play. vA! also organised the Art Specialist Course 2022-23 Graduation Exhibition 'Infinity', which showcased works by 20 newly trained artists of the Pictorial Art and Ink Art courses.



Inspired by toys and games, artist Debe Sham invited audiences to engage with a series of playable installations that transformed the Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre (vA!) into an unusual participatory space.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre (vA!)

vA! continued to provide a platform for emerging artists to showcase their creativity through experimentation and the creation of media art. Local artist Benny To was invited to create and exhibit works combining ceramics and electronic games in the Dimensional Civilisation Archaeology Project: The Temple Hidden in Infinite Dimensions exhibition. Calls were also made for Hong Kong artists and creative talents to apply for the vA! Artist-in-Residence and Exhibition Programmes.



Artist Benny To's 'Dimension Civilisation Archaeology Project: The Temple Hidden in Infinite Dimensions' saw the artist produce fictional ceramic artefacts and develop an electronic game that transformed vA! into an archaeological site where visitors could explore imaginary ruins.

During the year, vA! delivered a series of art talks and workshops that gave participants the opportunity to learn about and create art, delivered by artists of diverse backgrounds and styles. Online broadcasts of the art talks and demonstrations helped vA! reach out to a wider audience.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Office

The ICH Office is responsible for the identification, documentation, research, preservation, promotion and transmission of Hong Kong's ICH.

In 2023-24, the ICH Office organised a number of education and extension programmes for the community and schools. Under its Meet the Masters programme, ICH practitioners and experts were invited to share their experiences and talk with visitors at the Hong Kong ICH Centre. The office also organised talks, demonstrations, workshops, and field visits to promote local ICH items through its 'Fun in ICH' Series, extending its services to overseas visitors in collaboration with the Tourism Commission under the Design District Hong Kong – Vivid Tsuen Wan programme. To promote greater social inclusion, it organised a series of guided tours, workshops and courses to raise the understanding of visually impaired persons, hearing impaired persons and ethnic minorities on local culture, traditional craftsmanship and language, under the ICH for All project. The ICH Mobile Centre 'Mobile ICH', providing exhibition and education programmes, has been touring the community and schools since May 2022 to enhance public understanding and appreciation of local ICH items. Guided tours, workshops and interactive experience activities were also organised for primary and secondary school teachers and students under the ICH@Schools project and the 'If I was an ICH Bearer' programme. In January 2024, the Hong Kong Tin Hau Festival Conference served as a platform for representatives to share their experience of organising the festival and discuss the transmission and conservation of the traditions of the Tin Hau Festival in Hong Kong.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS



A seal carving master demonstrates seal carving techniques in a workshop of the Fun in ICH series.



Participants of different ages and cultural backgrounds learnt how to craft mini flower boards in a workshop of the 'Design District Hong Kong – Vivid Tsuen Wan' programme.



A group of visually-impaired students learn to play the *erhu*, a musical instrument usually played in *Nanyin* performances.



Students learn how to make puppets, an intangible cultural heritage item of Hong Kong, in a school-based hands-on workshop.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Office

Alongside the exhibition series Lost and Sound – Hong Kong Intangible Cultural Heritage, held in the Hong Kong ICH Centre, the ICH Office also organised a series of on-the-spot public programmes. These included ICH in Reach Fun Days held in November 2023, and a school programme, ICH Domain, packed with fun activities on ICH for students.



Students learn the art of flower board crafting by making their own DIY crafts in one of the 'ICH Domain' workshops.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Office

In order to further promote the ICH in Hong Kong, the ICH Office has organised an exhibition with the theme 'Traces of Human Touch' in CLP Pulse (i.e. the former CLP Group Headquarters). This exhibition has been opened since May 2023 and mainly targets at young audiences. The ICH Office has also been actively reaching out to the community by staging exhibitions across Hong Kong. Two exhibitions on the traditional craftsmanship of lantern making were held, one at Hong Kong's Victoria Park from September to October 2023 and the other at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza in February 2024. In addition, a roving exhibition titled Taste of ICH with a focus on local food culture was held in Tseung Kwan O Plaza in January 2024 and then in Cityplaza at Taikoo Shing from February to March 2024.



The exhibition Traces of Human Touch, in the ICH Hub of CLP Pulse, has been open to the public since May 2023.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Office

In September 2023, a presentation ceremony was held in which plaques were presented to the protection organisations of two national ICH items, the Hong Kong Tin Hau Festival Association and the Hong Kong Cheongsam Association, recognising their endeavours in the transmission and preservation of relevant ICH items.

The office also published a series of monographs in the year. These monographs introduced the historical background, development and cultural values of the Paper Crafting Technique, the Mid-Autumn Festival – Pok Fu Lam Fire Dragon Dance, the Hong Kong-style Milk Tea Making Technique, and the Technique of Making Hong Kong Cheongsam and Kwan Kwa Wedding Costume, all of which are on the Representative List of the ICH of Hong Kong. Two monographs were also published on Hong Kong ICH in the Natural and Cultural Settings of Lingnan, as well as three sets of attractively illustrated picture books promoting ICH to both the general public and to primary schools.

In August 2023, the ICH Office held the Genesis and Spirit - Tea for Harmony. Yaji Cultural Salon: Exhibition of the Tea Culture of Zhejiang at Hong Kong Central Library. The exhibition showcased 40 representative ICH items from Zhejiang, focused on its rich tea culture. Visitors were able to appreciate various tea processing techniques and the relevant social practices of Zhejiang, as well as gaining a deeper understanding of traditional Chinese culture.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Office



Genesis and Spirit - Tea for Harmony · Yaji Cultural Salon: Exhibition of the Tea Culture of Zhejiang showcases ICH items related to the tea culture of Zhejiang.

One of the programmes of Hong Kong Week 2023@Bangkok was the ICH Office's Hong Kong ICH Carnival exhibition. This was the first-ever overseas exhibition to promote the ICH of Hong Kong, and its rich offerings of festivities and cuisine acted as a cultural bridge to connect Hong Kong and Thailand. The exhibition's graphic panels, interactive exhibits, video screenings, experiential handicraft-making activities, and live performances of *nanyin*, effectively communicated something of the distinctive charm of Hong Kong's ICH to local Thai audiences.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Office



A live *nanyin* performance was held at the Hong Kong Week 2023@Bangkok – Hong Kong Intangible Cultural Heritage Carnival exhibition.

To further enhance cultural exchange and co-operation between the Mainland and Hong Kong, since 2023 the ICH Office has participated in a range of ICH exchange activities hosted by Guangdong cities. These have included the national Cultural and Natural Heritage Day, exhibitions, seminars, exchange sessions, live demonstrations and parades held in Guangzhou, Dongguan, Zhuhai, Foshan and other GBA cities. The ICH Office also co-operated with the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong and Chengdu and the Guangxi Liaison Unit in organising exhibitions on Hong Kong ICH in Guangzhou, Chengdu and Guangxi from December 2023 to March 2024.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS

Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Office

The fifth round of the ICH Funding Scheme, comprising both Community-driven Projects and Partnership Projects, was launched in December 2023. By getting the community actively involved in safeguarding ICH, it is hoped that public awareness and understanding of ICH will be enhanced, driving a greater appreciation of the cultural value associated with ICH items.

Chinese Culture Promotion Office (CCPO)

To enhance Hong Kong people's sense of national identity and deepen their understanding of Chinese culture and history, the Government has been actively promoting Chinese history and culture to the public through many different channels in recent years. As proposed by the Chief Executive in the 2023 Policy Address, the LCSD would initiate the establishment of the CCPO in 2024. By coordinating the rich resources relating to Chinese culture and history within the LCSD, including its museum collections, art performances, library resources, film archives, and more, the CCPO will be able to promote Chinese culture to different audiences from multiple perspectives in a comprehensive and diversified manner. From 2024 onwards, a Chinese Culture Festival will also be organised annually, which will present various performing arts programmes and extension activities designed to give the public and tourists a taste of the breadth and depth of Chinese culture. A kick-off ceremony for the CCPO and related programmes was held on March 14, 2024.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MUSEUMS



A kick-off ceremony for the Chinese Culture Promotion Office and its related programmes was held on March 14, 2024.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

CONSERVATION OFFICE



One of the major roles of the Conservation Office is to conserve important historical and cultural objects, including paintings, historical documents, textiles, photographs, metal objects, sculptures, organic objects, motion picture films and archaeological finds. During the year, the office carried out conservation treatments on over 210 such items.

The office also organised and delivered a series of 38 educational activities and extension workshops to heighten conservation awareness. These included hands-on workshops and behind-the-scenes laboratory visits as part of the 'School Culture Day Scheme'. More than 840 participants, including about 380 students from 13 school groups, were introduced to the fun and challenges of heritage conservation through these educational programmes.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

CONSERVATION OFFICE



Conservators and conservation volunteers teach traditional techniques for creating egg tempera art to students on School Culture Day.

The Conservation Office also took the opportunity of Muse Fest HK 2023 to further engage with the public. Its activity booth at Muse Fest HK attracted over 1 400 visitors, while 27 families participated in workshops and nearly 50 visitors took part in behind-the-scenes-tours of the conservation laboratories. In these tours, members of the public had the opportunity to observe conservation work being carried out on different kinds of artefacts and learn about the specialised skills needed to preserve them.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

CONSERVATION OFFICE



Participants experience the simulated use of hydrogel in the conservation of cultural heritage at the activity booth 'Conservator's Ingenious Trick – Agar Gel', in the two-day carnival of the Muse Fest HK 2023.



Kids don lab coats to test the effectiveness of hydrogels in various paper artefact treatment scenarios at the family workshop 'Conserve it! Wonder Gel!', organised by the Conservation Office as part of the Muse Fest HK 2023.

Additionally, the Conservation Office collaborated with the Records and Heritage Office of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs) in organising a Student Conservation Ambassador Programme. The programme, which attracted about 20 students from various TWGHs secondary schools, included a series of learning and engagement activities comprising lectures, visits, practical workshops and sharing sessions in the areas of history and the conservation and preservation of historical objects.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

CONSERVATION OFFICE



Secondary school students participating in the 'TWGHs Student Conservation Ambassador Programme 2023'.

The office also conducted various scientific studies on conservation science and technology to better understand the preservation of cultural relics. In the year, its members presented three presentations and two posters at the International Symposium on Chinese Art Conservation – Best Practices and Future Directions, held at the Hong Kong Palace Museum, one poster at TECHNART 2023: International conference on analytical techniques in art and cultural heritage, held at Lisbon, Portugal as well as three academic papers in the publication *Ancient Chinese Gold Techniques II*.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

CONSERVATION OFFICE



Conservation volunteers assist in surface cleaning of a collection of stone plaques during the regular inspection programme at the Kowloon Walled City Park.



Professional paper crafting masters installing a festive dragon in the gallery of the Hong Kong Museum of History.



Conservators mounting a sequined Cantonese opera costume for display in the exhibition The Pearl of Cantonese Opera – Wai Ming Chu.

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MAJOR CULTURAL EVENTS



Date	Event
January – September 2023	The 33rd Chinese Poetry Writing Competition
February 24 – October 8, 2023	'Tango Between Images – Hong Kong Films & Comics' Exhibition
March 3 – July 2, 2023	'The Hong Kong Jockey Club Series: Joan Miró – The Poetry of Everyday Life' Exhibition
March 29 – October 9, 2023	Miss You Much Leslie Exhibition
April – December 2023	Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival 2023
April 2023 – March 2024	Story Ambassador Programme
April 19 – July 9, 2023	'Virtually Versailles' Exhibition
April 22– December 30, 2023	'Revisiting the Glory Days - The Legacy of Leslie and Anita' (Screening Programme)
April 23, 2023	'4.23 World Book Day: Fun Reading for All'
April 28-30, 2023	Theatre in Shanghai Dialect <i>Blossom</i> (Part I)
May 3 – September 4, 2023	Out of Thin Air: Hong Kong Film Arts & Costumes Exhibition
May 6 – November 12, 2023	'From Panel to Big Screen—Panorama of Hong Kong's Comics-Inspired Films' (Screening Programme)
May 27 – July 8, 2023	Critics' Choice 2023 - City Connections

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MAJOR CULTURAL EVENTS

Date	Event
June 16 – October 8, 2023	Chinese Opera Festival 2023
June 16-18, 2023	<i>Hachioji Kuruma Ningyo</i> by The Koryu Nishikawa Troupe
July – August 2023	Summer Library Festival
July 4-5, 2023	New York Philharmonic
July 8 – August 22, 2023	International Children's & Youth Film Carnival
July 12 – December 4, 2023	'Bruce Lee: a Timeless Classic' Exhibition
July 14 – August 13, 2023	International Arts Carnival 2023
July 29 – November 5, 2023	Hong Kong House at Echigo-Tsumari Art Field 2023 – <i>A DOUBLE LISTEN: Yama no Oto</i>
July 31, 2023 – January 31, 2024	'City Hall Virtuosi' Series
August 5-15, 2023	Genesis and Spirit – Tea for Harmony. Yaji Cultural Salon: Exhibition of the Tea Culture of Zhejiang
September 8 – December 17, 2023	'A Tale of Three Cities: Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and Export of Silk Products in the Ming and Qing Dynasties' Exhibition
September 9-10, 2023	<i>Warabe</i> by Kodo
September 16 – October 15, 2023	!NSPIRE Series: Multiverse in Film Arts
September 18, 2023	Piano Duo Recital by Lucas & Arthur Jussen
September 23 – October 2, 2023	Mid-Autumn Lantern Carnivals 2023
September 23 – November 12, 2023	Station by the Sea at Oku-Noto Triennale 2023 – Residence and Exhibition Programme
September 27 – October 29, 2023	Chinese Film Panorama 2023
September 27 – December 4, 2023	'Our Music Talents' Series

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MAJOR CULTURAL EVENTS

Date	Event
September 28, 2023	A Cappella Concert by Naturally 7
September 30, 2023	Restored Treasures – <i>Farewell to My Concubine</i> (1993) 4K Restored Classic (Hong Kong Premiere) (Screening Programme)
October 2 – November 28, 2023	Asia+ Festival 2023
October 18, 2023 – February 19, 2024	'Po Leung Kuk 145th Anniversary: Building Charity with Benevolence' Exhibition
October 20 – November 19, 2023	New Vision Arts Festival 2023
October 21 – November 12, 2023	Hong Kong Week 2023@Bangkok
October 21-29, 2023	'Hong Kong Week 2023@Bangkok – Hong Kong Intangible Cultural Heritage Carnival' Exhibition
October 23, 2023	Violin Recital by Leonidas Kavakos
October 24-25, 2023	China Broadcasting Chinese Orchestra
November 2023 – June 2025	Joyful Reading Moment II
November 1-30, 2023	Muse Fest HK 2023
November 3, 2023 – February 28, 2024	'The Hong Kong Jockey Club Series: Titian and the Venetian Renaissance from the Uffizi' Exhibition
November 3, 2023 – May 5, 2024	'Cinderella and Her <i>Qipao</i> ' Exhibition
November 6, 2023	Duo Recital by Yo-Yo Ma (Cello) & Kathryn Stott (Piano)
November 10-27, 2023	French Science Festival
November 12, 2023	Asian Ethnic Cultural Performances 2023
November 12-19, 2023	Charm of Hues – National Costume and Headdress Exhibition

05 CULTURAL SERVICES

MAJOR CULTURAL EVENTS

Date	Event
November 15, 2023 – April 15, 2024	'The Reflection – Art & Design of Hon Bing-wah' Exhibition
November 26, 2023	Cantonese Opera Day 2023
November 28, 2023	Piano Recital by Seong-Jin Cho
December 1, 2023 – February 4, 2024	'Cheers!' Series
December 1, 2023 – April 1, 2024	China Manned Space Exhibition
December 3, 2023 – September 18, 2024	'Boundless Universe: Calligraphy by Jat See-yeu' Exhibition
December 6-10, 2023	Tan Dun WE-Festival
December 10, 2023 – January 27, 2024	/Imagine Fest
December 15, 2023 – May 29, 2024	Science Fiction: Voyage to the Edge of Imagination
December 19, 2023	A Showcase of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Cantonese Opera Masters
December 24, 2023 – September 2, 2024	'Timeless Diva: Anita Mui' Exhibition
January 5-7, 2024	<i>The Journey of a Legendary Landscape Painting</i> by China Oriental Performing Arts Group
January 26-28, 2024	Solo Play: <i>JARMAN</i> by Mark Farrelly
February 2-25, 2024	Lunar New Year Lantern Carnivals 2024
March 16 – October 7, 2024	'A Path to Glory – Jin Yong's Centennial Memorial, Sculpted by Ren Zhe' Exhibition
March 22, 2024 – February 12, 2025	Wu Guanzhong Art Sponsorship Thematic Exhibition Series: Wu Guanzhong: Between Black and White
March 25 – June 8, 2024	Art@Harbour 2024

06 ADMINISTRATION

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT



The Director of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) is the controlling officer of the department's budget, and is responsible for ensuring that the department delivers high quality services in an efficient and economical manner.

Source of Funds

The LCSD is funded by the Government. The revised operational and capital expenditure estimate for 2023-24 was \$11,575 million, covering five major areas: Recreation and Sports, Horticulture and Amenities, Heritage and Museums, Performing Arts, and Public Libraries. Funds were also used to support the Hong Kong China Life Saving Society, various local sports bodies, and camps run by non-government organisations.

The Government's Capital Works Reserve Fund finances the department's capital works projects, as well as major systems and equipment costing more than \$10 million each. The Architectural Services Department supervises the funding of these projects and oversees their progress.

06 ADMINISTRATION

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT



Budgetary Control

To ensure robust financial control over its approved budget, the department operates a three-tier budgetary structure. About 220 budget holders are authorised to deploy funds under this structure, and are accountable for their expenditure.

Fees, Charges and Revenue Collection

The department's revised revenue estimate of \$933 million for 2023-24 came primarily from fees and charges, ticket sales and facility rentals. Revenue is credited to the General Revenue Account.

The LCSD administers over 550 types of fees and charges. It is responsible for ensuring that they are collected on time, properly accounted for, and periodically reviewed.



06 ADMINISTRATION

HUMAN RESOURCES



Personnel Overview

As at the end of March 2024, the department employed approximately 9 400 civil servants of various grades. Of these, around 3 700 were serving in the departmental grades of Leisure Services Manager, Curator, Librarian, Manager, Cultural Services, Music Officer, Technical Officer (Cultural Services), Amenities Assistant and Cultural Services Assistant, while around 5 700 belonged to other common grades and to general grades.

From time to time, this civil service workforce is supplemented by non-civil service contract staff, taken on to meet specific service and operational needs in certain periods.

06 ADMINISTRATION

HUMAN RESOURCES

Staff Training and Development

In 2023-24, the department provided staff with a wide range of specialist and general training programmes. These are designed to meet the department's business needs, develop staff potential, and enhance the abilities of individual staff members.

Training was arranged for our arboricultural and horticultural staff on tree inspection, pest and disease management, tree risk assessment, preventive and remedial tree surgery, horticultural management and landscape design. This included courses on Visual Tree Inspection and Recognition of Tree Risk, Tree Planting and Maintenance, and Advanced Tree Inspection, supplemented by various thematic arboriculture seminars. Sponsorship was provided to some staff for local and overseas qualification-bearing programmes, working towards the following certifications:

- Professional Diploma in Horticulture, Arboriculture and Landscape Management and Professional Diploma in Landscape Architecture (offered by the Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong);
- Advanced Diploma in Tree Management and Conservation and the Certificate in Landscape Design (offered by the University of Hong Kong School of Professional and Continuing Education);
- Certificate in Professional Tree Management (offered by the Hong Kong Metropolitan University);
- Professional Diploma in Tree Management (offered by the School of Continuing Education, Hong Kong Baptist University); and
- MSc(Hons) Degree in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry (offered by the Myerscough College, UK).

06 ADMINISTRATION

HUMAN RESOURCES

Staff Training and Development



Trainees practising the use of a Sonic Tomograph to assess the internal condition of a tree trunk.

Turf management and maintenance staff were also given access to training programmes leading to qualifications, along with various attachment programmes. Available qualifications included:

- Professional Certificate in Turfgrass Science and Management (offered by the Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong); and
- Diploma of Horticulture (Sports Turf Management Context) (offered by the Melbourne Polytechnic, Australia).

06 ADMINISTRATION

HUMAN RESOURCES

Staff Training and Development



Trainees being shown how to use a turf repair tool to replace turf sods.

Cultural services staff were provided with various structured training programmes designed to enhance their professional knowledge and skills. Specific training was given in the areas of arts administration, festival and event management, stage engineering, classical music and theatre, and Chinese mounting of painting and calligraphy. Courses in the areas of museum studies, archival studies and information studies were also made available for staff.



Cultural Services Branch new recruits received a briefing on the mission and work of the Branch.



Seminar attendees gaining a greater awareness and understanding of the Copyright (Amendment) Ordinance 2022.

06 ADMINISTRATION

HUMAN RESOURCES

Staff Training and Development

Stage management staff received various kinds of specialist training. This ranged from courses on professional stage technology, stage and technical management, and application software for handling stage drawings and lighting plans, to practical training in areas such as safety rules and regulations, rope access and rigging, operation of lifting platforms, and repair and maintenance skills. Further training was also held in the important areas of safety inspection, risk assessment and crisis management.



Stage management staff at a workshop to keep abreast of the current safety requirements for operating rigging systems on stage.



A briefing introducing participants to the new stage automation system installed in the Yuen Long Theatre.



Stage management staff learnt about the safe and proper operation of lifting platforms.

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HUMAN RESOURCES

Staff Training and Development

Some tailor-made training programmes were developed for cultural services staff of various grades working in specific fields. These included courses on child psychology, building and facilities management, the handling of dangerous goods, the maintenance of musical instruments, crowd management, and conservation of historical artefacts.



A lecture equipping participants with general knowledge and concepts of building and facilities maintenance and management.



Workshop participants learnt about the correct procedures for handling grand pianos and timpanis, and precautions to take.

06 ADMINISTRATION

HUMAN RESOURCES

Staff Training and Development

In 2023-24, 46 staff members were selected to take part in training programmes and study visits outside Hong Kong, enabling them to broaden their exposure and build connections with international institutions.



Trainees who had attended overseas training events shared what they learnt with colleagues.

The department also organised a number of occupational safety and health programmes during the year, aimed at ensuring that its indoor and outdoor venues continue to provide safe and healthy environments for all users, both staff and customers. Course titles included Occupational Safety and Health on Arboriculture, Prevention of Biological (Animal and Insect) Hazards at Outdoor Workplaces, General Safety for Supervisors and Managers, General Safety for Frontline Staff, Certificate of Competency in Manual Handling, Mandatory Basic Safety Training Course (Construction Work), Safety Training Course for Certified Workers in Confined Spaces Operation, and Safe Use of Tail Lifts.

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HUMAN RESOURCES



The oil pollution course equipped trainees with the knowledge and skills needed to handle oil pollution at beaches.



Lifeguards practising rescue techniques and related skills at a beach.



A trainee learnt how to operate a Jet Ski.



This trainee was learning more techniques for mammal care.



Trainees taking part in an experiential sports climbing activity.

06 ADMINISTRATION

HUMAN RESOURCES

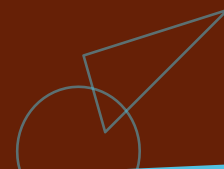
Staff Training and Development

Several regular programmes of general relevance to the leisure and cultural services disciplines were run in the year, on topics such as fundamental management skills, language and communication skills, customer service, and the use of application software and information technology.

Overall in 2023-24, the department offered a total of 16 078 training places for all grades and ranks, including non-civil service and ex-Council contract staff.

06 ADMINISTRATION

HUMAN RESOURCES



Staff Relations and Communication

The department recognises its staff as its most valuable asset, and is therefore committed to maintaining effective channels through which staff members can communicate their views and share their suggestions for enhancing the department's operations and services.

Meetings of the Departmental Consultative Committee (DCC) and the General Grades Consultative Committee (GGCC), which are attended by staff representatives of various grades, represent important platforms for discussions and exchanges on matters affecting staff work arrangements and well-being. Staff representatives are elected to serve on the DCC and the GGCC for a two-year tenure.

The management also holds regular joint meetings with staff unions representing staff of the same grade or those performing similar duties, where input on issues affecting their work or staff interests can be aired. Ad hoc meetings, informal gatherings and briefings are also held from time to time.

In its role as a bridge between management and staff, the Staff Relations/Staff Welfare Unit deals with hundreds of staff requests and enquiries every year. The unit works closely with staff at all levels to help resolve work-related grievances, interpersonal conflicts, and personal or health issues. A stress management hotline is also in place for staff seeking help or counselling, while group debriefing sessions are available for staff emotionally affected by unexpected distressing incidents, with the assistance of the Civil Service Bureau. During the year, inspiring and encouraging messages under the title Soul Oil+ were circulated periodically to all staff to offer encouragement and promote positive thinking.

06 ADMINISTRATION

HUMAN RESOURCES

Staff Relations and Communication

Staff relations activities, offering opportunities for recreation and face-to-face interactions, are regularly organised to enhance trust and build rapport among colleagues. During the year, these took the form of a number of special interest classes, including a handicrafts workshop, a Chinese calligraphy workshop, a talk on horticulture talk and a theme talk on life as an elderly person. These kinds of enjoyable activities help promote a better work-life-balance for staff, as well as also expanding their interests and promoting their well-being.



Colleagues held up colourful handmade dragonfly phone charms, created at a stress-relieving handicraft workshop.



Workshop participants wrote wishes for good luck and happiness at a calligraphy workshop, under the guidance of a volunteer staff instructor.



Participants enjoyed a horticulture talk held before the Chinese New Year on tips for selecting and looking after new year flowers to create an auspicious home ambience for the festive season.



An experienced social worker shared practical tips with colleagues who are caregivers or approaching retirement age, promoting positive ageing and a meaningful retirement life.

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HUMAN RESOURCES

Staff Relations and Communication

Established in 2003, the Departmental Volunteer Team (DVT) facilitates staff participation in volunteer activities in their spare time. It currently consists of some 200 members, including retired and serving civil servants at different ranks and government contract staff. Over the years, the Staff Relations/Staff Welfare Unit has organised various meaningful volunteer activities for DVT members, serving a wide range of target groups. Our service beneficiaries cover most sectors of the community, ranging across the elderly, young people and children, underprivileged families, persons with disabilities and minority groups. In 2023-24, DVT members participated in 20 volunteer activities, amassing a total of 840 service man-hours between them. Around 100 individuals from all walks of the community joined our self-initiated programmes, while the DVT's dedicated support to non-governmental organisations in their community service work benefited thousands of people of different backgrounds.

The DVT has been able to leverage the department's unique advantages as a provider of many types of recreational and cultural services and facilities for its volunteer programmes. For example, it utilised LCSD facilities for a horticulture experience day it organised in the year, and chose the Sam Tung Uk Museum as the destination for a visit by elderly people from Yau Tsim Mong and Tsuen Wan. Many recipients of DVT services expressed strong and heartfelt appreciation for the exceptional work of the volunteers. On their part, DVT members have also reported a deep satisfaction gained from helping people in need, and a sense of fulfilment and personal growth from their volunteer work.

06 ADMINISTRATION

HUMAN RESOURCES



DVT members provided event support for the city's largest long-distance running event, helping out with baggage storage and crowd control.



DVT members assisted event participants in ensuring smooth boarding and alighting on the commute to this event.



The Director of Leisure and Cultural Services and elderly citizens from Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service joined a guided tour led by DVT members, and took a walk through the green displays at the Green Education and Resource Centre.



After the Green Education and Resource Centre tour, DVT members delivered a much-enjoyed mini-bonsai potted plant workshop to the elderly participants.



The Director of Leisure and Cultural Services and elderly folk from the Yan Chai Hospital Fong Yock Yee Neighbourhood Elderly Centre enjoyed a guided journey organised by the museum's Curator and DVT members.



DVT members assisted in a workshop for the elderly on making handicrafts with Hong Kong intangible cultural heritage elements.

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HUMAN RESOURCES

Staff Relations and Communication

The department runs 13 Sports Teams, consisting of about 400 staff members, which offer excellent opportunities for colleagues who are sports lovers to maintain a good work-life balance. The teams also help the department promote a healthy lifestyle among colleagues.

A quarterly Staff Newsletter is issued containing details of the department's recent activities, along with practical information on staff management and staff welfare matters. The newsletter also contains contributions from staff, including articles offering experience sharing.

Staff Motivation

To promote a culture of excellence across the department, different award schemes have been established to recognise exemplary performances, significant contributions and meritorious acts by staff throughout the year.

Government-wide Awards

This year, five colleagues were honoured under the Secretary for the Civil Service's Commendation Award Scheme. Two other colleagues were awarded The Ombudsman's Awards 2023 for Officers of Public Organisations.



Five staff members of the department were awarded the Secretary for the Civil Service's Commendation in 2023 in recognition of their outstanding performance.



The Ombudsman presented Individual Awards to two staff members of the department for their excellent professional services to the public.

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HUMAN RESOURCES

Departmental Recognition

At the Leisure and Cultural Services Department Presentation Ceremony held in May 2023, the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services presented 68 commendation letters to five teams of officers from various sections/offices for their substantial contribution to the department. In addition, over 900 staff members were awarded Certificates of Merit, Long and Meritorious Service Certificates, or Long and Meritorious Service Travel Awards.



A team from the Aquatic Venues Section received Commendation Letters for their active participation in coordinating various types of anti-epidemic work.



A team from the Land-based Venues Section was commended for handling urgent and ad hoc tasks in relation to the management of land-based leisure facilities during the ever-changing epidemic situation.



Staff members from different sections were commended for setting up a temporary office in just two weeks for the purpose of implementing a one-off grant giving instant support to sports coaches registered under National Sports Associations and Sports Organisations, under the Anti-epidemic Fund 5.0 and 6.0.



A team from the Hong Kong Cultural Centre received Commendation Letters for their outstanding work throughout the 'Centenary of the Bell – Ring the Bell in Memory' project.

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HUMAN RESOURCES



A team from the Hong Kong Museum of Art was commended for their continuous efforts in rebranding and improving customer experience since the museum's reopening in 2019.

LCSD Quick Response Unit

In 2023, the department formed a Quick Response Unit (QRU) designed to provide significant manpower reinforcement for a core response team that has been formed by dedicated Government departments to respond to major unexpected incidents. This team was created in response to the Chief Executive's 2022 Policy Address of the introduction of a 'Government-wide Mobilisation' Level that would enable rapid Government mobilisation in the face of major unexpected incidents. All full-time government employees in the department are rostered into the QRU, in a total of four teams, ensuring a comprehensive utilisation of the department's manpower resources for this important task. The department will also offer specialist support on emergency venue set-up should GWML be initiated.

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



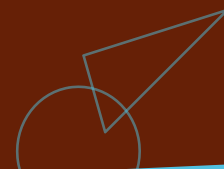
The LCSD uses information technology extensively in the delivery of its services, with the aim of enhancing both operational efficiency and service quality. In 2023-24, the department conducted 27 computerisation projects, involving a total expenditure of \$203.83 million.

Computerisation of Public Libraries

The Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) added one e-database and four new e-book collections in 2023-24, namely Kono Libraries e-database, Jin Yong Martial Arts Novels Audio Collection, SUEP 'Hong Kong Renowned Writers' e-Book, Boundless by Baker & Taylor and Pop-up e-Book. It now provides nearly 100 different sources of publicly available electronic reading and entertainment materials. Patrons can access a large variety of e-books, e-magazines and e-journals and a wide range of music genres via the HKPL Portal or mobile platform.

06 ADMINISTRATION

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



Computerisation of Public Libraries

The Smart Library System (SLS) is currently being developed to replace the existing library systems. The first batch of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) equipment, which includes new Self-checkout Machines, have been deployed to most of branch libraries, providing patrons with a fast and convenient way to check out multiple library items in one go. New Smart Book Dispensers, Smart Book Drops and Self-service Kiosks have been installed to replace the old machines in the Self-service Library Station in the Island East Sports Centre Sitting-out Area and Hong Kong Cultural Centre, ready to be put into operation in first and second quarter of 2024-25 respectively. Other new items of RFID equipment, such as Smart Book Pick-up Lockers and RFID handheld devices, are currently being developed.

SmartPLAY Launched

In November 2023, the LCSD launched SmartPLAY, a new intelligent sports and recreation services booking and information system, to replace the aging Leisure Link system. It also launched My SmartPLAY, a new mobile app, to provide the public with more efficient, convenient and user-friendly facility booking and programme enrolment services. Supplementing these resources, new self-service stations and check-in devices have been installed at various leisure venues for easy self-service booking and check-in.

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



Upgraded Urban Ticketing System

The upgraded Urban Ticketing System has been providing improved ticketing services to event presenters and the public since its launch on December 1, 2022. Ongoing efforts are being made to enhance the system's current functions and services based on operational experience and user feedback. At the same time, new and advanced functionalities (e.g. Application Programming Interface, Customer Relations Management and Business Intelligence features) are being developed and will be progressively implemented to serve the specific needs of event presenters.

Projects in Progress

Development of the East Kowloon Cultural Centre website and of the Performing Arts Web Portal is currently in progress. These projects will utilise responsive web design, enabling users to browse the websites comfortably on any device. Users will be able to register on the websites to receive event calendars and programme highlights, and also use them to enrol for free events.

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FACILITIES AND PROJECTS



A primary objective of the LCSD is to enrich the quality of life of the community by providing a rich array of recreational and cultural facilities and related activities. Works projects to provide these facilities include capital works projects (projects costing over \$50 million), District Minor Works projects initiated by District Councils, and other Minor Building Works projects. We work closely with the District Councils to meet the needs of their local communities, for instance by identifying suitable sites for new facilities. Since 2000, the department has completed over 150 capital works and Minor Building Works projects across Hong Kong, at a total cost of approximately \$39.4 billion.

New Facilities Opened

Five capital works projects with new or improved facilities were opened during the year. These were Hoi Sham Park (Extension Portion), Ap Lei Chau Wind Tower Park Lift Tower, Cha Kwo Ling Promenade, Kai Tak Station Square (Phase 2), and Lam Wah Street Playground (Site A). Please refer to Appendix 4 for the costs and opening dates of these projects.

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FACILITIES AND PROJECTS

Facilities under Construction or to be Opened

In 2023-24, 25 capital works projects involving major sports and recreation facilities were underway, including projects such as sports ground redevelopment, construction or redevelopment of swimming pool complexes, and construction of new sports centres and parks. In addition, nine capital works projects for cultural facilities were in progress, involving the construction of or improvements to public libraries, civic centres and museums. Please refer to Appendix 5 for the start dates and target completion dates of these projects.

Project Planning under Major Government Initiatives

The department is actively involved in the planning and development work for several major Government initiatives. One is a Five-Year Plan, announced by the Government in January 2017, which aims to significantly increase the provision of sports and recreation facilities in Hong Kong by launching 26 projects to develop new or improve existing sports and recreation facilities. Of these projects, 11 have been completed and either fully or partially opened for public use, while ten are currently at the construction or pre-construction stage.

The second initiative has involved the department in a \$20 billion plan aimed at developing and improving Hong Kong's cultural facilities, as announced by the Financial Secretary in his Budget Speech of February 2018.

A third major initiative is the 10-Year Development Blueprint for Sports and Recreation Facilities, announced in the 2022 Policy Address. This will involve the phased development of diversified sports and recreation facilities, including sports centres, swimming pools, sports grounds and parks.

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OUTSOURCING



In line with the Government's efficiency guidelines, the LCSD outsources some non-core services to the private sector. These include cleansing, security, horticultural maintenance, and venue management services. As at March 31, 2024, the department was managing 107 outsourced contracts for major services for both leisure and cultural facilities, at a total value of \$7,486 million.

The department's outsourcing practice operates according to four core principles:

- contracts must be commercially viable;
- service standards must not be lowered;
- services must be cost-effective; and
- staff should not be made redundant.

Up to March 2024, the department had contracted out the management of the following 14 sports centres:

- the Jockey Club Tuen Mun Butterfly Beach Sports Centre;
- the Quarry Bay Sports Centre;
- the Chun Wah Road Sports Centre;

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OUTSOURCING



- the Cheung Sha Wan Sports Centre;
- the Chuk Yuen Sports Centre;
- the Choi Hung Road Sports Centre;
- the Wo Hing Sports Centre;
- the North Kwai Chung Tang Shiu Kin Sports Centre;
- the Ap Lei Chau Sports Centre;
- the Fa Yuen Street Sports Centre;
- the Wong Chuk Hang Sports Centre;
- the Hiu Kwong Street Sports Centre;
- the Yeung Uk Road Sports Centre; and
- the Tin Shui Wai Sports Centre.

The department also contracts out the management of several of its cultural facilities, including:

- the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum;
- the Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery;
- Yau Ma Tei Theatre;
- Oil Street Art Space;
- the Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre; and
- the Hong Kong Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre.

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OUTSOURCING



Contract Management

The LCSD's contract management team monitors the performance of its service contractors closely to ensure that public services are being delivered effectively and meet the department's service requirements. The team holds regular meetings with the senior managers of contractors, and conducts regular on-site inspections and surprise checks. Close attention is given to the wages and benefits paid by contractors to non-skilled workers, in line with the government's policy to enhance the remuneration packages offered to non-skilled workers and better protect their interests. Contractors are regularly reminded that any form of exploitation of non-skilled workers is unacceptable. The department's computerised appraisal system provides an overview of contractors' performance, enabling it to review contractors' past performance when evaluating new tender offers.

The department has incorporated measures on preventing heat stroke at work into its outsourced contracts to improve the work condition of non-skilled workers. These include measures requiring contractors to provide heatstroke prevention equipment (such as uniforms with dry-fit properties, wide-brimmed hats, arm sleeves and umbrellas) and arrange suitable rest breaks for non-skilled workers engaged in outdoor work in hot weather, and generally to adopt good practices for preventing heatstroke.

06 ADMINISTRATION

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS



The department has implemented multiple initiatives to align with the Government's environmental goals, aimed at minimising pollution from its operations and protecting our environment.

Green Management Policy

In the 2019 Policy Address, the Government has set a 'Green Energy Target' with the aim of achieving a further reduction of six per cent in its total energy consumption by 2024-25 through energy-saving initiatives and the use of renewable energy. The department has been playing its part in achieving this goal by integrating green features into its buildings and venues, as well as implementing a wide range of environmental friendly housekeeping measures. During the year, the department published its 23rd Environmental Report, which lays out its most current green management policies, practices and initiatives. In addition, the departmental circular on 'Green Management Practices' outlines the department's green management practices for energy saving, green buildings, and waste avoidance and reduction.

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ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS



Committed to Utilising Renewable Energy

The department has adopted a number of energy-saving initiatives to align its practice with the Government's renewable energy policy. These include the widespread usage of renewable energy and high-efficiency lighting systems (such as T5 and LED lighting) in LCSD venues, and of LED stage lighting in performing arts venues. Solar energy-powered lights have been installed in parks, along with photovoltaic lighting systems in some parks, promenades, museums, town halls and theatres. Lighting in many leisure and performance venues is controlled and adjusted automatically by photocell controls that respond to natural light intensity. Natural light is exploited wherever possible to reduce energy usage for lighting, and occupancy sensors have been installed in offices and venues to avoid unnecessary energy usage. Timer lighting schedules are adjusted to match seasonal changes, and astronomical lighting time switches have been installed in some parks to save energy. Office room temperatures are maintained at 25.5°C in general, with shortened pre-cooling hours, and there are separate lighting and air-conditioning controls for different zones and areas. To enhance staff awareness of energy saving, in March 2024 the department once again participated in the Earth Hour lights-off campaign organised by the World Wide Fund for Nature.

Water Management and Preservation

We carry out regular site inspections of our irrigation systems to identify and rectify water leakages. Spray nozzles are used for irrigation to reduce water loss from soil surfaces, and drought-tolerant species planted in suitable locations. Water features in major parks are closely monitored to control their water consumption, and timer-taps have been installed in our offices and venues to regulate water flows.

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ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS

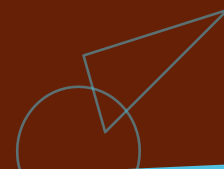


Reduce, Reuse and Recycle for a Sustainable Future

Waste reduction and the recycling of used materials are integral to our environmental conservation efforts. We encourage the use of recyclable materials to reduce waste, including reusable office stationery and recyclable polythene bags for refuse. Waste separation bins are available at over 780 LCSD venues. Specific 'reduce, reuse and recycle' initiatives include the recycling of paper and unserviceable library materials, the issue of library notices through e-mail or the library's mobile app, and the handling of programme publicity and feedback collection electronically. We have installed digital programme promotion screens and electronic monitors in most of our performance venues and some museums. To support the 'Bring Your Own Bottle' community initiative, we have installed around 1 750 water dispensers in our leisure and cultural venues. Umbrella dryers and umbrella racks have also been placed at venues, replacing the distribution of plastic umbrella bags on rainy days. We use a high proportion of hardy flowering shrubs against seasonal flowers in our beautification and landscape work, which reduces the amount of yard waste generated, and we reuse yard waste for soil conditioner. The department is a signatory to the Food Wise Charter under the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign, and disseminates information on reducing food waste to its catering service contractors.

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ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS



Community Promotion and Engagement

The department organises many educational and publicity programmes designed to raise awareness of environmental care and promote heritage conservation. These take the form of exhibitions, displays, lectures, scientist sharing session, guided visits and workshops as well as horticulture and conservation courses, and are aimed at the general public, schools, non-governmental organisations and uniformed groups. As part of our core mission to beautify the environment, we continued to carry out landscape improvement works in areas such as parks, sitting-out spaces and roadside amenity areas, as well as planting trees, shrubs and flowering species as part of our efforts to create sustainable and aesthetically pleasing landscaping areas. We also promoted greening and horticulture by fostering community engagement through events and programmes such as including the Hong Kong Flower Show, the Community Garden Programme, the Greening Hong Kong Activities Subsidy Scheme, the Green Volunteer Scheme, the One Person, One Flower Scheme and the Outreaching Greening Promotional Activities.

Looking Ahead

The department continues to conduct regular energy audits to identify good energy management practices, in collaboration with the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department and the Architectural Services Department. Each year we conduct an annual performance review to assess how effectively different sections and offices of the department have implemented green measures, waste reduction practices and installation of renewable energy systems. Looking ahead, we will remain fully committed to pursuing and enhancing our environmental management practices in support of Government-wide energy policies and programmes, for a sustainable future.

06 ADMINISTRATION

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PUBLICITY



Throughout the year, the department strove to engage with the public through multiple channels. We mounted major publicity campaigns to promote large-scale events, and disseminated news and information about our latest services, facilities and programmes through press conferences and press releases. In addition, social media stories were posted daily to promote our work, activities and events. We also maintained a press enquiry service throughout the year, providing information for the media and facilitating media coverage and public understanding of the latest developments in the department.

Widespread publicity targeting both local residents and tourists was given to major programmes, especially those including performances by renowned artists and art groups from around the world. Dedicated campaigns were launched for the inaugural Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival and the Chinese Opera Festival. Considerable publicity efforts were also made to promote the Cheung Chau Bun Carnival, which resumed in the year after having been suspended during the pandemic. Several weeks of pre-event promotional efforts were organised for the mega event, Art@Harbour 2024, which kindled public anticipation before the event's official launch in March.

A number of the department's regular leisure and cultural programmes were also widely promoted, including the Online Interactive Sports Training Programmes, Sport For All Day, the Click for Arts series, the Hong Kong Library Festival and the Hong Kong Flower Show. Also well-advertised was the launch of SmartPLAY, the department's new intelligent sports and recreation services booking and information system.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PUBLICITY

Channels such as radio and television, the Internet, newspapers and magazines, posters, leaflets and pamphlets, as well as outdoor displays such as wall banners, lamppost bunting and video walls were all used to connect with the public. Much effort was also invested in our social media platforms, the LCSD Plusss Facebook and Instagram pages, where the department's two mascots, Enggie Pup and Artti Kitty, regularly reached out to share information about the department in a highly engaging manner. These promotional efforts often generated enthusiastic public response and strong participation.

Subscribers received a free weekly e-magazine by email containing summaries and highlights of major LCSD events and activities, with content which they could personalise to match their individual interests.

Throughout the year, the department regularly updated its website with information about its services and facilities and details of upcoming leisure and cultural programmes. The site also hosted publications, application forms and tender notices for downloading.

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PUBLIC FEEDBACK



Following the launch of the core functions of SmartPLAY Phase 1 in November 2023, the department conducted a public opinion survey on the SmartPLAY System which ran from the end of February to the middle of March 2024. The aim of the survey was to collect public feedback on the operation and use of SmartPLAY's functions and procedures, in order to consider further improvements to the core functions of Phase 1. Most users made positive comments about the system in the survey, and the department also gained some useful insights that will help it in enhancing and developing subsequent phases of the system.

On June 16, 2023, the department also announced the findings of the Territory-wide Physical Fitness Survey for the Community. This survey was effective in providing Hong Kong citizens with a general understanding of their fitness levels, and identifying the relationship between exercise habits and physical fitness.

The department regularly collects public feedback from different channels on issues relating to its policies, facilities and services. All feedback is input into the department's dedicated database (its Views from the Public System), and is regularly reviewed to identify areas for improvement.

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PUBLIC FEEDBACK



Feedback Channels

The department welcomes constructive feedback from the public and is committed to following up enquiries and complaints promptly. Suggestions, enquiries and complaints can be made to the LCSD in the following ways:

- By calling the LCSD's 24-hour Hotline: 2414 5555 (this hotline is handled by 1823)
- By sending an email to enquiries@lcsd.gov.hk (this email account is handled by 1823)
- By writing or sending a fax to the General Administration Section, Administration Division, Leisure and Cultural Services Department at – 13/F, Leisure and Cultural Services Headquarters, 1-3 Pai Tau Street, Sha Tin, New Territories
Fax No.: 2603 0642

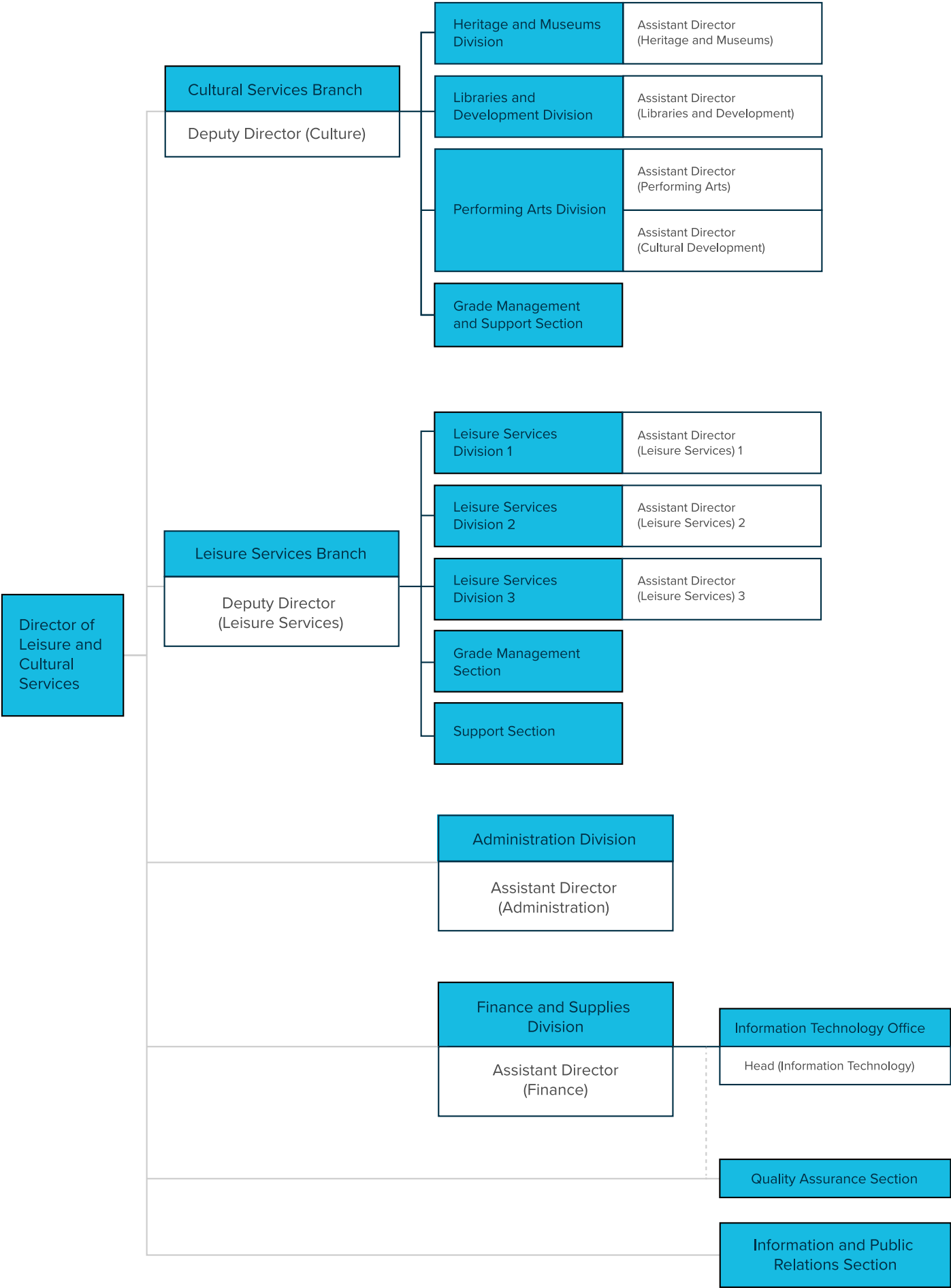
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- 05 **Facilities Under Construction or to be Opened**
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- 10 **Attendances at Cultural and Entertainment Programmes**
- 11 **Attendances of Cultural Presentations, Arts Education and Audience Building, Festivals, Community Arts, Cultural Exchange and Film Programmes**
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Organisation Chart

(As at March 31,2024)



Performance Achievements

CULTURAL SERVICES

1. PERFORMING ARTS

(A) Performance Venues

Type of Service	Target	Achievement in 2023-24
To confirm bookings as follows		
(a) Ordinary	To give a written reply within 14 working days from the monthly closing date for applications	100%
(b) Special	To give a written reply within 14 working days from the monthly closing date for applications	100%
(c) Late		
(i) Major facilities		
a) Including Auditoria, Concert Halls and Exhibition Halls / Galleries	To give a written reply within 7 working days from the weekly closing date for applications	100%
b) Arenas of the Hong Kong Coliseum and the Queen Elizabeth Stadium	To give a written reply within 7 working days from receiving an application	100%
(ii) Minor facilities		
a) Including Lecture Rooms, Dance Studios, Conference Rooms, etc.	To give a written reply within 7 working days from receiving an application	100%

(B) Ticketing

Type of Service	Target	Achievement in 2023-24
Sale of tickets at the box office	To serve the customer within 25 minutes except during rush periods when counter ticket sales begin for popular events and major arts / film festivals; and to supply a ticket within 4 minutes	100%
Telephone enquiry service	To serve the customer within 5 minutes except during peak hours (10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)	100%
Telephone booking service	To post the tickets by the next working day to patrons using the service	100%

Performance Achievements

2. LIBRARY SERVICES

(A) Libraries

Type of Service	Target	Achievement in 2023-24
To achieve the following performance standards for 90% of the opening hours, including peak hours		
(a) Applying for a new library card	10 minutes	100%
(b) Replacing a library card	10 minutes	100%
(c) Borrowing a library item	5 minutes	100%
(d) Returning a library item	5 minutes	100%
(e) Reserving a library item	5 minutes	100%

(B) Book Registration

Type of Service	Target	Achievement in 2023-24
To gazette a bibliography of registered books in accordance with the Books Registration Ordinance, Cap. 142 of the Laws of Hong Kong	At quarterly intervals	100%

Performance Achievements

3. HERITAGE AND MUSEUM SERVICES

Museums

Type of Service	Target	Achievement in 2023-24
To process requests for school visits and guided tours	Within 7 working days	100%
To maintain the hands-on exhibits in use in the Hong Kong Science Museum and the Hong Kong Space Museum	At least 90% of hands-on exhibits in use at all times	100%
To provide a balanced mix of museum programmes	(i) 4 exhibitions of various themes per month	100%
	(ii) 750 sessions of educational programmes per month	100%

Performance Achievements

4. FOR ALL CULTURAL SERVICES

Type of Service	Target	Achievement in 2023-24
Refund of fees and charges for hiring facilities, admission tickets for museums and programme presentations, fees for museum activities and services, course and participation fees for music training, replacement cost for library items and deposit for temporary library card		
(a) Refund of non-credit card payment under normal circumstances		
(i) Applications submitted in off-peak seasons (Jan - Jun and Nov - Dec)	To complete processing 95% of the applications within 30 working days ⁽¹⁾ after receipt of the completed applications with full documentary support	100%
(ii) Applications submitted in peak season (Jul - Oct)	To complete processing 95% of the applications within 50 working days ⁽¹⁾ after receipt of the completed applications with full documentary support	100%
(b) Refund of credit card payment under normal circumstances ⁽²⁾	As refund of credit card payment can only be made to the credit card account that was used for the payment, at least ten extra calendar days are required for processing by Government agents and credit card issuing bank	100%

Notes:
⁽¹⁾ Excluding Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.
⁽²⁾ Not applicable for venues / offices where credit card payment is not available.

Performance Achievements

LEISURE SERVICES

Type of Service	Target	Achievement in 2023-24
For activities enrolled on a first-come-first-served basis		
(a) At District Leisure Services Office counters / venue booking counters	Within 15 minutes queuing time except peak period (8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.)	100%
(b) By post	To notify applicants within 7 working days from the closing date	100%
For activities enrolled by balloting		
	(i) To publicise the balloting result within 5 working days from the balloting date	100%
	(ii) To notify the successful applicants within 7 working days from the balloting date	100%
Applications for the use of sports facilities in person at venue booking counters	Within 15 minutes queuing time except peak period (7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.)	100%
Waiting time for admission to swimming pools	Less than 20 minutes when the maximum pool capacity has not been reached	100%

Type of Service	Target	Achievement in 2023-24
Processing new licence applications for billiard establishments, public bowling-alleys and public skating rinks		
(a) To issue a letter of acknowledgement to the applicant and forward the application to the relevant government departments for comment	Within 5 working days upon receipt of all the required documents and inspection of the premises	100%
(b) To issue a letter of requirements to the applicant	Within 5 working days upon confirmation that the relevant government departments have raised no objection	100%
(c) To issue a licence to the applicant	Within 5 working days upon confirmation that all the licensing requirements have been satisfied	100%
Processing renewal of licence applications for billiard establishments, public bowling-alleys and public skating rinks		
(a) To issue a letter of acknowledgement to the applicant and forward the application to the relevant government departments for comment	Within 5 working days upon receipt of all the required documents	100%
(b) To issue an approval letter of renewal of Places of Amusement Licence	Within 5 working days upon confirmation that the relevant government departments have raised no objection and all the licensing requirements have been satisfied	100%

Performance Achievements

LEISURE SERVICES

Type of Service	Target	Achievement in 2023-24
Processing licence transfer applications for billiard establishments, public bowling-alleys and public skating rinks		
(a) To issue a letter of acknowledgement to the applicant and forward the application to the relevant government departments for comment	Within 5 working days upon receipt of all the required documents	100%
(b) To issue an approval letter of transfer of Places of Amusement Licence	Within 5 working days upon confirmation that the relevant government departments have raised no objection and all the licensing requirements have been satisfied	100%

Type of Service	Target	Achievement in 2023-24
Refund of fees and charges for recreational and sports activities and hire of leisure facilities		
(a) Refund of non-credit card payment under normal circumstances		
(i) Applications submitted in off-peak seasons (Jan - Jun and Nov - Dec)	To complete processing 95% of the applications within 30 working days ⁽¹⁾ after receipt of the completed applications or completion of the activities (whichever is later)	81% ⁽²⁾
(ii) Applications submitted in peak season (Jul - Oct)	To complete processing 95% of the applications within 50 working days ⁽¹⁾ after receipt of the completed applications or completion of the activities (whichever is later)	86% ⁽²⁾
(b) Refund of credit card payment under normal circumstances	As refund of credit card payment can only be made to the credit card account that was used for the payment, at least ten extra calendar days are required for processing by Government agents and credit card issuing bank	95% ⁽²⁾

Notes:

⁽¹⁾ Excluding Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

⁽²⁾ Due to the frequent inclement weather conditions in 2023-24, there was a significant surge in number of refund applications received by some leisure facilities, hence the longer processing time.

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure

	2023-24 \$ M (Revised Estimate)	2022-23 \$ M (Actual)
Revenue		
Rent	189	92
Fees and charges		
Admission and hire charges	647	500
Programme entry fees	39	25
Others	21	15
Other receipts	37	136
Total Revenue	933	768
Recurrent Expenditure		
Personal emoluments	4,003	3,771
Mandatory / Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	341	308
Departmental expenses	5,460	5,433
Publicity	83	82
Cultural presentations, entertainment programmes, activities and exhibitions	345	260
Recreation and sports activities, programmes, campaigns and exhibitions	227	135
Library materials and multimedia services	104	103
Artefacts and museum exhibitions	133	118
Subventions	419	451
Total Recurrent Expenditure	11,115	10,661
Non-recurrent / Capital Expenditure		
Plant, equipment and works	344	339
Others	116	64
Total Expenditure	11,575	11,064

Source: Volume I of the 2024-25 Estimates

New Facilities Opened in 2023-24

Name of Facility (Project Title)	Project Cost (\$ M)	Facilities Opening in
Hoi Sham Park (Extension Portion) (Hoi Sham Park Extension in Kowloon City District) ^(Note 1)	293.2 (Total project cost of extension and existing portion)	4/2023
Ap Lei Chau Wind Tower Park Lift Tower (Construction of a footbridge with lift tower to connect the Ap Lei Chau Wind Tower Park and the Ap Lei Chau Estate)	110.6	6/2023
Cha Kwo Ling Promenade (Enhancement Works for Kwun Tong Sewage Pumping Station)	Not available ^(Note 2)	8/2023
Kai Tak Station Square (Phase 2) (Station Square at Kai Tak) ^(Note 3)	1,651.5 (Total project cost of both Phases 1 and 2)	8/2023 (East Portion) 12/2023 (The remaining part)
Lam Wah Street Playground (Site A) (Improvement of Lam Wah Street Playground and Adjacent Area) ^(Note 4)	145.5 (Total project cost of both Sites A and B)	10/2023

Notes:

- Note 1: Target completion date of the remaining portion is 2024.
Note 2: Project is led by Drainage Services Department. Cost breakdown for the part of Cha Kwo Ling Promenade is not available.
Note 3: Phase 1 was opened in December 2021.
Note 4: Site B (Sheung Yuet Road Sitting-out Area) was opened in October 2022.

Facilities Under Construction or to be Opened

Project Title	Works Start in	Target Completion in
(A) Sports and Recreational Facilities under Construction		
Swimming pool complex and open space in Area 107, Tin Shui Wai	2019	2024
Hoi Sham Park Extension in Kowloon City District ^(Note 1)	2020	2024
Open Space at Hoi Fai Road, Tai Kok Tsui	2020	2024 ^(Note 2)
Redevelopment of Kowloon Tsai Swimming Pool Complex	2020	2024
Kwai Chung Park	2021	2024
Open Space at Hoi Fan Road, Tai Kok Tsui	2021	2025
Open Space at Hung Hom Waterfront	2021	2024
Town Park in Area 68, Tseung Kwan O	2022	2025
Redevelopment of Yuen Long Stadium - Main Works	2022	2026
Improvement of Tsuen Wan Riviera Park and Tsuen Wan Park - Phase 1 Development	2023	2025
Quarry Park in Anderson Road Quarry	2023	2026

Facilities Under Construction or to be Opened

Project Title	Works Start in	Target Completion in
(B) Projects led by other Bureaux/Departments with Sports and Recreational Facilities under Construction		
Open Space in Anderson Road Quarry (Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) / Development Bureau (DEVB))	2016	2024
Landscaped decks and landscaped area adjoining Road D3 at the former runway and south apron (CEDD)	2019	2024
Reprovisioning of On Lok Mun Street Playground (CEDD)	2020	2025
Lung Tsun Stone Bridge Preservation Corridor at Kai Tak (DEVB)	2021	2025
Water Feature Park and Landscaped Walk at Diamond Hill (Housing Department / Housing Bureau)	2021	2024
Open Space in Area 29A, Tung Chung West (CEDD)	2021	2025
Open Space at Eastern Street North, Sai Ying Pun (DEVB)	2022	2025
Reprovisioning of Ma Chai Hang Recreation Ground under the Shatin to Central Link Project (Highways Department (HyD) / Transport and Logistics Bureau)	2022	2025
District Open Space, Sports Centre and Public Vehicle Park at Sze Mei Street (Energizing Kowloon East Office / DEVB)	2022	2026
Joint-user Complex at Site G2, Anderson Road Quarry (Government Property Agency / DEVB)	2023	2027
Improvement Works at Tai O, Phase 2 Stage 2 (including amphitheatre-cum-open space in Yim Tin) (CEDD)	2023	2026
Improvement Works for Mui Wo, Phase 2 Stage 2 (including landscaped viewing deck) (CEDD)	2023	2027
Open Spaces near Kai Tak River (OS3b, OS4, OS5 & OS6) (CEDD)	2024	2027

Facilities Under Construction or to be Opened

Project Title	Works Start in	Target Completion in
(C) Sports and Recreational Facilities under Pre-construction Activities		
Amenity Complex in Area 103, Ma On Shan - Pre-construction activities	2020	2024
(D) Cultural Facilities under Construction or to be Opened		
Construction of the East Kowloon Cultural Centre	2016	2023 ^(Note 3)
District Library and Residential Care Home for the Elderly in the Joint User Complex at Lei King Road	2020	2025
Facility Upgrading of Tai Po Civic Centre	2021	2025
Renovation of Tsuen Wan Public Library	2021	2025
Renovation and improvement project for the Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre	2022	2024
Construction of Yau Ma Tei Theatre Phase 2	2022	2026
Construction of Leisure and Cultural Complex at Tin Yip Road, Tin Shui Wai Phase 1 (Heritage Conservation and Resource Centre)	2023	2028
Main works for the New Territories East Cultural Centre in Area 11, Fanling	2023	2028
(E) Cultural Facilities under Pre-construction Activities		
Pre-construction activities for expansion of Hong Kong Science Museum and Hong Kong Museum of History	2020	2026
Notes: Note 1: The extension portion was opened in April 2023. Target completion date of the remaining portion is 2024. Note 2: Hoi Fai Road Park was opened in April 2024. Note 3: The works were completed in 2023 and the venue is undergoing internal facility installation and optimisation.		

Recreational Facilities

Recreational Facilities	No.	Recreational Facilities	No.
SPORTS FACILITIES		PASSIVE FACILITIES	
Sports centres	105	Major parks	26
Courts (indoor and outdoor)		Small parks / gardens / sitting-out areas	1 663
Badminton	685	Children’s playgrounds ⁽⁵⁾	680
Basketball ⁽¹⁾	538	Zoos / aviaries	5
Handball ⁽²⁾	72	Conservatories	3
Volleyball ⁽³⁾	271	Community gardens	29
Squash ⁽⁴⁾	291		
Tennis	250		
Stadia (outdoor)	2		
Turf soccer pitches (natural and artificial)	81		
Hard-surface soccer pitches	240		
Hockey pitches	2		
Rugby pitches	1		
Sports grounds	25		
Bowling greens (indoor and outdoor)	18		
Obstacle golf course	1		
Open air theatres	23		
Archery fields	4		
Roller skating rinks	29		
Jogging tracks	115		
Cycling tracks / facilities	29		
Beaches	42		
Swimming pools	45		
Water sports centres	5		
Holiday camps	4		
Golf driving ranges (indoor and outdoor)	4		
Camp site	1		

Notes

⁽¹⁾ Including 22 half-size basketball courts / practice courts.

⁽²⁾ Including 2 beach handball courts.

⁽³⁾ Including 8 beach volleyball courts.

⁽⁴⁾ Including 9 squash courts used as American pool table rooms and those squash courts which are temporarily changed to other use (such as table tennis room).

⁽⁵⁾ The figure refers to ‘the number of venues provided with children’s playground’ instead of ‘the number of children’s play area’. A venue with more than one children’s play area will only be counted once.

Usage of Recreational and Sports Facilities (Percentages, unless otherwise specified)

Type of Recreational and Sports Facilities	Unit	%
Hard-surfaced courts		
Tennis	hour	79.3
Obstacle golf (number)	game	641
Turf pitches		
Natural / artificial turf pitches	session	72.1
Bowling greens	hour	56.0
Hockey (artificial)	hour	60.8
Rugby	hour	100.0
Sports grounds	hour	99.0
Sports centres		
Arenas	hour	90.9
Activity rooms / dance rooms	hour	73.1
Children's playrooms	person	58.8
Squash courts ⁽¹⁾	hour	71.9
Holiday camps		
Day	person	50.1
Residential	person	44.2
Evening (attendance)	person	22 139
Others (attendance) ⁽²⁾	person	N.A.
Water sports centres		
Day	person	65.8
Tent	person	46.8
Craft-hour used (number)	hour	329 139

Notes

Usage Rate(%)= $\frac{\text{(a) Total hours / sessions used (based on booked records) or (b) Attendance}}{\text{(a) Total hours / sessions available or (b) Capacity}} \times 100\%$

N.A. = Not applicable

⁽¹⁾ Including all multi-use squash courts such as those for using as table tennis rooms, activities rooms.⁽²⁾ The site of wedding ceremony at Lei Yue Mun Park was closed for large-scale renovation work in 2023-24.

Recreational, Sports and Amenity Programmes

Events / Programmes	Events / Programmes (No.)	Participants / Attendees (No.)
Recreational and sports activities	35 200	2 060 000
Sports Subvention Scheme	11 356	783 080
Zoological Education Programme	525	25 686
Horticultural Education Programme	349	29 147
Greening School Subsidy Scheme	891	244 701
One Person, One Flower Scheme	1 213	371 200
Greening Hong Kong Activities Subsidy Scheme	8	57 666
Green Volunteer Scheme	390	5 636
Greening exhibitions / talks	427	19 915
Community Garden Programme	64	12 590
Outreaching Greening Promotional Activities	92	35 309

Addresses and Enquiry Numbers of District Leisure Services Offices

District	Address	Enquiries
Central and Western	Room 1001, 10/F, Sheung Wan Municipal Services Building, 345 Queen's Road Central, Central, Hong Kong	2853 2566
Kowloon City	10/F, To Kwa Wan Government Offices, 165 Ma Tau Wai Road, Kowloon	2711 0541
Sham Shui Po	7/F, Un Chau Street Municipal Services Building, 59-63 Un Chau Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon	2386 0945
Eastern	3/F, Quarry Bay Municipal Services Building, 38 Quarry Bay Street, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong	2564 2264
Kwun Tong	No 2, Tsui Ping Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon	2343 6123
Southern	4/F, Aberdeen Municipal Services Building, 203 Aberdeen Main Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong	2555 1268
Wan Chai	9/F, Lockhart Road Municipal Services Building, 225 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong	2879 5622
Wong Tai Sin	4/F, Ngau Chi Wan Municipal Services Building, 11 Clear Water Bay Road, Wong Tai Sin, Kowloon	2328 9262
Yau Tsim Mong	1/F, Kowloon Park Management Office, 22 Austin Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon	2302 1762
Islands	Rooms 617-623, 6/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong	2852 3220
Kwai Tsing	Room 805, 8/F, Kwai Hing Government Offices, 166-174 Hing Fong Road, Kwai Chung, New Territories	2424 7201
North	4/F, Shek Wu Hui Municipal Services Building, 13 Chi Cheong Road, Sheung Shui, New Territories	2679 2819
Sai Kung	9/F, Sai Kung Tseung Kwan O Government Complex, 38 Pui Shing Road, Tseung Kwan O, New Territories	2791 3100
Sha Tin	Unit 1207-1212, 12/F, Tower 1, Grand Central Plaza, 138 Sha Tin Rural Committee Road, Sha Tin, New Territories	2634 0111
Tai Po	3/F, Tai Po Complex, 8 Heung Sze Wui Street, Tai Po, New Territories	3183 9020
Tsuen Wan	Room 330B, 3/F, Yeung Uk Road Municipal Services Building, 45 Yeung Uk Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories	2212 9702
Tuen Mun	3/F, Tuen Mun Government Offices, 1 Tuen Hi Road, Tuen Mun, New Territories	2451 0304
Yuen Long	Room 212, 2/F, Yuen Long Government Offices, 2 Kiu Lok Square, Yuen Long, New Territories	2478 4342

Attendances at Cultural and Entertainment Programmes

Venue	2023-24 Performance ⁽²⁾ (No.)	2023-24 Attendance ⁽²⁾ (No.)
Hong Kong Cultural Centre ⁽¹⁾	351	807 112
Hong Kong City Hall	200	73 890
Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre ⁽³⁾	-	-
Sheung Wan Civic Centre	97	20 413
Ko Shan Theatre	244	54 668
Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre	214	35 603
Yau Ma Tei Theatre ⁽⁴⁾	10	147
Tsuen Wan Town Hall ⁽¹⁾	282	79 905
Tuen Mun Town Hall ⁽¹⁾	265	86 235
Sha Tin Town Hall ⁽¹⁾	451	133 429
Kwai Tsing Theatre ⁽¹⁾	261	74 333
Yuen Long Theatre ^{(1) (6)}	120	62 231
Tai Po Civic Centre ⁽⁶⁾	-	-
North District Town Hall	93	7 290
Hong Kong Film Archive Cinema	148	11 320
Hong Kong Coliseum	-	-
Queen Elizabeth Stadium	35	33 946
Hong Kong Science Museum Lecture Hall	23	2 742
Hong Kong Space Museum Lecture Hall	49	4 235
Other LCSD Venues	357	677 404
Non-LCSD Venues	1 856	285 415
Total	5 056	2 450 318

Notes

⁽¹⁾ Including foyer and piazza programmes.

⁽²⁾ Excluding programmes organised by hirers.

⁽³⁾ Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre was closed from April 2022 to the first quarter of 2025 for refurbishment and improvement works.

⁽⁴⁾ Yau Ma Tei Theatre was closed in 2023-24 for the construction of Yau Ma Tei Theatre Phase 2. The office held 10 guided tours outside the Theatre and the Red Brick Building.

⁽⁵⁾ Yuen Long Theatre was closed from January 1 to June 30, 2023 and March 18 to June 30, 2024 for refurbishment and improvement project.

⁽⁶⁾ Tai Po Civic Centre was closed from November 2021 to the first quarter of 2025 for facility upgrading works.

Attendances of Cultural Presentations, Arts Education and Audience Building, Festivals, Community Arts, Cultural Exchange, Pop Culture and Film Programmes

Type of Performance	2023-24 Performance (No.)	2023-24 Attendance (No.)
Cultural Presentations Section		
Music	196	119 547
Dance	113	26 822
Multi-arts	98	20 537
Theatre	232	34 604
Chinese opera	111	57 971
Total	750	259 481
Festivals and Audience Development Section		
Arts education and audience building*	1 149	170 087
Festivals*	132	58 765
Community arts	720	1 297 313
Total	2 001	1 526 165
Cultural Exchange and Pop Culture Section		
Cultural exchange activities	133	43 394
Pop culture	50	21 791
Total	183	65 185
Film Archive and Film Programmes Section		
Film	336	45 084
Total	336	45 084

* Excluding performances / activities presented by subvented arts companies and other LCSD offices.

Attendances at Museums

Venue	Attendance for 2023-24 (No.)
Hong Kong Museum of Art	1 558 365
Hong Kong Museum of History	586 073
Hong Kong Science Museum	1 351 783
Hong Kong Space Museum	1 022 633
Hong Kong Heritage Museum	766 916
Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence	168 016
Sam Tung Uk Museum	103 718
Hong Kong Railway Museum	246 098
Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware	94 888
Sheung Yiu Folk Museum	37 273
Law Uk Folk Museum	18 260
Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum	29 191
Hong Kong Film Archive	96 407
Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum	89 656
Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery	62 275
Other Venue	Attendance for 2023-24 (No.)
Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre	49 706
Oil Street Art Space (Oil)	719 109

Usage of Public Libraries

2023-24

No. of libraries	83
Registered borrowers	4 874 878
Library stock	
Books	13 655 641
Multimedia materials	1 703 144
Library materials borrowed	29 191 067
No. of requests for multimedia services	1 901 939
No. of extension activities	21 887
Extension activities attendance	12 803 817
Internet library services	
No. of virtual visits	19 658 334
No. of internet renewals	11 126 887
No. of internet reservations	505 277
Use of Multimedia Information System	8 031 608
No. of books registered	12 670
No. of periodicals registered	4 191
No. of International Standard Book Numbers issued	575

Major Cultural Venues

Performing Arts Venue and Indoor Stadium	Address
Hong Kong Cultural Centre	10 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
Hong Kong City Hall	5 Edinburgh Place, Central, Hong Kong
Sheung Wan Civic Centre	4-8/F, Sheung Wan Municipal Services Building, 345 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong
Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre	111 Shau Kei Wan Road, Sai Wan Ho, Hong Kong
Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre	2-3/F, Ngau Chi Wan Municipal Services Building, 11 Clear Water Bay Road, Wong Tai Sin, Kowloon
Yau Ma Tei Theatre	6 Waterloo Road, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon
Ko Shan Theatre and Ko Shan Theatre New Wing	77 Ko Shan Road, Hung Hom, Kowloon
Tsuen Wan Town Hall	72 Tai Ho Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories
Sha Tin Town Hall	1 Yuen Wo Road, Sha Tin, New Territories
Tuen Mun Town Hall	3 Tuen Hi Road, Tuen Mun, New Territories
Kwai Tsing Theatre	12 Hing Ning Road, Kwai Chung, New Territories
Yuen Long Theatre	9 Yuen Long Tai Yuk Road, Yuen Long, New Territories
Tai Po Civic Centre	12 On Pong Road, Tai Po, New Territories
North District Town Hall	2 Lung Wan Street, Sheung Shui, New Territories
Hong Kong Coliseum	9 Cheong Wan Road, Hung Hom, Kowloon
Queen Elizabeth Stadium	18 Oi Kwan Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
East Kowloon Cultural Centre	60 Ngau Tau Kok Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Major Cultural Venues

Public Library	Address
Hong Kong Central Library	66 Causeway Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
City Hall Public Library	2-6/F and 8-11/F, City Hall High Block, Central, Hong Kong
Kowloon Public Library	5 Pui Ching Road, Kowloon
Sha Tin Public Library	1 Yuen Wo Road, Sha Tin, New Territories
Tsuen Wan Public Library	38 Sai Lau Kok Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories
Tuen Mun Public Library	1 Tuen Hi Road, Tuen Mun, New Territories
Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai Public Library	High Block, Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai Leisure and Cultural Building, 1 Tsui Sing Road, Tin Shui Wai, New Territories

Museum and Art Space	Address
Hong Kong Museum of Art	10 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
Hong Kong Museum of History	100 Chatham Road South, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
Hong Kong Science Museum	2 Science Museum Road, Tsim Sha Tsui East, Kowloon
Hong Kong Space Museum	10 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware	10 Cotton Tree Drive, Central, Hong Kong (inside Hong Kong Park)
Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum	41 Tonkin Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon
Law Uk Folk Museum	14 Kut Shing Street, Chai Wan, Hong Kong
Sheung Yiu Folk Museum	Pak Tam Chung Nature Trail, Sai Kung, New Territories
Hong Kong Railway Museum	13 Shung Tak Street, Tai Po Market, Tai Po, New Territories
Sam Tung Uk Museum (Hong Kong Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre)	2 Kwu Uk Lane, Tsuen Wan, New Territories

Major Cultural Venues

Museum and Art Space	Address
Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence	175 Tung Hei Road, Shau Kei Wan, Hong Kong
Hong Kong Film Archive	50 Lei King Road, Sai Wan Ho, Hong Kong
Hong Kong Heritage Museum	1 Man Lam Road, Sha Tin, New Territories
Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum	7 Castle Road, Mid-Levels, Central, Hong Kong
Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery	Quarry Bay Park, Hong Kong
Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre	7A Kennedy Road, Central, Hong Kong
Oi! (Oil Street Art Space)	12 Oil Street, North Point, Hong Kong

Selected Publications on Heritage and Museums

1. The Hong Kong Intangible Cultural Heritage Series: Technique of Making Hong Kong Cheongsam and Kwan Kwa Wedding Costume
 2. The Hong Kong Intangible Cultural Heritage Series: Paper Crafting Technique
 3. The Hong Kong Intangible Cultural Heritage Series: Mid-Autumn Festival – the Pok Fu Lam Fire Dragon Dance
 4. The Hong Kong Intangible Cultural Heritage Series: Hong Kong-style Milk Tea Making Technique
 5. Exhibition Booklet: Love Letters: Everlasting Sentiments from the Xubaizhai Collection
 6. Exhibition Booklet: A Match Made in Painting: Selected Works of Xie Zhiliu and Chen Peiqiu from the Jingguanlou Collection
 7. Exhibition Booklet: Out of Thin Air: Hong Kong Film Arts & Costumes Exhibition
 8. Collection Catalogue: The Chih Lo Lou Collection of Chinese Painting and Calligraphy: 20th Century
 9. Exhibition Pamphlet: The Reflection - Art & Design of Hon Bing-wah
 10. Exhibition Pamphlet: Po Leung Kuk 145th Anniversary: Building Charity with Benevolence
 11. Exhibition Pamphlet: Beyond Blessings: Birthday Greetings for the Master of Chih Lo Lou
 12. Exhibition Pamphlet: Seeing Art Anew: Mounting and Conservation of Chinese Painting and Calligraphy
 13. Exhibition Pamphlet: A Tale of Three Cities: Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and Export of Silk Products in the Ming and Qing Dynasties
 14. Exhibition Pamphlet: Wu Guanzhong Art Sponsorship Thematic Exhibition Series: Wu Guanzhong: Between Black and White
 15. Exhibition Pamphlet: Boundless Universe: Calligraphy by Jat See-yeu
 16. Exhibition Pamphlet: True Likeness: The Art and Collection of Jingguanlou
 17. Exhibition Pamphlet: Extinction. Resilience
 18. Exhibition Pamphlet: Stories as told by Objects from the Han Dynasty
 19. Series on Hong Kong ICH in the Natural and Cultural Settings of Lingnan: Representing Lingnan: Regional Culture of Hong Kong's Intangible Cultural Heritage
 20. Picture Book: 'Intangible Culture Heritage' Picture Book Series (Part 1: Hong Kong Story)
 21. Picture Book: 'Intangible Culture Heritage' Picture Book Series (Part 2: Traditional Customs in Festivals of Hong Kong)
 22. Picture Book: 'Intangible Culture Heritage' Picture Book Series (Part 3: Culture and Techniques of Hong Kong)
 23. Hong Kong Museum Bulletin #4
 24. e-pamphlet: Art@Harbour 2024 – teamLab: Continuous and Science in Art
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