

# Cultural Vision

**Our mission is to encourage Hong Kong people, in particular the younger generation, to appreciate and participate in the arts; to enrich their lives with a greater emphasis on culture; to strengthen social cohesion and shared values; and to build up the confidence and pride of Hong Kong people in their nation, their race and their society.**

Since the opening of the Hong Kong City Hall in 1952, the Government has been organising and sponsoring various kinds of performing arts programmes. In the 1970's and 80's, professional performing arts groups started to emerge. In the 80's and 90's, major cultural facilities were established. Since then, the Government's cultural policy has gradually been taking shape. During these few decades, with the support of this cultural policy, Hong Kong's cultural and arts scene has undergone considerable development, showcasing Hong Kong as a free, diversified and open society, and highlighting a mix of Chinese and Western cultures with local creativity.

To enable Hong Kong's culture to flourish, we need a conducive cultural policy, creative art and cultural talents and a supportive community. It is equally important that we are able to experience art with pleasure, to appreciate different cultures and to receive with openness the diversity of different social communities. With the development of the West Kowloon Cultural District, a new world-class arts, cultural and entertainment zone is in the making. Our cultural scene that integrates local culture and traditions with a broad global vision would become even more diverse, leading Hong Kong to be China's international cultural metropolis.

# Sustainable Development of an Energetic Environment

# 我們的 文化政策

## Our Cultural Policy

## Ensure freedom of creation and expression

**The** Government respects freedom of expression. All forms of creativity and cultural participation are well protected under the law. A notable example is the absence of any requirement for submission of scripts/lyrics or contents of artworks prior to their public presentation.

**We** are free to publish and enjoy different forms and themes of artistic creation, be it traditional or experimental, mass-oriented or avant-garde, conservative or controversial. It is against this backdrop that we are able to develop a diverse and broad horizon to position Hong Kong as an international cultural metropolis.

**A** society that respects intellectual property is essential to the development of creative industries. The Government strives to promote and strengthen intellectual property rights protection through education, publicity and effective law enforcement so that all inventions are protected under the law.



## Provide More Opportunities for Community Participation in Culture and the Arts

**Most** of our libraries, museums and performing venues are managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD). We can participate in arts and cultural activities in Hong Kong for free or by paying a reasonable fee. With the Government's support, we can enjoy a wide range of arts and cultural activities in our daily lives, enhancing our interests and appreciation capacity in the arts.



**There** are 74 public libraries in Hong Kong. Books and CDs are widely available to readers. We can also participate free of charge in their cultural activities, including exhibitions, talks and the Book Donation and Sale Campaign.

**LCSD** manages 13 museums and the Hong Kong Film Archive. They house a rich collection of materials on visual art, history, science and technology and local culture. They are ideal places for family and school outings. Major exhibitions such as "From Eastern Han to High Tang: A Journey of Transculturation" and the "Impressionism: Treasures from the National Collection of France" launched in 2005 have drawn large crowds of visitors and achieved remarkable success.

**At** present, LCSD manages 15 performance venues, including the City Hall, Hong Kong Cultural Centre and the Hong Kong Coliseum. These venues are open for cultural and arts groups to hire at a reasonable rate or with subsidies. This in turn enables the public to enjoy arts programmes at reasonable ticket prices. This serves to promote culture and the arts in the community. Premier arts events such as the Hong Kong Arts Festival, the Hong Kong International Film Festival, the International Arts Carnival and the New Vision Arts Festival are well received by the general public.

**Bearing** witness to our history, antiquities and monuments become part of our collective memories and an important cultural asset. Through Government's heritage policy, the public is able to appreciate and understand these historical traces. For instance, we will be able to visit the historical building Kom Tong Hall, which will be converted into the Sun Yat-sen Museum in December 2006.



## Encourage Diversified and Balanced Development

**Hong** Kong's cultural identity starts from local culture and integrates the essence of both Chinese and Western cultures. Following this broad direction, the Government supports arts and cultural activities that offer diversified choice to the public.

**More** than 10,000 performances are staged every year, ranging from Cantonese Operas to Western Operas, local dramas to translated classics, Chinese music to Western orchestras, popular songs to golden oldies, Chinese folk songs and dance to avant-garde dance, 1960's Cantonese films to newly released international films, etc. Many of them are organised or sponsored by the LCSD.

**Culture is life.** We experience rich and diverse culture in Hong Kong every day. This cultural diversity enriches our lives and carries our collective memories. It also constructs our unique cultural identity which is grounded in Chinese cultural traditions, sets off from local cultures and embraces a global vision.

On a typical day, when we walk along the streets, we are surrounded by a mix of modern skyscrapers and old buildings, old businesses and trendy shops. At times of leisure, when we wander along the waterfront, we can meditate on the changes to the cityscape of Hong Kong. During weekends or holidays, we can amuse ourselves and our families with a free show staged in the parks, or a visit to the museums and the public libraries. We would never forget the festive joy offered by the Mid-Autumn Lantern Celebration, Lunar New Year Flower Market, outdoor New Year's Eve Countdown Carnival and the Christmas Eve Party every year.

**Hong Kong's culture is closely related to the life of the general public. Like the Hong Kong society, it is free, diversified and open.**



## The Government's Role in Culture and the Arts

Hong Kong is a melting pot of Chinese and Western cultures. We have developed a vibrant and diverse cultural scene with the unique creativity and vitality of the people. A wide variety of cultural activities are offered to cater to different interests and lifestyles.

The Government has a unique role to play in promoting culture and the arts in Hong Kong, which is a commercial city. Our cultural policy upholds the freedom of cultural and artistic creation, and provides an environment conducive to the development of culture and the arts. The Government plays the role of a facilitator, in providing appropriate support and encouraging community participation in cultural development. For instance, the Government takes care of heritage conservation, museums, libraries and performing arts venues; it also encourages greater public participation in cultural activities through publicity, education and provision of subsidies.

### Today, Hong Kong has:

- more than 25 performing arts venues
- more than 10,000 indoor and outdoor performances held every year, with an annual audience of 1 million
- more than 20 museums of various natures, with about 5 million visitors annually
- 74 public libraries with more than 3.3 million registered readers
- 18,000 cultural activities held annually in libraries

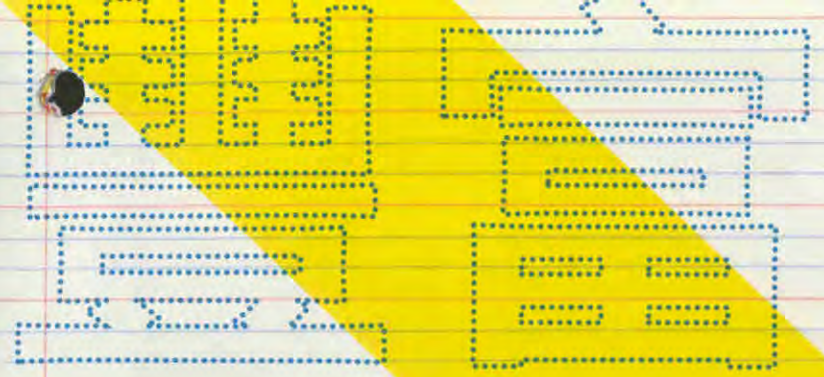
**The Government allocates \$2.4 billion (about 1% of the Government's total expenditure) on culture and the arts each year.**

# Provide Support and Education

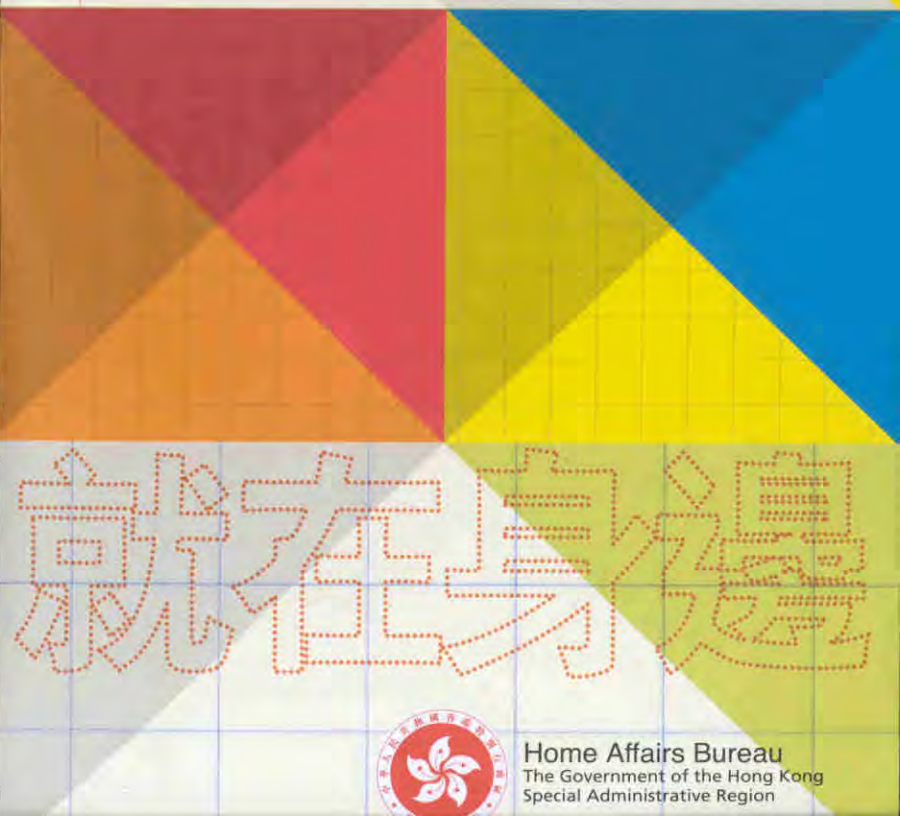
**Throughout** the years, LCSD and the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) have been supporting arts groups and artists from different sectors. Young and talented artists are given chance to develop; experienced artists are supported to further breakthrough their art. The Government also encourages audience building, such as inviting artists to be “Cultural Ambassadors” for community out-reach projects; providing performance opportunities to amateur Cantonese opera artists in district venues.

**In** education, the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA) and the Hong Kong Arts Centre (HKAC) have nurtured a substantial number of local arts talents over the past 20 years or so. In recent years, the latter has established the Hong Kong Art School which is now the largest visual art school in Hong Kong, providing a wide range of part-time and daytime arts courses. Besides, LCSD has also launched the School Arts Animateur Scheme and School Cultural Day Scheme, which aim at enhancing students' interest and appreciation in the arts. Over the past 20 years, the Music Office has been providing comprehensive training in instruments, music theory and ensemble for young music talents as well as organising regular outreach music interest classes, workshops and activities. The arts education programmes focus on professional training for artists as well as widening the audience base, inspiring a concerted effort for a creative community.

**With** the support of the Home Affairs Bureau, the Shek Kip Mei Factory Estate will be transformed into a creative arts centre, a place for creativity and for community collaborations in the arts.



## Embracing Our Rich Culture



Home Affairs Bureau  
The Government of the Hong Kong  
Special Administrative Region