
Chapter 7

Youth, Sport, Arts and Culture

Preamble

Young people are precious assets of our society and our future. Our youth development policy will focus on creating opportunities for them and helping them realise their potential, so that they may bring what they have learnt into play and seek advancement. We will continue to partner with relevant NGOs to foster a culture of multi-faceted excellence and offer multiple avenues for young people to pursue their studies, career and interests.

Engaging the Commission on Youth, uniformed groups and NGOs, we aim to enhance our networking with young people, and help them develop positive values and find their own direction and position.

The Government's policy for developing sport in Hong Kong is threefold — to promote sport in the community, to support elite sport, and to maintain Hong Kong as a centre for major international sports events. Underlying this policy is the view that participation in sport contributes significantly to good physical and psychological health, and provides a basis for social interaction and a sense of belonging to the community.

On culture and the arts, our vision is to develop Hong Kong into an international cultural metropolis with a distinct identity grounded in Chinese traditions and enriched by different cultures. We provide opportunities for wide participation in culture and the arts, and offer

chances to those with potentials to develop their artistic talents. We support the preservation and promotion of our traditional cultures (including intangible cultural heritage) while encouraging artistic creation and innovation, developing Hong Kong into a prominent hub of cultural exchanges. We will continue to strengthen our cultural software to tie in with the development of the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD).

New Initiatives

We will:

Youth Development

- Further expand the Mainland and overseas youth exchange and internship schemes to provide more opportunities for young people to broaden their horizons. (HAB)
- Step up integrity building among young people by producing an activity package based on the new “Gee-dor-dor” cartoon movie to support the teaching of moral education in kindergartens and primary schools, launching an e-Reading Scheme on positive values for primary students with the production of an electronic book, and extending preventive education services to secondary students of international schools. Moreover, we will leverage the niches of emerging new media platforms to promote anti-corruption messages by producing more materials on integrity for various websites and the smartphone application of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, and other new media platforms. (ICAC)
- Enhance the promotion of the Working Holiday Scheme between Hong Kong and other economies, and explore the signing of Working Holiday Scheme agreements with more economies so that more of our young people can enrich their global exposure. (LWB)

Youth Volunteers

- Launch a Hong Kong-United Nations Youth Volunteers Programme with the United Nations Volunteers. (HAB)
- Strengthen the support for young people's participation in voluntary services in Hong Kong and the Mainland. (HAB)

Opening up Art Space

- Support the Tai Po District Council and the Hong Kong Arts Development Council to convert the premises of a vacant school in Tai Po into an arts development centre to provide art space for arts development. (HAB)
- Explore the feasibility of reserving a certain portion of floor area in the future development of a site in Aberdeen to provide space for the Hong Kong Arts Development Council to support arts development. (HAB)

Intangible Cultural Heritage

- Strengthen the measures for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. We will also select from Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage inventory items of high cultural value which require urgent preservation for more in-depth studies, and draw up the representative list of intangible cultural heritage for Hong Kong. (HAB)

On-going Initiatives

We are:

Youth Development

- Working with the Commission on Youth on youth development activities to help young people cultivate a positive approach to life and fulfil civic duties. (HAB)
- Enhancing communication with young people through district networks, including organising more exchange activities, to encourage their participation in community affairs. (HAB)
- Providing more opportunities for young people to serve in underprivileged areas in the Mainland under the “Service Corps” programme. (HAB)
- Continuing to implement the Youth Hostel Scheme. Apart from seeking funding approval of the LegCo Finance Committee for taking forward the two projects at Sheung Wan and Tai Po, we will continue to maintain close liaison with interested NGOs to help them launch their new projects as soon as possible. (HAB)
- Working to highlight the Youth Square as a focal point for youth development. The Youth Square provides venues and facilities for young people and youth organisations at affordable prices, and offers rental discount to social enterprises providing youth service and young entrepreneurs in leasing retail shops in the Youth Square. (HAB)

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- Promoting the culture of multi-faceted excellence by implementing the Multi-faceted Excellence Scholarship to subsidise additional undergraduate places for Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education graduates who excel in sport, art and music as well as community service. (HAB)
 - Taking forward the Funding Scheme for Youth Life Planning Activities to support the collaboration between NGOs and secondary schools in organising projects to help students and their parents/teachers better understand life planning and multiple pathways. (HAB)
 - Overseeing the provision of support services for youths at risk, including the implementation of the pilot Cyber Youth Outreaching Projects. (LWB)
 - Working with employers and various organisations to launch a number of pilot projects under the Youth Employment and Training Programme to enhance the employability and employment opportunities of young people with different backgrounds. (LWB)
 - Planning and providing a variety of physical, discipline and team building training for the youth through different types of activities of the Junior Police Call. (SB)
 - Expanding the Cadet Corps of Auxiliary Medical Service with a view to strengthening youth training in respect of leadership, discipline and team building. (SB)

Increasing Sports Facilities

- Planning and building new sports facilities to help promote sports development at all levels. (HAB)
- Taking forward the Multi-purpose Sports Complex at Kai Tak in consultation with the sports community and other stakeholders. (HAB)

Promoting Sport

- Promoting sport in the community by –
 - working with DCs and “national sports associations” to introduce more sports programmes to suit the needs of people of different age groups and physical fitness levels;
 - liaising with the business sector to sponsor more people from low-income families for free attendance at major sports events;
 - strengthening the promotion of major sports events to encourage more spectator participation and promote Hong Kong as a centre of international events;
 - helping “national sports associations” implement effective feeder systems for early identification of potential elite athletes; and
 - organising events such as the “Sport For All Day” to promote regular and continued participation in sport. (HAB)

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- Continuing to implement the Pilot Scheme for Student Athlete Support to provide more opportunities for students from lower income families to take part in sports programmes at school. (HAB)
 - Supporting the long-term development of football by providing funding to the Hong Kong Football Association for the implementation of its five-year strategic plan. (HAB)
 - Strengthening the monitoring of “national sports associations” that receive government subvention, in order to improve their corporate governance. (HAB)
 - Supporting “national sports associations” in the hosting of major international sports events. (HAB)

Supporting Elite Athletes

- Supporting the strategic growth of the Hong Kong Sports Institute as a world-class institution to provide elite athletes with training and all-round support. (HAB)
- Providing support on various fronts for our elite athletes’ preparation for the National Youth Games and other major international sports events. (HAB)

Civic Affairs

- Working with the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education to promote civic education outside schools with emphasis on “respect and inclusiveness”. For greater social harmony, we urge mutual respect and communication as well as tolerance towards people from diverse cultural backgrounds with different views and perspectives. We also promote the core civic values of upholding the rule of law. (HAB)
- Working with the Commission on Youth, the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education and youth uniformed groups to provide young people with appropriate non-formal education and training. We are making use of the Youth Square and the Civic Education Resource Centre to enhance the promotion of youth development and civic education outside schools, including the civic and social participation of young people and national education. (HAB)
- Working with the Ping Wo Fund Advisory Committee and stakeholders to mount in 2015 a dedicated publicity campaign against gambling problems. (HAB)

Supporting Arts Groups

- Providing funding and other support for the major performing arts groups to –
 - stage quality performing arts programmes for the community; and

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- enhance the development of performing arts in Hong Kong through (i) promoting arts education and audience building, (ii) supporting and nurturing local talent and arts groups as well as (iii) fostering artistic creation and innovation. (HAB)
 - Supporting small and medium performing arts groups by –
 - engaging them in the programmes and activities of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), including (i) year-round cultural presentations, arts festivals and other performing arts programmes, (ii) audience building and arts education activities as well as (iii) the Venue Partnership Scheme;
 - presenting and promoting their productions in both LCSD and non-LCSD venues; and
 - sponsoring their performances through the provision of free venues, ticketing services, publicity support and/or programme fees. (HAB)
 - Providing policy and funding support for the Hong Kong Arts Development Council to support its work in promoting arts development in Hong Kong, including development and provision of arts space, and providing funding and other types of support to small and medium arts groups. (HAB)
 - Implementing the Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme to support larger scale and cross-year arts and cultural initiatives/projects to –

- enhance capacity development of promising arts groups and arts practitioners; and
- encourage the community and private sector to sponsor the arts. (HAB)

Grooming Arts Talent

- Enhancing measures to strengthen the training and development of art administrators, curators and stage technicians over five years since 2013-14. These include attachment/internship opportunities for young people and scholarships for art professionals to attend training programmes at overseas, the Mainland and local organisations. (HAB)
- Supporting the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts to groom talent to meet the needs of the arts sector. (HAB)
- Promoting the work of young and talented art practitioners to overseas, the Mainland and local communities through –
 - various performing and visual arts programmes organised by the LCSD; and
 - acquisition and commissioning of local artists' artworks by the LCSD. (HAB)
- Providing funding and policy support for the Hong Kong Arts Development Council to groom local artists practising various art forms by implementing various training and internship schemes. (HAB)

Promoting Arts and Cultural Programmes

- Promoting knowledge and appreciation of various art forms through audience building, arts education and public art projects organised by the LCSD, the Hong Kong Arts Development Council and other arts organisations funded by the Government. (HAB)
- Promoting Hong Kong as a cultural hub of Asia through cultural exchange programmes/activities at international and regional levels. (HAB)
- Facilitating the promotion of major arts and cultural events and festivals in Hong Kong, so as to highlight our status as an international city. (HAB)
- At the district level, (i) lining up quality cultural programmes to support district arts festivals, and (ii) launching specially curated entertainment programmes, community cultural events, student performances, etc. through the LCSD for audience building and arts education. (HAB)

Cultural Facilities, Museums and Libraries

- Enhancing the programming, audience building activities and renewing the permanent exhibitions of public museums. (HAB)
- Planning and building new cultural facilities to meet community needs, including construction of the East Kowloon Cultural Centre in Ngau Tau Kok to enhance the provision of cultural facilities in the East Kowloon region. (HAB)

- Enhancing the management of existing performance venues and optimising their use through the Venue Partnership Scheme. Continued efforts will be made to identify alternative venues for cultural performances to address the venue shortage problem. (HAB)
- Supporting small and medium performing arts groups in using venues not managed by the LCSD prior to the coming on-stream of the WKCD facilities. This will enrich the cultural life across districts and foster a more vibrant and lively arts scene. (HAB)
- Expanding and renovating the Hong Kong Museum of Art to provide additional gallery space for displaying the works of local and international artists. (HAB)
- Enhancing public museum facilities and services and entering into collaborative partnership with various sectors to create an inspiring cultural environment that promotes creativity and learning. (HAB)
- Enhancing library facilities and services to better achieve the broad cultural mission of the Hong Kong Public Libraries. (HAB)

Intangible Cultural Heritage

- Continuing to enhance the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage following the publication of Hong Kong's first intangible cultural heritage inventory by strengthening various aspects of work, including the identification, documentation, research, preservation, promotion and transmission of such heritage. (HAB)

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- Promoting knowledge and appreciation of China's intangible cultural heritage through ongoing exhibitions and performances organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture. (HAB)

West Kowloon Cultural District

- Monitoring the development of arts and cultural facilities in WKCD by the WKCD Authority, including –
 - monitoring the planning, design and construction processes and progress for the facilities in WKCD;
 - co-ordinating interface issues of WKCD with the integrated basement, public infrastructure and community facility projects in the vicinity; and
 - co-ordinating the interface between venues in WKCD and other arts and cultural venues managed by the Government and its collaborators. (HAB)
- Working closely with the WKCD Authority to enrich people's cultural life through –
 - organising a variety of quality arts and cultural programmes to nurture local talent and build up audiences; and
 - broadening Hong Kong's exchanges with other places in contemporary art, performing arts and visual culture. (HAB)