

Culture, Leisure and Municipal Services



- Hong Kong athletes took part in a number of major events in 2014, including the Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing and the Asian Games and Asia Para Games in Incheon. They achieved outstanding results, winning a total of 93 medals: 18 gold, 31 silver and 44 bronze medals in these 3 events alone.
- Some 3 200 athletes from 18 districts participated in more than 1 000 contests in 8 sports in the 5th Hong Kong Games held from April to May 2015.
- Allocated a maximum of \$25 million annually for 5 years starting from 2015-16 to the Hong Kong Football Association for implementing its Strategic Plan so as to further the development of local football.
- Increased the financial support for each district team in 2014. Support for each district team participating in the Hong Kong Premier League (HKPL) has been increased from \$1 million to \$1.5 million per football season. In the 2014-15 season, a total of 3 district teams participated in the HKPL.
- Continued the Pilot Scheme for Student Athlete Support in the 2014/15 school year to support students from low-income families in realising their sporting potential. In its second year of implementation, the number of participating schools has increased by over 30% from 363 to 488.
- Announced in February 2015 the plan to introduce a \$300 million Art Development Matching Grants Pilot Scheme, under which matching grants will be provided for the private donation and sponsorship secured by eligible local arts groups. The Pilot Scheme aims at encouraging different sectors of the community to sponsor local art and cultural activities, promoting closer partnership and jazzing up the cultural aura of the city.
- Various cultural and leisure facilities came into operation in the past year, including the Tin Yip Road Park and the Ko Shan Theatre New Wing dedicated for Cantonese opera performances in October 2014; the Tiu Keng Leng Sports Centre, the Tiu Keng Leng Public Library and open space opened in phases from March 2015; and the Kwun Tong Promenade (Stage II) and the redeveloped Kwun Tong Recreation Ground in the second quarter of 2015.
- With “When Blossoms Dance” as its theme, the Hong Kong Flower Show held at Victoria Park in March 2015 displayed over 350 000 flowering plants and attracted a record number of almost 600 000 visitors.

- A number of major exhibitions were held by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) in 2014-15, including the “Treasures from Tsarskoye Selo, Residence of the Russian Monarchs” and “Dunhuang - Untold Tales, Untold Riches” exhibitions. LCSD museums saw a record number of over 6.52 million visitors in 2014, an increase of about 6% over 2013 and a growth of 13% since 2012. These exhibitions have successfully built up a wider audience base and helped raise public interest in art, history and science.
- Promulgated the first inventory list of Hong Kong’s intangible cultural heritage (ICH) in June 2014. The State Council announced in December 2014 that 4 items from Hong Kong (including the arts of the Guqin, Quanzhen temples Taoist ritual music, Hakka unicorn dance in Hang Hau, Sai Kung and Wong Tai Sin belief and customs) had been successfully inscribed onto the latest national ICH list. Together with the 6 items inscribed earlier, a total of 10 Hong Kong items are on the national ICH list. Also, the Intangible Cultural Heritage Unit currently under the Hong Kong Heritage Museum will be upgraded as the Intangible Cultural Heritage Office to heighten its endeavours on the identification, documentation, research, preservation, promotion and transmission of ICH.
- Launched the “My Library” and “Multimedia Information” mobile apps in July and September 2014 respectively, to enable members of the public to access library services and digital collections anytime and anywhere.
- The TPB approved the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority’s planning application for minor relaxation of development intensity of the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) site in November 2014 to fully bring out the development potential of the site. The construction works of the foundation of M+ and the main superstructure of Xiqu Centre in WKCD have commenced in August and December 2014 respectively. M+ and Xiqu Centre are expected to be completed by the second half of 2018 and mid-2017 respectively. Construction works of the Arts Pavilion have also started in April 2015, with expected completion date in 2016. Besides, the construction works of the temporary Nursery Park are expected to be completed in mid-2015 and will be open for public enjoyment afterwards.
- Launched a \$230 million 5-year scheme for providing financial assistance to hawkers in June 2013 to enhance the fire safety standards of hawker stalls. As at May 2015, of the about 500 stalls identified as carrying higher fire risks, over 60% have been vacated whilst consensus about the relocation arrangements have largely

been reached in all remaining cases. Reconstruction of stalls in various hawker areas is being completed progressively, in accordance with the new fire safety requirements.

- Reported to LegCo in January 2015 the outcome of the consultancy study providing reference for improving the operating environment of public markets. We plan to put forward concrete improvement proposals for a number of public markets in 2015,

after taking into account their conditions as well as the challenges and opportunities facing individual markets.

- Secured support of DCs for 4 columbarium development projects at Sandy Ridge, Chai Wan, Wo Hop Shek and Tsang Tsui in 2014-15. These projects will provide about 430 000 new niches, which are expected to become available from 2019 onwards.

