

Head 95 — LEISURE AND CULTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Controlling officer: the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2025–26	\$12,304.0m
Establishment ceiling 2025–26 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 10 378 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2025 reducing by 62 posts to 10 316 posts as at 31 March 2026.....	\$4,157.9m
In addition, there will be an estimated 13 directorate posts as at 31 March 2025 and as at 31 March 2026.	
Commitment balance	\$933.9m

Controlling Officer’s Report

Programmes

<p>Programme (1) Recreation and Sports Programme (2) Horticulture and Amenities Programme (3) Heritage and Museums Programme (4) Performing Arts Programme (5) Public Libraries</p>	<p>These programmes contribute to Policy Area 18: Recreation, Culture, Amenities and Entertainment Licensing (Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism).</p>
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Detail

Programme (1): Recreation and Sports

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	6,026.8	5,760.9	5,679.3 (–1.4%)	5,924.6 (+4.3%)
				(or +2.8% on 2024–25 Original)

Aim

2 The aims are to develop and manage recreation and sports facilities and to organise a wide range of leisure activities in order to promote recreation and sports at all levels throughout the community, which include:

- providing safe and good quality recreation and sports facilities for the public;
- enhancing public awareness of the benefits of physical fitness and promoting regular participation in sports activities by all walks of life in the community;
- promoting awareness of water sports safety in the venues of the Department;
- organising physical recreation and sports activities for different target groups, including students and persons with disabilities; and
- improving the efficiency and cost-effectiveness in the provision of recreation and sports services.

Brief Description

3 The work involves:

- formulating policies and strategies for the provision of leisure and sports facilities and activities with particular focus on physical fitness and sports safety;
- developing and managing leisure and sports facilities such as sports centres, parks and gardens, swimming pools, gazetted beaches and holiday camps;
- organising recreation, sports and leisure activities;
- providing subvention to “national sports associations” (NSAs) and sports organisations for training athletes and organising sports activities; and
- providing subvention to 24 camps and sea activity centres managed by 11 non-government organisations to provide recreation activities for members of the public.

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4 In 2024, the Department continued to organise a wide range of recreation and sports programmes, including urban sports and parent-child programmes, with a view to developing a strong sporting culture in Hong Kong and promoting “Sport for All”. To encourage the community to exercise regularly and incorporate physical activities into their daily lives, the Department continued to organise “Sport For All Day” in August to provide free sports programmes and facilities as well as online sports demonstrations for public participation. In addition, a series of videos introducing popular sports had also been uploaded to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) Edutainment Channel since late 2020 to arouse public interest. The ninth Hong Kong Games (HKG) was successfully held from June 2023 to June 2024. The ninth HKG, a biennial event, achieved the aims of enhancing the community’s cohesiveness and promoting a stronger sporting culture in the community through sports competitions and community participation programmes. To promote sports among schools and young people, the School Sports Programme continued to provide diversified sports activities for students of primary, secondary and special schools. The Young Athletes Training Scheme also offered enhanced training for young athletes in selected sports with a view to identifying talented athletes for further training.

5 The Department continued to promote the optimal utilisation of sports facilities through various means including offering free or concessionary booking of selected sports facilities by schools, the elderly, full-time students, persons with disabilities as well as specified types of organisations during specified non-peak hours. The Department continued to monitor booking arrangements and allocation of sports facilities.

6 The Department continued to launch the enhanced functions of Phase 2 of the new intelligent sports and recreation services booking and information system (SmartPLAY system) by stages. The SmartPLAY system provides a one-stop electronic service platform and allows more efficient, convenient and user-friendly booking of the sports and recreation facilities as well as enrolment of sports and recreation programmes provided by the Department.

7 The Department continued to administer the Sports Subvention Scheme for NSAs to support their work in the promotion and development of sport in Hong Kong and implement enhancement measures arising from the comprehensive review of the scheme to enhance sports development and monitor the use of public funding. The Department will continue to work with the Independent Commission Against Corruption and other relevant bodies to help NSAs enhance their corporate governance in a progressive manner.

8 The Department continued to provide subvention to 24 camps and sea activity centres under the management of 11 non-government organisations, and assist these organisations in maximising the utilisation of their facilities.

9 The key performance measures in respect of recreation and sports services are:

Targets

	Target	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Plan)
participants in recreation and sports programmes	2 000 000	1 862 482	3 022 635Ω	2 291 200
participants in school sports programmes	600 000§	520 305	602 105§	600 000
participants in NSAs/sports organisations subvented programmes	700 000	754 362	913 962#	817 500
attendance at public swimming pools	13 500 000	12 140 948	12 538 801φ	12 985 000
attendance at holiday camps.....	343 000§	321 818	343 941§	343 000
attendance at water sports centres	101 000ρ	90 107	101 120	101 000
attendance at golf driving ranges	250 000	383 351	371 175@	371 000
attendance at non-government organisation camps/sea activity centres.....	818 000§	820 267	818 435§	818 000
schools participated in school sports programmes (%)	85	82	86	86
average usage rate of sports centres (arena) (%).....	80	91	94	85
average usage rate of sports grounds (%)	95	99	99	99

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	Target	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Plan)
average usage rate of natural and artificial turf pitches (%).....	72	72	71	72
average usage rate of tennis courts (%).....	60	79	80	70

- Ω The higher number of participants in 2024 was attributed to the majority of the events of the ninth HKG that were held in 2024.
- § The shortfall between the original target and actual number of participants/attendance in 2024 was attributed to the decreasing trend in school-age population. Having regard to this, the target numbers of “participants in school sports programmes”, “attendance at holiday camps” and “attendance at non-government organisation camps/sea activity centres” are revised from 611 000 to 600 000, from 520 000 to 343 000, and from 930 000 to 818 000 respectively as from 2025.
- # The higher number of participants in 2024 was mainly due to overwhelmingly positive enrolment in some training programmes and local competitions.
- φ The shortfall between the target and actual number of attendance in 2024 was mainly due to the deferred opening of Tin Sau Road Swimming Pool from the first quarter of 2024 to the third quarter of 2024 (i.e. 28 August 2024) and the temporary closure of Tung Cheong Street Swimming Pool for urgent maintenance from 2 July to 31 October 2024.
- ρ The target number of attendance is revised from 112 000 to 101 000 as from 2025 due to the increase of sport variety.
- @ The drop in the actual number of attendance in 2024 was mainly due to the implementation of renovation works for the golf driving ranges at Tuen Mun Recreation and Sports Centre from October 2023 to July 2024.

Indicators

	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Estimate)
Recreation and sports programmes organised.....	33 877	36 994	37 670
programmes for persons aged 60 or above	4 800	5 346	5 550
programmes for persons with disabilities	1 120	1 293	1 410
school sports programmes.....	7 015	8 006	7 900
other programmes	20 942	22 349	22 810
NSAs/sports organisations programmes subvented.....	11 287	11 342	11 400
community sports club programmes	3 159	3 207	3 250
other programmes	8 128	8 135	8 150
Recreation and sports facilities			
gazetted beaches.....	42	42	42
swimming pool complexes.....	45	46	46
water sports centres.....	5	5	5
major parks.....	26	26	26
children’s playgrounds.....	677	684	691
sports grounds	25	25	25
hard surfaced pitches.....	238	238	240
natural and artificial turf pitches◇	82	82	83
tennis courts	250	250	256
hockey pitches.....	2	2	2
bowling greens.....	16	18	18
golf driving ranges	4	4	4
sports centres.....	105	105	106
stadia	2	2	2
holiday camps	4	4	4
non-government organisation camps and sea activity centres subvented.....	24	24	24
NSAs/sports organisations subvented.....	105	103 [⊖]	103

◇ These include the turf pitch designated for use as rugby pitch.

⊖ The number of sports organisations on a project basis subvention decreased from 22 to 21 and the number of sports organisations for “new sports” decreased from 21 to 20.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

10 During 2025–26, the Department will:

- continue to enhance utilisation of existing sports facilities;
- continue to improve the arrangements for the booking and allocation of sports facilities and enrolment to sports programmes through administrative measures;

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- continue to implement the SmartPLAY system and launch the enhanced functions of Phase 2 by stages;
- continue to plan and develop sports and recreation facilities under the Ten-year Development Blueprint for Sports and Recreation Facilities;
- continue to assist NSAs in implementing improvement measures under the Sports Subvention Scheme;
- continue to organise programmes for elderly people and enhance programmes for persons with disabilities;
- continue to organise urban sports and parent-child programmes as well as plan to organise new sports programmes;
- continue to produce a series of videos introducing popular sports to be uploaded to the LCSD Edutainment Channel to arouse public interest;
- regularise the provision of subvention to support the development of new sports on an individual project basis from 2025–26 onwards;
- provide secretariat support for the 15th National Games as well as the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the ninth National Special Olympic Games;
- continue to substantially increase the number of football pitches meeting international standards and expedite the replacement of artificial turf on football pitches by implementing a plan on upgrading football pitches over the five years from 2021–22 onwards; and
- continue to increase the provision of “Inclusive Park for Pets” in 18 districts in consultation with local community across the territory.

Programme (2): Horticulture and Amenities

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	1,342.2	1,627.8	1,604.8 (–1.4%)	1,627.6 (+1.4%)
				(or comparable to 2024–25 Original)

Aim

11 The aim is to promote appreciation and conservation of nature and greening of Hong Kong through planting of trees, shrubs and other plants in public parks and amenity areas and through organising a wide range of community greening activities, which include:

- promoting awareness of the importance of greening, conservation of plants and protection of endangered species; and
- maintaining the plants in public parks, gardens and roadside amenity areas in their best and healthy form to enhance greening and visual amenity.

Brief Description

12 The work involves:

- maintaining the plants and landscape in public parks and amenity areas;
- maintaining trees in landscaped areas along roadside in their best and healthy form to enhance the streetscape;
- in conjunction with the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section of the Development Bureau, exploring new and suitable plant species to be introduced as well as new concepts and technologies in horticulture and landscaping; and providing maintenance for roadside trees within ten metres of kerbs; and
- organising greening, horticultural and zoological activities to promote community awareness.

13 In 2024, the Department maintained more than 3 030 000 plants in public parks and roadside amenity areas. Under the “Shining City Project” announced in 2023 Policy Address, beautification works along Shing Mun River and Yuen Long Nullah were carried out to develop flower viewing hotspots in 2024. More than 220 flowering trees, supplemented with more than 70 000 flowering shrubs and other plants along Shing Mun River and Shatin Park were planted, and around 4 000 flowering shrubs were planted in the vicinity of Yuen Long Nullah. A total of 398 horticultural, 451 zoological and 3 225 greening activities, including horticultural courses, guided visits for the public and schools, flower shows, community planting days, Green Volunteer Scheme, Community Garden Programme, “One Person, One Flower” Scheme and Greening School Subsidy Scheme were organised.

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14 The key performance measures in respect of horticulture and amenities are:

Targets

	Target	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Plan)
participants in greening activities.....	1 250 000	1 444 296	1 373 958	1 379 370
participants in school greening activities.....	550 000	615 901	615 101	615 180
participants in community greening activities.....	700 000	828 395	758 857@	764 190
participants in horticultural activities.....	25 000	29 115	31 008	31 020
participants in zoological activities.....	20 000	23 507	23 735	23 930

@ The lower number of participants in community greening activities in 2024 was mainly due to the decrease in the number of visitors to the Hong Kong Flower Show and the government funded horticultural exhibitions organised by the community in 2024.

Indicators

	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Estimate)
plants provided.....	2 640 000	3 030 000 α	2 620 000
Area of land provided with horticultural maintenance service (hectares).....	1 285	1 289 λ	1 289
beautification projects including roadside amenities, vacant government sites and screen planting at leisure services venues.....	76	77	77
greening activities organised.....	3 203	3 225	3 228
school greening activities organised.....	2 104	2 113	2 114
community greening activities organised.....	1 099	1 112	1 114
attendance rate of school greening activities (%).....	100	100	100
horticultural activities organised.....	355	398	399
zoological activities organised.....	451	451	459

α The higher number of plants provided in 2024 was mainly due to more planting works carried out in 2024 for beautification works in celebration of the 27th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China and the increase in area of land provided with horticultural maintenance services.

λ The increase in hectares of land provided with horticultural maintenance service in 2024 was mainly due to the provision of new gazetted venues and roadside amenities areas in the Island, Sai Kung, Southern, Tai Po, Yau Tsim Mong and Yuen Long districts.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

15 During 2025–26, the Department will continue to:

- enhance the Community Garden Programme in 18 districts to encourage community participation at the neighbourhood level;
- expand the existing Green Volunteer Scheme to enhance community involvement and public participation in tree surveillance;
- enhance the landscape in parks, gardens and roadside amenity areas with flowering shrubs and perennials;
- identify prominent locations for roadside landscape beautification and planting of thematic trees;
- encourage the community to participate in local greening activities through community planting days;
- encourage schools to participate in school greening activities through the “One Person, One Flower” Scheme and Greening School Subsidy Scheme;
- present a series of online programmes on horticulture and videos about flowers and animals on the LCSD Edutainment Channel; and
- present the latest blossoming information of popular flowering species in LCSD parks and gardens on the website.

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Programme (3): Heritage and Museums

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	1,203.4	1,501.7	1,307.8 (–12.9%)	1,434.5 (+9.7%)
				(or –4.5% on 2024–25 Original)

Aim

16 The aims are to preserve heritage and to provide quality museum services on heritage, arts, science and history, which include:

- promoting Hong Kong’s culture, arts and heritage and enriching the cultural life of the general public;
- providing a balanced mix of programmes at the museums for enhancing public appreciation of arts and culture and knowledge of local history and heritage; and
- fulfilling the essential functions of museums in the collection, preservation, documentation, research and exhibition of works of art, film and historical objects.

Brief Description

17 The work involves:

- managing 14 public museums on art, science and history; two art spaces and the Hong Kong Film Archive;
- organising various thematic exhibitions, educational activities and extension programmes;
- initiating and organising public art programmes in collaboration with the community;
- devising and implementing conservation programmes for collection items; and
- computerising information on museum collections and archives, and rendering them easily accessible to the public.

18 The Chinese Culture Promotion Office was established in April 2024 to promote Chinese culture and history. The Chinese Culture Promotion Office collaborated with the Hong Kong Museum of History to launch the General History of China Exhibition Series. The first exhibition, namely “The Hong Kong Jockey Club Series: The Ancient Civilisation of the Xia, Shang and Zhou Dynasties in Henan Province”, was held from April to July 2024. The Department presented “Glorious Voyage: Splendid Achievements of the People’s Republic of China in Its 75 Years” Exhibition Series, including the “Leapfrog Development” exhibition, the “Scientific Breakthroughs” exhibition and the “Era of Intelligence” exhibition since September 2024. Apart from the exhibitions at museums, a display titled “Trendsetting Travel in China” was held at the Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park from September 2024 onwards to showcase national achievements.

19 Other major exhibitions were organised in 2024–25, including “Art of Gifting: The Fuyun Xuan Collection of Chinese Snuff Bottles”, “The Hong Kong Jockey Club Series: Fragrance of Time — In Search of Chinese Art of Scent”, “Wu Guanzhong Art Sponsorship: Exhibition Series” and “The Hong Kong Jockey Club Series: Cézanne and Renoir Looking at the World — Masterpieces from the Musée de l’Orangerie and the Musée d’Orsay” at the Hong Kong Museum of Art; “A Path to Glory – Jin Yong’s Centennial Memorial, Sculpted by Ren Zhe”, “A Laugh at the World: James Wong” and “Multiverse – Hong Kong International Poster Triennial 2024” at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum; and “In Retrospect: The Early Chinese Photography Collection of Moonchu Foundation” and “Multifaceted Hong Kong” Exhibition Series at the Hong Kong Museum of History. The Department presented “Art@Harbour 2024” featuring two exhibitions, “teamLab: Continuous” and “Science in Art”, and collaborated with private and art organisations to launch art projects on both sides of Victoria Harbour. The Department continued to organise the “Muse Fest HK” to bring museum culture closer to people’s life and to raise public’s interest in and knowledge about the work of local public museums.

20 The Department will organise “Museum Summit 2025” in March 2025 with prominent speakers and professionals from globally famous museums and international organisations.

21 The Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Office launched the sixth round of “Community-driven Projects” and “Partnership Projects” under the ICH Funding Scheme in 2024 to strengthen the safeguarding, research, education, promotion and transmission of local ICH items.

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22 The key performance measures in respect of heritage and museum services are:

Targets

	Target	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Plan)
attendance at museums.....	6 500 000 ^τ	6 350 283	7 489 814 ^υ	7 000 000
exhibitions attendance outside museums	1 000 000	1 316 920	3 200 978 [#]	1 800 000
attendance at outbound exhibitions.....	500 000 [@]	631 536	531 790	500 000
attendance at in-house education and extension programmes (lectures/demonstrations/seminars/workshops/film and audio-visual shows/performances/guided tours).....	800 000	781 401	821 675	800 000

^τ The target is revised from 3 500 000 to 6 500 000 as from 2025 due to the steady increase in the number of visitors following the society's full return to normalcy after the COVID-19 pandemic and the re-opening of the permanent exhibitions at the Hong Kong Museum of History in 2025.

^υ The increase in the attendance at museums in 2024 was attributed to the high attendance of the Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong Science Museum and Hong Kong Space Museum.

[#] The higher number of the exhibitions attendance outside museums in 2024 was due to the organisation of "Art@Harbour 2024".

[@] The target is revised from 200 000 to 500 000 as from 2025 due to the steady increase in the number of visitors following the full return to normalcy around the world after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Indicators

	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Estimate)
in-house exhibitions	81	85	80
off-site exhibitions	11	28 ^ψ	60^ρ
outbound exhibitions.....	9	9	10
in-house education and extension programmes (lectures/demonstrations/seminars/workshops/film and audio-visual shows/performances/guided tours).....	20 253	20 169	20 000
outreach education and public programmes.....	1 144	1 268	1 200
school visit groups.....	4 047	3 963	4 300
objects in museums collections (including Film Archive collections)	1 653 049	1 659 784	1 715 000
collection items accessible on the Internet.....	461 524	470 605	478 000
publications	94	91	20^ε

^ψ The increase in the number of off-site exhibitions in 2024 was mainly due to the staging of exhibitions outside museums to reach out to the community such as in public libraries and shopping malls organised by the ICH Office.

^ρ The estimated increase in the number of off-site exhibitions in 2025 is due to the planned launch of a series of off-site exhibitions by the Chinese Culture Promotion Office.

^ε The estimated decrease in the number of publications in 2025 is due to the shift in the mode of disseminating information of exhibitions and programmes to online platforms.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

23 During 2025–26, the Department will:

- continue to present a series of exhibitions and programmes on Chinese history and culture. The Chinese Culture Promotion Office will continue to present the General History of China Exhibition Series – “The Great Unity - Civilisation of the Qin and Han Dynasties in Shaanxi Province” while the Hong Kong Museum of History and the Hong Kong Museum of the War of Resistance and Coastal Defence will organise exhibitions about the 80th Anniversary of the Victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression;
- organise other major exhibitions including “Min Chiu Society at Sixty-Five” and “Keepers with a Discerning Eye: Ancient Chinese Paintings and Calligraphies from the Three Preeminent Collections in Hong Kong” at the Hong Kong Museum of Art; “Hong Kong Comedy Comics” and “Legacy of Lingnan School of Painting: In Commemoration of the 120th Birthday of Chao Shao-an” at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum; “Approaching Perfection: The Intersection of Sports and Science at the National Games” and “Endless Exploration: China's Aerospace, Aviation, and Marine Navigation” at the Hong Kong Science Museum; and “Xu Bing in Hong Kong: Square Word Calligraphy Classroom” Project in Hong Kong at the Hong Kong Museum of Art and Oi!;

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- review the bearers of the items on the Representative List of ICH of Hong Kong and organise activities focusing on passing on, training, promotion and cultural exchange; launch the Hong Kong ICH Month; and continue to implement the ICH Funding Scheme;
- continue to organise “Muse Fest HK” in 2025 for members of the public to delve into the fantastic world of arts and culture;
- re-open the permanent exhibitions at the Hong Kong Museum of History and the Hong Kong Science Museum after gallery renewal; and
- continue to plan and develop cultural facilities under the Ten-year Development Blueprint for Arts and Cultural Facilities.

Programme (4): Performing Arts

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	1,636.0	1,705.5	1,717.0 (+0.7%)	1,745.4 (+1.7%)
				(or +2.3% on 2024–25 Original)

Aim

24 The aim is to promote performing and film arts through the provision of facilities and the presentation of programmes, which include:

- maintaining a high standard of service in civic centres to meet the needs of the arts community and the public;
- presenting cultural programmes for the development of performing and film arts; and
- organising audience building activities at schools and in the community to promote appreciation of performing and film arts.

Brief Description

25 The work involves:

- managing civic centres and planning new cultural services and facilities;
- presenting and promoting cultural and film programmes for local presentation and overseas for cultural exchange;
- promoting arts at schools and in the community;
- supporting, through the grant of subvention, the activities of the Hong Kong Arts Festival Society;
- supporting, through presentation, sponsorship or the Venue Partnership Scheme, the activities of local performing arts organisations and artists;
- managing the Music Office; and
- managing the Urban Ticketing System.

26 The inaugural “Chinese Culture Festival” was launched in June 2024 with 38 programmes ranging from the Chinese Opera Festival, exemplary local arts projects recognised by the China National Arts Fund, performing arts programmes from local arts and cultural organisations, film screenings, exhibitions, talks and extended activities for the appreciation and promotion of Chinese culture. The second edition of “Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival” was organised from April to July 2024, featuring over 20 programmes ranging from pop concerts, thematic exhibitions, film screenings to outdoor, library and outreach activities with active participation from stakeholders in the industry to promote the Hong Kong pop culture. The “International Arts Carnival” was held in the summer of 2024, showcasing programmes by local and visiting arts groups. The second edition of “Asia+ Festival” was held from late September to November 2024 with a focus on Asia, celebrating the cultural diversity of the continent and Belt and Road regions.

27 Branded programme series in different art forms were organised including “Great Music”, “Hong Kong Artists”, “New Force in Motion”, “Dance On”, “New Energy”, “Solo Play” and “Cheers!”. The “Summer Family Cine Fest” was held to offer a feast of quality feature films and animations as well as family classics.

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28 On cultural exchange, the fourth Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) Culture and Arts Festival was organised from October to November 2024 in Hong Kong and other GBA cities. Hong Kong was the host city of the Festival for the first time. The Ambassador for Cultural Promotion, TAN Dun, invited local young artists to join him for tours to the Mainland, Hungary, Canada and France. Liaison with counterparts in GBA to showcase programmes by local arts groups and artists continued, with 24 vibrant touring programmes successfully performed in various GBA cities.

29 The pilot scheme on using school premises as rehearsal venues for performing arts groups during after-school hours was jointly implemented with the Education Bureau. Efforts continued to be made to strengthen promotion of arts technology through provision of dialogue platforms between arts practitioners and technical experts as well as enhancement of venue facilities.

30 The key performance measures in respect of performing arts services are:

Targets

	Target	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Plan)
average usage rate of the auditoria/arena of civic centres (%)	88	99	99	98
attendance at local cultural programmes	330 000 ^β	348 399	362 910 ^λ	330 000
attendance at visiting cultural programmes	115 000 ^β	88 764	120 350	115 000
attendance at district cultural programmes	80 000	80 800	92 322 ^λ	85 000
attendance at territory/region-wide carnivals and outdoor programmes	700 000	990 012	1 219 900 ^λ	800 000
attendance at audience building activities	565 000 ^β	608 100	1 128 690 [@]	790 000
attendance at film programmes ^β	50 000	50 015	— [¶]	— [¶]
participants of music training courses/programmes of Music Office	8 000	7 659	7 600	7 600

β The targets of “attendance at local cultural programmes” and “attendance at visiting cultural programmes” were revised from 290 000 to 330 000 and from 110 000 to 115 000 respectively as from 2024. The target of “attendance at audience building activities” was revised from 560 000 to 565 000 as from 2024. Such revision of targets as from 2024 was due to the target of “attendance at film programmes” being subsumed under the targets of “attendance at local cultural programmes”, “attendance at visiting cultural programmes” and “attendance at audience building activities” due to the re-classification of programme categories. The target of “attendance at film programmes” was removed as from 2024.

λ The higher attendance at local cultural programmes, district cultural programmes and territory/region-wide carnivals and outdoor programmes in 2024 was mainly attributed to the GBA Culture and Arts Festival hosted by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for its first time, the outdoor concert under “Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival” scaled up to a two-day event, as well as the overwhelming response to the Mid-Autumn Lantern Carnivals being the highlight programmes for the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the People’s Republic of China.

Indicators

	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Estimate)
local cultural programmes	995	983 ^τ	930^τ
visiting cultural programmes	135	300	325
district cultural programmes	684	639	660
territory/region-wide carnivals and outdoor programmes	14	12 ^τ	10^τ
audience building activities	2 805	3 810 [@]	3 000
film programmes [§]	396	— [¶]	— [¶]
music training courses/programmes of Music Office	1 102	1 088	1 070[#]

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	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Estimate)
tickets issued by the Urban Ticketing System	3 657 136	3 324 714 η	3 200 000
civic centres.....	16	16	17Λ

- \textcircled{a} The higher number and attendance of audience building activities in 2024 were mainly contributed by touring exhibitions under “Asia+ Festival”, additional concerts and exhibitions under the “Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival” and a celebratory exhibition for the 35th anniversary of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, as well as a series of pre-opening audience building programmes organised by the East Kowloon Cultural Centre.
- $\textcircled{\#}$ The attendance at and number of film programmes were subsumed under the respective figures of local and visiting cultural programmes as well as audience building activities as from 2024 due to the re-classification of programme categories.
- $\textcircled{\tau}$ The decreases in the number of local cultural programmes and territory/region-wide carnivals and outdoor programmes in 2024 and the estimated decreases in 2025 were/are due to restructuring of programming and adjustment in the scale of programmes.
- $\textcircled{\S}$ Indicator was removed as from 2024 due to the re-classification of programme categories.
- $\textcircled{\#}$ The estimated decrease in the number of music training courses/programmes of the Music Office in 2025 is due to cessation of less popular courses under restructuring of training service.
- $\textcircled{\eta}$ The decrease in the number of tickets issued in 2024 was due to the decrease in number of performances and exhibitions sold through the Urban Ticketing System.
- $\textcircled{\Lambda}$ The estimated increase in the number of civic centres in 2025 is due to the planned opening of the East Kowloon Cultural Centre in 2025.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

31 During 2025–26, the Department will continue to:

- curate special programmes to promote the development of arts technology;
- organise the “Asia+ Festival” to showcase traditional and contemporary arts and cultures from different regions;
- organise the “Chinese Culture Festival” to enhance knowledge and awareness of the public of the quintessence of Chinese culture, incorporating the “Chinese Opera Festival” and other highlight programmes in different art forms;
- curate/sponsor online performing arts, educational or arts appreciation programmes on the LCSD Edutainment Channel to offer alternative arts space to meet the needs of arts practitioners and arts enthusiasts;
- strengthen the support to budding and young artists as well as small and medium-scale performing arts groups by offering them more performance opportunities local and abroad;
- organise the “International Arts Carnival” and the “Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival”;
- promote arts in the community by organising the Community Arts Scheme in 18 districts;
- jointly implement the pilot scheme with the Education Bureau on using school premises as rehearsal venues for performing arts groups during after-school hours; and
- plan and develop cultural facilities under the Ten-year Development Blueprint for Arts and Cultural Facilities.

Programme (5): Public Libraries

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	1,486.2	1,535.5	1,513.0 (–1.5%)	1,571.9 (+3.9%)

(or +2.4% on
2024–25 Original)

Aim

32 The aims are to provide, manage and develop library services to meet community needs for knowledge, life-long learning, information, research and recreation, to offer library extension activities to all ages, and to promote reading and literary arts, which include:

- enhancing the information and life-long learning roles of the libraries;
- providing more efficient and effective library services through active use of information technologies;
- strengthening the library collection to provide a balanced mix of library materials for free use by the public;

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- developing and maintaining close links with local and overseas libraries, cultural organisations and professional library bodies to promote inter-library co-operation and information exchange; and
- promoting reading and fostering the development and appreciation of literature.

Brief Description

33 The work involves:

- providing quality library services to meet the information needs of the community and support life-long learning and continuous education;
- planning and developing library facilities;
- managing public libraries and the Books Registration Office;
- promoting library services and literary arts; and
- promoting good reading habits through library extension activities.

34 To celebrate Hong Kong's first "Reading for All Day", the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) joined hands with various stakeholders to organise the first "Hong Kong Reading Week" in April 2024 with over 520 on-site and online activities held attracting over 700 000 attendees. To sustain and share the joy of reading among people of different ages, the "Summer Library Festival 2024" was held from July to August 2024 with a variety of on-site interactive activities and multiple online programmes, an Interactive Storytelling Device as well as decorations and exhibitions at branch libraries under the theme of architecture for children, teenagers and adults to join.

35 With the e-platform of "vis-à-vis +01" and "101 Academy" in the LCSD Edutainment Channel, interactive storytelling and educational videos had been produced for the promotion of e-reading. These included "Joyful Reading Moment II". The annual territory-wide "4·23 World Book Day Creative Competition" was held with an online exhibition of the winning works and videos of winners sharing their reading and writing tips. A number of programmes of "Hong Kong Reading Week" and "Summer Library Festival 2024" as well as subject talks of the Hong Kong Central Library were recorded and offered online, continually bringing reading fun and a wide spectrum of knowledge to the public at home.

36 To promote and encourage reading in a refreshing manner, the Department sustained the outreach efforts by organising various rounds of reading activities delivered to kindergartens, delivering attractive book carts with reading activities to primary schools as well as arranging visits of Library-on-Wheels to promote theme-based reading, library self-charging service and e-resources in the community. Pop-up libraries were set up at the Hong Kong Flower Show 2024 and in various districts during the year for citizens to enjoy reading outside library.

37 To promote literary arts, the Department continued to organise the "Chinese Poetry Writing Competition", "Writing Workshops for Novices", "Monthly Literary Talk", "Talk Series on Chinese Poetry Writing" and "Meet-the-Authors". Educational videos on "Appreciation of Literature" and "Literary Map of Hong Kong" were produced on the e-platform of "101 Academy" in the LCSD Edutainment Channel to appeal to the larger audience on the Internet. Topics in literature such as "Myths in Literature: The Stories of the Gods and Goddesses", "Cats in Literature", "Thirty-six Strategies (II)" and "Crawling through the Grids: Chinese Dragons in Literature" were presented in the year. In addition to "Talk on Chinese Classics", "Hok Hoi Lectures on Chinese Wisdom and Life Pursuits" was organised to promote Chinese history and culture.

38 Through the promotional campaign titled "Self/LIBRARY" in 2024, the Department continued to leverage social media and participation in Book Fair 2024 to publicise e-resources and the wealth of electronic learning resources to the young generation and parents with young children.

39 A new Smart Library System is being developed to enhance the quality, cost-effectiveness and customer friendliness of the facilities and services of HKPL. The new system will be developed in phases to replace the existing two major systems with wider use of information and communications technology and self-service facilities enabled with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology. The development and rollout of major sub-systems are expected to be completed by the end of 2025.

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40 The key performance measures in respect of library services are:

Targets

	Target	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Plan)
items of library materials borrowed	40 000 000 λ	29 643 582	29 842 543	32 000 000
registered borrowers.....	4 900 000 Δ	4 862 615	4 900 717	4 940 000
attendance at extension activities programmes	16 100 000 Ψ	12 465 392	14 942 161 Ω	14 500 000
virtual visits \diamond	22 000 000 μ	20 002 346	19 634 751	20 500 000

- λ The target was revised from 45 000 000 to 40 000 000 as from 2024 having regard to the changing pattern in the use of physical library materials and e-resources in public libraries.
- Δ The target was revised from 4 840 000 to 4 900 000 as from 2024 in view of the increasing trend along with the growth of population.
- Ψ The target is revised from 19 100 000 to 16 100 000 as from 2025 having regard to the increasing trend of seeking information on book recommendation online and therefore a decreasing trend of the attendance to book display at branch libraries.
- Ω The higher number of attendance at extension activities programmes in 2024 was attributable to the large-scale territory-wide reading activities held during the “Hong Kong Reading Week” in April 2024 and the reading corner activities held in museums. The attendance included over 494 200 views from over 390 online programmes/sessions which were organised alongside physical programmes.
- \diamond The target reflects the number of single visits (sessions) to the relevant websites/online services (such as searching, reservation and renewal of library materials) of HKPL, regardless of the number of webpages viewed.
- μ The target is revised from 25 000 000 to 22 000 000 as from 2025. In view of the revision in target for “items of library materials borrowed” as from 2024, the number of online searching, reservation and renewal of library materials is adjusted accordingly.

Indicators

	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Estimate)
books and multimedia materials in stock.....	15 388 091	15 361 083	15 270 000
library stock per capita Φ	2.05	2.04	2.02
registered borrowers as percentage of population (%) Φ	64.85	65.07	65.35
items on loan per capita Φ	3.95	3.96	4.23
items on loan per registered borrower.....	6.10	6.09	6.48
extension activities programmes	21 953	21 702	22 000
static libraries	71	71	71
mobile libraries.....	12	12	12

Φ Calculation based on provisional figures of the Mid-2023 Population, Mid-2024 Population and the Hong Kong Population Projections 2022–2046 issued by the Census and Statistics Department which are 7 498 100, 7 531 800 and 7 559 800 for 2023, 2024 and 2025 respectively.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

41 During 2025–26, the Department will continue to:

- enrich library e-resources including e-books;
- develop library systems leveraging technology to enhance the delivery of library services;
- plan an array of activities to tie in with the “Hong Kong Reading Week” and promote reading culture in the community;
- present a series of online programmes to promote reading and appreciation of literature on the LCSD Edutainment Channel; and
- plan and develop cultural facilities under the Ten-year Development Blueprint for Arts and Cultural Facilities.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2023–24 (Actual) (\$m)	2024–25 (Original) (\$m)	2024–25 (Revised) (\$m)	2025–26 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Recreation and Sports	6,026.8	5,760.9	5,679.3	5,924.6
(2) Horticulture and Amenities.....	1,342.2	1,627.8	1,604.8	1,627.6
(3) Heritage and Museums	1,203.4	1,501.7	1,307.8	1,434.5
(4) Performing Arts	1,636.0	1,705.5	1,717.0	1,745.4
(5) Public Libraries.....	1,486.2	1,535.5	1,513.0	1,571.9
	11,694.6	12,131.4	11,821.9 (-2.6%)	12,304.0 (+4.1%)
				(or +1.4% on 2024–25 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2025–26 is \$245.3 million (4.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the increased provisions for recurrent subvention and operating expenses for the provision of recreation and sports services, as well as the increased cash flow requirement for capital account items. There will be a net decrease of seven posts in 2025–26.

Programme (2)

Provision for 2025–26 is \$22.8 million (1.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the increased provision for operating expenses, partly offset by the decreased cash flow requirement for capital account items and the decreased provision for a net decrease of 17 posts in 2025–26.

Programme (3)

Provision for 2025–26 is \$126.7 million (9.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for non-recurrent items, in particular the renewal of permanent exhibition of the Hong Kong Museum of History, and the increased provision for operating expenses, partly offset by the decreased cash flow requirement for capital account items and the decreased provision for a net decrease of ten posts in 2025–26.

Programme (4)

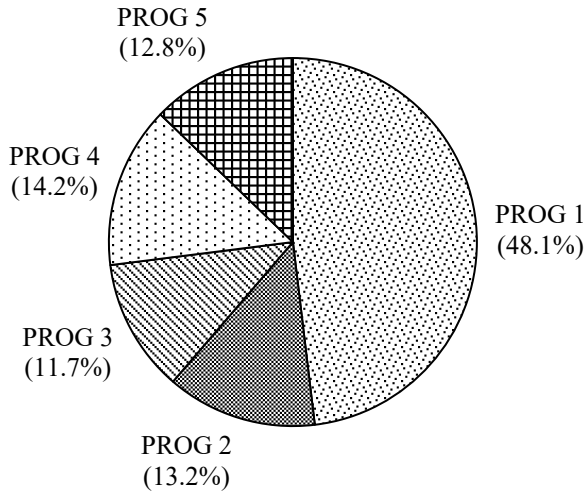
Provision for 2025–26 is \$28.4 million (1.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the increased provision for operating expenses, partly offset by the decreased cash flow requirements for the non-recurrent item GBA Culture and Arts Festival 2024 and capital account items. There will be a net decrease of 11 posts in 2025–26.

Programme (5)

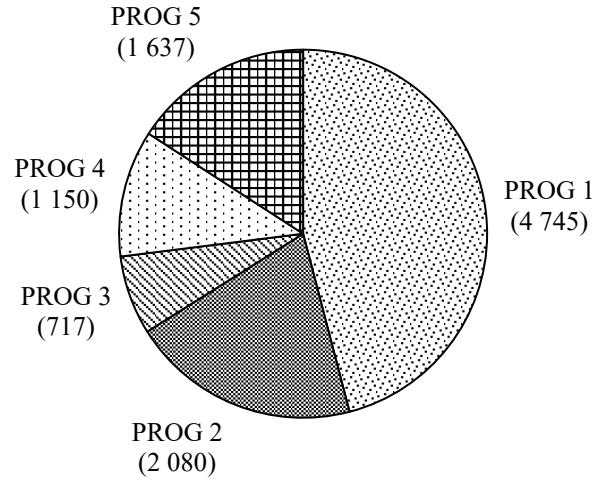
Provision for 2025–26 is \$58.9 million (3.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the increased provision for operating expenses as well as the increased cash flow requirement for capital account items, partly offset by the decreased provision for a net decrease of 17 posts in 2025–26.

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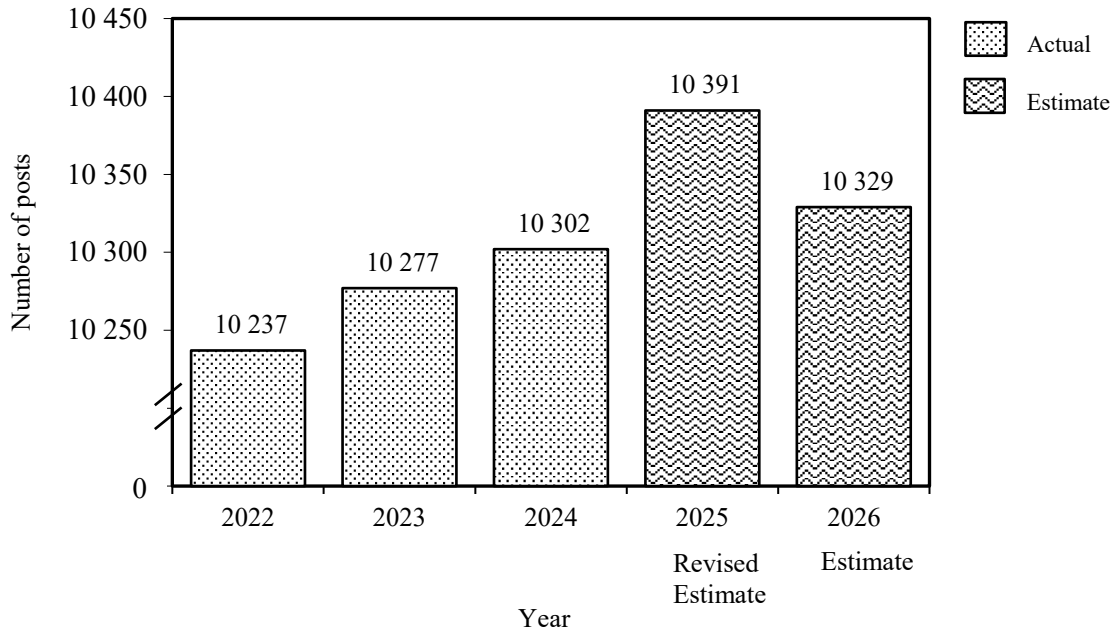
Allocation of provision to programmes (2025-26)



Staff by programme (as at 31 March 2026)



Changes in the size of the establishment (as at 31 March)



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2023–24	Approved estimate 2024–25	Revised estimate 2024–25	Estimate 2025–26	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	11,260,574	11,445,657	11,346,093	11,752,942
	Total, Recurrent.....	<u>11,260,574</u>	<u>11,445,657</u>	<u>11,346,093</u>	<u>11,752,942</u>
Non-Recurrent					
700	General non-recurrent	87,741	364,510	163,565	257,798
	Total, Non-Recurrent.....	<u>87,741</u>	<u>364,510</u>	<u>163,565</u>	<u>257,798</u>
	Total, Operating Account	<u>11,348,315</u>	<u>11,810,167</u>	<u>11,509,658</u>	<u>12,010,740</u>
Capital Account					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
603	Plant, vehicles and equipment.....	81,269	58,254	35,527	33,116
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	237,206	236,305	236,305	221,212
677	Acquiring museum collections and commissioning art and cultural projects.....	24,527	20,890	34,781	30,960
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	<u>343,002</u>	<u>315,449</u>	<u>306,613</u>	<u>285,288</u>
Subventions					
863	Non-government organisation camps (block vote).....	3,255	5,784	5,638	7,933
	Total, Subventions	<u>3,255</u>	<u>5,784</u>	<u>5,638</u>	<u>7,933</u>
	Total, Capital Account.....	<u>346,257</u>	<u>321,233</u>	<u>312,251</u>	<u>293,221</u>
	Total Expenditure	<u><u>11,694,572</u></u>	<u><u>12,131,400</u></u>	<u><u>11,821,909</u></u>	<u><u>12,303,961</u></u>

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2025–26 for the salaries and expenses of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department is \$12,303,961,000. This represents an increase of \$482,052,000 over the revised estimate for 2024–25 and \$609,389,000 over the actual expenditure in 2023–24.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$11,752,942,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2025 will be 10 391 posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of 62 posts in 2025–26. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2025–26, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$4,157,909,000.

4 An analysis of the financial provision under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is as follows:

	2023–24 (Actual) (\$'000)	2024–25 (Original) (\$'000)	2024–25 (Revised) (\$'000)	2025–26 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries	3,763,625	4,020,966	3,868,885	3,872,858
- Allowances	102,215	97,206	105,273	107,500
- Job-related allowances.....	76,585	78,464	79,627	82,128
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	22,300	23,098	21,952	13,799
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	322,545	369,309	349,559	401,652
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	5,741,008	5,439,041	5,673,311	5,940,375
Other Charges				
- Publicity.....	81,496	53,479	80,495	69,830
- Cultural presentations, entertainment programmes, activities and exhibitions....	309,748	347,226	269,613	274,400
- Recreation and sports activities, programmes, campaigns and exhibitions	185,131	131,538	132,032	101,640
- Library materials and multi-media services.....	109,438	105,303	106,103	105,303
- Artefacts and museum exhibitions	126,716	143,850	113,955	130,208
Subventions				
- Leisure and culture subventions	372,537	585,726	495,243	602,949
- Hong Kong China Life Saving Society	541	541	541	541
- Subventions to non-government organisation camps.....	46,689	49,910	49,504	49,759
	11,260,574	11,445,657	11,346,093	11,752,942

Capital Account

Subventions

5 Provision of \$7,933,000 under *Subhead 863 Non-government organisation camps (block vote)* is to assist the subvented camps/centres to undertake major repairs, maintenance and improvement works with each item costing above \$50,000 but not exceeding \$2 million. The increase of \$2,295,000 (40.7%) over the revised estimate for 2024–25 is mainly due to the increased requirement for refurbishment works in subvented camps.

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Commitments

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2024	Revised estimated expenditure for 2024–25	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Operating Account</i>						
700		<i>General non-recurrent</i>				
	805	Revamping of permanent exhibition of the Hong Kong Railway Museum	14,950	14,657	250	43
	836	Renewal of permanent exhibitions of the Hong Kong Science Museum	76,000	48,027	9,788	18,185
	838	Renewal of permanent exhibition of the Hong Kong Museum of History	466,000	102,849	98,851	264,300
	839	Renewal of permanent exhibitions of the Hong Kong Heritage Museum	43,500	43,024	76	400
	851	Renewal of the Telecommunications Gallery of the Hong Kong Science Museum	40,000	2,775	9,900	27,325
	852	Replacement of exhibits at the permanent exhibition galleries of the Hong Kong Science Museum	20,000	9,501	5,000	5,499
	870	Intangible cultural heritage initiatives	300,000	64,241	20,000	215,759
	89B	Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Culture and Arts Festival 2024	20,000	—	19,500	500
			980,450	285,074	163,365	532,011
<i>Capital Account</i>						
603		<i>Plant, vehicles and equipment</i>				
	831	Replacement of unit cooler system with automatic control at Cold Film Store on 1/F at Hong Kong Film Archive	20,880	9,063	500	11,317
	884	Replacement of telescope system at iObservatory	18,000	14,447	2,700	853
	892	Replacement of unit cooler system for Cold Film Store on 2/F and fluid cooler system for Cold Stores on 1/F - 4/F at Hong Kong Film Archive	10,224	1,500	3,100	5,624
	89A	Replacement of Timing and Scoreboard System at Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground	10,265	200	6,123	3,942
	89C	Replacement of video display system and stage lighting system at the Hong Kong Coliseum	24,378	—	4,131	20,247
	89D	Replacement of chiller plant and associates at Tsing Yi Municipal Services Building	12,528	—	200	12,328
	89E	Replacement of the overall track cycling timing system, photo finishing system and sound system at Hong Kong Velodrome	19,000	—	10,500	8,500

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Commitments—Cont'd.

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2024	Revised estimated expenditure for 2024–25	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Capital Account—Cont'd.</i>						
603		<i>Plant, vehicles and equipment—Cont'd.</i>				
	89F	Replacement of central air conditioning system at Sai Kung Tseung Kwan O Government Complex.....	20,880	—	3,000	17,880
	89G	Replacement of passenger lifts at the Backstage of Concert Hall and Grand Theatre of Hong Kong Cultural Centre ^β	11,500 ^β	—	—	11,500
			147,655	25,210	30,254	92,191
677		<i>Acquiring museum collections and commissioning art and cultural projects</i>				
	827	Acquiring museum collections and commissioning art and cultural projects.....	550,000	205,514	34,781	309,705
			550,000	205,514	34,781	309,705
		Total	1,678,105	515,798	228,400	933,907

^β This is a new item, funding for which is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2025.