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CULTURE AND SPORTS



Culture and Sport

Eastern and western cultures have co-existed in Macao for over 400 years. A wide variety of cultural traditions, languages, values, religious beliefs, and customs have all existed side by side and influenced one another. Out of this melting pot, a regional culture unique to Macao has gradually developed into its present richness. Macao's culture is thus a diverse mixture, with traditional Chinese culture as its heart, and it has assimilated Western, particularly Portuguese, cultural influences in perfect harmony.

Following its policy of promoting Chinese culture while preserving the unique pluralistic cultural heritage of Macao, the Government has hosted various cultural and artistic activities invited art troupes from the mainland and overseas, as well as Macao, to perform. These have created opportunities for audiences to learn more about the history, society, and culture of different regions, as well as enhancing cultural exchange and the quality of cultural life of Macao's residents.

Cultural Affairs Bureau

The Cultural Affairs Bureau is a Government department that sets out the Government's key objectives in cultural matters.

The bureau is responsible for protecting cultural heritage, giving guidance on aesthetic appreciation, supporting community organisations, nurturing talent in arts and culture, developing local cultural industries, as well as organising cultural entertainment programmes, such as concerts, exhibitions, seminars, music classes, dance and drama courses, the Macao Youth Music Competition, Macao International Music Festival, Macao Arts Festival and the Macao Annual Visual Arts Exhibition. It also provides subsidies and research bursaries to support the publication of research and advanced studies about the arts.

Cultural and Creative Industries

In 2010, the bureau established the Department for the Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries, to proactively promote cultural and creative industries and so boost their development – including through promoting and exhibiting cultural and creative products; conducting studies of the cultural and creative industries; formulating a policy framework and measures for the development of the cultural and creative industries; and collecting information on local cultural and creative industries. At present, information in the database is used in business matching, and selecting cultural and creative institutions and companies to participate in local and overseas activities and fairs, to foster Macao's culture and creativity.

The 23rd Macao Arts Festival

The 23rd Macao Arts Festival was held from 1 May to 2 June and featured 33 programmes with over 130 performances and two visual arts exhibitions. More than 17,500 tickets were sold, representing a take-up of 92.5 percent.

Festival participants included top performing troupes and artists from the United Kingdom, Argentina, Spain, Portugal, Italy, France, the United States, mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao, among which more than half were local. Among all the wonderful shows, a new historical Peking Opera *Su Wu* of the Han Dynasty was staged by the China National Peking Opera Company at the opening ceremony, and broadcast live nationwide through the Chinese opera channel of China Central Television (CCTV). The many overseas troupes employed traditional and advanced techniques in their performances, including the experimental theatre *When We Meet Again*, *Landscapes* and the *Planet of the Beetlebuns* by the British troupes, and the unprecedented interactive recording device *Congregation* at Tap Seac Square.

A variety of performances ranging from Cantonese opera, dance, drama, and music to environmental theatre were staged by local troupes including Macao Kaifong Cantonese Opera Children's Troupe, Hiu Kok Drama Association, Theatre Farmers, Macao Youth Repertory Theatre, *Dóci Papiçam Di Macau*, Theatre Horizon, Macao Little Mountain Arts Association, Black Sand Theatre, Macao Youth Dance Group of Macao Conservatory, Macanese musician Lei Vai Fan and Soda-City Experimental Workshop Arts Association, many of which made imaginative use of Macao's historical buildings in their shows.

The 26th Macao International Music Festival

The 26th Macao International Music Festival was held from 5 October to 7 November, with a total of 23 programmes including operas, musicals, orchestra performances, contemporary music, pop music, choir performances with jazz music and chamber music. A total of 12,967 tickets were sold, representing a take-up of 91 percent. A few concerts were also broadcast live and recorded by China National Radio, the festival media partner, effectively promoting the festival brand.

The grand opening of the festival was graced by Broadway musical *Peter Pan*. Other programmes included Italian opera *Tosca* and comic opera *La Serva Padrona*. Famous musical groups and musicians performing in the festival included the San Francisco Symphony, world renowned violinist Vadim Repin, the Kodály Quartet from Hungary, the English Concert, the Legendary Count Basie Orchestra from the USA, Kaunas State Choir from Lithuania, Tai Chi Band from Hong Kong, Haya Band from Inner Mongolia and female Portuguese singers Teresa Salgueiro and Aurea.

Parade through Macao, Latin City

Since 2011, the Cultural Affairs Bureau has organised the Parade through Macao, Latin City to celebrate the Handover. The theme and slogan of the 2012 event were "Peace, Love and Cultural Integration" and "An annual celebration for the entire city – VIVA!". Performing troupes from Latin-speaking countries and regions and 40 local troupes, with a total of about 2,000 people, joined the parade, attracting an audience of more than a hundred thousand, who watched in person or via the live television broadcast.

The Fresh Fish Traders Association of Macao and Macau "Casa de Portugal", performed exquisitely in the parade and were invited to participate in the annual Nice Carnival Parade held in France in February 2013.

Macao Orchestra

During the year the Macao Orchestra presented 75 concerts, attended by 39,171 people.

Macao Chinese Orchestra

The Macao Chinese Orchestra is a professional Chinese Orchestra under the Cultural Affairs Bureau. There are currently 42 musicians in the orchestra.

In 2012, the orchestra gave 50 concerts and performances, attracting a total audience of 17,700 people.

Macao Youth Music Competition

The annual Macao Youth Music Competition, organised by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, aims to promote the development of culture and art in Macao, and to provide valuable opportunities for performance, learning and the exchange of experience. Through musical competitions, many prize winners have already entered into the music profession, while the number of music students wishing to continue professionally is increasing steadily.

The 30th Macao Youth Music Competition took place from 22 June to 17 July, during which competitions were held in 24 categories including Chinese and Western Instrumental Solo, Trio, Quartet, Quintet, Chamber Music, Vocal Solo, Ensemble Singing and Chorus, and attracting 1,272 competitors and 2,586 spectators.

Visual Arts Exhibition

The Visual Arts Exhibition organised by the Cultural Affairs Bureau aims to showcase outstanding art from around the world, stimulate creativity among Macao artists, appreciate various types of visual artworks with the public, and promote arts exchange.

Cultural Information Platform

The website of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (www.icm.gov.mo) and mobile site (m.icm.gov.mo) provide cultural services information regarding cultural activities, performances, exhibitions, heritage protection, promotion of arts education, and academic research. There are affiliated websites for cultural facilities including the Macao Central Library, Macao Historical Archives, Macao Conservatory, Museum of Macau, and the Tap Seac Gallery. Also provided is detailed information on cultural events such as the Macao Arts Festival, the Macao International Music Festival, and Parade through Macao, Latin City. In 2012, the website received 2,863,727 visits. Furthermore, Macao Heritage Net (www.macauheritage.net) and Macao Art Net (www.macauart.net) are two of Macao's most important cultural information platforms.

To promote information exchange in the local cultural and creative industries, and increase community understanding of the cultural and creative industry and its development, the Cultural

Affairs Bureau launched a website on the Macao Cultural and Creative Industry (www.macaucchi.com) in August 2011. In 2012, the website received 152,912 visits.

Macao Conservatory

A subsidiary of the Government's Cultural Affairs Bureau, the Macao Conservatory is a public educational institution that provides lower secondary education, vocational education of higher secondary level in dance, music and drama. The Conservatory comprises a School of Dance, School of Music, and School of Drama. It is a local education institute that trains competent professionals in the performing arts, and strives to discover and nurture local performing arts talents. Additionally, the conservatory offers the public a range of training courses in various performing arts disciplines. It regularly organises various dance performances, concerts and drama performances, giving its students the opportunity to display their skills and gain stage experience. It currently has over 2,000 students and more than 120 teachers.

Protection of Architecture, Scenic Spots and Cultural Heritage

To safeguard Macao's heritage and enable it to shine in all its unique glory, Decree-Laws Nos. 56/84/M and 83/92/M, were passed and gazetted in 1984 and 1992, respectively. These specify that all buildings of historical significance or artistic value must be renovated in accordance with officially approved plans. Macao currently has 128 such heritage sites, which are classified into five categories: Monuments, Buildings of Architectural Interest, Classified Complexes, Classified Sites and Protected Areas. They are distributed across the Macao peninsula, Taipa and Coloane. Various conservation measures have been formulated for each category. The Government sets great store by the significance of Macao's architectural heritage. It has established clear policies on the protection, renovation, restoration, and compilation of a list of heritage sites in Macao, all of which are characterised by unique multicultural diversity and harmony.

Protecting cultural heritage has always been one a priority of the Government. In 2005, the Historic Centre of Macao was inscribed on the World Heritage List, further advancing heritage protection work in Macao. In 2006, through Executive Order No. 202/2006, the area of heritage protection was further expanded.

Intangible Cultural Heritage

In recent years, the conservation of intangible cultural heritage has been a matter of concern. The Convention on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage passed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization came into effect in Macao in September 2006. During the same year, Cantonese Opera and Chinese herbal tea were jointly nominated by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, which later became the first batch of intangible cultural heritage inscribed on the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2007. In June 2008, "Wood carving – Macao's religious figure carving" was among the second batch added to the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage, which signified the first successful independent application made by Macao for inscription on the national list.

In September 2009, Cantonese Opera was officially inscribed onto the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity as a result of a joint application by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao.

In May 2011, “Cantonese Naamyam (Singing and Narrative Songs)”, “Macao Taoist Ritual Music” and “Festival of the Drunken Dragon”, applied for by Macao independently, were among the third batch inscribed on the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage. In June 2012, Mazu (A Ma) Belief and Customs, Na Tcha Belief and Customs, Macanese Gastronomy, and Macanese Theatre (Theatre in Patuá) were also added to the List of Macao Intangible Cultural Heritage.

By the end of 2012, a total of 10 items from Macao had been included in the List of Macao Intangible Cultural Heritage, six in the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage, and one in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Research Bursaries

Academic Research Grant Regulations aim to encourage forward-looking and innovative research projects conducive to the understanding of Macao, and of the relationship between Macao and other regions in the humanities field. The bursary for each project has been increased, varying from 110,000 patacas to 180,000 patacas. Applications may be submitted at any time throughout the year.

From 2006 to the end of 2012, a total of 46 people received the bursaries.

Macao Central Library

Founded in 1895, the Macao Central Library is under the Cultural Affairs Bureau. It comprises the Macao Central Library (main branch), Sir Robert Ho Tung Library, Library of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau Building, Ilha Verde Library, Mong Ha Library, Red Market Library, Coloane Library and mobile libraries. Currently the largest public library network in Macao, it houses a collection of 800,000 books and 35,000 multimedia items.

Major services provided by the Macao Central Library include: processing applications for reader cards, lending book materials, providing current and back issues of newspapers and periodicals, advising readers on Macao information, providing access to broadband Internet, making microfilms, maintaining an online e-resources database, and photocopying of materials. Publishers can apply for an ISBN, ISSN or International Standard Recording Code (ISRC) through the ISBN Centre in the library.

To highlight the many facets of Macao’s libraries and promote the use of their resources for educational purposes, every year the central library hosts a range of activities that encourage reading and on how to use library services. It also receives group visits.

Libraries Managed by the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau

The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau manages a number of libraries, including Wong Ieng Kuan Libraries located in Dr Sun Yat Sen Municipal Park, Luis de Camoes Garden, Areia Preta

Urban Park and in Taipa, Ho Yin Garden Library, S. Lourenco Library and Children's Library in Areia Preta Urban Park.

These libraries purchase books and periodicals according to the needs of the people living in their districts. They also regularly host storytelling, thematic lectures, film sessions, and reading camps.

In 2012, the libraries managed by the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau organised 745 reading promotion activities, attracting 19,072 participants. During the year, the seven community libraries under the bureau received 757,461 visitors.

Macao has many other smaller libraries, including the well known octagonal Chinese Library. In addition, various Government departments and tertiary educational institutions have their own libraries. Each contributes to the ever-expanding supply of books and knowledge available to the people of Macao.

Macao Historical Archives

The Macao Historical Archives is the master archive in Macao. The Archive is mainly responsible for collecting, organising, safekeeping, protecting and providing Macao documents of historical value.

Tap Seac Gallery

The Tap Seac Gallery is the base of visual arts exhibition and arts education in Macao. Built in the 1920s and divided into two blocks, this two-storey building was originally a typical residence of one of Macao's elite families. The two blocks join into one after reconstruction. The ground floor has been converted into a 400-square-metre exhibition venue. The front part forms the main exhibition area, while the rear is ideal for holding exhibitions, seminars and lectures.

The gallery and its peripheral buildings were all constructed during the same period. Together, they form a unique cluster of historic monuments in the Tap Seac area, one of Macao's designated heritage sites. The Cultural Affairs Bureau uses the gallery as a venue for visual arts exhibitions and other cultural activities. During the year, the gallery received 33,110 visitors.

Handover Gifts Museum of Macau

The Handover Gifts Museum of Macau is situated next to the Macao Museum of Art, which is an integral part of the Macao Cultural Centre on Xian Xing Hai Avenue in the Outer Harbour Reclamation Area (NAPE). This was the site of the temporary venue where the Macao Handover Ceremony was conducted by the Chinese and Portuguese governments on 20 December 1999. The structure was dismantled afterwards, and its location became the construction site of the Handover Gifts Museum of Macau, in commemoration of the momentous occasion of Macao's return to the motherland.

The Handover gifts exhibition gallery mainly showcases gifts presented by the State Council, as well as those by provinces, municipalities directly under the central government, autonomous regions and the Hong Kong SAR. The thematic exhibition gallery is the venue for displays about Macao's social and cultural history, which showcases a myriad of Macao's cultural features.

Museums

Centuries of East-West cultural interaction have endowed Macao with many unique museums. They range from the Museum of Macau, Museum of Sacred Art and Maritime Museum, to the Grand Prix Museum, Wine Museum and Fire Service Museum.

Museum of Macau

The Museum of Macau is situated on the heritage site of Mount Fortress, which is a part of the Historic Centre of Macao, while to its immediate west is the Ruins of St Paul's.

The Museum of Macau houses a rich display of Macao's history and diverse culture. With a collection of deep historical and cultural value, the museum highlights the changes to Macao over several hundred years, and tells the story of people from different countries and cultural backgrounds settling in Macao and living in harmony. The Museum of Macau was opened on 18 April 1998.

In 2012, the Museum of Macau received 206,179 visitors, and provided over 1,761 guided tours to 19,118 people. It also held 45 activities, which attracted 2,312 participants.

Monte Fort Corridor

Located at the foot of Mount Fortress's east, Monte Fort Corridor is a passageway linking the S. Lazaro Area pedestrian zone to Mount Fortress. Thus, it facilitates the robust development of the city's entire historical centre. A public space not to be ignored, the corridor has often been chosen as the venue for various arts exhibitions.

Maritime Museum

One of the oldest museums in Macao, the Maritime Museum was founded in 1987. The museum reflects the vital role of the sea in Macao's history, as well as vividly portraying the remarkable achievements of China and Portugal in maritime history. Visitors to the Maritime Museum can gain a deeper appreciation of the relationship between cultural exchange and the sea.

Wine Museum

The Wine Museum was opened in 1995. It introduces the history of wine production from its origin in the Caucasus around 10,000 BC up to the present day, with a special focus on Portuguese winemaking.

Grand Prix Museum

The Grand Prix Museum was inaugurated on 18 November 1993. Various Government departments and private institutions have donated exhibits, such as racing cars driven on the Guia Circuit over

the years, including by the late celebrated Ayrton Senna and motor racing champion Michael Schumacher. Valuable pictures and trophies are also exhibited.

Macao Museum of Art

The Macao Museum of Art is the only museum in Macao dedicated to art and cultural heritage. It is also the largest visual arts museum in Macao.

In 2012, the Macao Museum of Art held more than 30 exhibitions and conducted more than 100 activities.

Library of the Macao Museum of Art and the Art Square

The Library of the Macao Museum of Art is a reference library specialising in arts materials. It has a collection of over 20,000 books, primarily about visual arts.

Pawnshop Museum

In partnership with a non-governmental organisation, the Government has established the first museum dedicated to the pawnshop industry. The opening of the Pawnshop Museum in March 2003 marked the success of a new mode of heritage protection.

Built in 1917 as the Tak Seng On Pawnshop, the museum building consists of a pawnshop and a storage tower. The three-storey pawnshop and its relics offer visitors a clear picture of the pawnshop's layout and operation in its heyday.

In September 2004, the Tak Seng On restoration project was awarded an Honourable Mention in the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation. The project was awarded the title of Urban Best Practices Area (UBPA) of World Expo Shanghai 2010, demonstrating to the world Macao's fruitful efforts in conserving and recycling historic buildings. The museum received 14,572 visitors during 2012.

Treasure of Sacred Art of St Joseph's Seminary

St Joseph's Seminary was established by the Jesuits in 1728. For more than two centuries, it has made a significant contribution to training Catholic clergymen engaged in missionary careers in Macao, the mainland and Southeast Asia. For this reason, it was bestowed the title of "Royal Seminary".

Crypt and Museum of Sacred Art

Between 1990 and 1995, the former Portuguese administration conducted archaeological excavation and repaired the Ruins of St Paul's (the Church of Mother of God or Mater Dei), and built the Museum of Sacred Art and Crypt on the site of the grave of Father Alexandre Valignano, the founder of St Paul's College, according to the research findings.

Dr Sun Yat Sen Memorial House

Originally built by Dr Sun Yat Sen as a home for his family in the years after 1918, this Islamic style residence was opened as Dr Sun Yat Sen Memorial House in 1958.

Lin Zexu Museum

The Lin Zexu Museum in Lin Fong Temple was completed in November 1997, in memory of Imperial Commissioner Lin Zexu, who defied the powerful and the mighty to institute a ban on opium and the opium trade. On 3 September 1839, Lin Zexu, who was then in charge in Guangdong, and Deng Tingzheng, the Governor of Guangdong and Guangxi, met the Consul of the former Portuguese administration to proclaim the prohibition of opium and China's sovereignty over Macao.

Fire Service Museum

Founded in December 1999, the Fire Service Museum is located inside the central operational fire station on Repouso Road. It is open to the public, and received 31,573 visitors in 2012.

Museum of Nature and Agriculture

The first museum to be built on Coloane island, the Museum of Nature and Agriculture, under the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, is within the Seac Pai Van Country Park. Built by the then Municipal Council of the Islands, the museum was opened on 21 March 1997. It is a cultural amenity with an educational purpose. The museum's five thematic exhibitions are devoted to the Geography of Macao, Farming Tools of the Islands in Olden Days, the Specimens of Animals, the Specimens of Plants, and the Simulated Mangrove Swamp.

Taipa Houses-Museum

The Taipa Houses-Museum is a collection of residential buildings that form one of Macao's eight most famous landmarks. Constructed in 1921, these five European-style buildings were the official residences of the island's officers and the homes of Macanese families. The former Portuguese administration's Tourist Department bought and redecorated them in the 1980s. In 1992, they were collectively classified as an architecturally important monument. The government thoroughly refurbished them and converted three of them into a museum. From east to west, they are known as the Macanese House, the House of the Islands and the House of Portuguese Regions. The other two buildings are the exhibition gallery and reception hall. The museum opened in December 1999, and it officially adopted the name Taipa Houses-Museum in 2002.

In 2012, the Taipa Houses-Museum received 104,073 visitors. They included 1,995 visitors on 101 guided tours for overseas visitors, local students and community groups. The museum also participated in various major celebratory events organised by the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau and other Government departments. Since March, it has also staged eight performances of

the play *New Tenant in an Old Mansion*, which attracted 319 people to watch and learn about the history of Taipa and Coloane in a relaxed atmosphere.

Communications Museum of Macao

Inaugurated on 1 March 2006, the Communications Museum of Macao aims to promote stamp collecting and the stamps of Macao to citizens and tourists. In 2012, it received a total of 32,811 visitors, most of which were arranged visits by local schools and groups.

Macao Science Center

After seven years of preparation and construction, the Macao Science Center was inaugurated on 19 December 2009, and opened to the public on 25 January 2010. Designed by Ieoh Ming Pei, the Macao Science Center is a public cultural facility with an educational mission that comprises an exhibition centre and a planetarium. Its exhibits focus on public participation and fun.

Macao Tea Culture House

The Macao Tea Culture House, which is managed by the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, is the first exhibition gallery in Macao devoted to displaying tea-related artefacts. It was opened to the public on 1 June 2005. Through short-term and long-term exhibitions of various formats, as well as various tea culture activities, it is dedicated to demonstrating Macao's tea culture and everything about tea in China and the West. It also hopes to promote worldwide tea culture, knowledge and studies.

During 2012, the Tea Culture House attracted a total of 42,064 visitors. It also provided 10 free guided tour services, joined by 225 people. The House organised 12 'Taste the Tasty Culture – Tea Culture Promotion Programme' events, in which 640 visitors participated.

Museum of Taipa and Coloane History

Opened on 7 May 2006, the Museum of Taipa and Coloane History consists of nine exhibition rooms and a souvenir shop. Built in 1920, the 638-square-metre, two-storey museum building was formerly the building of the former Island Municipal Council of Taipa. On the first floor are relics unearthed in Coloane, stone architectural remains of the basement, religious and cultural documents and relics from the transformations of the villages on the two islands. These items provide visitors with an overview of the early history and culture of Coloane and Taipa. The exhibition rooms on the second floor have various themes, including the history of the former Municipal Council of the Islands, a look back at agriculture and handicrafts in the old days, the architectural features of buildings on Coloane and Taipa and the recent development of the two islands.

The Museum of Taipa and Coloane History attracted a total of 43,332 visitors in 2012. It provided 13 free guided tours, joined by a total of 553 people.

Iong Sam Tong Pavilion

Managed by the Division of Cultural Facilities of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, Iong Sam Tong Pavilion was built in the early 20th century as part of Yu Yuen (the former name of Lou Lim Ieoc Garden). The renovation of Iong Sam Tong Pavilion was completed in 2011 and it was reopened on 18 May 2011. It showcases 50 historical items of the Lou family including photographs, letters, biographical materials, handwritten drafts and recordings. It received a total of 14,377 visitors in 2012.

Lou Kau Mansion

Completed in 1889, Lou Kau Mansion was formerly the residence of the prominent merchant Lou Kau and his family. It retains a large number of exquisite carvings in wood, stone and brick; plaster mouldings; pottery decoration; murals; and garden designs, which are typical of the architectural style of traditional Lingnan dwellings.

With a mission to promote Chinese traditional culture by introducing outstanding Chinese folk crafts and conducting arts activities, Lou Kau Mansion conducts regular live demonstrations by famous Chinese folk craft masters. A different theme is introduced each week, attracting many citizens and visitors to exchange ideas and learn from the master craftsmen. In 2012, Lou Kau Mansion attracted 234,989 visitors.

Mandarin's House

The Mandarin's House is the ancestral family residence of the modern Chinese master Zheng Guanying. Zheng's world-famous book *Shengshi Weiyan* (Words of Warning in Times of Prosperity) was completed here. The building of the Mandarin's House was initiated by Zheng Wenrui, the father of Zheng Guanying, and the Zheng brothers expanded it. The house was probably built before 1869.

In February 2010, the Mandarin's House was opened to the public. During 2012, it attracted 97,842 visitors.

Kun Iam Statue

The Kun Iam Statue is a 32-metre-tall structure on an artificial island in NAPE, which is connected to the land by a 60-metre bridge. Comprising the statue and lotus flower base, the Kun Iam Statue was completed in March 1999. It received 68,583 visits in 2012.

Macao Cultural Centre

The Macao Cultural Centre is situated on Xian Xing Hai Avenue in NAPE. Completed and opened in March 1999, the complex comprises the Auditoria Building, the Macao Museum of Art Building, Macao Cultural Centre Square and the Handover Gifts Museum of Macao.

The Auditoria Building contains two performance venues. One is a 1,076-seat multipurpose

complex theatre, while the other is a 389-seat mini-theatre.

During 2012, the Macao Cultural Centre organised spectacular performances that included dance, music, drama and multimedia. There were 53 programmes with a total of 566 performances or activities. The centre also continued to offer cultural facilities and professional services to various local groups and organisations. During the year, 223 programmes and 884 performances or activities were organised by the centre and its tenants, receiving 180,520 visits.

Cultural and Recreational Activities

The Government is committed to promoting sport for all, encouraging citizens to participate in all kinds of sports and recreational activities as a way to promote good health. Upholding the values of sport-for-all and life-long fitness spelled out in public slogans, the Government has led citizens towards building healthy lives by enjoying everyday sports. At the same time, the Government emphasises enhancing the standards of sports at the local level, and fully supports and encourages local sports institutions with organising and participating in tournaments in Macao and overseas.

The coordinated development of popular sports and athletics can only be realised through the provision of comprehensive modern sports facilities and sports medicine, thereby allowing citizens to exercise conveniently and scientifically, ultimately enhancing their quality of life.

Macao Sports Development Board

Macao Sports Development Board is responsible for instructing, encouraging, assisting and promoting sports events, establishing the requisite conditions for the development of sports, and coordinating between sports organisations and related staff.

Sport for All

In 2012, a total of 364,165 people took part in the 19 activities organised by the Macao Sports Development Board, of whom 49,290 participated in the 1,978 Sport for All Fitness and Recreational Classes. In 2012, the annual summer activities accommodated a total of 47,726 people, among which 21,539 places were for sport activities. In all, 102 activities and 692 classes were arranged.

Competitive Sport

In 2012, the Macao Sports Development Board supported the Macao Sports Association to organise and participate in 433 competitions, 134 training sessions and 51 international conferences through special funding.

During 2012, a total of 88 athletes and coaches in nine sports were awarded cash prizes in 12 events for their outstanding performances, while 238 athletes and coaches from 22 sports associations were awarded certificates of merit.

Sports Medicine

In 2012, the board and the China Institute of Sport Science of the General Administration of Sport of China co-organised the Conference for the Third China's National Physical Fitness Surveillance (CNPFS) and International Seminar of Physical Fitness Research. Over 300 professionals from Finland, Austria, Japan, the United States, Macao and mainland China participated in the conference, with more than 100 papers submitted.

In 2012, the Sports Medical Centre served more than 8,451 people.

Major Multi-sport Events

The 4th East Asian Games, held from 29 October to 6 November 2005, was the first major multi-sports event hosted by Macao. Later, Macao held the First Lusofonia Games in 2006. The 2nd Asian Indoor Games was the third multi-sports event organised by Macao, which was also the first Asian multi-sports event held by Macao.

Sports and Recreation Venues

Most sports and cultural activity venues in Macao are managed by the Macao Sports Development Board or the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau.

In response to the ever-changing demands of users and to meet the needs of different sports, the board constantly improves and diversifies the venues under its jurisdiction. These facilities are conveniently located for Macao residents, and the Sports Development Board intends to eventually establish a sports complex in every district.

At present, major sports facilities in Macao include Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion, Victory Sports Centre, Artur Tamagnini Barbosa Sports Centre, Bosco Sports Complex, Lin Fong Sports Centre and Nam Van Lake Nautical Centre, while those in Taipa include the Olympic Complex, Carmo Swimming Pool, football pitch / athletics ground of the Macao University of Science and Technology (MUST), and Sports Training Centre. Sports facilities in Cotai comprise the Macao East Asian Games Dome, International Shooting Range, Bowling Centre, Tennis Academy, Cheoc Van Nautical Club, Hac-Sa Nautical Centre, and in Coloane, the Go-Kart Racing Course. All of the above are managed by the Macao Sports Development Board.

The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau is also responsible for the sports and recreation venues at Dr Sun Yat Sen Municipal Park, Mong Ha Municipal Park, Guia Hill Municipal Park, Ho Yin Garden, the Municipal Swimming Pool, Cheoc Van Swimming Pool, Hac Sa Park and Swimming Pool, Water Activities Centre at Hac Sa Reservoir, Hac Sa Summer Camp Area, Ponte Negra Municipal Recreation Centre (fitness centre), Carmo Sports and Recreation Ground, Ilha Verde Sports Ground, Avenida do Comendador Ho Yin Sports Ground, Avenida do Conselheiro Borja Sports Ground, Weng Neng Sports Ground, Rua Central da Areia Preta Sports Ground, Almirante Magalhaes Correia Sports Ground, Doca Lam Mau Sports Ground, Coloane Sports Ground, Hac Sa Beach Sports Ground, Canal dos Patos Sports Ground and Barra Sports Ground.

There are also many other sports venues owned by associations, institutions and individuals,

such as the Workers' Soccer Pitch and a golf course.

Macao Forum

The Macao Forum is one of the most popular venues in Macao for entertainment and sporting events. Opened on 27 May 1985, Macao Forum is divided into two sections. Forum I has a seating capacity of 4,062 and an area of 7,280 square metres. It houses a lobby and an exhibition gallery, which can accommodate displays and exhibitions.

Public Swimming Pools and Beaches

Swimming is one of the most popular recreational activities among Macao residents. The swimming pools managed by the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau include the Municipal Swimming Pool, and the swimming pools at Dr Sun Yat Sen Municipal Park, Cheoc Van and Hac Sa Park. The Macao Sport Development Board also manages a number of swimming pools, including those at the Lin Fong Sports Centre, Bosco Sports Complex, Artur Tamagnini Barbosa Sports Centre, Olympic Sports Centre and Carmo.

In Macao, only two beaches – Hac Sa Beach and Cheoc Van Beach, both managed by the Maritime Administration – are available for public use.

Trails

Topographically, Macao has a lower elevation in the north and a higher elevation in the south. Thirteen trails covering a total length of 33 kilometres are located on Taipa and Coloane islands. These provide access to replanted forest areas where saplings still require care, and serve as firebreaks and access routes for fire fighters. For the vast majority of Macao's residents and visitors, however, the primary function of the trails is to facilitate exploration and enjoyment of the natural attractions of the islands.

The 13 trails are Ka Ho Reservoir Trail (1,550 metres), Coloane Fitness Trail (1,225 metres), Taipa Grande Trail (4,000 metres), Taipa Pequena Trail 2000 (2,300 metres), Coloane Trail (8,100 metres), Coloane Northeast Trail (4,290 metres), Hac Sa Reservoir Circuit (2,650 metres), Hac Sa Reservoir Fitness Circuit (1,505 metres), Hac Sa Long Chao Kok Circuit (2,150 metres), Ka Ho Height Circuit (1,490 metres), Seac Pai Van Park Trail (1,680 metres), Coloane Stone Washbasin Ancient Route (about 1,500 metres), and Long Chao Kok Coastal Trail in Hac Sa (about 1,120 metres).

Gardens and Parks

Though small in area, Macao is renowned for its many gardens in a variety of scenery and styles, offering a host of attractions. These form one of Macao's unique features as a tourist destination. The gardens are not only tourist attractions, but are also popular spots where local residents relax and exercise.

Guia Hill Municipal Park

Guia Hill Municipal Park is one of Macao's major venues to enjoy fresh air. This tourist attraction boasts extensive natural resources. Of all the parks in Macao, it ranks first as a site for Chinese red pines, both in terms of their quantity and age.

Luis de Camoes Garden

Luis de Camoes Garden is one of the oldest gardens in Macao. It was the residence of a rich Portuguese merchant named Lourenco Marques. He loved to feed the pigeons and hundreds of birds nested around his home, creating a spectacular view. From a distance, the garden looked like one giant bird's nest, and the name has been used ever since.

Ho Yin Garden

Ho Yin Garden is situated to the north of Amizade Avenue. It was built to commemorate the late Chinese community leader, Ho Yin, and was opened to the public in 1993.

Carlos d'Assumpcao Park

Carlos d'Assumpcao Park is situated to the south of Amizade Avenue. It commemorates the Macanese community leader and former president of the Legislative Assembly, Carlos d'Assumpcao, and it was opened to the public in 1996.

Flora Garden

Flora Garden is located at the foot of Guia hill. At the end of the 19th century, it was bought by the former Portuguese administration to serve as the Governor's summer residence. Sir Robert Ho Tung, a philanthropist, later bought it, but afterwards returned it as a gift to the former Portuguese administration. For this reason, the garden is still called "Ho Tung Garden" in Chinese. It is also known as "I Long Hau Fa Yun", as it is at close proximity to a spring.

A cable car was completed and went into service in 1997. It runs from the garden entrance to the top of Guia Hill Reservoir, conveniently linking the two locations.

Lou Lim Ieoc Garden

Lou Lim Ieoc Garden is the only garden in Macao with the classic ambience of those found in Suzhou. It features pavilions, terraces, lakes, zigzag bridges, rocks and cascades, all of which reflect the beautiful scenery of the Jiangnan area on the southern, lower reaches of the Changjiang River.

Dr Sun Yat Sen Municipal Park

Dr Sun Yat Sen Municipal Park is located at Ilha Verde in northern Macao near the Border Gate.

At the centre of the park is a 500-metre-long cloister, the longest of any in Macao's parks, linking most of the scenic spots of the park. Other facilities include an open-air theatre, a sport court, other sports facilities, a swimming pool, and a public library.

There are many other gardens and parks in Macao, including Mong Ha Hill Municipal Park, Russa Hill Park, St Francis Garden, Victory Garden, Vasco da Gama Garden and Areia Preta Seaside Park, Iao Hon Market Garden, Art Garden, and Areia Preta Urban Park on the Macao peninsula; Lakeside Garden, Flower City Garden, Monument Garden, Laurinda Marques Esparteiro Garden and Pier Garden on Taipa island; and Hac Sa Sports and Recreation Park, Hac Sa Arboretum and Coloane Height Park on Coloane island.



Macao Arts Festival

The 23rd Macao Arts Festival was held from 1 May to 2 June 2012. Enriched with fascinating performances, the festival featured performances by leading groups and artists from the United Kingdom, Argentina, Spain, Portugal, Italy, France, the United States, mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao.



