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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 mainland China 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, drama courses, Macao International Parade, Macao International Music Festival, Macao Arts Festival, Macao City Fringe Festival, China Cultural Heritage Day, Macao Youth Music Competition and Macao Annual Visual Arts Exhibition. It also provides subsidies for different cultural and art programmes as well as scholarships to support the publication of research and advanced studies about 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 establishing a database on 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 enhance the image of Macao's cultural and creative industries.

In 2018, the bureau launched a series of special subsidy programmes on fashion design and sample making, and production of music albums and feature films; officially launched the Coordination Service for Filming Permit Applications; actively participated

in meetings and study tours related to film production; and organised the China and Portuguese-speaking Countries Film Festival.

In addition, four cultural and creative shops were introduced to the Anim'Arte NAM VAN, while Macao Contemporary Art Centre – Navy Yard No.2, which provides a performance venue for the industry, commenced operations. The bureau also organised delegations to participate in local and overseas cultural and museum fairs, and held a series of activities to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Tap Seac Art Fair.

Cultural Industry Fund

The Cultural Industry Fund was established according to Law No. 26/2013 of the MSAR, and is supervised by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture. The aim of the fund is to support cultural industry development projects in Macao and promote adequate economic diversification. The principle for funding approval is to aim for projects supported mainly by investments from enterprises, and supplemented by the fund.

The targets for the subsidy include commercial enterprises established according to law, and registered under the Financial Services Bureau subject to taxation; if the commercial entity is a natural person, then the person shall be a Macao resident; if the commercial entity is a legal person, more than 50 percent of capital of the legal person should be owned by a Macao resident.

The 29th Macao Arts Festival

The 29th Macao Arts Festival was held from 27 April to 31 May 2018, and featured 25 programmes with 108 performances and art activities, including a visual art exhibition. A total of 12,857 tickets were sold, representing a take-up of nearly 90 percent.

More than half of the programmes were locally produced. Non-local programmes were from the Philippines, mainland China, Japan, the United Kingdom, Korea, Taiwan, Portugal, Germany, Belgium and Israel, spanning drama, dance, Cantonese opera, participatory theatre, physical theatre and immersive theatre. The programmes were staged in various venues in Macao.

The festival had the theme “origin”, which symbolised “the spring of life” and explored a wide range of topics to broaden audiences’ thinking about life. In commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Karl Marx, Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre staged a theatre play *Das Kapital* to kick off the festival; while *13 Tongues*, performed by the internationally acclaimed dance troupe ‘Cloud Gate 2’, brought the festival to a close. The festival also invited Singapore theatre company Nine Years Theatre to jointly produce *Pissed Julie*, which was performed by a team of Macao and Singaporean artists.

Moreover, traditional local programmes included Cantonese operas *Hanjiang Gate*

and *Dream of the Red Chamber*, and Macanese Patuá drama *What's Serving*.

A series of satellite events and free outdoor programmes were also offered in the community, attracting an audience of about 2,600 people.

The 32nd Macao International Music Festival

The 32nd Macao International Music Festival was held from 28 September to 28 October 2018, with a total of 16 programmes and 45 performances including satellite events on the theme of “Enjoy – The Moment in Music”. In all, 9,169 tickets were sold – a take-up rate of over 90 percent. Performing groups from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Portugal, the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, Russia, Korea, the United States, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Jamaica, mainland China and Macao staged performances that formed a musical extravaganza of exceptional quality.

The festival began with *L'Elisir d'Amore* produced by Zurich Opera House; and closed with Schumann's romantic works *Christian Thielemann and Staatskapelle Dresden* on two consecutive evenings. Various programmes were staged at World Heritage sites, including performances by Opera de Chambre de Geneve at the Dom Pedro V Theatre and Sangre Ibérico at the Mandarin's House.

Local programmes included Anton Bruckner's Symphony No.8 presented by the Macao Orchestra and the Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra, *Nostalgic Lane* presented by the Macao Chinese Orchestra together with Guo Yazhi, a legend in China's suona circle, and *Bravo Macao!* presented by young local percussionists Hoi Lei Lei and Raymond Vong.

The 17th Macao City Fringe Festival

The 17th Macao City Fringe Festival was held from 12 to 21 January 2018. Over 70 percent of the tickets for 65 performances were sold, for an audience of nearly 6,000 people. Ten types of satellite events including workshops, seminars, art reviews and sharing sessions on art festivals were also held.

The festival embraced local productions, performances that were jointly produced by local and overseas artists, and outsourced programmes. Overseas artists performing in the festival were from mainland China, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, Australia, Portugal, and Hong Kong. A wide range of performances including drama, dance, physical theatre and live art and an auction were staged.

During the ten-day festival, a series of programmes were staged in various special venues in Macao. These included *My Old Man is a Bus Driver*, *Always in My Heart*, *The Auction of Love Stories*, and *You Can Sleep Here*.

In addition, performing arts curators from mainland China, Thailand, Australia

and Japan were invited to introduce the festivals and cultural environments in their hometowns, in “Art Festivals in the Cities 2.0” Sharing Session on Arts Festivals, which enabled participants to learn about art festivals in different countries, as well as offering useful information to local artists who intend to perform abroad.

2018 Macao International Parade

The 2018 Macao International Parade was held on 16 December. Based on the concept of cultural encounters between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, the parade featured 76 teams of performers with a total of over 1,700 participants, including 57 local groups and 19 visiting groups from mainland China, France, Spain, Russia, Columbia, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Argentina, Japan, Malaysia, Korea, Hong Kong and Portuguese-speaking countries such as Portugal, Brazil, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique. It attracted an audience of 150,000.

Seeking to expand its scale, the parade held a total of 23 extension activities, including community workshops, performances in schools and an art promotion mini parade, to increase the number of foreign artists coming for cultural exchange and create a festive atmosphere in the community. These attracted a total of nearly 30,000 participants.

The First Encounter in Macao – Arts and Cultural Festival between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries

To facilitate the establishment of Macao as a centre for cultural exchanges between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, from 6 to 15 July 2018, the Cultural Affairs Bureau held the first “Encounter in Macao – Arts and Cultural Festival between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries”, with the theme “Encounters in Macao”. About 150 artists and guests from mainland China, eight Portuguese-speaking countries and Macao participated in the festival.

In addition, the bureau held various related activities from July to December, attracting an audience of nearly 100,000.

The festival comprised five featured activities – the China and Portuguese-speaking Countries Film Festival, the “Chapas Sínicas – Stories of Macao in Torre do Tombo” exhibition, the China and Portuguese-speaking Countries Gala Performance, the Cultural Forum between China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries, and the Annual Arts Exhibition between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries.

Macao Orchestra

Established in 1983, The Macao Orchestra is a professional ensemble under the Cultural Affairs Bureau. It has become an outstanding orchestra in Asia that integrates the cultures of east and west, and performs classics from the past and present. The

orchestra plays an important role in the cultural life of Macao citizens and overseas audiences.

In 2018, the Macao Orchestra held 113 concerts locally and overseas, which were appreciated by audiences totalling around 30,070 persons. The orchestra invited top musicians to perform in schools and arts spaces for the community and the underprivileged.

Macao Chinese Orchestra

The Macao Chinese Orchestra is a professional Chinese orchestra under the Cultural Affairs Bureau. Established in 1987, it has always been dedicated to serving Macao by reaching the general public in communities, social groups and schools. It has a mission as a cultural ambassador of the Government of Macao, and spares no efforts in manifesting Macao's unique mix of Chinese and Western cultures, and promoting traditional Chinese music and arts and culture with distinctive Macao characteristics.

In 2018, the Macao Chinese Orchestra performed with the Cantonese opera training programme for the youth of the Macao General Neighbourhood Associations Union and the Macao Taoist Orchestra, to promote Chinese culture and traditional Chinese art. The orchestra also continued organising arts education, arts promotion and care and concern concerts in schools and communities. It was also invited to perform in the Shenzhen Belt and Road International Music Festival festival, which strengthened the cultural development of and promoted art exchanges between Macao and "Belt and Road" countries. During the year, the orchestra performed a total of 79 local and overseas concerts, for audiences totalling 17,320 persons.

The 36th Macao Young Musicians Competition

The Macao Young Musicians Competition aims to promote classical music development in Macao, providing a valuable performance platform and learning opportunities for young people and raising their performance standards. It has become a tradition that piano competitions are held in odd-numbered years, while Chinese music, Western music and vocal music competitions are held in even-numbered years.

The 36th Macao Young Musicians Competition was held in 2018, and was dedicated to Chinese and Western instruments and to vocal music. In all, 535 young musicians/groups participated in 49 competition categories. Music educators and performers from mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan were invited to join the panel of professional judges for the competitions, which were held from 23 June to 11 July at the Institute for Tourism Studies. The competitions were divided into elementary, intermediate, and advanced levels, with 49 competition categories and 51 sessions; there were 402 winners in total. A Special Prize Competition was held on 11 July at the Institute for Tourism Studies, with 10 special awards presented and one contestant receiving the Cultural Affairs Bureau Prize.

“Happy Chinese New Year” Series – Celebration for Chinese New Year

The “Happy Chinese New Year” Series – Celebration for Chinese New Year was held from 15 to 19 February 2018, during which eight performances were staged in Tap Seac Square, the Anim’Arte NAM VAN, Iao Hon Market Square, and Pak Tai Temple Square.

Ethnic song and dance performances and ethnic costumes showcased by the Ulan Muqir troupe from Horqin Right Middle Banner, Inner Mongolia, created a happy and festive atmosphere. In addition, a Mongolian yurt was set up at the Anim’Arte NAM VAN, for visitors to experience the customs and lifestyle of the Mongolians. There was also a cultural and creative fair, where handicrafts, cultural and creative products and specialities by local artists and artists from Inner Mongolia and Yunnan Province were displayed and sold.

“HUSH!! Full Music” Beach Concert

To promote the development of pop music in Macao, the Cultural Affairs Bureau held the “HUSH!! Full Music” Beach Concert on Hac Sa Beach from 29 April to 1 May 2018. Singers and bands from Macao and all over Asia were invited to entertain audiences through a major music event with diverse performances. A wide range of activities included the Music Hot Wave stage on the beach, music workshops, a cultural and creative fair, the “HUSH!!300 Seconds” short video competition, as well as the new Summer Chill Stage and HUSH!! GEG Silent Disco. The three-day concert attracted an audience of about 15,000.

Haojiang Moonlight Night – The Past of Shawan

Two sessions of the dance drama *Haojiang Moonlight Night – The Past of Shawan* were staged at the Venetian Theatre on 20 and 21 September 2018. Set in the ancient town of Shawan in the 1930s, the performance was based on the stories of outstanding contemporary Guangdong musicians, including “the three eminent men of the He family”. The work revolved around the story of how the classical song *Dragon Boat Racing* was passed down from generations, and unfolded the legend with contemporary dance elements. The two sessions attracted a total of 1,150 spectators.

In addition, three sharing sessions were held in schools in Macao, during which the performers of the dance drama shared with students their thoughts on the performance, and invited students to learn and experience the typical body movements in Qiangu dance, Yingge dance and the classical song *Raindrops Pattering on Banana Leaves*. A total of about 150 persons participated in the sharing sessions.

Performance to Celebrate the 69th Anniversary of the National Day of the People's Republic of China – Rainbow over the Silk Road

To celebrate the 69th Anniversary of the National Day of the People's Republic of China, the Shaanxi Provincial Acrobatic Art Troupe Co. Ltd was invited to Macao, to perform a large-scale acrobatic show *Rainbow over the Silk Road*. This enabled the public to appreciate traditional Chinese performing arts while celebrating the National Day.

The troupe gave two performances at the Macao Forum, on 30 September and 1 October 2018. With stunning acrobatics, the show introduced the legendary story of Chinese trade caravans which travelled across the Silk Road in the golden era of the Tang dynasty, and presented the diverse and inclusive culture of the dynasty at its prime, and the Silk Road as “a road of commerce and friendship”. The show attracted an audience of 1,800.

The 21st Lusofonia Festival

The 21st Lusofonia Festival, an event associated with the culture of the Macao Portuguese-speaking communities, was held from 19 to 21 October at the Taipa Houses-Museum. It enabled participants to gain a better understanding of the cultures of various Portuguese-speaking countries and regions.

Cultural booths were set up by ten Macao Portuguese-speaking communities from Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Goa, Daman and Diu, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe, Macao and Timor-Leste, while art groups from nine Portuguese-speaking countries and regions and local Portuguese-speaking art groups performed music and dances on two stages. There were also game booths featuring traditional Portuguese games. The three-day festival attracted some 22,000 people.

2018 New Year Countdown Celebrations

On 31 December, the Macau Countdown Concert 2018 and the Taipa Countdown Show 2018 were held in Sai Van Lake Plaza and Taipa Houses-Museum, respectively, featuring amazing performances to celebrate the New Year.

Famous Hong Kong rap duo FAMA and singer-songwriter Phil Lam, together with local band MFM, singers Filipe Tou, Alex Ao leong, Kylamary, Adelino da Silva and Elise Lei, were invited to perform in the Macau Countdown Concert 2018, and greet the new year with singing, music and dance performances. The show attracted an audience of about 28,000, with about 20,000 spectators in Sai Van Lake Plaza, and the rest watching the show through live broadcast by TDM or on outdoor screens.

The Taipa Countdown Show 2018 featured several local performing groups, while

Hong Kong singer Christopher Wong was invited as the guest performer for the show's finale. Themed booths for eight regions – Australia, Korea, the Philippines, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam – were set up at the venue to demonstrate featured arts and skills, games, as well as the unique cuisines of the cultures of foreigners and overseas Chinese residing in Macao. The event attracted 3,700 participants.

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, enable public appreciation of various types of visual artworks, and promote arts exchanges.

In 2018, 21 visual arts exhibitions were held in the Exhibitions Gallery and Nostalgic House of the Taipa Houses-Museum, the Tap Seac Gallery, the Macao Contemporary Art Center – Navy Yard No.1, the Temporary Exhibition Gallery of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, Monte Fort Corridor and Chun Chou Tong Pavilion in Lou Lim leoc Garden.

Busking Programme

The Busking Programme allows street art performances by buskers, and so establishes more performance platforms for local arts and culture practitioners, while encouraging the public to appreciate and participate in cultural and arts activities. Three busking spots – the Anim'Arte NAM VAN, Taipa Houses-Museum and Mount Fortress Garden – are made available every Friday to Sunday and Public Holidays under the programme for busking performances.

As at the end of 2018, over 350 busker cards had been issued since the launch of the programme. In 2018, 400 buskers performed at the three busking spots, attracting an audience of 30,000 people.

Cultural Information Platform

The website of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (www.icm.gov.mo) provides 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 Archives, Macao Conservatory, Museum of Macau, the Tap Seac Gallery, the Macao Museum of Art, and the Macao Cultural Centre. The websites also provide detailed information on cultural events such as the Macao City Fringe Festival, the Macao Arts Festival, the Macao International Music Festival, and the Macao International Parade. In 2018, the website received 6,877,516 visits.

Furthermore, the Cultural Affairs Bureau has established the Cultural Heritage of Macao website (www.culturalheritage.mo) and Macau World Heritage website (www.wh.mo), as well as the Macao Cultural and Creative Industries Website (www.macaucici.gov.mo), which promotes the exchange of information in the cultural and creative industries and deepens the understanding of other sectors regarding development of the cultural and creative industries. In 2018, the three websites received 575,555, 407,288, and 667,227 visits, respectively.

Culture Lectures

Culture Lectures is a series of cultural seminars on different disciplines, which aims at popularising culture and art education, and enhancing participants' creativity and aesthetics. The scheme's major target audience spans primary six to senior secondary school students, and is expanding to cover people in the community.

In 2018, in addition to small class interactive seminars on campus, extended workshops of cultural festivals were organised for students to immerse themselves in arts and culture. Besides, Culture Lectures were again promoted to various institutions and organisations. Public sessions were also held in the community, during which topics related to the art and cultural development of Macao, covering local history, music, drama and art administration, were introduced to the participating students and residents. In all, 186 activities were organised during the year, with over 5,400 participants.

Seeds of Art

The Seeds of Art project targets the teaching staff of primary and secondary schools in Macao. It offers art and cultural activities, and allows teachers to understand a diverse range of cultural issues. In 2018, Seeds of Art organised six activities with 88 participants. These included seminars and guided tours on topics such as cultural heritage, local history and drama.

Macao Conservatory

Established in 1989, the Macao Conservatory is a subsidiary of the Cultural Affairs Bureau. It comprises the Schools of Dance, Music and Theatre, and is a formal public institution that nurtures local performing arts talents. With a motto of "Respect art; adore aesthetics; be learned; and be dedicated" and a mission of "Emphasising professionalism and popularisation; integrating arts and life", the conservatory implements a dual-track policy of providing both professional and general arts education.

By offering the public a range of systematic, regular, and continuous arts education

programmes in dance, music and theatre, the conservatory promotes cultivation of humanity values among the general public; while by establishing a music curriculum for secondary schools, it nurtures knowledgeable and creative performing arts talents.

To realise the vision of integrating classroom learning with real practices, the conservatory regularly organises various dance performances, concerts and drama performances, giving its students the opportunity to display their skills and gain stage experience. At present, it has 2,000 students.

Protection of Cultural Heritage

Protecting the cultural heritage of Macao is a priority of the Government. Decree-Laws Nos. 56/84/M and 83/92/M, passed and gazetted in 1984 and 1992, respectively, specify that all buildings of cultural significance must be protected. 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 buffer zone of the heritage sites was further expanded. In 2013, the Cultural Heritage Protection Law was passed and promulgated. It came into effect on 1 March 2014, establishing a protection mechanism for tangible and intangible cultural heritage, including the mechanism for evaluations, the protection type and scope, and the reward and penalty system.

By the end of 2018, Macao had 138 such protected properties, which are classified into four categories: monuments; buildings of architectural and artistic interest, architectural complexes and sites, scattered across the Macao Peninsula, Taipa, and Coloane, while there are 15 items of intangible cultural heritage on the list. The Government formulates protection measures according to the value and characteristics of the heritage, to promote and pass on cultural traditions. The Government actively safeguards Macao and its cultural heritage, which is characterised by unique multicultural diversity and harmony.

Intangible Cultural Heritage of Macao

The conservation of intangible cultural heritage has become 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 Herbal Tea Brewing were jointly nominated by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, and became the first batch of intangible cultural heritage inscribed on the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage. (The Chinese name of the list was revised to “National List of Representative Items of Intangible Cultural Heritage” in 2014). In June 2008, “Wood carving – Macao’s religious figure carving” was among the second batch added to the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage, representing 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.

In May 2011, Cantonese Naamyam (Singing and Narrative Songs), 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 December 2014, Mazu (A Ma) Belief and Customs, and Na Tcha Belief and Customs were inscribed on the fourth batch of the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

In September 2017, the Cultural Affairs Bureau announced the first batch to be inscribed onto the Inventory of Macao's Intangible Cultural Heritage, which included 15 items: Yueju Opera (Cantonese Opera), Herbal Tea Brewing, Woodwork – Religious Figure Carving, Cantonese Naamyam (Narrative Songs), Taoist Ritual Music, Festival of the Drunken Dragon, Belief and Customs of A-Ma, Belief and Customs of Na Tcha, Macanese Gastronomy, Patuá Theatre, Belief and Customs of Tou Tei, Belief and Customs of Chu Tai Sin, Craft of Bamboo Scaffolding, Procession of the Passion of Our Lord, the God Jesus and Procession of Our Lady of Fatima.

Academic Research Scholarships

The new Academic Research Scholarship aims to encourage original research on Macao culture and exchanges between Macao, mainland China and other countries. The scholarship value was 280,000 or 250,000 patacas. Five persons were awarded scholarships in 2018.

Macao Public Library

Founded in 1895, the Macao Public Library is under the Cultural Affairs Bureau. It comprises the Macao Central Library, Sir Robert Ho Tung Library, Library of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau Building, Ilha Verde Library, Mong Ha Library, Red Market Library, Taipa Library, Coloane Library, Wong Ieng Kuan Library in Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Municipal Park, Wong Ieng Kuan Library in Luís de Camões Garden, Wong Ieng Kuan Library in Areia Preta Urban Park, Wong Ieng Kuan Children's Library in Areia Preta Urban Park, Wong Ieng Kuan Library in Taipa, Library in Ho Yin Garden, S. Lourenço Library, and Patane Library.

Currently the largest public library network in Macao, it houses a collection of 947,000 books and multimedia items, including 880,000 books, 49,000 multimedia items, 17,000 electronic books in 13,000 categories, about 1,900 items of 848 types in the microfilm section, about 5,800 latest journal articles of 903 types, about 4,000 magazines of 810 types, and about 1,800 newspapers of 93 types. There are 24 databases for electronic resources.

In 2018, a total of 2,895,000 visitors were received. The lending volume was 522,000 books/items, and electronic resources received about 1,157,000 clicks.

Services provided by the Macao Public Library include the lending of library materials, browsing of current and past newspapers and magazines, references of Macao information, processing of reader's cards, broadband internet and microfilms, browsing of online electronic resources databases, printing and photocopying of information, processing applications for ISBN and ISRC, as well as providing an additional collection point for Legal Deposit according to the Legal Deposit system.

In 2018, there were 601 applications for ISBN and two applications for ISRC.

In 2018, more self-service equipment was installed in the Macao Public Library to facilitate easy access to library services for readers, including self-service check-in and check-out terminals, 24-hour book drops, and self-service photocopying machines. Every year, the Macao Public Library hosts a range of activities to encourage reading and recommend library services. It also receives group visits from schools and different groups.

In 2018, the Macao Public Library organised 655 reading promotion activities, attracting 28,600 participants.

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 Archives

The Macao Archives is the master archive in Macao. The archive is mainly responsible for collecting, organising, safekeeping and protecting Macao documents of historical value and providing access to them for the general public. The archive currently houses more than 50,000 archive files, 70,000 images, 10,000 books and journals. The media are mostly in paper format. Other formats include photographs, slides, sound tapes, discs, and objects. The main language of the files is Portuguese. The earliest file can be traced back to the year 1630.

Tap Seac Gallery

Built in the 1920s, the Tap Seac Gallery is divided into two blocks, this two-storey building was originally a typical residence of one of Macao's elite families. The two blocks were combined into one after reconstruction. The ground floor is currently the 400-square-metre Tap Seac exhibition hall, which is mainly used for holding visual arts exhibitions and a variety of cultural activities.

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. In 2018, the gallery received 27,851 visitors.

Old Courthouse

The Old Courthouse currently has a temporary space for exhibitions and performances. The ground floor is an exhibition hall designed for exhibitions and various kinds of arts and cultural events. The black box theatre on the first floor is designed for small-scale drama and dance performances. With basic stage equipment, it can be used with great flexibility, as the seating and stage area can be arranged into various setups to realise creators' ideas. It can accommodate an audience of 50 to 120 persons.

In 2018, a total of 138 performances under 36 programmes and five exhibitions and arts and cultural events were held in the Old Courthouse, with 21,120 audience members and visitors.

Dom Pedro V Theatre

Built in 1860, the Dom Pedro V Theatre was the first Western-style theatre in China. It houses a vestibule and a performance hall, with a capacity of 276 seats arranged in curved rows in the shape of a shell. Having operated for more than 150 years, it remains a popular performance venue in Macao. In 2018, more than 170 performances and activities were held in the theatre; most were musical performances. As this is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it received 89,504 visitors in 2018.

Macao Contemporary Art Center – Navy Yard No.1

Situated in Zona da Barra, the Macao Contemporary Art Center – Navy Yard No.1 (formerly known as D. Carlos I dock mechanical room) is the former mechanical room of the Government Dockyard, and therefore is of great historical significance. It regularly invites outstanding artists from different places to exhibit their works. In addition, it cooperates with various performing arts groups to hold experimental performing arts programmes. The combination of visual arts and performing arts allows it to demonstrate Macao's cultural creativity in its modernised setting, while promoting the development of local arts and culture. In 2018, it received 700 visitors.

Museums and Exhibition Halls

Handover Gifts Museum of Macau

The Handover Gifts Museum of Macau is situated next to the Macao Museum of Art,

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 Macao, in commemoration of the momentous occasion of Macao's return to the motherland.

The Handover Gifts Museum of Macao is managed by the Macao Museum of Art. The museum hosts the Handover Gifts Exhibition as a permanent exhibition. There are also special exhibition rooms for organising various kinds of exhibitions. The museum received a total of 544,772 visitors in 2018.

Museum of Macau

The Museum of Macau is situated on the Mount Fortress heritage site, which is 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 2018, the Museum of Macau held five special exhibitions. During the year, it received 554,265 visitors, and provided 1,493 guided tours to 20,433 people. It also held 131 activities, which attracted 3,303 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. The public space of the corridor has been fully utilised as it has often been chosen as the venue for various arts exhibitions. In 2018, it received 218,917 visitors.

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, systematically portraying the remarkable achievements of China and Portugal in maritime history, and explains the importance of the sea to human culture.

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.

(The Wine Museum has been closed temporarily until further notice, due to the Grand Prix Museum expansion project.)

Grand Prix Museum

The Grand Prix Museum was inaugurated in 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.

(The Grand Prix Museum has been closed temporarily until further notice, due an expansion project.)

Macao Museum of Art

The Macao Museum of Art is the only museum in Macao dedicated to art and cultural heritage. With an exhibition area of more than 4,000 square metres, it is also the largest visual arts museum in Macao.

In 2018, the Macao Museum of Art received 247,606 visitors. The museum held 19 exhibitions and conducted 567 guided tours, which attracted 16,014 participants. In addition, it organised 158 activities including art courses, lectures, workshops, demonstrations, parades and concerts, and four games with prizes, which attracted 29,793 participants.

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 38,302 visitors during 2018.

Treasury of Sacred Art of St Joseph's Seminary

St Joseph's Seminary was established by the Jesuits in 1728. For nearly three centuries, it has not only made a significant contribution to nurturing prominent Catholic clergymen, but has also been closely related to Macao's social development. It has also actively contributed to local culture, education, arts and charity.

St Joseph's Seminary is home to collections of religious relics, such as ancient books, oil paintings, statues and ritual supplies. In order to allow the public to appreciate these valuable historical collections, the Cultural Affairs Bureau has worked with the St Joseph's Seminary and the Diocese de Macau to establish the "Treasury of Sacred Art of St Joseph's Seminary", which was officially opened in October 2016. In 2018, it received 18,385 visitors.

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 51,729 visitors in 2018.

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, Specimens of Animals, Specimens of Plants, and a 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 administration thoroughly refurbished and reconstructed them, and the buildings were officially opened to the public in December 1999. In 2016, the Government joined hands with foreign consulates in Macao in launching the comprehensive Taipa Houses-Museum leisure project, to optimise the Taipa Houses-Museum by maintaining its beautiful and tranquil environment, and demonstrating its unique Portuguese features.

In September 2016, the Taipa Houses-Museum reopened after renovation. The five houses are the Macanese Living Museum, Exhibitions Gallery, Creative Casa, Nostalgic House and House for Receptions from west to east, respectively. The first three are exhibition halls, while the remaining two are leisure facilities. With a combination of featured exhibitions, outdoor performances and festive activities, the Taipa Houses-Museum has become a showcase of the culture of Portuguese-speaking countries and a stage for international exchange. It received 465,975 visitors in 2018.

Communications Museum of Macao

The Communications Museum, under the Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT), is an interactive museum that features cultural, scientific and technological elements.

As for exhibitions about postal services, philately and telecommunications, there were 29 related guided tours, seven science demonstration sessions, 24 workshops and nine electronic courses available for advanced registration in 2018. The museum received a total of 26,662 visitors, and provided schools and other groups with visit services by appointment on 425 occasions.

Macao Science Center

The Macao Science Center was inaugurated in December 2009, and opened to the public in 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, a planetarium and a convention centre. 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. There were 31,258 visitors in 2018.

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 such as those unearthed in Coloane, and stone structural elements from the basement. 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, religious and cultural transformations of the villages on the two islands and their recent development. There were 91,657 visitors in 2018.

Long Sam Tong Pavilion in Lou Lim Ieoc Garden

Long 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 Long Sam Tong Pavilion was

completed in 2011, and it was reopened in May that year. It showcases 50 historical items of the Lou family, including photographs, letters, biographical materials, manuscripts and recordings. There were 14,071 visitors in 2018.

Chun Chou Tong Pavilion in Lou Lim Ieoc Garden

Constructed in the early 20th century, this pavilion at the edge of a lake is the main structure of the garden. When Dr. Sun Yat-Sen came to Macao in May 1912, he was invited to stay here, where he met prominent Chinese and Portuguese figures in Macao. Chun Chou Tong is now a venue for visual arts exhibitions. It received 64,666 visitors in 2018.

Lou Kau Mansion

Completed in 1889 (the 15th year of the reign of Emperor Guangxu of the Qing Dynasty), Lou Kau Mansion was formerly the residence of the prominent Macao merchant Lou Kau and his family. It is among the few intact mansions of the wealthy in Macao that dates back to the late Qing Dynasty. Inside, it retains a large number of exquisite carvings in wood, stone and brick; plaster mouldings; pottery decorations; murals; and garden designs, which are typical of the architectural style of traditional Lingnan dwellings. It received 281,267 visitors in 2018.

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 construction 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 2018, it received 111,997 visitors.

Former Residence of General Ye Ting

A two-storey western style building, the Former Residence of General Ye Ting is the former residence of General Ye Ting, the founder of the Chinese People's Liberation Army and distinguished militarist, and his family. The site has retained more than a dozen invaluable items of furniture of the former residence, along with objects of daily life and home decorations, such as wooden cupboards, a pendulum clock, and a wooden bed. The site opened to the public in May 2014, and received 18,564 visitors during 2018.

Former Chong Sai Pharmacy

Located at No. 80 Rua das Estalagens, this building was a typical shophouse, built before 1892. In 1893, Dr. Sun Yat-sen established the Former Chong Sai Pharmacy here. This was among Macao's first pharmacies and clinics with western medical services provided by a Chinese doctor. The building was subsequently rented out and changed hands several times afterwards, and was once used as a Taoist hall and a fabric shop.

In 2011, the Government acquired the building and carried out restoration and revitalisation work, adding new functions and public service facilities. The conservation work was completed in the second half of 2016, and in December that year, an exhibition space was opened to the public. In 2018, it received 26,727 visitors.

Kun lam Statue

The Kun lam 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 lam Statue was completed in March 1999. It received 107,032 visitors in 2018.

Jao Tsung-I Academy

Professor Jao Tsung-i, widely honoured as "master of Sinology", has earned worldwide reputation. With remarkable achievements and outstanding contributions in literature, arts, academics, Professor Jao is a rare giant of the century. The connection between Professor Jao and Macao is profound. He has always cared for and supported the local cultural industry. He has donated his painting and calligraphy works to collections in cultural institutions and museums in Macao. The Jao Tsung-I Academy was established by the Government, and opened to the public on 11 August 2015.

The academy's premises were formerly a residence built in 1921. The building was inscribed on the list of protected heritage sites in 1984. The academy mainly introduces the public to the academic achievements of Professor Jao, and promotes Chinese culture and arts. Exhibitions it has held include "Paintings and Calligraphies Donated by Jao Tsung-I", "Affection for Lotus – Exhibition of Painting and Calligraphy for the 100th Birthday of Jao Tsung-I" and "Oneness: Calligraphy by Professor Jao Tsung-I". It received 13,494 visitors in 2018.

Information Centre at Guia Fortress

To further promote the cultural value of Guia Fortress (including Guia Chapel and Lighthouse), the Information Centre at Guia Fortress opened to the public on 30 June 2015. The centre offers enquiry services on culture and tourism. It also houses an

architectural model of the Guia Fortress, an introductory exhibition on the fortress, and an exhibition reviewing the restoration of the mural on Capela de Nossa Senhora da Guia. There is a tourist leisure centre, offering a comfortable environment for many tourists to relax.

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 2018, the Macao Cultural Centre organised spectacular performances that included dance, music, drama and multimedia. There were 53 programmes with a total of 571 performances or activities. The centre also continued to offer cultural facilities and professional services to various local groups and organisations. During the year, 224 programmes and 1,139 performances or activities were organised by the centre and its tenants, receiving 161,695 visitors.

Cultural and Recreational Activities

The Government is committed to promoting sport for all, encouraging citizens to participate in all kinds of sport 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 sport. At the same time, the Government emphasises enhancing the standards of sport 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 sport and athletics can only be realised through the provision of comprehensive modern sport facilities and sport medicine, thereby allowing citizens to exercise conveniently and scientifically, ultimately enhancing their quality of life.

Sports Bureau

The Sports Bureau is responsible for instructing, encouraging, assisting and promoting sports events, establishing the requisite conditions for the development of sports, and coordinating between sports associations and entities.

Major Sports Events

Major sports events in Macao include the FIVB Women's Volleyball Nations League Macao, the Macao International Dragon Boat Races, Summer Super 8, Wushu Masters Challenge, The Terrific 12, Macau Grand Prix, and Macao International Marathon. These events are organised to jointly promote sports, culture, creative industries and tourism in Macao, and are in accordance with the principle of fostering sports development by organising major sports events.

Four top-class volleyball teams – China, Poland, Serbia and Thailand, were invited to compete in the FIVB Women's Volleyball Nations League Macao 2018.

A total of 160 local and foreign teams participated in the Macao International Dragon Boat Races 2018.

Eight top-class Asian basketball teams, including from China, Korea, the Philippines, Japan and Chinese Taipei, were invited to compete in Summer Super 8.

About 1,700 famous martial artists, athletes and enthusiasts from 29 countries and regions worldwide (including Macao) participated in the Wushu Masters Challenge 2018.

A total of 12 top-class Asian basketball teams, including from mainland China, Japan, Korea, the Philippines and Chinese Taipei, competed in The Terrific 12.

A total of 157 race drivers from 34 countries and regions participated in the 65th Macau Grand Prix, with an audience of 83,000. This year, the Grand Prix was again authorised by the International Automobile Federation to simultaneously hold other major car races, including the FIA F3 World Cup and the FIA GT World Cup.

The 37th Macao International Marathon attracted participation by a total of 12,000 athletes from 50 countries and regions in three categories — Marathon, Half-Marathon and Mini Marathon.

Sport for All

In 2018, a total of 393,040 people took part in the 21 activities organised by the Sports Bureau, with 66,491 of them participating in the 2,781 Sport for All Fitness and Recreational Classes. In 2018, the annual summer activities accommodated a total of 57,234 people, with 24,827 places for sport activities. In all, 130 activities and 830 classes were arranged.

Competitive Sport

During 2018, the Sports Bureau sponsored the organisation of and participation in 413 competitions, 162 training programmes, and 57 international conferences.

In 2018, a total of 65 athletes, coaches, coaches for youth training, and technical

support crew in nine sports were awarded cash prizes for their outstanding performances in nine events, while 249 athletes, coaches and technical support crew from 20 sports associations were awarded certificates of merit.

Sports Medicine

In 2018, the Sports Medical Centre provided medical services to 6,952 people. It provided medical assistance to 50 competitions and activities and offered medical services to 547 people.

In 2018, the centre provided physical fitness testing services to 1,191 people; and 9,596 people participated in the fitness test at the sports health information centre and the health information centre for the elderly.

Furthermore, 5,275 people participated in the Anti-doping Outreach Education Campaign co-organised by the Sports Bureau and the China Anti-doping Agency (CHINADA); and 153 people took part in training and seminars held by the centre.

Sports and Recreation Venues

Public Sports Facility Network

In 2006, the Sports Bureau integrate the sports facilities and resources into a public sports facility network to help members of the public enhance their physical fitness and establish regular exercise regimens. Sports facilities within the network cover different districts in Macao. They are where residents take part in daily physical training, sports associations train elite athletes, and major sports events take place.

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, Nam Van Lake Nautical Centre, Macao Forum, water biking at Anim'Arte NAM VAN, Sports Ground on Avenida do Comendador Ho Yin, Sports Ground on Estrada do Canal dos Patos, Sports Ground on Rua Central da Areia Preta, Sports Ground on Rua Central da Areia Preta, Sports Ground on Av. Do Almirante Magalhães Correia, Sports Ground at Veng Neng, Sports Ground at Cheng Choi, Sports Ground at Sai Van, Dr. Sun Yat Sen Swimming Pool, and Estoril Swimming Pool, Mong Ha Sports Pavilion (under reconstruction), the Workers' Soccer Pitch, San Kio Sports Ground, the Integrated Services Building of Women's General Association of Macao, the basketball court of Keang Peng Secondary School, Ginásio Polidesportivo da Escola Primaria Oficial Luso-Chinesa Sir Robert Ho Tung, and the basketball court of Kwong Tai Middle School.

Sports facilities in Taipa include the Olympic Complex, Carmo Swimming Pool, Sports Training Centre, Northeast Taipa Sports Centre, Sports Ground in Lake Building,

Sports Ground in Taipa Central Park, Taipa Central Park Swimming Pool, UM Stadium & Sports Complex, the Taipa Lago Integrated Services Centre of Macao Federation of Trade Unions, and the indoor multi-purpose stadium of Premier School Affiliated to Hou Kong Middle School.

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, Coloane Karting Track, Hac Sa Park Swimming Pool, Sports Ground at Hac-Sa Beach, Sports Ground at Hác-Sá Village, and Cheoc Van Swimming Pool.

Some of the above-mentioned sports facilities are managed by the Sports Bureau, while the rest join the Public Sports Facility Network through various kinds of collaboration. Sports facilities of different organisations are opened for public use, thus making good use of the facilities and promoting a healthy lifestyle in leisure time by allowing more residents to engage in sports and physical training on a long-term basis.

There are also many other sports venues owned by associations, institutions and individuals, such as the Workers' Soccer Pitch and other golf courses.

Public Swimming Pools and Beaches

Swimming is one of the most popular recreational activities among Macao residents. The public swimming pools in Macao include the Estoril Swimming Pool, Dr Sun Yat Sen Swimming Pool, Cheoc Van Swimming Pool, Hac Sa Park Swimming Pool, Taipa Central Park Swimming Pool, Bosco Sports Complex Swimming Pool, Artur Tamagnini Barbosa Sports Centre Swimming Pool, Olympic Sports Centre - Aquatic Centre Carmo Swimming Pool and the Swimming Pool at UM Sports Complex.

In addition, Hac Sa Beach and Cheoc Van Beach are available for public use. They are managed by the Marine and Water Bureau.

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 islands' natural attractions.

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 (1,200 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 among 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 a 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 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 close to a spring.

A cable car was completed and went into service in 1997. The station for the uphill cable car is at the garden entrance. The cable cars can reach Guia Hill, allowing tourists to conveniently travel between the garden and Guia Hill.

Lou Lim Ieoc Garden

Lou Lim Ieoc Garden is the only garden in Macao with the classic ambiance 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; Taipa Grande Nature Park, Taipa Central Park, Lakeside Garden, Flower City Garden, Monument Garden, Laurinda Marques Esparteiro Garden and Pier Garden on Taipa island; and Seac Pai Van Park, Hac Sa Sports and Recreation Park, Hac Sa Arboretum and Coloane Height Park on Coloane island.



**STRIVING FOR
THE BEST**

play





Hosted by the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau and organised by the General Association of Athletics of Macao, the three-day 41st Inter-school Athletics Competition was held in March, with some 2,200 athletes from 50 schools participating in 10 categories of events. Ninety-nine gold medals were awarded and 18 records were broken.

Track-and-field is one of the oldest and most popular sports in the world. For more than 40 years, the Inter-school Athletics Competition has been motivating more students to participate in sporting events, promoting sport culture, and discovering talented athletes, to facilitate track-and-field development in Macao.