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CULTURE AND SPORT



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, Chinese Culture and Natural 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 2019, the bureau launched the Subsidy Programme For Fashion Design Sample Making, and the Temporary Performance Venue Borrowing Programme of the Macao Contemporary Art Centre – Navy Yard No.2; organised the 2nd China and Portuguese-speaking Countries Film Festival, the Greater Bay Area Film Production Investment and Trade Fair, and the “Style • Encounter Moments” Fashion Parade of the Subsidy Programme for Fashion Design Sample Making; and actively participated in meetings and study tours related to film production. In addition, Nam Van C-shop, four cultural and creative shops at the Anim'Arte NAM VAN, the Creative Casa of Taipa

Houses and Tap Seac Square Commercial Centre R3 were leased to and operated by the industry. The bureau also organised delegations to participate in local and overseas cultural and museum fairs, and held a series of activities such as 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 30th Macao Arts Festival

The 30th Macao Arts Festival (MAF) was held from 3 May to 2 June 2019, and featured 22 programmes with 97 performances and art activities, including a visual art exhibition. Nearly 90 percent of the tickets were sold, with an attendance of 27,600 people.

Half of the programmes were locally produced. Non-local programmes were from the Greater Bay Area, and countries such as France, Germany, Belgium, Argentina, Japan and Portugal, spanning drama, dance, Cantonese opera, participatory theatre, dance theatre and documentary theatre. The programmes were staged in various venues in Macao. This year, under the theme “A Tribute to the Classics”, the MAF imbued Macao with unwavering cultural vitality, through showing the timeless imagery of the iconic works of yesteryear.

The MAF began with *Vertikal*, jointly produced by renowned French choreographer and world-leading hip-hop troupe CCN Créteil & Val-de-Marne / Cie Käfig. To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the inscription of Cantonese opera on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, the Cantonese opera *The Soul of Macao*, adapted by first-class national playwright Li Xinhua from an original play by a Macao writer, and jointly presented by actors from Macao and the Foshan Cantonese Opera Troupe, was staged for the closing performance. The interactive theatre “*¥€\$ (LIES)*”, produced by Ontroerend Goed (Belgium) and the Hong Kong Arts Festival and co-produced with the Macao Arts Festival, allowed the audience to sense the heady atmosphere of trading markets and the heat of money.

Moreover, traditional local programmes included Cantonese opera *Mu Guiying Breaks Through the Tianmen Gate*, and Macanese Patuá drama *Saving Troubled Daddy*. A series of satellite events and free outdoor programmes were also offered in the community, attracting an audience of about 3,400 people.

The 33rd Macao International Music Festival

The 33rd Macao International Music Festival was held from 4 October to 30 October 2019, with a total of 17 programmes and 44 performances including satellite events with the theme “The Instrumentalist”. In all, 9,069 tickets were sold – a take-up rate of over 90 percent. Performing groups from Germany, Sweden, Finland, the United States, Portugal, the Gambia, Austria, Bulgaria, Korea, mainland China and Macao staged performances that formed a musical extravaganza of exceptional quality.

The festival began with *The Magic Flute* produced by Komische Oper Berlin. The prestigious Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and celebrated Chinese pianist Wang Yuja were invited to jointly present two concerts in Macao, which were broadcast to dozens of EU countries. As the year 2019 marked the 80th anniversary of *The Yellow River Cantata*, the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the People’s Republic of China and the 20th anniversary of Macao’s return to the motherland, the Macao Orchestra collaborated with the China NCPA Orchestra and Chorus to present *The Yellow River Cantata*.

Local programmes included: *When East Meets West* in Music presented by the Macao Orchestra with Chinese pianist Sun Yingdi, tenor Xue Haoyin and Pipa virtuoso Dong Xiaolin; *Serenade of Strings* presented by Macao’s violin prodigy Sophia Su and Sejong Soloists; and *Bravo Macao!* presented by young local Chinese instrumentalists Choi Hio Lam and Fang Teng.

The 18th Macao City Fringe Festival

The 18th Macao City Fringe Festival was held from 11 January to 27 January 2019. Over 80 percent of the tickets for 101 performances in 18 programmes were sold, for an audience of about 9,780 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. Non-local artists performing in the festival were from mainland China, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, the United States and France. Performances including drama, dance, physical theatre, live art and immersive theatre were staged.

During the 17-day festival, a series of programmes, including underwater concert *Wet Sounds*, *The Supermarket for All*, *A Short Time Escape*, *Flash Mob - Phubber Drama*, and *The Icebook*, were staged in various unusual venues in Macao, such as swimming pools, supermarkets and bus stops.

In addition, performing arts curators from Australia, Korea and Chongqing were invited to introduce the festivals and cultural environments in their hometowns, in the sharing session “Fringe Exchange: Connect with 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.

2019 Macao International Parade

The 2019 Macao International Parade was held on 8 December, in celebration of the 20th anniversary of Macao’s return to the motherland. Themed around the cultures of countries and regions along the

“Belt and Road”, this year’s edition of the Macao International Parade invited performing groups from these regions as well as outstanding local artists to sing and dance in their distinctive costumes and styles, and spread the concept of “Love, Peace and Cultural Integration”, turning the parade into one of the largest events celebrating Macao’s return to the motherland.

The parade featured 80 teams of performers with a total of over 1,800 participants, including 61 local groups and 19 visiting groups from Ukraine, Poland, Italy, Belarus, Angola, Kenya, Chile, Cyprus, Portugal, Hungary, New Zealand, Myanmar, Thailand, Hong Kong, and Zhanjiang, Guangdong Province. Participating groups departed from the Ruins of St. Paul’s and gathered in Sai Van Lake Square, where the “Love, Peace and Cultural Integration” Handover Celebration was held. The parade attracted an audience of about 150,000.

Seeking to expand its scale, the parade invited foreign art groups to host a total of 29 outreach activities and performances and workshops in schools, from November. A series of promotional activities was launched on 18 November, and held for two consecutive weeks, to increase the number of foreign artists coming for cultural exchanges and expand the festive parade to make it a major event. These activities attracted a total of nearly 25,000 participants.

The 2nd 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, on 28 June 2019 the Cultural Affairs Bureau held the 2nd “Encounter in Macao – Arts and Cultural Festival Between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries”, with the theme “Encounters in Macao”. More than 200 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 six featured activities – the China and Portuguese-speaking Countries Film Festival, “Cherished Memories from 1999 - Archives Exhibition in Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Return of Macao to the Motherland”, the Macao International Book Fair 2019, Traditional Music and Dance Performance from China and Portuguese-speaking Countries, the Annual Arts Exhibition Between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (including the annual exhibition and “Poetry – Works of Artists in Macao and Portugal from the MAM Collection”), and the “Traditional Chinese Strings and Fado” Concert by Macao Chinese Orchestra.

Art Macao

To promote Macao’s cultural image and cultural tourism brand, the 1st Art Macao, a mega arts and culture event, was held from April to October 2019, during which the entire city was turned into an art gallery. A total of 41 large-scale events were held at 55 locations across Macao, including 21 international art exhibitions, six outdoor art installations integrated into the city’s attractions, 11 large-scale performances and three international youth festivals. A total of 328 artists from 37 countries and regions participated in the events and 1,002 outreach activities. The first edition of

Art Macao drew over 16 million participants.

Under the patronage of the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture of the Macao SAR Government, Art Macao was organised by the Cultural Affairs Bureau and the Macao Government Tourism Office, and co-organised by the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, the Higher Education Bureau, Galaxy Entertainment Group, Melco Resorts & Entertainment Limited, MGM, Sands China Limited, Sociedade de Jogos de Macau, S.A. (SJM), Wynn Macau, Limited, Nam Kwong (Group) Company Limited and five foreign consulates. By engaging the Government, enterprises, artists and residents in a concerted effort to foster cultural tourism, Art Macao injected momentum to the development of cultural undertakings and cultural industries in Macao.

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 2019, the Macao Orchestra held 105 concerts locally and overseas, which were appreciated by audiences totalling around 25,000 persons. To celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic of China, the 20th anniversary of Macao's return to the motherland, and the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Portugal, the Macao Orchestra toured Portugal, and performed *The Yellow River Cantata* in Beijing and Macao.

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 2019, the Macao Chinese Orchestra continued organising arts education, arts promotion and care and concern concerts in schools and communities.

In addition, to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic of China, the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Portugal, and the 20th anniversary of Macao's return to the motherland, from 22 September to 3 October the Macao Chinese Orchestra toured Portugal and gave concerts in Lisbon, Estoril and Sintra. On 16 November, it performed in the 17th Chinese and Foreign Masterpieces Performance Season in Shenzhen. On 31 December, it presented a New Year Concert at Hengqin Opera Hall, Zhuhai Huafa & CPAA Grand Theatre, promoting cultural and art exchanges in the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area.

In 2019, the orchestra performed a total of 69 local and overseas concerts and hosted 16 outreach activities, for audiences totalling 14,092 people.

The 37th 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 37th Macao Young Musicians Competition was held in 2019, and was dedicated to the piano. In all, 686 young musicians/groups participated in 17 competition categories. Music teachers and performers from Hong Kong, Taiwan and the United States were invited to join the panel of professional judges for the competitions, which were held from 13 July to 1 August at the Institute for Tourism Studies. The competitions were divided into elementary, intermediate, and advanced levels, with 17 competition categories and 24 sessions; there were 332 winners in total. A Special Prize Competition was held on 4 August at the Institute for Tourism Studies, with four special awards presented and one contestant receiving the Cultural Affairs Bureau Prize.

Celebration For The Year Of The Pig

The celebration for Chinese New Year was held from 5 to 7 February 2019, during which the Shanxi Drum Art Association and the Ethnic Arts Troupe of Hunan staged a series of gong and drum and ethnic dance performances in venues such as Iao Hon Market Garden, Border Gate Square, Largo do Pagode da Barra, Rotunda de Carlos da Maia, Pak Tai Temple Square and Eduardo Marques Garden.

The two art groups also participated in the performance at the Anim'Arte NAM VAN. Representative bearers of intangible cultural heritage from Shanxi and Hunan demonstrated the making of traditional Chinese New Year handicrafts at the booths. The event attracted an audience of 30,000 people.

“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 28 April to 1 May 2019. Bands from Macao, Asia, Europe and America were invited to entertain audiences during a major music event with marathon music performances. Three specially designed stages were set up on the beach and in the woods, in addition to music workshops, a cultural and creative fair, art booths for children and parents, and the “HUSH!!300 Seconds” short video competition. A handicraft market selling various cultural and creative products and delicacies were also held during the four-day concert. The event attracted an audience of about 15,000.

Haojiang Moonlight Night – Dance Drama Thangka

The dance drama *Haojiang Moonlight Night – Thangka* was staged at the Macao Cultural Centre Grand Auditorium on 13 September 2019. *Thangka* depicted Thangka artists painting with their lives, reverently and persistently inheriting and carrying forward the true, the good and the beautiful,

as well as the art of Thangka painting. It was also a dance drama with historical and humanistic sentiments, presenting local customs and practices, inheriting and preserving the intangible cultural heritage by artistic means. The drama attracted 710 spectators. The dance drama was one of the feature events of Art Macao.

In addition, two sharing sessions were held in schools in Macao, to enrich students' knowledge of the cultural and historical backgrounds of Chinese ethnic groups. A total of about 120 persons participated in the sharing sessions.

Acrobatic show to Celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the National Day of the People's Republic of China – The Golden Hooped Rod

To celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the National Day of the People's Republic of China, the Nanjing Acrobatic Art Troupe Co. Ltd. was invited to Macao, to perform a large-scale acrobatic show, The Golden Hooped Rod. 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 2019. The show attracted an audience of 1,500.

The 22nd Lusofonia Festival

The 22nd Lusofonia Festival was held from 18 to 20 October 2019 at the Taipa Houses-Museum. It enabled participants to understand the cultures of various Portuguese-speaking countries.

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 20,000 participants.

A Show by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Cantonese Opera Masters

Jointly presented by the Department of Culture of Guangdong Province, the Home Affairs Bureau of the Hong Kong SAR, and the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macao SAR, and organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department of the Hong Kong SAR, the cultural exchange programme *A Showcase of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Cantonese Opera Masters* was jointly performed by famous artists from the Guangzhou Cantonese Opera Institute, the Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong and the Chinese Opera Songs (Macao) Association. The Cantonese Opera classic *Time to Go Home* was staged at the Macao Cultural Centre Grand Auditorium on 2 November 2019, attracting 918 spectators.

2019 New Year Countdown Celebrations

On 31 December, the Macau Countdown Concert 2019 and the Taipa Countdown Show 2019 were held in Sai Van Lake Plaza and Taipa Houses-Museum, respectively, featuring amazing performances

to celebrate the New Year.

Artists such as Hong Kong singing and dancing group Mirror and Macao singer Terence Siufay were invited to perform in the Macau Countdown Concert 2019. The show attracted an audience of about 28,000, with about 22,000 spectators in Sai Van Lake Plaza, and the rest watching the show through a live broadcast by TDM or on outdoor screens.

The Taipa Countdown Show 2019 featured several local performing groups, while Hong Kong singer Linda Wong was invited as the guest performer for the show's finale. Themed booths for seven regions – Australia, Korea, the Philippines, India, Indonesia, Myanmar 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 4,000 participants.

Mid-Autumn Festival Variety Show

To create a joyous festive atmosphere, the Municipal Affairs Bureau organised the Mid-Autumn Festival Variety Show in Lou Lim Ieoc Garden from 13 September to 14 September 2019. The variety show featured golden oldies, Cantonese opera, Chinese and Western instrumental music, and family shows, as well as game booths, lantern riddles and moon cake tasting.

“Spirit of the Dragon-Horse” Mechanical Installation Parade

To celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic of China and the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Macao SAR, the “Spirit of the Dragon-Horse” Mechanical Installation Parade was organised by the Government and implemented by the Municipal Affairs Bureau from 22 November to 24 November 2019. During these days, the giant 12-metre tall mechanical dragon-horse made its debut in Macao, and paraded with several local and overseas performing groups, to create a unique and fascinating celebratory parade.

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 2019, 13 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 Centre – Navy Yard No.1, the Temporary Exhibition Gallery of the Municipal Affairs Bureau, the Former Dormitories of Civil Servants (Green Townhouses), the Former Municipal Cattle Stable (Ox Warehouse), Monte Fort Corridor and Chun Chou Tong Pavilion in Lou Lim Ieoc 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.

In 2019, 80 busker cards were newly issued. More than 450 buskers performed at the busking spots, attracting an audience of over 56,000 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 Public 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 2019, the website received 5,242,365 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.macaucci.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 2019, the three websites received 763,725, 502,139, and 1,179,447 visits, respectively. In 2019, the newly established websites Craft Market and Art Macao received 111,213 and 685,823 visits, respectively.

Culture Lectures

Culture Lectures is a culture promotion scheme in the form of small-class lectures on topics such as local history, visual arts, performing arts, literature, and aesthetics. Lecturers explain the different facets of art and culture in a lively and interactive manner.

In 2019, in addition to small class interactive seminars on campus, extension activities of cultural festivals were organised, for students to immerse themselves in arts and culture. Also, Culture Lectures were again promoted to various institutions and organisations. Public sessions were held in the community, during which topics related to the art and cultural development of Macao were introduced to participating students and residents. In all, about 140 activities were organised during the year, with around 5,000 participants.

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 2,142 students.

Protection of Cultural Heritage

Macao’s abundant cultural heritage has witnessed the harmonious integration of Chinese and Western cultures in the past hundreds of years, and is an essential resource for the sustainable development of Macao society. Following the promulgation of the first decree law on the protection of cultural heritage (Decree-Law No. 31/91/M) in 1976, Macao has passed and gazetted Decree-Laws Nos. 56/84/M and 83/92/M in 1984 and 1992, respectively, to provide legal protection for all buildings of cultural significance. In 2005, the Historic Centre of Macao was inscribed on the World Heritage List, and became the 31st World Heritage Site in China. In order to strengthen the protection of the Historic Centre of Macao, 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 protection type and scope, the mechanism for evaluations, and the reward and penalty system.

By the end of 2019, Macao had 147 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. Among the 15 items in the Inventory of Macao’s Intangible Cultural Heritage, 12 were inscribed on the List of Macao Intangible Cultural Heritage. 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.

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, Patuá Theatre, Macanese Gastronomy, Procession of the Passion of Our Lord, the God Jesus and Procession of Our Lady of Fatima, Belief and Customs of Tou Tei, Belief and Customs of Chu Tai Sin, Craft of Bamboo Scaffolding, of which the first 12 were inscribed on the List of Macao Intangible Cultural Heritage in December 2019.

Fun Talks on Cultural Heritage

Talks have been held since April 2018 to explain the composition and values of Macao’s cultural heritage, the importance of heritage conservation, and the Cultural Heritage Protection Law, in an interesting and simple way. Many schools and community groups enrolled in the talks. In all, 40 talks were held in 2019, with 6,793 participants.

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. Six persons were awarded scholarships in 2019.

Macao Public Library

Founded in 1895, the Macao Public Library is under the Cultural Affairs Bureau. It comprises the Macao Central Library, Library in Ho Yin Garden, Senado Library, Sir Robert Ho Tung Library, S. Lourenço Library, Patane Library Red Market Library, Wong Ieng Kuan Library in Luís de Camões Garden, Ilha Verde Library, Mong Ha Library, 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 Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Municipal Park, Taipa Library, Wong Ieng Kuan Library in Taipa, Seac Pai Van Library, and Coloane Library.

Currently the largest public library network in Macao, it houses a collection of 996,000 books and multimedia items, including 945,000 books, 51,000 multimedia items, electronic books in 14,000 categories, about 1,900 items of 848 types in the microfilm section, about 5,200 latest journal articles of 890 types, about 3,800 magazines of 791 types, and about 1,400 newspapers of

99 types. There are 26 databases for electronic resources.

In 2019, a total of 3,394,000 visitors were received. The lending volume was 530,000 books/items, and electronic resources received about 1,235,000 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 2019, there were 798 applications for ISBN and three applications for ISRC.

In 2019, 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 2019, the Macao Public Library organised 613 reading promotion activities, attracting 142,000 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 60,000 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 2019, the gallery received 39,482 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 2019, more than 160 performances under 39 programmes and four exhibitions and arts and cultural events were held in the Old Courthouse, with more than 17,000 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 2019, 198 performances and activities were held in the theatre; most were musical performances. As this is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it received 79,134 visitors in 2019.

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 2019, it received 4,733 visitors.

Former Dormitories of Civil Servants (Green Townhouses)

The Portuguese-style Green Townhouses are former dormitories for civil servants, comprising single houses with exterior walls painted green and white, and with small and elegant interiors, creating an ideal space with a cosy and comfortable atmosphere for visitors to enjoy artworks. During the restoration period, the Cultural Affairs Bureau completely preserved the buildings' facades and appearance, and maintained the spatial characteristics of their front and back yards. The houses are used to hold visual arts exhibitions and related activities, enriching the cultural resources of the area and promoting the artistic development of the community. The townhouses were opened for visits in September 2019, upon completion of restoration, and have received 10,211 visitors.

Former Municipal Cattle Stable (Ox Warehouse)

Built in 1912, the Former Municipal Cattle Stable was used to quarantine and keep cattle. In

1924, the complex was reconstructed, maintaining its layout and exterior, which have been mostly unchanged. In 1987, the cattle stable functions were moved to Ilha Verde, and part of the structure was converted into a storehouse, and the rest turned into an exhibition venue. The Former Municipal Cattle Stable comprises two bungalows that are in parallel, with truss roof structures. The colour combination of the mahogany roofs and khaki walls superbly exemplifies Portuguese eclecticism in architecture. In 2019, the Former Municipal Cattle Stable received 1,323 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 Macau, 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 812,757 visitors in 2019.

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 2019, the Museum of Macau held three special exhibitions. During the year, it received 568,495 visitors, and provided 1,047 guided tours to 17,774 people. It also held 43 activities, which attracted 1,228 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 2019, it received 148,652 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 2019, the Macao Museum of Art received 353,488 visitors. The museum held 14 exhibitions and conducted 549 guided tours, which attracted 13,889 participants. In addition, it organised 220 activities including art courses, lectures, workshops, demonstrations and concerts, which attracted 21,876 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 36,308 visitors during 2019.

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 2019, it received 16,776 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 50,809 visitors in 2019.

Museum of Nature and Agriculture

The first museum to be built on Coloane island, the Museum of Nature and Agriculture, under the 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 thematic exhibitions are devoted to the Geography of Macao, Traditional Farming Tools and Everyday Appliances of the Islands in Bygone Days, Plant Specimens, and Reptiles.

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 451,190 visitors in 2019.

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 24 related guided tours, seven science demonstration sessions, 27 workshops and five electronic courses available for advanced registration in 2019. The museum received a total of 26,462 visitors, and provided schools and other groups with visit services by appointment on 402 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.

In 2019, the Macao Science Center received 690,039 visitors. The exhibition centre, the planetarium and the convention centre received 551,575, 79,468 and 58,996 visitors, respectively.

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 33,227 visitors in 2019.

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 127,627 visitors in 2019.

Iong Sam Tong Pavilion in Lou Lim Ieoc Garden

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 in May that year. It showcases 50 historical items of the Lou family, including photographs, letters, biographical materials, manuscripts and recordings. There were 11,179 visitors in 2019.

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 59,379 visitors in 2019.

Xian Xinghai Memorial Museum

In commemoration of the great Macao-born musician Xian Xinghai, the Government has established the Xian Xinghai Memorial Museum, covering the musician's life history, to honour his contributions

to the nation, promote his musical achievements and establish him as role model for young people. Located at No. 151-153, Rua de Francisco Xavier Pereira, the museum opened on 23 November 2019. It received 3,087 visitors in 2019.

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. With the architectural characteristics of a typical Xiguan Chinese residential building, complemented with decorative elements of Western architecture, the mansion is a notable building in Macao that incorporates both Eastern and Western cultural elements. It received 355,019 visitors in 2019.

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 2019, it received 116,798 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, a 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 21,187 visitors during 2019.

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 2019, it received 28,807 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 121,092 visitors in 2019.

Jao Tsung-I Academy

Professor Jao Tsung-I was a globally renowned “master of Sinology”. The connection between Professor Jao and Macao is profound. He cared for and supported the local cultural industry. He 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 11,888 visitors in 2019.

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, and attracts many visitors.

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 1,080-seat (including four wheelchair seats) multipurpose complex theatre, while the other is a 387-seat (including two wheelchair seats) mini-theatre.

During 2019, the Macao Cultural Centre organised 53 programmes with a total of 571 performances or activities, including dance, music, drama and multimedia. The centre also continued to offer cultural facilities and professional services to various local groups and organisations. During the year, 214 programmes and 975 performances or activities were organised by the centre and its tenants, receiving 144,405 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 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Cup Regatta & Macao Cup International Regatta, the FIVB Women's Volleyball Nations League Macao, the Macao International Dragon Boat Races, Wushu Masters Challenge, the "East Asia Super League – The Terrific 12" basketball tournament, 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.

Ten teams from Australia, Canada, Estonia, the Philippines, France, Germany, Japan, Russia, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates were invited to compete with ten teams from the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in the 2019 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Cup Regatta & Macao Cup International Regatta.

Four top-class volleyball teams – China, Belgium, Korea and Thailand, were invited to compete in the FIVB Women's Volleyball Nations League Macao 2019.

A total of 163 local and foreign teams participated in the Macao International Dragon Boat Races 2019.

About 646 famous martial artists, athletes and enthusiasts from 15 countries and regions worldwide (including Macao) participated in the Wushu Masters Challenge 2019.

A total of 12 top-class Asian basketball teams from mainland China, Japan, Korea and the Philippines, competed in the "East Asia Super League – The Terrific 12" basketball tournament.

A total of 167 race drivers from 35 countries and regions participated in the 66th Macau Grand Prix, with an audience of 86,000. 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 38th Macao International Marathon attracted participation by a total of 12,000 athletes from 52 countries and regions, in three categories — Marathon, Half-Marathon and Mini Marathon.

Sport for All

In 2019, 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 2019, 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 2019, the Sports Bureau sponsored the organisation of and participation in 401 competitions, 176 training programmes, and 58 international conferences.

In 2019, a total of 89 athletes, coaches, coaches for youth training, and technical support crew in eight sports were awarded cash prizes for their outstanding performances in 13 events, while 312 athletes, coaches and technical support crew from 23 sports associations were awarded certificates of merit.

As athletes in the international sports arena are becoming more professional, to support and promote the long-term development of competitive sports in Macao, the Athletes Training Centre in Cotai commenced operation on 5 December 2019. High-quality training facilities are provided to athletes, to support the athlete training system in Macao in a better, more professional manner.

Sports Medicine

In 2019, the Sports Medical Centre provided medical services to 9,047 people. It provided medical assistance to 50 competitions and activities and offered medical services to 632 people.

In 2019, the centre provided physical fitness testing services to 748 people; and 8,111 people participated in the fitness test at the sports health information centre and the health information centre for the elderly.

Furthermore, 7,031 people participated in the Anti-doping Outreach Education Campaign co-organised by the Sports Bureau and the China Anti-doping Agency (CHINADA); and 836 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), Macao Federation of Trade Unions Workers Stadium, 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 and golf courses owned by associations, institutions and individuals.

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 (1,250 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 (2,250 metres), Ka Ho Height Circuit (1,490 metres), Seac Pai Van Park Trail (1,680 metres), Coloane Stone Washbasin Ancient Route (about 1,375 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. In 2019, the Municipal Affairs Bureau specially relocated the Sculpture Park of Chinese Ethnic Groups on Taipa Grande to Comendador Ho Yin Park.

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 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 multipurpose sports court, recreational 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, Areia Preta Seaside Park, Iao Hon Market Garden, Art Garden, Areia Preta Urban Park, Chunambeiro Park and Reservoir Park on the Macao peninsula; Taipa Grande Nature Park, Taipa Central Park, Flower City Garden, Monument Garden and Pier Garden on Taipa island; and Seac Pai Van Park, Hac Sa Park, Hac Sa Beach Park, Coloane Arboretum and Coloane Height Park on Coloane island.



Jao Tsung-i Academy

Professor Jao Tsung-i was widely honoured as “master of Sinology” with his remarkable achievements and outstanding contributions in literature, arts and academics. The connection between the late Professor Jao and Macao is profound, as he cared for and supported the local cultural industry while devoting to academic research in related areas. He had donated his paintings and calligraphy works to collections in cultural institutions and museums in Macao.

Established on August 2015, the Jao Tsung-i Academy introduces the public to the academic achievements of Professor Jao and promotes Chinese culture and arts as well as the academic exchange of national studies.



