

Hong Kong's Inaugural Performing Arts Expo to showcase Hong Kong's Vibrant Performing Arts and Establish City as Hub for International Cultural Exchange

A flagship platform for performing arts featuring over 60 programmes

The Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) proudly presents the inaugural **Hong Kong Performing Arts Expo (HKPAX)**. Held from **14 to 18 October 2024**, the five-day expo institutes an important platform for new artistic connections, establishing Hong Kong as an East-meets-West centre for cultural exchange amongst passionate creatives from across the city, Mainland China, and the world. Vibrant and dynamic, the event hosts a myriad of activities, including specially crafted programmes, international showcases, pitch sessions, talks and networking opportunities.

HKPAX Highlights

Expo Programmes

HKPAX has collaborated with international arts organisations to co-create three exciting programmes highlighting local and international talent:

- **“1014” – Nanyin x Jazz co-created by HKPAX and China Performing Arts Agency**
Local artists from Hong Kong and Mainland China come together to explore humanity's hopes and uncertainties about the future in a unique musical theatre production that fuses *Nanyin*, a style of classical Chinese music, and Jazz.
- **Time in a Bottle co-created by HKPAX and Ishikawa Ongakudo**
Hong Kong composer Leon Ko collaborates with Japanese set designer Hiroko Matsuo in a theatrical presentation that integrates music, scent, and perfume bottles. An oboe, a string quartet, and a piano accompany the evocative visual journey.
- **Journey of Discovery co-created by HKPAX and National Arts Council of South Africa**
Hong Kong-born music director Ng Cheuk-yin spearheads an alliance between young musicians from South Africa and Hong Kong. Blending diverse cultural backgrounds and music styles from both regions, the piece pushes at new musical horizons and invites the audience on an exploratory sonic journey.

In addition, a variety of Hong Kong's major performing arts institutions, including the Hong Kong Arts Festival, The Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the Hong Kong Ballet, and the Hong Kong Philharmonic, will showcase signature full-length productions at multiple esteemed theatres across the city.

International Showcases

Since August 2023, over 300 professional troupes from around the globe submitted projects in the hopes of being part of HKPAX's international showcase. Out of these 300, only 15 were selected, including 5 from Hong Kong and Mainland China. Set to converge in Hong Kong, the curated displays

include drama, dance, musical theatre, Chinese opera (xiqu), and diverse multidisciplinary arts – ranging from grand-scale productions to intimate solo productions.

International showcases include *BENCHED* by Denmark's Uppercut Dance Theatre, a dance show oriented around shifting benches that marries contemporary dance, breakdancing capoeira and street dance to explore the complexities of human relationships; *LauZone* from Hong Kongers Anna Lo and Rick Lau, a cabaret show employing original music and irreverent humour to honour the city's rich melting pot of culture; and *Perhaps, Perhaps... Quizas* by Gabriela Muñoz, a Finnish Mexican clown who delves into loneliness, waiting and yearning in an emotive routine.

Pitch Sessions

Selecting programmes from over 100 global submissions, 12 arts practitioners from 7 countries and regions, including 5 from Hong Kong and Mainland China, have been chosen to share ideas, and explore and nurture potential partnerships. Some pitches presented at these sessions include *Future Rites* presented by the UK's Alexander Whitley Dance Company, *Shan Shui: An Ode to Nature* presented by Hong Kong Dance Company, and *Nobles in Long Robes* presented by Mainland China's Tian Dance Company (Mainland).

Conversations

As well as inviting attendees to experience a number of fresh performances from the world's up-and-comers, HKPAX also brings guests into the worldwide discussion examining dynamic art scenes and global cultural trends. The expo incubates important and productive arts dialogues through numerous conversation-focused programmes, such as forums, leadership talks, and sharing sessions from artists, arts leaders and producers, the expo incubates important and productive arts dialogues.

West Kowloon Art Park Exhibition

Under the marquee on the beautiful lawn of West Kowloon's Art Park, exhibitors will gather to display their playfully spirited ideas promoting arts practitioners, venues and festivals. In this space, art professionals introduce their exciting productions and pitch new projects to potential supporters and audiences.

Ground Search

To highlight Hong Kong's diverse culture formed by the fusion of Chinese heritage and Western Culture, HKPAX has dedicated a platform to local solo, small and medium-sized performing arts, allowing them to connect to the expo's international participants organically while showcasing their talents.

Tour to Guangzhou/ Shenzhen

HKPAX is further offering an optional tour of Shenzhen and Guangzhou - two hotbeds of performing arts culture in the region - to underscore the expo's aim to foster cultural exchange and immersion. HKPAX will arrange all transportation, accommodation, scheduling, and meetings with local artists

and administrators during the trip. Available activities include a luncheon in Shenzhen with performing arts practitioners, a visit to the cultural facilities in Guangming district, the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra, and Xianghai Concert Hall – where participants can connect with like-minded art professionals and enthusiasts.

Cultural Offerings

HKPAX's cultural offerings provide participants rare opportunities to immerse themselves in first-hand experiences, soaking up unique Asian cultural ambience and traditions, and nurturing both body and soul.

HKPAX will partner with multiple venues all over Hong Kong to facilitate its programmes. Most scheduled events will be hosted by the West Kowloon Cultural District, a burgeoning arts hub with performance venues, museums, green spaces and dining establishments, not to mention a waterfront promenade to enjoy the sea breeze. Other venues include the city's prestigious theatres and exhibition sites, including the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Tai Kwun, Asia Society Hong Kong and Hong Kong Arts Centre.

Hong Kong's first Performing Arts Expo offers a compelling platform that solidifies Hong Kong's status as a vibrant hub for international cultural exchange and promotes a deeper appreciation for the unique hybrid of Western and Eastern culture found in the city. By connecting global arts communities and incubating innovative new works, HKPAX seeks to shape the future of the industry for years to come. We hope all participants are inspired to exchange ideas, explore new horizons of creativity, and help propel the development of a thriving, collaborative and sustainable arts ecology across Asia and beyond.

HKPAX Programme Details:

Hong Kong Performing Arts Expo (HKPAX)

Date	14 to 18 October 2024
Ticketing	<p>Full Pass – Full access to all HKPAX programmes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International: HKD 3,000 • Delegates from China including Hong Kong: HKD 1,800 <p>Day Pass – Access to Pitch Sessions, Exhibition, Ground Search, and Conversations on a specific day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International: HKD 600 • Delegates from China including Hong Kong: HKD 360 <p>Student Pass – Access to Exhibition, Ground Search, and Conversations (Exclusive to Hong Kong tertiary-level students)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HKD 600

	Public ticket sales will commence on 2 September 2024 at URBTIX.
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For more information and registration details, please visit the official HKPAX website at <https://www.hkpax.org.hk>.

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Editor's notes:

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About Hong Kong Performing Arts Expo (HKPAX)

To strengthen the global network of arts institutions and practitioners in the region and beyond, the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) hosts the Hong Kong Performing Arts Expo (HKPAX, pronounced as “Hong-Kong-pax”) from 14 to 18 October 2024, presenting Expo Programmes, International Showcases, Pitch Sessions, Talks, Exhibition and Networking Activities to encourage interaction and promote exchange among arts professionals from China including Hong Kong and around the globe.

HKPAX embodies the city’s passion in fostering cultural exchange and the fully developed ecology of creative industries both locally and regionally. Its manifest goals include bringing arts professionals from China and worldwide together in Hong Kong to experience the city’s unique culture and thriving performing arts landscape; conferring and connecting with performing arts practitioners far and wide and building sustainable relationships. We believe this platform fosters the understanding of different cultures, further inspiring creativity and encouraging potential collaboration.

The “X” symbol of the HKPAX logo exemplifies how people hailing from different cultures can converge and intersect, exploring collaborations and exchanging a wide spectrum of creative ideas. We specifically believe that “Xplore” (Explore), “Xperience” (Experience), “Xpress” (Express), “Xhibit” (Exhibit), “Xchange” (Exchange) should be the HKPAX’s key attributes. Meanwhile, the HKPAX follows the tenet of “Act and Interact”. We hope that Hong Kong can serve as a gateway for the world to act upon and explore Chinese and Asian cultures, thus stimulating deeper engagements in cross-cultural exchange.

About Hong Kong Arts Development Council

Established in 1995, the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) is a statutory body set up by the Government to support the broad development of the arts in Hong Kong. Its major roles include grant allocation, policy and planning, advocacy, promotion and development, and special projects. The mission of HKADC is to support and promote the development of 10 major art forms in literary arts, performing arts, visual arts as well as film and media arts in Hong Kong. Aiming to foster a thriving arts environment and enhance the quality of life of the public, HKADC is also committed to facilitating community-wide participation in arts and arts education, encouraging arts criticism, raising the standard of arts administration and contributing to policy research.

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