

MAJOR EVENTS OF THE YEAR

APR

To strengthen and retain the cultural characteristics of Kowloon City, URA supported the organisation of the Songkran Festival celebration after a three-year suspension due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A team of URA staff volunteers assisted in the logistics arrangement of the celebration activities, which was highly appreciated by the local and Thai community.



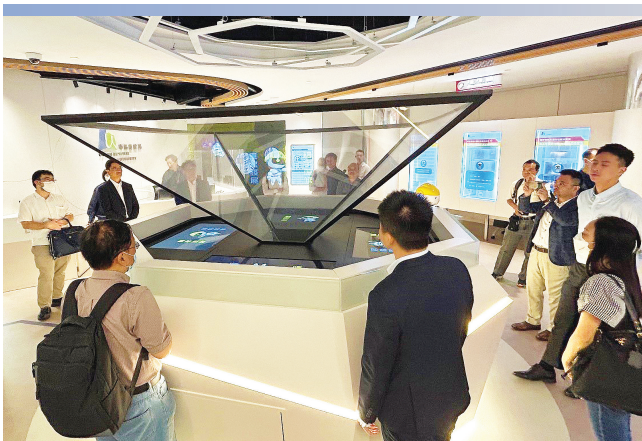
MAY



Enlivened as a hotspot and playground for all, Central Market won the Sustainable Development Award and Grand Award in the Hong Kong Building (Renovation/Revitalisation) category of the Quality Building Award 2022, for its outstanding performance in preserving the heritage building with sustainable, innovative and green design.

JUN

To offer continuous assistance to businesses during the post-pandemic economic recovery period, the URA extended the special rent relief measures for its domestic and commercial tenants until September 2023. Since April 2020, the cumulative amount of rent concessions has reached around HK\$267 million, benefitting approximately 1,100 residential and commercial tenants from different sectors.



JUL

The Building Rehabilitation Resource Centre was opened to offer the public an innovative and engaging experience with its multimedia display of building rehabilitation information. The centre also offers online video consultation and application services for the public to apply for various subsidy schemes with ease.

AUG

● In collaboration with the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (HKFYG) Leadership Institute, URA organised the youth training programme URA Youth Speak to engage the younger generation. About 30 secondary school students participated in training on building rehabilitation and exchanged their ideas on urban renewal with URA senior management.



SEP



● eResidence Tower 3, the URA's Starter Homes (SH) Project for Hong Kong Residents, received 3,670 valid applications for the sales of 260 units. About 67 percent of the SH units were sold to eligible first-time home buyers in March 2024.

OCT

● The URA handed over a 5-storey commercial space in Tung Chau Street/Kweilin Street Project (DL-5:SSP) to the Hong Kong Design Centre for the establishment and operation of the Design and Fashion Base. With an area of approximately 3,600 square metres, the Base serves as a hub for nurturing young designers, fashion designers and startups, while fostering tourism development in the Sham Shui Po district and bringing new vitality to the local economy.

NOV

● The third-round application of the Operation Building Bright 2.0 (OBB 2.0) & Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme concluded with very good responses from property owners. The application number increased by 75 percent compared with that of the second round, reflecting the effectiveness of the URA's stepped-up effort in promoting building rehabilitation.

DEC

● Over 1.3 million visitors and participants soaked up the fun at a variety of events such as the Christmas Carnival at the "Free Space" in Kwun Tong, as the URA collaborated with Government departments to transform the site of Development Areas 4 and 5 at Kwun Tong Town Centre Project (K7) into a temporary activity space for public enjoyment during the preparation of project re-tendering. The URA has also built a temporary children's playground and ballcourts in addition to opening up a public passageway which connects Yue Man Square and Kwun Tong Road to enhance walkability.



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JAN

● To enhance the vibrancy of the Market Block of Peel Street/Graham Street Project (H18) and its adjacent Graham Market, the URA partnered with a local organisation to run the “Graham Vibrancy Market” programme comprising workshops, busking events and a closing ceremony, attracting many participants to the market stalls and bringing businesses to the operators and hawkers.



FEB

● Riding on the implementation of the Nga Tsin Wai Road/Carpenter Road Project (KC-017), URA has commenced the first phase of revitalisation works of the Carpenter Road Park. Upon completion, the park layout will be restructured with new design and upgraded facilities alongside new passageways to enhance walkability and connectivity with its surrounding neighbourhoods.

MAR



● Under the Community Service Partnership Scheme (CSPS), volunteers of the Upcycling Project produced bespoke furniture out of recycled wood materials and offered decluttering services for grassroots families in the old districts, improving the quality of life of the beneficiaries. In addition, CSPS volunteers continued to organise art creation activities and provide gerontechnology applications to improve the physical and mental health of the seniors in elderly homes.

● The Sai Yee Street/Flower Market Road Project (YTM-013) was commenced under the “planning-led, district-based” urban renewal approach to materialise the Development Node of “Nullah Road Urban Waterway” in Mong Kok East as proposed in the Yau Mong District Study with the construction of an “Urban Waterway” and a Waterway Park as a new “blue-green feature”. With the enhancement of the Flower Market, the project aligns with the planning theme of shaping Mong Kok East into an “Exuberant Commercial District” enriched with social, leisure and recreational and diversified shopping attractions.



APR

- The Preventive Maintenance Subsidy Scheme was launched to motivate property owners to carry out preventive maintenance for their buildings. With cash subsidies, owners are encouraged to compile building maintenance manuals to draw up a periodic maintenance plan alongside establishing financial reserves for future maintenance expenses in order to extend the service life of buildings and slow down urban decay.

MAY



- The “Habyt Bridges” co-living spaces, comprising 38 domestic units in the nine buildings acquired by URA, was launched to mark a new chapter of the revitalisation of the Staunton Street/Shing Wong Street neighbourhood. In addition to preserving the old building structures and putting them to adaptive reuses with revised layouts, some spaces within the tenement buildings are also being preserved as “common rooms” for community members to gather, connect and contribute to local development during the process of community making.

- The opening of the Museum of Hong Kong Literature at 7 Mallory Street (M7) in Wan Chai fostered the position of M7 as a place where “Culture Meets Community”. Displaying valuable manuscripts, publications, and autographs of Hong Kong writers through interactive installations, the museum aims to promote Hong Kong literature and writers, inspire a passion for reading and writing among children and youth, as well as foster the inheritance and growth of Hong Kong literature.



JUN

- The Building Drainage System Repair Subsidy Scheme concluded with a record of around 4,500 eligible applications since its inception in 2021. Considering that the COVID-19 pandemic is over and most applicants of the Scheme have concurrently applied for “Operation Building Bright 2.0”, which also covers the maintenance works for common drainage systems, the Government and the URA decided to end the Scheme.