

MAJOR EVENTS OF THE YEAR 2025

APR

The URA's place-making initiative at the Kwun Tong Town Centre Project's "Free Space" won the "2024 Place Leader Awards – Pop-up Placemaking" in Australia for its innovative design and community contributions.



AUG

The URA separately signed Memoranda of Understanding with City University of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Baptist University to establish frameworks for expanding their off-campus facilities within the Kwun Tong Town Centre Project, underscoring the project's versatility and long term potential.

JUL

The URA co-organised the Innovative Design Competition with the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education. The Gold Award winning project, the "Smart Building Management Robot", offers a smart technology-driven solution for enhancing fire safety and property management in ageing and "three-nil" buildings.



SEP



A collaborative campaign, "Backstreet Alliance – The Local's Guide to Kowloon City", was launched jointly by the URA, the Hong Kong Small and Medium Enterprises Association (HKSME) and CLP Power, successfully engaging over 60 local businesses and boosting cultural tourism and local spending through streetscape beautification, augmented reality photo spots and promotional offers.



- The URA welcomed the Chief Executive's 2025 Policy Address initiative to reserve three sites in the Northern Metropolis for the future Flat-for-Flat arrangement. This forward-looking measure enables the URA to enhance its acquisition and compensation mechanism and pave the way for more flexible rehousing options for affected owners.

MAY

Mr Chow Chung Kong, who was reappointed by the Government, began a new two-year term as Chairman of the URA Board on 1 May 2025. The Government also appointed or reappointed 10 non-executive directors (non-official) for a three-year term.

The award of the development contract for the Shantung Street/Thistle Street Development Scheme in Mong Kok marked the successful implementation of the new Development Facilitation Services initiative, which facilitates developers' bid preparation through pre-tender engagement, thereby increasing the likelihood of a successful tender.



JUN

Ar Donald Choi Wun Hing commenced his three-year term as Managing Director of the URA on 15 June 2025. He succeeded Ir Wai Chi Sing, who retired after nine years of service.

The Government announced the grant of two sites, at Bailey Street in Hung Hom (left) and Tseung Kwan O Area 137 (right), to the URA by private treaty at a nominal premium to provide additional support in the form of land resources for implementing urban renewal.



OCT

The Government reappointed Ms Carolin Fong Suet Yuen as Executive Director (Operations) for another three-year term, effective 3 October 2025.

NOV

The URA's commitment to cultivating a future-ready workforce was recognised with several prestigious Human Resources accolades. These included the Grand Award of the Year and the Excellent Employer of the Year at the HKIHRM HR Excellence Awards 2025/26, the Human Resources Online's HR Excellence Awards 2025 and the HKMA Award for Excellence in Training and Development 2025.

DEC



The URA convened its first Staff Townhall Meeting to forge a cohesive workforce with shared visions. During the session, senior management outlined a strategic vision focused on innovation and operational excellence to advance urban renewal.

MAJOR EVENTS OF THE YEAR 2026

JAN

The first ever Flower Market Festival: Coffee Blossoms attracted over 9,000 visitors and brought together over 20 flower shops. Together with a coffee fair, the festival offered shopping incentives and an online game with e-voucher prizes, boosting local spending and injecting vibrancy to the district.



APR

The "Backstreet Alliance" campaign was extended to Central in collaboration with the HKSME, connecting community stakeholders to promote local character and cultural tourism through unique heritage tours, while stimulating local spending with shopping discounts.

MAR



The 2026 Graham Festival brought together Vocational Training Council students and stall operators to co-create a new brand identity for the historic Graham Market, alongside souvenir redemption campaigns, docent tours, and an exhibition for cultural and creative design, breathing new vitality into the community.

MAY

The URA and The Hong Kong Polytechnic University co-organised the Igniting Social Innovation Competition, attracting nearly 400 secondary students. Participants learned and applied emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, geospatial data, and design thinking to develop place-making and community-making solutions for the Sai Yee Street/Flower Market Road Development Scheme and Peel Street/Graham Street Development Scheme.



The URA issued its HK\$8 billion dual-tranche bond with strong investors' response, reflecting investor confidence in the URA's financial strength and the long-term vision. The proceeds will fund capital expenditure across upcoming renewal projects, sustaining the URA's commitment to community-centric urban renewal.

The URA and the Hong Kong Institute of Architects concluded the Urban Renewal Design Ideas Competition for Yau Ma Tei and Mong Kok. 35 cross-disciplinary professional teams applied new planning tools from the Yau Mong District Study to create sustainable design blueprints that help shape a more liveable city.



FEB

- ▶ The Financial Secretary announced in the 2026/27 Budget the allocation of HK\$300 million to facilitate the launch of enhanced owners support services, and provide subsidies to use the future paid services to organise building maintenance works.

- ▶ The Yue Man Hops event at the Kwun Tong Town Centre "Free Space" combined a Chinese New Year market with inclusive sports experiences. The event successfully drove footfall, fostered community bonding and stimulated local business vitality.



JUN



To facilitate underground utility diversion works for the Kwun Tong Town Centre 2.0 Project, the URA implemented temporary road closures and traffic diversions at Yue Man Square and Tung Yan Street. Proactive, multi-channel measures were introduced to enhance public awareness of the traffic arrangements.

