

PRESS RELEASE

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Standard Chartered Arts in the Park 2022
3 & 4 December in the West Kowloon Cultural District Art Park
Giant puppets inspired by the wonderful works of Charles Dickens
Plus five-days of online arts activities



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(11 November 2022, Hong Kong) Nineteenth-century British writer Charles Dickens – known for his intricate tales about the struggles and hardships of life – produced some of the most widely-read books of all time. This year, our annual youth arts festival *Standard Chartered Arts in the Park* takes inspiration from four of his works – *A Christmas Carol*, *Oliver Twist*, *David Copperfield* and *Great Expectations* – offering a colourful glimpse into his resourceful and fascinating characters. Join us on 3 and 4 December for a spectacular weekend of Dickensian Christmas cheer!

Organised by Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation, sponsored by Standard Chartered Community Foundation and powered by Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, *Standard Chartered Arts in the Park* is Hong Kong's largest outdoor youth arts carnival. Now in its 22nd year, the annual event which are free and open to participants of all ages brings joy and laughter to over 190,000 visitors and helps young participants develop important life skills such as creativity, teamwork, problem-solving, leadership and self-confidence. This year, alongside two days of outdoor events in the Art Park, the programme also includes a five-day programme of online activities to get everyone in a week-long festive spirit!

Four-metre-tall Giant Puppets Inspired by Characters from Dickens

On 3 and 4 December, the two-day carnival transforms the West Kowloon Cultural District Art Park into nineteenth-century Victorian England, with colourful visual arts and performing arts activities and exciting performances. At 2:30pm on both days, the highly anticipated Giant Puppet and Dramatic Costume Showcase takes place in the Art Park. Created and led by six local professional artists and 60 local secondary students, the showcase features 11



four-metre-tall giant puppets – each inspired by a character from the works of Charles Dickens and taking an average of 200 hours of work to create. The giant characters include the miserly businessman Scrooge from *A Christmas Carol*, the cunning master thief Fagin from *Oliver Twist*, Wilkins Micawber the eternal optimist from *David Copperfield*, and old Miss Havisham from *Great Expectations*, who was jilted on her wedding day and lived the rest of her life in her wedding dress. Also in the showcase are 400 students and performing groups sharing over 170 vibrant creative costumes and artworks. Bring a camera and be ready to be amazed!

Other exciting events include eleven interactive art stalls, stage performances, storytelling theatre, storytelling, a cappella performances, African drum jams, circus workshops, large-scale installations featuring 9,000 circle weaving artworks created by Standard Chartered volunteers and students, and a giant puppet photo area for capturing fun moments with family and friends.

Twelve Creative Online Arts Programmes



In view of the overwhelming response to the online and outdoor activities last year, from 28 November to 2 December, to get everyone in a festive mood in the run-up to the carnival weekend, we also present our popular week-long programme of online arts activities. This year, *Standard Chartered Arts in the Park* offers a collection of 12 guided visual arts and performing arts programmes on the official website (www.scartsinthepark.com) and the

[@SCArtsInThePark](https://www.facebook.com/SCArtsInThePark) Facebook page. The free-of-charge festive activities include storytelling theatre performances, a dance performance, a face painting tutorial, DIY activities featuring paper puppets and a festive face mask, plus festive gift wrapping ideas and more – all designed to help children get creative at home with the family at any time!

In line with the government's anti-pandemic measures and to ensure the safety of the public and staff, visitors are required to undergo temperature screening, scan the "LeaveHomeSafe" QR code, wear face

masks and comply with all hygiene measures implemented by the organiser. For more information about *Standard Chartered Arts in the Park*, please visit www.scartsinthepark.com or follow us on Facebook [@SCArtsInThePark](https://www.facebook.com/SCArtsInThePark).

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Standard Chartered Arts in the Park

Standard Chartered Arts in the Park (AIP) is an annual youth education programme through the arts. The six-month programme provides participants with exciting opportunities that help improve their self-confidence and enhance important life skills such as creativity, team spirit and leadership. Every year, the programme culminates in a two-day, free admission family-oriented arts carnival that nurtures positivity, creativity and appreciation of Hong Kong's talented youth.

Launched in 2001, *Standard Chartered Arts in the Park* first took place at Stanley Plaza. Since then, the event has become the largest outdoor youth arts festival in Hong Kong, moving to Victoria Park in Causeway Bay in 2008. In 2012, the *Grand Finale Parade* expanded out of the park and onto the streets of Causeway Bay, and in 2013 the very first illuminated *Night Parade* took place. In 2020, a week-long online programme was launched to help children get creative at home. Each year, over 3,500 young people come together with local and overseas organisations to produce vibrant costumes and giant puppets for spectacular street parades, plus a variety of stage performances and art stalls, attracting over 190,000 visitors annually.

For more information about *Standard Chartered Arts in the Park*, please visit www.scartsinthepark.com or follow us on Facebook [@SCArtsInThePark](https://www.facebook.com/SCArtsInThePark).

About Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (HKYAF)

Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (HKYAF) is a charity that provides access to high quality, non-competitive free-of-charge arts experiences for all young people aged 5 to 25. Established in 1993 by Lindsey McAlister OBE, JP, HKYAF organises inclusive and inspirational projects that reach out to youngsters of all cultures, backgrounds, languages and abilities, and actively creates opportunities for those who are disadvantaged and underprivileged. Each year, HKYAF reaches over 800,000 people through its projects, exhibitions and performances.

About Standard Chartered

Standard Chartered is a leading international banking group, with a presence in 59 of the world's most dynamic markets and serving clients in a further 83. Our purpose is to drive commerce and prosperity through our unique diversity, and our heritage and values are expressed in our brand promise, here for good.

Standard Chartered PLC is listed on the London and Hong Kong Stock Exchanges.

The history of Standard Chartered in Hong Kong dates back to 1859. It is currently one of the Hong Kong SAR's three note-issuing banks. Standard Chartered incorporated its Hong Kong business on 1 July 2004, and now operates as a licensed bank in Hong Kong under the name of Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Standard Chartered PLC.

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Standard Chartered Arts in the Park – Enriching the Life Skills of Hong Kong's Youth through the Arts

Standard Chartered Arts in the Park (AIP) is an annual youth education programme through the arts. The six-month programme provides participants with exciting opportunities that help improve their self-confidence and enhance important life skills including creativity, team spirit and leadership. Every year, the programme culminates in a two-day, free admission family-oriented arts carnival that nurtures positivity, creativity and appreciation of Hong Kong's talented youth.

Hong Kong's Largest Outdoor Youth Arts Festival and Puppet Showcase

Launched in 2001, and inspired by London's *Notting Hill Carnival* and Brazil's *Rio de Janeiro Carnival*, AIP first took place at Stanley Plaza. Since then, the event has become the largest outdoor youth arts festival in Hong Kong, moving to Victoria Park in Causeway Bay in 2008. In 2012, the Grand Finale Parade expanded out of the park and onto the streets of Causeway Bay, and in 2013 the very first illuminated Night Parade took place. In 2020, we launched our first-ever week-long online series of art programmes for participants to stay creatively connected at home. Each year, over 3,500 young people and local and overseas organisations come together to produce vibrant costumes and giant puppets for spectacular street parades, plus a variety of stage performances and art stalls, attracting over 190,000 visitors annually.

2022 Theme and Inspiration

This year, *Standard Chartered Arts in the Park* takes inspiration from four wonderful works by British writer Charles Dickens – *Oliver Twist*, *A Christmas Carol*, *David Copperfield* and *Great Expectations* – offering a colourful glimpse into his resourceful and optimistic characters. As well as the two-day outdoor performances, we have an exciting 5-day programme of online activities, offering a week-long art activities to drum up for the Christmas.

Project Organiser: Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation
 Project Sponsor: Standard Chartered Community Foundation
 Powered by: Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited

2022 Key Facts

Youth participants involved in artworks creation	About 8,000 individuals
Youth participants and professional artists involved in the Giant Puppet and Dramatic Costume Showcase	About 400 individuals
Total number of participating artist groups	52 groups
Preparation time for creation of artworks and dance performances	About 20,000 hours
Number of showcase costumes and puppets	About 170 pieces
Event volunteers	About 300 individuals
Volunteers helping with artwork creation	About 2,300 individuals

2022 Event Highlights

Giant Puppet and Dramatic Costume Showcase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A festive Dickensian Christmas showcase inspired by four wonderful works by British writer Charles Dickens – <i>Oliver Twist</i>, <i>A Christmas Carol</i>, <i>David Copperfield</i> and <i>Great Expectations</i> Featuring 11 four-metre-tall giant puppets co-created by professional artists and students, plus a display of 170 colourful costumes and artworks
Arts education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In preparation for this year's carnival, 52 Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation artist groups conducted artist-in-residence workshops at over 100 schools and youth organisations, collaborating with over 8,000 students to create and showcase giant puppets, colourful costumes and dance performances
Performances by youth groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two days of non-stop live performances of dance, a cappella singing and more showcasing the talent and creativity of local youth groups
2 storytelling theatre sessions, 11 free interactive art stalls, 3 activities in Performing Arts Garden and more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two storytelling theatre sessions of <i>A Christmas Carol</i> (Cantonese) and <i>Oliver Twist</i> (English) take the audience back in time to nineteenth-century Victorian England and the world of Charles Dickens 11 free interactive art stalls offer the chance to get creative making headdresses, costumes and accessories, trying out body painting and balloon twisting, and more. Learn more about Charles Dickens' life and his works in our live storytelling performances Performing Arts Garden features activities including African drum jam sessions, live storytelling performances and exciting circus workshops Plus a scenic photo area for capturing fun moments with our giant puppets
Exhibition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An exhibition featuring 11 handmade four-metre-tall giant puppets Plus a showcase of over 9,000 artworks created by Standard Chartered volunteers and students including colourful circle weaving artworks and painted wooden dolls

Standard Chartered Arts in the Park 2022 – Event Overview

DATE	TIME	VENUE	EVENTS
3 and 4 December, 2022 (Saturday and Sunday)	From 11am to 5pm	West Kowloon Cultural District Art Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storytelling Theatre <i>A Christmas Carol</i> (Cantonese) • Storytelling Theatre <i>Oliver Twist</i> (English) • African drum jam • Circus Workshops • Live Storytelling of "The Giving Tree" and "A Kidnapped Santa Claus" • Live performances showcasing the talent of local youth groups • 11 interactive art stalls • A giant puppet photo area • An exhibition showcasing 9,000 artworks including colourful circle weaving artworks and painted wooden dolls
	<p style="text-align: center;">Giant Puppet and Dramatic Costume Showcase</p> <p>From 2:30pm to 3:30pm</p>	Big Stage, West Kowloon Cultural District Art Park	A spectacular Giant Puppet and Dramatic Costume Showcase featuring 11 giant puppets inspired by Dickensian characters and co-created by local artists and local primary and secondary students, as well as 400 youth participants in dramatic costumes, and the talented dancers and performers from Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation.