

Standard Chartered Arts in the Park 2023

Youth arts festival returns to Causeway Bay in December

Featuring spectacular giant puppets and colourful costumes



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(9 November 2023, Hong Kong) The hugely-popular **Standard Chartered Arts in the Park** – Hong Kong’s iconic annual outdoor youth arts event – returns to Victoria Park in Causeway Bay on 2 and 3 December.

Organised by Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (HKYAF), **Standard Chartered Arts in the Park** is sponsored by Standard Chartered Community Foundation and powered by Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, with the support from the Hong Kong Tourism Board. With a history of more than 20 years, **Standard Chartered Arts in the Park 2023** takes inspiration from **The Carnival of the Animals** by French composer Saint-Saëns, and transforms Victoria Park with fantastical creatures, exciting performances, classic and contemporary music, and creative fun for audiences of all ages.

The two-day free-of-charge carnival also offers an enchanting parade of giant puppets, 18 interactive art stalls, non-stop stage performances by 70 talented youth groups, immersive storytelling, African drum jamming, exhibition of over 6,000 artworks, and meet-and-greet sessions with the giant puppets.

The giant puppet parade returns to Causeway Bay

The highlight of the carnival is the spectacular **Grand Finale Parade** on Sunday, 3 December at 2:30pm. Setting off from Victoria Park, the parade will traverse George Street and go past Sogo before looping back to East Point Road. It features 10 four-meter-tall puppets and 400 young people, including 400 students from 200 local schools and five groups of professional dancers.

To enable more young people to partake in the event preparation, HKYAF also conducted artist-in-residence workshops at various schools and youth organisations, collaborating with over 5,000 students to create and showcase giant puppets, colourful costumes and dance performances.

A colourful spectrum of art styles and world cultures

To bring to life the different animals depicted in Saint-Saëns music, this year's creative work incorporates a colourful spectrum of artistic styles and cultural elements from around the world.

One of the 10 captivating giant puppets is a vibrant Pufferfish created by renowned local puppet artist Paul Chan. Blending new technology and AI software, and decorated with bright, handsewn Mexican-inspired patterns, the pufferfish has a concealed mechanism that allows the fish to puff up and mimic its real-life defence mechanism. Another carnival highlight is the immersive storytelling programme, which features six sets of captivating African-style costumes, specially designed by acclaimed French stage costume designer Lola Clavel to bring the stories alive.



Nurturing a new generation of artists

Over the years, **Standard Chartered Arts in the Park** has featured the work of professional puppet makers from the UK, who had joined us to share their expertise and world-class skills with local artists and audiences. Since 2019, the giant puppets are all created by local Hong Kong artists who, in turn, pass on their skills to emerging artists and young enthusiasts, helping ensure that the art of puppet-making will thrive in Hong Kong for generations to come.

Standard Chartered Arts in the Park is the only youth arts programme offering Hong Kong students the chance to create giant puppets and engage in large-scale art creations. This unique opportunity allows students to delve into artistic experiences that extend beyond the classroom and regular curriculum-based arts activities. It also helps develop crucial skills like creativity, teamwork, problem-solving and leadership. The carnival provides a platform for young individuals to showcase their creativity and hard work, and offers the public a chance to be a part of an amazing annual artistic event. At the same time, it supports and nurtures the development of Hong Kong's young artists and brings long-term benefits to the entire community.

For more information on the **Standard Chartered Arts in the Park 2023**, please visit www.scartsinthepark.com or follow us on Facebook [@SCArtsInThePark](https://www.facebook.com/SCArtsInThePark).

Standard Chartered Arts in the Park 2023

Date: 2 and 3 December 2023 (Saturday and Sunday)

Time: 10am – 5pm

Venue: Central Lawn, Victoria Park, Causeway Bay

Standard Chartered Arts in the Park 2023 – Grand Finale Parade

Date: 3 December 2023 (Sunday)

Time: 2:30pm – 4:00pm

Venue: Starting from Victoria Park, the parade passes along George Street and past Sogo, before turning back at East Point Road

About Standard Chartered Arts in the Park

Standard Chartered Arts in the Park 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 each year previously.

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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 53 of the world's most dynamic markets and serving clients in a further 64. 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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Project Organiser



Project Sponsor

Standard Chartered
Community Foundation
渣打銀行慈善基金

Supporting Organisation



Standard Chartered Arts in the Park 2023

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 Parade

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 each year previously.

2023 Theme and Inspiration

Inspired by Saint-Saëns’ *The Carnival of the Animals*, the two-day, free-of-charge event includes spectacular giant puppet parades, stage performances, interactive art stalls and a whole lot more. Mark the dates in your diary and join us for a spectacular weekend of visual and sensorial art experiences for all ages!

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

2023 Key Facts

Youth participants involved in artworks creation	About 5,000 individuals
Youth participants and professional artists involved in the Grand Finale Parade	Over 400 individuals
Total number of participating artist groups	42 groups
Preparation time for creation of artworks and dance performances	About 20,000 hours
Number of parade costumes and puppets	About 250 pieces
Event volunteers	About 350 individuals
Volunteers helping with artwork creation	About 1,500 individuals

2023 Event Highlights

Grand Finale Parade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspired by Saint-Saëns' <i>The Carnival of the Animals</i>, incorporates unique cultural elements from Africa, Asia, America, Northern Europe and more. The artworks showcase a lively spectrum of art styles ranging from ethnic to minimalist in a captivating carnival of blazing colour. Featuring 10 four-metre-tall giant puppets co-created by professional artists and students, plus a display of over 250 colourful costumes and artworks.
Arts education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In preparation for this year's carnival, 42 Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation artist groups conducted artist-in-residence workshops at over 200 schools and youth organisations, collaborating with over 5,000 students to create and showcase giant puppets, colourful costumes and dance performances.
Diversity and inclusivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Led by volunteers, spark the dreams of underprivileged youth and youth from ethnic minorities with arts.
Performances by 70 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, 18 free interactive art stalls and more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storytelling theatre sessions of <i>The Legend of Anansi the Spider</i> in Cantonese and English take the audience back into the world of African myths. 18 free interactive art stalls offer the chance to get creative making headdresses, costumes and accessories, trying out face painting and balloon twisting, and more. Activities including African drum jam sessions, offering a taste of percussionists and a carnival vibe. Plus a scenic photo area for capturing fun moments with our giant puppets.
Exhibition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An exhibition featuring 10 handmade four-metre-tall giant puppets. Plus a showcase of over 6,000 artworks created by Standard Chartered volunteers and students including colourful decorative koi ornaments and beaded insect artwork.

Standard Chartered Arts in the Park 2023 – Event Overview

DATE	TIME	VENUE	EVENTS
2 & 3 December, 2023 (Saturday & Sunday)	Carnival From 10am to 5pm	Central Lawn, Victoria Park, Causeway Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storytelling Theatre <i>The Legend of Anansi the Spider</i> (Cantonese and English) • African drum jam • Live performances showcasing the talent of 70 local youth groups • 18 interactive art stalls • A giant puppet photo area • An exhibition showcasing 6,000 artworks including colourful decorative koi ornaments and beaded insect artwork
3 December, 2023 (Sunday)	Grand Finale Parade From 2:30pm to 4pm	Starting from Victoria Park, the parade passes along George Street and past Sogo, before turning back at East Point Road	A spectacular Grand Finale Parade featuring 10 giant puppets inspired by <i>The Carnival of the Animals</i> and co-created by local artists and local primary and secondary students, as well as 500 youth participants in dramatic costumes, and the talented dancers and performers from Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation.