

GAY GAMES 11

HONG KONG 2023

UNITY IN DIVERSITY
在多元中團結



FEDERATION OF
GAY GAMES®
PARTICIPATION • INCLUSION • PERSONAL BEST™

PLATINUM PARTNERS



YouTube

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THE BEST GAY GAMES EVER!



70,000+
Individuals
Engaged

HKD200M
Additional Economic
Impact to HK

5,600
Visitors From 40+
Nationalities

1,585
Unique Global
Media Coverage

40+
Multinational
Corporations Support



WELCOME MESSAGE FROM FGG

It is our greatest pleasure to welcome you to the eleventh edition of our international event celebrating LGBTQ+ sports and culture - the Gay Games - this year co-hosted by Hong Kong and Guadalajara, Mexico.

Since the very first Gay Games in San Francisco in 1982 we have upheld our core values of 'Participation, Inclusion and Personal Best™'. Values which have been chosen to empower every member of our LGBTQ+ community to recognise that they have a place in sport, regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, or any other differentiating characteristic.

We have built the Games on a foundation of diversity, respect, equality and solidarity. And for that reason we are so happy to be able to host the eleventh Gay Games here in Hong Kong. As our first ever Games hosted in Asia, we are

incredibly happy to showcase the thriving LGBTQ+ sports and cultural scene here, as well as being able to offer new Asian events including Dragon Boat Racing and Mahjong.

To the participants, officials, volunteers, sponsors, and supporters who have come to Hong Kong, thank you for taking part in this incredible event. Our host cities have worked tirelessly to prepare for this life-changing week of sport and culture, and we are looking forward to all the activities they have prepared for us.

As we continue to celebrate our 40th Anniversary, we wish everyone a wonderful week that captures the spirit of core values - participation, Inclusion, and personal best.

Joanie Evans & Sean Fitzgerald
Co-Presidents



JOANIE EVANS



SEAN FITZGERALD

歡迎訊息

香港活動的同樂運動會聯合會

我們誠摯歡迎您參加本屆由香港與墨西哥瓜達拉哈拉共同主辦的第 11 屆歡慶 LGBTQ+ 體育與文化的國際盛事——同樂運動會。

自 1982 年於三藩市舉辦第 1 屆同樂運動會以來，我們始終堅守「參與、共融、突破自我™」的核心價值。我們奉行的價值觀旨在令 LGBTQ+ 社群的每位成員認知到，他們在運動中佔有一席之地，無論其性別、性取向或任何其他差異特徵為何。

我們將運動會建立於多元、尊重、平等和團結的基礎上。因此，我們很高興能夠於香港舉辦第 11 屆同樂運動會。作為我們首度於亞洲舉辦的運動會，我們非常高興能夠在此展示蓬勃發展的 LGBTQ+ 體育與文化領域，並提供包括龍舟競賽與麻雀在內的新亞洲賽事活動。

對於來港的參賽者、官員、義工、贊助者與支持者，感謝您參加這場令人讚嘆的活動。我們的主辦城市努力不懈地為這場足以改變人生的體育與文化週做足準備，我們亦期待他們為我們精心籌備的所有活動。

在我們繼續歡慶 40 週年之際，我們祝大家有個美好的一週，體現核心價值的精神——參與、共融並突破自我。



JOANIE EVANS



SEAN FITZGERALD



WELCOME MESSAGE FROM GGHK



LISA LAM



ALAN LANG

It is with immense pride and joy that we open our hearts and our city to you for the Gay Games in Hong Kong, a momentous event in LGBTQ+ sports and culture. As we come together to celebrate the vibrancy and strength of our community, it's imperative to reflect upon the journey that has brought us to this defining moment.

From the early stages of planning, the dream of hosting the Gay Games in Hong Kong felt ambitious, yet it was a dream driven by our unwavering belief in the core values of *Participation*, *Inclusion*, and *Personal Best*™. These guiding principles resonate profoundly with our diverse city, reminding us that sport knows no barriers of gender identity, race, religion, age, ability, or background.

Our journey towards this day has been marked by challenges, none

more prominent than the global pandemic. The adversity brought on by Hong Kong's COVID lockdown posed significant setbacks, compelling us to delay the Gay Games by a year. Yet, like a phoenix rising from the ashes, our community's resilience and commitment shone through. This delay, while daunting, only strengthened our resolve and determination to present an event that would be worth the wait.

For the first time in Gay Games history, we are also co-hosting with another city – Guadalajara, Mexico. This is the first time in Gay Games history that the event has been held in two different cities, and the first time in Asia, as well as the first time in Latin America. These games are truly blazing a historical trail.

As a volunteer-run organisation, none of this would have been achieved without our volunteers.

Their dedication over the past seven years has been the very backbone of this event. So as you have the best possible time at these games, do join with me in this shared gratitude for all the work of these volunteers! We couldn't have done it without them!

As the first Asian city to host the Gay Games, we are ecstatic to introduce a mix of traditional and contemporary events, from the rhythmic pulse of Dragon Boat Racing to the intellectual allure of Mahjong. We are more than just a venue; we are a testament to the evolution and acceptance of LGBTQ+ culture in Asia, yet we remain steadfastly the *Games for All*.

To each participant, official, sponsor, supporter, and especially our devoted volunteers who have journeyed to Hong Kong, we extend our deepest gratitude. Because of you, we can truly celebrate our collective spirit.

Even as the festivities begin, let us remember that these times we live in hold much hope... and immense challenges remain for many communities – all the more important for us to celebrate in the spirit of *Unity in Diversity*! May the essence of our core values resonate in every cheer, every stride, and every connection made.

**Lisa Lam and Alan Lang
Co-Chairs**

**Games
for
All.**





歡迎訊息



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林敏蕙



ALAN LANG

親

愛的參賽者與支持者：

我們抱著無比自豪及喜悅的心情，邀請您來到我們的城市一同參加本屆的香港同樂運動會，這是 LGBTQ+ 體育與文化領域中的一大盛事。當我們齊聚一堂共同歡慶社群的活力與力量時，我們亦須反思這場令我們進入此一決定性時刻的旅程。

自早期規劃階段起，在香港舉辦同樂運動會便是一場雄心勃勃的壯舉，更是出於我們對「參與、共融、突破自我™」核心價值堅定不移的信念所驅動的遠大夢想。這些指導原則與我們的共融城市產生深遠的共鳴，時刻提醒我們在體育世界中並不存在性別認同、種族、宗教、年齡、能力或背景的阻礙。

我們邁向這一天的旅程當中充滿挑戰，其中最嚴峻的莫過於疫情蔓延全球。新冠疫情所致的封城在香港亦造成重大挫折，迫使我們將同樂運動會推遲一年。然而，如鳳凰般浴火重生，我們社群的韌性與承諾變得更堅定。此一推遲雖然令人倍感氣餒，卻深化我們對呈現一場值得等待的活動的決心及毅力。

我們是同樂運動會歷史上首度與另一座城市（墨西哥瓜達哈拉）共同主辦的運動會。這是同樂運動會歷史上首次在兩個不同的城市舉辦這項賽事，是亞洲首次，也是拉丁美洲首次。我們很榮幸為同樂運動會開闢了一條歷史性的道路。

作為一個由義工運營的組織，若沒有我們的一眾義工齊心協力，這一切將無法實現。他們過去七年的無私奉獻精神，儼然已成此次活動的強大後援。因此，當您在這些賽事中度過最美妙的時光，不妨與我

一起向這些義工們的辛勤付出表達謝意！活動得以舉辦，他們功不可沒！

作為第一個舉辦同樂運動會的亞洲城市，我們很高興能夠推出傳統與現代互相結合的活動，自龍舟競賽的奮力比拼到麻雀的腦力切磋。我們不只是一個賽事場地；我們更是亞洲 LGBTQ+ 文化的演變及接納的見證者，同時我們仍堅守「人人同樂」的精神。

對於每一位參賽者、官員、贊助商、支持者，尤其是特地來港的一眾義工，我們對此表達最深切的謝意。正因為有各位支持，我們得以真正宣揚我們的集體精神。

即使慶祝活動開始，我們亦要銘記在心，我們身處的這個時代充滿希望，且許多社群仍面臨著嚴峻挑戰——但對我們而言，秉承「在多元中團結」的精神來歡慶一切更重要！願我們核心價值的精髓，在每一次歡呼、每一個步伐、每一次連結中產生共鳴。

Lisa Lam 與 Alan Lang
聯合主席

Games
for
All.



THE HISTORY OF THE GAY GAMES

The spirit of Sport celebrates the body and mind, embodied by values such as excellence in performance, teamwork, commitment, and fairplay. In Sport, we are all equal, what matters is our commitment to achieving excellence.

First founded in San Francisco in 1982, the Gay Games Hong Kong took place from 3-11 November 2023, for the first time in Asia. There are 18 sporting events planned including new events Dragon Boat Racing, Mahjong, and Trail Running; Opening & Closing Ceremonies, Festival Village, and Arts & Culture events with daily performances, a Gala Concert, LGBTQ+ art exhibitions, and

a variety of events to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Gay Games.

Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of ethnicity, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, or background.

Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2023's unique combination of sport, arts, culture, fun and community brought together diverse groups of people from all over the world to converge on Hong Kong in 2023.

Under the theme of "Unity In Diversity", the Games aim to promote unity and inclusion to help Hong Kong truly live up to its potential as a world-class city.



NEW SPORTS THIS YEAR

Hosting the first Games to take place in Asia is not only an honor, but also a great chance for us to celebrate some of the unique sports which have come out of this part of the world.



DRAGON BOAT RACING

Dragon boat races originated over a thousand years ago in the Lingnan region of China, where people believed the water that passed through dragon boat oars was a great fortune, but the modern version of the races actually began in 1976 in Hong Kong.



LIGHTSPEED SABER

This new category of fencing is the world's fastest light-based fencing - think 'Star Wars meets fencing'. The sabers glow in the dark and make sounds as you thrust them at the opponent. It is an athletic & intense spectator sport and a lot of fun too - don't miss it.



MAHJONG

Developed in the 19th century in China, Mahjong is one of the world's most-played games with over 350 million players in Asia alone. Walking through the neighborhoods of Hong Kong, the game is everywhere you look and you'll hear the click-clack of mahjong tiles echoing through the shops and homes.

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NEW SPORTS THIS YEAR

We have also added two other new sports which are gaining in popularity internationally and are a welcome addition to our lineup.

TRAIL RUNNING

Hong Kong's spectacular scenery of waving green hills, rugged cliffs and gorgeous bays filled with picturesque islands, makes it a popular location among nature-loving hikers — and trail runners. It's one of the best places on earth to trail run



DODGEBALL

Despite its somewhat aggressive reputation, Dodgeball has been growing in popularity especially amongst the LGBTQ+ community. It has now become an extremely inclusive sport that celebrates diversity and is often played with mixed genders. We are very excited to add this fast-paced and intense sport to our list of competitive events



FESTIVAL VILLAGE

The Festival Village is a vibrant and inclusive hub for social and cultural activities during the Games. It is located at the AIA Vitality Park, near the Hong Kong Observation Wheel. The Village features live music, dance performances, sports showcases, panel discussions, workshops, and a marketplace.





AIDS MEMORIAL CEREMONY AT FESTIVAL VILLAGE



Since the first Gay Games, commemorative events relating to HIV/AIDS have always played a significant role in representing the endowments of the Games. GGHK is honored to hold the AIDS Quilt Memorial Ceremony as the first official event to kick start Gay Games in Hong Kong.

A special quilt has been created for this memorial service to commemorate people who have passed away from AIDS-related illnesses. Participants of the memorial moment may sign with dedication messages on the quilt.

Through this ceremony and quilt exhibition, we hope to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS, break down stereotypes towards HIV/AIDS and increase public knowledge on HIV/AIDS prevention.





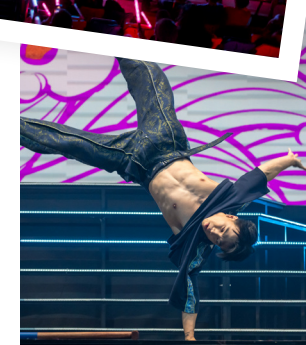
OPENING CEREMONY



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OPENING CEREMONY





SPORTS IN FOCUS: MARRIOTT BONVOY PRESENTS: GGHK DRAGON BOAT RACES





SPORTS IN FOCUS: GGHK STANDARD CHARTERED SOCCER 7S





SPORTS IN FOCUS: GGHK HSBC ROAD RUNNING





SPORTS IN FOCUS: DODGEBALL



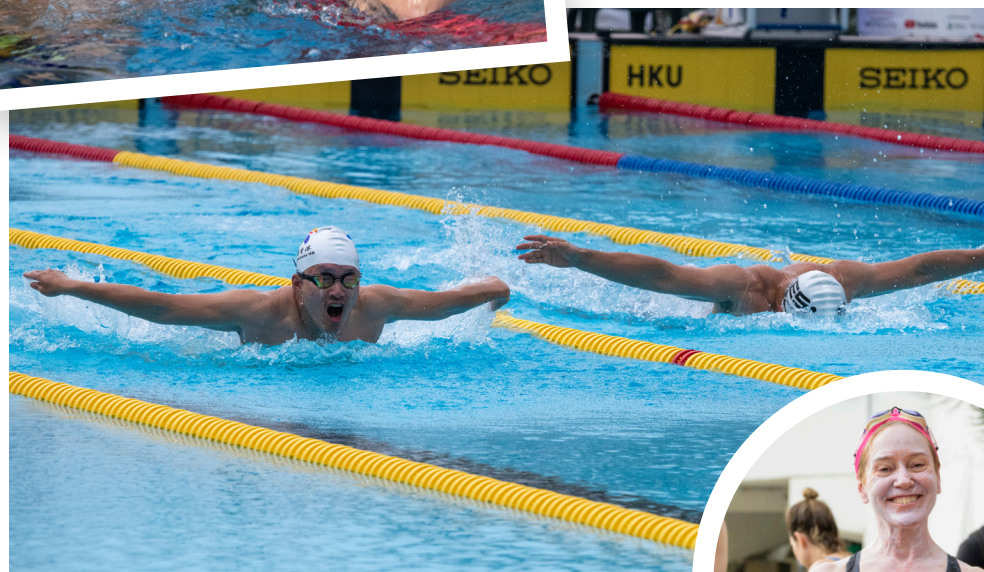


SPORTS IN FOCUS: TRAIL RUNNING



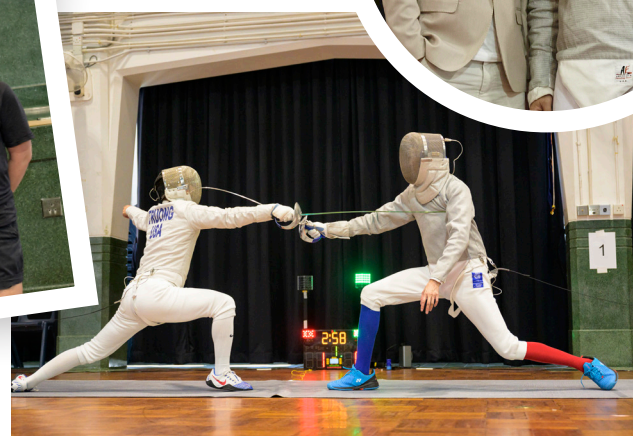


SPORTS IN FOCUS: **SWIMMING & OPEN WATER SWIMMING**





SPORTS IN FOCUS: MARTIAL ARTS & FENCING





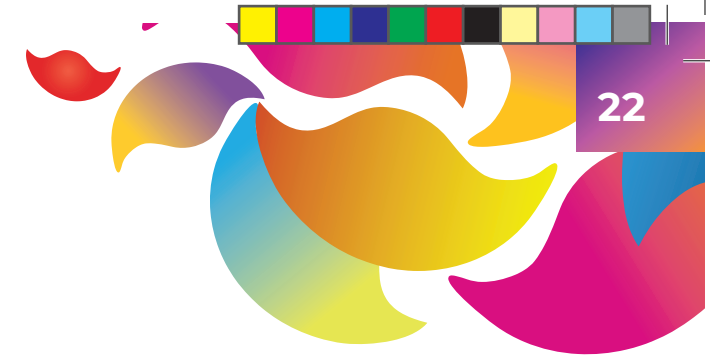
SPORTS IN FOCUS: **BADMINTON & SQUASH**





SPORTS IN FOCUS: TABLE TENNIS & TENNIS





PARTIES! PARTIES! PARTIES!

'Haus of Circuit' is a visionary brand that fuses fashion and entertainment, catering to those seeking exceptional party wear and immersive events.

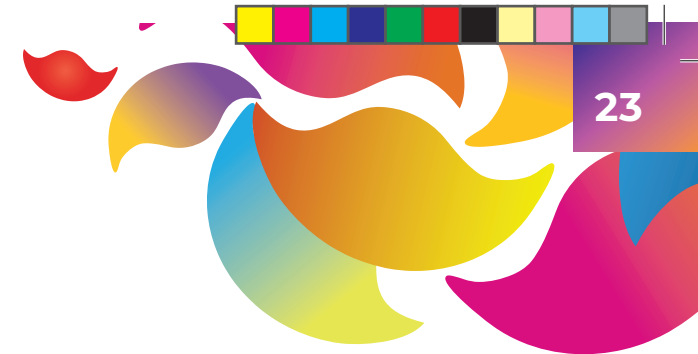
Founded by a team of boundary-pushing creatives, the brand recognized the need for more than just stylish clothes and set out to create a complete experience. Their unique designs and attention to detail gained recognition, while their theme events transported attendees into fantastical worlds.

'Haus of Circuit' became synonymous with innovation, pushing the boundaries of party wear. Today, they continue to evolve, offering trendy fashion and organizing unforgettable events that redefine the party scene.



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PARTIES! PARTIES! PARTIES!

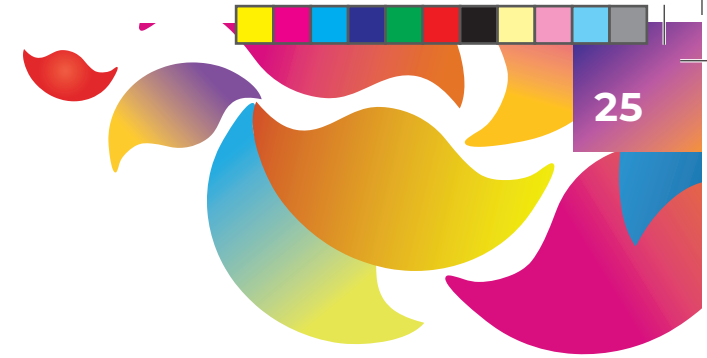




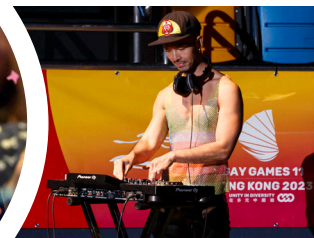
CLOSING CEREMONY

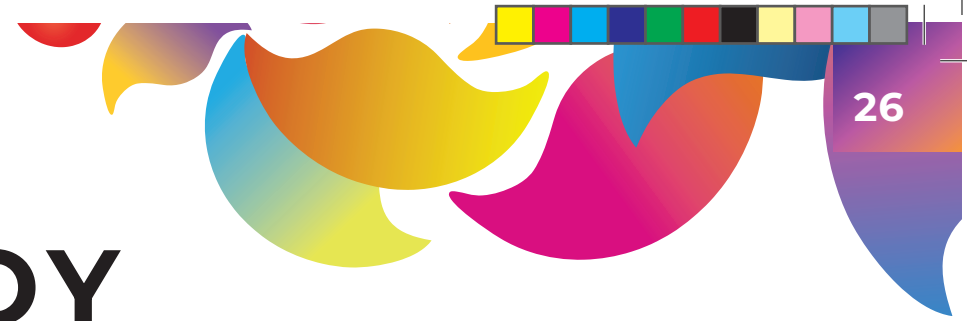


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CLOSING CEREMONY





MARRIOTT BONVOY COMMEMORATIVE COCKTAILS



SPICED-OUT

Ingredients

Los Arcos Tequila Blanco,
Passionfruit Puree,
Domaine De Canton Ginger Liqueur,
Fresh Lime Juice, Lemongrass Syrup

Taste & Flavors

Refreshing, fruity and spicy

Story/Inspiration

A twist on a Margarita cocktail, with a base of agave spirit which comprises of Tequila, complexity of sweet and sour from passionfruit, lime, ginger and lemongrass syrup.

About Ozone

Enter the magical blue-hued surroundings of Ozone at The Ritz-Carlton, Hong Kong, the most celebrated rooftop sky bar in Hong Kong, and let the city hold you in its mesmerizing spell. OZONE offers an ideal location for an unforgettable night, complete with a striking ambiance, inventive cocktails, delicious Asian tapas, and incomparable views from the highest bar in the world.

Address

118/F, The Ritz-Carlton, Hong Kong
International Commerce Centre, 1 Austin Road West, Kowloon,
Hong Kong



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RAINBOW BEAR

Ingredients Absolut Peach, Sake
Infused with Haribo Gummy Bear, Lillet
Blanc, Saline Solution

Taste & Flavors: Dry, fruity and floral

Concept/Story

Rainbow Bear is a sophisticated and refreshing cocktail with a harmonious interplay of fruitiness, floral, and dryness from a mix of intriguing ingredients. A few drops of saline solution help to enhance the sweetness and balance the bitterness in the libation. The Gummy Bears holding hands also symbolize the unity of the community.

About Mirage Bar & Restaurant

Located on the upper lobby at Renaissance Harbour View Hotel Hong Kong, Mirage Bar & Restaurant is an ideal destination to meet, dine and drink with an iconic 25-feet high island bar and contemporary décor, for explorers to savour East-meets-West delicacies curated by Executive Chef Owen Panzica together with innovative cocktails designed by our master mixologist.

Address

1/F, Renaissance Hong Kong Harbour View Hotel 1 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

LOVE FIZZ

Ingredients Widges Gin, Italicus
Bergamot Rosolio, Sakura Liqueur,
Lemon, Yuzu Soda

Taste & Flavors Refreshing, citrusy
and floral

Story/Inspiration

A twist on a classic Gin Fizz with refreshing notes of lemon, bergamot and yuzu balanced by the sweetness and the floral flavor of the Sakura (cherry blossom) liqueur.

The Love Fizz cocktail is a celebration of love, unity, and the spirit of the Gay Games. Its taste profile embodies the essence of inclusivity, with a delightful combination of sweet, fruity, and refreshing flavors. Each sip is a journey through a symphony of vibrant tastes, complemented by a subtle floral undertone that adds an uplifting touch. This cocktail is a symbol of joy, acceptance, and the power of coming together. Raise a glass of Love Fizz and toast to love, unity, and the beautiful diversity that defines the Gay Games.

About The St. Regis Bar

The St. Regis Bar is an intimate haven discreetly tucked away next to The Drawing Room and The Astor Terrace. 17 signature cocktails evoke a tale of two cities, inspired by New York's subway and Hong Kong's tramline, both launched in 1904, the same year that the first St.



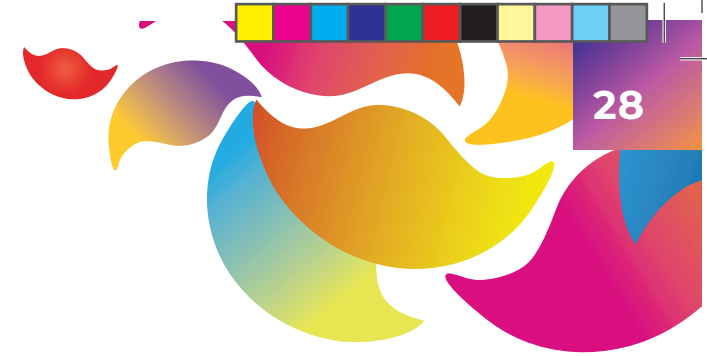
Regis Hotel was opened in New York. As dusk settles, The St. Regis Bar celebrates the twilight with the Violet Hour, a unique daily program at 6:00 to 7:30pm that extols the virtues and values of St. Regis with the sophistication of the iconic Martini. A complimentary miniature of Violet Hour Martini is served straight from the beverage trolley after throwing performed to welcome the boundless possibilities of night.

The St. Regis Bar also serves its own rendition of Bloody Mary called Canto Mary which celebrates the quintessence of Cantonese culture. Local ingredients include chang pei (dry tangerine peel), Kowloon soy sauce and Chinese five-spice mix trace back to the travels of spice traders lured to the coastline of Wan Chai and are reminiscent of the rich amalgam of flavors in Chinatown kitchens.

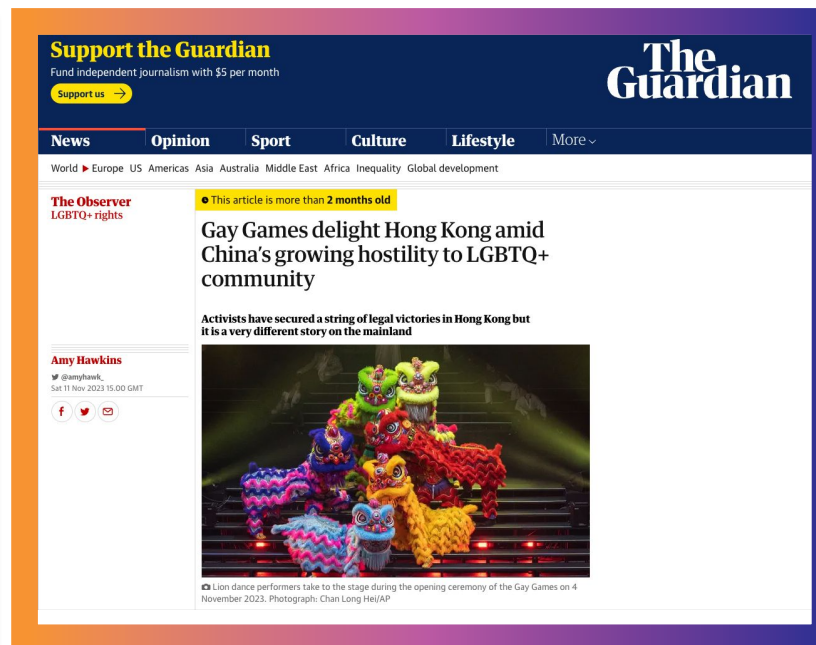
Address

2/F, The St. Regis Hong Kong
1 Harbour Drive, Wan Chai, Hong Kong





PRESS COVERAGE

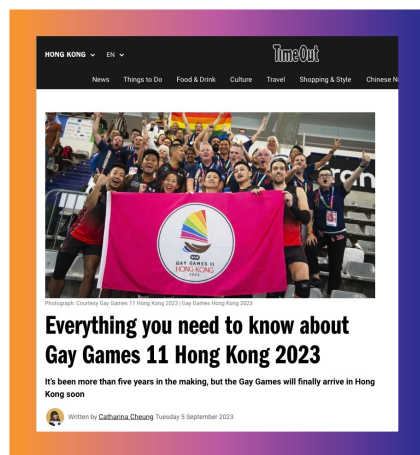
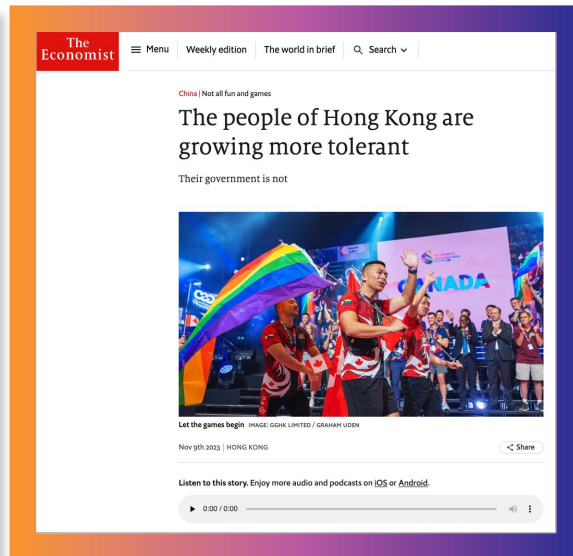


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PRESS COVERAGE





FEE WAIVER

The Fee Waiver Program offered by GGHK Funding Support provides an opportunity for individuals in Hong Kong to participate in sports and performing arts without the burden of registration and participation fees. This program aims to empower the community and create positive change by allowing individuals to pursue their passions and contribute to the development of Hong Kong. We were able to remove financial barriers for 176 individuals across 16 sports from diverse backgrounds have equal access to sports and performing arts. This was spread across individual and team sports, accumulated total of HK\$248,700 fee waived. The notable uptake of Dragonboat with 74 participants and Football with 17 participants in the Fee Waiver Program reflects certain trends and highlights the impact of the program on overcoming financial barriers.

1. Team Sports and Financial Barriers: Team sports, such as Dragonboat and Football, often have higher financial barriers compared to individual sports. This is because participation in team sports requires the collective contribution of the entire team to cover

registration fees and other expenses. By waiving the fees for these team sports, the program has effectively removed a significant financial hurdle.

2. Increased Accessibility: The high participation in Dragonboat and Football indicates that the fee waiver enabled individuals who may have otherwise been deterred by financial constraints to engage in these team sports. The program's provision of financial support has made it more accessible for individuals who are passionate about these sports but may not have had the means to participate previously.

3. Promoting Inclusivity: By removing financial barriers, the Fee Waiver Program has fostered inclusivity within Dragonboat and Football. It has created opportunities for individuals from diverse backgrounds, regardless of their financial situation, to join these sports teams and actively participate. This inclusivity enriches the team dynamics, promotes diversity, and strengthens the overall sports community.

4. Community Building: Dragonboat and Football are popular team sports that foster camaraderie, teamwork, and a sense of belonging. By supporting a larger number of participants in these sports, the Fee Waiver Program has not only enhanced individual experiences but also contributed to community building. It has created a platform for individuals to form connections, build relationships, and foster a supportive sports community.

5. Encouraging Overall Sports Engagement: The significant uptake in Dragonboat and Football suggests that the Fee Waiver Program has successfully encouraged overall sports engagement. By providing financial relief, the program has motivated individuals to actively participate in these team sports, promoting a healthier and more active lifestyle among the community. This initiative not only promotes inclusivity but also recognizes the importance of sports and performing arts in personal growth, community building, and fostering a sense of belonging. By offering these opportunities, GGHK Funding Support is encouraging individuals to embrace their passions, pursue their dreams, and contribute to a vibrant and dynamic Hong Kong.

The Fee Waiver Program is available on a first-come, first-serve basis, and a dedicated fund has been allocated to support this initiative. Participants who meet the eligibility criteria will have their general registration fee and sports participation fee waived. There are three categories of individuals who can benefit from this program.

1. Individuals between the ages of 18-25 as of November 3, 2023. These individuals will be eligible to receive the fee waiver during the specified dates of 3-11 November 2023
2. Foreign domestic workers who are 18 years of age or older and hold a valid Hong Kong SAR work permit
3. Asylum seekers who are 18 years of age or older and are under non-refoulement protection or have formally filed for such protection in Hong Kong SAR at the time of registration



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VALUE IN KIND PARTNERS



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FRAGOMEN





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英基學校協會



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The Chinese University of Hong Kong



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THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



香港大學
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION

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SWEDCHAM
Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong



The British
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in Hong Kong
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NEXT STOP: GAY GAMES 12 VALÈNCIA 2026!



As we welcome you to another exciting Gay Games here in Hong Kong, we'd also like to extend an invitation to you for our next international event - València Gay Games 2026.

Located in Spain - one of the most welcoming, progressive, and LGBTQ+-respecting countries in the world - València is a cultural meeting point, renowned for its passion for music, art, gastronomy and sports.

We have an incredible line-up organised for you, from the epic opening and closing ceremonies, to 36 different competitive sporting events and multiple arts and culture events throughout the city. Our Gay Games Village will have music, conferences and exhibitions, as well as a Queer Kids entertainment and learning zone, and a dedicated women's area for debates and visibility.

In order to promote participation - one of the core Gay Games values - we have devised a scholarship program aimed at individuals from regions where they are discriminated against due to political and socio-cultural contexts, in particular women, trans people, people with reduced mobility and ethnic and racial minorities.

Here in València we have a clear goal - the inclusion of LGBTQ+ diversity in society to celebrate the pride of being yourself and the right to love freely, through sports and culture.

No matter where you come from, you will feel at home in València. See you in 2026!

TESTIMONIALS

“

I have just returned home from travelling after the Games.

Congratulations to you all for putting on a marvellous games. The organisation of the registration process and of my event, the quality of the ceremonies and friendliness of everyone was exceptional. And to have achieved this under the difficult circumstances you encountered in the lead up to the games was an incredible achievement. I only decided to join the games in August and I did so in large measure to show support for the organising committee and the LGBTQ+ community in Hong Kong. I am very glad I did so. I was only able to be in Hong Kong for a couple of days before and after my event but have been inspired to participate in Valencia in 2026, despite the fact that I will then be 70.”

Graeme Healy
Open Water Swimming Participant

“We can’t thank you enough for all amazing day today. The spirit of the GayGames and inclusive support was alive and proud in Hong Kong today.”

Marc Cormack-Bissett
Tai Tam Tigers (Hong Kong)

“

I have told many friends and colleagues about my experience at GGHK. My European and American friends and colleagues usually have the same first question: is homosexuality allowed? Is it legal? You mean that CCP allowed HK to host Gay games? Their question is one of initial disbelief and always followed by relief about HK. There has been so much negative media reporting on HK in the west that just the fact of the successful hosting of GGHK is newsworthy and heartwarming to them. I think that GGHK has helped the west appreciate HK in a better light. HK should thank [GGHK] and the volunteers for a great job!”

Testimony from a Supporter who visited HK in support of her family member who is a Team GGHK member. November 2023.

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TESTIMONIALS

“Awesome day! Fantastic to see so many teams from so many places all come together. Great vibe, much joy and strength! Such a fun day! Well done to the organizers and thanks to all the volunteers. Recognise it's a huge, time consuming role, it is much appreciated! Good luck for the rest of the games!”

Lamma Dragons (Hong Kong)

“Thanks to the GGHK DB committee and all volunteers for organising this event. What a fantastic event! Race officials, marshalls, volunteers were super helpful and friendly. Couldn't ask for more!”

**Kevin Wong
Thames Dragons (UK)**

“What an awesome event! Thank you GGHK and GGHK Dragonboat Committee for such a warm hospitable welcome; hosting us and bringing us, 500 and more members of the dragonboat community from all corners of the globe to be in this inclusive big family event while allowing each member to be their true self and their personal best as an athlete first!

Canada's True North Leviathan is truly indebted for all the kindness of all that has reached out, which had shown how close knitted the dragonboat community is and how resilient the community is in the face of adversities! Thank You!”

**Julius Lim
True North Dragonboat Team (Canada)**

“Thank you so much for organising such a fun event! The Renegade Globe Paddlers had a blast!!”

**Roberta di Fazio
Renegade Globe Paddlers**





GAY GAMES 11

HONG KONG 2023

UNITY IN DIVERSITY
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