

Hong Kong Library Festival 2021 to offer diverse reading experiences

The Hong Kong Library Festival 2021, organised by the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), will be held from October 9 to November 28. With the theme "Joyful Reading • Libraries for You", the festival will lead readers to explore different ways of reading through interactive experiences and multimedia exhibitions, as well as online and offline activities.

In collaboration with multiple units and reading partners, the festival will host various activities in the Hong Kong Central Library (HKCL), district libraries and a thematic website. Some of the programme videos will also be uploaded to the HKPL YouTube channel and the LCSD Edutainment Channel (www.lcsd.gov.hk/edutainment/en/).

The highlight exhibitions of the Library Festival, "Feel in the _____" Interactive Exhibition and "It All Begins with a Word" Multimedia Arts Exhibition, will be held at the Exhibition Gallery of the HKCL from October 23 to November 2. The "Feel in the _____" exhibition is based on the HKCL and tells the story of a grandfather who hunts for his lost memory with his grandson. Through the five different augmented reality interactive experiences, visitors can explore the treasured collections and celebrate together the HKCL's 20th anniversary. Jointly staged by the Library Festival and the New Vision Arts Festival, the multimedia arts exhibition "It All Begins with a Word" is divided into four visual spaces, where words are animated by moving image and dance.

Various activities will also be held at the district libraries, such as storytelling theatre, online reading clubs, performances, story sharing sessions, workshops and talks. Participants will be able to enjoy reading in a diversified way, relax and learn different skills through these activities. Highlight activities include "The Taste of Art", which combines words with candy art; "Self-healing Workshop", in which participants can create art pieces such as aroma stones and mandala drawings; the "Interactive Healing Story Workshop" featuring picture books; "Stilts Theatre" introducing the history and art of stilt walking; and a series of skills workshops and movie talks.

In addition, "Take a Break – eReading Corner" will select 30 e-books each month from two popular online Chinese collections, HyRead and SUEP, between October 15 and December 15. Readers can visit the HKPL's website or simply download the HyRead 3 App and log in with their library accounts to borrow the selected e-books without making a reservation and for free.

All activities of the Hong Kong Library Festival are free of charge, but reservations are required for some programmes. Details are available on the HKPL's thematic website (www.hkpl.gov.hk/hklibfest) and the "Reading is

Joyful" Facebook page (www.facebook.com/readingisjoyful) and Instagram page (www.instagram.com/readingisjoyful).

In view of the latest COVID-19 situation, visitors to the public libraries are required to scan the "LeaveHomeSafe" QR code or register their name, contact number and date and time of entry before being allowed to enter. They will also need to use hand sanitiser, wear their own masks and be subject to temperature checks. For details, please visit www.hkpl.gov.hk/en/index.html.