

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Standard Chartered Arts in the Park 2018 Returns to Causeway Bay on 3 & 4 November Featuring giant illuminated puppets and more inspired by *The Wizard of Oz*



(Hong Kong, 28 October 2018) – “Toto, I’ve a feeling we’re not in Kansas anymore.” This November, the legendary tornado carries Dorothy, Toto, the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, the Cowardly Lion and other favourite characters from *The Wizard of Oz* all the way from Kansas to Hong Kong to celebrate *Standard Chartered Arts in the Park 2018*!

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* marks its 18th edition this year. The two-day spectacle is packed with 7 exciting main events inspired by *The Wizard of Oz*, including Hong Kong’s largest Night Parade featuring giant illuminated puppets, a spectacular Grand Finale Parade, live performances, live storytelling, African drum jams, 16 free-of-charge art stalls, non-stop stage performances, plus this year’s special new event, The Emerald City Best Outfit Contest.

Standard Chartered Arts in the Park is a free-of-charge annual public event that attracts on average more than 180,000 local residents and foreign visitors each year. This year, follow your own Yellow Brick Road and join us for a sensational weekend of visual and sensorial art experiences for all ages!

Giant Puppet Parades in Causeway Bay

The spectacular giant puppet parades are two of the most anticipated events at *Standard Chartered Arts in the Park*. This year, the **Night Parade** takes place on 3 November (Saturday). Starting at Lee Garden One, at 8:30pm, the parade winds its way through Yun Ping Road, Pak Sha Road and Kai Chiu Road to Hysan Place and back. During the event, artists from Hong Kong and the UK-based Lantern Company will light up the streets with 7 mesmerising giant illuminated puppets and 7 groups of accompanying performers in luminous costumes.

The **Grand Finale Parade** takes place on 4 November (Sunday). Starting at 2:20pm at the Central Lawn in Victoria Park, it moves onto Great George Street, East Point Road and back. This magical day-time parade, created and led by 700 young people and professional artists, features 12 4-metre tall giant puppets inspired by favourite Oz characters, including the Wicked Witch of the West, Glinda the Good Witch of the North, the monstrous Kalidahs, the mischievous Flying Monkeys and many more.

This year, local artist Paul Chan brings the Cowardly Lion to life as a giant inflatable illuminated puppet that incorporates 500 LED light bulbs. Fabricated in lightweight windbreaker material, the puppet weighs just 1kg – despite standing 3.8 metres tall when inflated! Operating the Cowardly Lion from inside the puppet, Chan hopes to impress the crowd as he pounces their way!



The Tin Man will also take to the streets, reimagined by Taiwanese artist Jimmy Hsieh as a giant puppet measuring 4 metres in height! Made from recycled waste materials such as corrugated boards and strips of fibreglass, the Tin Man has more than 1,200 LED light bulbs worked into his body. He also weighs 8kg and requires 3 puppeteers to make him move! Hsieh is looking forward to seeing the excitement on people's faces as this giant metal hero comes marching towards them!

The Emerald City Best Outfit Contest – A New Addition with Great Prizes

In the Emerald City, everyone and everything is emerald green. This year, visitors to *Standard Chartered Arts in the Park* have the chance to win great prizes in our new competition, The Emerald City Best Outfit Contest. To enter, simply come along dressed in your best emerald green outfit and share a photo of yourself on Instagram, tagging us **#AIP2018green**.

Education and the Arts Rolled into One

Standard Chartered Arts in the Park is an annual education programme that helps young people in Hong Kong improve their self-confidence and enhance important life skills such as creativity, teamwork and problem-solving through the arts. The six-month programme culminates in a two-day festival in November. Every year, over 3,500 participants from Hong Kong's schools and youth organisations work with professional artists, flexing their creative muscles to produce vibrant costumes and giant puppets for two spectacular street parades, and a variety of stage performances and art stalls. After months of hard work, the stunning results are celebrated with the city at an exciting, inclusive community festival. By providing participants with exciting opportunities in the arts, *Standard Chartered Arts in the Park* contributes towards the long-term creative development of Hong Kong's youth.

Inspired by London's *Notting Hill Carnival* and Brazil's *Rio de Janeiro Carnival*, *Standard Chartered Arts in the Park* first took place in 2001 at Stanley Plaza. That year, the parade consisted of a few hundred participants. Since then, the event has become the largest outdoor youth arts festival in Hong Kong, moving to its current location in Causeway Bay's Victoria Park in 2008. In 2012, the Grand Finale Parade extended its route from Victoria Park onto the streets of Causeway Bay. In 2013 we held the first illuminated Night Parade, offering visitors an enchanting new experience.

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

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NOTES TO EDITORS

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, exhibition and performances.

About Standard Chartered

We are a leading international banking group, with a presence in more than 60 of the world's most dynamic markets. 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 as well as the Bombay and National Stock Exchanges in India.

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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MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Josephine Leung	(852) 2877 2625 josephine@hkyaf.com
Rosata Ching	(852) 2214 0266 rosata@hkyaf.com
Jade Yung	(852) 2877 2207 jade@hkyaf.com