In 2013, through the scheme of integrating creativity and media innovation, the Taipei City Government carried out a series of public service policies, sketching a vision of a future humanitarian metropolis. The Taipei City Government managed this through its organization of enriching and diverse cultural events, by preserving and restoring cultural heritage, by constructing an artistic and cultural environment and by enabling the immersion of cultural activities into communities and into the lives of Taipei residents, all of which fully demonstrate the city’s abundant cultural strengths and energy as the host of the World Design Capital 2016 event.

After two years of preparation and striving to win, the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design (ICSD) officially announced that Taipei was selected to be the World Design Capital 2016. The World Design Capital screening takes place once every two years; the program was established in order to let people around the world see the importance of design and its impact. Cities that have been honored with the title since the program was first established include Torino in Italy, Seoul in South Korea, Helsinki in Finland, and Cape Town in South Africa. Taipei is the 5th city to win this honor.

In 2012, the Taipei City Government officially announced its plan to bid for the title of World Design Capital and they used “Adaptive City: Design in Motion” as their main theme in the bid. To realize the vision of being a World Design Capital, the Taipei City Government continued to channel their designs into concepts by integrating 6 existing municipal development plans, including the Taipei City Museum Hub, the Minglun Elementary School Project, the Green Boulevard Plan, the Urban Acupuncture-Urban Regeneration Station, the Hub for Design Industry, and the New Urban Service System, into one comprehensive demonstrative program. As part of the Public Policy by Design project, which uses both “bottom-up” and “top down” approaches, more design concept programs were launched, such as cross-disciplinary design workshops, which have also been well received by the public. The commitment of Taipei to introducing design into its governance and the unique enthusiastic spirit of local designers are highly recognized by the international society.

2. Successful Branding of the Songshan Cultural and Creative Park

The Songshan Cultural and Creative Park was a tobacco factory during the Japanese colonial period, which stopped operating and went out of
business in 1998. The Taipei City Government designated it to become a municipal historic site and embarked on the restoration plan in 2001. The restoration was completed in 2011 and the Park opened again. The Songshan Cultural and Creative Park is not only a showcase of Taiwan's cultural and creative industry but is also an exchange center for the cultural and creative community in Taiwan as well as a service platform for the development of the cultural and creative industry. In addition to its main park area, the surrounding facilities were also completed in 2013, with more culturally relevant organizations being stationed there. The Taipei New Horizon building was officially opened on May 15 and the world's third Red Dot Design Museum was opened on August 30, the presence of these multi-units will also add to the dynamics and improve the functionality of the park area as the latter is developed further.

In 2013, a total of 119 diverse and enriching exhibitions and performances were held at the Songshan Cultural and Creative Park, including 41 exhibitions, 7 performances or rehearsals, 22 filming events, and 49 seminars, release conferences, press conferences, or theme events. The total headcount of visitors reached 4,325,244.

3. The Second Taipei Original Festival

“Originality” characterizes the brand of the Songshan Cultural and Creative Park. To demonstrate the power of Taipei’s originality, the Department of Cultural Affairs, Taipei City Government launched the Second Taipei Original Festival 2013 at the Songshan Cultural and Creative Park between December 6 and December 15, 2013. With “Beautiful Era” as the underlying idea, the Festival continued to demonstrate Taipei's originality by collaborating with 12 performing arts groups, 60 culture-related businesses, and 8 original orchestras to lead people to recall or create their own dreams of a beautiful era in their minds through arts exhibitions and performances, outdoor exhibitions, creative marketplaces, music performances, and artistic workshops, and more.

The Second Taipei Original Festival consisted of 3 major exhibitions: The Music Laboratory, Urban Travel and Entertainment, and Housing in Taiwan. In addition to the themed exhibitions, every corner of the park was filled with all kinds of retro games, turning it into a large amusement park, full of joyous traces of art which allowed visitors to feel and experience Taipei's original charm.
Urban Spaces Reborn—Link in Historical Localities

1. Achievements of the Old House Cultural Movement: Stage One

To address the limited number of public sector workers and the limited funding for public cultural heritages and houses in Taipei, which makes repairs and reutilization difficult, the Department of Cultural Affairs, Taipei City Government proactively promoted the Old House Cultural Movement, trying to break through the only previously-believed way to repair and operate these old houses, which was budgeted for by Government agencies. Now the Government is integrating private capital and creativity through providing a public sector led matchmaking mechanism and exploring the possibilities of utilizing the various spaces of these historic old houses.

The Old House Cultural Movement was carried out through a public bidding system, where private applicants submitted their repair and operation proposals and the best team was selected following the public screening process, they were then given the right to repair and operate the buildings. Furthermore, the private tender winner supports all the costs associated...
with repairing the old houses. Therefore, as the repairs are of beneficiary nature to the general public, the tender winner will be given some financial contribution to lessen the financial burden. The proposal recruitment process for the first round started in early December 2012 and was completed by the end of September 2013. The applicants received it very well. Interested teams, consisting of more than 2,000 members, inspected the houses on site and found new owners for 9 of the old houses. Repairs and restoration of 9 cultural heritages, including the idle dormitory for American soldiers on Mt. Yangmingshan started in 2013. In the future, these old houses will pave a new cultural and creative path for Taipei, adding to the brand new cultural landscape of the city.

The Old House Cultural Movement is the first of its kind in Taiwan as it was initiated by the public sector and combines private capital and creativity in order to help the repairing and reutilization of the old houses, adding to the landscape and cultural heritage preservation records in Taipei.

2. Beitou Public Bathhouse - Celebrating Its 100th Year

Beitou Public Bathhouse, the predecessor of the Beitou Hot Spring Museum, was officially completed and opened on June 17, 1913. It was the largest public hot spring bathhouse at that time in East Asia and it also marked the starting point for the hot spring culture in Beitou. Subsequently, time passed by and eventually
the bathhouse managing authority was changed and the bathhouse became deserted. In 1995, a group of teachers and students from Beitou Elementary in Beitou District of Taipei came across this obsolete bathhouse during a trip to the countryside. They then decided to launch a petition to preserve this public bathhouse. Their passion inspired the residents in Beitou and successfully attracted the public sector’s attention. It was eventually announced by the Taipei City Government in 1997 that the public bathhouse was to become a municipal historic site and the Beitou Hot Spring Museum was created under the collective community power. It was founded in 1997.

The year 2013 marked the 100th anniversary of the Beitou Public Bathhouse and the 15th anniversary of the restored historic site of the Beitou Public Bathhouse - the Beitou Hot Spring Museum. Department of Cultural Affairs, Taipei City Government planned a series of celebratory events, in particular, the instilling of hot spring water into the public bath pool that had been dry for nearly 40 years, in order to present the historical bath house’s beautiful image as it looked one hundred years ago. Other events included exhibitions, the relay of folksongs, parades, etc.

At least 5 schools and their teachers and students, 30 local unions or associations and arts groups, 7 neighborhood offices inside the Beitou District and 3 public facilities in the surroundings all took part in the events. Every resident in Beitou was mobilized successfully and the events were well received by domestic and international travelers.

3. The Taipei Humanity and Creativity Street Blocks Exhibition

To highlight the diverse landscape of Taipei city, and draw attention to the unique and creative energy of each street block, the Department of Cultural Affairs, Taipei City Government held the Taipei Humanity and Creativity Street Blocks Exhibition 2013 that covered the street blocks in Wanhua, Dadaocheng, Tianmu, and Guling between September 15 and November 25, 2013. Each of the four exhibitions had their own unique stories to tell about the local culture and history and was meant to signify the characteristics of the specific street block and accordingly create a unique brand and image for the block. It allowed more people gain a better understanding and knowledge of Taipei. Various innovative activities were organized through the use of rich cultural content and plenty of cultural resources, this united and brought together the creativity workers identities and enabled Taipei citizens to participate in events in their block and experience the power of originality for themselves to accordingly find value in their life and the lifestyle of their desire. This is an indispensable part of urban development.

The Taipei Humanity and Creativity Street Blocks Exhibition 2013 included 4 creative maps, 4 highlighted bright-spot events, 8 live shows, 12 parades, 15 creative workshops, 20 creative window displays, and 21 lectures on creativity. As well as offering an opportunity for local cultural and creative workers to exchange and collaborate with local stores, the exhibition also enabled people to experience the charm of the neighborhoods unlimited creativity. By exploring and promoting neighborhoods in Taipei that are filled with the power of originality, people were able to feel and gain knowledge of each creative cluster at a greater depth, demonstrating the unique aura and life aesthetics of each street block in Taipei.
Part3  Reviving Cultural Heritage Preservation - Giving Historic Sites a New Lease on Life

1. The Beginning of the New Building of Kishu An Forest of Literature

The Kishu An Forest of Literature building is located at No. 115, Tongan Street, Zhongzheng District, Taipei City. It was a branch store of the Kishu An Sushi Restaurant run by the Japanese during the Taisho period. The construction was generally completed in 1922, and it includes a three-story high main building, a one-story branch building, and three other separate buildings. The restaurant was surrounded by a Japanese-style courtyard garden with some added western elements and was a major contemporary recreational, rest, and banquet site in Taipei. After the national Government retreated to Taiwan, Kishu An was used as the dormitory for the Ministry of the Interior staff. The Taipei City Government announced in 2004 their plans to restore Kishu An to become a municipal historical site. The Ministry of the Interior then proactively relocated the existing tenants. The dormitory was eventually returned to the Government in September 2011 and along with the land, it was assigned to the Department of Cultural Affairs, Taipei City Government at the end of December that same year. The Department of Cultural Affairs planned and designed subsequent repairs, including constructions such as historical buildings and hallways as well as surrounding landscapes. Construction began on January 3, 2013. Along with the Literature Museum already open to the public, the brand new Kishu An Forest of Literature will become another cultural and recreational destination for Taipei citizens in the future.

The old Kishu An under repairs and the new Kishu An Forest of Literature in the back
2. Xinbeitou Railway Station - Coming Home after 10 Years

The Xinbeitou Railway Station was built in 1916 and was to be removed in 1989 as a result of the MRT project, which also suspended the operation of the Tamsui Line of Taiwan Railways. It was relocated in the following year to the Changhua Taiwan Folk Village and became an exhibit. The ownership was also transferred to the Changhua Taiwan Folk Village.

As awareness of the importance of preserving cultural heritages started to surface, the Taipei City Government and non-governmental organizations realized what the Xinbeitou Railway Station meant to them. Each Commissioner and Vice Commissioner of the Department of Cultural Affairs, Taipei City Government along with their delegation, visited the owner and expressed multiple times their wish to have the Xinbeitou Railway Station back in Beitou again. People even raised a public trust fund in order to buy back the station. In 2012, after knowing that Rirong Assets Management Co., Ltd. became the new owner of the station, the Department of Cultural Affairs continued its negotiation efforts while at the same time sending members on the Taipei City Conservation Review Board on a visit to Rirong and the Changhua Cultural Affairs Bureau. Finally, in light of the enthusiasm and anticipation of the Taipei City Government and Taipei citizens for the Xinbeitou Railway Station to return to where it was originally and out of the same belief that any building of historical value must be connected to its original location in order to signify its relation with the local humanity and history, Rirong agreed to donate the Xinbeitou Railway Station to the Taipei City Government free of charge in April 2013.

The Taipei City Government officially accepted the gift at a ceremony held at the Changhua Taiwan Folk Village on August 8, 2013. The donation became official after the paperwork was signed by the representative of Rirong Assets Management Co., Ltd., Taipei Mayor Hau Lung-bin, and Magistrate Cho Po-yuan of Changhua on the spot to finalize this heart-felt moment in history.

3. The Unveiling of the Taipei Painting & Calligraphy Arts

The Taipei Painting & Calligraphy Gallery, which people in the cultural circle have looked forward to for many years, was officially unveiled on September 1, 2013. It is located in the Japanese dormitory already designated to be a historical building on Section 1 of Jingshan South Road, next to the Taipei Csenda House. To accomplish its goal of reviving historical sites and buildings, the Department of Cultural Affairs, Taipei City Government set up an exhibition, which includes a combination of ancient stringed musical instruments, paintings, and calligraphy.
It is hoped that this will provide a diverse arts exchange platform and will turn the Gallery into a cultural site, which will also enable the visitors to experience the beauty of a traditional life in the surroundings filled with paintings, calligraphy, and ancient stringed musical instruments.

The establishment of the Taipei Painting & Calligraphy Gallery will inherit the accomplishments and contributions of preceding painters and calligraphers. It will become a long-term and specialized platform that promotes paintings and calligraphy arts. Domestic and international painting and calligraphy lovers can come here to appreciate works of art, exchange with one another, or come for events. Paintings and calligraphy works are on display in the simple Japanese space. The artistic value of paintings and calligraphy is interlaced with the cultural value of the building to convey the aesthetics of the arts and the living space. The Gallery was established in order to share local characteristic paintings and calligraphy arts with all Taipei citizens and to impress them with the outstanding paintings and calligraphy arts available in Taipei. Visitors are able to experience the gallery through the senses of sight, touch and even having a go at their own brush writing calligraphy experience, which will leave a deep and lasting impression in people’s hearts.

4. Wanhua (Mengjia) Lin Family House Repairs Completed

The Wanhua (Mengjia) Lin Family House is currently located at No. 24 and 26, Ln. 306, Sec. 1, Xiyuan Road, Wanhua District, Taipei City. It was a three-story reinforced brick building built during the Showa period with concrete and red bricks. Upon completion, it became the tallest building in Mengjia. From the outside, it appears as a building with granolithic rails, the ceramic tiles are decorated with medals, and the walls are red brick with dome or arched square window eaves. It is an eye-catching landmark that showcases the developmental history of Mengjia and is a symbolic work of the gigantic private homes available at present from the 1940s.

The Taipei City Government announced in July 2000 that Wanhua (Mengjia) Lin Family House would become a municipal historic site. The Lin family was in its fourth generation, with countless offspring. The Department of Cultural Affairs urged the offspring to come to a conclusion and sponsored the repairs of the Lin Family House as a historic site based on the conclusion in accordance with the Cultural Heritage Preservation Act. Repairs of the ancestral hall on the top floor were completed in 2011. Those of the external walls and primary equipment were finished in 2012. The interior repairs were completed in 2013. The whole project was successfully finished on September 20, 2013.

The Lin Family House is the pivot between southern Wanhua and northern Wanhua. The Lin family has now turned the historic site into the Urban Regeneration Station, to make it possible for the historic site to be visible to more people and as part of a kind gesture in response to the Taipei City Government sponsorship, given to repair the historic site.
1. Successful Results from Cultural Subsidization

The cultural subsidization from the Department of Cultural Affairs, Taipei City Government began in 2000. 13 years have now passed and more than 9,000 cases have benefited from the subsidization so far. The total value of subsidization comes to around NT$ 950 million. The results are impressive; the subsidization exercises significant benefits in reviving overall cultural and arts events throughout Taipei.

The subsidization from the Department of Cultural Affairs in 2013 was granted in 2 phases and each phase involved 2 public hearings. A total of 1,429 applications were accepted by the end of November, among them, 840 applications successfully received the subsidization, with a subsidization rate of 59%. The total value came to NT$72,341,000. In terms of convenient services, except for the existing representatives available to offer help with the application process by answering inquiries and filling out the forms on behalf of the applicant, online completion and submission of the forms have been available since 2011 to offer Taipei citizens more convenient ways to submit their application.

2. The Appointment of the Principal Conductor of the Taipei Symphony Orchestra

The position of Principal Conductor of the Taipei Symphony Orchestra has remained unfilled for 4 years. Gilbert Varga, a world famous conductor, took over the position in 2013. Gilbert Varga is from Europe and has collaborated with more than 40 symphony orchestras through Europe, North America, Central America, Australia, and Asia. He will lead the Taipei Symphony Orchestra on a path to a new era up until 2016.

The selection process for the Principal Conductor of the Taipei Symphony Orchestra consisted of 2 stages. Members of the orchestra, the head of the orchestra and external experts and scholars nominated candidates for Stage one. The five-member group formed by the head of Taipei Symphony Orchestra evaluated and rated the candidates and was in charge of questioning each candidate on his/her willingness to come to Taiwan as a guest conductor. During Stage two, a seven-member screening committee formed by the Department of Cultural Affairs, which also included members of the orchestra, conducted a comprehensive
assessments based on the screening opinions survey, interview records, and the willingness to come to Taiwan obtained during Stage one and then rendered the final ratings.

During the screening process, Gilbert Varga came top in various statistical data documents and also obtained a majority vote in the results of a vote by orchestra members and committee members. They believe that Gilbert Varga leads rigidly with elegant stage presentation skills and he specializes in German and Austrian romantic and modern repertoires, which meets exactly the current needs of the Taipei Symphony Orchestra.

Gilbert Varga was officially appointed on May 16, 2013 as Chief Music Director of the Taipei Symphony Orchestra, marking the beginning of a new era and a possibility for the professional orchestra of the city to gain more energy and publicity.

3. Ground-Breaking Taipei Pop Music Center

Designed by a team consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Reiser, who are famous architects in the US, the Taipei Pop Music Center, which is adjacent to the three-in-one Nangang Station, will become a professional site for recognizing, creating, and sharing local Taiwanese pop music as well as pop music from other parts of Asia. The interior design for the venue features 3 main sections: the Main Auditorium, the Hall of Fame, and the Pop Music Industry Zone. The exterior appearance of the buildings combines elements of the Taiwanese Island, imagery of Taiwan’s mountain ranges are connected to the designs for Main hall with its rooftop full of rising peaks, the Hall of Fame is housed within an elevated cube, and a giant seashell structured building holds the Pop Music Industry Zone. In the future it will become “the-place-to-go” for pop music enthusiasts in the Asia Pacific Region.

The Main Auditorium of the Taipei Pop Music Center is a 5,000-seat indoor performance hall. The Hall of Fame, on the other hand, primarily houses exhibitions with different pop music themes and collects audio-visual media. The Pop Music Industry Zone accommodates small performances and includes indoor Live Houses that can seat 1600, 800, and 200 people. In addition, the music restaurant is able to accommodate 200 people. It is hoped that through the different types of performance spaces and different types of equipment all with different functions, the Taipei Pop Music Center is not only a place for holding concerts but is also a place for creating music and for other industries to gather. The Taipei City Government held the groundbreaking ceremony for the Taipei Pop Music Center on June 19, 2013; the celebration was jointly presided by President Ma Ying-jeou, Minister of Culture Lung Ying-tai, and Taipei Mayor Hau Lung-bin.

4. Taipei Will-be-Landmark: Cultural Industry Buildings Special Exhibition

The Taipei Will Be-Landmark – the Cultural Industry Buildings Special Exhibition, organized by the Department of Cultural Affairs, opened grandly on September 9, 2013 to October 13, 2013 at the Pavilion of New Fashion in the Taipei Expo Park. The Taipei Performing Arts Center, Taipei Pop Music Center, and Taipei New Horizon were designed and planned by international renowned architects Rem Koolhaas, Toyo Ito, and Jesse Reiser, and cover the three areas of performing arts, pop music, and the
cultural and creative industry. They not only mark milestones for Taipei in cultural constructions but also attract first-rate cultural and creative talent to locate in Taipei, making Taipei the cultural and creative capital in the Chinese cultural circle.

These three buildings are not only unique with their exterior design. Their teams also carefully planned the travel flows and software and hardware facilities, making them not only venues for events but also platforms for interactive exchange between the audience and performers. The Taipei Will Be exhibition was presented as a whole as “Taipei Town”. Image projection and flat maps were used to make these three brand new works stand out. While Taipei citizens were taken on a tour where they could see the old Taipei, they were also inspired to think about and depict the future of Taipei. The exhibition received a headcount of 23,631 visitors in total.

5. Complete Activation of Film, Television, and Music Industries

The business revenue of the audiovisual industry in Taipei accounts for more than half that throughout Taiwan. Following a chessboard policy module, the Taipei City Government has turned Taipei into an international and regional center where the creativities of the film, television, and music industries converge.

The Taipei City Government provided the land for the Taipei Film, Television, and Music Industrial Park. It was set up in accordance with the Act for Promotion of Private Participation in Infrastructure Projects without any funding from the Taipei City Government and under the premise that the superficies will not be ceded. It is meant to introduce private enterprises to invest in the promising film, television, and music industries in order to contribute to prosperous economic activities and create job opportunities in Taipei. Another announcement was made regarding the Neihu Phase 5 Redevelopment Zone on July 10, 2013 and the best sponsors have already been chosen.

In addition, the only contact window for filming assistance at the Taipei Film Commission was their continued assistance in helping domestic and international crews come to Taiwan to find suitable places for shooting certain scenes. In 2013, the Commission provided assistance to over 430 filming projects. Among them, 61 were international collaborative projects, a growth of 35.56% from 2012. LUCY by French Director Luc Besson, in particular, exercised an excellent marketing effect for Taipei. In addition, the Commission helped with the marketing and promotion of 23 local movies in total. The income from sold tickets for collaboratively marketed movies exceeded NT$10 billion. 13 movies were granted production subsidies in 2013. The subsidies came to NT$25 million in total.

In terms of international collaboration, the Taipei Film Commission also continued to participate in film festivals held in Berlin, Hong Kong, Cannes, and Paris, and the Annecy International Animated Film Festival. They also jointly organized production joint ventures to refer outstanding local films and industrial talent through enhanced international exposure and increase their opportunities of international collaboration accordingly.

6. Presentation of the Taipei Culture Award

The presentation ceremony for the 17th Taipei Culture Award was held at the Guangfu Auditorium, Taipei Zhongshan Hall on the
afternoon of October 26, 2013. The winners included Ms. Han Liang-lou, who is engaged in the cultural and arts social business and is the founder of the South Village, which organizes a variety of fundamental cultural events; she’s also had a long-lasting commitment to the Taiwan Designers’ Web, which is devoted to design and aesthetics work and she is also the founder of a design creativity platform where designers can connect, as well as creating the Paperwindmill Theatre, which is devoted to providing a better arts environment in Taiwan and providing cultural development by gathering numerous people together who care about performing arts and are deeply in love with operas and dancing.

The winners of the Taipei Culture Award in 2013 contributed to a more enriched and diverse cultural outlook of Taipei. They explored urban lifestyles, shaped the beauty of the city, opened up Taipei in terms of cultural vitality and witnessed the most historical footprints and cultural developments of Taipei from a cultural, creative, and artistic perspective.

"Nien Nien" filmed by Director Sylvia Chang at the Liuzhangli Station of MRT

Director Yeh Tien-lun shooting a scene for "Dadaocheng" at the Taipei Guest House
1. Taipei Literature Festival

Following the spirit of the preceding sessions, the 2013 Taipei Literature Festival continued to gather together local cultural and arts organizations and furthered its depth in managing readers and issues. In addition, with the theme Reading Across the City, people were encouraged to transcend borders and explore their own localities from a more diversified perspective, creating more possibilities in the development of literature and poetry.

For the 2013 Literature Festival, Japanese writer Tsushima Yuko, daughter of literary giant Dazai Osamu, was invited to share her experience as a writer. Domestic writers were also invited to speak in multiple “Cross-border Reading” forums in characteristic bookstores throughout Taipei to extend literature topics to multiple aspects of life. The hope is to proactively lead the general public into a nearly all-round reading field.

In addition, the Literature Savvy – Taipei Hipster Life exhibition at the Taipei Zhongshan Hall took people on a trip to explore the various hipster lives of a prior era. The 2013 Taipei Literature Festival was on between February 22 and June 15, 2013. In total, around 23,313 people actually visited the Festival. It successfully brought together people’s affection and memory of literature in Taipei.

2. Taipei Military Dependents’ Village Festival

The 7th Taipei Military Dependents’ Village Festival was held in February 2013. With “Love toward Military Dependents’ Villages in Taipei” as its topic and “Tradition and Innovation” as its slogan, inside the Xinyi Public Assembly Hall (Sisinan Village), military dependents’ village delicacy, operas, the theme exhibition, and cultural tourism, among other activities, not only presented the traditional beauty of the culture in military dependents’ villages but also unveiled the new look hidden in the culture of old military dependents’ villages.

The themed exhibition introduced as one of the events gathered many historically significant street number plates from military dependents’ villages, retro furniture, military supplies as part of the US aid, among other historic relics and materials, and the yellowish photos of the life in military dependents’ villages, guiding people through a time tunnel. In addition, there were a variety of experiential zones and performances such as plays and operas. The diverse rich, and interesting exhibits were meant to let people acquire a more advanced knowledge of the unique phenomenon of military dependents’ villages.

Poet Xiangyang demonstrated in person how he inscribed the steel plate for the printing of literature publications

Memory of old military dependents’ villages
context. The Festival attracted more than 10,000 people in total and successfully made old residents in military dependents’ villages feel warm and the festival touched the second generation. People without a military dependents’ village background, on the other hand, smiled. The Festival activities aroused affection and inspiring reflections on military dependents’ villages and Taiwan, regardless of the visitors’ background and generation.

3. International Museum Day

The International Council of Museums (ICOM) set May 18 of each year to be the International Museum Day since 1977, and gave a theme every year from 1992 onward, in order to join forces with museums around the world to encourage people to visit, get to know, and get close to museums. In 2013, the theme for the International Museum Day was “Museums (Memory + Creativity) = Social Change.”

To echo the theme of the International Museum Day, the Department of Cultural Affairs, Taipei City Government introduced a campaign entitled My Town - Taipei in May: 2013 International Museum Day in Taipei, with participation from 73 museums. These museums introduced various preferred deals. 12 of them were open at night. 14 of them offered free admissions on the International Museum Day. By combining the resources of public and private museums in this campaign, people were closer to the diverse cultural sites and venues in Taipei and got the chance to get familiar with the characteristics of each of them to arouse awareness of the important roles museums play in society and make museum culture part of everyday life.

4. Taipei Film Festival

The film industry of Taiwan has entered a new era, with outstanding directors emerging one after another. These new directors have helped broaden the horizon and enrich the film industry in Taiwan. At its 15th year, the Taipei Film Festival focused powerfully on these new people in a unique young and innovative style. The hope is to encourage young outstanding people through this international event to become talented young directors who will sway the international stage. The 15th Taipei Film Festival was held between June 28 and July 20, 2013. The plan was to screen a total of 165 films, however overall, 278 films were actually screened. The city’s theme throughout this festival was Istanbul, Turkey. In addition to introducing contemporary new award-winning films, famous films made by well-known Turkish directors Nuri Bilge Ceylan and Zeki Demirkubuz were screened, and these films had never been played in the movie theaters in Taiwan before. The audience could watch the local humanities in Turkey and the exotic urban views during the film festival. As well as following the Istanbul, Turkey theme, the Taipei Film Festival also planned other sessions such as Film Figure in Focus, Competition, Observation, and Special Editions. All were closely connected to the main spirit of focusing on new talent.

The most attractive part of each Taipei Film Festival is the International Young Director Competition and the Taipei Film Award. This year, 12 full-length feature films were selected to run in the International Young Director Competition and 41 films, ranging from the four categories: feature, documentary, short-film, and animation, were selected for the Taipei Film Award. All were competing for the first prize award that is worth one million dollars. The candidate’s films for the 15th Taipei Film Award were all diverse in their content. The award presentation ceremony was
broadcast live on TV and over the Internet and was received very well among the viewers. The Taipei Film Festival is having more and more of an influence on all the other international festivals. By increasing the exposure and diversity of local Taiwanese films, the festival is helping promote international exchange and revive the film industry in Taiwan.

5. Three Major Performing Arts Festivals in Taipei

To increase the population of people that love watching performing arts, the Department of Cultural Affairs, Taipei City Government provides young performers with the stage they need. It has set up platforms to facilitate domestic and international outstanding performing arts workers observe one another and planned and organized three major performing arts festivals, namely, the Taipei Children's Arts Festival, Taipei Arts Festival, and Taipei Fringe Festival, which have over the years, also been deeply loved by Taipei citizens.

The 2013 Taipei Children's Arts Festival was held between July 2 and August 11, 2013, where a total of 24 performing groups from Taiwan and overseas were invited to perform in 74 rounds that were available to those who had purchased tickets and 62 free rounds as part of the community promotion campaign. At the same time, there was one interactive installation arts exhibition, 4 sessions of workshops, and 4 rounds of creation dialogues, which were like a feast of beautiful summertime arts and literature for the participants.

The theme for the 2013 Taipei Children's Arts Festival was "Adventurous New Vision". It was on between August 1 and September 8, 2013. A total of 9 domestic and international programs were presented. One of them was in outdoors and was free. There were also 29 rounds of performances and 1 exhibition as well as 65 rounds of free forums. Beforehand promotions were taking place in the form of guided listening, guided tours around the exhibition, and through the arts ticket booth. The arts ticket booth was an unprecedented exchange station for arts and literature. The booths were set up at the Songshan Cultural and Creative Park, the Honglou Square in Ximen, and the Taipei Water Park in Gongguan to offer arts and literature-related consultation service over 77 consecutive days without stop.

The 5th Taipei Fringe Festival was held between August 31 and September 15, 2013, with the participation of 109 performance troupes. Other than 410 rounds of multiform presentations, there were a series of other events, such as the marketing and technology lectures, administration and technical advisories, press conferences, a parade for the opening ceremony, volunteer training, and the closing and award ceremonies.

6. The Taipei Documentary Film Festival

To expand the international horizon of Taipei citizens and facilitate the revival and development of the documentary film industry, the Department of Cultural Affairs, Taipei City Government held the Taipei Documentary Film Festival for the first time between September 27 and October 6, 2013. The Department of Cultural Affairs invited up to 49 educational documentary films by international and Chinese directors that covered educational policies and issues, the nurturing method, teaching method, and various instrumental aspects from the perspectives of schools, families, and students to answer to the theme “Education? Education!” Meanwhile, there were 8 celebrity forums and in-depth discussions and 51 rounds of reflection-workshops in order to expand the scope of participation in the film festival.

During the festival, post-reflection discussions, workshops, forums and multiple lectures were arranged. Film directors, domestic educational experts and writers were invited especially to appear at the site where the films were played, in order to discuss education from advanced perspectives. It was the first time a domestic documentary film festival was organized in this way, with large-scale workshops being held to look at the different perspective of different issues. The feedback was extremely positive and the results were impressive.
1. Culture in the Alleyways

Culture in the Alleyways was jointly planned and organized by the Taipei Cultural Center, Taipei Chinese Orchestra, Taipei Symphony Orchestra, and Taipei Fine Arts Museum. Each year more than a hundred rounds of diverse and enriched performances and arts appreciations are held in different administrative districts in Taipei. Because of these performances and arts appreciations, arts and literature could reach community parks, sports fields of schools, and even public spaces in large and small alleyways to interact with Taipei citizens at a closer range. The hope is that the citizens could easily get closer to arts in daily life, regardless of their ethnic background and age, on the basis of the concept “Making Arts Part of Life and Culture Part of Community.”

Culture in the Alleyways entered its 13th year in 2013. The Paperwindmill Theatre, Taipei Chinese Orchestra – Youth Section, Taipei Symphony Orchestra, and the Arts Appreciation DIY Program of Taipei Fine Arts Museum were invited to provide a total of 142 rounds of outstanding performances and events. The headcount of participants was more than 60,000. The Department of Cultural Affairs, Taipei City Government will continue to work top down with arts and cultural exhibitions and performances in order for the latter to reach every corner of the community and to turn around the impression local residents have about city spaces.

2. Memories and Rebirth - The Wanhua District Youth Park Public Art

Many lifestyles of ordinary people in the old days have been kept in Wanhua District. The Taipei City Government’s street block restructuring plan has over the past few years involved hardware reconstruction or reinforced investment of cultural resources and has brought about new looks to the Wanhua District. The program entitled, Memory and Rebirth, the Wanhua District Youth Park Public Art is organized by the Department of Cultural Affairs, and is implemented by the Paperwindmill Theatre, putting the theme “Public before Arts” into action. Masterpieces on site were the creative products of the participants expressing their affections and describing their memories and stories in their unique way after a series of community involvement and campus arts education campaigns and creative activities designed mostly by artists.

The campaigns that people took part in under this program included the arts education promotional plan for students in 12 elementary schools of the Wanhua area and the community involvement plan targeting residents in the surrounding 9 neighborhoods of the Youth Park. Finally, artists integrated and absorbed the elements presented by participants in the creation process and turned them into the public
art works under the title of Formosan Clouded Leopard 2013. The press conference release was held on September 29, 2013. Works that were displayed on site included the 21 small clouded leopards created by the residents and the students and the collective creations generated through seminars and workshops.

3. Insight City Guide Taipei: Visit the Urban Life as You Wish

The Department of Cultural Affairs, Taipei City Government tried for the first time to integrate the 4 elements historic sites, old trees, public arts, and cultural and arts houses into the Insight City Guide Taipei – Taipei Urban Life Guided Tours. This program consisted of 2 parts, the administrative district routes and the theme routes. Administrative district routes are led by local literature and history workers and covered 12 administrative districts. People from different places went on the tours where they got to know and understand each administrative district. Theme routes, on the other hand, featured diversified characteristic topics to help people experience the urban air of Taipei. People experienced the regional characteristics presented by pluralistic populations sequentially in time at different heights, widths, depths, and speeds. These enriching topics received enthusiastic responses from the people.

Insight City Guide Taipei – Taipei Urban Life Guided Tours were available from September 1 to November 30, 2013. They combined 12 administrative districts, 22 local museums, more than 400 cultural heritages, 1,700 old trees, and 484 public arts. A total of 32 routes were planned and 221 rounds of guided tours and 200 rounds of workshops were organized. The participating headcount broke the 8,000 people threshold. People could connect deeply with the humanity and culture of Taipei.

Conclusion

Culture is the accumulation of a country’s history and civilization. Being the Capital of Taiwan, Taipei is leading in the nation in hardware, the facilities and software, and the talent. Faced with a trend where countries around the world compete against one another to proactively develop cultural characteristics and build their cultural and creative capabilities, Taipei will continue to plan all-round cultural policies and build Taipei as an “Adaptive City,” while planning the visions of its citizens in the future with deign and creativity.