



# MACAO'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

## Macao renders support to its cultural and creative industries

Did you know, [Macao SAR](#) (China) identified gastronomy as a key lever for nurturing cultural diversity and supporting sustainable economic growth? In 2017, the city was designated as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic led to a lockdown in the city to contain the spread of the virus, leading to a broad impact on the city's cultural and creative industries. In lieu of rendering support to creative industries, Macao launched several supporting and financial aid measures to assist the creative professionals.

[Free online learning videos](#) have been launched that are tailored for catering professionals to gain and enhance their knowledge in the gastronomic sector. The videos cover a diversity of practical topics including food and occupational safety for the catering industry, fundamental service skills in restaurants, star-rated service skills, culinary knowledge about ingredients and cuisines, etc. By launching such an initiatives, the city enables professionals to leverage their isolation time in enriching their knowledge to improve their competitiveness at work.

In terms of providing support to creative and cultural enterprises, the city has operationalized a one-year deferment for the repayment of loans for 75 funded projects. This enables enterprises to negotiate the repayment period and reduce the amount for each installment with extending the period of the project implementation. In addition, these cultural enterprises can also apply for receiving the next subsidy payment in advance or alternating the use of the funds.

Beneficiaries of the 'Subsidy Programme Series for Macao's Cultural and Creative Industries' have also received an extension for the implementation of the diverse projects related to feature films, original song albums, and fashion design samples. This allows project holders to complete their plans including its implementation.

The city launched 'Welfare-to-Work' programme, an initiative aimed at creating favorable working conditions for local cultural and artistic practitioners. Moreover, to augment their capacities as well as promote Macao's handicraft, the local Government has launched 'Online Handicraft Teaching', a platform that provide video tutorials. Tenants of properties under the [Cultural Affairs Bureau](#) are also being exempted from rental for three months.

With a view to continue promoting the creative sector post pandemic, the city aims to launch a special funding programme to explore further new opportunities in diverse creative fields including cultural tourism, community creativity, and promotion of cultural performances in the Bay Area and overseas markets.