



**In 1843 Salford  
Invented the  
Weekend...**

**So we made  
a free festival  
to celebrate**

**We**

The festival  
of free time

**Invented  
the  
Weekend**

**PROGRAMME**

**6&7 June  
2026**

# We Invented the Weekend

WELCOME to the festival of free time!

We Invented the Weekend returns to the iconic setting of MediaCity and Salford Quays with an ambitious programme of over 200 **FREE** events and activities delivered in collaboration with our extraordinary partners, artists, performers and community groups. (Huge thank you to all involved!)

This ambitious, creative, original and fun-filled festival celebrates the invention of the weekend, a moment that changed our lives forever and gave us the best gift we could wish for – more free time!

From live music to action-packed sports, family fun, theatre, DJ sets, exclusive tours, art workshops, markets, thought-provoking talks, street food, boat trips, wellbeing sessions and of course open water swimming (we hope you've brought your dry-robe!). There really is something for everyone. This year's festival is even more special as Salford, the home of We Invented the Weekend, marks its Centenary year.

So, let your hair down, try new things, make new friends and let's show the world that we didn't just invent the weekend in Salford, we know how to celebrate it!

(PS. Don't forget to invite your friends to the party, go on text them now, we don't want anyone to miss out!)



to see the full programme



## HISTORY

In 1843 Salford Lyceum Director Robert Lowes and workers' rights activist (and Sir Ian McKellen's Great-Great Grandfather) campaigned, along with William Marsden, for workers to have the right to Saturday afternoons off.

Together they founded a committee that would advocate for workers to finish early on a Saturday, working only a half-day rather than the full day that had typically been expected.

Their campaign was a huge success, and the factory owners and businessmen of Greater Manchester granted the workers more free time. It was a radical re-invention of the working week, and other cities soon began to adopt the idea. Saturdays became a day of leisure, from watching football to spending time with family and friends. In 1850 this was signed into law as part of the Factory Act which stipulated that the working week must end at 2pm on a Saturday.

2026 is the third iteration of the much-loved FREE festival that invites communities from across Greater Manchester, the North West and beyond to celebrate the amazing variety of ways in which we love to spend our weekends.



## PIAZZA STAGE

- 10:00 Yoga Social Club: RnB Yoga  
 10:55 Dance Like A Mother\*  
 11:20 Tracing Steps: Mature Movers  
 12:05 Leadership in Action by DanceSyndrome  
 12:35 Playhouse Project with Jon Dasilva feat. Cequin Circus  
 13:30 Massive Sing with Léonie Higgins  
 14:15 English National Opera x Walk the Plank Present: Perfect Pitch\*  
 15:35 Brazen Brass  
 16:15 Acid Brass  
 17:15 AFRODEUTSCHE

## HOT HOUSE

### Hot House Ground Floor

- ALL DAY  
 MikeSian Studio: Department for Perfect Weekends  
 Altogether Otherwise: Bringing Ideas to the Table  
 Altogether Otherwise: Free Time Parade Workshops  
 Community Clothing Pop Up Shop  
 Nots & Coyle Studio: Craeft Workshops  
 Art with Heart: Salford Voices Banner Exhibition and Pop Up  
 Town Twinning Exhibition: Celebrating Salford Centenary

### Hot House Mezzanine

- ALL DAY  
 WITW Art Sale

## MARKETS

- ALL DAY  
 Charity Super.Mkt  
 WITW Market  
 Food and Drink - curated by GRUB

## SPORTS GROUND

- 11:00 Manchester Jump Rope Beginner Sessions  
 14:15 English National Opera x Walk the Plank Present: Perfect Pitch  
 10:00 Salford Youth Service: Climbing Wall

## SPORTS GROUND

- ALL DAY  
 Manchester United Foundation Football Activation  
 British Taekwondo: Try Taekwondo  
 Walkden ABC Boxing: Boxing Fitness Fun  
 National Football Museum: Football Creates  
 TeeClub Golf Simulator  
 Cricket try outs - T20 Women's World cup

## GARDEN PAVILION

- 10:00 RHS x Cloud Gardener: Seed Swap  
 ALL DAY  
 RHS Gardening Helpdesk  
 The DIY School: It's for everyone!  
 Partington Pots: Clay Seed Bombs  
 Stockport Fungi  
 RHS x Sow the City: Plant Orchestra

## FREE T/ME LAWN

- 10:00- Salford Community Leisure:  
 16:00 Crazy Golf

### ALL DAY

- Salford Loaves and Fishes: Puppet making and Show  
 Community Creators x Ell-Squared: R u playin' out?  
 Inspiring Communities Together  
 Home Instead  
 Talk About It Mate: A Brew, A Chat, A Bit of Art  
 National Literacy Trust in Salford

## UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD

- ALL DAY  
 Starry Lake Productions x Justine Lesage: Ambient Space  
 Richard Evans: HoloCity  
 QuayFrames

## TALKS LAWN

- 10:00 BBC's Morning Live  
 12:00 RHS x Cloud Gardener: Green Cities\*  
 12:45 Morag Rose: The Feminist Art of Walking

## TALKS LAWN

- 13:15 Waste to Worth - The Power of Repair and Reuse in Clothing\*  
 14:00 Representation in Dance Music and Radio  
 14:45 BSL Jam and Workshop: Let's Get Signing!  
 15:30 Your Garden Questions: RHS Bridgewater & Patrick Grant\*  
 16:15 Who Designed Play Out of Our Cities?\*

## CLUB CULTURE TENT

- 09:15 Made Running 5K Run: Warm Up!  
 11:00 Drop In DJ Workshop with Mia Mai  
 12:00 DJ Open Decks  
 13:00 KURLZ  
 14:00 Sarah Bates  
 15:00 Queensway Collective: Mia Mai B2B Emzie Love  
 16:00 Miss Jackson  
 17:00 Meme Gold + Night People  
 18:00 Lil' Minx  
 19:00 SHIMRISE  
 20:00 Not Bad For A Girl: Egg On Toast B2B Maracuya + Night People

## CLUB CULTURE

- ALL DAY  
 African Rainbow Family  
 Jak's World  
 11:00 Colourful Perspectives  
 12:00 Crafternoon Bag Charm workshop  
 12:00 Phoebe Foxtrot: Headwear Making  
 12:00 The Set By C Nail Art  
 12:00 Print Norf Heat Press Printing  
 12:00 Club Customisation with Made Better, Charity Super.Mkt

## MEDIACITY PIAZZA WATERFRONT

- ALL DAY  
 Afrocats: Music and Storytelling  
 British Cycling BMX Freestyle Show and Coaching  
 Cardboard Drive-in with Caroline Daly

## NELL'S

- 12:00- Karaoke Booths  
 14:00  
 13:00 Cupcake Making Workshop  
 20:00 Official After Party with Eves'Drop Collective

## OUT AND ABOUT

### AS AND WHEN

- Brazen Brass Band  
 Ailsa McPhee Daily Dance  
 Ydalir Vikings  
 Salford Hongkongers

## WALKS, RUNS AND RIDES

- 11:00 RHS Hidden Nature Tour (meet at Garden Pavilion)  
 11:00 Bee Pedal Ready Bike Bus to MediaCity (meet at Peel Park)  
 12:00 RHS Hidden Nature Tour (meet at Garden Pavilion)  
 Walks last 30mins to an hour

## DOCK 9

- 11:00- USWIM – open water swimming  
 13:00  
 11:00- Roots & Rocks Sauna  
 13:00

## IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM NORTH

- ALL DAY Spies, Lies and Deception  
 10:00- Story Seekers  
 16:00  
 11:00- Meet the Author: Brian Groom  
 13:00  
 11:00- Salford Stories: Brian  
 14:00  
 11:00- We Were There: Bernard Morgan  
 14:00  
 11:00- Spies Family Hub  
 16:00  
 12:00 War at Home Big Picture Show  
 12:00- Northern Air Hospital Radio  
 16:00  
 13:15- Part 2 Lowry's Weekend: Going to the Match & Going to Work talk and tour\*  
 13:45

## LOWRY PLAZA STAGE

- 10:00 Ailsa McPhee: Daily Dance  
 10:30 JD Dance Workshop\*  
 11:30 Bluey\*  
 12:05 Sign Me Happy: Sign & Sing Pop Party  
 12:30 Pirate Taxi  
 13:20 Ydalir Vikings: Thor and Geirrod  
 14:25 Mama and Me  
 14:45 Playhouse Project with Jon Dasilva feat. Cequin Circus  
 15:30 Michelle Louise School of Dance: Rainy Day Dancing  
 16:00 Pirate Taxi  
 16:45 JD Dance 10 years Performance  
 17:05 Choirs Manchester  
 17:40 Street Gate Strummers

## LOWRY PLAZA

- ALL DAY  
 Wonder Objects and Street Games: IWM North  
 Your Salford 100: Salford Museum and Art Gallery  
 Community Little Hulton  
 Gaddum: Mindful Crafts  
 Recreate-U: Celebrating 100 Years of Salford  
 Salford Fostering  
 Transcend Studios: Wellbeing Sessions  
 Ydalir Vikings: Meet and Greet  
 JD Dance  
 Warm-up Event for the UK Chinese Dragon Boat Festival

## PLAY STREET

- SUPPORTED BY QUAYSIDE SALFORD  
 ALL DAY  
 Build a Streetscape with U-Build  
 Scrap Street Challenge with Take Action Toegther  
 Draw'a'Loopa's with Jamie Wainman  
 Play with Play England  
 Manchester Jump Rope  
 Skate with Northern Rolling  
 Double Dutch with Lowry CAT  
 Design your own Play Street with Salford Cultural Education Partnership

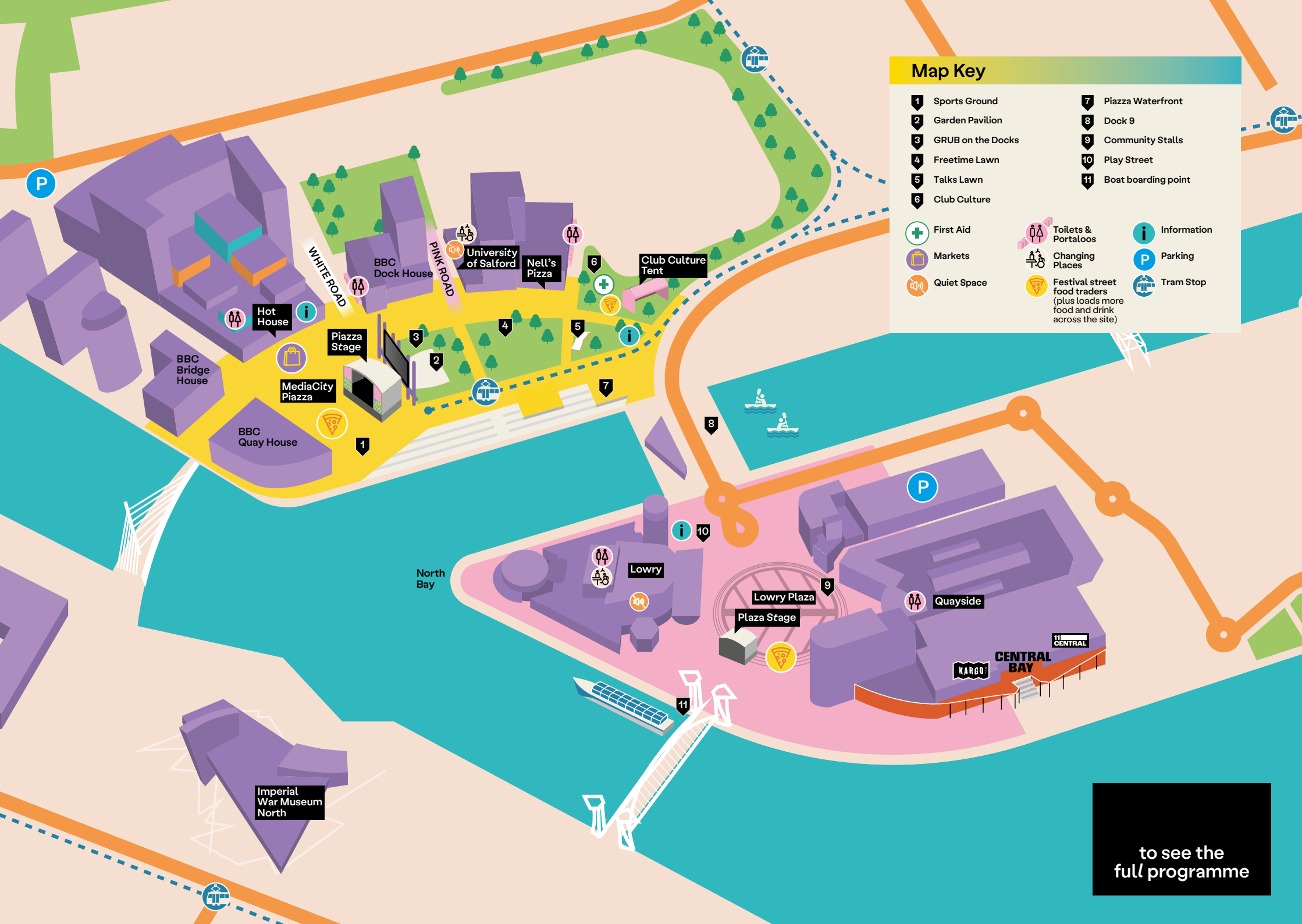
## LOWRY

- 10:00- Wildly Creative Family Crafts  
 16:00  
 10:30- Lowry Backstage Tours  
 16:30  
 10:30- CBeebies Bedtime Stories with Special Guest  
 11:00  
 12:30- CBeebies Bedtime Stories with Special Guest  
 13:00  
 11:30- Sovereign House GH: Robot's Workshops  
 13:15  
 14:15- Sovereign House GH: Robot's Shows  
 16:00  
 12:30- Part 1 Lowry's Weekend: Going to the Match & Going to Work Talk and Tour\*  
 13:00  
 13:00-13:30, 14:00-14:30, 15-15:30  
 Laughter Yoga  
 14:00- Lowry CAT: The Body of Us  
 16:00  
 15:30- CBeebies Bedtime Story with Special Guest\*  
 16:00  
 16:00- POP UP! Festival Edit  
 17:00  
 10.30, 11.30, 13:00, 14:00  
 Science Museum: What do astronauts do on the weekends?  
 ALL DAY  
 LS Lowry Characters Come to Life!  
 Inclusive Art History Club: Early Years Sensory Art Workshop  
 Salford Pop Up Library and family drop-in activities  
 Helena Worthington: Conveyor Belt Collage  
 Fuzzy Felt Time

## PARTY BOATS

- Crop Radio Takeover  
 11:00 ZEYLA  
 12:00 Camilla Reghenzi  
 13:00 Jodie Tyler  
 14:00 Unity Radio presents Primetime Pirates  
 15:00 Unity Radio presents Primetime Pirates  
 16:00 Meme Gold Karaoke Boat Party  
 Boat rides last 45mins

More information about Saturday



### Map Key

- |                            |                               |             |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>1</b> Sports Ground     | <b>7</b> Piazza Waterfront    | Information |
| <b>2</b> Garden Pavilion   | <b>8</b> Dock 9               | Parking     |
| <b>3</b> GRUB on the Docks | <b>9</b> Community Stalls     | Tram Stop   |
| <b>4</b> Freetime Lawn     | <b>10</b> Play Street         |             |
| <b>5</b> Talks Lawn        | <b>11</b> Boat boarding point |             |
| <b>6</b> Club Culture      |                               |             |
- 
- |             |   |  |
|-------------|---|--|
| First Aid   | Toilets & Portaloo  |  |
| Markets     | Changing Places   |  |
| Quiet Space | Festival street food traders (plus loads more food and drink across the site) |  |

to see the full programme

## PIAZZA STAGE

- 10:30 The WellNess Hub MCR Mass Yoga
- 11:45 Bionic & the Wires
- 12:30 Chameleon Youth Seniors: The Party Within
- 12:40 The Thirsty Poet\*
- 12:45 SFTOC Present: Andrea Trout / Jenna G
- 13:15 SFTOC Present: Madame Claude
- 13:45 SFTOC Present: Andrea Trout / Jenna G
- 14:15 SFTOC Present: Swane Vieira
- 14:45 DJ Wayne Hemingway & Free Time Parade
- 15:15 SFTOC Present: Andrea Trout / Jenna G
- 15:45 SFTOC Present: EVABEE Experience
- 16:30 SFTOC Present: Andrea Trout / Jenna G
- 17:15 SFTOC Present: Afriquoi

## HOT HOUSE

### Hot House Ground Floor

- 10:00- Free Time Parade
- 13:00- Choreography Workshop

### ALL DAY

MikeSian Studio: Department for Perfect Weekends

Altogether Otherwise: Bringing Ideas to the Table

Altogether Otherwise: Free Time Parade Workshops

Community Clothing Pop Up Shop

Nots & Coyle Studio: Craeft Workshops

Art with Heart: Salford Voices Banner Exhibition and Pop Up

Town Twinning Exhibition: Celebrating Salford Centenary

### Hot House Mezzanine

### ALL DAY

WITW Art Sale

## MARKETS

### ALL DAY

Charity Super.Mkt

WITW Market

Food and Drink - curated by GRUB

## SPORTS GROUND

11:00 Couch to 5k (meet under big screen)

11:00 Manchester Jump Rope Beginner Sessions

10:00 Salford Youth Service: Climbing Wall

### ALL DAY

British Taekwondo: Try Taekwondo

Walkden ABC Boxing: Boxing Fitness Fun

National Football Museum: Football Creates

TeeClub Golf Simulator

Ballistic Gym

Salford Community Leisure Try Outs

## GARDEN PAVILION

### ALL DAY

RHS Gardening Helpdesk

The DIY School: It's for everyone!

Partington Pots: Clay Seed Bombs

Stockport Fungi

RHS x Sow the City: Plant Orchestra

## FREE TIME LAWN

11:00- Salford Community Leisure: Crazy Golf

12:30- National Year of Reading Big Story Lunch

### ALL DAY

Salford Loaves and Fishes: Puppet making and Shows

Community Creators x Ell-Squared: R u playin' out?

Inspiring Communities Together Home Instead

Talk About It Mate: A Brew, A Chat, A Bit of Art

National Literacy Trust in Salford

## UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD

### ALL DAY

Starry Lake Productions x Justine Lesage: Ambient Space

Richard Evans: HoloCity

QuayFrames

## TALKS LAWN

10:00 RHS x Cloud Gardener: Balcony Basics\*

11:15 Poetry Place Performance

11:30 Poetry Place Workshop

12:30 Peter Hook in Conversation with Mark Radcliffe\*

13:30 Trevor Johnson in Conversation with Wayne Hemingway\*

14:15 BSL Jam and Workshop: Let's Get Signing!

15:30 Keith Brymer Jones in Conversation with Wayne Hemingway\*

## CLUB CULTURE TENT

12:00 Living Room Dance Club

13:30 Semi Peppered

15:30 Aficionado

## CLUB CULTURE

### ALL DAY

African Rainbow Family  
Jak's World

12:00 Crafternoon Bag Charm workshop

12:00 The Set by C Nail Art

12:00 Print Norf Heat Press Printing

12:00 Club Customisation with Made Better, Charity Super.Mkt

13:00 Club Customisation with Meme Gold

## MEDIACITY PIAZZA WATERFRONT

### ALL DAY

Afrocats: Music and Storytelling  
British Cycling BMX Freestyle Show and Coaching

## NELL'S

- 12:00- Karaoke Booths
- 14:00

## OUT AND ABOUT

- 14:30- Freetime Parade
- 15:00 (meet at Hot House)

### AS AND WHEN

Ailsa McPhee Daily Dance

Mr Wilsons Second Liners

Ydal'ir Vikings

Salford Hongkongers

## WALKS, RUNS AND RIDES

10:00 MileShyClub 5k run to MediaCity (meet at Victoria Park)

11:00 RHS Hidden Nature Tour (meet at Garden Pavilion)

12:00 RHS Hidden Nature Tour (meet at Garden Pavilion)

12:00 LRM First Sunday (meet at Hot House)

14:00 Inspiring Communities Together Litter Pick

Walks last 30mins or more

## DOCK 9

- 10:00 Salford Watersports Centre Rafted Canoes

## IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM NORTH

### ALL DAY

10:00- Hands-on History: Charity Bick and the Home Front

10:00- Story Seekers

10:00- Meet the Author: Brian Groom

11:00- Spies Family Hub

12:00 War at Home Big Picture Show

12:00- Northern Air Hospital Radio

## LOWRY PLAZA STAGE

- 11:00 Pirate Taxi
- 11:45 Sign Me Happy: Sign & Sing Pop Party
- 12:00 National Year of Reading Big Story Readalong\*
- 12:30 Lowry Presents: (North) West End Live\*
- 14:15 Pirate Taxi
- 15:10 Dancing With Dementia
- 15:45 Bluey
- 16:30 Ailsa McPhee: Daily Dance

## LOWRY PLAZA

### ALL DAY

Wonder Objects and Street Games: IWM North

Your Salford 100: Salford Museum and Art Gallery

Community Little Hulton

Gaddum: Mindful Crafts

Recreate-U: Celebrating 100 Years of Salford

Salford Fostering

Transcend Studios: Wellbeing Sessions

Ydal'ir Vikings: Meet and Greet

JD Dance

Warm-up Event for the UK Chinese Dragon Boat Festival

## PLAY STREET

SUPPORTED BY QUAYSIDE SALFORD

### ALL DAY

Build a Streetscape with U-Build

Scrap Street Challenge with Take Action Toegther

Draw'a'Loopa's with Jamie Wainman

Play with Play England

Manchester Jump Rope

Skate with Graystone

Double Dutch with Lowry CAT

Design your own Play Street with Salford Cultural Education Partnership

## LOWRY

- 10:00- Backstage Tours
- 16:30
- 10:00- Wildly Creative Family Crafts
- 14:00
- 10:30- CBeebies Bedtime Stories with Special Guest\*
- 11:00
- 12:30- CBeebies Bedtime Stories with Special Guest
- 13:00
- 11:00- Painted People
- 11:30
- 14:00- K-Pop Workshop for Young Children
- 14:45
- 15:00- K-Pop Workshop for Teens
- 16:00
- 15:30- CBeebies Bedtime Story with Special Guest\*
- 16:15
- 10.30, 11.30, 13:00, 14:00 Science Museum: What do astronauts do on the weekends?

### ALL DAY

LS Lowry Characters Come to Life!

Inclusive Art History Club: Early Years Sensory Art Workshop

Helena Worthington: Conveyor Belt Collage

Salford Pop Up Library and family drop-in activities

Fuzzy Felt Time

## PARTY BOATS

- 12:00 Semi Peppered
- 13:00 Northern Grooves
- 14:00 LI/NES: Post Punk Party
- 15:00 Treehouse Collective
- 16:00 Me Gusta Collective
- 16:00 Me Gusta Collective





Boat rides last 45mins

More information about Sunday




## INFORMATION YOU MIGHT FIND USEFUL...

Volunteers will be on hand all day to help you find out what's on, find your way around the festival site and much more - just ask and we'll help if we can

-  There are 3 information points across the festival site, there are two at MediaCity and the third is just outside Lowry. You can find them on the map marked with an .
-  The toilets are located in all of the big buildings - Dock House, Hot House, Lowry and Quayside. You can also find Changing Places in both Lowry and University of Salford.
-  There is a first aid point in MediaCity next to the Club Culture Tent.

### Photography & video

 Photographs and video will be taken at this event. These will be used for marketing and publicity, on our website, in social media or in any third-party promotions. If you don't wish to be included, please inform a volunteer, member of security, or photographer directly.

### Travel

 Transport for Greater Manchester are our official travel partners and their Bee Network is a great way to get too and from the festival! You can find all your [\*\*travel information here\*\*](#)



# See you next year!

## THANK YOU!

African Rainbow Family  
Afro Cats  
Art With Heart  
Ballistic Gym  
British Cycling  
British Taekwondo  
CBeebies  
Chameleon Dance  
Charity Super.Mkt  
Choirs Manchester  
Community Clothing  
Community Little Hulton  
Crop Radio  
Dance Like a Mother  
DanceSyndrome  
Dancing with Dementia  
DIY School  
Eatwell  
English National Opera  
Feel Good Communities  
Gaddum  
GRUB  
Holiday Inn

## Thank you to all our brilliant community groups and festival friends taking part in We Invented the Weekend

Home Instead  
Inspiring Communities Together  
IWM North  
Jaks World  
JD Dance  
Lowry Centre for Advanced Dance Training  
Lowry Community Creators  
Mama and Me  
Manchester Building Society  
Manchester Jump Rope  
Manchester United Foundation  
Michelle Louise School of Dance  
Morag Rose  
National Literacy Trust in Salford  
National Year of Reading  
Nell's Pizza  
Pendleton College  
Play England  
Quayside  
Recreate-U  
RHS Bridgewater  
Salford City Council Public Health

Salford Community Leisure  
Salford Cultural Education Partnership  
Salford CVS  
Salford Fostering Department  
Salford HongKongers  
Salford Libraries  
Salford Loaves and Fishes  
Salford Museum and Art Gallery  
Science and Industry Museum  
Sign Me Happy  
Sovereign House GH  
Street Gate Strummers  
Talk About it Mate  
TeeClub  
The Alchemist  
The Loiterers Resistance Movement  
The National Football Museum  
Tracing Steps  
Walk the Plank  
Ydalir Vikings

We invented the Weekend is made possible by the commitment and passion of our brilliant partners.

### Funders:

**MEDIA CITY**



Specialist-independant fundings by  
**ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**

**Salford City Council**

**GMCA**

### Partners and Supporters:

**LOWRY**

**B B C**



University of  
**Salford**  
MANCHESTER

### Official Travel Partner:



### Content Partners:

**QUAYSIDE**



**RHS**

### Festival delivery team:



**Hemingway Design**



**Salford CVS**  
Making a difference in Salford

[weinventedtheweekend.com](http://weinventedtheweekend.com)