



**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
- Partington Pots: Clay Seed Bombs

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

GARDEN PAVILION

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

FREE TIME LAWN

- 10:00-16:00 Salford Community Leisure: 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
- 13:15 Waste to Worth - The Power of Repair and Reuse in Clothing*

TALKS LAWN

- 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 Li'l 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

- 12:00-14:00 Karaoke Booths
- 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

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

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM NORTH

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

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

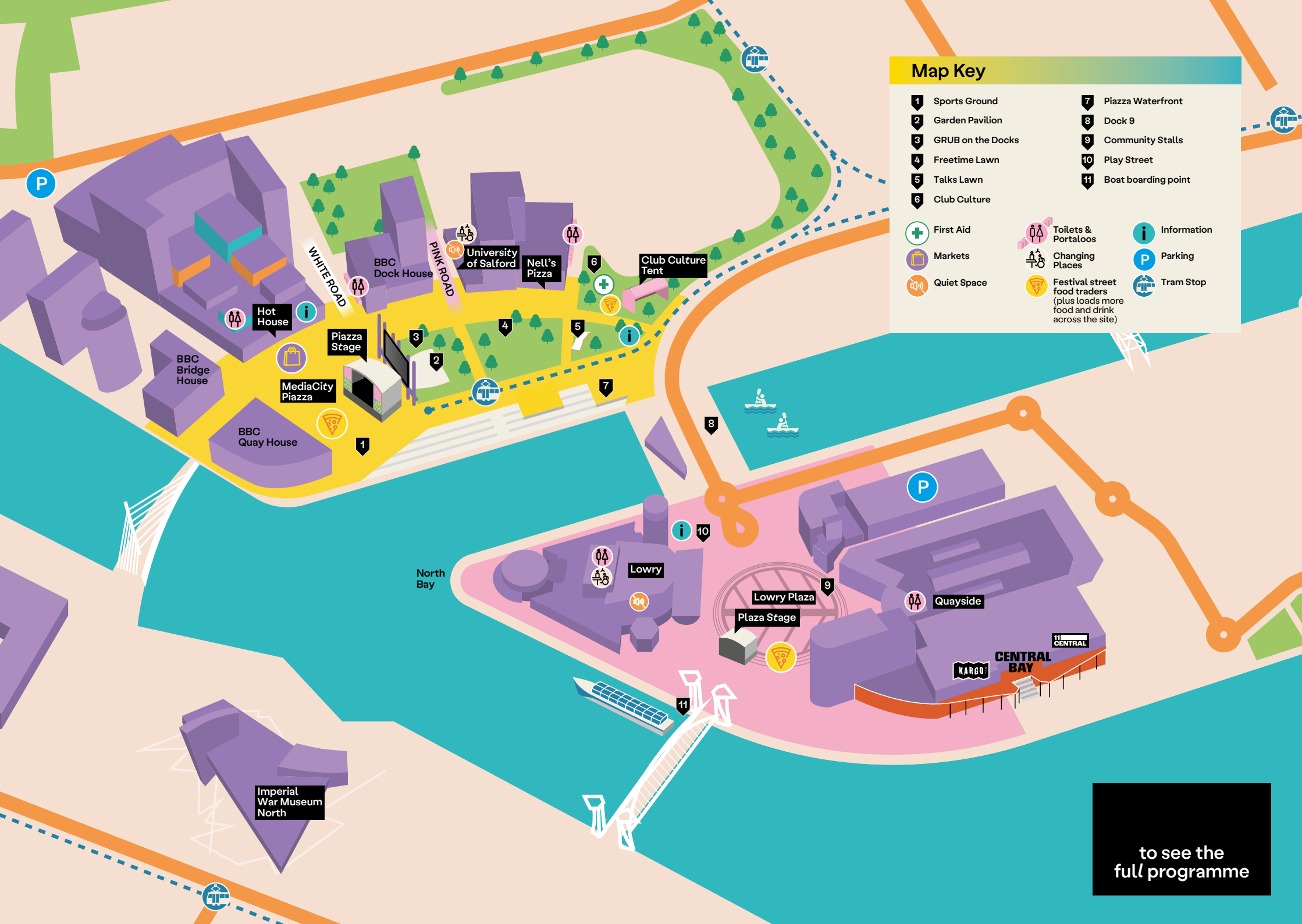
LOWRY

- 10:00-16:00 Wildly Creative Family Crafts
- 10:30-16:30 Lowry Backstage Tours
- 10:30-11:00 CBeebies Bedtime Stories with Special Guest
- 12:30-13:00 CBeebies Bedtime Stories with Special Guest
- 11:30-13:15 Sovereign House GH: Robot's Workshops
- 14:15-16:00 Sovereign House GH: Robot's Shows
- 12:30-13:00 Part 1 Lowry's Weekend: Going to the Match & Going to Work Talk and Tour*
- 13:00-13:30, 14:00-14:30, 15-15:30 Laughter Yoga
- 14:00-16:00 Lowry CAT: The Body of Us
- 15:30-16:00 CBeebies Bedtime Story with Special Guest*
- 16:00-17:00 POP UP! Festival Edit
- 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

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

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

- 10:00-13:00 Altogether Otherwise: Free Time Parade Workshops
- 13:00-14:30 Free Time Parade Choreography Workshop

ALL DAY

MikeSian Studio: Department for Perfect Weekends

Altogether Otherwise: Bringing Ideas to the Table

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

- 11:00-18:00 Salford Community Leisure: Crazy Golf
- 12:30-14:30 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

- 12:00-14:00 Karaoke Booths

OUT AND ABOUT

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

AS AND WHEN

Ailsa McPhee Daily Dance
Mr Wilsons Second Liners
Ydalir 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 Spies, Lies and Deception
- 10:00-15:00 Hands-on History: Charity Bick and the Home Front
- 10:00-16:00 Story Seekers
- 11:00-13:00 Meet the Author: Brian Groom
- 11:00-16:00 Spies Family Hub
- 12:00 War at Home Big Picture Show
- 12:00-16:00 Northern Air Hospital Radio
- 14:00-16:00 Meet the Author: Marie Basting

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
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 Togethr
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

- 10:00-16:30 Backstage Tours
- 10:00-14:00 Wildly Creative Family Crafts
- 10:30-11:00 CBeebies Bedtime Stories with Special Guest*
- 12:30-13:00 CBeebies Bedtime Stories with Special Guest
- 11:00-11:30 Painted People
- 14:00-14:45 K-Pop Workshop for Young Children
- 15:00-16:00 K-Pop Workshop for Teens
- 15:00-15:30 CBeebies Bedtime Story with Special Guest*
- 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