



Internationally focussed, locally grounded

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES 2025-2026

Engaging
**Communities, Global Artists
& Brand Partners**

through
the Power of Image.

14th October - 17th November 2026



'Oro Verde' by Ritual Inhabitual at Dockside Albion. Bristol Photo Festival 2024



'Dreamlines', a city-wide programme of 13 commissions by local and international photographers working with community groups. A project in collaboration with Historic England and Bristol City Council. Bristol Photo Festival 2023.

“Bristol Photo Festival is unique in how it turns the whole city into a space for discovery, connecting communities with both emerging and established photographers. It offers sponsors a rare opportunity to engage diverse audiences and support the social impact of photography.”

– Marine Merindol
(CEO at Magnum Photos)

“Bristol Photo Festival is an urgent cultural event, asking key questions of photography and beyond in well-chosen and brilliantly curated exhibitions.”

– Diane Smyth
(British Journal of Photography)

“Bristol Photo Festival has already delivered two great editions, with both local and international inputs. As the reputation of the festival gains momentum, the next event should be the best yet.”

– Martin Parr (Photographer)

“A striking collection of shows”



Charlett Johnson
(The Guardian's Review)

One of four nominees for International Photo Festival of the Year.

The Lucie Awards (2024), proposed by a jury of 80 leading editors and curators.

Bristol Photo Festival is a citywide celebration of photography - where image-making meets place-making. Spanning historic venues, public streets, shopfronts and parks, the festival draws in leading international artists while working deeply with local communities.

Founded on the belief that photography can change how we see the world, and each other, the Festival invites the public to experience exhibitions that respond directly to Bristol's landscape, history and cultural identity. From world-renowned talent like Rinko Kawauchi and Trent Parke to emerging voices from Bristol's diverse neighbourhoods, it's a festival where global meets hyper-local.

Led by Artistic Director Alejandro Acín and a respected board including figures from Magnum Photos and leading cultural organisations across Europe, the festival combines curatorial excellence with a long-term commitment to access, education, and equity in the arts.

Bristol Photo Festival engages a notably young and diverse audience — many of whom are emerging creatives, students, or first-time gallery-goers. For brands, this offers a unique opportunity to connect with the next generation of image-makers and cultural consumers at a formative stage in their journey. We don't just bring eyes to your brand — we help you build long-term relationships with a rising creative community that's shaping the future of photography, content, and visual culture.



International – 5%

(Ireland, France, the Netherlands, Spain, Canada and the U.S.A.)

As stated in the introduction, we believe that our data underestimates international visitors, the majority of whom chose to visit during the Festival's opening week - a period during which no surveying was carried out.

UK wide – 10%

This included visitors from the Birmingham, London, Cardiff, Sheffield and Edinburgh regions, demonstrating the wide reach of the festival.

South-West region – 15%

We saw strong participation from Central & North Somerset (Taunton, Weston-super-mare, Backwell, Nailsea) as well as Gloucester and the surrounding region (Yate, Dursley, Thornbury). This suggests a good number of visitors travelled from across the region to visit the festival.

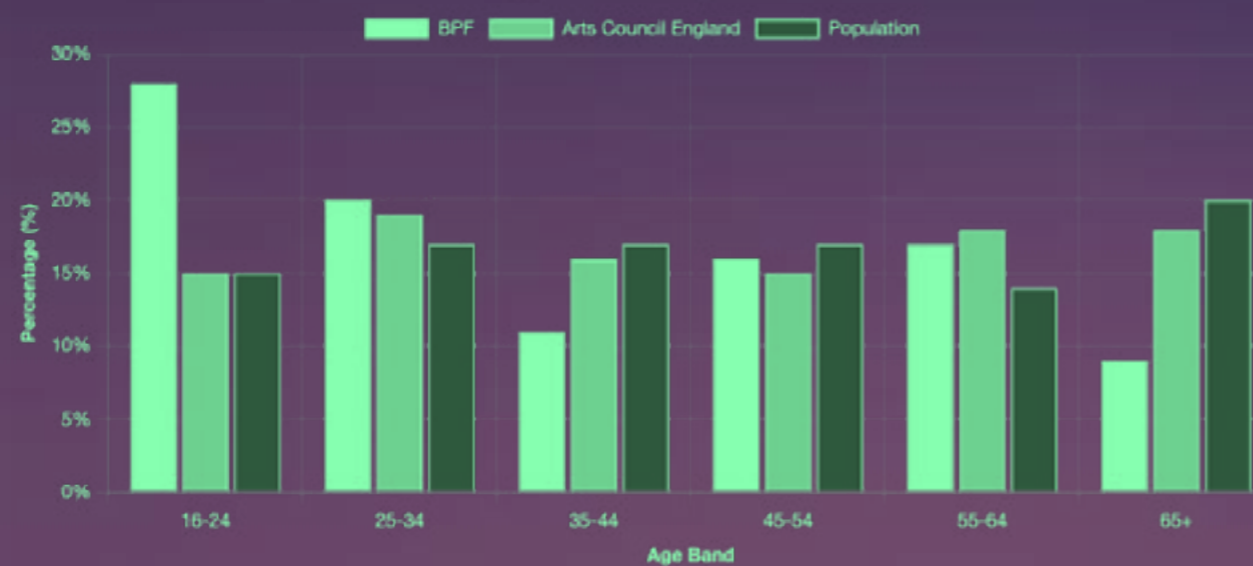
Bristol specific – 70%

We have visitors from every single postcode in the city.

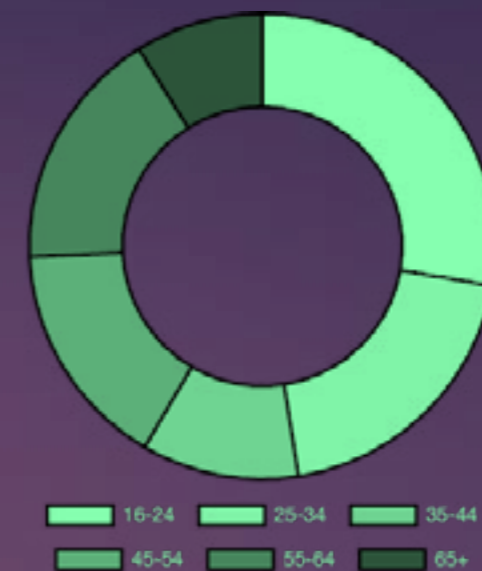
Social Class Distribution - BPF Data



Age Profile Comparison



Gender



THEME

Time Machine

(Title TBC)

The *NOW* is never singular, but a convergence, haunted and nourished by what has been and what may yet be. The *PRESENT* is not a fixed point, but a porous, shifting field, constantly rewritten by the echoes of what came before and the fictions we project ahead.

Photography not merely capturing time,
but entangling with it.

14th October – 17th November 2026

Opening week events: 14th-18th October 2026
+ Selected exhibitions will continue until January 2027

Exhibitions Highlights



Joy Gregory

Joy Gregory (b. 1959, UK) is a visual artist whose work explores concerns related to race, gender and cultural differences in contemporary society. Her work has been published and exhibited worldwide and is held in the collections of the Victoria and Albert Museum and Government Art Collection in the UK

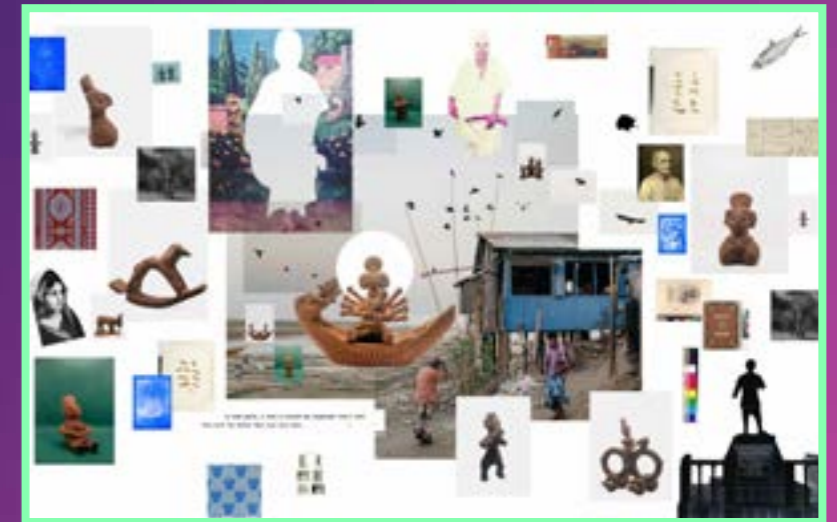
The festival in collaboration with Arnolfini and Whitechapel Gallery will hold her first retrospective exhibition in the UK.



Giulio Disturco

The Forgotten Archive of the Future is a post-documentary multimedia project that reimagines the remnants of humanity's present as forgotten fragments of potential futures.

Blending documentary photography, experimental film, and sound design, the project reflects on real-world spaces that embody the seeds of tomorrow—technological infrastructures, environmental transformations, and human survival mechanisms.



Akshay Majahan

An exploration of the lost folk traditions of the India–Bangladesh border. His has never had a solo show in the UK.

The exhibition *When it Breaks, it Shatters* will bring together works from Mahajan's long-term series *People of Clay* (2016 - present) alongside newly commissioned works, developed through research at the British Empire and Commonwealth Collection (Bristol).

Exhibitions Highlights



Kegham Djeghalian Jr

Bristol Photo Festival in collaboration with Cairo Photo Week will produce the first solo exhibition in the UK by Cairo based artist Kegham Djeghalian Jr. He will be presenting the archive of his grandfather, who set up the first photography studio (Photo Kegham) in Palestine, after escaping Armenia in 1944.

A survey of his grandfather's photography studio, established in Gaza in 1944 after fleeing the Armenian genocide.



Maria Lax

Over the past 3 years, Maria Lax has been developing her third major body of work, *Stray Sod*. She moved to a remote part of Ireland for nearly two years in order to complete the project, and collaborated with the Irish National Folklore Collection at the University of Dublin. Drawing on first-hand accounts found in the folklore archive, the project reimagines the experiences of lone individuals who lost their way while navigating familiar landscapes.



Rebecca Topakian

The first solo show that combines all the series from *Armenian Tales*. A history of the Caucasus region as refracted through the myths surrounding her Anatolian grandparents, exploring landscape, memory, belonging, and the cyclical nature of history.

This show will be produced in collaboration with Fluxus Arts Projects.

Exhibition Highlights (Partnerships)



**200th Anniversary of
Photography (French Institute)**

This exhibition offers an alternative perspective on the history of photography through a cross-cultural collaboration between UK and French institutions and curators. The project will present an expanded history, bringing together materials from major collections in both countries to explore how photographic narratives are constructed, remembered, and reimagined.



**HEAT
(Magnum Foundation, NYC)**

The projects presented here were developed in Magnum Foundation's 2023–25 Photography Expanded Fellowship focused on the theme of heat and climate crisis. As increasingly urgent crises demand new paradigms for making and sharing images, this fellowship supported projects that reimagine what a critical and ecological photographic practice might look like.

Engagement programme

Alongside the central exhibition programme we are developing a series of in-depth, collaborative projects in priority neighbourhoods across the city. Each project will culminate in a public exhibition, allowing participants and local audiences to see themselves reflected in the festival. Projects include:



The Parade

Dating back to the 16th century, St Anne's once held annual parades from the city centre, during which participants carried improbably large candles - some said to reach 80 feet - made by local craftspeople. We intend to work with community groups to restage the parade.

Developed in collaboration with the University of Bristol's Theatre Collection, which holds the archive of Welfare State International (WSI) - the seminal theatre group (1968–2006) known for its lantern parades.



The Summer School

We will work with young people (16–25) in Lawrence Weston to establish a temporary 'school', where participants work with a range of facilitators to learn from and reinterpret their local area.

Participants will explore subjects including the history of housing, land-use, the importance of green space and local governance, before imagining a new ritual (an event, story or public landmark) for Lawrence Weston. The 'school' will run over two weeks with sessions led by invited artists. It will culminate in both an exhibition and a live event staged during the festival.

Partners: Ambition Lawrence Weston



The Newsroom

A temporary 'newsroom' will be established in Junction 3 Library, where residents can contribute stories and photographs towards the creation of an alternative history of the St Pauls/Easton neighbourhood. It will be a space for listening, recording, and narrating the lives of those who call the area home - mapping local belonging and encompassing the many diasporic communities around Junction 3. A temporary team of writers and photographers—both Bristol-based and international - will lead the project.

Partners: Junction 3 (Library Services)
Artists: TBC



CATALYST. Mentorship Program

CATALYST is a 7 month online mentorship program for emergent photographers to expand their approach and ways of photographing and exhibiting. The program is open to local based, national and international practitioners who are at the beginning of their creative career. Participants will receive support from a team of mentors with experience in various creative fields (festival artists, curators, designers, editors, arts management...).



School in Residence

We have also developed a 'schools-in-residence' programme including workshops led by photographers from across the festival. We aim to give young people (primary & secondary) access to the individuals & ideas at the centre of the festival, while building ladders of aspiration & engagement.

This year will be supporting students from Hannah More Primary through workshops and exhibition visits.



Education Week

Bristol Photo Festival offers a rich programme that includes in-depth portfolio reviews designed to support and showcase emerging artists. The festival also provides guided tours, practical workshops, and tailored learning experiences for schools, colleges, and universities across the region, helping students engage directly with contemporary photographic practice and professional development opportunities.



Public Symposium

With an estimated audience of 250. The festival symposium will bring together many of the artists exhibiting across the festival for a day of lively discussion. Each artist will appear in-conversation with an invited guest, unpacking the ideas behind their exhibition. The symposium is a unique opportunity to hear leading voices from across the photographic world, all together in the same room for the first time. Throughout the day there will be opportunities for audience questions and informal conversation.



Opening Week events: 500 attended the ticketed opening weekend events (talks & performances) with a further 1200 attending free exhibition openings and celebrations.

Walking Tours: 250 participants in 2024, including community-led routes through the City Centre, Easton and St Pauls.

Workshops & Education: Ongoing sessions with schools, local artists, and families—entirely free to attend.

Workshops & Education: Ongoing sessions with over 20 schools and universities + masterclasses for young people led by festival artists - entirely free to attend.

Pop-Up Spaces: Unused storefronts transformed into temporary galleries - revitalising the high street.

Initial Festival Announcement

March 2026

Brand Planning - Spring 2026

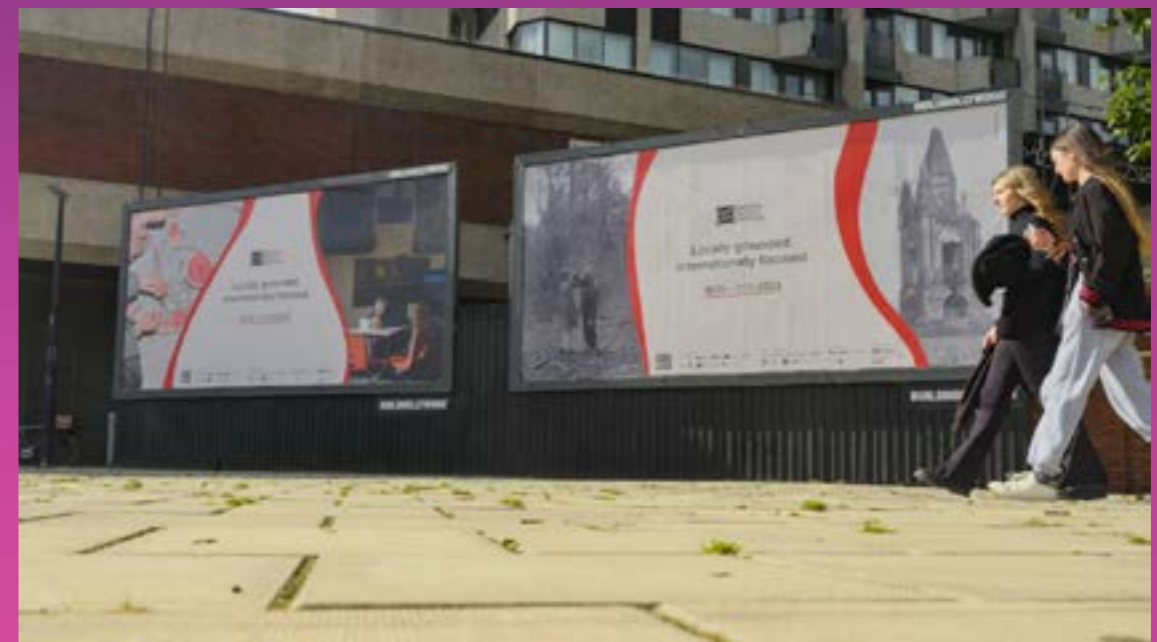
This includes collaborating with brands to develop new campaigns, including artists commissions, workshops and targeted events.

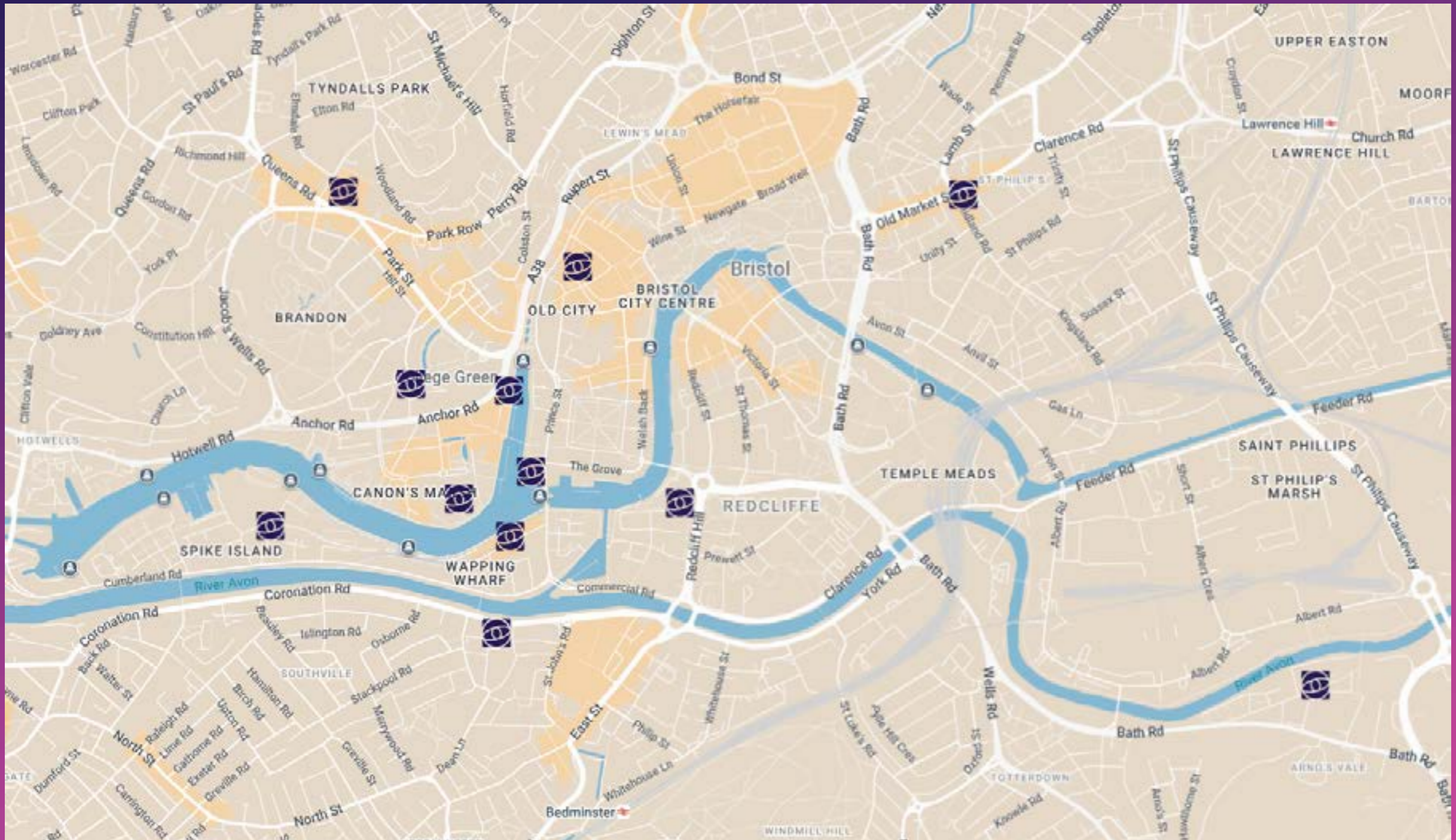
Festival Build Up Phase - Summer 2026

this includes festival programme launch events in Bristol, London and Arles (France); workshops with emerging artists and local communities; plus artist residencies across the city.

Festival Opening Week - 14th-18th October 2026 -

Including talks, events, workshops, demonstrations and parties across the city. The main festival then continues until 17th November 2026, with selected exhibitions continuing until January 2027.





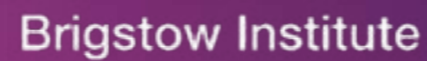
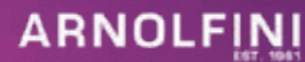


'Spaces of Separation' by Sarker Protick at St. Paul's crypt. Bristol Photo Festival 2024

Funders



Cultural Partners



Media Partners



100,000+ total visitors in 2024 edition

16 exhibitions across 14 venues and outdoor spaces

Footfall across M Shed, Arnolfini, Bristol City Museum, Martin Parr Foundation, and street-level displays

9,000+ newsletter subscribers

25,000+ followers across social media.

National & International Coverage in: The Guardian, FT Magazine, BBC Arts, Bristol 24/7, British Journal of Photography, Le Monde.

Targeted OOH & digital campaigns throughout the year



SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

Sponsorship Packages

EXHIBITION PACKAGE — £5,000

Support one of the festival's key exhibitions and align your brand with contemporary photography and culture.

Includes:

- Sponsor logo displayed at the exhibition venue
- Logo and acknowledgement on festival website
- Mention in selected festival marketing materials
- Social media acknowledgement across festival channels
- Guided Tour for up to 20 staff members
- Opportunity to provide branded materials at the venue
- Recognition as Exhibition Sponsor in press and communications where relevant



Sponsorship Packages

OPENING WEEK PACKAGE — £3,000

Support the launch of the festival and help create a vibrant opening week programme for audiences, artists, and partners.

Includes:

- Sponsor acknowledgement during opening week events
- Logo on opening week promotional materials
- Social media mentions during opening week campaign
- Invitations for up to 6 guests to opening events
- Opportunity to host guests or clients during opening week
- Recognition on festival website as Opening Week Sponsor



Sponsorship Packages

Education & Engagement Package — £2,000

Help expand access to photography through talks, workshops, community activities, and learning programmes.

Includes:

- Recognition as Education & Engagement Sponsor
- Logo on relevant workshop and learning materials
- Acknowledgement on festival website
- Social media mention connected to engagement activities
- Invitations for up to 4 guests to festival events
- Support visibility for community and educational outcomes




OTHER BRAND ACTIVATION OPPORTUNITIES



- **Festival Naming Rights:** BPF in partnership with (Your brand)
- **Exhibition and Public Installation Naming Rights:** Align with major exhibitions or public installations (e.g. "YourBrand presents Dreamlines at M Shed")
- **Co-Brand** the festival by placing your name at the centre of everything we do (e.g. "Bristol Photo festival, in partnership with YourBrand")
- **Festival Hubs:** Co-brand the city centre festival hub, with space for product demonstrations and interaction with audiences.

Immersive Experiences & Artists Collaborations

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- **Photo Booths and Interactions:** Sponsor a photo booth with artist-led prompts, instant print takeaways and digital sharing moments, placed in a key venue or festival space
 - **Demo activations:** sponsor the festival hub with onsite brand demonstration space for equipment and services
 - **Artist Collaborations:** Co-commission a new collaboration (e.g. opening night sound-score with artists and musicians) with accompanying online material



- **Education Workshops:** Deliver creative sessions in local schools, universities or with groups of emerging artists, branded with partner support
- **Walking Tours:** Sponsor branded tour guides, trail plaques and interactive maps tied to Bristol's neighbourhoods
- **Residencies:** Co-develop an artist residency around a theme meaningful to the brand—e.g. sustainability, youth voices, migration



DREAMLINES

PICTURING BRISTOL HIGH STREETS



BRISTOL
PHOTO
FESTIVAL

- **City-wide billboard campaign**
- **Festival Zine / Limited Prints:** Partner on limited-run printed material or festival-end visual summary, produced by artists and creatives
- **Content Series:** Collaborate on short films or IG/YouTube series spotlighting creative journeys, co-branded and shared across channels



Global Reach, Local Voice

All brand partnerships are
custom-built, with flexibility and co-creation
at their core

Opportunities to collaborate on
idea development and creative execution
across media, community, education, or experiential engagement

You're not just a sponsor
You're part of the story



Alejandro Acín
(Artistic Director)



Jane Farram
(Comms Manager)



Martin Parr
(Board Member.
Photographer)



Ben GJ Thomas
(Engagement
Director)



Illayda Akarca
(Volunteer
Coordinator)



Audrey Hoareau
CRP/Centre régional
de la photographie
in Douchy-les-Mines,
France.)



Safia Belhaj
(Designer &
Producer)



James Barnett
(Accountant)



Dr. Negar Elodie Behzadi
(Board Member. Academic
in Human Geography
researching about memory
and migration).



Sam Trenerry
(Press Manager)



Wendy Leocque
(Board Member.
Educator interested
in Black history and
representation)



Marine Merindol
(Board Member.
CEO at Magnun Photos)



'One Hundred and Twenty Minutes' by Amak Mahmoodian at 17 Midland Road. Bristol Photo Festival 2024



We believe in meaningful brand partnerships built on creativity, visibility, and shared impact.

Talk to us about how your organisation can become part of Bristol Photo Festival's story.

Contact:

Alejandro Acín (Festival Director)

director@bristolphotofestival.org

[@bristolphotofestival](#)