



Welcome

Welcome to your Organisers Pack for LFA2026: a quick-reference document to help you get the most out of your involvement in the Festival.

In the pack, you'll find an overview of the Festival, ideas of how to get involved in LFA2026, including key dates, event inspiration and FAQ.

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What is the London Festival of Architecture?

The London Festival of Architecture (LFA) is a month-long celebration of architecture and city making, taking place every June across London.

Our mission is to act as a vehicle for change, by making discussions around architecture more accessible, providing the platform to test new ideas, and promote emerging talent, with an aim to move towards a more equitable and sustainable city.

The Festival is for everyone interested in shaping the future of our city. Uniting industry professionals, students, and Londoners, it is a collaborative moment for discovery, debate, learning, and activism, creating positive change across our city and neighbourhoods.

From its founding in 2004, LFA has worked with boroughs, developers, architects, and neighbourhoods across London to provide a platform for discourse and meaningful change. Together we have built temporary architectural interventions, public realm improvements, outdoor exhibitions, walking tours and workshops, and facilitated the development of rich cultural programmes which bring together the public and the profession. For us, architecture goes beyond the skeleton of a building, it is the in-between spaces, the landscapes, the people who make them, work and live in them.

Each year we aim to empower individuals, collectives and organisations to play their part—whether at a local or city wide scale.

LFA is run by NLA – London's built environment community. The Festival returns to London on 1–30 June 2026.



LFA2026 overview and theme

For LFA2026, we will be exploring the theme of 'Belonging'. This annual theme was selected collaboratively with our LFA2026 Curation Panel, which includes representatives from across the industry and beyond. You can find more information about the panel on the LFA website here.

LFA2026 Theme: Belonging

We live in a time of stark contrasts - of people, places and ways of thinking. And within this it is all too easy to fall into traps of ignorance, denial, anger or pessimism. None of which lead to healthy, thriving, and safe cities. LFA2026 aims to be a platform for hope and belonging, a space to reimagine connection, and a vehicle for change in our city.

We hope LFA2026 will plant seeds that grow long after June—whether that be skills, ideas, and connections. We hope organisers can rewild grey parts of the city, reclaim neglected and unsafe streets, and show what happens when lived experience and professional expertise work together to create spaces in which people can belong. We hope those engaged will ask hard questions, collectively take responsibility and celebrate the small, everyday acts of care and creativity through which a city becomes a place of belonging for all.

We look forward to unpacking these ideas collectively. Together, we can create new systems and frameworks, and build more equitable spaces for all.

[Read more on the LFA website here ↗](#)



How can you get involved in LFA2026?



Be part of the Festival as an attendee

The LFA2026 programme will go live in May 2026 – where you will be able to save and book your favourite activities to be part of. To be the first to hear about the programme, make sure to sign up to the LFA newsletter here.



Lead your very own Festival activity

Each year we work to empower new individuals and organisations to stage their own Festival activity. From tours and talks to workshops and performances, we welcome unique and meaningful approaches to the theme. We open our Open Call for LFA2026 activity in January 2026.



Partner with us or an LFA organiser on a project

Each year, we partner with several cultural institutions and partners to co-create content for the Festival. While each of these look different from one another, they all have the aim of going beyond what has been done in the organisation, industry or city before. Alternatively, if you'd like to participate in LFA, but don't have capacity to organise your own event, we'd love to matchmake you with one of our many event submissions that arrive each year without a home. If either of these apply, email:

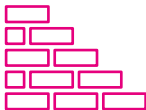
info@londonfestivalofarchitecture.org



Partner with us to make the Festival happen

LFA could not happen without the contribution of our generous partners who make the Festival possible. Each year we work with organisations from within and beyond the industry to deliver the Festival, celebrate London as global hub for architecture and support the next generation of talent in London. For more information, head to the Partners page here on our website, or alternatively email

shannan.wood@nla.london

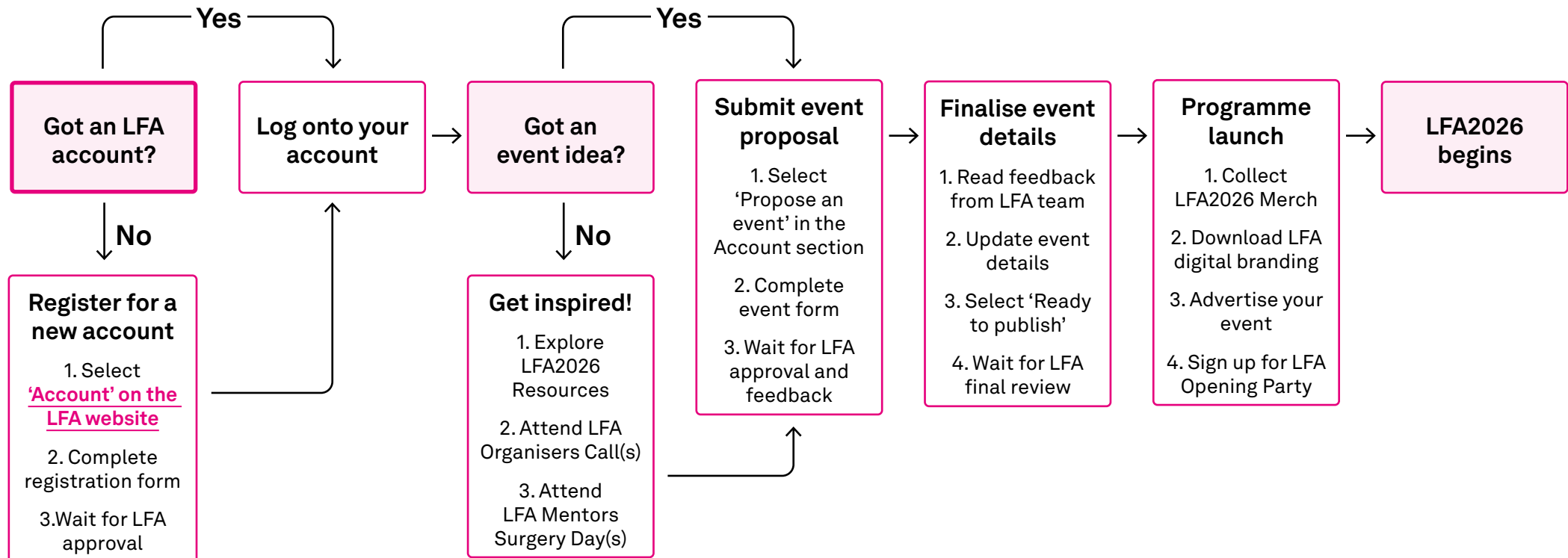


Partner with us on a competition, commission or street reimagining

We have a tried-and-tested model of running architectural competitions for interventions ranging from permanent improvements to the public realm to temporary festival pop ups. By posing design challenges and giving public projects to emerging designers, these competitions support young talent and create space to test out new ideas for long term improvement in the public realm.

[Find out more on the LFA website here.](#)

Submission process for LFA Festival activity



LFA2026 Key Dates

Here are some of the main LFA2026 dates. You can find a full and up-to-date set of Festival dates and deadlines in the

[Account section of the LFA website here](#)

October–December 2025

LFA idea generation and open call preparation

15 October

LFA2026 Theme Launch

19 November, 4-5pm

LFA2026 Organisers Call (1) – Get involved/ready

Sign up in the LFA account section [here](#)

3 December, 2-5pm

Mentor Surgery Day (1) – Open Call prep

Sign up in the [LFA account section here](#)

January–June 2026

LFA activity submission and management

13 January

LFA2026 Open Call for events and projects launch.

Head to the Account section of the LFA website here to submit your LFA2026 activity responding to the theme of ‘Belonging’

28 January, 4-5pm

LFA2026 Organisers Call (2) – Get involved/ready

Sign up in the [LFA account section here](#)

w/c 2 February, 2-5pm

Mentor Surgery Day (2) – Finalise submission

Sign up in the [LFA account section here](#)

6 February

Early Bird submission deadline for Festival activity

Submit your event by this time to save £100!

6 March

Standard submission deadline for Festival activity

No events will be accepted after this time

20 March

Standard submission deadline for Festival activity

LFA activity promotion and delivery

25 March, 4-5pm

LFA2026 Organisers Call (3) – Event promotion

Sign up in the [LFA account section here](#)

27 March

Festival activity website listing lock

From this moment you will not be able to edit your Festival activity listing

6 May

LFA2026 Programme Launch

This is the key moment to start promoting your event. You will have access to the LFA2026 assets from April 2026. Please do not start promoting your event before this date

w/c 18-25 May

LFA2026 Merchandise collection

Collect your physical LFA2026 merch from The London Centre

1-30 June

LFA2026!

LFA2026 reflection and feedback stage

10 July

Event feedback and imagery submission deadline

By submitting an event you agree to complete LFA's feedback form, as well as upload any photos or videos from your event. More info can be found in the [Account section of the LFA website here](#)

Why put on an LFA event?

- Be part of shaping the future of our city
- Bring together people to celebrate or change a forgotten part of your neighbourhood
- Create space for conversation and knowledge exchange
- Connect to new people in your local area
- Connect to new people in the industry
- Expand knowledge around a lost part of history, or a cause people should know more about
- Rethink your collection or space with a lens of architecture and the city
- Share more sustainable or inclusive ways of making or thinking
- Showcase your area or latest innovations
- Showcase the work of emerging designers in your area or country
- Take learning outside the classroom - or innovation out of studios - and test out ideas in real life

PLUS, get access to your special LFA merchandise and digital toolkits, attend the special Opening Party and be part of creating real change in our city.

But don't just take our word for it, hear from some of our previous organisers about why they got involved with LFA:

“LFA is such a great opportunity to open up architecture, interior, and urban design to the general public, and young people in particular.” **Sarah, Perkins&Will**

“A great opportunity to connect with a wide range of people who otherwise might not stray into our little corner of London.” **Alan, Friends of Betts Park**

“As a resident of Haringey, I've been keenly involved in many architectural projects in the borough that have shared authorship with local people, particularly around Wood Green. I was thrilled to be part of many powerful discussions and events for this LFA, ones that were curated with local residents in order to examine the cultural heritage of their diverse communities and steps to safeguard its future.” **Jonathan, Freehaus Design**

“Being part of the iconic London Festival of Architecture is such a joy as I get to interact with people who are truly passionate about the built environment. The Festival champions non-dominant narratives gives and voice to micro practices like History Speak CIC. Being an organiser and attendee reveals the city in a whole new light!” **Manasi, History Speak**

“LFA2025 was a wonderful opportunity for us to take an exploratory approach to a new subject area as part of our regular Open Friday programme. We loved feeling part of a London-wide initiative, raising awareness of our building and collections with new audiences who heard about the event through the LFA listings and connecting with new audiences in fresh ways. Our volunteer team also loved the pink footprints as way-finders and said they made a real difference bringing people into our otherwise intimidating building! Thank you for your support and resources.” **Michelle, Society of Antiquaries**

What events can be part of LFA?

Since 2004, LFA has been platform for discourse and meaningful change, using temporary architectural interventions, public realm improvements, exhibitions, walking tours and workshops to bring together the public and the profession around conversations of architecture and city making. Over the next three pages are examples of highlight events from previous editions of the Festival.

What does a good Festival activity look like?

- Activity that creates a safe space for conversation, creation, and collaboration, breaking down language, physical and intellectual barriers
- Activity that focuses on empowering young people to succeed or upskilling others on more sustainable practices in a rapidly changing world
- Activity that opens up spaces that are usually inaccessible or expands open hours, to create safe spaces for young people after school and working hours
- Activity that sees meaningful cross-industry and cross-sector collaboration, with a focus on long-term change for the city and industry
- Activity that rethinks traditional event formats and invites in those who have been previously excluded – whether this involves music or food, or shifts event timings for those with caring commitments
- Activity which platforms good design, sustainable and inclusive best practice, emerging designers or local voices
- Activity which responds to the pillars of the New London Agenda. Learn more about the [New London Agenda here](#)

What Festival activity will not be accepted?

- Activity that has the aim of promoting one practice, way of thinking or set of voices. For example, a panel discussion must include speakers from different generations, backgrounds, and disciplines to ensure a broad range of perspectives
- Activity that is inaccessible to attendees – whether due to physical, social or language barriers. Detailed guidance on what inclusive LFA events [look like here](#)
- Activity that is unclear what is on offer – whether this is to do with the event content, venue or available access provisions
- Activity that is vague. No event will be accepted if it is blank, has no or minimal information on speakers, or does not demonstrate potential legacy
- Activity that runs more than twice during the Festival, unless previously agreed with the LFA team. Each organiser may submit up to three activities
- Activity with unclear information around duration, location, inclusivity and sustainability of activity, or what people can expect from the activity

Event highlights



Voices of Rising Green

PERFORMANCE AND TALK

This youth panel event centred the dynamic young voices of Haringey at Rising Green Youth Hub in Wood Green. Co-curated by the young voices of the hub, the event saw four individuals deliver thought-provoking spoken word performances, before diving into a discussion session around how we can work towards a more inclusive and resilient future for Wood Green, one informed by its young people.



Innovation through Sustainable Materials in the Royal Docks

WORKSHOP

To connect attendees to the materials of the city local area and upskill around more sustainable practices, the University of East London, in collaboration with Grimshaw and, organised a hands-on session exploring the potential of local carbon neutral materials in architecture and design. The workshop enabled participants to explore agricultural by-products as new building materials, and how carbon footprint of the materials created can be calculated.



Dalston Pavilion

INSTALLATION AND EVENTS PROGRAMME

Starting from the need to open up their building beyond its four brick walls and connect with surrounding neighbours, the London School of Architecture used the Festival to transform their adjacent car park into a temporary space for connection, conversation, and experimentation. The pavilion also acted as a temporary gathering space for events, people, conversations and learning through June, and was a true catalyst for long-term meaningful change for the school, surrounding communities, and the city more widely. [Find out more here](#)

Event highlights



Co-Existing Identities

BUILDING TOUR AND TALK

Led by Brent Council, this event saw a unique tour of the Shri Sanatan Hindu Mandir Temple in Wembley, followed by a discussion unpacking the question of how you build a long-term sense of belonging in an area of many varied communities, and how religious buildings play a vital role in shaping local areas, serving as focal points for community engagement, social cohesion, and cultural understanding.



Reimagining artsdepot

DROP IN WORKSHOP

With the help of Edgy Collective, Barnet Council and LFA, artsdepot set aside a day to ask their neighbours and visitors what they should do to enliven the outside of their building. The Festival event acted as a stimulus for engagement and ideas, with over 200 people engaging with the project to inspire their landlords to brighten up the concrete. [Find out more here.](#)



Evolution in Motion

PERFORMANCE

This special performance saw Sutton Community Dance activate and reimagine the high street through a series of short performances along the high street. Each performance intertwined themes of architecture and regeneration, capturing Sutton's evolution. Performances throughout the day celebrated some of the individuals in the area, whilst challenging people to think about the past, present, and future of our spaces.

Event highlights



Deaf Architecture Front Launch

LAUNCH

Deaf Architecture Front (DAF) - a platform with a focus on activism, consultation, open resource, and research - was launched as part of LFA. Following the platforms' aim to create a bridge between Deaf communities and architectural/ spatial practice industries, the evening saw a presentation from founder Christopher Laing, followed by a discussion and Q&A session.



LFA Takeover at Now Gallery

EXHIBITIONS

Bringing together a series of global voices through three exhibitions, the Now Gallery in Greenwich Peninsula created a unique space for intimate and global conversation. The exhibitions started with challenges to the traditional boundaries of architecture, before moving to an exploration of more equitable practices in the planning process in Kenya, and ending with a display of models and archival content raising awareness of Somali heritage sites.



New Museum of London at West Smithfield

BUILDING TOUR

A rare opportunity to go behind the scenes of one of the major future cultural spaces of our city, with architects Stanton Williams and client Museum of London. With high vis and helmets on, attendees entered the construction site to see the new cultural venue first-hand and learn about the challenges of transforming the listed market buildings into a 21st-century cultural destination that creates a welcome space for generations to come.

Event highlights



Library Lates @ Wood Green Central Library

LATES

For one night only, the Alexandra Palace Young Creatives Network in Haringey curated an evening of live music, DJs and performance to transform people's perceptions of public libraries. Opening the library beyond traditional hours, the event created a space for people to meet, connect to their part of the city, and enter into conversations around architecture and the city. The event also provided young people the opportunity to get hands-on experience of designing and organising a unique event.



The Finnish Sauna

INSTALLATION AND LIVE BUILD

This ambitious project saw Finnish architect Sami Rintala, architectural students from the University of Westminster and the Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland join forces to create a one-of-a-kind sauna in Victoria Embankment Gardens (thanks to a partnership with LFA and Westminster Council). The LFA audience was able to watch as the co-design and build project came to life on site and book sessions using the Sauna to see it in practice.

[Find out more about the project here.](#)



Sessions by Narrative Practice

MENTORING SESSIONS

Sessions aimed to improve representation in the built environment, through in-person, complimentary design reviews for current and prospective students and young practitioners in architecture and the built environment—regardless of background or academic stage. Particularly focusing on empowering those whose perspectives have long been overlooked within architectural discourse, the event created space for emerging voices to be heard, supported, and amplified.

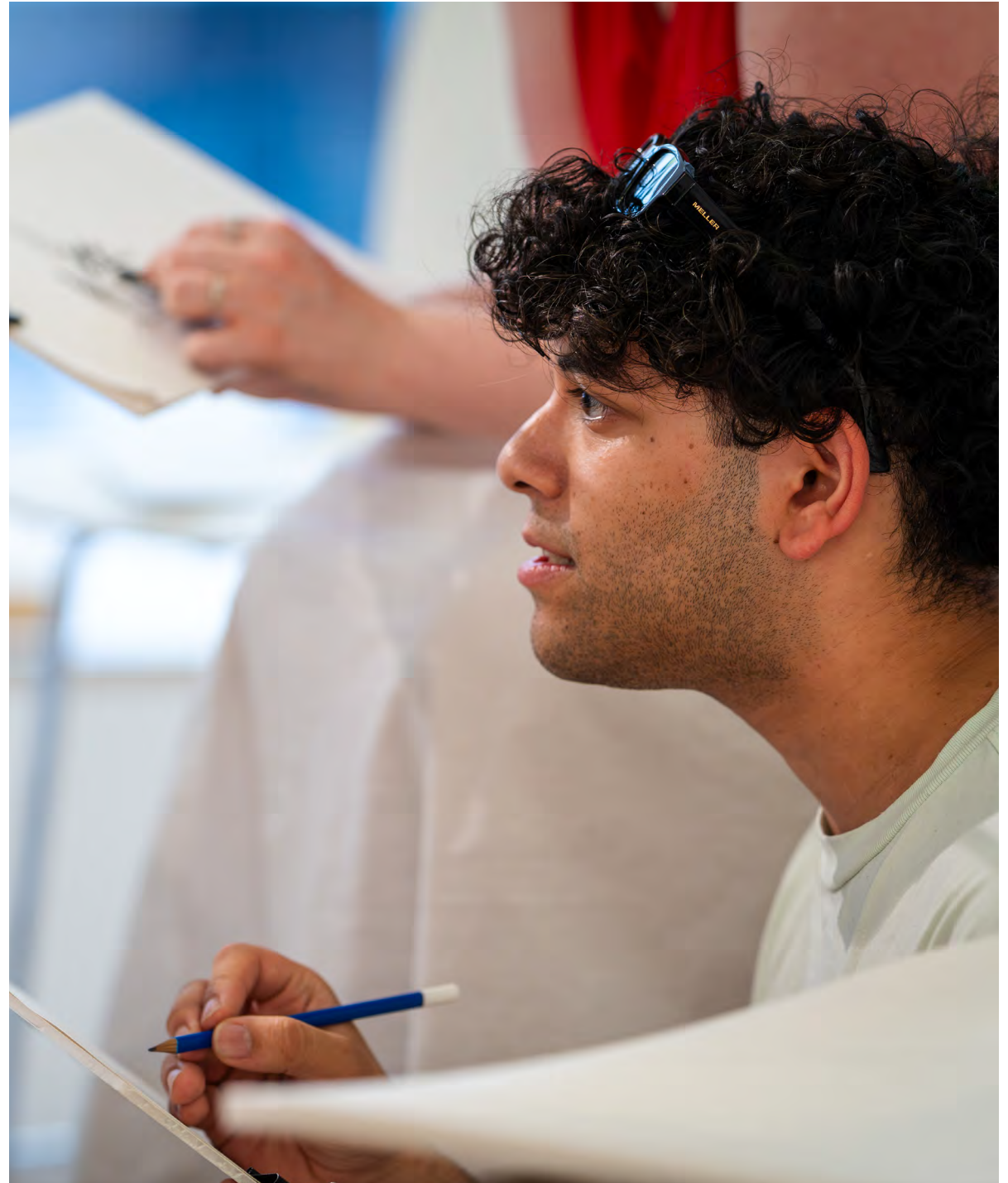
Explore our archive of previous Festivals on the [Festival history page here.](#)

What does a good Open Studio look like?

The LFA Open Studios programme has always been a key part of the LFA programme, providing a unique opportunity to see the behind the scenes of London's leading architectural and design practices, upskill the next generation and connect with those in the surrounding areas.

LFA Open Studios work best when neighbouring studios collaborate on a local series of drop in activities, including:

- Displays or installations
- Workshops
- Building tours
- Quick fire presentations
- Portfolio reviews
- Street parties
- Icebreaker sessions for those new to networking



Still have questions or need inspiration?

FAQ's

Below you can find the answers to commonly asked questions about LFA. For more queries, head to the LFA FAQ page in the account section of the question here.

If you can't find the answer to your question, we suggest you join a LFA2026 Organiser call or Mentor Surgery Day, or email the LFA team at info@londonfestivalofarchitecture.org.

Please be aware that although we will try to respond as quickly as possible, we are a small team and responses may not always be immediate.

Do I need to be an architect to be involved with the Festival?

No! The LFA programme is built up of events and projects led by the people who live, shape, and truly know London. It's the breadth and collaborative creativity of the event organisers that delivers such a varied and engaging programme of events for the Festival each June.

Do I need to have run an event before?

No! We work year-round to help new individuals and organisations feel empowered to stage their own Festival events and welcome everyone into the conversation around architecture and our city. This is done through the LFA Mentors programme, LFA Organiser Calls, resources, and location briefings.

Does my activity have to last the whole of June?

No, you can choose how long your event lasts for, it can be one hour, one day or the whole month! The length also depends heavily on the type of event. For example, a workshop may just last one or two hours on one day, whereas an exhibition could last a week or a month.

What kind of information do I need to submit to the Festival?

To start with you will need an event title, a description of the event, and an image that captures the event. We will also need to know whether you have a venue and funding secured yet or not. Other key information, along with a complete checklist can be found in the [Account section of the LFA website here](#).

How many events can I submit?

Each organisation can submit up to three activities to take place during the Festival. For multiple versions of the same event (such as walking tours), there is a limit of two versions of the same event. This is reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Please note, each activity will be reviewed and charged separately.

What support is there for organisers?

There are many different forms for organisers, depending on previous experiences with LFA. These include the LFA Mentor surgery days, online resources and annual organiser calls and resources. Find out the dates and links for each of these in the Account section of the LFA website here - including the LFA2026 event submission checklist, guide to inclusive and sustainable events and more.

Will events be accepted after the deadlines?

No. LFA aims to support a wide range of organisers. In order to do this all Festival activity proposals after 7 March (20 for partners) will not be accepted.

Are there any commitments for organisers post Festival?

By submitting an event you agree to complete LFA's feedback form, as well as upload any photos or videos from your event(s). We ask this as we want to know how your event went and how many people attended. We also want to make sure your event is captured in our LFA archive. The feedback form can be found in the account section of the website. We need these returned by 10 July 2025.

How much does it cost to be part of LFA?

You need to complete one submission per event, with each event submission charged separately. The submission fee (£180+VAT Early bird, £280+VAT Standard) covers the administrative support of your event, including promotion from LFA and merchandise, as well as organiser perks including admittance to the LFA opening party

Do I need to create a new account for LFA2026?

If you have created an account after 2023, you can use this account to propose your Festival activity. Don't have an account? You can create an LFA account [here](#). Once your account has been approved, you will be able to submit your event submission by clicking the button 'Submit my event'. The LFA team will review events within 7 days of being received, so the sooner you submit your event, the sooner you will receive feedback and the status of the event. Please don't leave it until the last moment!

Are there any rates for concessions?

Yes! LFA is committed to supporting charities, not-for-profit organisations, students, academic bodies, emerging designers, small practices (up to 10 employees), community groups,

and individuals who traditionally may not be included in discussions around architecture. Therefore, we offer free of charge submissions to all the above. All NLA members will receive a 30% discount.

If you believe you qualify for a concession rate, you will be able to mark this as you submit your event, and the fee will be removed. If you fall outside the categories outlined above and are unable to pay the fee, please get in touch and we will review on a case-by-case basis. Please note that every submission is reviewed and free submissions will not be approved if the criteria is not matched.

For further questions, head to the [Account section of the LFA website here.](#)

What is the LFA Mentors Programme?

The LFA mentors programme was set up in 2022 to support new LFA organisers to create and deliver their very first event as part of the Festival.

Mentor Surgery Days offer organisers the chance to chat through any event questions or ideas ahead of submission with those who've done this before. While workshops and resources offer more specific advice on how to deliver the most successful Festival activity.

The 2026 Mentors are: Kaia Charles (Curator), Maja Jovic (University of Westminster), Andre Kong (andre kong studio), Luísa Pereira Pires (Neurodiversity Architecture Network), Corinne Wint (Zaha Hadid Architects) and Wilson Yau (Zaha Hadid Foundation).

What can mentors help with?

- Quick-fire brainstorming on existing event ideas
- Advice on how to make your event more accessible or sustainable
- Suggestions on individuals and organisations to involve with your activity
- How to make the most of your Festival experience

What can mentors not help with?

- Funding, finding a home for, or being part of your Festival activity
- Guaranteeing your event will be approved, or approving, your Festival activity into the programme
- Answering non event related questions about the Festival

How has the programme helped previous organisers?

"I found the mentor scheme was very helpful in crafting my walk to meet the expectations of the walkers and Festival and to maximise the impact of our part of the wider programme. It also meant that the attendees got the most out of the activities and it fitted in with their wider festival experience. Thanks for the help." Sam, City of London Walks

"Having a mentor surgery session was incredibly valuable in helping Our Cube shape our event. As a non-architectural community group, the expert advice gave us confidence and clarity, especially around planning our panel discussion. Guidance on choosing a diverse, engaging panel, pitching our event effectively, and addressing accessibility challenges helped us create a more thoughtful, inclusive experience." Hannah, Our Cube

"We participated in the LFA for the first time in 2025. We attended a one-on-one mentoring session with an experienced organiser, which was very helpful in defining our event proposal. We loved being part of LFA - it raised our profile but most importantly, it prompted many thoughtful and constructive conversations about how our cities should be designed with exhibition visitors and workshop participants from all backgrounds." Elisa, Citizen Architects

Keep in contact

If you would like to contact the London Festival of Architecture team, please email info@londonfestivalofarchitecture.org or call 020 7636 4044 and a member of our team will respond as soon as possible.

For all press-related enquiries, please contact luke.chapman@nla.london.

If you're interested in supporting the London Festival of Architecture, please contact shannan.wood@nla.london.

Stay up to date with the latest news, competitions and event organising by [signing up to our newsletter here](#).

Follow LFA on social media:

