About Fun Palaces

Fun Palaces is an annual, free, nationwide celebration of arts and culture, driven by localism, innovation and engagement, with a core passion to encourage communities to create by and for themselves.

Fun Palaces shouts, sings, shimmies, stomps from the rooftops: arts and sciences, all culture, is a crucial part of human life, and they are truly glorious.

Inspired by theatre director Joan Littlewood and architect Cedric Price’s never-built vision of the Fun Palace; one venue for all arts and sciences, engaging and welcoming for all, Fun Palaces sees Makers across the UK and worldwide creating their own ‘pop-up’ Fun Palaces.

Between 2014, 2015 and 2016 there have been 572 Fun Palaces across 11 nations made by over 10,000 local Makers with 214,000 joining in!

On 7 & 8 October 2017 we welcome even more involvement and engagement from even more people keen to make a difference.

Fun Palaces is not just about the weekend, it is about coming together to create, celebrating local people, local places and community in the everyday.

Fun Palaces’ Manifesto

We believe in the genius in everyone, that everyone is an artist and everyone a scientist, and that arts and sciences can change the world for the better.

We believe we can do this together, locally, with radical fun – and that anyone, anywhere, can make a Fun Palace.

Fun Palaces’ Mission

We want anyone, anywhere, to believe that they are capable of creating a Fun Palace, by and for their own community, and in doing so to make all arts, science, crafts and tech accessible to all people.

We aim for nothing less than a radical empowerment that means everyone truly believes in the genius in everyone.

Fun Palaces HQ Promise

To do our best to help communities and local people to create an annual weekend of events that champions culture at the heart of human life, a weekend that feeds into everyday life, building communities, celebrating the genius in every person.

Fun Palaces’ Personality

RADICALLY Fun, Creative, Inclusive, Political, Accessible, Enjoyable

Fun Palaces’ Key Messages

Free : Free to enter, free to take part.

Local : Ideally a Fun Palace is by local people for local people – perhaps a group of neighbours, a residents association, some friends getting together, or strangers how have decided to join up to create a local Fun Palace. If you are a venue, building or organisation, ‘local’ might mean your staff, the night cleaners, businesses nearby. It also means those people who live close but never visit, because they don’t think it is for them. If you’re making a Fun Palace, we’d say don’t produce something ‘for’ those people, hoping they will come, instead hand your space over and let *them* decide what to do. Pretty soon they’ll feel they own it. For TwoCan’s Fun Palace in Gloucester in 2016 it meant working with the homeless person who slept in the doorway of their Fun Palace space – he joined in and it was his Fun Palace too.

For all ages : It’s often easier to think up activities for kids, especially around crafts and tech. What about the 17 year old who doesn’t consider themselves a kid? What about the 75 year old who never gets to play? Can we make our Fun Palaces for everyone? We also welcome children and young people as Makers in their own right, [ARC Stockton](http://arconline.co.uk/)’s 2016 Fun Palace was run by their young people’s group.

**Inclusive :** If you’re running a Fun Palace on little or no budget this can seem hard, but even the smallest effort make a difference. Can you find someone in your community who uses sign language and ask them to get involved? Can you make sure your signs are easy to read? Consider access for wheelchair users? Are there groups in your local community you can invite to take part, who can share their own cultural interests?

**Hands-on :**Fun Palaces are about joining in with arts, science, crafts and tech. We had this feedback from [South Elmsall Library](http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/residents/libraries-and-local-history/your-local-library/south-elmsall-library)’s 2016 Fun Palace: “I’ve met a young girl today who I’ve never spoken to before and she lives on my street, through chatting I’ve found out her Grandma was my best friend at school.” Doing something together gave them a chance to talk.

**Process as much as product :**A Fun Palace is an opportunity to create with your local community or workplace. Of course you’ll want the weekend to go well, but the real Fun Palace is what you and your community do to make it happen, the meetings, the cups of tea, the organising. It’s the thinking and the linking that count.

**Yours :**We don’t know where you live, your workplace, or your local community. You do. You know how to make YOUR local Fun Palace. But if you want some help, check our [Maker section](http://funpalaces.co.uk/makers/) or [get in touch](http://funpalaces.co.uk/get-in-touch/), we might know someone who’s done something similar – it can help to speak to a fellow Maker and we can make those links.

**Part of a Campaign :**What you do locally will be influenced by your area, your interests – you are also part of a national and international campaign for culture at the heart of every community, and for everyone to have the opportunity to join in with arts, science, crafts and tech. Your Fun Palace is part of an international shout for access and inclusion.

Fun Palaces’ Tone of Voice

Fun Palaces is for everyone, our tone-of-voice tries to reflect this: friendly, clear and inclusive.

Fun Palaces is a political movement, and this position should be expressed confidently and directly when appropriate, while remaining diplomatic – if at all possible!

We admire Joan Littlewood’s sense of poetry and Cedric Price’s extravagance, and we welcome the occasional flourish, where it serves what we are trying to communicate.

We heartily approve of Joan’s maverick and powerful attitude, and carry this in our own Tone-of-Voice, although we do try to avoid swearing. Unlike Joan.

Fun Palaces’ Glossary

Fun Palaces or the Fun Palaces Campaign (never italicised) refers to the organisation producing *Fun Palaces 2017*

*Fun Palaces 2017* is the national celebration of arts and culture taking place on Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 October 2017 (always italicised)

Fun Palace Makers are the individuals and organisations responsible for creating each individual Fun Palace (never italicised)

A Fun Palace refers to an individual Fun Palace (never italicised)

XXX Fun Palace the proper name of an individual Fun Palace should always be italicised – *Farnham Fun Palace*, *Brockwell Lido Fun Palace*

Eg : Fun Palaces are running *Fun Palaces 2076* again this year. Across the UK and worldwide there will be hundreds of Fun Palaces, run by Fun Palaces Makers, some of those already signed up include *Farnham Fun Palace* and *Whitstable Museum of Fun*.