

fun palaces

FINDING A VENUE

WHERE CAN I MAKE MY FUN PALACE?

Anywhere.

At the end of this document, you can find a list of some of the kinds of places that have hosted Fun Palaces over the past five years. Many Fun Palaces happened across several venues, meaning that no one venue had to do all the work or be perfect for everything that happened as part of the Fun Palace.

You might already have a connection to a possible venue, in which case that is the easiest place to start. Try to think laterally too - Fun Palaces have happened in some very unusual venues. In Kent in 2014, a Fun Palace Maker asked the local butcher if they could make a Fun Palace in her shop - and their Fun Palace involved a life drawing class using cuts of meat as models. There was a light-ship in 2015, a residential home in 2016, a ferry in 2017 and a meadow in 2018. In 2024 Hoxton Creative Health network made a Fun Palace in their local market place. Several Fun Palaces have taken place in empty shops or local pubs.

Don't be scared of thinking big. Lots of Fun Palaces happened in amazing and unexpected places, just because someone asked. And don't be scared of thinking small either - it's totally fine to have a tiny Fun Palace too.

If you can find a venue that is already usually open to the public, you will probably not have to worry too much about licenses or insurance. If you've got your eye on somewhere more unusual, you might have to deal with a bit more paperwork - but don't be put off.

HOW DO I APPROACH AN EXISTING VENUE?

Be bold. Find out who you need to talk to - if the venue has a website, that could be a good starting point, or pop in and ask who to speak to. Do you know-someone-who-knows-someone at the venue? Sometimes Fun Palaces HQ can help with matchmaking too, email hello@funpalaces.co.uk or ring us on 0208 692 4446 ext. 203 if you'd like to have a chat.

Remember to explain that Fun Palaces is free and if everyone is volunteering say so. Most people - venues included - are more inclined to be generous if they feel that everyone is pitching in, and nobody is going to run off with a big profit.

Venues which are supported by public or lottery money (which includes most leisure centres, arts centres, museums, etc) probably have an obligation to engage with their communities and do some "outreach" work (which means getting people involved who don't usually use the venue). Fun Palaces is great for this so they may be very pleased to hear from you.

I WANT TO USE AN UNCONVENTIONAL SPACE AS MY VENUE. WHAT DO I DO?

- The Big Lunch have a guide to closing your street [here](#).
- And the government have produced a guide too, [here](#).
- Creative Lives have a great set of free resources available [here](#).

I RUN A VENUE, BUT WE'RE BOOKED UP

Some great Fun Palaces have happened in the in-between spaces in venues - like foyers, cafés, car parks and forecourts. A Fun Palace can be as big or as small as you like, so you can be very creative about the space you use. Perhaps you could team up with another local venue with limited space and make a Fun Palace that includes the route between the venues.

In Pontypridd, Fun Palace Makers gave participants tandem bicycle rides from one venue to another, going through a local park or along the high street. Passersby wondered what was going on, and joined in!

In Cardiff, The Welsh Millennium Centre hosted a Fun Palace in the foyer, in a corner of the restaurant over the quiet time in the middle of the afternoon, and in a tent by the main entrance. All the spaces were open to the public anyway, but not usually used to make things happen.

ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW?

The Cabinet office have produced a “can do” guide to organising voluntary and community events [here](#).

WHAT KIND OF PLACES HAVE MADE FUN PALACES?

People made Fun Palaces in many different places over the past twelve years. Here's some of some of them: A butcher's shop, a school, a church hall, a tech lab, a swimming pool, an arts centre, a bottle-kiln, a museum, a school, a library, a light-ship, a woodland, a writer's retreat, a disused shop, a botanical garden, a square, a residential home, a café, a theatre foyer, a pub, a park, a caravan, a theatre, a churchyard, a ferry, a train, a castle, a meadow, a community centre, a hospital ward, a tent, an orchard, a shed, a restaurant, online and in their own home.