

**fun
palaces**

**CAMPAIGN
EVALUATION
2025**

▶▶▶▶ WHO JOINED IN

▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶ WHAT HAPPENED

▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶ WHY IT MATTERED

What is Fun Palaces?

Fun Palaces is a national campaign for cultural democracy, promoting culture at the heart of community and community at the heart of culture.

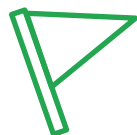
The first weekend of October every year is the Fun Palaces Weekend of Action.

Fun Palaces include arts, craft, science, digital, heritage and sports activities, all led by local people (called Fun Palaces Makers) sharing skills, hobbies and encouraging active participation from everyone.

The weekend is a catalyst for change at a local and grassroots level.

Our workshops and Maker Network support our work.

**In total (since 2014)
there have been:**



2,955
Fun Palaces



51,600
Makers



907,400
Participants

Tiny Fun Palaces

In 2025, for the first time ever we introduced Tiny Fun Palaces.

Fun Palaces that can be made at home, or on your street. This was partly as a response to the cost of living crisis, and partly to ensure those that find it harder to leave home, or may not be safe to be publicly visible, can still join in the campaign.

In 2025 **88%** of Fun Palaces and Makers said that activities such as Fun Palaces have been hugely affected by the cost of living crisis.

**“ It doesn’t have to take up
lots of resource, it can be
light touch and low key.**

Fun Palaces Maker 2025



Tiny Fun Palaces might be:

- ▶ A living room Fun Palace, with your next door neighbour, telling stories and looking at old photos.
- ▶ A family Fun Palace on your balcony / in your garden learning a new skill together.
- ▶ A street Fun Palace, in which everyone puts up a table and shares something they love doing.

Tiny Fun Palaces can still go on our interactive map, it just doesn't give away your exact location and it gets listed as a private Fun Palace, so people know it's just for a small group of people.

The Difference Fun Palaces Makes

Our 2025 evaluation process revealed that Fun Palaces...

- ▶ ... is a UK-wide campaign celebrating the difference local people can make to their community.
- ▶ ... helps people to learn and (re)discover **passions, skills and knowledge** that they can share with their communities; from basket-making, dance, crystal growing, henna, samba drumming to exploring space. Participants are often **inspired to become Fun Palace Makers** themselves the following year.
- ▶ ... creates possibilities for **learning** and **connection** while grappling with the local impacts of critical issues, like climate change, the cost of living crisis and other global matters.



“

We do have people that come back every year, and we've had people that have then decided to become a volunteer with us and become a Maker themselves.

Ware's the Fun Palaces Maker 2025

▶ ... brings people from different ages and backgrounds together, highlighting the spirit of **individual communities**.

▶ ... supports individual and community **wellbeing**, helping people feel **happy** and **less lonely**.

▶ ... makes cultural and community activities more **inclusive**, reclaiming space for everyday culture, and encouraging the use of unusual spaces for community activities.

▶ ... has helped create a shift beyond “community engagement” to an experience of culture that is **people-led and co-created; with, by and for all**.

“ **We had a wonderful day - some people were heard to say they wished it was every weekend.**

Nucleus Arts Fun Palace Maker 2025

“

...a fantastic success; community-focused, creative, and full of energy.

Fun Palaces Maker 2025

“

We focused on unifying community voices.

Fun Palaces Maker 2025

“

At its heart, Fun Palaces is about celebrating what people already know and love. By inviting people to share their interests, skills, and curiosity, it transforms everyday spaces into joyful places of learning, creativity, and connection. This grassroots approach generates unique learning about how arts and culture can be a gateway to social action, bringing together people who may not otherwise have met, and strengthening communities, confidence, and civic participation.

Isabel Wood - The National Lottery Community Fund

Fun Palaces 2025

Where did they happen?

“

There’s nothing else going on in the Valley that brings people together in this way. The concept and ethos appeals to us: making a Palace together with others in your community is a great way to break down barriers and build relationships.

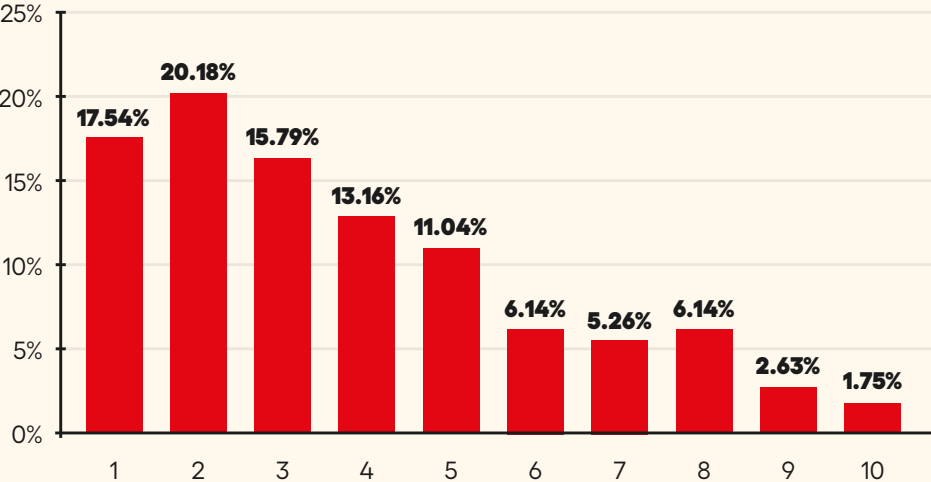
Cwm Garw Fun Palace Maker 2025

75% of Fun Palaces took place **outside of London.**



Venue locations mapped by level of deprivation*:

*Fun Palaces prefers not to label these areas as deprived however as a nationally agreed way of describing the context of people’s lives, the Index of Multiple Deprivation is a useful tool.



1 is the most deprives and 10 is the least deprived.

Data covers venues in England only, due to different categorisation systems in Scotland, Wales and NI. The index of Multiple Deprivation ranks all postcodes in England by deprivations. Each decile in 10% of the population.



Who made Fun Palaces?

Around

1/5 of Fun Palaces

had people **under 18 AND over 55**
as part of their Maker teams.

36%

Maker teams had a
Maker/s with a chronic
condition / disability.

“

It was a really enjoyable process from start to finish. It was quite laidback too, didn't feel too high pressure.

Fun Palace Maker 2025

9 | The Fun Palaces Campaign Evaluation 2025



50%

of Fun Palaces had
Maker Teams with
Makers from more
than one ethnicity.

The majority of Fun Palaces happened at one location. But one happened across

7 locations.

1/4

Fun Palaces asked had people that had previously been a visitor become a Maker.

This year Makers told us that **11 languages** recorded as being spoken at Fun Palaces:

Cornish

Makaton

English

Italian

Ukranian

Welsh

Spanish

Polish

Japanese

French

German



Fun Palaces 2025

What happened at Fun Palaces?



What's it like to make a Fun Palace?

100% of Makers

that took part in the survey agreed that the people involved in their Fun Palace are pulling together to do something positive in the local area.

77% of Makers

agreed that they now feel more confident getting involved in community activities.

72% of Makers

agreed that they felt more a part of their community since making a Fun Palace.

68% of Makers

felt connected to the wider national campaign.

“ Fun Palaces bring joy to our communities and we look forward to them every year.

Lancaster Fun Palace Maker 2025

“ It is about bringing communities together to share their skills and knowledge across generations and diversities.

Fun Palace Maker 2025



Press

Each year the Fun Palaces Support Hub works alongside a PR Company to share the story of Fun Palaces both locally and nationally and to amplify the activity of Fun Palaces Makers.

In 2025 Fun Palaces features in a number of publications:

4 national **3 trade**
16 regional **4 local**

Reaching

319,074,087
people

**Thanks to Animo
PR for their work on
the 2025 campaign.**



fun palaces

Join us in 2026 and make a Fun Palace

2nd-4th October



(Or at a time that suits you)

www.funpalaces.co.uk

The data in this evaluation was collected from the Fun Palaces Makers 2025 weekend survey. Please help us to evaluate Fun Palaces 2026 by filling out the survey after the weekend this year.