ROYAL DOCKS ORIGINALS

Partners: How to get involved

ROYAL DOCKS
ORIGINALS

What is Royal Docks Originals?

Royal Docks Originals, the flagship cultural festival of the Royal Docks is returning in Autumn 2027.

A bold celebration of creativity, community and place **Royal Docks Originals showcases the artists, cultural organisations and businesses that are shaping the Royal Docks as London's Cultural Engine** - a vibrant waterfront destination and creative production centre.

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Raising Royal Docks profile as London's Cultural Engine

Aims

- **Royal Docks creative businesses** – supporting professionals creatives with showcasing, marketing, new partners, networking and commissioning funds

- **Young people** - traineeships in culture and the creative industries, jobs and volunteering

- **Locals and residents** - opportunities to get involved in creative and heritage projects, enjoyable things to do, opportunities to influence the programme, supporting civic pride and community cohesion

- **Placemaking** – building Royal Docks identity in the public realm, improving perceptions of the area, support creative workspaces, showcasing Royal Docks places and opportunities

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Four key messages

1 A Movement, Not Just a Moment

2 Made Here, By Local Creatives

3 Co-created with the Community

4 Rooted in the Royal Docks

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View the Royal Docks Originals 2025 highlight video by clicking here

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Royal Docks Originals 2025 in numbers....

- **OVER 20,000 PEOPLE ATTENDED**

- **50 ORIGINAL EVENTS MADE HERE**
  all celebrated or responded to Royal Docks people, stories or heritage

- **41% OF PROJECTS SHOWCASED THEIR PRODUCTION**
  (e.g. live painting) building Royal Docks story as a creation centre

- **163 LOCAL CREATIVES WERE INVOLVED**
  78% of the total number of creatives

- **67% ATTENDEES FROM NEWHAM**
  according the postcodes collected

- **95 LOCAL PEOPLE**
  attended the Creative Careers Day run by A New Direction

- **2 CREATIVE NEWHAM CULTURAL PRODUCER TRAINEES**
  worked on the planning and delivery of the festival, 2 more worked as hub hosts, plus 6 local volunteers.

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2027 elements (under development)

Schools project

Main commission
incl. local artists and communities

Careers
training and volunteering

FESTIVAL FRAMEWORK KEY ELEMENTS

Public Artwork
Wrap around commissions and engagement

Resident artists
Embedded Local Commissions

Creative Workspaces
e.g. Open House

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WE WANT TO WORK WITH YOU

Royal Docks Originals 2027 is opening its programme to local venues, cultural organisations, artists and makers.

- **Do you have a project, programme, or body of work ready to feature?**
- **Or existing events, activities, or milestones planned for the Autumn**
- **Would you like to present your event in Royal Docks Originals?**

Get in touch
This open call is for self-funded or partner-supported projects seeking official festival inclusion

Partners will benefit from:
- **Inclusion in the festival marketing and press campaign**
- **Increased profile**
- **Festival audiences and footfall**

Find out more: RDO@royaldocks.london

MARKETING AND COMMS SUPPORT

There are a wide range of ways we can support your involvement in the festival.

Print
Inclusion in the festival brochure, flyers, print

Digital
- Website events listings
- Profiles your project on the blog
- Newsletter and e-mailers
- Social media posts

Event Branding and Signage
On-site signage and wayfinding

Brand
Designed assets, logos, advice and support

Other Benefits
- Inclusion in paid festival marketing campaigns
- Cross-marketing with other partners
- Inclusion in press releases, advertorials and influencer packs

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2025 festival campaign highlights

2 million
impressions

94,652
website Q2

38
press pieces

170,293
email opens

51,740
print

22,204
followers

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OTHER WAYS TO BE INVOLVED

PROGRAMME & FUNDING

- **Join the Creative Network:** Be the first to hear about future commissions, further to commissions launched earlier in 2026.
- **Partner Group:** Shape the festival with local peers.

Apply online at royaldocks.london.

PARTICIPATION

- **Dance Commission:** Join 500+ performers with ENB.
- **Shape Local Projects:** Get involved in the development of RDO commissions.
- **Schools & Youth:** Creative projects and young producers.
- **Join the Creative Connectors:** Be the first to hear about future participation opportunities.

Register interest at royaldocks.london.

SPACE, REACH OR FUNDS

- **Spaces:** Offer a venue or site for activation.
- **Promotion:** Amplify the festival across your channels.
- **Investment:** Sponsor projects or the wider festival.

Contact Alex Jamieson or Kate Anderson.

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POSSIBLE LOCATIONS FOR CREATIVE PROJECT PROPOSALS

The Big Fridge

Big Fridge is a 5,000 sq ft venue close to Royal Albert DLR, with capacity of up to 750. Originally a cold store built in 1914, Big Fridge is reborn as a cultural venue with a 24 hour licence. More: https://bigfridge.london/

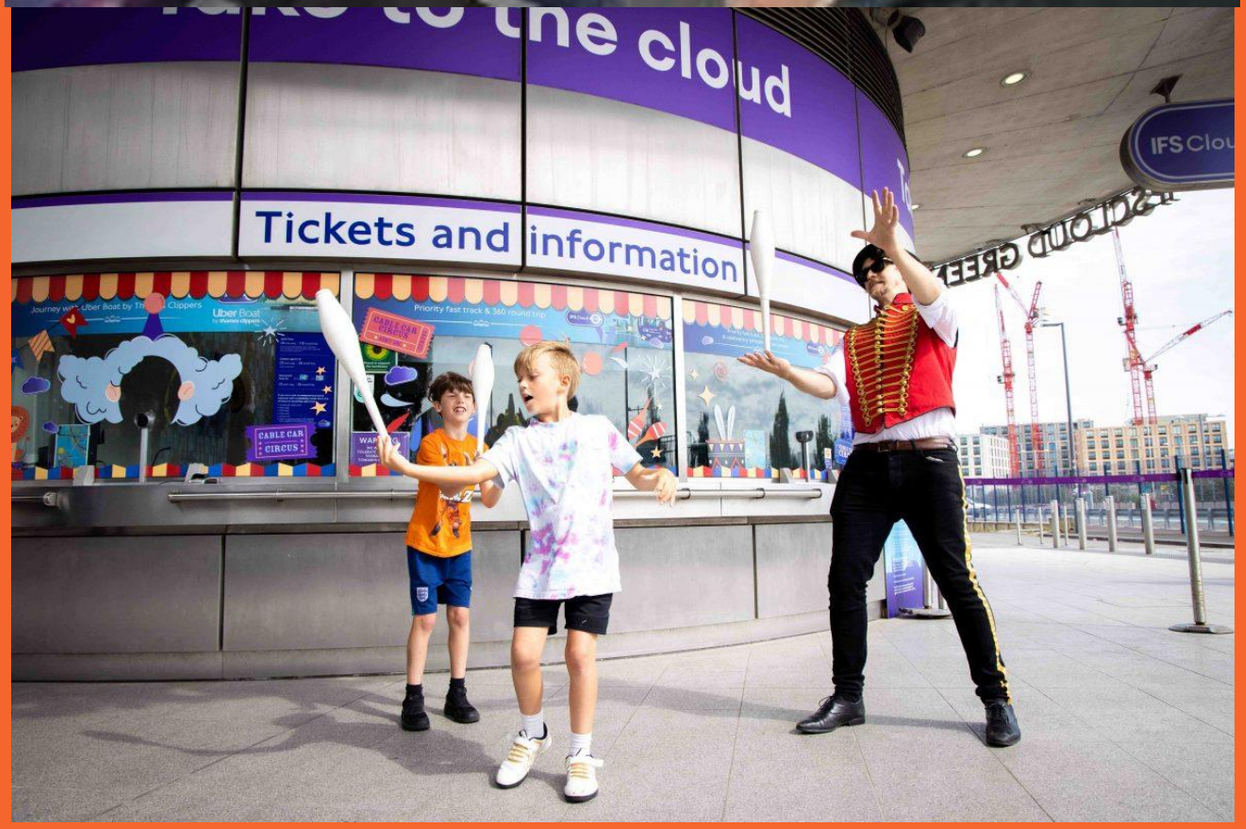


Cable Car

- Possible sites include the cars themselves, the terminals and the Cable Car Experience building on the south side.

- Activities could include performance, audio installations, visual art and more





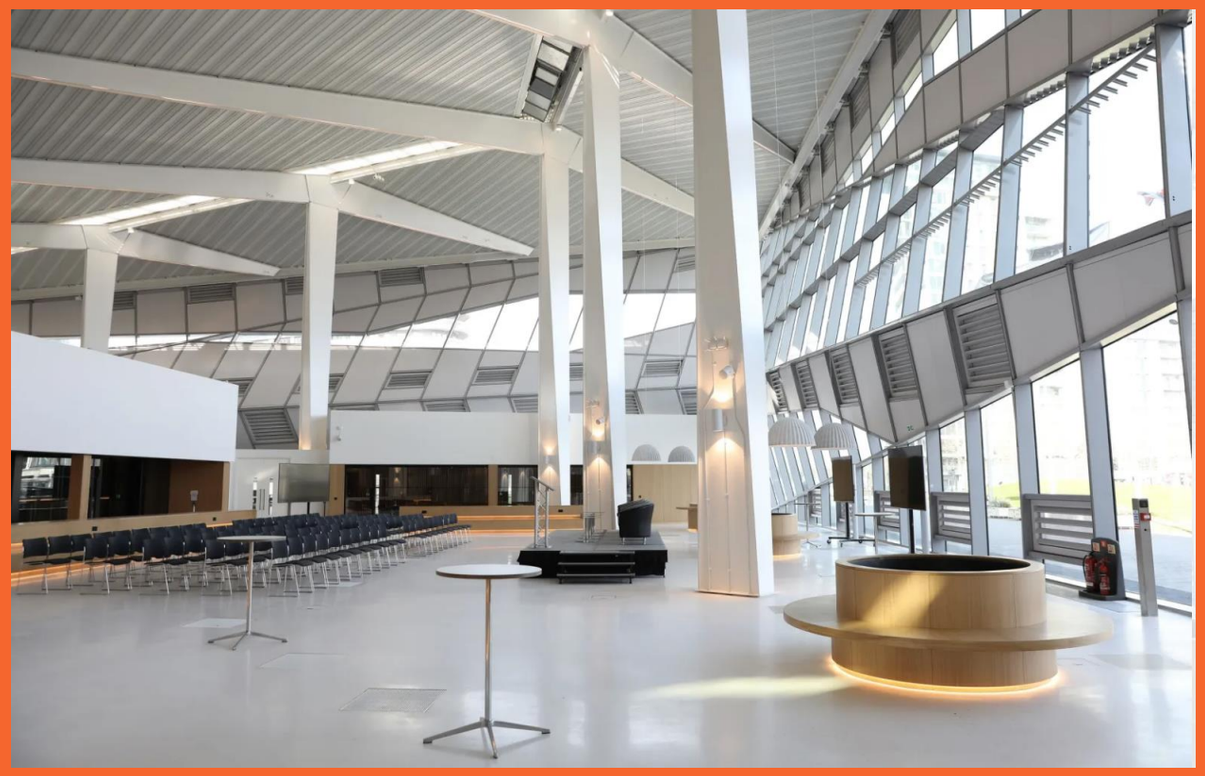
City Hall

The building provides bright, modern spaces perfect for a range of high-profile events. The event spaces and public areas are located at ground level for ease of access.

London's Living Room is sure to impress guests with views over the historic Royal Victoria Dock. Activities could include performance, installations, workshops, talks and more

www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/city-halls-buildings-and-squares/venue-hire/hire-city-hall





City Hall Gardens

Located on the Dock edge next to City Hall, this is one of the most visible locations in the Docks.

The site has access to water and power



The Corniche

- Several interconnected outdoor spaces, right by the cable car and Royal Victoria DLR

- Site of the Royal Docks Market

- Previous activity has included performance (Ensemble Festival, pictured), visual art, walkabout activities and workshops







Crafted Corner

- A creative studio and makerspace based in Canning Town

- Suitable for workshops and exhibitions

www.craftedcorner.co.uk



Dock Beach

- Located next to City Hall and the Dock edge.

- Previous activities have included performance, art installations and workshops.



Dockside Walkways

- A series of walkways around the historic dock edge
- Previous activities have included performance, art installations, walking tours and more.



Expressway

- Spaces include the foyer space and some vacant units and meeting rooms

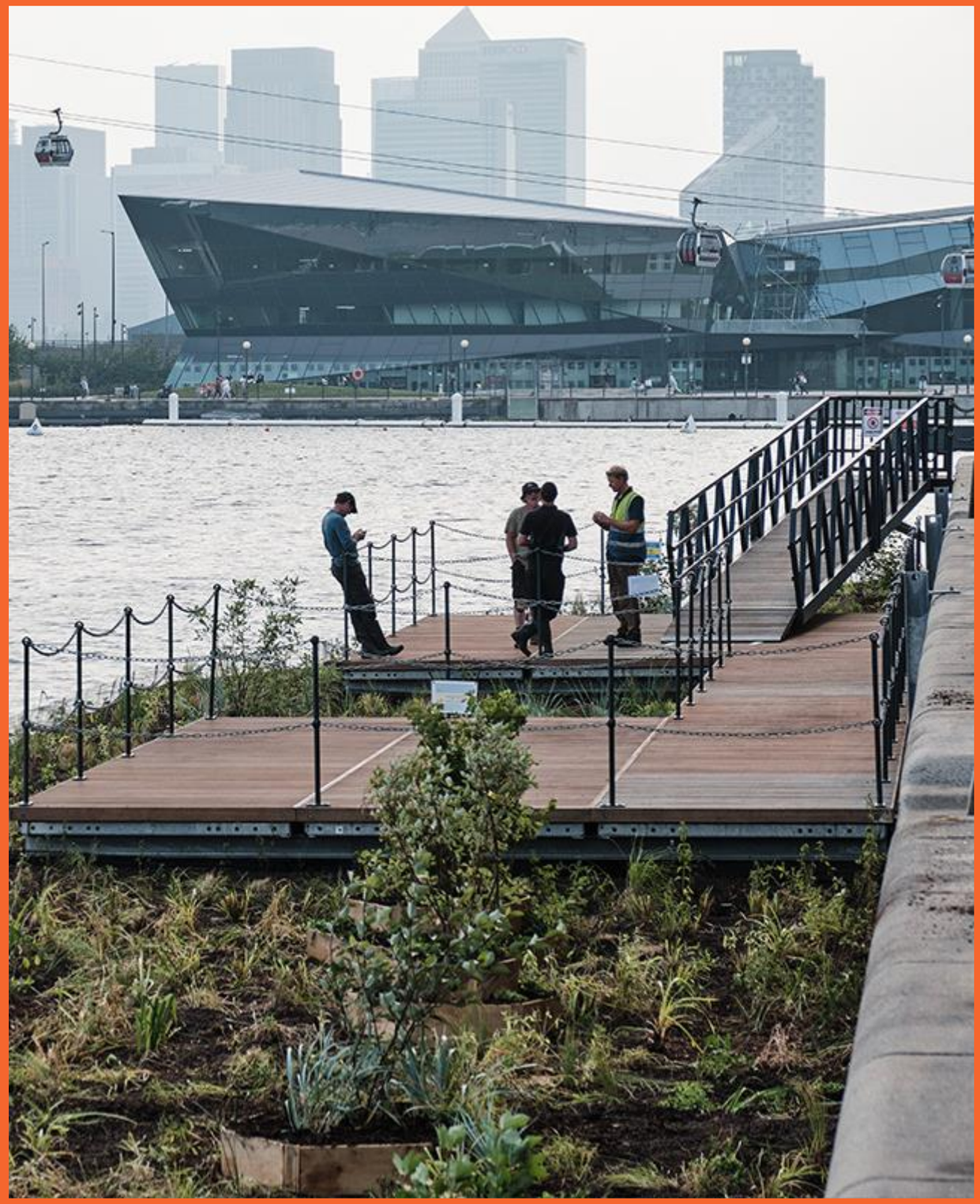
- Work presented previously includes music performance, spoken word, exhibitions and workshops.

- https://generalpeople.com/locations/expressway/



Floating Garden

- Located in Royal Victoria Dock
- Has previously hosted art installations – could also work for small pop up performances



The Good Hotel

- Multiple spaces available, including the foyer, event spaces and roof

- The foyer has hanging space for photography/visual art

- Has previously hosted music performances, workshops, spoken word





Ironworks

- An historic, Thameside warehouse, reimagined as a modern venue
- Situated between the Docks and the river

https://www.ironworks.london/about



Pontoon Dock

- A newly refurbished public space, complete with access to power and adjacent to Thames Barrier Park and the DLR station.

- Previous activities have included performances, workshops and interactive exhbitions



The Pump House

- Located next to Royal Victoria station, this creative workspace has a licensed bar and cafe space and will act as the Festival hub

- Previous activities have included music performance, art installations and workshops.
- https://thisisprojekt.com/pumphouse





Sweheat Sauna

- Located in Royal Victoria Dock
- Sweheat run an ongoing programme of wellbeing and creative activities, including storytelling
- https://www.sweheatsauna.co.uk/



Thames Barrier Park and Cafe

- An iconic, public park in the south of the Docks.
- Multiple areas to activate, including the event lawn, cafe, Remembrance pavilion, and stage.
- Previous activity has included performance, art installations, audio tours and more





The Water

- The vast, post-industrial waterscape of the Docks provides a stage for a range of exciting projects.







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If you are interested in any of these spaces , please contact us at RDO@royaldocks.london and we can make an introduction.

Thank you.

