



BRISTOL HARBOUR FESTIVAL 2025 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES & INFORMATION

This document has been prepared by the organisers of Bristol Harbour Festival about opportunities to get involved with the festival as well as key information about the festival's operations including how you might be affected.

Business Opportunities

Bristol Harbour Festival is an iconic event for Bristol and Bristol Harbourside which has been operating in the city since 1971. After the decision to close the city centre docks in the 1960s, by the Port of Bristol Authority, local groups fought to save the docks and after much negotiation and public standing the Harbour Festival was formed. The event has grown in size and importance as years have passed and even when the plans to tamper with the docks were shelved the Harbour Festival continued. In recent years Bristol Harbour Festival sees up to 250,000 people attend making it Bristol's largest free to attend event for the city.

Today Bristol Harbour Festival is a showcase of Bristol's arts, music and culture which is shown through an exciting programme that celebrates the past and offers a fresh perspective on the future. Bristol Harbour Festival is partially funded by Bristol City Council, Bristol City Centre and Redcliffe and Temple BIDs and all other funding comes from sponsorship and trading opportunities. Supporting Bristol Harbour Festival is a fantastic way to engage with the population of Bristol as well as be part of the cultural landscape of Bristol.

Trading & Exhibiting

Bristol Harbour Festival is a hive of activity featuring the best across food and beverage, market trading, business service exhibiting and more. For 2025 Bristol Harbour Festival will be inviting local businesses to exhibit their services to festival attendees across our sites in Queen Square and College Green (family area). To take part in any of our trading opportunities please apply via the festival website here <https://www.bristolharbourfestival.co.uk/get-involved/traders-caterers>.

The Festival Fringe

In 2024 Bristol Harbour Festival launched the Festival Fringe programme encouraging venues across the city to put on events for Bristol Harbour Festival attendees and extend the cultural offering throughout the weekend. After a fantastic first year with venues including Death Disco, The Christmas Steps, Coffee Club and more taking part we are inviting businesses to get in touch to be



BRISTOL HARBOUR FESTIVAL 2025 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES & INFORMATION

part of this year's programme. More information about the Festival Fringe can be downloaded via the festival website here <https://www.bristolharbourfestival.co.uk/get-involved/fringe-festival>.

Media Partnerships

Bristol Harbour Festival is Bristol's largest free to attend for the city and an important date for Bristol's cultural arts calendar. Featuring the best in the Southwest across art platforms including music, dance, theatre, spoken word, on the water, children & family and more. We are always looking for new media partners to support the festival team with event promotion and marketing to ensure the future of this fantastic event. For more information email natalie@weareplaster.com and sophie@weareplaster.com.

Audience Participation

Bristol Harbour Festivals puts on entertainment across sites including On the Water, the Bristol Amphitheatre, Millennium Square, Queen Square, College Green and more. Audience participation is a fun way to engage with the event and take part whether it be getting involved in the infamous baby race on College Green or taking part in Dragon Boat Racing on the water. Each year we are evolving our programme of events. If you want to get involved or have an idea please email the programming team alex@swansevents.co.uk and noemi@swansevents.co.uk.

Key Information

Bristol Harbour Festival is Bristol's largest free to attend event. Organising an event of this size is complex and involves many key stakeholders across the city. The organisers work very closely with Bristol City Council's various departments to organise the event including events, traffic and transport, parking, public health and more.

Up to date information on key plans can be found on Bristol Harbour Festival's consultation webpage www.proudevents.co.uk/bristol-harbour-festival-consultation. The webpage is update regularly throughout the year.

Plans will be finalised for Bristol Harbour Festival 2025 by the end of May. Once plans are finalised a letter drop will take place to local residents and businesses to the festival to confirm the final plans for the event. To ensure your business/property is included in this letter drop please email consultation@proudevents.co.uk to be added to the list. Information will be included about resident



BRISTOL HARBOUR FESTIVAL 2025 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES & INFORMATION

and business vehicle passes for areas affected by the festival including Wapping Wharf, Prince Street, Narrow Quay, Queen Square and more.

Contact Information

In April 2025 a business community forum will be organised and shared with relevant and local businesses affected by Bristol Harbour Festival. Invitations will be sent out via Bristol City Centre and Redcliffe and Temple BIDs and Bristol Harbour Festival event organisers.

The business community forum will include two meetings where local businesses can meet with the festival organisers to raise queries about the festival and discuss ways to get involved. The first meeting will be held in the Spring as an initial consultation. A follow up meeting will be organised in the summer to run through final plans for the festival. To ensure you are included in the business community forum please email consultation@proudevents.co.uk and the team will ensure you are added to the contact list.

If you cannot attend the forum, or would prefer to liaise with the team over email, the event organisers can be contacted on consultation@proudevents.co.uk throughout the year.