

Help create our public programmes

Our mission is 'to inspire all our visitors, including future scientists and inventors, with the story of how ideas can change the world, from the industrial revolution to today and beyond'. We create engaging, inspiring and memorable learning experiences that bring the story of our site, collections and science to life for our visitors. We encourage curiosity and questioning to inspire new ideas and inventions.

We welcome proposals from scientists, artists, makers and communities who want to work with us to offer great experiences for our visitors. The easiest ways to get involved are through our regular programmes:

Manchester Science Festival

Manchester Science Festival is our annual science festival, held in October. The Festival's playful and imaginative programme invites visitors to immerse themselves in science, ideas and innovation. Events take place in cultural and unusual venues around the city, in Salford, Bolton and across Greater Manchester.

The programme is playful, creative and experimental, bringing together a unique blend of art, make-it workshops, performances and big experiences for all ages across Greater Manchester.

The Science and Industry Museum is the proud producer and hub of Manchester Science Festival. With a unique alliance of partners and supporters from throughout the region we work together to develop and deliver the Festival.

MakeFest

MakeFest is a vibrant and creative festival for all ages that takes over the museum for a weekend-long celebration of making. We look for hands-on workshops, interaction and creativity to inspire our visitors and get them making. Raspberry Pi coding next to our replica Baby Computer, embroidery and fabric printing workshops in our Textiles Gallery and robot demonstrations amongst the steam engines in our Power Hall are just some of the highlights of the first MakeFest.

We encourage makers to bring along their workshops, demonstrations and inventiveness. MakeFest takes place yearly and online applications open in early Spring.

Pi: Platform for Investigation

Pi is our monthly contemporary science event, delivered from our purpose-built Platform for Investigation, supported by Siemens.

Pi is about thinking outside of the box and delivering bold content that brings science to life. Visitors to the Platform for Investigation will expect live science, experiments on-gallery, science as art and much more. The programme is a platform for scientists, makers and artists to showcase the latest developments in science and technology.

Pi runs from 10.30am to 3.30pm one Saturday each month (excluding December) and every day during Manchester Science Festival, for families with children aged 7+.

Seasonal Lates

Our adult-only seasonal Lates bring after hours playfulness and sophistication to the museum. A night at the museum with a creative twist, Lates can involve anything from hands-on workshops and scientific conversations to stand up comedy, disco dancing and much more. Visitors expect the unexpected and a well-stocked bar.

Each Late has a specific theme to provide scientific inspiration and we're always looking for cool content to wow the crowds.

To have a chat about any of the above programmes please get in touch with Holly Jones

Holly.Jones@scienceandindustrymuseum.org.uk - Contemporary Science Programme Coordinator. It's still likely we'll need you to submit a proposal.

Volunteering at the museum

You might not want to get involved in delivering one of these programmes, but there are plenty of opportunities to volunteer at events and in schools. Find out more about volunteering for the museum at our website - <https://www.scienceandindustrymuseum.org.uk/about-us/support/volunteering>

Other Proposals

We welcome proposals for partnerships on other programmes, including city-wide festivals. We plan our programmes very carefully to make sure they will be inspiring, relevant and popular with our visitors. We assess all proposals against a set of criteria, practical needs and resource. If you would like to put forward a proposal, please read the below criteria and, if you think your idea is a good fit, then complete the proposal form and return it to the museum.

OUR CRITERIA

1. Story All our programmes help to bring the museum's mission and story to life. We encourage you to consider how your work relates to our site and collections. Our mission is 'to inspire all our visitors, including future scientists and inventors, with the story of how ideas can change the world, from the industrial revolution to today and beyond'. Our key areas of focus are:

- the history of science and industry in the region, and its impact on the world
- contemporary science and innovation, where there is a strong connection with the North West
- making, design and engineering
- we want to make connections to ideas and people

2. Quality All our programmes are high quality; well-thought through, relevant and innovative, from the content through to the production. We will expect you to evidence how your work is high quality. We are also interested in how working with you could help raise the Museum's national and international profile.

3. Audience focus We are audience focused. We are a busy museum that engages families, schools and adults and we are keen that our programmes and participants represent the diversity of the region and our visitors. We think about our audiences in the following groups:

- Greater Manchester Pre-schoolers – Families from Greater Manchester with children aged 0-4. They love to explore, play and get a bit messy. They love science and our big objects. They have super practical needs and want a warm welcome.
- Fun and Learning Families – Families from the city, Greater Manchester and the North West. They are looking for fun, hands-on experiences that bring the whole family together. They love our collection, but they haven't come for the science – our job is to get them excited by science and technology.
- Curious Young Adults – Our adult audience is growing. Think university students, culture-goers, looking for fun and social experiences that are a bit different. They are curious and a bit playful.
- Older Self Improvers – Adults who are looking for cultural experiences and conversation. They might like to make new things, get under the skin of science or surprise themselves with new events.
- Education Groups – Education groups come in all shapes and sizes, from schools and brownie groups to birthday parties and home educators. They are often participating in a planned visit with our specially created booked groups programme, but we often run special events.

Any proposals we receive will need to be focused on engaging at least one of these target audiences.

4. Learning Our learning philosophy is to create learning experiences (from live programmes to exhibitions) that are engaging, inspiring and memorable. For us learning is broad; experiences could help visitors gain a new skill, ask questions, change perceptions of science or leave the museum with new facts about a subject. Any proposals will need to consider what visitors will learn, how the programme will deepen engagement with science and industry, and how it will enhance their visit to the museum.