



# GLASGOW DOORS OPEN DAYS FESTIVAL



PARTICIPANT PACK 2026

# GET READY FOR GLASGOW DOORS OPEN DAYS FESTIVAL 2026!

We're thrilled to announce that the 37th Glasgow Doors Open Days Festival (GDODF) returns from 17-20 September 2026!

Organised by [Glasgow Building Preservation Trust](#) since 1990, the festival has grown into Scotland's largest free celebration of architecture, heritage and community.

The 2025 Festival was our most ambitious yet. By opening hidden civic, religious, industrial and private spaces across Glasgow – and keeping every experience free – we welcomed 40,000 visits (a 30% increase on 2024), with 178 venues, 129 open buildings, and 320 primary pupils taking part in our Schools Programme.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported, visited and took part, as well as to our generous funders and sponsors – we truly couldn't keep the doors open without you.

In 2026, expect 120+ open buildings and a packed programme of walks, tours, workshops and family-friendly activities – all completely free.

## **Interested in taking part?**

Apply now by completing our [2026 Participant Application Form](#), details below ▼



# OUR IMPACT

Glasgow Doors Open Days Festival reaches all four corners of the city. For many participating organisations, the Festival is their busiest weekend of the year. Since its inception, over 1.8 million people have taken part in the festival, contributing to its long-term civic impact.

The Festival has seen steady growth since covid, demonstrating its ability to connect with new audiences:

2021 - 14500 visits  
2022 - 24000 visits  
2023 - 31000 visits  
2024 - 30000 visits  
2025 - 39000 visits



# 2025 FESTIVAL AT-A-GLANCE



# 2026 FESTIVAL THEME

## “Glasgow Goes Out! - The Nights, Days and the Places That Made Us”

Our festival theme this year looks back warmly on shared life in the city, celebrating how Glaswegians, city visitors - and all those who've called Glasgow home - have come together over the last hundred years to relax, express themselves and feel part of something bigger.

From grand cinemas, tearooms and bandstands to dancehalls, artist-led spaces, grassroots music venues and legendary club nights, this nostalgia-fuelled theme invites visitors to explore - or return to - the places that have made generations feel alive, day and night.

By shining a light on both lost and still-thriving venues, the festival theme seeks to capture and celebrate the buzz, freedom and creative energy that have drawn people to Glasgow for decades.

Through walks, talks, exhibitions and inclusive events across the North, Southside, East End, West End and City Centre, we're inviting everyone to share their memories with us of chance encounters, formative moments and unforgettable days and nights out over the decades.



# HOW WE PROMOTE YOU

## Free Print Promotion:

- Feature for free within our leaflet with fold-out map - 25,000 copies distributed across the city
- Receive copies of our official GDODF 2026 A3 posters and a colourful pink Festival banner to display at your venue to let visitors know you are taking part

## Free Digital Promotion:

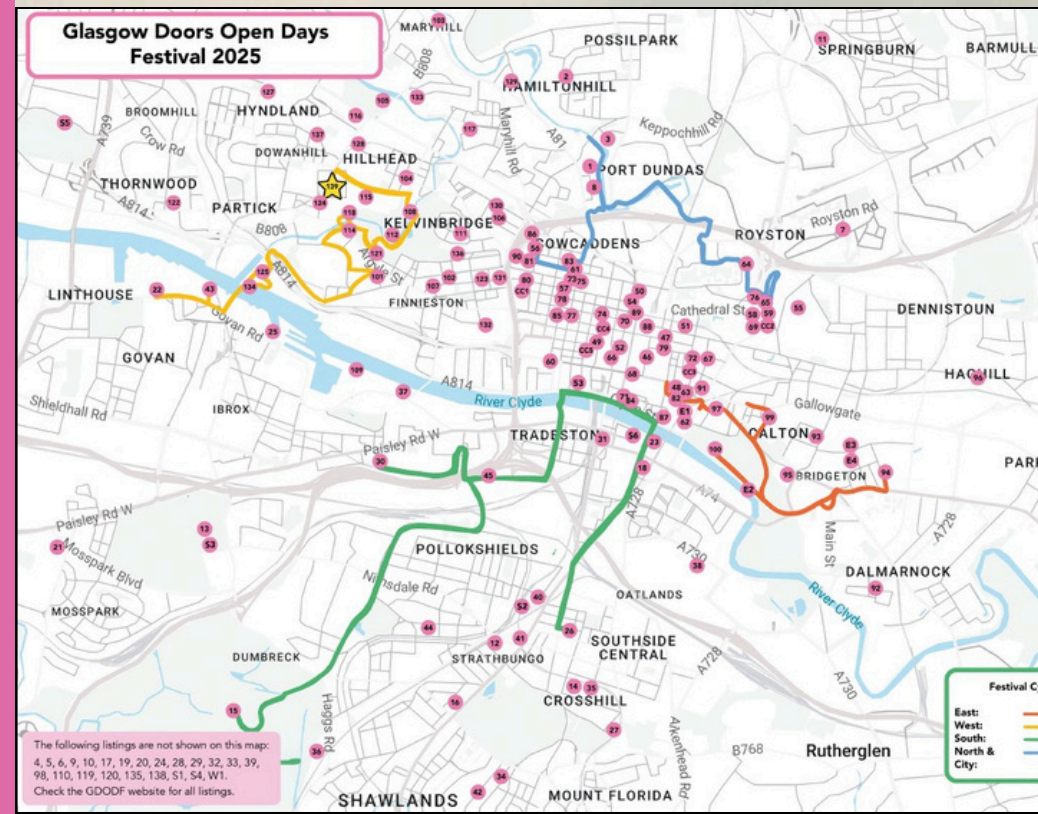
- Listings on our GDODF website and the Scottish Civic Trust's doorsopendays.org - Combined 160,00 unique users
- Feature in our regular email newsletter - 12,000 subscribers
- Feature in our social media campaign - 30,000 combined followers

## Free Press & PR:

- The festival and our participants receive significant media presence across national and local outlets including TV and radio broadcast

## Additional Support:

- You can request one of our brilliant and engaging volunteers to help support your activities
- Receive guidance from our team on the best way to market your building, tour or event through our marketing toolkit





# WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAY

Reach new audiences and tell your story!

Participants always tell us the Festival helps them reach people who had never visited - or even heard of - their venue before, often resulting in their busiest day of the year. It's a great way of sharing your history, heritage or future plans with your local community too!

Spotlight hidden heritage

Want to shine a light on a building, story or space that's often overlooked? Taking part in the Festival can help bring to life people places hiding in plain sight, giving Glaswegians and city visitors a fresh perspective on your area, venue or local heroes.

Build pride, connection and understanding

Opening your doors breaks down barriers between communities, sparks curiosity, invites conversation and helps build stronger connections between people and place, fostering local pride and shared understanding.

Challenge perceptions & break down barriers

Welcoming and talking to visitors can help dispel myths, reduce uncertainty and make heritage feel more welcoming and accessible.

Support your volunteers and teams

Many participants tell us they developed new skills, grew in confidence & experienced a real buzz as a result of taking part!



# IMPORTANT DATES

## APRIL

- 15th - Participant Open Call Launches - Participant Application Form on the Festival website

## JUNE

- 8th - Participant Application Form deadline - this is also the deadline to be included in our festival leaflet and listed our GDODF website
- 17th - Online Participant Information Session 1 - invite will be sent via Participant Newsletter
- 18th - Online Participant Information Session 2 - invite will be sent via Participant Newsletter

## JULY

- 29th - National Doors Open Days launch event in Glasgow
- 31st - Glasgow Doors Open Days Festival 2026 Official programme goes live on our GDODF website, social media and press

## SEPTEMBER

- 17th - First date of the Festival
- 20th - Final date of the Festival

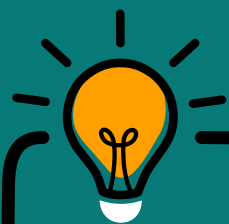


# HOW TO TAKE PART

STEP 1: READ DOORS OPEN DAYS  
COMMUNITY GUIDELINES

STEP 2: READ OUR PRIVACY POLICY

STEP 3: COMPLETE THE PARTICIPANT  
APPLICATION FORM BY 8 JUNE



TIP: PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE  
YOUR ALL INFORMATION READY  
BEFORE STARTING THE APPLICATION  
FORM.



# TESTIMONIALS

“

*We learnt more about each of the venues we visited, but also about our city... Really proud of my city, even more so now.*

**- Festival visitor**

”



“

*The festival is hugely important for letting us reach out to the wider community in Glasgow and to introduce them to our work and current projects.*

**- Festival Participant**

”



“

*It is an excellent opportunity for us to reach a wider audience... show. Many visitors said that they would come back.*

**- Festival Participant**

*You really hear the passion and feel the diversity of the city.*

**- Festival visitor**

”



# GET IN TOUCH

- If you're not sure that you are eligible to take part in Glasgow Doors Open Days Festival or have additional questions please get in touch via email at [doorsopendays@gbpt.org](mailto:doorsopendays@gbpt.org) or call us on 0141 554 4411 to speak to our Festival Manager
- If you haven't already, [sign up to our festival newsletter](#) to hear more about our exciting plans for GDODF 2026 including important dates, partnerships, and highlights.
- Follow us on social media: Facebook and Instagram

