

FESTIVAL CITY STORIES

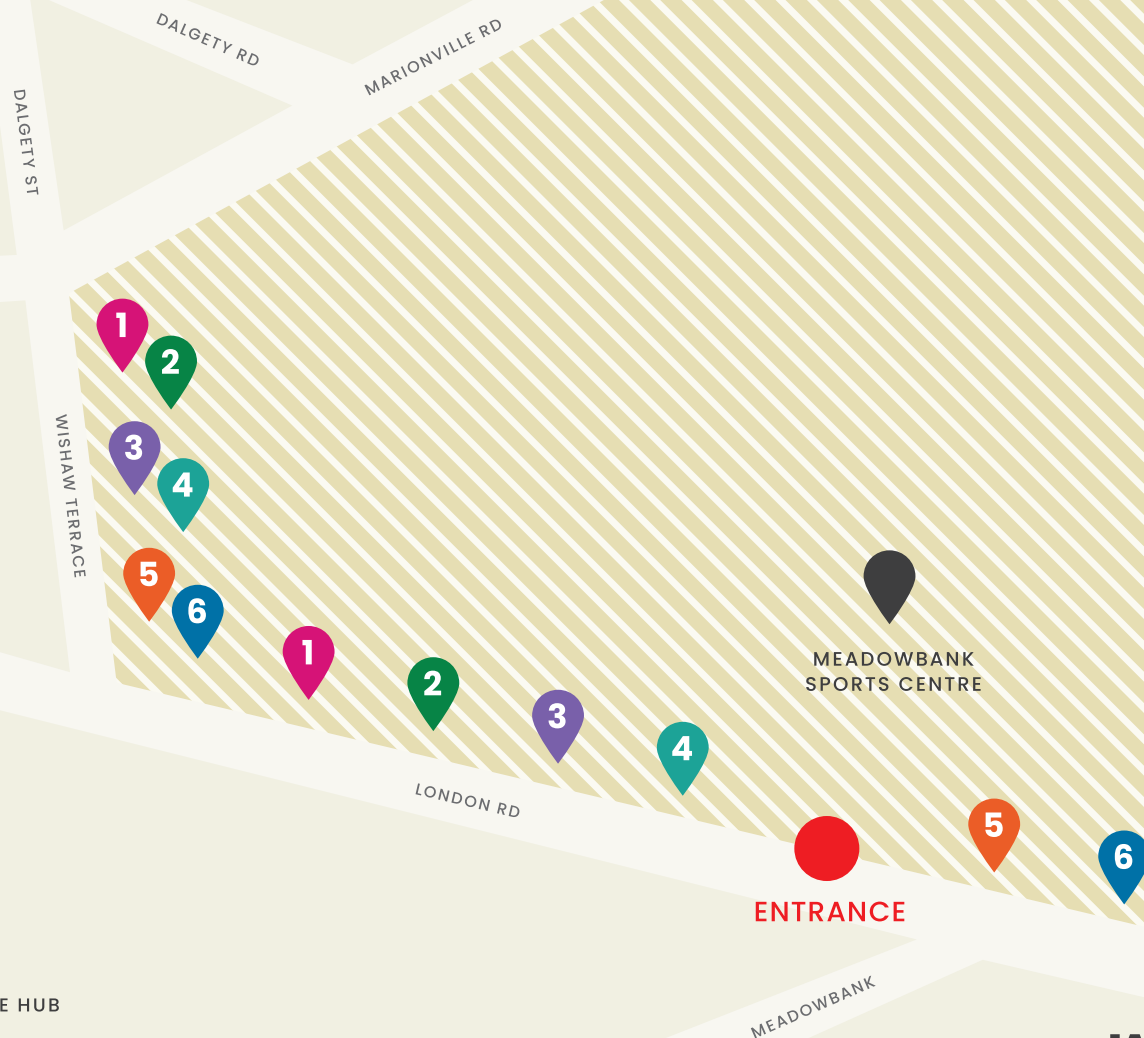
EDINBURGH FESTIVALS & JACK ARTS SCOTLAND

Presented as a takeover across the hoardings of Meadowbank Sports Centre from 17 February – 2 March, the second year of the collaboration between Edinburgh Festivals and JACK ARTS Scotland platforms stories from people involved in year-round partnerships between some of Edinburgh's leading festivals and local community groups, schools and organisations – captured by photographer Ellie Morag.

Explore the work across London Road and Wishaw Terrace, and read the full stories online.



-  SCOTTISH INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLING FESTIVAL
-  EDINBURGH ART FESTIVAL & RHUBABA
-  EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE SOCIETY & OAKLANDS SCHOOL
-  IMAGINATE & FORTHVIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL
-  EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL & SPACE @ THE BROOMHOUSE HUB
-  EDINBURGH JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL & PASSION4FUSION



A partnership between JACK ARTS Scotland and Edinburgh Festivals.

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SCOTTISH INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

My goal is to show children that they are not isolated, that their voices – whether they are spoken or signed – are powerful and meaningful.

– Tania Allan

The Scottish International Storytelling Festival is the world's largest celebration of storytelling, anchored in Scotland, a nation of storytellers. The Festival takes place in October each year, as the seasons change and inspired by the Scottish ceilidh tradition – a community gathering full of tales, anecdotes, music and song. Their *Sensing Stories* project is an inclusive series of storytelling sessions for groups interested in using storytelling as a wellbeing tool and for developing performance skills.



IMAGINATE & FORTHVIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL

It's usually adults who get to do this stuff, but we should get to do it more because it's creative... and no offence, but adults are usually boring.

– Reel

Imagine is the national organisation in Scotland, which develops, presents and celebrates theatre and dance for children and young people. Over the last two years, Imagine has been taking a child's rights-based approach and is trying to make the views of young people central to the organisation. *Creative Encounters* is its flagship schools project piloting this new approach.



EDINBURGH ART FESTIVAL & RHUBABA

This project is about slowing down and engaging with the environment... It's an invitation to immerse yourself in the textures, sounds, and stories of this space.

– Chantelle Gomez

EAF and Rhubaba's *Refractions: New Conceptions of Film + Photography*, is a co-created programme of free workshops and events to connect marginalised artists with creativity through film, theatre, photography, ceramics, writing, and more. *Refractions* is the culmination of a long-term partnership, creating year-round space to share creativity in community, and explore new mediums with queer joy and skill exchange.



EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL & SPACE @ THE BROOMHOUSE HUB

It's a bright spot that helps people handle the ups and downs of ageing with a bit more joy and support.

– Seraph Davidson

The values of discovery and connection guide the work of Edinburgh International Festival – both on and off stage. Their multi-year *Community Connections* Hub partnership with Space @ The Broomhouse Hub builds co-created programmes rooted in the community's ideas, which in turn shape the future of the International Festival. The Beacon Club is a shining example of this collaboration, using music to spark joyful connections with people living with dementia and facing social isolation.



EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE SOCIETY & OAKLANDS SCHOOL

It's incredible to see how these immersive, multi-sensory sessions make performances accessible, ensuring every pupil can participate in a meaningful way.

– Gwen Twynam Perkins

In 2024, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society brought the Fringe experience into Oaklands additional needs school as part of its Engagement and Access work. The Fringe Society and the Oaklands school, along with artist Niamh O'Loughlin, curated an interactive show drawing on the importance and exploration of objects, with a multi-sensory approach to ensure all additional needs were met. These photographs depict the freedom and creativity of this project and the inclusive joy that came from it.



EDINBURGH JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL & PASSION4FUSION

In teaching younger generations, we hope to instil more confidence in experimentation of different hairstyles... and know our hair is always respectable and beautiful.

– Rianna Andrews

HAIR (Heritage, Attitude, Identity and Respect) is a project between Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival and Passion4Fusion, centring on Black Hair stories, exploring key historical and political moments up until the present, and how these are diverse representations of 'Blackness'/Black Culture. The project explores themes through different mediums such as dance, spoken word and film as well as being the inspiration for Carnival costumes.



You can read all the stories through the QR Code.

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