

Brighton Digital Festival 2016 announces new festival manager and town hall meeting

Laurence Hill invites community to first BDF town hall meet-up

Town Hall meeting venue: The Old Market, Upper Market St, BN3 1AS

Date: Wednesday 8 June 2016

Time: 5.30-8.30pm

Brighton Digital Festival, the UK's largest celebration of digital culture, has appointed Laurence Hill as its new manager. Laurence previously held the manager role in 2012 and has been the festival's arts coordinator in the past two years – he has also served on the festival's consortium for five years.

He will work part time for the festival alongside his role as head of communications at Fabrica, Brighton's Centre for Contemporary Art.

Jon Pratty, Brighton Digital Festival chair, said: "This is a really major step forward for Brighton Digital Festival. We were sad to lose former manager Jesse Black Mooney through ill health and will miss her creativity, humour and energy.

"Appointing Laurence is a great move onwards for us. He proved, during last year's record-breaking festival, that he really knows how to curate great digital arts activities, and the film he produced of our arts commissions was first-rate. BDF2016 is in safe, capable but really creative hands going forwards."

Preparation for the 2016 Brighton Digital Festival in September kicks off with a town hall meeting, open to anyone wanting to get involved, volunteer or create an event. The meeting takes place 5.30pm, Wednesday 8 June at The Old Market in Hove – sign up to this free event [here](#).

The town hall meeting gives event organisers a chance to present their plans – whether their event is fully fledged or in its early stages. It's an opportunity to meet others, connect and collaborate.

Additionally, the festival consortium will talk about this year's plans for the arts and education programme, what to expect in September and how to get involved. They will also layout a timeline through to September.

Laurence Hill, festival manager, said: “2016 is very much a transition year for Brighton Digital Festival, it’s our first as a newly-minted community interest company and this has given us time to reflect on the long-term future of BDF. We have seen a year on year increase in organisers, events and audience numbers, which has been very gratifying.

“Our ambition though is to plug into every part of the city of Brighton and Hove and we will be encouraging and programming work with that in mind. This is an exciting time to be involved with the festival and I’m very much looking forward to the next few months.”

Brighton Digital Festival is a month-long grassroots celebration of digital culture, which takes place from 1 to 30 September. The festival is led by the digital and arts communities across the city to deliver a broad programme of conferences, exhibitions, installations, workshops, outdoor events and meet-ups alongside an education programme.

Last year’s festival featured more than 190 events and was attended by more than 160,000 people. The festival is supported by, and received funding from, Arts Council England and Brighton and Hove City Council. A consortium representing the newly created Brighton Digital Festival CIC (Community Interest Company) supports the strategic development, growth and management of the festival.

For more information on Brighton Digital Festival 2016 please go to www.brightondigitalfestival.co.uk and sign up to the mailing list or follow @DigitalBrighton on twitter.

- Ends -

Notes to editors

About Brighton Digital Festival

www.brightondigitalfestival.co.uk

Sign up for this free event here: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/brighton-digital-festival-2016-town-hall-meeting-tickets-25714735466

Brighton Digital Festival, now in its sixth year, is a month-long celebration of digital culture, which takes place across Brighton and Hove from 1 to 30 September 2016.

The festival regularly receives funding through Arts Council England and Brighton and Hove City Council and has attracted sponsorship from EDF and

Amex amongst others. Events include exhibitions, performances, conferences, meet-ups, workshops and outdoor events, which run alongside some of Brighton's iconic digital design conferences.

The Brighton Digital Festival is steered by a consortium made up of Brighton-based digital businesses and cultural organisations, including Clearleft, Lighthouse, Fabrica, The Old Market, South East Dance, Fugu PR, Brighton Museum and Art Gallery, Brighton Mini Maker Faire, The Skiff, Brilliant Noise, Brandwatch and Wired Sussex, The University of Brighton, and Brighton Dome.

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