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In [Futurescoping](#)

FutureFest

FutureFest is our weekend festival of ideas, talks, and interactive performances to inspire people to change the future.

[See more](#) ^



Why are we doing this?

We use [FutureFest](#) to gather some of the planet's most radical thinkers, makers and performers together to create an immersive experience of what the world might be like in decades to come. We believe that by talking about the future we enhance people's capacity to shape it. FutureFest is a non-profit initiative aimed at bringing future thinking to the public realm, so that everyone can benefit.

What are we doing?

The weekend festival is held every other year and is a chance to hear directly from those putting emerging ideas into practice across democracy and government, work, health, science, education and the arts. Through talks and debates, installations and immersive experiences, participants are equipped with the tools needed to author better futures.

Since 2013, it has attracted more than 12,000 visitors.

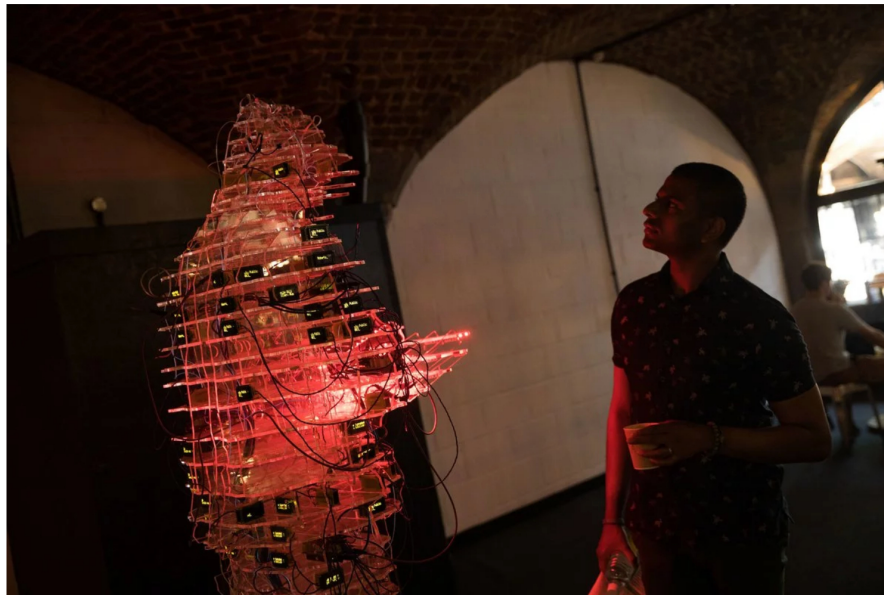
Interested in collaborating?

If you are interested in exploring opportunities to contribute to the festival, get in touch by email at futurefest@nesta.org.uk - we would love to hear from you.

Background

FutureFest 2013

The inaugural festival, [FutureFest 2013](#), was held in east London over the weekend of 28-29 September 2013. The event was staged to help complement Nesta's work as a research body, investor and programme funder as well as a producer of world-class events.



FutureFest 2015

[FutureFest 2015](#), which ran between 14-15 March 2015 at Vinopolis, London, focused on six themes: thrills, music, money, machines, democracy and global - exploring in particular two rapidly-developing cities in Africa.

Highlights included Vivienne Westwood and Edward Snowden challenging the establishment and discussing the future of democracy; legendary funk musician George Clinton, who took us on a journey through space, time and music; bestselling author Jon Ronson questioning the power of social media and Baroness Helena Kennedy QC examining power structures in the face of globalisation.

The programme spanned discussions, performances, installations and interactive experiences. Attendees were engaged as active participants, informed and challenged to explore and formulate their own vision of the future.

FutureFest 2016

At [FutureFest 2016](#), our four curators - Ghislaine Boddington, Ruth Amos, Pat Kane and Dr Morgaine Gaye - helped us explore how we will love, work, play and thrive in the future.

Speakers at the festival, which was held on 17-18 September at London's Tobacco Dock,

included Brian Eno, Rhianna Pratchett, Will Self, Paul D. Miller aka DJ Spooky, Kate Russell, Cindy Gallop, Es Devlin, Sherry Coutu CBE and Oliver Peyton.

FutureFest 2016 also featured a dedicated Nesta Stage for the first time, showcasing our diverse range of work in innovation, from the sharing economy to the future of city design and much more.



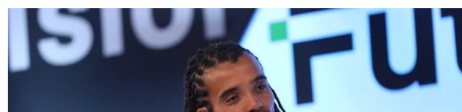
FutureFest 2018

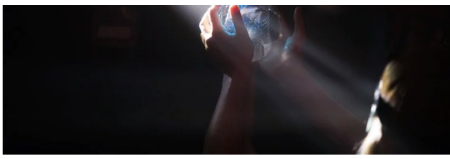
The [last festival](#) returned to London's Tobacco Dock on 6-7 July 2018 and included the likes of Ruby Wax OBE, Sir Nick Clegg, Paul Mason, Imogen Heap and Akala among its key speakers.

The fourth edition came at a time when our relationship with the very idea of 'the future' is fraught. For many, the forces set to shape our world in the coming years seem invisible and remote; from black box algorithms to hidden influences over the democratic process and the media.

The scale of the challenges of our time (inequality, failing democracies, healthcare systems edging towards crisis) calls for bold and radical responses. It is in this spirit that FutureFest 2018 served as a platform for alternative visions of the future.

In this project





FutureFest brought together thousands of people looking for a different story

FutureFest offered a story that is desirable and plausible and able to connect past, present and future.

Blog – 12th Jul 2018



Highlights from FutureFest 2018

On Friday 6 July Nesta's FutureFest kicked off in London's Tobacco Dock for two days of discussions, debates, performances and immersive experiences

Blog – 6th Jul 2018



FutureFest Late

At the very first FutureFest Late, BBC broadcaster and physicist Jim Al-Khalili will be exploring the future through a scientific lens

Events – 26th Apr 2019



How can we save the welfare state?

FutureFest 2018 speaker Jenna Lähdemäki from the Finnish innovation fund, Sitra, shared some insights on the Nordic Model 2.0- the renewed version of the comprehensive welfare state in Nordic countries, in this interview.

Blog – 27th Feb 2019



Anna Rafferty on women inventing the future

We sat down with one of our FutureFest 2018 speakers to discuss her thoughts on gender representation in fiction

Blog – 9th Oct 2018



The second edition of our interview with Rebecca Allen, pioneering visual artist and UCLA Professor

One of our FutureFest 2018 speakers discussed women's role in the art-tech world with us.

Blog – 9th Oct 2018



An interview with visual artist Rebecca Allen

Visual artist Rebecca Allen discusses the blending of science and the arts, and where our technology is going

Blog – 5th Oct 2018



How can we create opportunities for girls and women in STEM?

A post-festival interview with one of the FutureFest 2018 speakers, Anne-Marie Imafidon

Blog – 14th Sep 2018



Paul Mason predicts the future

Following discussions around the future of economics and politics in the UK at this year's FutureFest, we have published our second interview with speaker Paul Mason

Blog – 5th Sep 2018

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