

## Manchester Science Festival – Get involved 2010

### Background information

Manchester Science Festival is an annual nine-day, multi-venue festival with the vision of inspiring and engaging people in science (science, technology, engineering and maths). It is Manchester's premier event for public engagement with science, promoting the region's rich heritage of past scientific achievements and endeavours whilst showcasing current innovative science, technology, engineering and maths research and practice.

The Festival ran for the first time in 2007. It is organised by a unique alliance, including leaders from business, culture, education, local government and healthcare. It takes place over October half-term, and its intention is to host and promote a broad and engaging public science programme. The programme includes a wide range of activities and events, including workshops, exhibitions, films, talks, tours, and more, and takes place primarily in venues across Manchester city centre, also utilising the five Greater Manchester universities (Manchester, Salford, Bolton, MMU and RNCM), as well as unexpected and public places and other cultural and science venues across the city and 10 Greater Manchester areas. There is also a programme for schools which takes place in the week leading up to the Festival.

We expect the Festival to increase levels of understanding of science issues within the general public and to help them to see the relevance of science in their everyday lives, as well as to contribute towards the drive to get more schoolchildren studying science, technology, engineering and maths subjects at a higher level.

### Facts and figures

#### At Manchester Science Festival 2009...

- **102,288 attendees** from Greater Manchester and across the UK enjoyed
- **317 events**, exhibitions, school workshops and community projects created by
- **57 organisations** across
- **48** public, cultural, community, academic, educational, social, indoors and outdoors **locations**.

All the events in programme are related to four themes. The 2009 themes were:

- 'Manchesticity' – the city's endeavours, achievements, people, places and ideas
- Mind & Body – activities and topics about our brains and brawn
- Our Planet and beyond – exploring planet Earth and the impact we have on our home, and looking into our skies and space
- Bright ideas – the best of cutting edge and innovative science and research.  
Question those in the know and discuss the future

The themes for 2010 are likely to remain, running along side some key strands focusing on hot topics for 2010.

Manchester Science Festival is based on the view that NW England needs a platform dedicated to promoting science, technology, engineering and maths to broaden people's understanding of science and to inspire and inform the innovative future workforce. The aim is to create an inclusive, accessible, innovative and interesting popular science programme for everyone.

The Festival partners include the Museum of Science and Industry, NWDA, Manchester: Knowledge Capital, the British Science Association, Nowgen, Manchester Museum, STEMNET, Institute of Physics, and the Universities of Manchester, Salford and Bolton and Manchester Metropolitan University, amongst others.

### **Get involved!**

2010 will see the return of the fourth Manchester Science Festival, held over October half-term from Saturday 23 - Sunday 31 October. There are several ways you can get involved in the science festival:

#### ***Become a sponsor***

Although the Festival receives a lot of in-kind support from partners and organisers in terms of running events and providing venues amongst other things, we do require funding to support the running costs and to pull the programme together. If you are interested in supporting the Festival, an event or strand of events, please contact Natalie Ireland, Festival Director: [n.ireland@mosi.org.uk](mailto:n.ireland@mosi.org.uk) or Lynne Farnell, Head of Fundraising at MOSI: [l.farnell@mosi.org.uk](mailto:l.farnell@mosi.org.uk) to discuss this further.

#### ***Run an event***

We welcome all kinds of organisations to get involved in the Festival to create a really interesting, diverse and inspiring Festival programme. We encourage all events to have a strong link to science, technology, engineering and/or maths and where possible to include an element of focus on the achievements and progress of the North West. We also welcome event ideas that are creative and engaging. The main audience at the Festival is families with children under 14, but we want to be as inclusive as possible so if you have a specific target audience in mind, for example teenagers, engineers or the over 60s, and your event is appropriate for that audience, then great. If you think you would like to run an event as part of the Festival, we would ideally like you to have your own venue and be able to run the event from conception to delivery, but we will try to help as much as possible if you need a venue or assistance in setting up your event. Please get in touch to discuss your event(s) idea. We will then be able to provide you with guidance and further information for getting involved in the Manchester Science Festival. Alternatively, you can fill in the form MSF 2010 Event interest form and send it in to us.

#### ***Provide a venue***

We encourage events to take place across Greater Manchester – from events in Manchester city centre and throughout the 10 Greater Manchester areas. We would also like to hold events in some interesting and unexpected places and some organisations do not have venues to hold events. If you have a venue that you would be able to offer for the Festival, either in-kind or to hire, please let us know.

#### ***Volunteer/Science busking***

We require volunteers to help in the run up to and during the Festival. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or would like to take part in some of our public science busking activities, please get in touch by emailing [info@manchestersciencefestival.com](mailto:info@manchestersciencefestival.com) or visit our volunteer pages on the website.

If you have any other suggestions, contacts or thoughts about the 2010 Festival or beyond, let us know.

For more information about Manchester Science Festival and about any of the above, please contact Natalie Ireland, Manchester Science Festival Director: [n.ireland@mosi.org.uk](mailto:n.ireland@mosi.org.uk) or on 0161 606 0129.