

Press Release

Blackhorse Creates

17-20 September 2026

A weekend festival of design, making and creative opportunities.

Blackhorse Creates presents a weekend of design, craft and making across Blackhorse Collective Creative Enterprise Zone as part of London Design Festival and Open House Festival 2026. Between Thursday 17 and Sunday 20 September makers and creatives are opening their doors, showing you behind-the-scenes and sharing their creative practices, businesses and journeys. This is a rare opportunity to meet the makers, explore creative opportunities in the area and try your hand at making.

The 2026 programme celebrates design and manufacturing excellence, showcases the area's rich creative life, and places particular emphasis on opportunities for young people to access skills, careers and pathways into the creative industries.

Blackhorse Creates is delivered in partnership by Blackhorse Workshop, a social enterprise dedicated to making and Blackhorse Collective Waltham Forest's Creative Enterprise Zone, which is one of 12 zones designated by the Mayor of London.

Programme Highlights

Youth Opportunity

For 2026, Blackhorse Creates is highlighting the route into the creative industries for the next generation of designers, makers and creative entrepreneurs. The event will be launched by a Panel Talk on Thursday 17th September at Switchboard Studios, featuring artists, makers and businesses who are currently supporting the next generation of local creatives into creative employment.

- A day of creative insights, Friday 18th September. Creative businesses will open their doors for local schools, colleges and alternative provisions giving local young people a day in the life of, hands-on making experience and employment tips and tricks. Featuring insights into architecture and the built environment from Office Sian, Heritage Crafts from Alfred Dunhill, Fashion Design from Buttress & Snatch and much more.
- Creative workshops; Young people will be bringing their skills, energy and perspective to deliver creative workshops on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th. Giving employment opportunity and creative experience to local young people. Come and join a workshop in puppet making at Blackhorse Workshop, photobatik at Walthamstow Wetlands or create concrete poetry with Turner Prize winning Artist Jasleen Kaur and the Young People of Higham Hill Hub at Big Penny Social.

Discovery

Explore new innovations in design happening on our doorstep and discover the wealth of approaches to making and creating, usually hidden away in the creative spaces of the Blackhorse Collective Creative Enterprise Zone.

- Chroma Waste Lab x Colour of Saying will be sharing global material research on waste-derived pigments - from waste to value - through an exhibition, workshops and drop-in swatching sessions at Switchboard Studios.
- Signal to Noise will be showcasing 'Collider' at Big Penny Social, a mixed reality sound installation that blends spatial music creation, immersive soundscapes and tactile digital interaction.
- Blackhorse Workshop will be opening the doors to its maker spaces and studios and presenting 'We Lift Each Other' an exhibition showcasing the range of practices that make and create in the studios and open access workshops.
- Discover the skills behind making processes with a special edition of Blackhorse Workshops Queer Metal Club and demonstrations of the heritage craft of Blacksmithing.
- Sound artist Marianna Glykofridi will present an interactive sound installation at Blackhorse Workshop, part of 'Imprints of Being', this layered soundscape captures the changing rhythms, people, and activity of the workshop.

Find out more on socials:

@blackhorsesews

@blackhorse_collective

#Blackhorsecreates

And at www.blackhorseworkshop.co.uk

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Lead Partners:

London Borough of Waltham Forest

Blackhorse Workshop

Blackhorse Collective

London Design Festival

Taking place 12-20 September 2026, London Design Festival celebrates and promotes London as the design capital of the world. London Design Festival has earned the reputation as a key calendar moment of London's autumn creative season, alongside London Fashion Week, Frieze Art Fair and the London Film Festival, attracting the greatest thinkers, practitioners, retailers and educators to the capital, in a citywide celebration.

www.londondesignfestival.com

Open House Festival

Open House Festival is a London-wide festival that opens up and celebrates the city's architecture, special places and neighbourhoods, with free open days and events taking place across all 33 London boroughs. This year, the festival will take place from 12-20 September. The festival's mission is to provide access to spaces that wouldn't otherwise be open, to create

opportunities for learning from and about the built environment and one another, and to celebrate London and the communities that make it.

Open House Festival is run by Open City, a charity dedicated to making architecture and neighbourhoods more open, accessible and equitable.

[Open House Festival](#)