

NOVUM
FESTIVAL—2026

Thank you for your interest in volunteering at NOVUM Summer Festival 2026.

Your time, energy and enthusiasm will help make our programme truly special for everyone who attends, we couldn't do it without our volunteers.

This information pack includes everything you need to know about becoming an Event Volunteer for NOVUM.



**Sign up to
volunteer via
Better Impact**



Newcastle
City Council 



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

If you have any questions, or would like an informal chat before signing up, please contact our NOVUM Volunteer Lead:
alison.flanaganwood@newcastle.gov.uk

ABOUT NOVUM SUMMER FESTIVAL

FRIDAY 7 AUGUST
- SUNDAY 9 AUGUST 2026

**A THREE-DAY TAKEOVER
OF CULTURE, PLAY
AND ENTERTAINMENT
ACROSS NEWCASTLE
CITY CENTRE.**

**NOVUM Summer Festival
will transform city centre
streets, squares, venues and
unexpected places into a fun
playground of performance,
creativity and community
celebration.**

Iconic spots and hidden corners will burst into life with a packed family-friendly programme of free events, outdoor spectacle, playful installations, creative workshops, music, unmissable performances from local, national and international artists and plenty of “*you just had to be there*” moments - from daytime right through to the evening.

At the heart of the festival is a free, family-friendly performing arts programme, filling outdoor spaces and venues with theatre, dance, circus and pop-up performances; from up-close performances to big crowd-pulling moments!

Brand-new artist commissions will pop up across overlooked corners of the city centre, turning familiar places into playful festival moments and bold, eye-catching spaces you'll want to stop, explore and enjoy. There'll also be drop-in, hands-on creative workshops and activities throughout the weekend, inviting all to try something new, get creative and be part of the action.

For more information and to sign
up to NOVUM's mailing list visit:
www.novumnewcastle.com



#THECITYISOURPLAYGROUND

VOLUNTEERING AT NOVUM

We're looking for over
**80 friendly volunteers to
help bring NOVUM to life from
Friday 7 – Sunday 9 August.**

Volunteers will play a vital role in the festival; helping people feel welcome, navigate the programme and get the most out of their experience. With a range of roles and flexible ways to take part, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved.

We'll provide everything you need, including event information, role guidance, training and health and safety support, so you feel confident and prepared.

We want your experience to be positive, enjoyable and rewarding. As a NOVUM volunteer, you'll also have the opportunity to join Newcastle City Council's Cultural Events' volunteer team, with access to future events, training and development opportunities throughout the year.

If you have ideas or specific ways you'd like to contribute beyond the roles outlined below, we'd love to hear from you - contact:

alison.flanaganwood@newcastle.gov.uk

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

We're looking for friendly, reliable people who are excited to be part of a major city festival to help make it the best it can be. You'll enjoy working with others, chatting to the public, and getting stuck in as part of a team, bringing a positive, can-do attitude to everything you do.

This is a great opportunity for anyone interested in gaining hands-on experience in events, from working behind the scenes to supporting live activity on the day.

We also value volunteers who are open, proactive and communicative, happy to share ideas, ask questions and raise any concerns so we can support you fully.

But above all, we're looking for people who care about creating a brilliant experience for visitors and take pride in representing the city.

VOLUNTEERING AT NOVUM

KEY SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES NEEDED:

- › Friendly and approachable.
- › Reliable and punctual.
- › Comfortable working outdoors.
- › Happy to work as part of a team.
- › Positive and adaptable - outdoor events can change quickly!
- › Respectful and inclusive with everyone they meet.
- › Committed to creating a great experience for visitors, artists, and fellow volunteers.
- › Comfortable speaking and understanding English.

IN RETURN, WE WILL:

- › Provide a full induction and any training you need, so you feel confident and prepared in your role.
- › Keep you informed with clear, up-to-date information about the event or programme you're part of.
- › Treat you with fairness, respect and appreciation at all times.
- › Create a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for every volunteer.
- › Ensure you have a named contact for any questions or additional support you may need.
- › Buddy up all volunteers during shifts - you'll never be on your own.
- › Listen to your feedback and offer clear, honest guidance throughout your experience.
- › And most importantly - say thank you. We genuinely value your time, energy and contribution.

ROLES AVAILABLE

› INFORMATION STEWARDS

Be in the know; share what's on, hand out programmes and point people in the right direction.

› AUDIENCE SUPPORT

Help create a great festival atmosphere; encourage visitors to join in, explore and have fun.

› ARTIST SUPPORT

Lend a hand with workshops; help set up, tidy up and encourage folks to have a go.

› SUSTAINABILITY & GREEN TEAM VOLUNTEERS

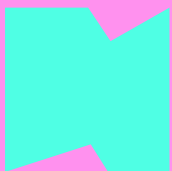
Help us keep the event green and champion sustainable choices.

WHY VOLUNTEER?

Volunteering at NOVUM is a great chance to meet new people, gain hands-on event experience and be part of an exciting, city-wide celebration.

Benefits:

- › **Be Part of the Festival** - Play a vital role bringing NOVUM to life across Newcastle, supporting events and unforgettable moments citywide.
- › **Meet New People** - Join a friendly, supportive team of volunteers and staff, making connections and friendships along the way.
- › **Support Creativity in the City** - Help create memorable, inspiring experiences for audiences while celebrating creativity across Newcastle's vibrant cultural scene.
- › **Work with Artists** - Get behind the scenes and work alongside artists, supporting workshops, performances, and creative activity across the festival.
- › **Connect with Your Community** - Be part of something bigger, connecting with local communities and helping bring people together through shared experiences.
- › **Boost Your CV** - Access training opportunities, build experience, increase confidence and enhance your CV with hands-on involvement in a major city festival.
- › **Enjoy the Festival** - Soak up the atmosphere, explore events off duty and enjoy the festival while being at the heart.
- › **Celebrate Together** - Join us for a volunteer party after the festival to celebrate your contribution and everything you've achieved.



EXPECTATIONS / COMMITMENT

**TO HELP MAKE NOVUM A SAFE,
ENJOYABLE AND SUCCESSFUL
FESTIVAL FOR EVERYONE,
WE ASK ALL VOLUNTEERS TO:**

- › Complete the Better Impact sign-up process so we can register you and share key information about your role.
- › Read the Volunteer Induction Pack in advance (*this will be shared a few weeks before the festival*).
- › Attend a volunteer induction session during the week of NOVUM, where you'll meet the team and get everything you need for your role.
- › Commit to and complete the volunteer shift you sign up for, and let us know as soon as possible if your availability changes.

We also ask that you:

- › Arrive on time, ready to take part, and follow guidance from the event team.
- › Be respectful, inclusive and supportive of fellow volunteers, staff, artists and the public.
- › Represent NOVUM and Newcastle in a positive and welcoming way.
- › Follow all safety guidance to help ensure a safe environment for everyone.
- › Be open to learning, getting involved and making the most of your experience.

- › NOVUM volunteer shifts will take place across Friday 7th – Sunday 9th August and will be a mix of morning, afternoon and evening.
- › We use Better Impact to manage volunteer availability and shift allocation for NOVUM. You're welcome to express interest in as many shifts as you like.
- › A couple of weeks before the festival, we will confirm your allocated shift(s) and share your timetable along with your volunteer induction pack.
- › If your availability changes, please let us know as soon as possible by emailing alison.flanaganwood@newcastle.gov.uk
- › All volunteers are invited to a celebration event on Sunday 9 August (approx. 7pm) in Newcastle city centre - a chance to come together and celebrate your contribution to NOVUM.

VOLUNTEER SHIFTS & AVAILABILITY

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION EVENTS

We're hosting a series of informal information events for prospective volunteers, as well as volunteer coordinators from other organisations, to find out more about getting involved in NOVUM Summer Festival.

These sessions are a great opportunity to meet the team, learn more about the festival and volunteer roles, and ask any questions you may have before signing up.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Thursday 4th June 10.30am-11.30am
Newcastle City Library

Thursday 4th June 5.30pm - 6.30pm
ONLINE

[Sign up to an information session via our registration form](#)



SIGN-UP PROCESS

We use Better Impact to manage volunteer registration - it's a simple process. First, sign up as a Newcastle Cultural Events Team volunteer for NOVUM Summer Festival.

Once you've registered, you'll receive a confirmation email (please check your junk folder just in case). We'll then add you to our volunteer list and will keep in touch with you about important updates and to book in your induction/briefing session ahead of NOVUM.

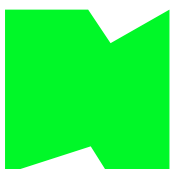
Once you've completed your induction - your volunteer shifts will be allocated based on your availability and areas of interest.



[Sign up to volunteer at NOVUM via Better Impact](#)

Please note: The email address you register with will be our main way of contacting you.

If you're not comfortable using an online platform, that's absolutely fine - we're happy to help. You can contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Alison Flanagan-Wood, at: alison.flanaganwood@newcastle.gov.uk or via phone: 07471180493



KEEP IN TOUCH & THANK YOU



Thanks for your interest in volunteering at NOVUM Summer Festival 2026.

By giving your time and energy, you'll be helping to create something truly special - bringing people together, supporting creativity across the city, and making unforgettable moments happen.

We're excited to welcome you to the team and hope you'll join us in making NOVUM an incredible experience for everyone.

Keep in touch with us and all things NOVUM Summer Festival via:

- › Signing up to our mailing list via: www.novumnewcastle.com
- › Connect with us on social media on Facebook & Instagram via: [@NovumFestival](https://www.instagram.com/NovumFestival)

