The Festival captures interest as a trusted way for people to develop meaningful conversations

IF Oxford presents 100+ events each year, exploring complexity, wonder and learning across arts and science. Events connect topics in creative ways, developing individual skills and enriching society, with focus on people who think 'science is not for me'.

21,000 people joined in online, 450 contributors created 100 events

We pivoted our offer during the COVID-19 crisis, supporting researchers and creative professionals, learning, when many other organisations were cancelling activity.

Could you be involved in our 30th Festival in October 2021?
www.if-oxford.com/2021

The 2020 Festival was conceived when we first cheered those who kept the country going. Our Festival was for them, for those experiencing social isolation for the first time and for people who have always felt excluded.

"Thanks so much, we just couldn’t have done anything like this without you"

IF Oxford was first to run a large-scale digital multi-activity science zone, create a magazine for a print-digital public Festival, and was a leading producer of theatre, poetry, music and dance as creative conversation starters.

The Festival is always experimental, and can support your colleagues to innovate in public spaces, using market research tools to enhance engagement.

Skills honed throughout Oxford science and ideas Festival offer teams confidence and inspiration to develop business activities.

Who gets involved?

We create a coherent science and ideas Festival from diverse contributions by understanding why people and organisations get involved, typically:

"to share wonder and inspire others" "explore contemporary and future careers" "and to build public trust"

169 teams were part of IF 2020, representing 19 businesses, 34 communities or charities, and 9 universities or colleges from Oxford and beyond.

The 2020 Festival featured 1/3 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine and Maths) alongside 1/3 SHAPE (Social sciences, Humanities and the Arts for People and the Economy) subjects.

60 teams worked with businesses to connect ideas to real-world challenges, 76 teams with universities and colleges, 43 teams with companies and 50 teams with charities, communities or individuals.

Participate and create the best science and ideas Festival

We nurture ideas from science, cultural and community groups

Briefing sessions and 1:1 advice supports concept, completion and reflection

We cluster activities to ensure they work with specific audiences

IF 2020 distributed 28,500 magazines packed with articles, events and activity sheets

We respond to business and community issues to keep the Festival relevant

We carefully match the needs and abilities of contributors and audiences, especially true in the digital space during the COVID crisis.

Contributor: "It was amazing... I don’t think I would have done any public engagement if it wasn’t for the encouragement of IF Oxford going ahead and providing a framework."

IF Oxford is a small charity building science, social and cultural capital

Please help us

A science and ideas festival makes Oxford a great place to work, visit and live.

Our events connect ideas across subjects and places.

Share your creative technologies and culture with people for a positive impact on society.

Promote IF Oxford to your contacts, in newsletters and on your social media

Contribute your content

Sponsor or make a donation

Volunteer with us

IF Oxford is run by Oxfordshire Science Festival, an independent charity (Charity Number 1151361), with Trustees and a small team that work year-round.

Director: Dane Corermford, Manager: Cathy Rose

Trustees: Ian Thompson, Rory Campbell, Claire Cockcroft, Tim Hart, David Pyle.

Outputs and impact of the 2020 Festival

Thanks to everyone who made IF Oxford possible! The 2020 Festival was supported by:

www.if-oxford.com/2020
The Festival makes topics accessible and interesting. So 90% of visitors are very likely to tell a friend to try IF Oxford events and will also return themselves...