

From Behind Closed Doors

A celebration of creative businesses in Winchester 2026



Hello.

Thanks to everyone for their expression of interest, it's lovely to have you all on board.

We want to bring everyone into the conversation as we share our thoughts for the '*From Behind Closed Doors Festival.*'

Emalene and Ben

What is it?

From Behind Closed Doors festival is a pilot event to celebrate the creative industries in Winchester. Designers, marketeers, architects, video or music producers, fashion designers and creative digital services all in one space, showing the breadth and depth of local talent.

What's on the cards

- + Winchester creatives exhibition
- + Open studios guide/tours
- + Launch party
- + Networking event
- + 24hrs Design Challenge

Why are we doing it?

To shine a spotlight on the diversity, scale and excellence of Winchester's creative industries. Much of this brilliant work happens behind closed doors, but often within very close proximity to each other and the places people go every day. We want to give people an opportunity to step inside, meet the people behind the projects and experience the industry up close.

How does it work?

Studios and spaces would sign up to 'open' within a set date range (across a few days or a long weekend) and specify which days and times they wish to welcome visitors. Each participating space will have someone available for an informal chat with visitors. You may also offer a short tour or share examples of work, although this is entirely optional. There is no charge to participate.

Who is it for?

The festival is designed for Winchester's creative community in the broadest sense. Studios, makers and professionals across disciplines can showcase their talent and strengthen the city's creative networks, while design-led organisations gain a clearer view of the skills on their doorstep.

Academia is a key partner too. By aligning with local universities, course leaders and students, the festival can build a bridge between education and industry, opening opportunities for talks, mentoring and collaboration while supporting emerging talent.

We also want to welcome investors and accelerators, giving them a clear view of the breadth of capability in Winchester. An open-studio directory will provide visibility across the industry, ensuring equal access and a shared sense of opportunity.

When?

Exact dates TBC, but likely first half of 2026.

What do you get out of it?

This is an opportunity to raise your profile locally, meet new and interesting people and connect through both open studios and dedicated networking events. You may even spark new client relationships and meet potential collaborators.

Then what?

After the pilot event, we will review the initiative and gather feedback to determine if/how the event might become an annual fixture. We'll also scope opportunities for growth, funding and investment if the festival proves popular and successful.

Who's 'we'?

A small group of enthusiastic people and organisations are working together to deliver this pilot event in a voluntary capacity. We know Winchester's creativity is abundant - we want others to know it too!

[Please share this signup link with your network.](#)