

# PLYMOUTH 2029

# UK CITY OF CULTURE

**Scrutiny Committee 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026**



**Introductions**



**Process Update**



**Local response**



**Case Studies**



**Plymouth Proposition & Alignment**



# **Expression of Interest (EOI) Stage**

**Submission required 8th February 2026**

**The following places have declared an intention to bid:**

- **Wrexham**
- **Portsmouth**
- **Ipswich**
- **Bristol**





# Engagement Update

## Sector briefings

3 sessions held reaching over 290 creatives from across Plymouth and surrounding areas

## Useful feedback reflecting the need for the bid to reference:

- Young people – opportunities and challenges of engagement
- Schools and cultural education/ creative careers
- Inclusion and accessibility
- The significance of our location – moors and sea
- Spaces for culture – existing and needed
- Social enterprise, impact and engagement and how all are strong in Plymouth
- Community voice and citizen-led decision making
- Excellence in the cultural offer but also the links to research, innovation and international reach
- The importance of freelancers





# Engagement Update

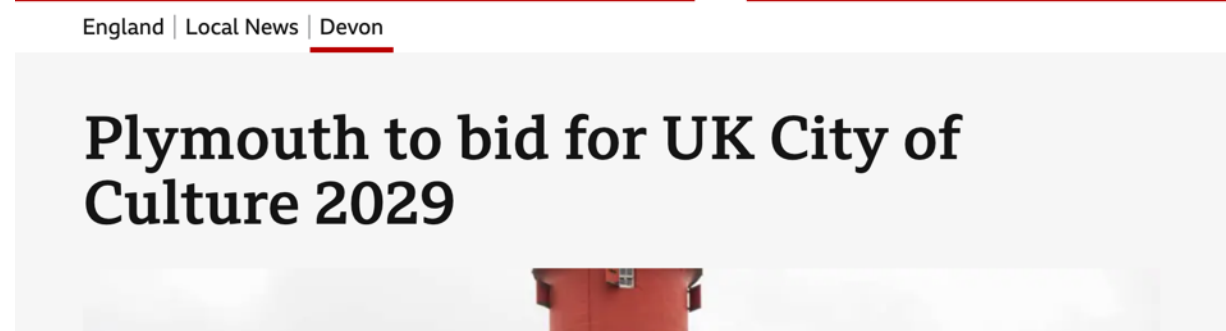
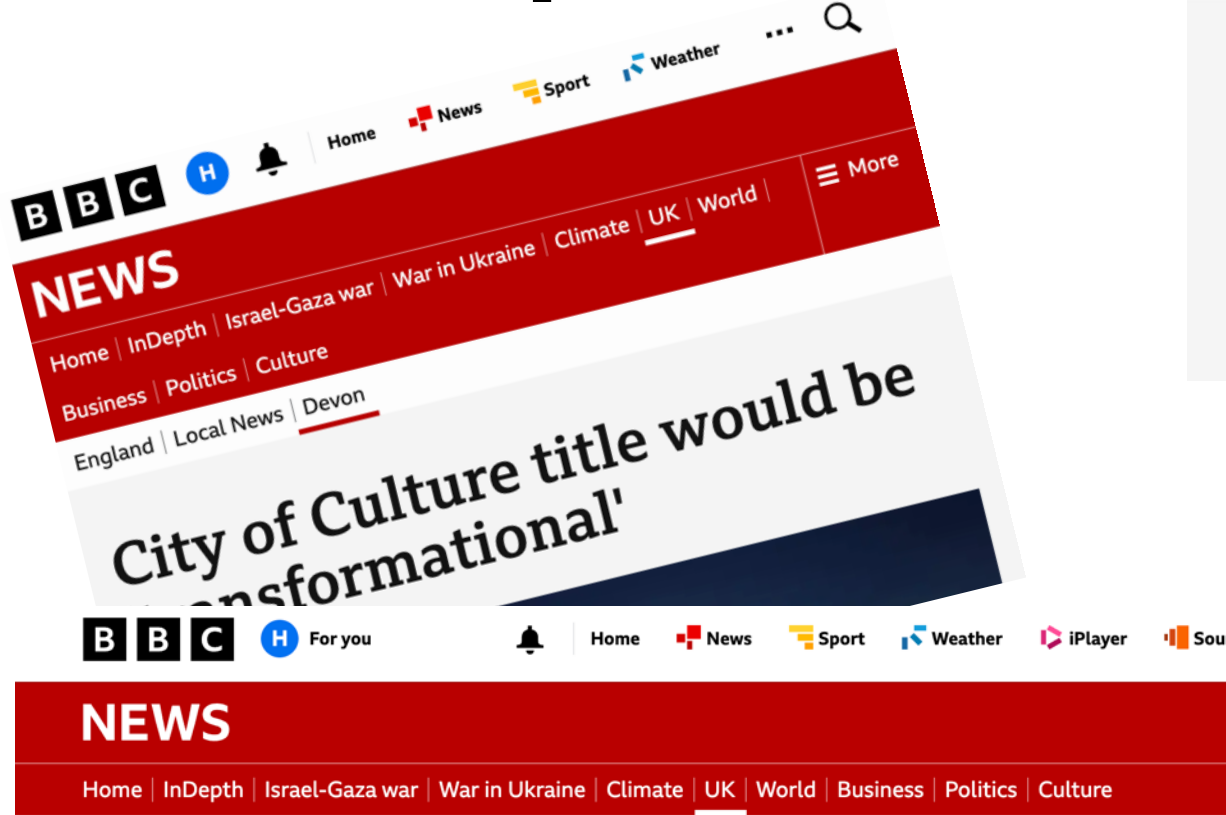
## Community drop-in sessions

Three community drop-in sessions held across the city - Saltram, Drake Circus and The Beacon North Prospect.

Partner organisations have also hosted discussions with community groups including - Real Ideas, FotoNow, Scrapstore, Barbican Theatre, Waterfront Partnership, Destination Plymouth, University of Plymouth, Arts University Plymouth, PCC Public Health teams



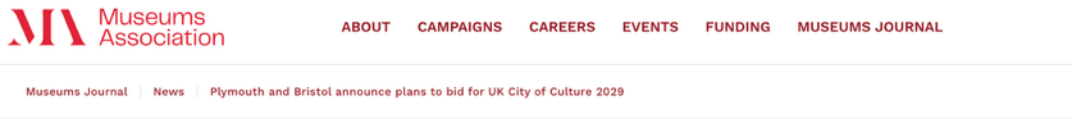
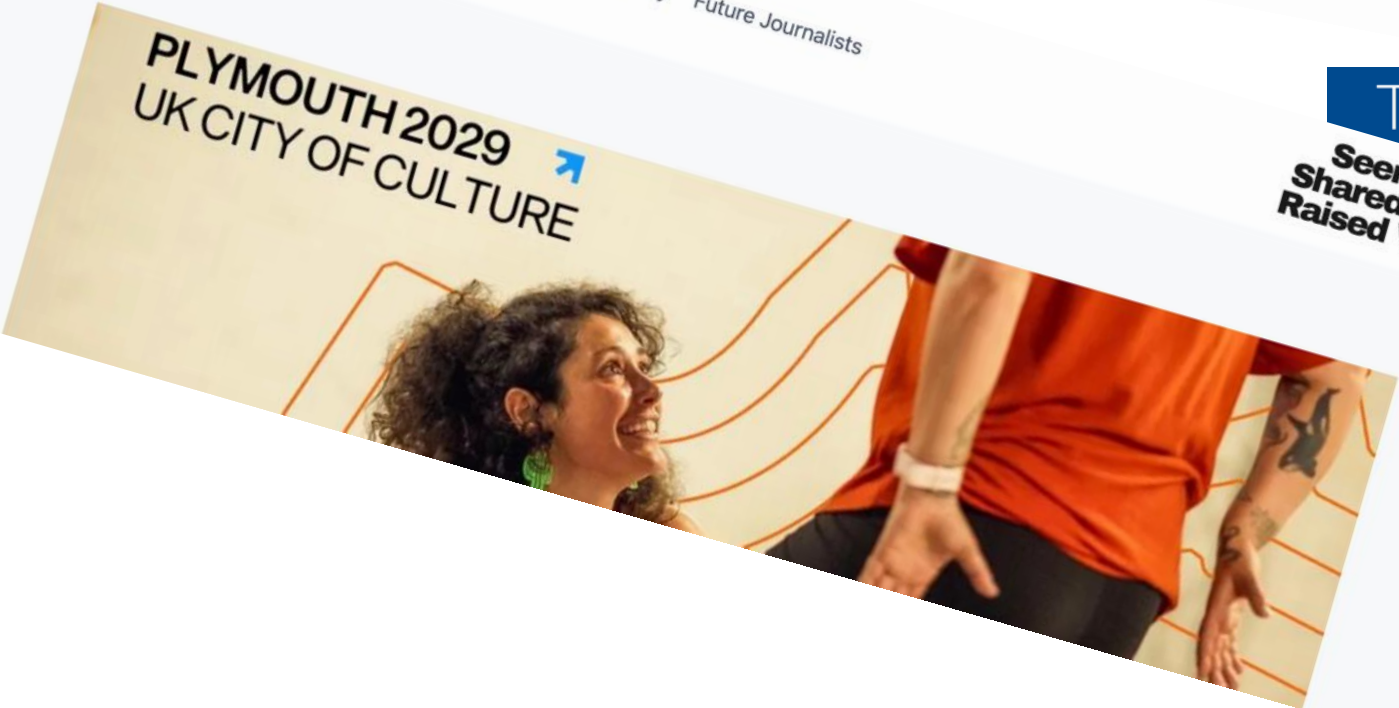
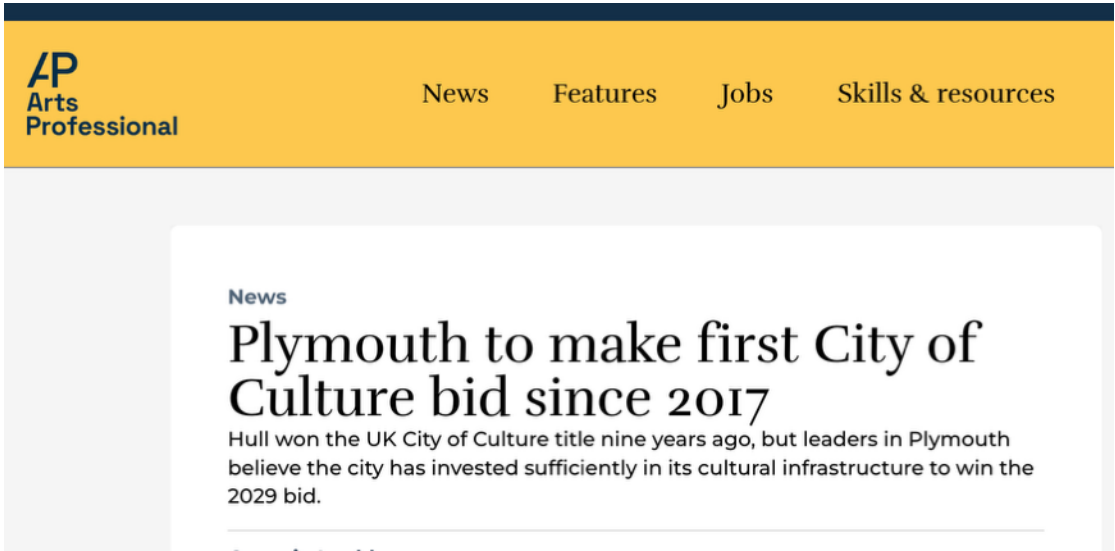
# Local response



Home ▶ News & Sport ▶ Local News ▶ Plymouth to bid to become City of Culture 2029

## Plymouth to bid to become City of Culture 2029

[News Home](#) [More from Local News](#)



NEWS — CITY OF CULTURE

## Plymouth and Bristol announce plans to bid for UK City of Culture 2029



South West

## Bristol and Plymouth set sights on UK City of Culture 2029 bid



Home / South West / Creative / Bristol mulls UK City of Culture 2029 bid while Plymouth confirms it has entered race

## Bristol mulls UK City of Culture 2029 bid while Plymouth confirms it has entered race





# City of Culture Case Studies

## Overall Impact



Stimulated investment of £1b across the cities (excluding Bradford)



70% of all attendees reported a greater sense of pride in place



Bradford - attracted audiences of 1 million, reached 11k pupils and engaged 2k volunteers in the first 6 months





# City of Culture Case Studies

## Lessons Learnt



The schools programme in Derry did not achieve the key stage 2 attainment targets because it didn't align with additional programme support



Audiences aged 16-34 were under represented in Hull

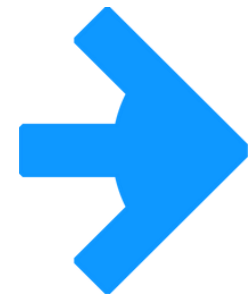


Timing coincided with the pandemic - there were communication issues across the partnership and the newly formed Trust could not embed to gain trust and goodwill

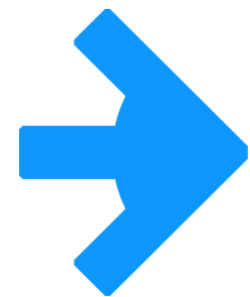




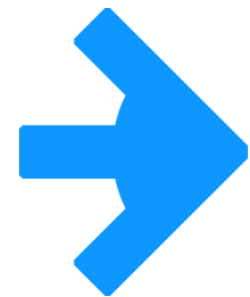
# The proposition



Cultural ambition - this is a growth proposition



The story of Plymouth is the story of the nation



We offer a blueprint for culture led regeneration in coastal towns & cities



We are showcasing and celebrating all that makes Plymouth unique and reclaiming our position as a global engine for change





# Plymouth Alignment



The cultural ambition shown through bidding for UK City of Culture will help to amplify other work across the city



It will support community engagement and cohesion leading to civic pride



It will complement the new towns and city centre developments through cultural placemaking



It will be a mechanism to achieve inclusive growth ambitions set out by Team Plymouth





Thank you

Stay connected, back the  
bid, get involved

<https://www.plymouthculture.co.uk/city-of-culture>