



The 2018 Seattle Design Festival is Bridging the Trust Divide

Design in Public champions connection and community at the region's largest design event

SEATTLE, Wash. (August 20, 2018): Design in Public and AIA Seattle announce the full schedule for the eighth year of the annual [Seattle Design Festival \(September 6 – 21, 2018\)](#), the largest design event in the Pacific Northwest.

For two weeks, [Design in Public](#), [AIA Seattle](#) and over 120 partners will host 80+ events and installations in dozens of venues across greater Seattle for thousands of visitors (over 30,000 people attended Seattle Design Festival events in 2017).

This year's Festival theme, "TRUST," examines the role of design thinking in bringing together and building trust among diverse communities. Seattle Design Festival events are hosted by a wide range of individuals and organizations from the arts, architecture, design, urban planning, education, advocacy, and technology companies.

"Seattle is far from immune to the corrosive effects of mistrust and misinformation we're seeing in our society," said Lisa Richmond, Executive Director of AIA Seattle + Design in Public. "This year's Seattle Design Festival is an opportune moment for public conversation on how the design of our places, objects, information, and experiences builds trust between diverse communities."

The Seattle Design Festival launches with an [opening night party at The Collective](#) on September 6, followed by the [Block Party](#), a free public street fair held outdoors in Occidental Park on September 8 & 9. The Seattle Design Festival Block Party features touchable, interactive art installations from artists, designers and community groups. A full list of major festival events is included below.

"It's important to reflect on our individual and collective agency during a time when vigorous civic engagement is needed," said Debra Webb, Director of Design in Public. "This year's Seattle Design Festival is all about exploring the role of design to affirm and strengthen trust between people, and work towards designing a thriving city that we all want to live in."

Full details on the 2018 Seattle Design Festival schedule and events can be found at [designinpublic.org](#). [Watch a video about the Seattle Design Festival here](#), and follow the Twitter hashtags #SDF2018 #DesignTRUST for recent updates.

WHEN: Festival events: Thursday, September 6 – Friday, September 21, 2018
Festival preview: Tuesday, August 21, 6pm-8pm, 1010 Western Avenue – [RSVP online](#)

WHERE: The Seattle Design Festival happens at the [Center for Architecture & Design](#) and dozens of partnering venues across Seattle. Please see the festival website for full venue, schedule and event details: <http://www.designinpublic.org/>

PHOTOGRAPHY: Festival photos, pre-approved for publication, are available for download here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/architecturegeek/sets/72157667662644358>. Please credit: *Design in Public's Seattle Design Festival. Photo by Trevor Dykstra.*
Embeddable Festival video: <https://vimeo.com/242652728>

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MAJOR FESTIVAL EVENTS:

Seattle Design Festival 2018 Sneak Peek

Tuesday, August 21, 6pm – 8pm, free

Center for Architecture & Design (1010 Western Ave, Seattle WA 98104) <https://designinpublic.org/event/sdf-2018-sneak-peek/>

The public and members of the media are invited to join the public unveiling of the 2018 Seattle Design Festival. Staff and organizers will provide an overview of this year's festival—expanding on the key themes explored by our program partners—followed by presentations from select program and installation teams. A screenprinting station is available for participants to print this year's branding on their own t-shirts or totes. *Presented by Design in Public.*

21st Annual Architectural Model Exhibit: Transparency

Thursday, August 30 – Saturday, November 24, opening times vary, free

Center for Architecture & Design (1010 Western Ave, Seattle WA 98104) <https://designinpublic.org/event/21st-annual-architectural-model-exhibit-transparency/>

For over two decades the Seattle Architecture Foundation has hosted the Architectural Model Exhibit, an opportunity for local architects and designers to connect and share their work with the Seattle community. As we experience massive demographic changes in our cities due to gentrification, immigration, aging, and displacement, how can the work of architects and designers unite our communities for the better in the midst of civic upheaval? This year's theme—Transparency—encourages entrants to explore the rich interplay between architectural design and civic life. *Presented by the Seattle Architecture Foundation.*

Opening Party

Wednesday, September 6, 7pm – 11pm, \$25 suggested donation

The Collective (400 Dexter Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109) <https://designinpublic.org/event/sdf-2018-opening-party/>

Celebrate the two-week Seattle Design Festival and meet the many people and organizations who make it possible. Featuring music, food, drinks, dancing, design and more. \$25 suggested donation gets attendees 2 drink tickets for wine or beer, cash bar on premises; no one turned away for lack of funds. *Sponsored by GRAY Magazine and The Collective.*

Block Party

Saturday, September 8, 10am – 7pm & Sunday, September 9, 10am – 5pm, free

Occidental Park (Physical Address: 149 S Main St, Seattle, WA 98104) <https://designinpublic.org/event/sdf-2018-block-party/>

A two-day street fair celebrating the powerful ways design affects our lives. Featuring 39 large-scale installations, performances, and interactive design activities that can be enjoyed by people of all ages, sizes, and abilities. *Presented by Design in Public and community partners.*

The Chromatic Dinner

Sunday, September 9, 7p - 10p @ [Mutuus Studio](#) (802 6th Avenue South, Suite 1, Seattle, WA 98134)

Thursday, September 13, 7p - 10p @ Galvanize Rooftop (111 S Jackson St, Seattle, WA 98104)

Friday September 14, 7p - 10p @ Galvanize Rooftop (111 S Jackson St, Seattle, WA 98104)

Tickets: \$100. Space is limited.

<https://designinpublic.org/event/the-chromatic-dinner/>

This series of "chromatic dinners" aims to create a multi-sensory eating experience that combines food, art, and science. Each of five courses in the meal is designed in a different color, taste, smell, texture, and sound, matching western design with eastern philosophy. Designed by European artist and stage director Martin Butler and vegan chef Alexander Gershberg. *Presented by Martin Butler and Alexander Gershberg in partnership with Het Nieuwe Instituute and Mediamatic.*

Exhibition Opening: Design with the 90%

Thursday, September 13, 5pm-8pm, free

Gates Foundation Discovery Center (440 5th Avenue N., Seattle WA 98109)

Celebrate the opening of *Design with the 90%*, a special exhibition featuring 26 innovative projects that showcase designs solutions toward a more equitable world by increasing access, improving health, and empowering opportunity for the most marginalized communities around the world. Meet local and international designers featured in the exhibition, connect with community partners, and get inspired to turn caring into action. Featuring music by DJ Riz Rollins from KEXP, and an installation from The Seattle Design Nerds, food, drink and more! *Presented by the Gates Foundation and organized by Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum.*

Displaced: Design for Inclusive Cities - Winners Celebration

Tuesday, September 18, 5:30pm-8pm, free

Gates Foundation Discovery Center (440 5th Avenue N., Seattle WA 98109)

Design in Public and AIA Seattle launched an international design ideas competition, [Displaced: Design for Inclusive Cities](#) in April 2018. This event announces the winners of the competition, who delivered game-changing proposals for urban design solutions that promote belonging, dignity and resilience for immigrants and refugees navigating the challenges of urban life. During this evening celebration, Design in Public will announce the winners of \$15,000 in prize money and host a public discussion with the winners and jurors, followed by a Q&A with the audience. Speakers will include competition Civic Partner Allan Ekberg, Mayor of Tukwila, regional and international competition winners, and jurors. *Presented by Design in Public and AIA Seattle.*

Artificial Intelligence and Creativity – A Design Discussion Presented by Microsoft

Thursday, September 20, 5:30pm - 7:30pm, free

Seattle Central Library, Microsoft Auditorium (1000 4th Ave, Seattle, WA 98104)

<https://designinpublic.org/event/on-artificial-intelligence-creativity-and-trust-an-interactive-discussion-and-gallery-event/>

Thought leaders from Seattle's global design community will share their perspectives on the creative challenges and opportunities brought forth in the age of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Lightning talks and an interactive panel discussion, will be followed up with a curated, interactive art mixer. Moderator: Jon Friedman (Microsoft). Exhibitor: Asta Roseway (Microsoft). Panelists: Mira Lane (Microsoft), Blaise Aguera y Arcas (Google), Afroditi Psarra (DX Arts), Robert Twomey. *Presented by Microsoft.*

PARK(ing) Day Seattle

Friday, September 21, 10am – 6pm, free

All over Seattle (exact locations will be announced closer to the event) <https://designinpublic.org/event/parking-day-2018/>

PARK(ing) Day happens once a year on the third Friday in September, and falls on the last day of the 2018 Seattle Design Festival. PARK(ing) Day is an opportunity for Seattleites to temporarily turn on-street parking spaces into public places. This international event raises awareness about the importance of a walkable, livable, healthy city and helps people re-think how our streets can be used. All it takes is a free application and anyone can host their very own little park. *Public PARK(ing) Day applications due August 24. Presented in partnership with the Seattle Department of Transportation*

We the People Public Art Campaign

Ongoing, free

Public locations around Seattle Neighborhoods

<https://amplifier.org/wethepeople/>

We the People is a public art campaign by Amplifier, launching at this year's Seattle Design Festival, that features the art and voices of youth leaders engaged in civic participation and activism. Amplifier is a design lab dedicated to reimagining and amplifying the voices of social change movements, through art and community engagement. By facilitating and funding collaborations between movements and contemporary artists, Amplifier helps their message reach a broader audience.

SEATTLE DESIGN FESTIVAL 2018: FULL PROGRAM LIST

Review at: <https://designinpublic.org/>

The full list of festival programs [available to download as a Word doc here.](#)

ABOUT THE SEATTLE DESIGN FESTIVAL

Presented by Design in Public, the Seattle Design Festival is the region's largest design event, bringing together the public, designers, business and civic leaders to inform and inspire an interdisciplinary public dialogue around the role of design in maintaining and enhancing the quality of life in Seattle.

ABOUT DESIGN IN PUBLIC

Design in Public (DIP) is a strategic initiative of AIA Seattle, founded to celebrate all the ways that design makes life better. Through the interdisciplinary annual Seattle Design Festival and other public programs, DiP nurtures relationships among designers, citizens, leaders and businesspeople to encourage public participation in creating places we all want to live.

ABOUT AIA SEATTLE

AIA Seattle provides the architecture community with resources and relationships to make a difference through design. A chapter of the American Institute of Architects, AIA Seattle is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit, membership service organization.

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