

# T100 Festival

## 22 May – 6 June 2026

### Seeing Thurrock Differently: A Journey Home

Resource Pack

# T100

PRESENTED BY

KINETIKA



# Welcome to the 2026 Festival

Kinetika invites you to take part in the 2026 T100 Festival and we've designed this pack to inspire you to devise your own activities and artworks.

These will form part of a vibrant and hopeful programme that enables us all to see Thurrock in new ways as it moves towards a different future as local government reorganisation and development reshape our local spaces.

Get involved in the 2026 festival programme and contribute to the narrative for Thurrock that we have been creating over the last 12 years. Whether a school, community group or individual we want to hear from you!

We will tell this collaborative story in a variety of ways at the festival finale, a grand community feast, celebration and thank you party.



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# Seeing Thurrock Differently: A Journey Home

A joyful celebration of the landscapes, stories and communities in Thurrock. An invitation to reflect on what it means to belong and to call a place home in the future.

Our monthly walks will continue in the lead-up. On the way, we'll share stories, spark conversations, and invite you to shape the festival and imagine what Thurrock might become as we prepare for devolution.

As six years of National Lottery Reaching Communities funding draws to a close, 2026 will be the final year of the T100 Festival in its current form. The programme will include a series of walks, talks, installations and performances.

Guided by curiosity, creativity, and a shared spirit of adventure, artists, scientists, historians, local voices, and Thurrock's next generation will come together to explore who we are, where we've come from, and imagine new futures. We'll explore, talk, and create – discovering new perspectives along the way.

Join us as we see Thurrock differently – together – and imagine what comes next.



## KEY DATES

**30th January 2026**  
Deadline for festival  
event proposals

**16 February 2026**  
T100 Festival Launch

**5 May 2026**  
Final submissions of  
Finale Tableware

**22 May – 6 June 2026**  
Festival dates

**June and July 2026**  
Wrap-up & Evaluation

# How to get involved

## Getting Started

Here are some questions and activities to help you start thinking about the theme and developing your ideas.

We invite you to consider these questions:

**1.**

*What does a house need to become a home? What makes you feel at home?*

**2.**

*What are the memories you have of the place you call home?*

**3.**

*How do you feel about your local area? What would you like to be different?*

**4.**

*What are your aspirations for the place you will call home?*

**5.**

*How can we work together towards a shared vision for a future home and invite others in?*

EXPLORE  
TALK  
CREATE



# Activity Ideas

To help you to respond to the theme of the festival:

1.

*Talk to your neighbours. Learn about what gives your local area its character.*

2.

*Find out what home means to people from different parts of the world. Share special moments, the memories that stay with you wherever you are.*

3.

*Consider what activities would help you to see familiar places in new ways.*

4.

*Go in search of hidden gems on your doorstep, the lesser-known spots that you enjoy and not many people know about. Observe, research, and collect stories and inspiration.*

Take part in the **T100 programme of walks**, discussions, garden working parties and creative activities taking place throughout the year to help you reflect on your community and your ideas of home. See our monthly programme and wider opportunities here and **sign up to the newsletter here**.



# Mapping the local area

## Voting with your feet

A physical mapping exercise. You'll need a large open space where you can indicate a scale people can stand on to show how much they agree or disagree with the following statements.

Ask people to show how they feel about the following statements by moving to the area on the scale they feel they stand:

1.

**Where I live is a great place to live**

2.

**Other people don't know much about where I live**

3.

**I enjoy spending time outdoors in my local area.**

4.

**My area is changing.**

5.

**I'm proud to share stories about my home.**





## Map of Happiness

Using post its and a map of Thurrock or a sense of general areas, do a quick fire round of writing responses to the following prompts and placing them on the map before sharing back as a group:

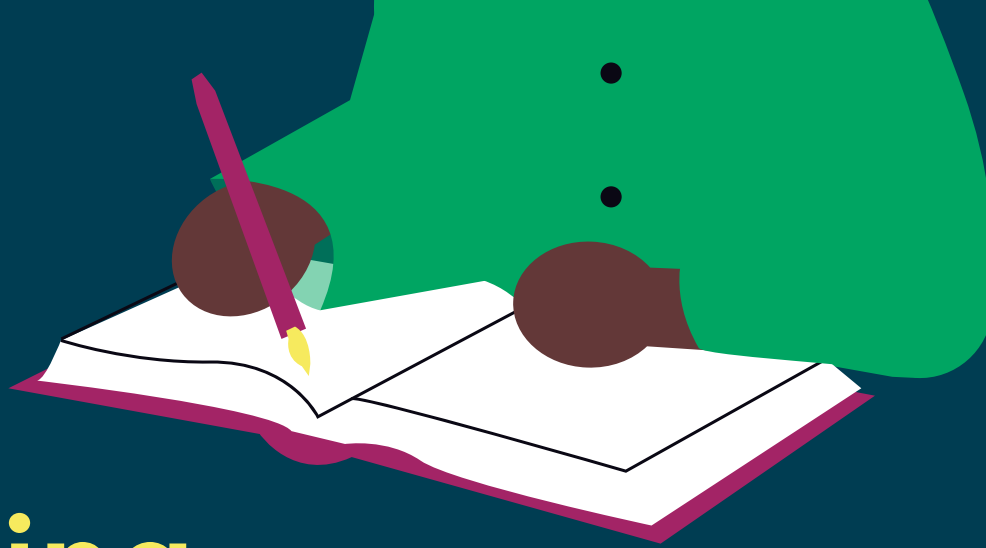
1.  
**Three places you're  
always happy/  
content/ comfortable**

2.  
**Memories of  
significant places,  
events, shared  
moments.**

3.  
**What things in your  
local area would you  
share with friends  
and family visiting  
Thurrock?**

4.  
**What are beautiful places to  
get out and about, hidden  
gems?**

5.  
**Where are the good  
places to eat?**



# Creative Writing

## Exploring Home

Ask everyone to work individually to write something about what home is to them.

Choose one space - introduce it, describe it and explain it.

Once everyone has had a chance to write, invite people to share back to the group so you create a series of home spaces.

Some useful prompts to inspire everyone as they write:

*How does  
the space  
make you  
feel?*

*How does  
it smell?*

*What can  
you hear  
there?*

*What's the  
view?*

# Group Discussion

## Imagining the journey home

In small groups respond to the following scenario:

You are inviting people back to yours. It is a new home, you're excited to show it to your friends and family.

*Who are you inviting?*

*You want to show off the area where your new home is, so what is the route to your home? There is no public transport, so you walk or cycle.*

*What do you want to show off along the way? Green spaces, community spaces, secret spaces.*

*What are you bringing with you? What are your guests bringing as a house-warming present or a dish to share?*

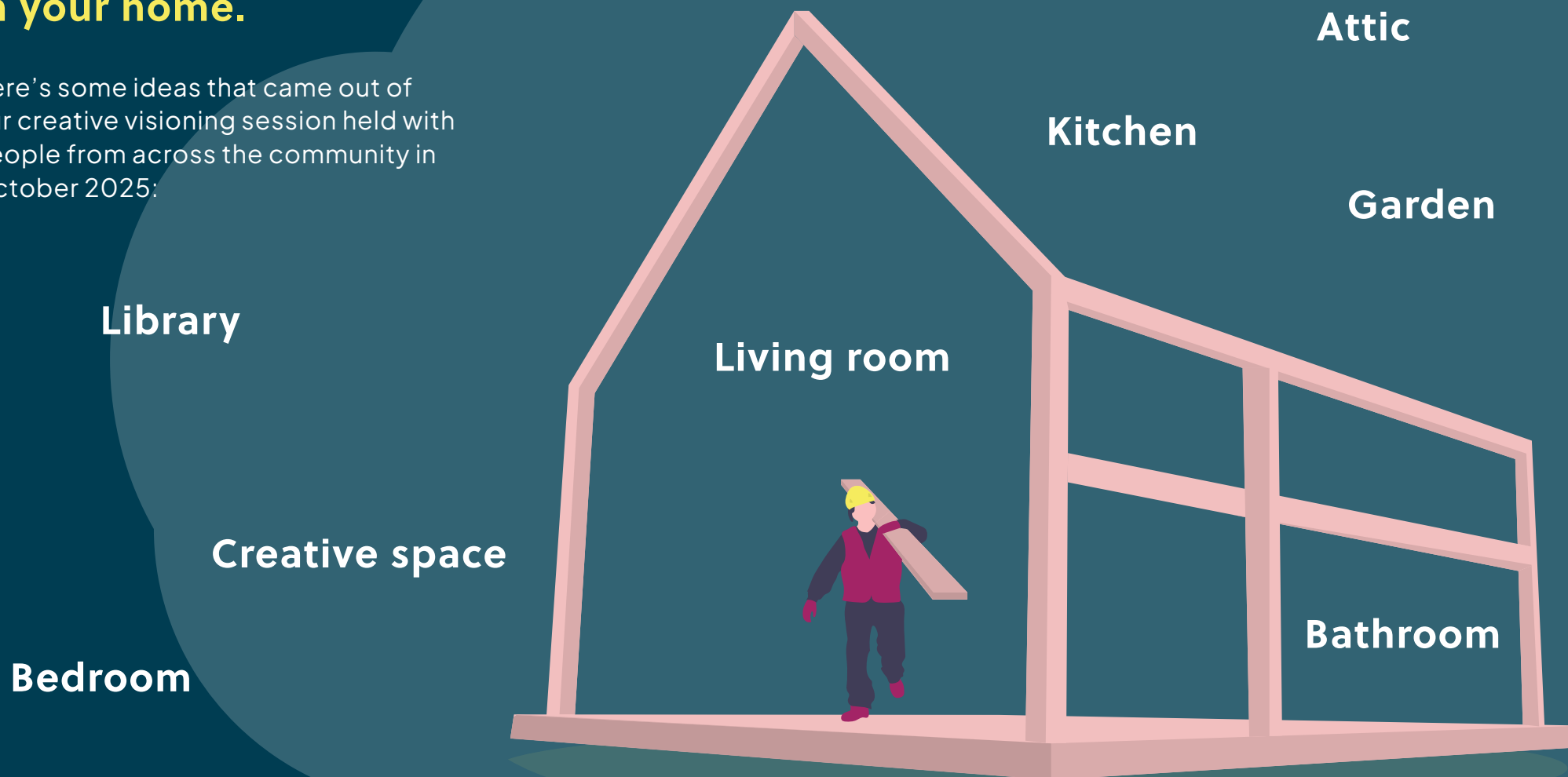
Afterwards, invite everyone to come back together to share whole group. Sketch an outline of a house and start labelling the rooms as you hear what each of them is. Each small group is a household who describes their house. Depending on how many you have, they can combine to form a street of houses.



# Design a dream space

**Think about what spaces you would like in your home.**

Here's some ideas that came out of our creative visioning session held with people from across the community in October 2025:



## What else could your home be?

Let your imagination run wild! Some other questions to help guide your thinking:

1.  
**Who lives in this home?**

2.  
**What is the home made of? Think about different materials.**

3.  
**What other homes and buildings are in your community?**

4.  
**How do you create a community around your home?**

5.  
**How do you belong to the future? What will this home space be like in 10 years? And how about in 50 years?**



# A Place at the Table

## Help create our community feast at the end of the festival

We are inviting community members from across Thurrock to **bring a memento that reminds them of home to display or a dish to share with others at the Finale event taking place on Saturday 6th June 2026.**

We'll also be working with community members via a series of creative sessions to create a **tablecloth** using natural dyes, sketching and embroidery, which will show off the hidden gems of Thurrock.

Keep an eye on our social media and newsletters for dates and how to book on to the sessions.



Some things to think about as you decide what to bring:

1.

**What is it and why are you bringing this?**

2.

**What, who or where does this remind you of?**

3.

**How do you want people to feel when they see or try it?**

4.

**How will you share this story?  
A conversation, a performance,  
a poem, a recipe?**

# Where do recipes come from?

As we think about our community feast and the food we might enjoy together, we'd love you to think about the stories behind your favourite recipes, and those of your friends, family and neighbours.

Often, they have been passed down through the generations, and in so doing reflect our lives, where we have come from and our families.

By unpacking the stories behind the recipes we can learn about each other.

Here's a suggestion for a writing exercise to find the story behind the recipe:

**1.**

**Who are you, what is your recipe and who did you get it from?**

**2.**

- **Why did you choose the recipe?**
- **When did you eat it, who did you share it with?**
- **Was it a special occasion, what were you celebrating?**
- **Where were you? Around a table, in a room, outside, at home? Or in a public place? Describe it.**
- **What did the food taste like, how did it smell, what colours were on the plate?**
- **How did you feel, what are your memories of the meal?**

**3.**

**Write it up as a couple of paragraphs.**

**4.**

**Write it up on a recipe card – choose a piece of paper and select a coloured pen. Decorate the card if you wish.**

**5.**

**Read it out and share with others.**



**"At the heart of every one of my recipes is a place called Gujarat. It's where as long as everyone can remember, we came from, although my family has now settled in England. In Gujarat, cabbages and potatoes are near deities.**

**In Lincolnshire, where they are the main crops, the same is true. I feel as though the bones, and the bones of my ancestors, are partly made up of these two vegetables."**

**Meera Sodha,  
Fresh India**

# Plan a taster event for the festival

We would love to hear from people who have ideas for events they would like to plan and run as part of the 2026 festival which bring the theme to life. We invite you to bring your idea to share with the wider community at our January Programming Meeting (read on for more information).

Steps to take if you want to plan an event for the festival:

## 1. Attend a community meeting

Attend the T100 community programming meeting to share your ideas and collaborate with other community members. This is taking place 4.30–6pm on Wednesday 21st January at Kinetika's studio, in High House Production Park, Purfleet-on-Thames, RM19 1AS. Contact Nicole to share your initial ideas and confirm your attendance: [nicole@kinetika.co.uk](mailto:nicole@kinetika.co.uk)

## 2. Complete an activity

Using the activities suggested above, develop your response to the theme and think about how your event will share this with others and inspire them to develop their own thinking about Thurrock and the place they call home.



## 3. Develop your ideas

Work with the T100 team and volunteers to develop your ideas and finalise plans for your event

## 4. Submit and Present

Submit your final plans to the T100 team by Friday 30th January 2026. Present your activity during the festival (running 22 May to 7 June 2026) and join the finale on 6 June 2026.

# Taking part from home

**There are ways you can take part in creative activities as part of the 2026 T100 festival from home or from within your community setting.**



## Wax rubbing napkins

Discover Thurrock in a fresh, creative way by helping us make beautiful napkin-based artworks that will be showcased and used by the community during our Festival Finale meal.

Through making wax rubbings on naturally dyed cotton, we'll tell the story of Thurrock's spaces, from natural landscapes to urban textures. To get involved, join us on our monthly walks, or we'd love to hear from people keen to take part from home. All you need is curiosity to explore the exciting patterns, shapes, and surfaces around you.

## Table Decorations and Menu Cards

We're also looking for community members keen to share and grow their creative skills by helping to design table decorations and menu cards for the Finale Event. If you'd love to share an idea, get in touch.

## For further creative ideas

We encourage you to use a range of techniques to respond creatively to the 2026 festival theme. Contact the T100 team for more activities and inspiration.

These activities are open to take part between December 2025 and May 2026.

To receive an activity pack and instructions, please email the T100 team on [hello@t100festival.co.uk](mailto:hello@t100festival.co.uk)

# About Kinetika

Kinetika unites communities through exceptional silk-based design and public spectacles that inspire social action and enrich local environments. For 28 years, we have pioneered an inclusive, participatory approach to walking, talking and making that strengthens social connection, celebrates cultural diversity and supports positive environmental and community change.

Flagship projects include T100, a year-round programme and annual festival in Thurrock that has received six years of Reaching Communities funding; Beach of Dreams, a UK-wide coastal arts festival (2025); Thank You Dance for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Pageant (2022); Silk River, a British Council commission for the UK/India Year of Culture (2017); and En Flag for the Cultural Olympiad at the Paris Olympics (2024).

Founded in 1997 by Artistic Director Ali Pretty, Kinetika is a registered charity and an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.



# About T100

T100 is Kinetika's programme of activity that is shaped by the communities in Thurrock. It celebrates and offers a space for creativity, collaboration and care for the environment. Year-round activity includes walking and exploring Thurrock's hidden gems, learning about the history, the landscape and the stories of the people that live and work here.

Since 2015 we have hosted the T100 festival, a programme of exploring, talking and creating that encourages multiple stories to surface. Each year's programme responds to a theme that is developed collectively with community members during a creative visioning session. The result is a programme of creative walking events and community devised activities.

T100's strength lies in its simplicity. Groups and individuals can devise their own events and showcase them locally, connecting them into the larger festival framework.

T100 is guided by values which centre on working together, being inclusive, giving voice to self-expression through creativity and caring for the environment. The programme is deeply committed to empowering young people in Thurrock through the T100 Young Ambassadors programme giving a space for children and young people to design and deliver activities for local communities.



# Reference Material and Inspiration

## Projects/Performances/Exhibitions

- T100 Festival, 2015 – Present
- Thurrock 100 Stories Book and Map
- The Paper Birds – The School of Hope
- Beach of Dreams by Kinetika
- Together Productions
- Town Anywhere
- Split Britches' Long Table
- Do Ho Suh at Tate Modern *"How does architecture shape and hold our memories? And in a world increasingly defined by movement – voluntary and involuntary – where and when is home?"*
- Rachel Whiteread – House a *"mute memorial to the spaces we have lived in"*
- Musuem of the Home
- Museum of Homelessness
- Refugee Tales
- Cards on the Table

## Reading

- Here – graphic novel by Richard McGuire
- Toni Morrison, Beloved *"If a house burns down, it's gone, but the place—the picture of it—stays, and not just in my rememory, but out there, in the world."*
- <https://www.politybooks.com/blog-detail/deep-crisis-deep-adaptation>
- Essex 40 Favourite Walks by Neil D'arcey-Jones
- Low Country – Brexit on the Essex Coast by Tom Bolton
- Raquel's Clubbing and Commune-ing in Essex, edited by Tim Burrows
- The Invention of Essex: The Making of an English County by Tim Burrows
- Essex Rock by Ian Mercer and Ros Mercer
- Adverse Camber: An incomplete walk to the seaside

# Accessibility and Inclusion

T100 is open to everyone. Activities can be adapted for different ages and access needs.

If you have questions about accessibility, please contact the team on [hello@t100festival.co.uk](mailto:hello@t100festival.co.uk) or call 01708 202846

## Contact

For more information, assistance or to share your ideas, visit [T100festival.co.uk](https://t100festival.co.uk) or email the T100 team on [hello@t100festival.co.uk](mailto:hello@t100festival.co.uk)

Follow T100 on social media for news, walks, and community stories.

Instagram

Facebook

LinkedIn

