

BUSINESS PROFILE: Sheffield Doc/Fest



Sheffield Doc/Fest is a film festival, industry session programme and marketplace, offering pitching opportunities, controversial discussion panels and in-depth filmmaker masterclasses, as well as a wealth of inspirational documentary films from across the globe. It is the UK's largest documentary festival and one of the largest in the world, celebrating documentary making as part of an intense five day event programme.

Last year's festival brought over 3,200 delegates to the city and Sheffield Doc/Fest currently employs 12 staff year-round, rising to 25 in the months leading up to the Festival.

“Over time it is our ambition to continue to grow Sheffield Doc/Fest to become the world's premier documentary event, by increasing delegate and public audience numbers and scaling up our events.”

Heather Croall, Director

The original board and stakeholders (Channel 4, BBC, Discovery and Granada) when looking for a location for Doc/Fest decided that Sheffield met its criteria of serving the regions and relative ease of accessibility for most of the country.

Today all of Sheffield Doc/Fest's functions and operations are based in Sheffield, from

marketing, business and development, outreach, operations, guest services, film programming and marketplace services.

“Our Headquarters is very much our Sheffield office. Sheffield works for us because it offers good train connections to London and Manchester. It's also a great environment where housing and the cost of living is very reasonable compared to other major cities and the city has a high retention rate for staff and students once they move here.”

“Here at Sheffield Doc/Fest we offer great progression opportunities. Many of our volunteers have advanced through full-time positions to the current senior management team. We work hard to retain the best of Sheffield's talent and incentivise our part-time workers to return year after year. Our General Manager started as a volunteer, as did our Project Co-ordinator and Marketplace Co-ordinator. Other Sheffield Doc/Fest volunteers and temporary staff have used it as a launch pad for their career and gone on to work at the BBC, Channel 4 and the BFI.”

Campbell Glennie, Marketing & Business Director

As well as the annual event, the team at Sheffield Doc/Fest also deliver workshops, training programmes and events throughout the year as well as appearing at festivals worldwide representing both the organisation and the city of Sheffield.

Creative Sheffield has worked with Sheffield Doc/Fest providing invaluable support. They have received assistance in accessing funding and guidance and updates on digital initiatives.

Sheffield

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