

Film Exhibition Ecology in Glasgow

Last Thursday: Creative Glasgow Member Meet-Up, Thursday 27 August 2026, The Pyramid, Anderston

*What's presented here is a summary snapshot of the discussions and notes emerging from a workshop on film exhibition in Glasgow, co-hosted by **Creative Glasgow** and **Film Hub Scotland** at our August member meet-up. Present were members of both FHS and CG's membership communities, as well as freelance creatives and organisations involved in film exhibition across the city. These notes reflect the key themes from the discussion, and overleaf we've collated some current, freely available resources that respond to the group's needs and interests.*

What a healthy ecology looks like

A healthy film exhibition ecology starts with venues people can walk or cycle to: sizeable independents outside the city centre sitting alongside the chains, and community centres, pop-ups and local hubs bringing film into smaller neighbourhoods. Glasgow was once a cinema-dense city, and there was real appetite to get some of that back. It also needs somewhere reliable to screen. The shortage of professional-grade screening space came up again and again, especially for films that need a professional copy. Screenings work best when they're more than a screening, with workshops, discussion, food, film clubs and regular get-togethers that treat audiences as participants rather than ticket-holders, and room for VR and 360° work too.

Underpinning all of this is income beyond the box office. Even a sold-out screening rarely covers itself, so year-round investment and mixed income are what keep things going. People wanted less bureaucracy and more DIY – toolkits, technical know-how and shared kit so they can get on with it – and a city that makes film as well as watches it, with paid entry-level opportunities, strong film criticism, festival links and one place to find out what's on.

What's already happening

Networks and shared knowledge are strong: **Film Hub Scotland** is compiling a dedicated resource list, and both CG and FHS hold space for peer-to-peer connection, contacts and shared learning. Organisations are programming for specific communities, from The Nook (SAMH) screening around mental health, to **Solar Bear** connecting with underrepresented d/Deaf audiences, to **Borscht Film Club** working directly with community venues. Others are making new venues work: when **Samizdat** moved from the CCA to The Pyramid, they put infrastructure in place to make it fit for film, then shared what they learned. There's mapping of a sort, too. **Matchbox Cine**'s venue guide showed the value of a live list, though venues close and details change, so it needs ongoing stewardship to stay useful. And mutual aid runs deep here, with cross-promotion and grassroots support built on trust and long relationships – which is exactly what newcomers don't have yet.



What the sector is asking for

The clearest ask was for shared infrastructure: an open venue database covering availability, tech specs and honest accessibility detail, a shared events calendar so organisations stop clashing, and a directory of event contacts shared with permission. On money, the group called for funding for licensing and for organisers' time, a single recommended rates-of-pay sheet along the lines of SAU rates in the visual arts, and dedicated access budgets, starting with BSL provision. There was strong interest in equipment libraries and sharing across universities, colleges, institutions, companies and festivals (and in where the kit goes when a venue closes), as well as how-to guides and webinars on licensing and setting up screenings in unusual spaces. Finally, people wanted a 'Team Glasgow': a shared voice for advocacy that writes to councillors, MSPs and MPs, and makes sure film exhibition is in the room when local policy and strategy are shaped.

Questions we're carrying forward

- How do we keep a resource list current without burying a small team in admin?
- How do we resource the DIYers properly, so ambition doesn't end in burnout or brain drain?
- Can CG and FHS broker equipment and space sharing across the sector?
- How do we get sector advocacy coordinated and heard – and who else should we be building alliances with?

Current Resources

Getting a screening off the ground

[FHS Technical Screening Toolkit](#)

[Now Showing! Start your own community cinema](#)

[ICO: How to start a cinema](#)

[Cinema For All: Guide to Equipment](#)

[All FHS resources](#)

Access and inclusion

[Dismantling Structural Inequality in Your Cinema](#)

[Engaging Deaf and Disabled People: A Toolkit](#)

[FHS Access & Inclusion](#)

[Accessible Cinema Toolkit](#)

Fair pay and funding

[SAU Recommended Rates of Pay 2026–27](#)

[Creative Scotland Rates of Pay Guidance](#)

[FHS Film Exhibition Fund](#)

[Creative Lives: Writing a successful funding application](#)

Spaces and venues

[Creative Glasgow: Spaces and Places for Creatives in the City](#)

[Matchbox Cine: A Guide to Glasgow Venues](#)

Join the networks

[Creative Glasgow membership and directory](#)

[Film Hub Scotland membership](#)