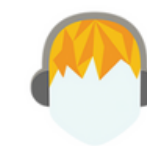




PoliNations Social Narrative



SENSORY ACCESS
ACCESS FOR ALL

PoliNations

Sensory Information

If you have sensory sensitivities, please know:

- This is an outdoor event, so temperatures will vary
- It will be particularly noisy near the stages
- There may be areas with strong scents of flowers and plants

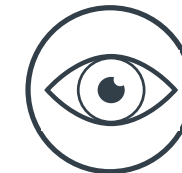
SENSORY KEY



Touch



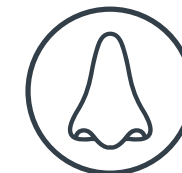
Sound



Visual



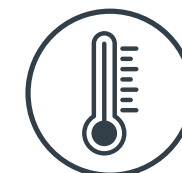
Terrain



Scent



Crowding



Temperature

What is PoliNations?

PoliNations is a festival that centres on bio-diversity and cultural diversity. Giant super trees and over 5000 of plants will transform Birmingham's city centre into an urban oasis, with free events, workshops and performances including live music, dance, spoken word, and drag.

Your experience and sensory impact depends on which area you visit. You can experience music from around the world, a light show each evening, and a grand finale where the site will burst into a cloud of confetti and colour.

Opens Friday 2nd September, 14:00

Closes Sunday 18th September, 22:00



Entrances

There are multiple entrances to the PoliNations site via Waterloo Street, New Street, Pinfold Street, and Chamberlain Square.

You can access the site from whichever entrance you like, but if you would like to start at the Information point, we recommend entering via Chamberlain Square.

Note: There will be more photographs of the site added to this social narrative in the upcoming weeks.



Where do I get information onsite?

Once inside the site you can find more information at the Information point at Chamberlain Square. The Information point will always be staffed while the site is open and staff will be happy to help with any questions.

Sensory bags containing ear defenders and fidget toys can also be borrowed from the Information point.

Additionally there will also be volunteers on site who will be dressed in PoliNations uniform - they will be happy to answer any questions you might have. They will be wearing a gilet/waterproof with this image (right).



Access

PoliNations is for everyone, and everyone is invited.

PoliNations is working hard to remove barriers so the facilities and events can be accessible to as many people as possible.

The site is fully wheelchair accessible and many of the key events will have BSL interpretation and Audio Description available. Please see the access guide on the PoliNations website for details.



Sensory Garden

The sensory garden is located within the site. It has been specially designed to be a high sensory and stimulating area with lots of interesting and highly scented plants. Unlike sensory areas designed to calm and reset your sensory system, this Sensory Garden is meant to stimulate your senses in various ways through scent, sound and visuals!

Note: Photos of the sensory garden will be added in coming weeks.

Quiet Zone

There will be lots of places for you to sit around the garden and enjoy the planting. If you need a sensory reset, there will be a designated Quiet Zone in Chamberlain Square. Please check in at the Information point if you would like to use the Quiet Zone.

Note: Photo of the Quiet Zone will be added in the coming weeks.

Stages

There are going to be 2 stages on site where events will take place. The Mother Tree Stage and our Main Stage. Full details of activity on each of the stages can be found on the PoliNations website.

There is an Accessible viewing platform for the main stage available for disabled users and their companions. If you would like to use this, speak to the staff around the site or at the Information point.

Note: Photos of the stages will be added in the coming weeks.

Events & Daily Highlights

There will be many PoliNations events and activities to enjoy. This sensory guide includes information about the following Daily Events:

- From Soil to Sip
- WonderSphere Workshops
- Iconic Lunchtime Talks
- Iconic Plant Audio Tour
- Into the Garden Tour
- Sunset Shift

In addition, this guide provides information about the following Events:

- Plant Up!
- Poetry and Performance Festival
- Ballistic Seed Parties
- Touch Tours

The full list of events can be found on the PoliNations website.

PoliNations Daily Highlight: From Soil to Sip



Every morning 10:00 - 11:00

Victoria Square

Come along to explore a journey 'From Soil to Sip' with the Spectra cast. An immersive, multi-sensory tour of the PoliNations' super garden, you will explore planting, growing, harvesting, blending, brewing and drinking tea. Taking inspiration from tea growers and drinkers around the globe, you will discover seeds and plants and brew a mix of herbs and spices to share.

Neurodiversity is at the heart of Spectra's work: they strive to cultivate a world which celebrates brains that work in different ways.

These performances will have a sensory focus and will be largely non-verbal.





PoliNations Daily Highlight: WonderSphere Workshop

Monday 5th September- Thursday 8th September
Sunday 11th September- Thursday 15th September

Come to the WonderSphere to meet new people and create something fabulous to take home! From creating your own rangoli and willow weaving to designing your own costumes and make-up, tea making, t-shirt printing plus more, there will be lots for everyone to get involved with. Free places can be booked in advance via the PoliNations website.





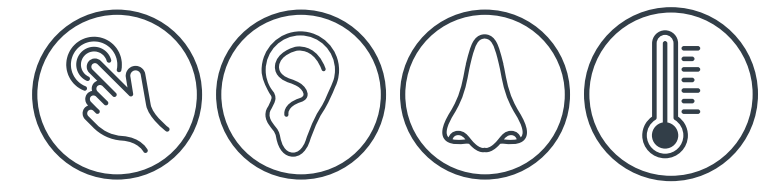
PoliNations Daily Highlight: Iconic Lunchtime Talks

Friday 2nd September 2pm-3pm

Saturday 3rd September- Friday 9th September 1pm-2pm

Monday 12th September-Friday 16th September 1pm-2pm

Inspired by the histories and stories of the Iconic Plants on site, a series of free lunchtime talks every weekday will explore ideas across nature, history, society and design. Bring a packed lunch and join speakers in conversation at the Mother Tree stage.



PoliNations Daily Highlight: Iconic Plant Audio Tour

Friday 2nd September, 2pm-9pm

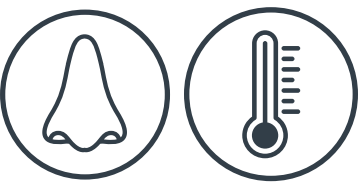
Saturday 3rd September-Sunday 18th September, 8am-9pm

Estimated time: 40mins- 1 hour.

You will put on headphones and travel throughout the super garden while listening to music and audio responses to the iconic plants and details about how they came to be here. You can choose to listen to the audio and music, or the music only channel.

The Audio Tour features text by renowned author and environmentalist Jon Drori and is set to original music from cutting edge musicians and created by Olivier Award winning sound designer Tom Gibbons. Around each plant you'll also find creative responses from award winning poets.

Headphones can be collected from the Information point.



PoliNations Daily Highlight: Into the Garden Tour

Monday 5th September-Friday 16th September
3pm-4pm

There are over 5000 trees, flowers and plants in the PoliNations super garden!

Head Gardeners from The Birmingham Botanical Gardens are here to get your better acquainted with the plants- where they come from, how they came to our shores and what stories they tell.

Whether you are an avid gardener with an eye for biodiversity, or a plant novice who is keen to find out more-these free tours are a great way to learn about the PoliNations plants and theme!



PoliNations Events: Sunset Shift

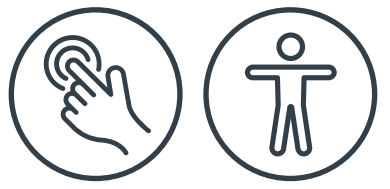
Daily at Sunset

Times will vary day to day. Exact times are available on the PoliNations website.

Every day at dusk, the super garden will undergo a beautiful transition into night. Expect a light show, nature-inspired soundscapes, and ethereal performances.

From Friday 15 September, walkabout performers in plant-inspired costume will guide the space into dusk.





PoliNations Events: Plant Up!

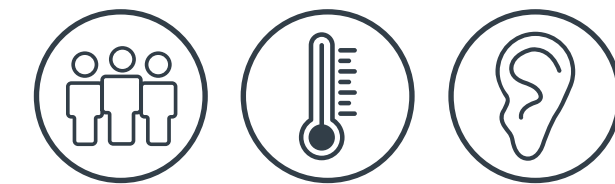
Friday 2nd September 2pm-6pm

Saturday and Sunday 3rd and 4th September 10am-4pm

Over the opening weekend, you can pick up one of the 600 potted marigolds and plant in the PoliNations super garden. Made up of thousands of plants and flowers, the PoliNations super garden will bloom with colour throughout the festival!

You do not need to book. You can just pop by and the team will give you a plant and help you place it in the super garden.





PoliNations Events: Poetry & Performance Festival

9-11 September 08:00 - 22:00
Victoria Square

The Poetry & Performance Festival will highlight 22 poets from across the Commonwealth including both regional and UK poetry talents.

Further programming includes live performances, screenings of animated films created as part of BBC Words First, and Contains Strong Language Radio Club workshop sessions with local school children.





PoliNations Events: Ballistic Seed Party

Thu 15 – Sun 18 Sept 08:00-22:00

PoliNations culminates in a four day Ballistic Seed Party, combining elements of Carnival, Holi, Mela, and Mardi Gras into an all day party.

There will be performances, drag-inspired face-painting, henna and costume workshops, Holi celebrations, live music, and more.





PoliNations Events: Touch Tours

Led by trained specialists, Touch Tours are a way to explore and experience the PoliNations super garden to its fullest by using texture, sound and other senses. The tours will prioritize allocating spaces to blind or partially sighted people, however others are welcome to join if capacity allows.

Touch Tours are taking place at the following times:

- Sunday 11 Sept, 11:00
- Tuesday 13 Sept, 18:00



End of Experience/Leaving

You may leave whenever you are ready through any of the entrance sites.



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