



CurieuCity makes its “debut” in Molenbeek!

CurieuCity is a new arts and science festival coming to Brussels this year. With 4 weekends in 4 different locations, starting with Molenbeek from May 3-5, 2024, in the area of Gare de l'Ouest. For this inaugural edition, a series of -free- scientific and artistic activities will allow you to discover "**the city of the future**".

CurieuCity is a festival that aims to combine the scientific rigor of universities with the experiential impact of art, STEAM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics), and socio-cultural action. Each edition of the festival addresses a question inspired by the reality of the neighborhood where it is located.

CurieuCity's objective is to spark interest in science by building projects with residents and schools in the neighborhoods throughout the year. Through various artistic works and meetings with scientists, you can discover the impact of cities on the climate through workshops where children build Lego cities that will be digitized; workshops where young people discover plant anatomy through a collective garden; concerts where you can hear plants sing; exhibitions on food production in the city; photos and documentaries on migration, and many other unique experiences, walks, and performances.

"Making science more accessible to Brussels residents! This is the objective of Curieucity, in collaboration with organizations that already have links with the local population; using arts to stimulate our emotions; and involving high-level scientific experts. I am also delighted that Innoviris continues to be at the forefront of experimenting with new formulas to raise awareness among young people, families, women - in fact, all of us - to the treasures contained in the science world"- reacted the Brussels State Secretary for Scientific Research.

The uniqueness of this festival comes from giving a central place to the residents and schools of the neighborhood. Indeed; *"we want to avoid the festival "landing" in the neighborhood just for one weekend. In order to establish our participatory approach over time, we collaborate with social actors, schools, and organizations, in order to remove as many barriers as possible and develop activities adapted to young Brussels residents."* - explains Helga Baert, VUB coordinator of the CurieuCity Festival.

This project, funded by the Brussels Region via Innoviris is initiated by the sister universities ULB and VUB and their co-artistic director, OHME, associated with the VGC also for the educational pre-course in schools.

"Supporting initiatives that make scientific thought and research accessible to a wider audience is vital for the Brussels Region. CurieuCity's scientific weekends promote interaction between science and society, which fits perfectly with our mission to promote science: to inspire as many young people as possible for education and careers in STEM fields " - says Stefaan Sonck Thiebaut, Managing Director at Innoviris, the public body that finances research and innovation in the Brussels-Capital Region.

Arts & Science Festival

CurieuCity

curieucity.brussels

On the program in the Gare de l'Ouest neighborhood and on the site of Parc Ouest: shows, exhibitions, projections, meetings, which will immerse young and old alike in worlds that are as astonishing as they are captivating, which will amaze and arouse the curiosity of everyone.

"We aim to offer local residents, children, and young people a comprehensive understanding of different (scientific) disciplines and encourage them to think creatively and critically. Through this, present science as a "toolbox" for building a better common future"- indicates Julie De Saedeleer, coordinator of the Infosciences department at ULB.

"We want to develop a stimulating program based on the idea that integrating art and creativity into science stimulates citizens' innovation and creative thinking abilities" -indicates OHME, artistic co-director of the festival.

Further information

This year, find CurieuCity:

- May 3-5, 2024 - Gare de l'Ouest + Parc Ouest
- September 27-29, 2024 - Wiels Marais + St. Antoine/St Gilles District
- October 11-13, 2024 - Canal Zone in Molenbeek
- November 29-30 and December 1, 2024 in the Marolles

For example, the festival in Saint-Gilles will focus on life in the Wiels Marais and water management in the neighborhood, while in the Marolles, the emphasis will be on humanity, multilingualism, or the role of (combat) sports in social cohesion.

All information on our website: www.curieucity.brussels

Press Invitation

We invite you to a press guided tour at the festival opening - **Friday, May 3 at 1:30 pm.**

Meeting point: **Park Ouest Site**, 31 Rue Alphonse Vandenpeereboom - 1080 Molenbeek, in front of the pavilion.

Press Contact

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