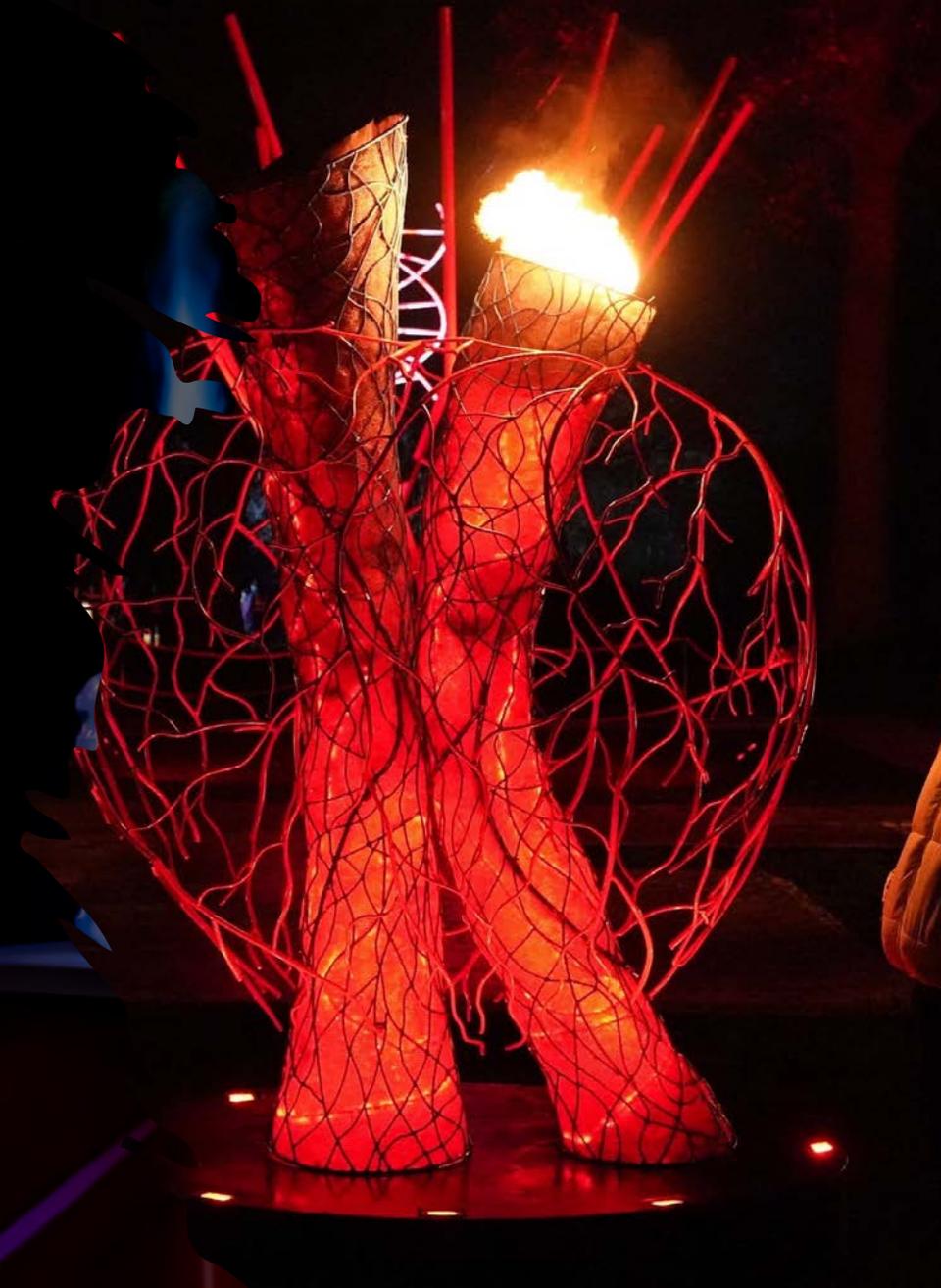




A brief history of NI SciFest

- Founded in 2014
- First Festival in 2015
- Founded as a collaboration of scientific and cultural organisations
- Inspired by other science events and local events - but with our own flavour
- Showcase science and technology as a central part of our culture and society



About the Festival (in normal times!)

- Largest event of its kind in Ireland
- Normally spread across 90 venues in NI with between 250 to 300 events
- Focused on hands on activities, debates, film, theatre, music and experiences
- Normally selling over 70,000 tickets



Who is involved?



Belfast
City Council



QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST



The
Open
University



tourism
northernireland



Derry City & Strabane
District Council
Comhairle
Chathair Dhoire &
Cheantar an tSratha Báin
Derry Cille & Strábane
Deistrick Cooncil



Innovate
UK



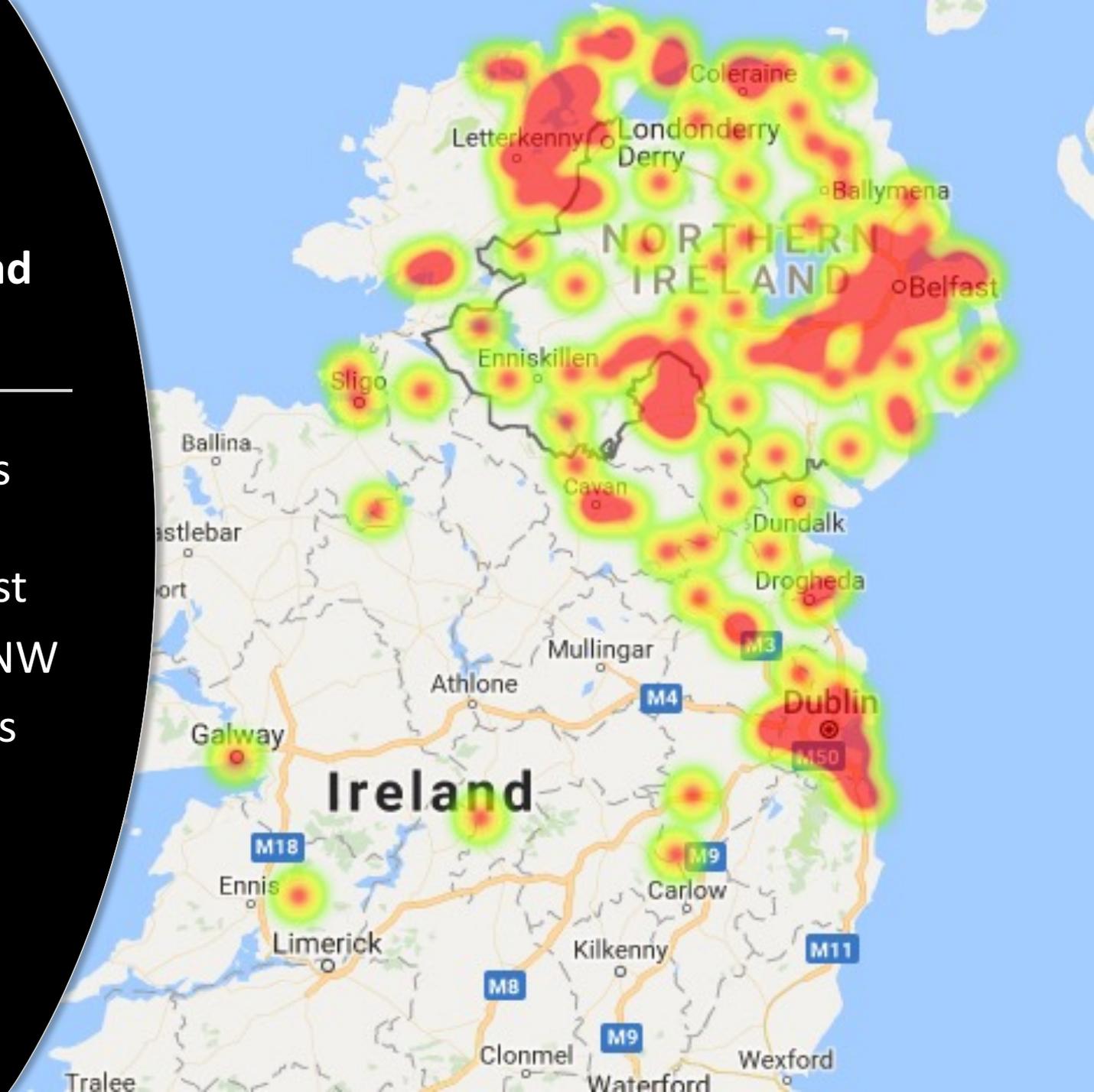
BRITISH COUNCIL
Northern Ireland



- Funded by 13 different sources
- 48 partner organisations delivering their own events or pitching in
- Ranging from large orgs like Nat Geo to small community partners
- Involved for multiple reasons - tourism, arts, culture, innovation, climate

Regional spread

- 40% of events take place beyond Belfast
- 45 events in NW
- Digital schools programme hitting every school in NI



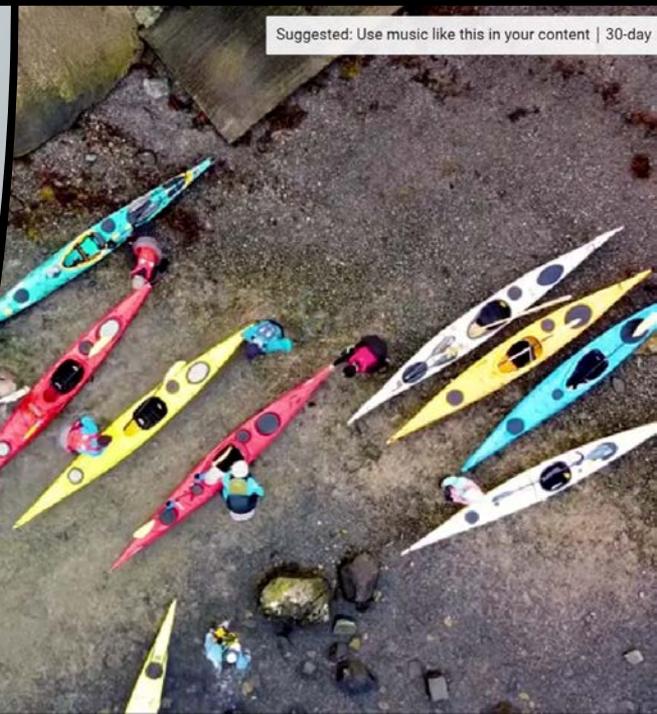
How we build it - The programme

- Combination of 'grass roots' programming with a number of high calibre events
- Co-Design with 48 partners
- Partners contribute over 150k in programming content



Experiences

- A vast combination of venues, events, formats and experiences
- You can forage on a beach or mountain, play with our interactive exhibitions in a museum, attend a talk, debate or show and finish the day in a restaurant or bar



Recent examples

- Banquets at Ulster Museum and Narrow Water Castle
- Sustainable Dining at Banana Block
- Tours of Cancer Centres, research facilities
- Dark skies and Dye Tracing at Marble Arch Geopark
- Music events

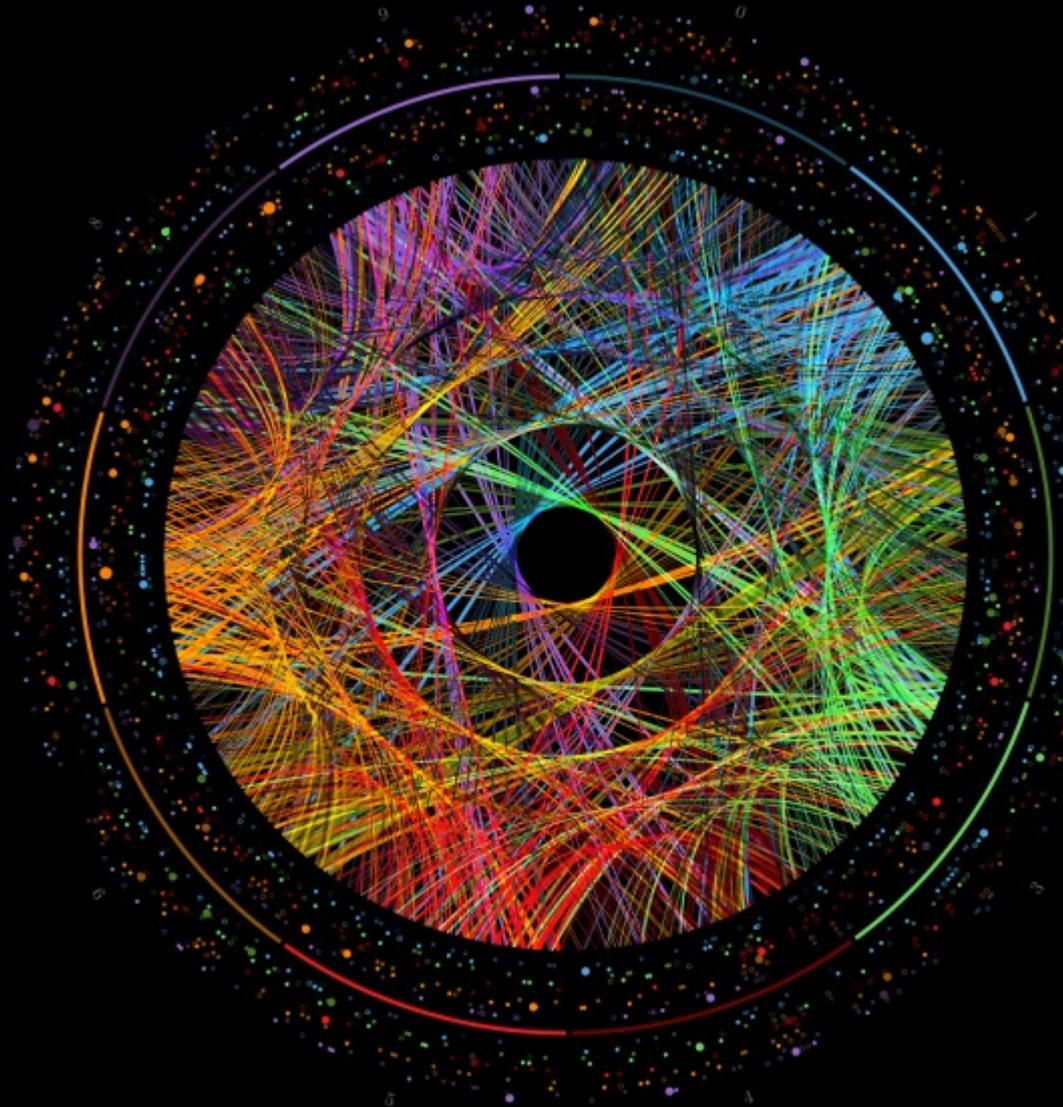


What to get right from the off

- Having an authentic purpose and USP – Keep your values central but adapt to each funder or partner priority
- Take a strategic approach to building your network – Embrace your first followers!
- Building the right team
- Building a strong brand



Collaboration



- Understanding the why
- It's a two way street – Deliver on your objectives
- Don't overcook it

A rising tide lifts all boats - Peer networks



Uniting a diverse
sector

We bring together festivals from
across the UK



HOME ABOUT FESTIVALS RESOURCES TOOLKITS BLOG CALENDAR LOG IN

NEW EVALUATION TOOLKITS

New collections of resources are now available for measuring the
impact of your event

- UK SciFest Network + US SciFest Alliance, Festivals Forum

Moving from 'Nice' to a Necessity

- Strategic Lobbying and Engagement
- Evaluate to accumulate
- Flexible leadership
- Invest time and resource in to building your ecosystem
- Maintaining quality control as you expand
- Constantly reinventing yourself whilst maintaining what brought you to the dance

