

Signal Festival 2026: for the first time in Dejvice, a video mapping inspired by Václav Havel, a ten-metre laser on the surface of the Vltava and Laterna magika in the old wastewater treatment plant

Signal Festival will head to Dejvice for the first time this year. Under the theme *Dream On! Dreams and Visions*, the fourteenth edition of the festival of digital and creative culture will present a total of 21 installations, eight of them in the ticketed Signal INSIDE zone. The festival will guide visitors along routes in Dejvice and in the centre of Prague and will introduce world-renowned names such as Jim Campbell and Kurt Hentschläger, the first video mapping in the festival's history, by the Ukrainian artist Svitlana Reinish, and a ten-metre laser installation by the Taiwanese artist Aka Chang on the surface of the Vltava near the old wastewater treatment plant in Bubeneč. The plant will also be the venue for a Laterna magika ensemble. This year's Signal Festival takes place from 15 to 18 October.

"This year's Signal Festival opens several new chapters. We are coming to Dejvice for the first time, we are presenting a video mapping by a Ukrainian artist for the first time, and we are also introducing the Student Visions zone dedicated to the work of students. At the same time, as always, we are bringing major names of the international digital scene to Prague. Jim Campbell is personally one of the biggest international stars of this year's edition for me – his work shows how sophisticatedly technology, light and human perception can be connected. I am very glad that alongside established artists we can give space to young creators and offer a programme that appeals to visitors of different generations," says **Signal Festival director Martin Pošta**.

The Dejvice route connects digital art with the campus and Prague's industrial history

One of the standout locations in Dejvice will be the **old wastewater treatment plant in Bubeneč**, one of Prague's most significant industrial monuments, which has been a national cultural monument since 2010. **Its unique interior will this year become the venue for the site-specific production *Voda (Water)* by the Laterna magika ensemble.** The performance is one of a total of eight installations in the Signal INSIDE zone, which places the emphasis on a deeper visitor experience and on a connection with Prague's architecturally remarkable interiors.

Not far from there, **on a backwater of the Vltava**, there will be **a ten-metre laser installation by the Taiwanese artist Aka Chang, *Multimmersion_Upside Down*.** The calm surface of the water acts as a mirror that endlessly multiplies the laser beams and creates the illusion of infinite depth. Viewers thus lose any certainty about where real space ends and its reflection begins.

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The Archbishop's Seminary will become the festival's new video mapping location this year. In his project **Missing Interval**, the German artist **Felix Frank** will transform its **imposing façade** into a dynamic composition of light. Frank's "light paintings" have been presented at a number of international mapping festivals, including **Tokyo Lights** and **Constellations de Metz**.

For the first time, the festival will also include **Student Visions**, a zone of young creators from **the Czech Technical University (CTU) and the University of Chemistry and Technology (UCT Prague)**. It will offer a **chemistry show** by UCT Prague with coloured flames, chemical light and liquid nitrogen, the audiovisual projection **EFORCE: DNA of Winners** charting the development of the student formula car, the interactive **Facelt**, which **turns visitors' facial expressions into a stylised portrait**, and the light installation **Impuls** by students of the CTU Faculty of Architecture. *"It is great that CTU is becoming, for the first time this year, a partner of such an exceptional event as Signal Festival. I believe that the original projections created for our Dejvice campus will attract a large audience, and I am especially looking forward to seeing the ideas and visions of our students bear fruit in them,"* says **CTU Rector Michal Pěchouček** about Student Visions.

The Dejvice route will also feature, in collaboration with KodlContemporary, **the sculpture Black Mechanical Planet by the Czech visual artist Jan Kaláb** with lighting design by Jan Hladil. The work will be installed **next to the headquarters of the PPF Foundation**, a long-term supporter of the festival. Thanks to its support, Signal Festival is able to bring leading international artists to Prague and present ambitious projects of world calibre here.

"The PPF Group operates all over the world today, but it never forgets its roots. We have long been based in Prague 6, so this year's edition of Signal Festival has a special significance for us. We are pleased that one of the stops on the premiere Dejvice route will be a striking work of art in public space next to our PPF Gate building. The PPF Foundation has supported the festival for several years and shares with it, among other things, the intention of bringing Czech artists to the international scene while bringing contemporary world visual art into public space in the Czech Republic," says **Jana Tomas Sedláčková**, member of the Board of Trustees of the PPF Foundation.

Jim Campbell's 1,500 lightbulbs and a videomapping inspired by Havel on the Old Town Hall tower

One of the most prominent international names at this year's Signal Festival is the American artist Jim Campbell, a world-renowned pioneer in the use of digital technologies in art. His installation **Scattered Light** consists of an array of 1,500 LEDs in which, as visitors move, **human figures** gradually appear and disappear again. Campbell has long explored the boundary between image and abstraction and the human ability to complete information the eye is unable to capture. His works are held in collections including **MoMA, the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art**. **Scattered Light** will be on view in **General Lázaró Cárdenas Park** and will be one of the most monumental installations in the festival's history.

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The second video mapping of this year will take place on the Old Town Hall. The Ukrainian artist **Svitlana Reinish** draws in her work *Living in Truth* on the ideas of **Václav Havel** and his essay *The Power of the Powerless*. Words will appear on the façade – **Truth, Freedom, Justice, Love and Democracy** – gradually deforming and disappearing. The projection is created on the occasion of this year's **Václav Havel Year** and will extend across two walls of the town hall. The music for the mapping is by the Ukrainian composer **Anton Dehtiarov**.

This year the festival is strengthening a line of works that rely on a deeper viewer experience and closer contact with the work rather than on an immediate effect. They include the previously announced immersive projection by **Laurie Anderson** and **Hsin-Chien Huang**, **To the Moon**, and the work **FLUX** by the Austrian artist **Kurt Hentschläger**. It takes viewers into complete darkness and works with short flashes of light that appear for only a fraction of a second but linger on the retina for a while even after the space plunges back into darkness. The installation is created in collaboration with the 0xCollection. Hentschläger is one of the pioneers of immersive art; his work has been presented at the Venice Biennale and at PS1 in New York.

At **Kampus Hybernská**, Signal Festival will also offer a programme for its youngest visitors. The Greek multimedia artist **Yiannis Kranidiotis** has prepared the family workshops *Medusa Valley*, which combine light, animation and basic programming. Younger children will create their own animated jellyfish, older ones will try **soldering and programming an LED strip**. At the same location, children and parents can also visit **Ján Šicko's interactive installation Sound Robot** and set their own imagination of tones, rhythms and melodies in motion.

The partner installation for **Mercedes-Benz** at the **Clam-Gallas Palace** will be created by **Maxim Velčovský**. It will guide visitors through **140 years of Mercedes-Benz innovation** and connect the story of the automobile with the majestic Baroque interior. Through a laser show and trajectories of light, the installation symbolises technological progress from the first engines to electromobility.

The fourteenth Signal Festival will offer **21 installations, eight of them in Signal INSIDE**. The **second wave of tickets is now on sale**. The festival takes place **from 15 to 18 October 2026**.

About Signal Festival:

Signal is a festival of digital and creative culture. It brings together contemporary visual art, urban space and modern technology. It has become the most visited cultural event in the Czech Republic. Its programme is created by renowned international and Czech artists working in visual art and light design. Signal Festival is one of the largest producers of contemporary art in the country. It supports the youngest Czech creators and organises

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accompanying programmes for professionals, students and children. It collaborates with a wide range of international festivals and cultural institutions. In 2025, the organisers of Signal Festival opened the Signal Space gallery, the largest gallery of digital art in the Czech Republic, which presents contemporary digital and interdisciplinary art all year round through exhibitions, installations and an accompanying programme. Signal Festival 2026 takes place from 15 to 18 October 2026.

More information at: signalfestival.com

Facebook: facebook.com/SignalFestival

Instagram: instagram.com/signalfestival

Organiser: Signal Creative

Main partner: Mercedes-Benz

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Official partners: Pražská plynárenská, Red Bull

General media partner: Czech Television

Main festival newspaper: Deník N

Main media partners: Czech Radio, Refresher, JCDecaux

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