



2026: A LANDMARK YEAR FOR THE GLASS ART SOCIETY AND THE GLOBAL GLASS COMMUNITY

2026 marks an exciting and transformative chapter for the Glass Art Society (GAS) and the international glass community. GAS will host not one, but two major international events that promise to elevate, connect, and inspire artists and audiences across the globe.

From **June 3–6**, GAS returns to **Corning, New York**, for its highly anticipated **Annual GAS Conference**. Celebrated for its top-tier programming, this event will once again feature 80+ cutting-edge glass demonstrations, lectures, lec-mos, panels, and special events—offering artists, educators, collectors, and enthusiasts an immersive experience.

Then, from **August 27–31**, GAS will take a historic step by leading the **International Festival of Glass (IFoG)** in the **North West England**. By assuming the helm of this renowned biennial celebration, GAS not only expands its global presence but also strengthens its commitment to fostering international exchange, collaboration, and visibility within the glass community.

By hosting both events, GAS is uniquely positioned to:

- **Bridge continents and communities**, bringing glass artists and audiences together from across the world.
- **Amplify opportunities for professional growth**, exhibition, and collaboration on a global scale.
- **Showcase the diversity and innovation** in contemporary glass art through multiple cultural lenses.
- **Support emerging and established artists** by providing more platforms for visibility, dialogue, and career advancement.

Together, these two events represent a bold step forward in GAS’s mission to connect, inspire, and empower all facets of the global glass community, making 2026 a landmark year for artistic connection, education, and celebration.



2026 GAS Conference | Corning, NY | June 3–6, 2026

The Annual Glass Art Society (GAS) Conference is a premier event that unites the global glass community each year. Since its inception in 1971, this conference has been held in various locations worldwide, including cities in the United States, Europe, and Australia. The conference is an incredible multi-day showcase of what is happening in contemporary glass around the world at this moment. It provides glass artists and enthusiasts with a platform to make connections, learn new techniques, and share their creative process with others. Welcoming 1000+ attendees, the GAS Conference hosts 80+ presenters from 20+ nations. Artist-led programs include demonstrations, lectures, lecmos (lecture/demonstrations), panel discussions, films, exhibitions, and special events.



Conference attendees are generally between 18 and 65 years of age and are made up of students, mid-career artists, educators, arts professionals, scientists, tool makers, product vendors, gallery owners, and art collectors. The conference provides a hub for artists to connect with gallery owners and collectors, schools to seek new students, and suppliers to launch their latest innovations. Every conference is supplemented with a beautiful special edition post-conference journal publication to document the event.

In 2026, GAS is excited to return to the Corning Museum of Glass to explore their brand-new facilities at The Studio, including North America's largest casting center. The theme of the 2026 Conference, *Celebrating Community | Expanding Futures*, will focus on the diversity of the global glass community and the way our collective futures are improved when we work together. This year also marks the return of the fan-favorite and dynamic Glass Fashion Show hosted by Laura Donefer.



The International Festival of Glass | North West England | August 23–27, 2026

The International Festival of Glass (IFoG) is a major cultural event that celebrates contemporary and traditional glass art on a global stage. Over the course of four dynamic days, IFoG brings together artists, collectors, scholars, and the public for a wide-ranging program that blends exhibitions, live demonstrations, workshops, talks, and public engagement. The Festival attracts approx. 10,000 visitors every year—in 2024, approximately 2,000 visitors attended the Stourbridge Glass Museum alone.

In 2023, GAS was selected to lead the Festival, extending its international reach to new audiences across Europe and beyond. GAS is excited to build on this rich history to create an event that raises the profile of glass as an artistic medium, highlights the skills and techniques of glassmakers from around the world, cultivates a new audience for glass, and creates opportunities for the local community. Partnering with The World of Glass, the 2026 Festival will be hosted for the first time in the North West of England with the main hub in St Helens.



For nearly two centuries, St Helens has been at the forefront of glass innovation, from Pilkington's float glass invention to today's pioneering sustainability efforts at Glass Futures. The festival will connect this rich legacy with international artists, researchers, and industry leaders, highlighting how local expertise continues to inspire and influence the global glass community.

In 2026, the Festival will feature dozens of exhibitions, including the prestigious British Glass Biennale, which showcases the best in contemporary British and UK-based glass art. International showcases will highlight artists from around the world, creating a global dialogue through glass—the Festival will include a GAS Member Exhibition for the first time! Festival highlights will also include live demonstrations, lectures, artist talks, panel discussions, workshops & masterclasses, community events & public programming, and a marketplace and artist fair for attendees to purchase unique artworks and supplies.

PARTNERING FOR IMPACT: WHY SPONSOR IN 2026?

Partnering with GAS in 2026 means more than just sponsorship—it's a meaningful investment in the future of glass, international collaboration, and creative excellence.

Sponsors will benefit from:

- **Global Visibility:** Reach a diverse, international audience through on-site branding, digital promotion, printed materials, and social media engagement across two continents.
- **Year-Round Engagement:** Maximize impact with extended exposure over two major events, ensuring continuous brand presence from June through August.
- **Community Investment:** Demonstrate your commitment to creativity, innovation, and cultural exchange by supporting the global glass community.
- **Customized Partnership Opportunities:** From naming rights and VIP access to collaborative activations and product placements, we offer tailored packages to align with your brand goals.



2026 DUAL-EVENT SPONSORSHIP TIERS

Visionary Partner — \$25,000+

Premier, year-long partnership across both events

Benefits:

- Top-tier logo placement on all event signage, print materials, and digital assets
- Recognition as presenting sponsor of one keynote or featured program at each event (i.e., GAS Member Exhibition Sponsor)
- Full-page ad in both printed programs
- Brand features in press releases and email newsletters
- Recognition in the opening and closing ceremonies
- 6 VIP Passes per event + exclusive sponsor reception access
- Dedicated social media spotlight (3 posts per event)
- Opportunity to include materials in attendee welcome bags
- Option to host a branded experience or activation onsite

International Champion — \$15,000

Lead support with prominent recognition across both conferences

Benefits:

- High-visibility logo placement across onsite, print, and digital materials
- Recognition as the sponsor of one major session at each event
- Half-page ad in both printed programs
- Logo featured in promotional emails and website
- 4 VIP Passes per event
- Shared sponsor reception access
- 2 social media mentions per event
- Exhibit table or presence (if applicable)

Community Connector — \$10,000

Strong presence and engagement at both conferences

Benefits:

- Category recognition
- Logo on website, select print and signage
- Quarter-page ad in both programs
- 2 VIP Passes per event
- 1 social media mention per event
- Inclusion in general sponsor listings and slideshows

Supporting Sponsor — \$5,000

Supporter of artistic exchange and access

Benefits:

- Logo in printed program and on event website
- 1 VIP Pass per event
- Inclusion in sponsor slide shows
- Listed in shared thank-you communications and signage

Local or In-Kind Partner — Custom Value

Open to product donors, service trades, or targeted support (e.g., travel, hospitality, materials)

Benefits tailored based on contribution, may include:

- Logo inclusion
- VIP pass(es)
- Public recognition
- Opportunity to supply branded materials or experiences