

Norman Foster Foundation Newsletter January–March 2026



Take a look at the Norman Foster Foundation's activities, achievements and news from the first quarter of 2026.

[Video](#)



On March 3, a new space was inaugurated in Madrid, which houses the NFI Centre for City Science and Ivorypress.

Ivorypress, founded by Elena Foster in 1996, became part of the Norman Foster Foundation (NFF) as its cultural branch. Ivorypress has established a bookstore, exhibition spaces and a weekly cultural agenda open to the public. Please consult the agenda on the Ivorypress [website](#).

The opening event on March 3, coinciding with Ivorypress' 30th anniversary, invited artist and writer Edmund de Waal in conversation with Hans Ulrich Obrist, Artistic Director of Serpentine (London), and Elena Foster.

[Video](#) [Article](#)



In January, the NFI officially inaugurated the 2026 edition of its Master's Programme on Sustainable Cities in Madrid, marking the beginning of a new academic year. The programme brings together students from diverse multidisciplinary backgrounds including architects, designers, engineers and journalists. The students come from 17 countries across 4 continents: Kenya, Yemen, Mexico, Spain, Argentina, Slovenia, Qatar, Egypt, India, South Africa, Costa Rica, Syria, Turkey, Portugal, Sudan, Lebanon and Pakistan.

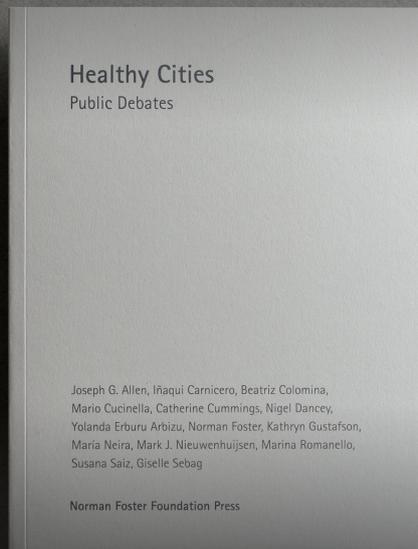
The 2026 edition of the Programme introduces three specialities: Architecture, City Science and Urban Design, and this year's pilot cities are Greater Manchester, England; Mexico City, Mexico; and Lusail, Qatar.

In 2026, the NFF is expanding its academic campus to other locations in the Chamberí neighbourhood in Madrid.

[Video](#)



In February 2026, the NFF was awarded the Architecture Prize at the 4th edition of the Madrid Open Cities Awards, in recognition of the positive impact and international visibility that the NFF generates for Madrid through its activities in the fields of architecture, urbanism, education and interdisciplinary research. The award acknowledges the NFF's contribution to positioning Madrid as a centre for thought, innovation and international dialogue around the contemporary challenges facing cities.



In January 2026, the NFF published its first book of the year: *Healthy Cities Public Debates*. This publication brings together the three Public Debates organised by the NFF in collaboration with Sanitas between 2023 and 2025, featuring fourteen experts who span architecture, urbanism, healthcare, politics and environmental research. The volume addresses one of the central challenges of our time: how to create healthier and more sustainable cities in which people can thrive.

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The NFI was invited to contribute to discussions at the University of Strathclyde, in an event hosted by its Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stephen McArthur. Titled 'The Role of Governments in Driving Forward Climate Change Ambition', the panel discussion took place on 26 March, featuring Prof. Dr Steven Chu, Nobel Laureate in Physics and former US Secretary of Energy (2009–2013), alongside Nigel Topping, former United Nations Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP26 and current Chair of the United Kingdom Climate Change Committee. The NFI was represented by Lead Researcher Olivia Poston.

Other News



Announcement and Open Call for New Editorial Project

The NFF/Ivorypress are delighted to announce the first Catalogue Raisonné of Hans Ulrich Obrist's curatorial practice, covering over 400 exhibitions from 1991 to 2025. Archival materials and documentation are welcomed from collaborating institutions and individuals.

[+ Information](#)



Gateway Architecture Award

The project *Gateway* has been honoured with a BIG SEE Architecture Award 2026 in recognition of its vision to reimagine Venice's transportation infrastructure. The BIG SEE Architecture Awards celebrate outstanding projects that demonstrate innovation, creativity and a positive impact on the built environment.

[+ Information](#)

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Looking Ahead



City Visits

In May, the NFI students will embark on field visits to three pilot cities: Greater Manchester, Lusail and Mexico City, combining hands-on site work with strategic dialogues alongside NFI researchers and local partners.



Bloomberg City Lab

The NFI will participate in the 12th Bloomberg CityLab in Madrid from 27–29 April in Madrid, convened by Bloomberg Philanthropies and the Aspen Institute.

2025 Annual Report

For a full report of all the Norman Foster Foundation's activities over the year of 2025, download the Annual Report



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Open Call 2027

Apply now for the NFI's
2027 Master's Programme
on Sustainable Cities



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