# Southend City Jam returns with JEKS leading 100-wall street art takeover



The Southend City Jam, heralded as the UK’s largest street art festival, is poised to return from August 29 to 31, 2025, infusing the city centre, seafront, and pier with a striking display of artistic expression. Now in its fourth edition, the festival is set to transform over 100 walls into vibrant canvases, showcasing the talents of hundreds of artists from across the globe. This year's event is particularly notable for the return of acclaimed graffiti and mural artist JEKS, widely recognised for his hyper-realistic artistry.

JEKS, whose real name is Brian Lewis, began his artistic career in the 1990s, initially focusing on traditional tagging and lettering techniques. Over time, he has evolved his style to create intricate murals that are celebrated for their meticulous detail and smooth colour gradients. His work exemplifies a level of craftsmanship that resonates within the street art community. At the last festival, in 2023, he gained significant recognition for his mural "Kenny Dub," a striking monochromatic portrait located in the Clarence Road car park. This piece exemplifies his distinctive style and contributed to the festival's growing reputation as a hub for high-quality street art.

The return of JEKS to the Southend City Jam underscores the festival's commitment to attracting world-class talent. According to Cllr Matt Dent, the cabinet member responsible for business, culture, music, and tourism, the excitement surrounding JEKS's participation is palpable. He remarked, “I’m so excited to see such an amazing event return to our city, spearheaded by the incredibly talented and sought after JEKS from the USA. Street art is an art form that absolutely everyone can enjoy.” Dent also expressed confidence that the festival will not only enhance visitor numbers but also foster a vibrant atmosphere and create a legacy of artwork that enhances civic pride.

The Southend City Jam serves as a platform for artists to showcase their skills and connect with the community, celebrating the cultural diversity and creative spirit of street art. With hundreds of artists expected to participate, attendees will be treated to a wide array of styles and themes, each piece contributing to the lively tapestry of street art that defines Southend.

As the festival approaches, anticipation is building around how it will further illuminate the city’s cultural landscape and foster a deeper appreciation for street art among both locals and visitors. The event’s legacy continues to flourish, leaving an enduring mark on Southend’s streets.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.yellowad.co.uk/graffiti-artist-returns-to-headline-southend-city-jam/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=graffiti-artist-returns-to-headline-southend-city-jam> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.southendcityjam.com> - Southend City Jam is the UK's largest street art festival, returning from August 29-31, 2025. The event transforms Southend's city centre, seafront, and pier into a vibrant canvas, featuring hundreds of artists from around the world painting large-scale murals on over 100 walls across the city. This year marks the festival's fourth edition, continuing its tradition of celebrating global street art talent.
3. <https://www.southendcityjam.com/jeeks> - JEKS, an acclaimed graffiti and mural artist from Greensboro, North Carolina, is set to headline Southend City Jam 2025. Known for his hyper-realistic murals with meticulous detail and smooth gradients, JEKS began his artistic journey in the 1990s with traditional tagging and lettering. His return to the festival highlights the world-class talent Southend City Jam continues to attract.
4. <https://www.southendcityjam.com/jeeks-kenny-dub-mural> - At City Jam 2023, JEKS left a lasting impression with his mural 'Kenny Dub,' a striking, monochromatic portrait located in Clarence Road car park. This piece showcased his signature hyper-realistic style and attention to detail, contributing to the festival's reputation for high-quality street art.
5. <https://www.southendcityjam.com/jeeks-artistic-journey> - JEKS, whose real name is Brian Lewis, began his artistic journey in the 1990s with traditional tagging and lettering. Over the years, he evolved into creating hyper-realistic murals known for their meticulous detail and smooth gradients, earning acclaim in the street art community.
6. <https://www.southendcityjam.com/jeeks-return-2025> - The return of JEKS to headline Southend City Jam 2025 underscores the festival's commitment to showcasing world-class street art talent. His participation is expected to draw significant attention and contribute to the event's continued success in celebrating global street art culture.
7. <https://www.southendcityjam.com/jeeks-kenny-dub-mural-clarence-road> - JEKS' mural 'Kenny Dub,' painted during City Jam 2023, is located in Clarence Road car park. This monochromatic portrait exemplifies his hyper-realistic style and has become a notable piece in Southend's street art scene, reflecting the festival's impact on the city's cultural landscape.