# Body Movements festival expands with a stronger focus on trans rights activism



The Body Movements festival has grown significantly since its inception in Hackney Wick in 2021, evolving from a multi-venue rave into a major bi-annual event celebrating LGBTQ+ culture. This transformation has been marked by its expansion to Southwark Park, where it now features five stages dedicated to a diverse lineup of artists including Roi Perez, Romy, HAAi, and Peach. Beyond the music, the festival underscores a strong commitment to inclusivity and community support, embodying ethos central to its identity.

A key aspect of this commitment is the festival’s Community Fund. Attendees at the gates are encouraged to donate, funneling resources to various charities that directly support vulnerable groups within the LGBTQ+ community. Among the beneficiaries is the We Exist Emergency Fund, which offers vital financial assistance to trans individuals in need, including grants to help cover healthcare costs. This fund addresses the widening gap that many trans people face due to long NHS waiting lists and inadequate healthcare provisions, a point highlighted by mutual aid groups focused on trans healthcare support. Other charities supported by donations include All Out, an organisation fighting for global LGBTQ+ rights, and Medical Aid for Palestinians, reflecting the festival’s broader ethical engagement and solidarity with oppressed communities worldwide.

The festival’s inclusive principles are further demonstrated through its ticketing policies. Recognising the financial barriers that can exclude members of the community, Body Movements provides free tickets to those who cannot afford to pay, facilitated either through applications to the organisers or by attendees ‘paying it forward’ to sponsor another person’s entry. This approach ensures that the festival remains accessible and welcoming to all, fostering a space where celebration and activism coexist.

These themes of solidarity and activism resonate strongly with the nearby London Trans+ Pride event, which this year attracted over 100,000 participants, a record turnout that underscores the growing visibility and political mobilisation of the trans community. The march, which carried the theme 'Existence & Resistance,' was both a celebration of trans lives and a protest against recent UK Supreme Court rulings on gender recognition, illustrating the pronounced struggle for rights and recognition faced by trans individuals in the UK today. Speeches from prominent voices, such as actress Yasmin Finney and activist Caroline Litman, highlighted the urgent need for access to timely gender-affirming healthcare and the lethal consequences of policy delays. This massive show of support and resistance has amplified calls for government action to reduce healthcare waiting times and tackle systemic discrimination.

The connection between the Body Movements festival and London Trans+ Pride events reflects a broader cultural and political landscape where celebration, visibility, and advocacy interweave. While Body Movements nurtures inclusivity through community-focused charitable work and equitable festival access, London Trans+ Pride channels the community’s collective voice into public protest and political demand. Together, they provide complementary platforms that sustain and energise the ongoing fight for trans rights, healthcare access, and social justice.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/culture/music/body-movements-2025-festival-review-b1244364.html), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/culture/music/body-movements-2025-festival-review-b1244364.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/culture/music/body-movements-2025-festival-review-b1244364.html), [[3]](https://www.weexist.co.uk/healthcare)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/culture/music/body-movements-2025-festival-review-b1244364.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.transvitae.com/existence-resistance-defines-london-trans-pride-2025/), [[7]](https://www.fabfestivals.co.uk/london-trans-pride-breaks-record-with-over-100000-in-largest-trans-pride-ever/), [[5]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce9gdmenl5zo), [[6]](https://londontranspride.org/ltp)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/culture/music/body-movements-2025-festival-review-b1244364.html), [[4]](https://www.transvitae.com/existence-resistance-defines-london-trans-pride-2025/), [[7]](https://www.fabfestivals.co.uk/london-trans-pride-breaks-record-with-over-100000-in-largest-trans-pride-ever/), [[5]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce9gdmenl5zo)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.standard.co.uk/culture/music/body-movements-2025-festival-review-b1244364.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/culture/music/body-movements-2025-festival-review-b1244364.html> - The article provides a comprehensive review of the Body Movements 2025 festival, highlighting its growth from a multi-venue rave in Hackney Wick in 2021 to a bi-annual event. It details the festival's expansion to Southwark Park, featuring five stages dedicated to showcasing LGBTQ+ culture. The review emphasizes the diverse lineup, including acts like Roi Perez, Romy, HAAi, and Peach, and underscores the festival's commitment to inclusivity and community support, with donations supporting charities such as the We Exist Emergency Fund for Trans people in need, All Out, and Medical Aid for Palestinians.
3. <https://www.weexist.co.uk/healthcare> - We Exist is a mutual aid collective focused on redistributing funds directly to trans individuals. Their Trans Healthcare Fund offers a no-strings-attached £50 grant to assist with ongoing healthcare costs for trans people in London. Eligible applicants include those who are unemployed, in precarious or low-paid employment, or in urgent need despite not meeting these criteria. The fund aims to address the inadequate healthcare provisions for trans people in the UK, especially in light of increasing hate crimes and long NHS waiting lists.
4. <https://www.transvitae.com/existence-resistance-defines-london-trans-pride-2025/> - This article reports on the London Trans+ Pride 2025 event, which saw over 100,000 attendees marching through central London under the theme 'Existence & Resistance.' The march served as both a celebration of trans lives and a protest against recent UK Supreme Court rulings on gender recognition. Speakers included Yasmin Finney, who highlighted the urgent fight for rights and healthcare access, and Caroline Litman, who shared a personal story underscoring the lethal consequences of policy delays in gender-affirming healthcare.
5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce9gdmenl5zo> - The BBC News article covers the fifth London Trans+ Pride event, which took place in Trafalgar Square with around 25,000 attendees. The event was described as a protest to raise awareness of trans injustices. Speakers included trans artist and speaker Lewis Burton, who emphasized the importance of trans+ pride for achieving peace and respect, and actress Yasmin Finney, who led a chant of 'trans rights are human rights.' The article highlights the event's focus on love, rage, and the need for government action to shorten waiting lists for trans healthcare.
6. <https://londontranspride.org/ltp> - The official website of London Trans+ Pride provides detailed information about the 2025 event, scheduled for Saturday, 26th July 2025. The march will begin at Langham Place and proceed through central London, ending at Parliament Square Gardens. The site outlines the event's schedule, including scheduled stops and community speeches. It also provides maps of the march route and information about quiet spaces along the route, catering to attendees who may need rest or a less crowded environment.
7. <https://www.fabfestivals.co.uk/london-trans-pride-breaks-record-with-over-100000-in-largest-trans-pride-ever/> - This article reports on the London Trans+ Pride 2025 event, which saw over 100,000 attendees marching through central London, breaking the previous year's record of 60,000. The march, themed 'Existence and Resistance,' featured powerful speeches from figures like Yasmin Finney and Caroline Litman. The article highlights the event's significance as a show of solidarity with the trans+ community and its role in advocating for justice, dignity, and an end to systemic marginalisation.