

THE WORLD RETURNED TO LONDON FOR GLOBAL INNOVATION AND TECH – JUNE 2026

June saw London host a packed agenda of major tech and innovation events, bringing together global leaders, founders and policymakers across SXS London, Muslim Tech Fest and London Tech Week. From headline talks and policy announcements, to deep dives into the future of cities and AI, the month highlighted the scale, diversity and momentum of London's position as a global tech hub.

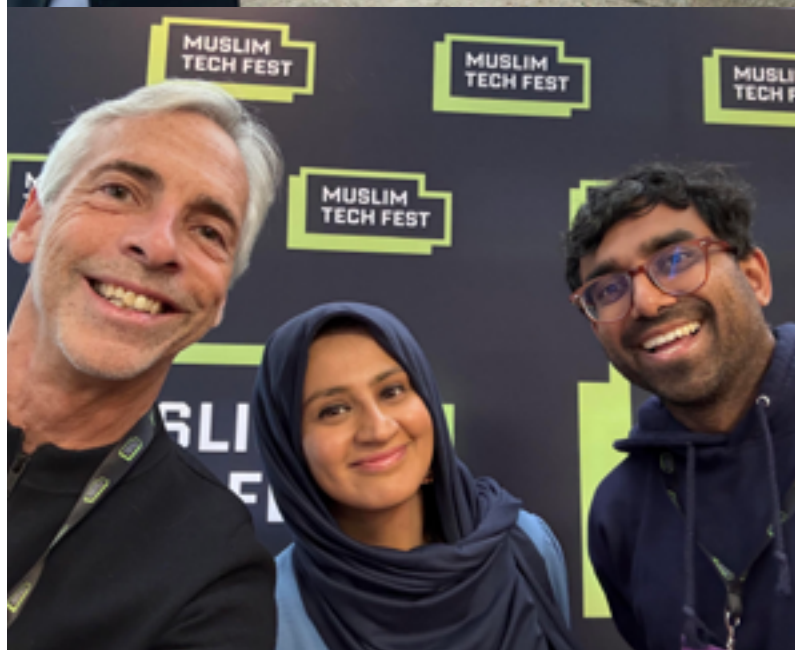
SXS LONDON

On 1st June, SXS London returned for its second year in the capital. SXS has been a music/entertainment/tech and innovation festival from Austin, Texas which has been operating since 1987. I am delighted to be on the SXS London Advisory Council.

For a second year, SXS London more than delivered with over 750 speakers and events during the week, and Mayor of London Sadiq Khan opened the week. A highlight for me was listening to Michelle Obama and her brother Craig Robinson conduct their IMO podcast live from the Truman Brewery main stage. Later in the week I was emcee for 'London 2050', an excellent series of panel discussions and fireside chats discussing where London will be in 2050.

MUSLIM TECH FEST

Right after SXS London, Muslim Tech Fest took place on 6th June in Hammersmith in West London. Many congratulations to Arfah Farooq who is a Co-Founder of the event. This was my second year attending, and the Festival took another big step up in terms of size, scale and calibre of speakers. The event does a great job making the Muslim Tech ecosystem accessible to many Londoners.





LONDON TECH WEEK

And then, London Tech Week 2026 kicked off for its 13th year. From humble beginnings back in 2014 (Tech London Advocates was an original co-founder), this year took another big step. Over 30,000 attendees more than 130 countries attended the main stages and exhibition hall at Olympia in Hammersmith. A key highlight was having Prime Minister Keir Starmer open the week again this year, followed by a fireside chat with Lisa Su, CEO of AI chip maker AMD.



Global Tech Advocates was the Strategic Partner for the week, and many TLA and GTA groups held fringe events all across London. A highlight for me was the GTA Leaders Breakfast hosted by TLA partner Penningtons Manches Cooper. We had so many leaders from around the world come and join London Tech Week. I was also delighted to see many TLA and GTA sponsors get involved during the week including Spencer West, Gravita, Spencer Stuart, Vorboss, Future Energy Ventures and Penningtons.



Each day we published a blog in City AM newspaper sharing insights and experiences during the week and capitalising on the #WheresRuss hashtag from the 28 events and meet ups I attended. Many thanks to the various TLA and GTA groups for their engagement during the week: Tech Atlanta Advocates, Tech India Advocates, Tech West England Advocates, Tech Ghana Advocates, Tech Nordic Advocates, TLA Proptech, TLA Fintech, TLA Tech for Disability, TLA Insurtech, TLA Taiwan, TLA Eco, GTA Healthtech and more. Closing the week was Tech Nigeria Advocates with its Tech Owambe event.



REFLECTIONS

If I were to summarise a key theme across all three events, it would be the critical importance of innovation and how best to unlock its potential. Closely aligned to this was the value of connectivity – bringing together diverse leaders, ideas and hubs from around the world. Seeing this firsthand reinforced for me that London has worked hard to secure its position as a world-leading tech hub.

