ACADEMY of IMMERSIVE Arts & Sciences

Field of View

The weekly briefing on AI + XR from the Academy of Immersive Arts & Sciences

ISSUE 5
WEEK OF OCT 26–NOV 1, 2026

Upcoming Academy Events



NEXT UP

NOV 10 — ACADEMY TALK, 9 PM CET ONLINE
Immersive-X: Global Immersive Public Infrastructure, Ben Erwin

NOV 10 — THE POLYS
Immersive X – Red Carpet 2026

NOV 12 — ACADEMY PANEL, HOLLYWOOD
Infinity Festival: Who Will Stand With Public Media?

NOV 13 — READY PLAYER GOLF
Ready Player Golf 7

NOV 22 — MISSION RESPONSIBLE
Mission Responsible 4

DEC 9 — ACADEMY PANEL, BRUSSELS, 10 AM
UnitedXR Europe: How the Public Gets a Seat at the Immersive Table

DEC 30 — METATR@VERSAL
MetaTr@versal: Portal Crawl VIII

APR 18 — THE POLYS
The Polys 7th Annual Immersive Awards

Details and registration at academyimmersive.org/events

ON THE INDUSTRY CALENDAR

Nov 6–7, 2026	**Future Frames** Bucharest, Romania First edition of Romania's immersive cinema festival, with VR, 360 projection and installations.
Nov 4–13, 2026	**IMMENSIVA Festival 2026** Barcelona, Spain Seventh edition: 13 international XR projects on heritage and memory; free expo Nov 4-9, talks Nov 10-13.
Nov 12–22, 2026	**IDFA 2026 and DocLab** Amsterdam, Netherlands 253 titles from 80 countries, with DocLab's 10-title competition for immersive non-fiction.
Nov 18–19, 2026	**nextReality.festival 2026** Hamburg, Germany XR conference, free exhibition and the nextReality.Contest awards, with speakers from Snap, Meta and WDR.
Dec 1–4, 2026	**SIGGRAPH Asia 2026** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 19th edition and the first in Malaysia: conference Dec 1-4, exhibition Dec 2-4, theme Weaving the Future.

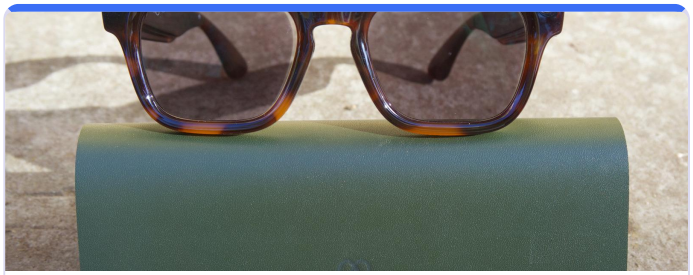
This Week in Focus

TOP LINE

Smart glasses stayed under the microscope. Two US senators sent Meta a letter on camera glasses and bystander privacy, Austria floated a three-tier rulebook with no recording in theaters or schools, Hong Kong's privacy commissioner published user guidance, and Western Australian councils barred the glasses from pools and libraries. On the hardware side, XREAL AURA became the first Android XR glasses on sale, at a lower launch price than preorders. Culture delivered a Gaza VR archive at UCLA, Cannes' top immersive work heading to Bucharest, and Pakistan's first VXR Festival.

Lead Stories

The two to know



POLICY, PRIVACY & SAFETY

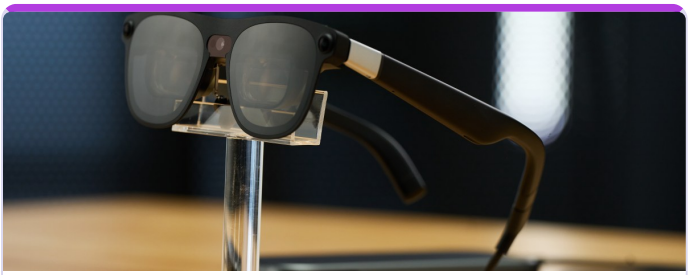
Senators Wyden and Markey press Meta on camera-glasses privacy

US Senators Ron Wyden and Edward Markey sent Mark Zuckerberg a letter citing disturbing invasions of users' and bystanders' privacy. They ask about accidental camera activation, recording-indicator tampering, face and license plate blurring, when contractors can see footage, and whether Meta ran human rights due diligence before launch. They requested answers by late November.

INSIGHT

Congress is now asking what happens to footage after capture. Creators filming with glasses and institutions hosting them should expect visible indicators and clear data policies to become the norm.

404 Media · Oct 29, 2026



AI & XR HARDWARE

XREAL AURA, the first Android XR glasses, goes on sale

Google and XREAL launched AURA on October 28: wired glasses under 95 grams with a 70-degree field of view, a compute puck and Gemini built in. Orders opened in the US, Canada and Korea, and open November 2 in Japan. Reported launch prices are $1,099 and $1,299 through December, below the $1,279 and $1,499 list prices.

INSIGHT

Transparent glasses that run Google Play apps give museums, schools and artists a lighter, cheaper target than a headset, though at this price the audience is still early adopters.

Google · Oct 28, 2026

> “Meta's professed commitment to privacy and preventing intimate image abuse rings hollow if the company cannot demonstrate meaningful steps to prevent its own products and practices from facilitating those harms.
>
> Senators Ron Wyden and Edward Markey, US Senate, in a letter to Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg

AI & XR by Category

POLICY, PRIVACY & SAFETY

Austria proposes a three-tier rulebook for camera glasses

On October 28 State Secretary Alexander Pröll presented a model: no use in especially sensitive places such as changing rooms, toilets, pools, schools, kindergartens and courts; no recording in protected areas such as cinemas, theaters and performances; and in public every recording must be clearly noticeable. A parliamentary enquete is next. He ruled out a general ban.

Insight: A rule that names theaters and performances as no-recording zones matters directly to live and immersive producers. Expect venue policies to follow the model before any law does.

Austrian Federal Chancellery · Oct 28

Hong Kong's privacy commissioner issues smart glasses guidance

On October 27 the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data published "Smart Glasses: Tips on Protecting Personal Data Privacy." It lists nine recommendations for users and warns against using the devices or recording in sensitive places such as hospitals, clinics and changing rooms, citing the added risk of AI processing.

Insight: Regulators are writing etiquette for wearers. Cultural institutions can borrow the nine tips as a ready template for visitor rules and creator filming policies.

Hong Kong Free Press · Oct 27

Western Australian councils ban smart glasses at pools and libraries

ABC reported on October 28 that Augusta-Margaret River, Kondinin and other shires are barring smart glasses from public sites. Kondinin covers its pool, libraries, council offices, public toilets and halls, and council events, though it cannot restrict parks or streets. The City of Perth is set to investigate a similar ban.

Insight: Local bans arrive venue by venue. Libraries and community halls that host XR programs should write their own wearable policy before a blanket council rule does it for them.

ABC News (Australia) · Oct 28

CULTURE & CREATORS

Phoenix of Gaza XR, a VR archive, opens at UCLA

Poet Fady Joudah reads at UCLA's Broad Art Center on November 2 to open Phoenix of Gaza XR, a VR archive of daily life in Gaza with 360-degree video and 3D replicas. On November 3 and 4 the public can book 30-minute headset sessions from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Insight: A campus-hosted XR archive paired with a poetry reading shows how universities can make immersive documentation a public program, not just a lab demo.

Kill Screen · Oct 30

Cannes' top immersive work KATÀBASIS comes to Bucharest

Future Frames, Romania's first immersive cinema festival, shows Ugo Arsac's VR documentary KATÀBASIS on November 6 and 7. The 40-minute work, which won Best Immersive Work at Cannes in May, visits the tunnels under New York. It screens in headsets and as a shared 360-degree projection.

Insight: Pairing headset viewing with a communal 360 projection is a practical way for festivals and venues to serve more audience members without more hardware.

PRO TV (Romania) · Oct 29

Pakistan hosts its first VXR Festival in Lahore and Islamabad

VXR Festival, an international event for VR, AR and XR art, runs in Lahore November 8 to 11 and Islamabad November 13 to 15. Venues include Alliance Française de Lahore and the National College of Arts. The Embassy of France, Institut français and the Embassy of Spain are supporters, in collaboration with UNESCO.

Insight: Cultural-diplomacy funders are backing XR art in new regions. Creators and educators can look to embassy and UNESCO partnerships as a route to international showings.

The Nation (Pakistan) · Oct 31

Gwangju's ACT Festival mixes live theater with an XR performance

At the National Asian Culture Center in Gwangju, the free ACT Festival exhibition runs through November 8 and is closed Mondays. BLUR, an XR performance, starts with live actors and continues in a virtual space where visitors appear as particles. Sessions hold up to 10 people for 45 minutes.

Insight: Hybrid live and virtual pieces with small, bookable groups suit museums that want immersive work without turning the gallery into a headset queue.

The Asia Business Daily · Oct 28

AI & XR HARDWARE

Rokid launches Glasses 2, Color and Ring in China

At its Rokid Jungle 2026 event in Hangzhou on October 27, Rokid launched Rokid Glasses 2, the full-color Rokid Color and the Rokid Ring controller. Chinese press reports list 3,699 yuan for Glasses 2 and 4,999 yuan for Color. Prices and dates are for China, and presales are open.

Insight: Display glasses with agent stores and rings point to a future of wrist-free control. Accessibility features such as captions matter to educators and public media.

LLMs Blog · Oct 27

AI MODELS & AGENTS

Rokid adds offline on-device vision AI built with Google

On October 30 Rokid shipped Hi Rokid 1.16.0, which lets Rokid Glasses understand and describe scenes without an internet connection, using an on-device multimodal model built with Google. Rokid did not name the model. The update also adds US and Germany service nodes and upgraded translation.

Insight: On-device vision keeps footage off the cloud, which eases bystander privacy worries and keeps accessibility features working in venues with poor signal.

Nvdium · Oct 30

Commons Watch

Open standards & interoperability

Metaverse Standards Forum pitches an open spatial browser engine at W3C

At W3C's TPAC on October 28, the Open Metaverse Browser Initiative, an open project at the Metaverse Standards Forum, presented Sneeze, an open-source browser engine that composes independently published spatial services in 3D. The session argued W3C should lead on spatial web infrastructure. MSF does not create standards itself.

Insight: An open, browser-based route to spatial content is the Commons alternative to walled-garden app stores, and a venue for public media to publish into.

W3C · Oct 28

WebXR Device API gets a new W3C Candidate Recommendation Draft

The Immersive Web Working Group published a new Candidate Recommendation Draft of the WebXR Device API on October 29, replacing the June 9 draft. The specification covers access to VR and AR devices on the web, with editors from Google and Meta, and is intended to become a W3C Recommendation.

Insight: WebXR is the open path to put an immersive work in front of anyone with a browser, no store approval needed. A steady spec keeps that route reliable.

W3C · Oct 29

Keep Your Eye On

1. XREAL AURA orders open in Japan on November 2, with first shipments elsewhere expected in mid-November.
2. Meta's answer to the Wyden and Markey letter, due in late November, on camera-glasses privacy and contractor review of footage.
3. Austria's parliamentary enquete on smart glasses, the next step after the three-tier proposal. No date has been announced.
4. Rokid Glasses 2 reportedly goes on sale in China on November 11, per Chinese tech press.
5. IMMERSIVE X 2026, the free global XR festival held in VR, runs November 10 to 12.

Board of Directors

The Academy is guided by a distinguished group of industry professionals spanning a spectrum of expertise.


Ben Erwin


Karen Alexander


Terry xR. Schussler


Alison Morano


Brittan Heller


Robin White Owen


Sarah Atkinson


Mark Billinghurst


Daisy Leak


Renard T. Jenkins


Erin Reilly

About the Academy. The Academy of Immersive Arts & Sciences works to educate, inspire, and recognize, building a global Immersive Public Commons. Programs include The Polys Immersive Awards, the WebXR Summit Series, MetaTr@versal, Mission Responsible, and Ready Player Golf.

Stay connected. academyimmersive.org
linkedin.com/company/academy-of-immersive-arts-and-sciences

Tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit · EIN 99-3401892