

SPARKS

BRISTOL

A creative sustainability hub in Bristol city centre!

OPENING
13TH MAY 2023

This pack outlines what is happening in Sparks and the opportunities available – retail, spaces to rent, volunteering and more!



WHAT IS SPARKS?

Sparks is an inclusive arts and sustainable development hub in the heart of Bristol's shopping district.

Local charities [Artspace Lifespace](#) and [Global Goals Centre](#) have a short-term lease on the old M&S building in Broadmead and are creating a major collaboration project, bringing together arts, sustainability and education. We will be running this pilot project until December 2023 and hope to continue through 2024.

AIM

Sparks aims to create a playful and welcoming space that gives people easy, affordable ways to address the climate, ecological and cost of living crises. Offering alternatives to existing policies and practice and showcasing inspiring stories and great examples to demonstrate the kind of future we could all create.

VALUES

Sparks is inspired by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We recognise that we cannot address the climate crisis without also addressing poverty and inequality. We aspire to 'Leave No-one Behind'.

We request that any organisation or user in the venue contributes in a meaningful way to the project aims of sustainability, creativity and the circular economy. Applications to use space will be assessed according to the three key aims of addressing climate, poverty and inequality.

We aim to give opportunities to those who are currently excluded due to financial limitations or other disadvantages.

WHAT WILL SPARKS LOOK LIKE?

With 108,000 ft² to play with, and an average weekly footfall in Broadmead of 300,000 people, this is an exciting proposition – and we'd love you to be involved!

The ground floor will be a reimagined department store with a difference! Designed by legendary creatives [Invisible Circus](#) on the theme of 'Home', different departments such as fashion, food, and energy will offer recycled and sustainable goods for sale, as well as interactive, playful installations featuring practical and affordable ways to tackle climate change, inequality and poverty. We believe that telling positive stories inspires action, in contrast to prevalent anxiety-inducing narratives, so that's what we hope the space will do!

The whole venue will be created using discarded office furniture and theatre sets, reducing waste and carbon emissions.

The upper floors will be available for artists studios, residencies and rehearsal and performance space. This unique combination of artists, sustainable retail, education and re-use is a pilot initiative that we hope will demonstrate how empty properties can be used for community benefit and can be replicated in other high streets.

The ground floor will be open to the public Wed-Sat 10am-5pm and Sun 11am-5pm.

The following pages outline how you can be part of this exciting project. Each department is led by different organisations, through retail, artist, residency or event space.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURE

Lead organisation: Bristol Natural History Consortium

About: This area is at the Broadmead entrance – think of it as the ‘front garden’ or the park in front of Sparks. The aim is to create a beautiful, inviting and welcoming space with as many real plants decorating the area as possible. There will also be a wellbeing pod with an immersive nature experience inside.

Ways to engage: We’re keen to hear your creative thoughts and ideas for the space. For example, we could signpost people to explore nature-based activities that you deliver across the city. You can exhibit nature projects and we’d welcome living content. Or bring in staff to talk about the work that you do, to reach a diverse range of people in this city centre location. Let your imagination run wild!

Contact: Please send your ideas and volunteer offers to Abby Charlesworth at abby@bnhc.org.uk.

RE-USE SHOP

Lead organisation: TBC

About: Shopping, without the environmental price tag! Pick up a pre-loved bargain, with items including homewares and electricals.

Contact: If you have a re-use or repair project, please contact Mark Jacobs at mark@globalgoalscentre.org.

DEPARTMENT OF FASHION

Lead organisation: A Single Thread (Sustainable Fashion Week)

About: Love your threads! Purchase and rent vintage and pre-loved clothing, have your clothes repaired and access pre-loved baby essentials through the baby bank network.

Ways to engage:

- 1. Weekly pop-ups to sell or display products:** 2x2m pitch, £50 per week. Preference is given to products from existing, reworked textiles – but if they’re produced with new textiles we can have a chat about it. Email me to reserve a week at any point in the year (so people can plan how long it might take them to make the products).
- 2. Display opportunities:** we may have mannequins that display garments for a month at a time – for people who might want to show their creations rather than sell them. People can register interest for now by emailing me.
- 3. Use of the Sustainable Fashion Week creative/skills space:** we are planning to offer low-cost repairs at least once a fortnight, ideally much more frequently. We welcome members of the community that would like to make use of the space and their skills to provide clothing repairs or alterations for a charge. There is also the ambition to create a bookable sewing machine bank and workshop space upstairs where you can teach repair and upcycling skills.
- 4. Any other creative ideas are welcome!** We would love to discuss showcasing community work in our space.

Contact: To register your interest and get more details, please contact Amelia Twine at amelia@asinglethread.uk.

Lead organisation: Better Events

About: As well as a coffee cart with small seating area, we aim to sell a range of healthy and sustainably-sourced and produced food in this department. Interactive displays will share ideas for eating well and supporting local sustainable farming. There is no kitchen but there will be a large display fridge and freezer. This space will also house an 'Energy Kitchen' – a fun installation offering energy-saving tips and advice to support Bristol residents to tackle fuel poverty, save money and reduce carbon emissions.

Ways to engage: Want to sell your food products in Sparks? We offer a range of different selling options to suit your needs.

- Level 1: £45pcm + 2 hours p/w volunteering for 0.5msq and storage (roughly a shelf)
- Level 2: £80pcm + 2 hours p/w volunteering for 2msq and storage
- Level 3: £120pcm + 2 hours p/w volunteering for 5msq and storage

What's included? Shop fit-out, insurance, payment system, display fridge and freezer, power, waste and a part-time staff member.

Why a staff member? We will provide a part-time staff member to make sure we remain EHS compliant. This staff member will work Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We are funding most of the staff costs and have asked you to fund a small amount of the cost.

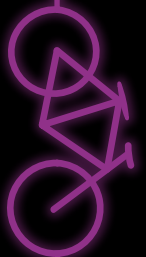
Why ask us to volunteer? Why ask us to volunteer? We are asking people to volunteer their time to keep shared costs down. Volunteering for two hours a week means you can replenish your stock, run tasting sessions and talk to customers directly about your products. We will provide full volunteer training and can align shifts with workshops you are running. If you can't volunteer, please add £90 per month to your requested level. If you can offer additional time on top of the requested two hours, we'd love to hear from you.

Contact: Please get in touch with Rachel Moffat at coordinator@bristolenergynetwork.org.

TRAVEL AGENCY

About: The Travel Agency aims to engage and inspire more people with active and sustainable travel options. The space will host a hub of information on trains, buses, scooters and bikes, and include some bike repair services.

Contact: If you have an interest in delivering or promoting sustainable transport, please contact Mark Jacobs at mark@globalgoalscentre.org.



DEPARTMENT OF

IMAGINATION

Lead organisation: Artspace Lifespace

About: Artspace Lifespace are now inviting applications for studio and desk space for creatives at Sparks Bristol. Viewings will be held from March 2023. Prices start from £70 pcm for an artist's desk.

Ways to engage: There are a range of private studios and office spaces available for artists to rent at affordable rates. Event spaces are also available at affordable prices on each floor. Opening hours are 9am-10pm and other hours by prior arrangement.

Contact: To express your interest in renting a space, please visit:

- Desk space: bit.ly/SparksCreatives
- Private studios: bit.ly/SparksStudios
- Events space: bit.ly/SparksDOI.

DEPARTMENT OF

GIFTS

Lead organisation: Better Events

About: The gifts department will be home to a wide range of locally and sustainably sourced and produced beauty products, jewellery, crafts and more. There will also be a therapy treatment pod.

Ways to engage: If you are a sustainable and ethical local producer, sell your products with us!

- Level 1: £30pcm + 2 hours p/w volunteering for 0.5msq (roughly a shelf) and storage
- Level 2: £65pcm + 2 hours p/w volunteering for 2msq and storage
- Level 3: £100pcm + 2 hours p/w volunteering for 5msq and storage (if you have larger goods like furniture, this option is for you!)
- Treatment pod: Hire for £35 per day

What's included? Shop fit-out, insurance, payment system, power and waste services.

Why ask us to volunteer? We are asking people to volunteer their time to keep shared costs down. Volunteering for two hours a week means you can replenish your stock and talk to customers directly about your products. We will provide full volunteer training and can align shifts with workshops you are running. If you can't volunteer, please add £90 per month to your requested level. If you can offer additional time on top of the requested two hours, we'd love to hear from you.

Contact: For more details, please email Jai Breitenauer at betterevents@hotmail.com.

EDUCATION

WORKSHOP SPACE

Lead organisation: Global Goals Centre

About: Global Goals Centre will be running interactive, curriculum-linked workshops for KS2 and KS3 students on the following themes; biodiversity, refugees and migration, food, active travel and fashion.

Ways to engage: The education workshop space can be used for training, schools workshops, events, talks and more! There will be a projector, screen and seating for 80 people. This space can be booked for events or activities on any theme connected to the SDGs and will cost £30 per hour, or £20 per hour for non-profits.

Contact: For more details and to book a workshop for your school or youth group, please email us at info@globalgoalscentre.org.



FAQS

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST ME?

All rental costs cover everything except insurance. See each Department for costings.

WHAT HOURS WILL SPARKS BE OPEN?

10am - 5pm Wednesday to Saturday and 11am - 5pm Sunday.

HOW LONG CAN I HAVE THE SPACE FOR?

We are guaranteed to be in the space until December 2023 and hope to continue beyond that. There are many opportunities for pop-up and short term rental too.

HOW MUCH TIME CAN YOU GIVE ME TO GET MY STUFF IN?

The space will be open from 1st April to set up. We are opening to the public on 13th May 2023 but we welcome new projects and temporary pop-ups throughout the period we are open.

DO I HAVE TO SIGN A CONTRACT AND WHAT HAPPENS IF I LEAVE EARLY?

Everyone who rents space for more than a week will be issued with a licence from Artspace Lifespace and will be expected to submit a risk assessment and contribute to the project. One month's notice can be given on each side.

WHAT ROLE WILL VOLUNTEERS PLAY AT SPARKS?

We will create a team of volunteers who can help staff Sparks. If you are interested in any volunteer opportunities please complete this questionnaire: globalgoalscentre.org/sparks-contact.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU!

*Artspace Lifespace &
Global Goals Centre*