

SPARKS BRISTOL

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL FESTIVAL

22-23 JUNE 2024



This event was part of Bristol Refugee Festival and organised by Global Goals Centre and African Voices Forum and supported by Broadmead Bristol BID, YTKO, WECA and John James Foundation.



AIMS OF THE FESTIVAL



In our regular meetings with Bristol's Community Champions team, they identified a need for an immersive celebration of diversity and inclusion in the city of Bristol that enables artists and actors from different communities to showcase their talents, traditions and cultures, as well as sell their food, art and crafts. We were delighted to provide these opportunities over the weekend, as part of Bristol's Refugee Festival.

01 SHOWCASE

the diverse range of cultures & customs in Bristol that make it unique & a strong city of sanctuary

02 CELEBRATE

the positive impact made by migrants & refugees in Bristol



OUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS



860
PEOPLE

came to the festival, 580 on Saturday and 280 on Sunday

29
CULTURES

represented across performances, workshops and stall holders



7
VOLUNTEERS

gave 32 hours of their time to support the festival

FINANCES

Through sponsorship from our partners we were able to offer payment to workshop leaders and performers, as well as free space for traders to trial their products and food. This made it accessible as well as giving value to the contributors.

The event was delivered for £5,000 but next year we seek more funding to increase the number of participants and cover all staff time to plan and deliver the event.



PERFORMANCES & WORKSHOPS

JAMAICAN FOLK SONGS & DANCE

TRADITIONAL CHINESE MUSIC PLAYED BY CHILDREN

TRADITIONAL PERUVIAN DANCE

TRADITIONAL INDIAN DANCE

WEST AFRICAN DRUMMING

TRADITIONAL DOMINICAN SONGS & DANCE

POLISH FOLK ART WORKSHOP

CHINESE CALLIGRAPHY WRITING

PERUVIAN CRAFTS, TEXTILES & ARPILLERA

BADGE MAKING & CARD PRINTING

VIETNAMESE SPRING ROLL TECHNIQUES

LATIN AMERICAN DANCE WORKSHOP

JAMAICAN FOLKLORE WORKSHOP

TRADITIONAL DOMINICAN DANCE WORKSHOP

BELLY DANCING WORKSHOP



FOOD, CRAFT & INFO STALLS

10

TRADITIONAL ARABIC FOOD

GAMBIAN DUMPLINGS & JOLLOF RICE

MIDDLE EASTERN FOOD

AFGHAN FOOD & SWEETS

VIETNAMESE SPRING ROLLS

TRADITIONAL LATIN AMERICAN FOOD

SUDANESE CURRIES & FOOD

TRADITIONAL ERITREAN FOOD & COFFEE

SRI LANKAN FOOD

TRADITIONAL NEPALI FOOD

ARTIFICIAL FLOWER GIFTS

VEGAN SKINCARE & HAIRCARE

AFRICAN PRINT CLOTHING, JEWELLERY, BAGS & ACCESSORIES

ZIMBABWEAN JEWELLERY & HOMEWARES

JAPANESE FABRIC HANDICRAFTS

BRISTOL REFUGEE ARTISTS COLLECTIVE ARTWORK

HANDMADE UKRAINIAN EMBROIDERED & BEADED PRODUCTS

POLISH PAINTINGS & GIFTS

CROCHETED HANDMADE PRODUCTS

MASAI CRAFTWORK

TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT & BUSINESS START-UPS INFO

CANCER AWARENESS & ADVICE



LORD MAYOR'S OPENING SPEECH

"I am absolutely delighted to be here today at the first Sparks Bristol International Cultural Festival, a celebration of Bristol's diversity and the food, dance, arts and crafts from different communities right across Bristol. Thank you to all the organisers of today's event.

*During my life I have been lucky enough to live and work in different parts of the world, including Hong Kong, Japan and Ireland. The chance to experience different cultures has been an incredibly enriching experience for me. And that's one of the reasons I love living in Bristol so much. It is a truly international city with more than 287 different ethnic groups living here, more than 185 countries of birth represented, at least 45 religions practised freely, and more than 90 languages spoken by people living in Bristol. **Such diversity is a real strength and enriches all of us.***

*I am also so proud that Bristol is a City of Sanctuary. **A city that welcomes people in need, a city that provides a safe place for all, and a city that gives hope for a better future.***

For me our diversity is a source of great pride and worthy of celebration and that's why my theme as Lord Mayor for this year is to celebrate our international connections. So without further ado, it gives me great pleasure to officially open the Sparks Bristol International Cultural Festival."

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”



REFLECTIONS FROM OUR TEAM



Jenny Foster

Co-Director of Sparks

We were delighted to bring together Bristol's communities to share their culture and talents with our visitors. Sparks aims to inspire climate and social action and reduce inequalities, so the International Cultural Festival was a real showcase for these aims. The event brought inspiration and joy to all involved; a real celebration of Bristol as a City of Sanctuary.



David Dravie-John

Artistic & Cultural Consultant and Director at African Voices Forum Ltd.

This Festival embraced culture, diversity, inclusion and cements a very strong community cohesion. It was a fantastic festival, filled with flavour, ambiance and oneness. This is the start of a world class International Cultural Festival.



Jehad Alrefaie

Inclusion & Diversity Consultant at Sparks

The festival provided an exceptional and inclusive platform for refugee and migrant entrepreneurs and artists to showcase their talents and engage with the Bristol community. Sparks will build upon the success of this festival to enhance the impact of this vibrant network and support their growth in the market.



REFLECTIONS FROM TRADERS & PERFORMERS

67% RATED THE FESTIVAL 5/5

100% WANT TO TAKE PART NEXT YEAR

Salha

Sudanese Community

It was a fabulous weekend! Looking like one family, sharing information, art and tasting each other's food! Great job Sparks team, really appreciate your support.



Siperire

Zimbabwean Community

Wonderful work brothers and sisters, you have brought communities together, sharing stories and ideas. Can't wait for next year!



Monika

Polish Community

What a great event! It was lovely to be part of it



REFLECTIONS FROM VISITORS

So many great cultures and informative people!

This was great and so inclusive, more please!

A beautiful and welcoming space, thank you!

Love the fact that people could just sell food and crafts for their financial benefit. Big shout out to creators.

Excellent, please do it again!

Amazing environment!

So cool, please do it again soon!

Lovely stuff, great vibes

Fantastic use of the space

Loved volunteering at the festival, it was amazing!

Wonderful event!

Amazing, loved it!

Excellent, wonderful atmosphere

Interesting and a lot to see and hear

“

GREAT WAY TO SHOWCASE BRISTOL'S DIVERSITY

”



POSITIVE TAKEAWAYS

The festival offered an inclusive atmosphere for entrepreneurs, artists, and community leaders from diverse backgrounds and ethnicities to engage, get to know each other, and take actions for future cooperation.

FOR AROUND 60% OF STALL HOLDERS

the festival formed the first opportunity for them to interact with customers in Bristol and sell their products in a physical place.

TRADERS FROM 29 NATIONALITIES

were able to showcase and sell their products to the public for the first time in Bristol. This provided an excellent opportunity to test what would sell and understand price points, packaging and more.

RAISED AWARENESS OF SPARKS

amongst diverse communities, many of whom were not aware of Sparks before the event.



TRADERS & ENTREPRENEURS WERE SUPPORTED TO PROMOTE THEIR BUSINESS

with support from a business advisor at Sparks who provided marketing and business tips and insights before and during the festival which helped to boost their publicity and upgrade their social media accounts.

FAMILIES & CHILDREN WERE ENGAGED AND ENTERTAINED

through a unique integration of live performances, workshops, food and art stalls alongside an exciting and fun child-friendly space.

LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR NEXT CULTURAL FESTIVAL

We now have a community of traders and artists from Bristol's diverse communities, who are keen for more opportunities to promote their art and sell their food, crafts and more. We aim to hold a festive event in December to meet this need, then start planning for the 2025 Cultural Festival in January with even more communities taking part.



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Bristol International Cultural Festival was organised by Global Goals Centre in partnership with African Voices Forum as part of Bristol Refugee Festival. The event was supported by Broadmead Bristol BID, YTKO West of England, West of England Combined Authority and John James Foundation.



SPARKS
BRISTOL

All photos by Shamphat. Sparks Bristol is a collaborative project led by Global Goals Centre (registered charity no. 1187048) and Artspace Lifespace (registered charity no. 1168150).