

**GLOBAL
GOALS
CENTRE**



Annual Report

July 2024–June 2025

Global Goals Centre is an education charity enabling learning and action on climate, nature and equality, inspired by the Global Goals.

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Introduction – Dr Steve Roser, Chair of Trustees

Another wonderful year for the Global Goals Centre! Our millionth visitor shows part of the extent of the reach we have built over the past two years in Sparks, alongside the increased support for local entrepreneurs, artists, education and climate activists. Nationally we have become increasingly visible, with several awards for our approaches to sustainability and in November 2024 GGC received global recognition for our education work when we won the Okayama ESD Award (Education for Sustainable Development).

GGC was also runner up in the Benefact Charity Heroes Awards for Climate Action Project 2024 and received the award at a national ceremony at the Tower of London in November. Personally, the highlights have been the wonderful food at the Cultural Festival, the enthusiasm at the launch of Earth Day heroes and the restructuring of our education workshop offerings which lies at the core of our mission.

Once again, I have to thank all the brilliant staff and volunteers at GGC, especially Jenny and Manu, who give life to this extraordinary set of ideas and actions.



Our Co-Director and Education Lead, Manu Maunganidze, receiving the Okayama ESD Award in Japan



1408

Number of young people taken part in climate and social justice workshops



33

Number of students and interns given work experience



455,799

Total number of people engaged with our projects



205

Number of small entrepreneurs and artists supported to develop their business



27,098

Website users



Annual turnover July 2024 - June 2025:

£143,525.80



100%

Percentage of staff travelling to work sustainably

Projects

Education Workshops

Our small Education team has not only delivered workshops, but also invested time in creating a more curriculum-aligned workshop offer, and in developing meaningful sustainability education experiences for children and young people with special education needs.

In response to our teacher's survey and requests, we expanded our offer to 10 workshops, all clearly linked to each year group's curriculum.



Global Goals Centre Workshop Guide

Curriculum links to make it easier for teachers to align to their lesson plans



Global Goals Centre Workshop Curriculum Links PDF

We delivered workshops to children and young people aged 7-18 from 24 schools and colleges across the region.

We also provided training to 125 Norland Nannies, equipping them to include sustainability in their work with under 5s. This is now embedded in each annual cohort's core training.



Feedback and Impacts

Feedback from students - Sparks Schools Feedback Forms 2024-2025

Feedback from teachers - Evaluation of your SPARKS visit (Responses)

Thanks to UWE who made a film about our workshops - Global Goals Centre schools workshops in Sparks 2025



We are so grateful to the Nisbet Trust for funding our education work this year.



School Holiday Workshops



Every Friday in the school holidays, we have been able to offer free craft workshops in Sparks. These workshops have been very popular, and we have been so pleased to have been able to pay artist-educators from Bristol Refugee Artist Collective to deliver these workshops.

Families have expressed gratitude to have free and meaningful activities for them to do together during school holidays.

All workshops have been themed on sustainability, including creating water balloons out of paper mache, nature paintings and anti-racism lino prints.

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Earth Day Heroes

Our education team planned and are delivering a new project - Earth Day Heroes - to empower students and young people (aged 7-21) across a diverse range of communities, to play their part in making their communities more sustainable. The aim is that the new projects created will bring lasting change and spur a ripple effect of positive practical community action. We are partnering with Bristol Education Partnership, Black 2 Nature and Green Schools. Funding from Youth Climate Action Fund is enabling us to give micro grants to schools and youth groups for materials and mentoring to develop and deliver their projects.

Our launch event in April 2025 with 122 young people was an exciting morning of learning and ideas sharing, using fashion, worms, water testing kits and lego!

This was also our first fundraising via match funding with The Big Give Green Match. Thanks to OVO Foundation for matching all donations during a week in April, enabling us to provide prizes and transport to the Awards ceremony on 30th September 2025.

We plan to run this as an annual competition, encouraging and inspiring even more climate action projects.



Sparks Bristol

Sparks Bristol is a groundbreaking sustainable, creative education hub which we opened with our partner organisation, Artspace Lifespace, in May 2023 in the ex-M&S building in Broadmead. It has been very exciting to celebrate the second anniversary of Sparks in May, as well as welcome our millionth visitor through the doors on World Environment Day, 5th June 2025!

This year Sparks has achieved:

- » Over 15,000 items saved from landfill
- » 2124 people received energy advice
- » 253 bikes repaired
- » 500 jewellery items repaired by Sorrel Garden
- » Our cafe served 316 meals, with 853 kg CO2 avoided by using Too Good to Go
- » Hundreds of items repaired at the Repairium
- » Over 200 local traders, artists and makers supported to run their own business



Ally Hart mural



Sparks Impacts in first 2 years

Here are some other highlights from this year.

Sparks Bristol was awarded silver in the 2024 Bristol Bath and Somerset Tourism Awards. The awards recognise businesses that provide memorable experiences for visitors to the region.



Reimagining the high street

Sparks Bristol was also chosen this year as one of 4 exemplar projects by the national think-tank Power to Change. Department stories: How communities are reimagining a national institution - Power to Change.

We have hosted groups from around the world who are keen to learn from Sparks' experience and to set up a similar project in their own high street. We are working on a Toolkit to equip other charities, community groups and organisations to take on empty buildings and create a sustainability hub that works for their own local communities. Watch this space!

Repair and upskilling

Global Goals Centre facilitated the first free family-friendly World Bike Day event in Sparks on 31st May 2025, in partnership with Bristol City Council, Fettle, Bristol Waste ReUse shops and Holy Spokes.

The aim was to promote the health and environmental benefits of cycling and enable more people to take part in cycling.



Outcomes



11 children took part in a workshop and treasure hunt about the benefits of active travel and 5 children took part in Bling Your Bike.



13 people learned bike repair skills – 6 at the puncture repair workshop, 7 at the brakes workshop.



Bristol Waste sold £100 worth of second hand bike spare parts.



Valuable partnerships established with Bristol City Council, Fettle, Bristol Waste, Holy Spokes, WECA and Avon and Somerset police bike marking.

This has resulted in free bike repair workshops and regular bike marking now being offered in Sparks each month. This helps us meet one of our core aims for next year, to upskill local people to repair and offer more repair in Sparks.

Responding to local need

GGC commissioned 2 important pieces of research this year into Sparks, to enable us to meet more local need.

Immersive Learning from Sparks Bristol was an analysis by academics at the University of Birmingham, UWE and University of Bristol. Their conclusions were that Sparks is an important and effective community hub that brings hope for a more sustainable future to many visitors. It showed Sparks was reaching its aim of educating and inspiring the public to take action for climate and social change.



“Sustainable fashion, reusing things, repurposing things, repairing things, these are my main takeaways. When I see that, I think, Oh great”

“I’ve noticed things in various displays promoting sustainable fashion or working with community groups...key things stand out to me even if I’m just quickly passing through.”

A Community Voices survey by a team of UWE students went out to neighbourhoods around Sparks to ask what they would like to see from a community hub in the high street. The integrated analysis confirms that Sparks Bristol has effectively built a strong base of young, engaged visitors who resonate with its sustainability and creative mission. Statistically significant findings confirm its place as a dynamic community hub. However, they did highlight challenges in accessibility that we are now addressing within the confines of a mean-while-use building.

We have so much we still hope to deliver in Sparks! [See our Culture Declares film with our Sparks partners, Artspace Lifespace and Invisible Circus.](#)

Huge thanks to National Lottery Reaching Communities, Van Neste, Quartet Community Foundation, UWE Community Fund and Postcode Lottery for their support of our work in Sparks this year.



www.sparksbristol.co.uk



International Cultural Festival

Global Goals Centre, in partnership with African Voices Forum and Bristol’s Community Champions, held Bristol’s second International Cultural Festival in Sparks Bristol in June 2025, as part of Bristol’s Refugee Festival.

Aims of the Festival

1

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

2

Celebrate the positive impact made by migrants and refugees in Bristol

3

Showcase sustainability initiatives around the world and in diverse communities

4

Build on and develop the impacts of the 2024 Festival



A fabulous day of food, art, craft, music and dance from 21 different cultural groups in Bristol! From African drumming and Peruvian dance to Chinese calligraphy and Eritrean cuisine, we took visitors on a global journey of exploration, celebrating Bristol as a city of sanctuary and diversity.

We were also delighted to screen the film ‘Dance for Peace’ in partnership with Bristol Link with Beira, to mark 50 years of Mozambican independence. This was followed by a fascinating Q&A with the film’s Director, Simon Bright.

Positive impacts from the International Cultural Festival

Our impact in numbers

2987

visitors to the Festival (approximately 1,200 more than a usual Saturday in Sparks)

34

stallholders from 21 different cultural backgrounds

23

performances and workshops

55

volunteering hours

- » 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.
- » The event offered traders from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to engage with new customers and trial what sells well
- » It enabled local people to experience different cultures through food, art, music and spoken word – many visitors said they had tried new things during the Festival, and learnt so much about different cultures
- » Now we have hosted 2 International Cultural Festivals in Sparks, we have a wonderfully diverse range of artists, performers and food providers to engage in future projects, and to be part of next year’s Festival!

Feedback from trader Awad Elmubarak, Sudanese community

“I started a small business about a year ago, there were a lot of ups and downs as it was quite stressful doing all of it online by myself as a 15 year old. However I started doing small online selling my bakery and treats around Bristol but the Sparks International Cultural Festival in particular really helped me understand there’s more to business than online trading and I can do the same thing in the real world. The Sparks International Festival improved my knowledge and skills to a greater extent. I met a lot of people who talked to me about what I can do to improve my business and advice which can help me achieve more in the future, it also built my confidence.”

We are so grateful to the National Lottery and our local Broadmead BID team for supporting the Festival this year so that we could pay even more performers and workshop leaders for their time and skills.



Wonderful Water Festival

The aim of this project was to inspire the public with a love of our waterways and to protect it, by saving water and reducing waste.

In partnership with John Wesley New Room and Broadmead BID we organised a community arts festival during April 2025. All ages were invited to enjoy exhibitions and allow creativity to flourish with a SPLASH! Dance workshop, drop-in games, and nature-themed craft workshops, as well as performing mermaids!



Bristol Water held water testing sessions and Ocean Saver provided information and games around nature-friendly cleaning and laundry products.



We held 2 days of free drop-in workshops during February half term, creating water droplets from balloons and papier mache with 97 participants, all with water messaging to display during the Festival. And during the Easter holidays we had a total of 66 people take part in our Craft Workshops, and we are creating a giant Bristol waterways mural from the denim patches created.

We also had 14 children take part in the storytelling and activities led by Verity Jones on 'DRY: Diary of a Water Superhero'.

Entrepreneur support for refugee and migrant start-ups

In response to local needs voiced by Community Champions and local refugee support groups, we ran a new business support programme for migrants and refugees looking to set up their own businesses. Created and led by our Inclusion Lead, the programme was funded by WECA, Bristol City Council and Levelling Up.

This programme ran from May to November 2024. In that time we have supported over 40 creative entrepreneurs and emerging artists from over 20 nationalities/ethnicities, providing training and mentorship services, offering support and referring them to the BrisBES programme for further training. Our support was crucial to enable particularly women and young entrepreneurs from refugee and migrant backgrounds to grow and sustain their creative and artistic work in the market.



Outcomes

The programme provided 40 participants with practical skills to approach the business side of their practice with greater confidence and enthusiasm. Many artists lack access to the tools needed to manage their work as a viable business – as one respondent noted: “artists are not often taught these skills as part of their degree.”

All our current beneficiaries have expressed a clear demand for continued support in the form of our Support Evenings and sole trader mentorship. We took special care to ensure inclusiveness to groups including refugees, migrants, the LGBTQ+ community, neurodiverse individuals, and people with disabilities. We achieved our aim of a minimum 60:40 female-to-male ratio, with childcare support reducing barriers to participation. The training programme was complemented by 1:1 mentoring

Through partnerships with local organizations Bristol Refugee Artist Collective, Bristol Black Creatives and the Creative Youth Network, we have connected participants to broader networks. We have reached our project aims, to enable migrants and refugees to contribute to Bristol's vibrant, sustainable economy while advancing inclusion and diversity.

Community Threads

We have been delighted to provide funding support and a meeting space within Sparks for this sewing community group for migrant and refugee women. Participants/learners attending per session: 8 to 12 with new people joining every other week. Women from 19 years to 60 years from Sudan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Syria, Turkey, Hongkong, Somalia, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Romania, Eritrea, Nigeria, Nepal, South America.



Aims of the group



Provide a welcoming and culturally sensitive environment.



Teach sewing and textile upcycling using sustainable and donated materials.



Foster social connections and emotional support within the group.



Enable skill-building that can lead to income-generating opportunities.



Encourage participants to express their creativity and identity through fashion.

- 1. Skill Development – 100% of participants report improved sewing skills. Most of them have begun creating their own garments or upcycled items, and if not then they feel confident to do so. Some members have been offered small paid commissions.
- 2. Reducing loneliness and isolation – participants described feeling “more confident,” “less isolated,” and “stronger in a group.” Many found the space therapeutic and supportive, helping them adapt to a new country. It also has been a safe space for some women to talk about struggles in their personal lives.
- 3. Encouraging Sustainable practice – Textile waste is constantly being repurposed through upcycling projects. Discarded sewing machines being repaired and used.
- 4. Increased confidence – in May 2025 Community Threads (CT) collaborated with the Royal West of England Academy (RWA) for a dress making project called the Dorcas Dress Making Project. The participants contributed to the dress by making small patches of embroidered as well as patch work, by colouring on fabric etc. that was eventually sewn into a dress. The theme of the patch making was ‘Sharing Love’ and each participant expressed it through their language and their patches that were mindfully created. It was a unique experience for them and gave them a sense of accomplishment, as well as increased confidence through talking to visitors.

“I really enjoyed the group. I felt at home every time I was there. It’s a welcoming atmosphere full of good conversations. We laugh a lot it is so good for my mental health. When I go home I feel like a different person and I feel very relaxed.”

– Eritrean member

Developing volunteers and interns

The role of volunteers

Volunteers undertake a wide range of roles, including repairing hundreds of items at Sparks' volunteer-led Repairium, supporting events and workshops, surveying visitors and community members, providing energy advice, helping with craft sessions for families and supporting our education workshops.

We maintain a flexible model, and are keen to provide opportunities and experience to as many people as possible. For many this is a stepping stone towards employment, and we are always pleased to see our volunteers move on to paid work.



Our monitoring forms show that volunteers come from diverse communities around the world (only 30% identify as White British). 195 people have been inducted as Sparks volunteers, and in the last year, we are so grateful that people have volunteered 2,781 hours of their time.

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Placements, internships and work experience

We've hosted a total of 33 students on university placements, internships and work experience placements over the past year. Their contributions have ranged from planning and marketing events, to surveying visitors and community members, analysing this data and assisting with education workshops for schools. We look forward to continuing to partner with local universities, schools and colleges to offer opportunities to students across the city.

In the past year we've developed partnerships with both City of Bristol College and SGS College, welcoming a total of 18 students from their supported internship programmes to Sparks. These

placements give students with special educational needs and disabilities hands on experience in a real workplace.

"Sparks has been an amazing placement for our learners. There are always well planned activities for them to engage in and the staff are gentle and considerate. Learners are given the opportunity to learn new skills, whilst also learning about the importance of sustainability. For several of our quieter or more anxious learners the experience has enabled them to be more confident and has boosted their independence. They are also learning to work together with different people (and different learners) and the whole experience is proving extremely

beneficial for both them as individuals, and for their course as a whole, and we are very grateful for the opportunity Sparks has given them."

Debbie Summerill, Industry Placement Co-ordinator for Foundation Studies (Filton and Stroud Campus)

Over the past year we were delighted to benefit from UWE Bristol's Community Fund which supported our work with student volunteers from UWE, enabling them to engage with the wider Bristol community. Thirteen students took part in two projects, one supporting and enhancing our events offer, and the other interviewing people across six diverse areas of Bristol, revealing

community needs, awareness of Sparks, and hopes for its future impact. Afterwards, the students involved in these projects scored themselves as significantly more confident about their interpersonal and monitoring and evaluation skills, and also reported that they felt much more connected to local communities in Bristol.

We've also become part of the University of Bristol's Bristol PLUS Award, an employability initiative, encouraging students to develop skills and connect with local organisations. We've welcomed a number of Bristol PLUS volunteers over the past year, and were delighted to host a mutually beneficial PLUS skills session in February this year.

Corporate volunteering

This year we welcomed corporate volunteers from the Environment Agency who helped decorate our community spaces ahead of the busy Christmas period. We are very grateful to Good Gym volunteers who have come and helped at Sparks with a number of tasks including helping put up and take down our Christmas decorations, redecorating our travel department and moving innumerable heavy objects around the building!

Outcomes for volunteers

Many Sparks volunteers join us because they are keen to be part of the Sparks community, the project aligns with their values, and because they want to build their confidence and gain skills and experience. In our volunteer feedback survey, 100% of volunteers said they would recommend volunteering at Sparks, and all volunteers gave a maximum score for feeling more connected to the Bristol community after volunteering at Sparks. Volunteers also reported a significant increase in self-confidence, skills, and social connection after volunteering with us.

Conclusion and Looking Ahead

Global Goals Centre is a micro charity, with a staff team of 2.8 full time equivalents, so we are punching well above our weight! As well as a highly experienced, skilled and hardworking team, we have excellent support from our Trustee team and have been able to deliver so much more thanks to our partners and collaborations. We are always open to developing new partnerships to increase our reach and social purpose, so please get in touch if you have an idea we can help develop with you.

As we embark on our third year at Sparks Bristol, we are looking to increase our education and skills impacts. We aim to deliver a fun interactive trail around Sparks to engage more visitors with practical actions they can take to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as develop an immersive experience pilot with UWE. We are keen to increase our Repair offering in Sparks, including increasing repair skills training. This will be kick-started by International Repair Day activities on 18th October.

True to our education aims, we will continue to run the Earth Day Heroes project which has been so successful in year one. We also have ambitions for Bristol to become the first city to commit to an ethical school uniform policy across our schools, to address the high cost of uniforms to carers and to the environment.

 Follow our progress www.globalgoalscentre.org

Jenny Foster and Manu Maunganidze, Co-Directors, on behalf of the team



Manu and Jenny with GGC Ambassador, Mya-Rose Craig and the Lord Mayor and consort.

Thanks to all our sponsors and funders this year



WHAT DOES CLIMATE JUSTICE LOOK LIKE?



www.globalgoalscentre.org

Annual Report Produced by JBP
www.jbp.co.uk