

**GLOBAL
GOALS
CENTRE**



Annual Report

July 2025–June 2026

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

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Introduction – Dr Steve Roser, Chair of Trustees

Each year, this introduction to the Global Goals Centre Annual Report gives me the chance to reflect on our choices, our problems and our achievements. We are now increasingly embedded in a hugely diverse range of communities and projects, we have had over a million people come through the doors of Sparks and we have strengthened our financial and governance bases. We have seen some of the problems that schools have had finding time and resource to get to our workshops, and we have reached out to try and facilitate more students to come to our events, with some success.

As always, Earth Day Heroes Awards day was inspiring. The enthusiasm, energy and vision of the participants is truly moving, and it’s good to see the range of schools and colleges entering. Our new school uniform project ticks so many of the sustainability boxes, and I’m sure given the wide consultation will be taken up across Bristol, and hopefully wider still. Please look through the document below and be inspired by the work that is going on in GGC and Sparks. It’s a wonderful place to visit, to get your kettle repaired and to buy those really sparkly shoes you always wanted. My thanks as always to my fellow trustees and to the wonderful staff and volunteers who keep this organisation running so well.





4,450

Number of young people taken part in climate education workshops



540

Number of students, interns and volunteers



418,425

Total number of people engaged with our projects



42

Number of refugee and migrant sole traders and artists supported



28,340

Website users



Annual turnover July 2025 - June 2026:

£193,382.21



Projects

Education Workshops

SDG 4 : Quality Education

SDG 13 : Climate Action

Our Education team has delivered workshops to children and young people aged 7-18 from 14 schools and colleges across the region, as well as 4 Scouts and Brownie groups.

We also provided training to 125 Norland Nannies, equipping them to include sustainability in their work with under 5s.

We have targeted schools and groups from Bristol's most deprived areas to help provide impactful experiences to more of Bristol's children; on average one third of learners coming to workshops in Sparks were recipients of free school meals.

We have signed up to Bristol's Pupil Pledge which is a citywide commitment to opening doors for every young person, ensuring they have access to meaningful, inspiring and confidence building experiences beyond the normal timetabled curriculum in the school.

It has been more difficult for schools to arrange trips to come to Sparks, so we have delivered 3 of these workshops in schools, in response to teacher requests.

We have also worked with 3 teams of students from UWE to enable them to deliver public engagement work and real world experience as part of their modules.

Feedback and Impacts

What learners told us

Most-enjoyed activities: making seed bombs, hands-on experiments, and learning how t-shirts are made.

Most learners said they'd think differently about water use, microplastics and palm oil in everyday products.

Many said they would reuse old clothes as rags, make patchwork clothes, or plant seed bombs at home.

Almost every learner said there was nothing they would change about their visit.

Feedback from teachers

Have the SPARKS team been able to provide an experience you wouldn't be able to do in the classroom or might find difficult to do?

"Definitely! The SPARKS building has so many things to talk about with students and it makes sustainability more interesting. There were also lots of connections to students' own lives and communities e.g. bus travel, improving their area etc.

"Yes, it really brought our topic to life in a way that we couldn't manage in the classroom."

"Yes, SPARKS has given me new ideas I can use in the future. These ideas will help me plan activities that are both practical and engaging."



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





Better Uniforms Campaign

SDG 1 : No Poverty

SDG 12 : Responsible Production & Consumption

SDG 15 : Life on Land

- » The Better Uniforms Campaign made strong progress this year, moving from an emerging idea into a research-led programme with growing support across Bristol. We recruited an intern from the University of the West of England who used the campaign as the basis of her dissertation and was awarded a distinction for the work. Through in-person focus groups in schools across the city, she gathered the views of more than 100 young people and also engaged with school leaders and parents to understand the practical, financial and cultural issues surrounding school uniform reform.
- » This research has directly shaped the next phase of the campaign. Alongside it, we established an advisory panel of experts in school uniforms, sustainability and related fields, whose practical insight has helped us develop a clear set of project goals. More than 20 schools, businesses and external organisations have now been directly involved, and our partner network continues to grow. We are also in ongoing discussions with a major sustainable uniform supplier around potential partnership and sponsorship, while developing plans for SPARKS Bristol to host second-hand uniform activity as part of a practical circular-economy model.
- » The project received £2,500 in dedicated funding from the Golden Bottle Trust and has also benefited from support from the Nisbet Trust and the National Lottery through funding for staff time involved in delivery.
- » The Better Uniforms Campaign sits firmly within Global Goals Centre's wider aim to make sustainability meaningful, practical and accessible across society. By starting with something that affects almost every family, the project gives us an opportunity to create educational material that resonates with young people, support real behaviour change and develop affordable, practical alternatives that work for households on all budgets. It brings together education, environmental impact and social fairness in a way that has the potential to create lasting change far beyond the classroom.



Crafty Fridays

SDG 3 : Health & Wellbeing

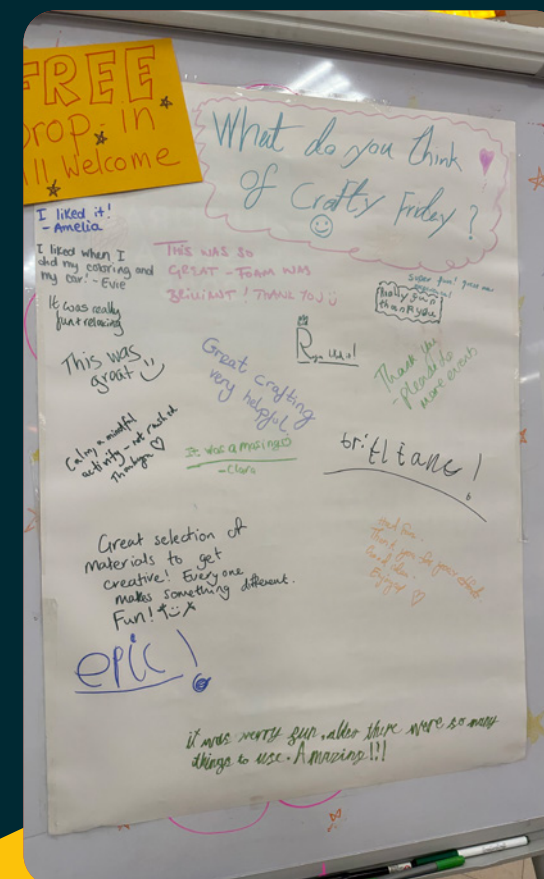
SDG 13 : Climate Action

Every Friday in the school holidays, we have been able to offer free craft workshops in Sparks based on a sustainability theme. These workshops have been very popular, attracting 20-50 people per session.

We have been so pleased to have been able to pay artist-educators from Bristol Refugee Artist Collective to deliver some of these workshops.

Families have expressed how valuable it is to have free and creative activities for them to do together during school holidays. We also have an increasing number of young people who are coming to do craft and tell us that it is really helping their mental wellbeing.

All workshops have been themed on sustainability, from travel to nature to repair.



Earth Day Heroes

SDG 13 : Climate Action
SDG 14 : Life under Water
SDG 15 : Life on land

As part of Earth Day celebrations around the world, we invited young people to become an Earth Hero and create a local project to raise awareness and take action on environmental issues that matter to them. Using creativity, problem solving, and learning from other young people, we encouraged young people to respond positively to the problems they see in the world around them, developing global citizens and improving health, wellbeing and the climate.

We partnered with Bristol Education Partnership, Black 2 Nature and Green Schools Project. Funding from Youth Climate Action Fund enabled us to give micro grants to schools and youth groups for materials. We provided mentoring for special needs student groups to enable them to fully participate in the project.

Over 1200 young people aged 7-21 were directly involved in environmental projects in 11 schools and communities across the city and beyond as part of the Earth Day Heroes project, and 7685 were impacted, from Bristol to Bangladesh!

120 of these young eco-heroes received their awards at the Awards ceremony at Sparks Bristol on 30th September.

As well as sharing their winning ideas and projects, the young people were inspired by a talk from BBC's Naomi Wilkinson* who shared how she had overcome her fear of sharks and spiders by getting up close and personal to them, and learning about how awesome wildlife and nature is. The winning schools also took part in an Aardman Animations clay modelling workshop, as well as receiving trophies, certificates and books for their school.

Projects were awarded prizes at Acorn level (good ideas, potential to grow), Sapling (good progress and showing great promise) to Mighty Oak for fully developed projects bearing fruit.

The 5 Mighty Oak projects were:

- » Fairfield School's Park & Stride Scheme encourages families to drive their children to drop off points with students finishing their journey to school on foot together, reducing congestion and carbon emissions.
- » Brunel Fields Primary Zero Carbon School project is helping their school reduce their energy use, grow food and hold regular litter picks.
- » May Park Primary School's Speaking Truth to Power project, presenting positive climate action solutions to business leaders and on the radio.
- » Victoria Park Primary's Project Power, monitoring and reducing energy use across the school, saving carbon and saving money.
- » Dhamrai government college in Bangladesh for their tree planting and anti-plastic campaigning and activation, in college and the local community.



Other awards were given to Warmley Park School, Black 2 Nature, Somerdale Educate Together, Whitehall Primary, and Evergreen Primary. Young people have petitioned their teachers and carers, created vegetable gardens, recorded a rap, created artworks, monitored energy use and shared their passion with their local community to drive even more change for good. As the year 5 pupils at Brunel Fields Primary told us, "We really believe that, even though we're kids, we can make a huge difference when it comes to climate change and making our world a better place".

This project is running again this academic year and we have given micro grants to 6 schools to deliver projects, and have 15 entries. The Awards ceremony for Earth Day Heroes 2026 will take place in July.



Sparks Bristol

SDGs 1-17

[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. We celebrated the third anniversary of Sparks in May 2026. As well as a sustainable shopping hub, Sparks provides sustainable travel and energy advice, a Repair cafe, and a variety of events to engage the public with the SDGs.

This year Sparks has achieved:

- » 410,203 visitors
- » 13,576 items saved from landfill
- » 275 people received sustainable travel advice
- » 105 bikes repaired
- » Over 200 local traders, artists and makers supported to run their own business



3 years of impact!

Here are some other highlights from this year.

Bristol Legend Bristol 24/7 – Sustainability Award

Bristol Life Awards 2026 – Winner of Best Retailer Awards

Traders support

We work with traders in Sparks to help them improve their climate and social messaging and impact. In our 2026 Traders survey, 83% traders have increased their sustainability over the past year, for example buying more locally, reducing packaging, as well as having social impact such as increasing staff wages to above Living Wage (50%).

83% traders have also increased the amount of sustainability education shared through their social media, regularly creating content about the environmental benefits of buying second-hand, reducing textile waste, and making more conscious shopping choices.

83% have been able to develop their businesses since being at Sparks.

“Sparks has shown that retail can be about so much more than selling products. It creates opportunities for independent businesses, builds community, and makes sustainable shopping more accessible. It’s a model I’d love to see adopted in more cities across the UK.

“Sparks is a great space for our business to flourish and thrive. We know the other traders have our backs, and we have theirs – it’s a stronger space because it’s a community who look out for one another.”

“Sparks is one of the best communities in Bristol and possibly the best in Bristol city center... It’s a very warm and creative community, and everyone has your back there... Also, the sustainable goals don’t hurt either!”

Repair and upskilling

We had a clear goal this year to increase the amount of repair that happens in Sparks, as well as upskilling more local people to be able to repair. We held an event on International Repair Day in October 2025 which attracted 2600 people.

As well as cable recycling, Repair Cafe, and clothes repair, 11 people attended Bike repair skills workshops led by Bike Bristol...

“You’ve been our best venue this year! Are you willing to host us again, monthly?”

So Bike Skills repair workshops are now happening monthly in Sparks as a direct consequence of the event.

Sparks Repair Cafe is the busiest Repair Cafe in Bristol due to being open weekly and its city centre location. It has received a huge boost this year by the appointment of a part time Repair Manager, who is improving systems and planning Repair Skills workshops, especially targeted at women who are often not taught these skills at home or at school.

The number of repairs has increased this year, averaging 10 per month.

These will continue next year, and we aim to open the Repair Cafe 2 days a week once we have more skilled volunteers.

Huge thanks to National Lottery Reaching Communities, Bristol BID, King Charles III Charitable Trust and GWR for their support of our work in Sparks this year.



SPARKS BRISTOL



THE SUSTAINABLE DEPARTMENT STORE

WELCOME
THE DEPT
THE NUMBER 3, I
WHAT I SAY, AB
AND ITS RELATION
FREE AS IN TO BE

WHAT'S
GOING
ON
EXHIBITIONS
WORKSHOPS
REPAIR SERVICES
INFORMATION

Kind

Inspire

Creative

Kind

Safe

The Best

Wild

Inspiration

Safe

Happiest

Exhibitions

Art is a powerful tool to engage people with social and climate justice issues. By utilising a vacant area in Sparks, we have been able to host a wide range of community groups and campaigns to prompt discussion and action.



Artist/Group	Title	Theme	Related SDGs
Digital Dystopia		Stop fossil fuel advertising	12
Abolitionist Healing Collective		Rethinking mental health care systems and , the ways in which they can harm particularly BPOC, disabled and queer folk.	3, 10
Bristol NHS Support Group	Patients not passports	Free healthcare for all	3, 10
George Netana	Queendom Rising	Cultural identity, quiet resistance, and belonging.	10
Bristol Women’s Voice	Carers rights and needs	Carers	10
Curiosity Unlimited	BHM - banners	Race equality	10
EcoCultural Fusion	Black History Month	Celebrating black heroes	10
	Capitalist Escape Room	Circular economy	8, 12
Bristol Wellbeing College	Poem Brut	Free mental health support	3
Norland	Grenfell Memorial Quilt	The Grenfell Memorial Panel we created honours community voices, shared memory, and healing through textile storytelling. It offers space for reflection on the systemic failures behind the tragedy and amplifies voices often unheard.	11
Forest of Avon	Art therapy dementia patients group	Connecting those with dementia and other health conditions through art and nature	3
	ADHD interactive exhibition	ADHD awareness	3, 10
Global Goals Centre	Earth Day Heroes	Youth, nature	13, 14, 15
Theo Moye		Photography project challenging stereotypical representations of mental ill health	3, 10
Blazing Artists		Environment	13, 15
Bec Bainbridge	We Are Here	Amplifying marginalised voices, encouraging visitors to reflect on who is heard, valued and supported in society	10

International Cultural Festival

SDG 3 : Health and Wellbeing
SDG 10 : Reduced Inequalities

Global Goals Centre, in partnership with African Voices Forum and Bristol’s Community Champions, hosted Bristol’s third International Cultural Festival in Sparks Bristol in June 2026, as the launch event for Bristol’s Refugee Festival. A vibrant day of arts, food, music and fashion, as well as celebration of Bristol’s diversity.

Aims of the Festival

- 1

Showcase the diverse range of cultures in Bristol that make it unique and a strong city of sanctuary to enable local people to learn about other cultures and foster understanding.
- 2

Celebrate the positive impact made by migrants and refugees in Bristol.
- 3

Share the creativity of Bristol’s diverse communities and provide paid opportunities for them to trade and perform.



Our impact in numbers

3,305 Number of attendees

27 arts and crafts traders from 19 cultural backgrounds

10 food traders from 9 cultural backgrounds

40 volunteering hours

Every participant rated the Festival Very Good or Brilliant

Performances

Latin American dance
Bristol Refugee Festival poetry
African drumming
Solidarity in Sound Choir
Fashion Show featuring outfits from Sudan,
Nigeria, Sierra Leone, India, Pakistan,
Community Threads.

Workshops

- Face painting
- Polish Folk Art Workshop
- African drumming and dancing workshop
- Chinese Calligraphy workshop
- Essential Oils Workshop for health and wellbeing
- Sudanese Textiles Workshop
- Flamenco workshop
- Art and craft corner for kids



Positive Impacts

- » 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. 100% said they would like to participate in next year's Festival. 3 traders have enquired about taking permanent trading space in Sparks, to develop their businesses.
- » It enabled local people to experience different cultures through food, art, music and spoken word - many visitors and participants said they had tried new things during the Festival, and learnt so much about different cultures (pic of feedback board)
- » It was a great honour to launch Bristol Refugee Festival at the International Cultural Festival. We agree to continue this fruitful partnership, to increase reach and support each other's aims.
- » A number of the participants expressed how the Festival helped their mental wellbeing by celebrating their culture and making them feel welcome and valued in the city.
- » The Fashion Show was a wonderful addition to this year's Festival, enabling 8 community groups and fashion traders to showcase their traditional clothing. 18 models took part and over 100 people watched the show. We aim to build on this success next year
- » Now that we have hosted 3 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 Participants

“Thank you all for your hard work in making this event happen. You gave us an amazing space to showcase our efforts, share our cultures, and perform for all to enjoy. I thoroughly enjoyed it!, it wasn’t just about being there, but the taking part that made it feel so special for everyone.”

- Angie, Food Trader (1st time at the Festival)



“This event brought us Mental Well-being and Joy. This festival created lasting value by strengthening community identity, boosting the local economy, and enhancing emotional well-being”

- Ukrainian trader

“It provides an opportunity to meet new people, support local businesses and talented artists, and enjoy cultural activities with family and friends. It also helps create a sense of belonging.”

- Sana, Textiles workshop lead



“For me, the benefit of these events is seeing how much we can learn from one another. Every culture brings something wonderful to the table, and together, we can build a much better, more connected world.”

- Flamenco performer



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



Care & Repair Festival

SDG 11 : Sustainable Cities

SDG 15 : Life on Land

During the Easter holidays, we partnered with Bristol BID’s Love Broadmead campaign and John Wesley New Room to host 2 weeks of workshops, talks and events on repair and connecting with nature, in Sparks.

Hundreds of people of all ages got hands-on with workshops, creative activities and shared experiences that championed sustainability, skills-sharing and community connection. This included jewellery, clothing and bike repair workshops, a nature trail, and creative sessions for all ages.

The programme also featured storytelling, crafts and interactive exhibitions exploring Broadmead’s past, present and future, giving people the chance to learn new repair and upcycling skills while reconnecting with the city centre.



Community Threads

SDG 3 : Health and Wellbeing
SDG 8 : Decent work

We have been delighted to provide funding support and a meeting space within Sparks for this sewing community group for migrant and refugee women.

This year we were able to provide more space in Sparks for the group so that mothers, who had not been able to come before, could bring their pre-school children.

SDG 10 : Reduced Inequalities
SDG 13 : Climate Action



Aims of the group



Provide a welcoming and safe space for migrant women.



Teach sewing and textile upcycling using sustainable and donated materials.



Foster social connections and emotional support within the group.



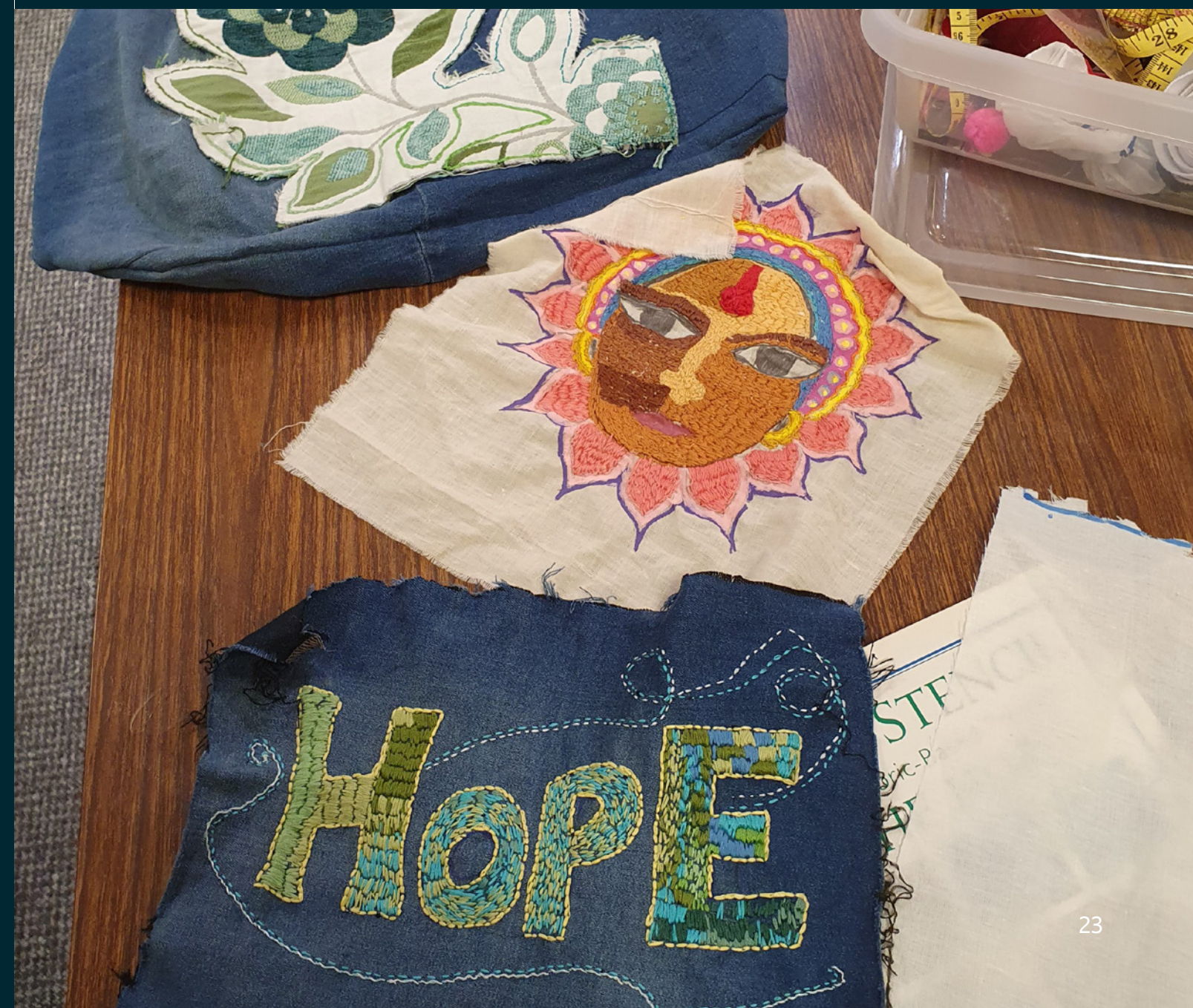
Enable skill-building that can lead to income-generating opportunities.



Encourage participants to express their creativity and identity through fashion.

Outcomes

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 – The group created a dress to exhibit at the Cultural Festival Fashion Show – seeing their work on public display was a real boost to the women





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.

Bonica, Youth Volunteer at Sparks International Cultural Festival – “This experience has genuinely given me so much more confidence in a public facing environment with such a diverse audience, and a genuine chance to meet so many talented and lovely people. Thank you so much for organising and for Sparks to provide an umbrella for people to connect, especially in times of uncertainty.”

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.

60 people have been inducted as Sparks volunteers this year. We are so grateful that 949 people have volunteered 3175 hours of their time.

Placements, internships and work experience

We’ve hosted a total of 295 students on university placements, internships and work experience placements over the past year. Their contributions have ranged from reviewing our offer to young people, to surveying visitors and community members, 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.

We have managed work placements in Sparks for 17 SEN students aged 18-20 from both City of Bristol College and SGS College. These placements give students with special educational needs and disabilities valuable work experience.

69% SEN students reported increased confidence as a result of their time at Sparks, 49% a better understanding of sustainability and 46% increased skills for work.



Conclusion and Looking Ahead

This year has been exhilarating for our charity. In a year that has seen huge political upheaval, societal divisions and severe climate change impacts, our work to promote climate action and cultural understanding is more vital than ever. It has been fulfilling to develop existing projects with partners such as Sparks and Earth Day Heroes, as well as exciting to launch our Better Uniforms Campaign as a direct response to parent and student requests.

We are so grateful for the funding support we have received from a range of local and national trusts and foundations, but the fundraising landscape is becoming harder. Next year we plan to pivot to build more partnerships with like-minded businesses and other organisations to achieve our aims, to reduce our reliance on charitable funding and make our charity more resilient.

We remain so proud of our small but mighty team – reviewing the year to see what 9 part-time team members can achieve is remarkable, and a great testament to the skill and dedication of the GGC team.

Follow our progress www.globalgoalscentre.org

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



Thanks to all our sponsors and funders this year





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