

**EMBARGOED UNTIL**

**09:00 EDT / 14:00 BST, FRIDAY 25 APRIL 2025**

**Solar-powered modular housing for refugees, ocean-waste textiles and a device revolutionising music for the Deaf community among winners of The Swarovski Foundation's Creatives for Our Future programme**

- **The Swarovski Foundation**, in collaboration with the **United Nations Office for Partnerships**, announces six winners of its Creatives for Our Future programme, selected from nearly 500 applicants across 60+ countries.
- Each winner will receive a grant, along with tailored mentorship, educational support, and access to an influential global network.
- The winning projects, spanning four continents, tackle pressing social and environmental challenges—from sustainable refugee housing to bio-integrated architecture and regenerative textile production.

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**New York, 24 April** – Eco-friendly housing solutions for refugee camps, textiles made from ocean waste by local fishermen and a device making music more accessible for the Deaf community are just three among the six winning projects of the **Creatives for Our Future** programme, an initiative by the **Swarovski Foundation** in partnership with the **United Nations Office for Partnerships**.

Now in its fourth year, the programme identifies and supports the next generation of creative innovators driving sustainable solutions across architecture, fashion, circular design, community development, product design, and technology. The 2025 winners were chosen from 487 applicants and announced at a reception at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

**Jakhya Rahman-Corey**, Director of the Swarovski Foundation, praised the winners, stating: *"Each year, I am inspired by the remarkable creativity and vision of these young innovators. Their groundbreaking solutions demonstrate the transformative power of creativity in tackling global challenges. Through the Creatives for Our Future programme, we are committed to nurturing the next generation of talent, providing them with the tools, education, and support needed to turn their ideas into impactful solutions."*

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At the event, **Annemarie Hou**, Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Partnerships, highlighted the importance of investing in young creative leaders:

*"Supporting young people with the tools to create a sustainable world is more important than ever. They bring fresh ideas, hope, and drive change for a better future. We are proud to support these innovators grow their projects and work towards the Sustainable Development Goals."*

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## The 2025 Winners:

### **Blossom Eromsele**, 23, Nigeria – **AllSpace Modular Home**: Sustainable Refugee Housing

Blossom has developed the AllSpace Modular Home, a low-cost, solar-powered housing solution designed for refugee camps. Inspired by traditional African huts, the structures are made from recycled materials, providing a sustainable and scalable alternative for displaced communities.

### **Moemen Sobh**, 24, Egypt – **Visenleer**: Ocean Waste Textiles

Through Visenleer, Moemen is transforming ocean waste into sustainable textiles with zero carbon emissions. His community-focused social enterprise trains local fishermen and artisans in Egypt to convert discarded marine waste into eco-friendly fabrics, empowering coastal communities and promoting sustainable livelihoods.

### **Azra Firmansyah**, 23, Indonesia – **Svaika**: Music Accessibility for the Deaf

Azra's wearable device, Svaika, enables Deaf individuals to experience music by translating auditory information into tactile sensations. The device allows users to feel rhythm and beats through touch, creating an inclusive musical experience tailored to the Deaf community.

### **Aurelie Fontan**, 29, United Kingdom – **Regen Ink**: Regenerative Textile Dyes

Aurelie's Regen Ink project cultivates plants on polluted land to produce natural, non-toxic dyes and pigments. Her goal is to create biodegradable, commercially viable textile print pastes that meet industry standards, reducing reliance on chemical dyes.

### **Barimah Asare**, 21, United States – **Project Hivemind**: Sustainable Tech Solutions

Barimah has developed an external graphics card enclosure (eGPU) that extends the lifespan of laptops by up to three years, reducing e-waste. The device offers a cost-effective alternative to replacing outdated hardware, promoting a circular economy in consumer electronics.

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**Mangesh Kurund**, 29, India – ***Bio-Integrated Cladding** for Greener Cities*

Mangesh's bio-cladding system uses lightweight tiles embedded with water reservoirs to cultivate algae and moss, mimicking natural water management processes. This living cladding purifies air, sequesters carbon, and reduces urban heat, contributing to healthier, greener cities.

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Since its launch in 2021, the Creatives for Our Future programme has received nearly 2,000 applications from over 90 countries, underscoring its growing global impact. The 2025 cohort represents the extraordinary potential of creativity to address critical global challenges—from combating e-waste and pollution to promoting inclusivity and sustainable urban development.

Alongside the €20,000 grant, the winners will benefit from bespoke mentorship, access to industry experts, and a global support network to scale their projects and accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Swarovski Foundation was established in 2013 to foster positive social and environmental impact. Through partnerships and programmes, it supports initiatives focused on education, human empowerment, and sustainability, aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

As the global gateway to the United Nations, the UN Office for Partnerships convenes, advises and co-creates essential partnerships, programmes and content as well as manages catalytic funding to accelerate solutions to keep the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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**For media inquiries or to arrange interviews with the winners, please contact:**

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# Creatives for our Future 2025 Press Release

## NOTES TO EDITORS

Please see a media pack [here](#) which contains:

- **Full biographies of the 2025 cohort members, including quotes**
- **Pictures of the cohort members and their projects**
- **Pictures from the reception (which will be updated on 25th April)**
- **Biographies of the advocates for 2025, including but not limited to:**
  - Alexis Nasard (Switzerland), CEO of Swarovski
  - Giovanna Engelbert (Switzerland), Global Creative Director of Swarovski
  - Greg Lynn (United States), Architect & Founder of Greg Lynn FORM office
  - Charlotte McCurdy (United States), Designer and Researcher
  - Shoshana Stewart (Jordan), President of Turquoise Mountain
  - Anyango Mpinga (Kenya), Designer, Cultural Innovator and Social Activist
  - Linda Kamau (Kenya), Founder & Executive Director of AkiraChix
  - Fernanda Simon (Brazil), Activist and Executive Director of the Fashion Revolution Brazil Institute
  - Pasquale Coppolella (United Kingdom), Chief Operating Officer and Chief Sustainability Office of Stella McCartney
  - Lucie Brigham (United States), Chief of Office of the United Nations Office for Partnerships

**The below spokespeople are available for interviews:**

- 2025 cohort members:
  - Blossom Eromsele (Nigeria)
  - Moemen Sobh (Egypt)
  - Aurelie Fontan (United Kingdom)
  - Barimah Asare (United States)
  - Azra Firmansyah (Indonesia)
  - Mangesh Kurund (India)
- We're also happy to offer a Swarovski Foundation representative, a United Nations Office For Partnerships representative and a programme advocate for an interview so please get in touch if this is of interest to you.

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## Key Creatives for Our Future Programme Dates:

- **24 April 2025** - Cohort announced at the United Nations Headquarters in New York
- **May 2025** - Following reception, grants awarded, mentors paired, and educational masterclasses begin online
- **October 2025** - Mid-programme check-in and virtual roundtable event with alumni
- **April 2026** - Online graduation

## ABOUT THE SWAROVSKI FOUNDATION

Established in 2013, the Swarovski Foundation brings focus to Swarovski's historical commitment to philanthropy by supporting charitable organisations and initiatives to achieve positive social and environmental impact.

The Swarovski Foundation exists to promote sustainable livelihoods through education to reduce inequality. In the last decade, the Swarovski Foundation has supported over 2 million people in 93 countries, partnering with 85 organisations and providing critical support following 26 global emergencies.

Focusing on three key areas - Equity, Creativity and Water – the Swarovski Foundation drives impact through its signature initiatives: Creatives For Our Future, Waterschool and the Action Fund. Through these initiatives, the Swarovski Foundation advances the Sustainable Development Goals, working alongside partners and communities to create lasting change.

**To find out more, visit: [swarovskifoundation.org](https://swarovskifoundation.org)**

## ABOUT CREATIVES FOR OUR FUTURE PROGRAMME

Swarovski Foundation Creatives for Our Future is a global education and grant programme designed in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Partnerships to identify and accelerate the next generation of creatives in sustainable development.

The programme is open to creatives worldwide aged 21 to 30 at the time of application from areas such as fashion, design, art, architecture, and engineering. Applicants should be working on a project or product that uses creativity to accelerate awareness, technology, or solutions to drive progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

Successful participants will receive financial support worth €20,000 paired with an education programme, one-on-one mentorship, masterclasses, network connections, and industry event

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access. The programme equips creatives with the education, tools, and relationships to make their groundbreaking ideas a reality.

The impact vision for our Creatives for Our Future programme is to empower young, conscious creatives to make a sustainable difference through their innovative professional practices. By supporting a select group of emerging change-makers across the world to push their work further, we provide them with the resources they need to take vital steps in their careers that advance their creative practices toward global sustainable development.

**To find out more, visit: [creatives.swarovskifoundation.org](https://creatives.swarovskifoundation.org)**

## **ABOUT UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR PARTNERSHIPS**

As the global gateway to the United Nations, the UN Office for Partnerships convenes, advises and co-creates essential partnerships, programmes and content as well as manages catalytic funding to accelerate solutions to keep the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals.

**To find out more, visit: <https://unpartnerships.un.org/>**

## **ABOUT THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

**To find out more visit: [sdgs.un.org/goals](https://sdgs.un.org/goals)**