



# SWAROVSKI FOUNDATION

CREATIVES FOR OUR FUTURE

## **Swarovski Foundation looking for next generation of creative leaders in sustainability with €20,000 grant**

- The Swarovski Foundation's Creatives for Our Future programme, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Partnerships, is now accepting applications from young creatives accelerating sustainable development.
- From fashion, to art, to engineering, the programme has supported 21 sustainable innovation projects to date.
- Successful candidates will secure a grant of €20,000 each, along with a training programme including one-on-one mentorship and industry networking opportunities.

The Creatives for Our Future programme, which seeks to identify and accelerate the next generation of creative leaders in sustainability, is now open for applications until 15th October 2024. The programme is run by the Swarovski Foundation in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Partnership and offers winners mentorship from industry leaders and a €20,000 fund.

The programme is open to young creatives worldwide, aged 21 to 30, from a multitude of disciplines including fashion, design, art, architecture, and engineering. Successful applicants should be working on an original project or product that uses the creative process to drive awareness, technology or solutions for sustainable development and drives progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals set out by the United Nations.

To date, the programme has supported 21 projects in innovative design, founded and initiated by young creatives, who have ground-breaking ideas for addressing the world's sustainability and development challenges. The programme has enabled them to develop and scale their projects - either with funds to build on their research, or through mentorship and networking opportunities to unlock new directions.

Previous winners say the programme is crucial to their success. Joshua Ichor, a previous cohort member of the programme said, "The Swarovski Foundation's support and belief in me has been pivotal in ensuring I can reach as many people as possible and provide clean water kiosks within these communities. Without them, I wouldn't have been able to expand my project into 2 more countries".

Noemi Florea, a 2022 cohort member said, "Thanks to the Creatives for Our Future programme, I've been able to scale my water treatment solution, Cycleau, and see it come to life in a public installation on Governors Island in New York City, where I can continue to test and develop it."

### **Joshua Ichor (Nigeria)**

Joshua developed a hand pump monitoring system and built a clean water kiosk for rural communities in sub-Saharan Africa. His efforts have increased communal access to clean water, which is crucial in regions that lack this basic necessity. His clean water kiosk has supplied more than 50,000 litres of clean water to community members, enabling over 10,000 people in sub-Saharan Africa to access clean water every day.

Thanks to the Creatives for Our Future programme, he has now been able to expand into Kenya and Uganda and hopes to install 50 new water monitoring systems before the end of the year. As a result of his work, Joshua was featured in a documentary film produced by BBC StoryWorks which highlights how his system came to be developed, and the way that the programme helped to support him in advancing his project.

### **Noemi Florea (United States) - Cycleau**

Noemi is the founder of LÆRO, a multidisciplinary design studio, and creator of Cycleau, a unique water management system that recycles grey water into drinking water. Her project has been installed on Governors Island in New York City, giving visitors an opportunity to use and interact with the compact water treatment devices to see how they might fit in their own homes. Noemi's solution has earned her recognition as a MIT Solv[ED] Youth Innovator in 2023. Through the mentoring and funding offered by the programme, she continues to develop the system to reduce water pollution and promote water reuse technology.

### **Namra Khalid (Pakistan) - Karachi Cartography**

Namra Khalid is repatriating historic maps of Pakistan from Western countries to improve socio-climatic planning in her home country. Namra, founder of Karachi Cartography, was recognised for her efforts in finding innovative solutions to the acute impacts of climate change that Pakistan was facing, namely flooding and heatwaves.

Thanks to the funding the programme offered, as well as industry networking opportunities, Namra has collected over 1,500 maps for Karachi Cartography's map repository and is expecting another 3,500 to be returned. She has also been able to create the first-ever conceptual map of Karachi's pre-human environment, which will serve as a baseline for future environmental assessments and promote sustainable urban planning that will increase resilience against climate change.

### **Aradhita Parasrampurua (United States) - Cellsense**

The Creatives for Our Future programme was a launch pad for Aradhita who developed a proprietary method of transforming algae and cellulose into sustainable and scalable bio-embellishments aimed at reducing microplastic pollution and carbon emissions while eliminating the use of toxic materials and dyes in the fashion industry. After being selected as a winner in 2023, Aradhita set up her biomaterials company, Cellsense. The visibility and mentorship provided by the Swarovski Foundation enabled Aradhita to produce

embellishments for sustainable fashion designer, Ian Allen Greer, for a capsule collection that was exhibited at the United Nations headquarters; Indian jewellery designer, Roma Narsinghani, which initially sold out 3000 pieces and has since resulted in four repeat orders; and French-Peruvian jewellery brand, NPOMME, to create 50,000 beads in 10 days.

### **Stanley Anigbogu (Nigeria) - LightEd**

Growing up in Nigeria, Stanley regularly had to study by candlelight, which resulted in eye infections from the harmful fumes. To address this problem, he developed an eco-friendly energy solution by reusing electronic waste and plastic bottles to provide clean energy and light sources for marginalised groups.

Through the Creatives for Our Future programme, Stanley has built a local AVATAR station in Nigeria, a solar-powered hub crafted from recycled shipping containers, known as the 'AVATAR Station'. The station acts as a community hub which educates students and local residents about climate change and the benefits of renewable energy, as well as a community charging station where residents can recharge their devices. Stanley has also now launched his own curriculum, the Eco Heroes programme. The programme not only teaches children about renewable energy but includes mentorship from global sustainability experts and culminates in students undertaking projects that address real-world issues and includes hands-on workshops where children get to build their own solar-powered devices.

**Jakhya Rahman-Corey, Director of the Swarovski Foundation said:**

“Now in its fourth year, we are excited to open applications to the Swarovski Foundation Creatives for Our Future programme and nurture the next generation of inspiring talent.

“The Swarovski Foundation’s mission is to promote sustainable livelihoods through education to reduce inequality. With the Creatives for Our Future programme, we can harness this through young creative talent seeking to break innovative ground and spearhead new approaches and ideas in sustainable development.

“Having so far received more than 1500 applications from 92 countries, and supported 21 cohort members, it showcases that creativity has the power to solve global challenges and achieve sustainability goals. The Swarovski Foundation is looking forward to welcoming this year’s applications to turn their ideas into reality through access to education, resources, and a vital support network”.

**Annemarie Hou, Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Partnerships** states: “We need young talents, from fashion to engineering, to use their creativity to tackle sustainable development challenges. With mentorship, industry connections, and funding, these young people are turning obstacles into opportunities and driving real progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals. Through the Creatives for Our Future programme, we are fostering the next generation of leaders.”

This year, six successful applicants will receive financial support of €20,000, along with an education programme in collaboration with top international institutions, tailored one-on-one mentorship, and industry networking opportunities to advance their innovation and career.

Entries for this year's programme are open from the 3rd September 2024 until 15th October 2024 (23:59 pm BST) at [www.sfcreatives.org](http://www.sfcreatives.org). Successful applicants will be notified and announced publicly in April 2025 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

For more information, or for application submissions visit [www.sfcreatives.org](http://www.sfcreatives.org).

The below spokespeople are available for interview:

- Jakhya Rahman-Corey, Director of Swarovski Foundation
- Cohort members from previous years, including:
  - Joshua Ichor (Nigeria), CFOF 2022/23 alumnus
  - Noemi Florea (United States), CFOF 2022/23 alumna
  - Namra Khalid (Pakistan), CFOF 2023/24 alumna
  - Aradhita Parasrampurua (United States), CFOF 2022/23 alumna
  - Stanley Anigbogu (Nigeria), CFOF 2023/24 alumnus

**-ENDS-**

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

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## KEY PROGRAMME DATES:

- **3rd September 2024** - Applications open
- **10th and 25th September 2024** - Webinars
  - Tuesday 10th September at 10am EDT / 3pm BST / 4pm CET
  - Tuesday 10th September at 1pm PDT / 4pm EST / 9pm BST/ 10pm CET
  - Thursday 26th September at 9am EDT / 2pm BST / 3pm CET
  - Thursday 26th September at 12pmPDT / 3pm EDT / 8pm BST / 9pm CET
- **15th October 2024** - Applications close
- **January 2025** - Cohort selected and informed
- **April 2025** - Cohort publicly announced in New York
- **May 2025** - Grants awarded, mentors paired and educational masterclasses begin
- **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 initiatives to achieve positive social and environmental impact whilst driving progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Its mission strives to promote sustainable livelihoods through education to reduce inequality by supporting initiatives that focus on Equity, Water, and Creativity, and through two signature programmes Waterschool and Creatives for Our Future.

**[swarovskifoundation.org](https://swarovskifoundation.org)**

## ABOUT CREATIVES FOR OUR FUTURE

Creatives for Our Future builds on the Swarovski Foundation's commitment to advance creative talent to drive positive change through collaborations addressing social and environmental issues. The cornerstone of the Swarovski Foundation's work is the Sustainable Development Goals set out by the United Nations, in turn these goals are the anchor for Creatives for Our Future.

The programme leverages the Swarovski Foundation's position to combine investment and education with a stakeholder network crossing borders and industries. It harnesses young creatives' unique critical thinking and problem-solving abilities in this pivotal era. Creative expression is a vehicle for evolution – not only for concepts and products but also for changes in thinking and behaviour.

**To find out more, visit: [sfcreatives.org](http://sfcreatives.org)**

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

The United Nations Office for Partnerships is your global gateway to connect and co-create partnerships to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals. UN Partnerships seeks to mobilise everyone, everywhere; demand ambition and accountability to act now to deliver the SDGs. UN Partnerships works globally, regionally and in countries—to transform the world through SDG partnerships—for people and for the planet.

### **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](http://sdgs.un.org/goals)**