

**Swarovski Foundation seeking young innovators  
with sustainable designs for our future**

- Swarovski Foundation, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Partnerships, is seeking young creatives worldwide, working on a project/product that uses the creative process to accelerate awareness, technology, or solutions for sustainable development
- Six successful applicants will secure €20,000, paired with an education program including one-on-one mentorship and industry networking opportunities
- Entries must be aged 21 - 30, from across fields such as fashion, design, art, architecture and engineering and applications close 27 June 2023

Creative young people around the world have been invited to apply for a €20,000 grant, part of the Swarovski Foundation Creatives for Our Future program, designed in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Partnerships to identify and accelerate the next generation of creative leaders in sustainability.

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

Previous successful applicants include:

**Sejal Budholiya**, a 22-year old from Bengaluru in India who, after graduating from the Creatives for Our Future program, collaborated with another program alumna, Polish graphic designer Agnieszka Doczynska, to raise awareness about women's health and menstruation by creating an open-source educational kit called Menstrupedia.

**Joshua Ichor**, a 22-year old from Nigeria, survived a severe Thyroid infection which was caused by contaminated water use. With the help of Creatives for Our Future, Joshua developed a hand pump monitoring system and built a clean water kiosk for his communities.

**Aradhita Parasrampur**, a 24-year old from New York, has taken her algae-based fashion/textile embellishment to the next level through the Creatives for Our Future program by setting up her algae-cellulose beading company, promoting the use of Bio Embellishment - which are embellishments made from a range of biopolymers and natural pigment - in the fashion industry and biodegradable beads in the cosmetic industry to reduce microplastic pollution and carbon emissions.

This year, six successful applicants will receive financial support of €20,000, along with an education program 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 program are now open until 27 June 2023 (23:59 pm BST) at [www.sfcreatives.org](http://www.sfcreatives.org). Successful applicants will be notified and announced publicly in September 2023, at a reception hosted at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

**Marisa Schiestl-Swarovski, Chair of the Swarovski Foundation** said:

"The Swarovski Foundation believes education is the most valuable gift we can give back to the world. Our mission is to promote sustainable livelihoods through education to reduce inequality.

"This is the third year we've run Creatives for Our Future - having so far helped 15 successful applicants with the skills, tools and opportunities to develop their ground-breaking ideas and turn them into reality.

"We believe in the power of young creatives to lead sustainable development by unlocking innovative new approaches and trying to draw in a diverse pool of applicants globally to bring new voices and perspectives to the creative process.

"Having received over 600 submissions from 90 countries in the past 2 years we're excited to see what this year's applicants have to offer".

**Annemarie Hou, Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Partnerships** states:

"It's the midpoint of the Sustainable Development Goals, and we're running behind. To turn things around, we need young, creative talents to reimagine a winning strategy, and design a better future for all."

For more information visit [www.sfcreatives.org](http://www.sfcreatives.org).

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### KEY PROGRAM DATES:

- **27 June 2023** – Application deadline
- **August 2023** – Cohort selected and notified
- **Early September 2023** – Grants awarded and mentors paired
- **Mid-September 2023** – Cohort travel to New York for orientation and reception
- **October 2023** – Online education programs and mentorship begins
- **December 2023** – Mid-program check-in
- **March 2024** – Virtual roundtable with creative network
- **April 2024** – 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 programs Waterschool and Creatives for Our Future.

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

### **ABOUT SWAROVSKI FOUNDATION 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 17 Sustainable Development Goals set out by the United Nations, in turn these goals are the anchor for Creatives for Our Future.

The program 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.

**[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. [sdgs.un.org/goals](https://sdgs.un.org/goals)

### **ABOUT SEJAL BUDHOLIYA**

Sejal co-founded Neysa, a performing arts initiative aimed at young people from underprivileged backgrounds and inventor of a modular rainwater harvesting system; a technique for filtering rainwater using corncobs; and Gaia, a tool to ease the logistics of changing sanitary products during menstruation. After graduating the program, Sejal also worked with fellow alumna, Yara Ewida, to create the Universal Temporary House - a foldable emergency shelter equipped with a water filtration system for use in refugee camps.

### **ABOUT JOSHUA ICHOR**

Joshua's clean water kiosk has been supplying 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.

### **ABOUT ARADHITA PARASRAMPURIA**

She was a panellist in a discussion hosted by the United Nations Office for Partnerships and Conscious Fashion and Lifestyle Network, as a part of the United Nations 2023 Water Conference, where she advocated for innovative approaches and materials to reduce non-biodegradable waste and water pollution. Following her phenomenal talk she has already been approached by multiple fashion brands for potential algae-based embellishment orders and received a special mention in India's Forbes 30 under 30 in the Climate Change Category.