

EDUCATION

## Swarovski launches sustainability initiative in partnership with the UN

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*Young creatives will be selected in April to participate in Swarovski Foundation's sustainability grant program. Image credit: Swarovski Foundation*

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Austrian crystal and jewelry designer Swarovski is teaming up with the United Nations Office for Partnerships to identify and accelerate the next generation of creative leaders in sustainability.

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The Swarovski Foundation Institute: Creatives for Our Future global grant program will begin with a four-week open call to all creatives worldwide, ages 18 to 25, from the fashion, design, art, architecture, science, technology and engineering fields. The Swarovski Foundation aims to draw in a diverse pool of applicants from across the globe and bring new voices and perspectives to the creative process.

"This ground-breaking program will empower the next generation of creative talent to unlock innovative new approaches to our global sustainability challenges and drive progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals," said Nadja Swarovski, member of the Swarovski executive board and chairperson of the Swarovski Foundation, in a statement.

### Creatives for Our Future

Successful applicants will have a keen interest in, demonstration of or exemplary potential to use the creative process to accelerate awareness, technologies or solutions for sustainable development.

### *Swarovski Foundation Institute: Creatives for Our Future*

Selected participants will receive financial support to further their practice and design new pathways for the future. The funding is paired with an educational program in collaboration with international institutions, tailored mentorship and industry networking connections with guidance from the Swarovski Foundation.

Each participating mentor will represent the broadest range of creative disciplines from fashion and art to technology and science.

Throughout the program, participants will be provided support to develop the innovations and practices outlined in their applications and drive progress toward the Decade of Action to Deliver the **Sustainable Development Goals**

(SDGs).

Applications are now being accepted through April 9, 2021. Selected participants and a complete list of mentors and teachers will be announced on April 21 to coincide with UN World Creativity and Innovation Day.

In November 2019, Swarovski announced its sponsorship of a Parsons School studio program that reimagined the future of circular fashion design, materiality and sustainability. The course is taught as part of Parsons' undergraduate "Fashion Design Systems & Society" and "Materiality" programs to develop the next generation of conscious fashion designers ([see story](#)).

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