

EDUCATION

Swarovski, United Nations push 'Creative For Our Future' program

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Beneficiaries of The Swarovski Foundation's flagship philanthropic venture will receive a stipend worth more than \$20,000. Image credit: The Swarovski Foundation/Aradhita Parasrampuria

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Austrian crystal and jewelry designer Swarovski is supporting young innovators.

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The company's philanthropic arm is boosting "Creative for Our Future," a grant program open to leaders with sustainable development solutions. Executed in partnership with the United Nations, interested parties aged 21 to 30 may enter to receive mentorship, networking opportunities and a grant of more than \$20,000. The Swarovski Foundation is accepting applications now through June 27 at www.sfcreatives.org.

"The Swarovski Foundation believes education is the most valuable gift we can give back to the world," said Marisa Schiestl-Swarovski, chair at the [Swarovski Foundation](http://www.swarovskifoundation.com), in a statement.

"Our mission is to promote sustainable livelihoods through education to reduce inequality," Ms. Schiestl-Swarovski said. "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 groundbreaking ideas and turn them into reality."

Going for green

Developed alongside the United Nations Office for Partnerships, Swarovski Foundation's global effort will award six talents in total.

Centered on the power of the creative process, entrants must showcase original ideas that intentionally approach green development.



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Launched in 2021 ([see story](#)), Creatives for Our Future supports youth working across fields such as art, design, engineering, fashion and architecture with projects that "accelerate awareness, technology or solutions for sustainable development and drive progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals set out by the United Nations," according to the brand.

Aside from financial support, those selected for the program will be enrolled in online courses beginning October 2023, created in collaboration with educational institutions around the world. The framework includes individualized mentorship and network-building opportunities.

Winners will be notified in August 2023, with grants going out by the end of the year, preceding an orientation and reception at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.

Graduation from the "Creative for Our Future" program will take place in the spring of 2024.

"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," said Ms. Schiestl-Swarovski, in a statement.

"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."

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