

# The Kartik Foundation

**NEWSLETTER** | Summer/Autumn 2023

Our Foundation has had a busy few months, as our initiatives continue to grow and expand. As we get ready to embark on an exciting 4<sup>th</sup> year of our charity, here is a look back to what's happened recently!

## Initiatives

We are currently focused on our four core initiatives:

- ReFAB
- voxpod
- WriteSpace
- Access Interns

We also concluded our support to the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, as our focus has currently moved from wildlife & nature, to allow for an expansion of our initiatives that focus on people in disadvantaged communities. We are very proud to have supported such a wonderful trust and wish them their continued success for the future!

## Team

We are delighted to welcome Yeliz Kurt, as an executive assistant within the ReFAB team to support its many operational activities.

## News

We are pleased to announce our new charity website is now live! Please visit us at [www.kartikfoundation.org](http://www.kartikfoundation.org) and let us know what you think. A heartfelt thanks to those whose time & effort went into making our new website a reality.

Also a congrats to Tushar, one of our Trustees, for joining the prestigious [Board Street Ward Club](#)! The club promotes civic & social links within the square mile of London City.

## Well-wishers

Finally we would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who supports us, in terms of time, money, and effort.

**None of this would be possible without you!**



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## ReFAB

ReFAB is our way of finding meaning & delight in the age of waste. Our bespoke, multi-use products are made from designer “waste” fabrics by women from disadvantaged backgrounds. To date, we’ve upcycled over 700kg of fabric creating 800+ products and upskilled over 40 women and the numbers keep growing.

Our exciting news from the past few months is that our dedicated ReFAB website is now live! All our beautiful products for sale are listed here: [www.refabstudio.org](http://www.refabstudio.org)  
Thank you to the amazing team who keep this up & running!

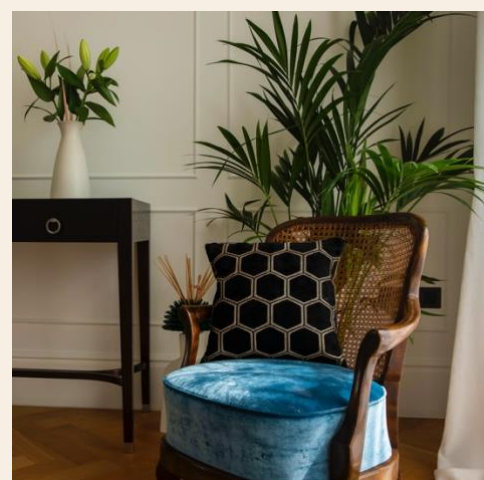
We have just launched the new winter collections, so be sure to have a browse & shop stylishly and sustainably for your holiday gifts this year!

In a wonderful collaboration with The National Theatre, we saved over 20 sets of exquisite curtains (some 600 kgs!) from a historic landmark in London and ensured they were donated free of charge to the NT, for their use on future historical productions. We are just overjoyed that these beautiful Heritage curtains were saved from ending up in the tip and will have a new lease of life!

ReFAB is also excited to announce we have won a grant from the Patricia May Memorial Fund via The Arts Society. This prestigious grant will be used for a specific upskilling project planned for the spring of 2024 in coordination with the NIWBH (Network of International Women for Brighton & Hove).

Lastly, if you want to see any of our gorgeous items in person, come to this festive holiday pop-up and look for our stand!

- Sun 10<sup>th</sup> Dec at the Italian Christmas Market hosted by Il Circolo, at Chelsea Old Town Hall, King’s Road, London SW3 5EE, from 10:30 to 17:30.



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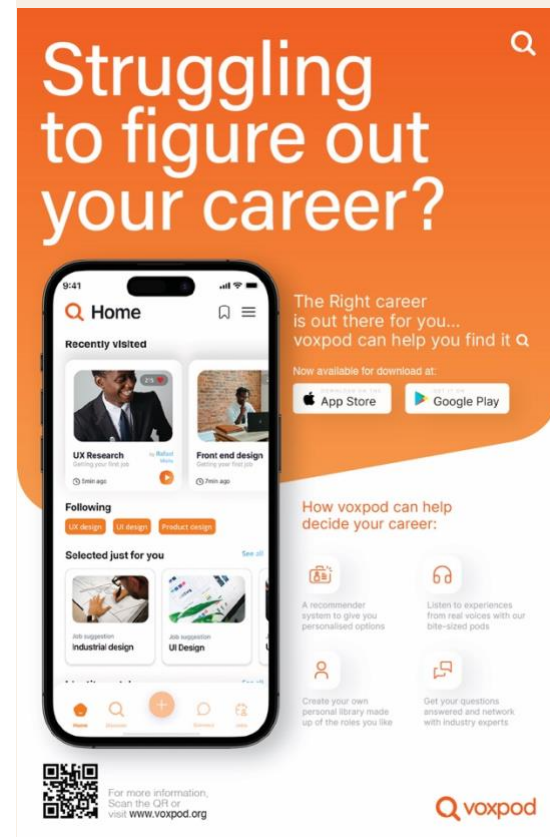
## **voxpod**

VoxPod is an innovative career exploration app designed to empower young individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, guiding them through the complex landscape of career opportunities. VoxPod steps in to help students and recent graduates who, often overwhelmed by a multitude of career choices, lack personalized guidance.

Without adequate direction, these young individuals frequently find themselves applying indiscriminately to roles that are not a good fit, leading to a disheartening cycle of rejections. VoxPod's mission is to break this cycle by providing comprehensive support at every stage of their career journey – from initial discovery and exploration, to preparation, and finally, successful application.

Our partnership with Imperial College Business School in conducting an Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) study has been a cornerstone in understanding the dynamics at play in universities and workplaces regarding social mobility. This collaborative study involved extensive interviews with 40 employers and universities, enriched by in-depth secondary research. The findings have not only affirmed VoxPod's value proposition but have also highlighted critical areas where intervention is needed to boost social mobility in the UK. The results of this study, shared with participating stakeholders, have garnered overwhelmingly positive feedback.

We are excited to announce that the first version of VoxPod is nearing completion. This milestone brings us one step closer to our goal of offering a transformative tool for career development. Soon, we will be initiating the testing phase with our partners, a significant leap towards making this vision a reality.



The advertisement features a large orange header with the text "Struggling to figure out your career?" in white. Below this, a smartphone displays the VoxPod app interface, showing sections like "Recently visited" with cards for "UX Research" and "Front end design", and "Following" with "UX design" and "Product design". It also shows "Selected just for you" with "Industrial design" and "UI Design". To the right of the phone, text says "The Right career is out there for you... voxpod can help you find it" and "Now available for download at: App Store, Google Play". Below this, a section titled "How voxpod can help decide your career:" lists four features: "A recommender system to give you personalised options", "Listen to experiences from real voices with our bite-sized pods", "Create your own personal library made up of the roles you like", and "Get your questions answered and network with industry experts". At the bottom left is a QR code with the text "For more information, Scan the QR or visit: www.voxpod.org". The VoxPod logo is at the bottom right.

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## WriteSpace

WriteSpace is a creative writing collaboration that launched in 2021 between Westminster School, twenty platform non-fee-paying schools and us. Students from public & private schools sit together to listen, learn, and create their own work across all genres of literature.

We are excited that not only does our initial program continue but we are finalising plans to expand our partnership going into the 2024-2025 academic year.

On 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023, the fourth guest speaker session was led by Todd Gallicano. A screenwriter, film producer, and the author of the acclaimed Sam London Adventure series, Mr. Gallicano's latest script *Best.Christmas.Ever.* was just released on Netflix. Focused on creating the foundation of a great story, how to make great characters, and plot a story outline, his session was a huge hit amongst the students!

The 2024 spring/summer term speaker line-up looks to be just as exciting as the past years, with sessions planned for Becky Wait, Susannah Hart, and Anjana Ahuja to led discussions on creativity, poetry, and journalism respectively.

The Kartik Foundation is also now partnering with the National Theatre, with the NT joining the Sept 2024 WriteSpace session at Westminster, during which a WriteSpace sponsored New Views programme for Platform students in the 2024-2025 academic year will be promoted. New Views is a year-long in-school playwriting programme for UK students aged 14-19. A professional playwright is paired with each school, who then supports the students to write their own 30-min plays. The NT has a long history of promoting writing amongst students and we are very excited to now join them in these endeavours!



Image credited to Todd Gallicano

**National Theatre x  
The Kartik Foundation**

**WriteSpace and  
New Views**



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## Access Interns

Access Interns is a new initiative by Variety, the Children's Charity, in collaboration with The Kartik Foundation, to help young people with disabilities access hands-on experience across a range of industries to help them gain skills, knowledge, and build confidence and self-esteem. This experience will provide pathways to employment opportunities so they can build an independent future.

So far since launching in late 2022, we have placed three interns, aged 16-17 years old, in positions with Nationwide, SPPARC Architects, and Shooting Starz.

One of the interns, RB, states *"I found the hands-on experience and mentorship to be the most beneficial aspects of the internship program. Yes, I would recommend the Access Interns internship to other students as it was an exciting and an interesting experience for me. I got to learn new skills, and it was enjoyable."*

Have a look at our Access Interns page on our website, to read further testimonials and watch an interview with one of the interns.

We look forward to building upon this successful start in the coming year!



Our supporters