

PRESS RELEASE
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THE DESIGN COUNCIL PRESENTS DESIGN FOR PLANET FESTIVAL

The Design Council announces the return of its award-winning Design for Planet Festival - supporting the UK's 1.97 million-strong design community to address the climate emergency

The 2022 hybrid festival will take place at Northumbria University, Newcastle, from Tuesday 8 November – Wednesday 9 November 2022, to coincide with COP27, providing a series of virtual events and live broadcasts

This year's theme of **ACTION** will help designers make their sustainability plans a reality, with free workshops, tools and panel talks

Speakers to include Biologist and Wildlife Film Maker, *Patrick Aryee*, Circular Fashion Designer *Phoebe English*, Model and Ecologist *Zinnia Kumar*, Architect and Systems Thinker *Michael Pawlyn* and many more

The festival is free to all designers, universities, students and businesses alike – with [registrations open from today](#)

Today (Thursday 8 September 2022) the Design Council opens its free online registration for the ***Design for Planet Festival 2022***. The aim of the festival is to mobilise the UK's powerful design community to create ways out of the climate crisis.

Faced with the climate and biodiversity emergencies, the scale of what the UK needs to design – and re-design – to achieve net-zero targets by 2050 is immense. As the United Nations' annual climate change conference, COP27, gets under way in Egypt, the **Design for Planet Festival will bring together leading minds from the design and sustainability landscape to provide free information, tools, practical workshops and stimulating conversation**, in a bid to accelerate design innovation across the UK.

The Design for Planet Festival will be hosted by Biologist and Wildlife Film Maker, Patrick Aryee – who after training in Molecular & Cellular Biology, went on to work for the BBC's Natural History Unit alongside Sir David Attenborough.

The festival will feature over **100 experts from many diverse disciplines of design**, from biodiversity and materials to supply chains, energy, food waste and much more. **Speakers announced today include circular fashion designer Phoebe English alongside Innovator and Podcaster, Sara Vaughan who will lead an online discussion on *Resourceful Fashion* and Architect Michael Pawlyn alongside Strategist, Writer and Curator, Sarah Ichioka who will discuss *How to work with Biomimicry*, and Youth Climate Justice Activist Daze Aghaji.**

Minnie Moll, Chief Executive, the Design Council said: “We are so excited to be announcing our second Design for Planet Festival. Once again we will have an incredible line up of speakers to challenge and inspire, this year with even more focus on action. In the 9 months since our last event we have witnessed more shocking impact of the climate crisis and we must keep a sense of urgency about the huge changes we need to make.

Northumbria University’s first-class rating for sustainability in the People & Planet University League table, plus a Gold Award from Green Tourism’s award scheme for their conference and events offer, make it a brilliant venue for the festival.”

Professor Steven Kyffin, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Business and Enterprise) at Northumbria University, said: “We are absolutely delighted and honoured to be hosting the 2022 Design for Planet festival at Northumbria University, following the success of the inaugural event last year”.

“This will enable even stronger connections and collaborations to be built between our Research, Innovation and educational ambitions and those of the wider Industrial and Civic contexts in the North East. The core thematic areas being addressed by the festival, of course align perfectly with our own academic agenda and therefore we look forward to engaging with businesses and cultural organisations across the wonderful North East. Our colleagues and students alike will be playing a pivotal role in ensuring its success. Their creativity, innovative and future-focused critical thinking is key to helping us shape a more positive future for us all.”

Sign up today to the Design for Planet Festival [HERE](#). Visitors can expect talks, practical sessions, design tools and a full list of speakers to be announced over the coming weeks.

The Design Council’s flagship event was held at the V&A in Dundee last year, and brought together 120 sustainable design leaders, 6,000 online attendees and was awarded gold in the GOV Design Awards 2022.

- ENDS -

Notes to Editor:

#DesignForPlanet

ASSETS

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Speaker Biographies:

Patrick Aryee

Patrick is biologist and self-confessed thrill seeker. His guiding force has always been to put his

audience in the ‘hot seat’ – using his experience, knowledge and expert storytelling, he revels in transporting us around the globe, to live vicariously through his daringly close animal encounters.

Patrick’s career in wildlife filmmaking began shortly after graduating with a degree in Molecular & Cellular Biology, at the University of Bristol, and a master’s in Science Communication, at the University of the West of England. He went on to work for the BBC’s Natural History Unit, on no less than three, David Attenborough series, *Madagascar*, *60 Years into the Wild* and the award-winning *Frozen Planet*. Taking inspiration from Sir David, Patrick set his sights on becoming a wildlife presenter. Five years later, he eventually got his big break, with his TV debut, *Super Senses: The Secret Power of Animals*.

Phoebe English

Phoebe attended Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design in London for both her BA and MA in Fashion Design with Knitwear. She completed the acclaimed MA under the tuition of Louise Wilson, where her practice evolved to focus on constructed textiles. Upon graduation she was awarded the L’Oreal Professional Prize.

PHOEBE ENGLISH was founded in 2011 and has since focused on creating clothing with close attention to detail and narrative. The studio has dual roots in textile craftsmanship and reduced environmental impact: aiming to develop ways of working with design, and its surrounding systems, that better fit within the realities of our planetary boundaries.

In the decade since Phoebe established the studio, the brand has developed into an internationally renowned label. In recent years the studio has been undergoing an ongoing transition into exploring less extractive fashion systems with a focus on the design potential for the circularity of textile waste, designing out waste from the design stage and the chemical content of our clothing; through exploring plant dyes.

Michael Pawlyn

Michael Pawlyn is an architect and systems thinker and has been described as an expert in regenerative design and biomimicry. He established his firm Exploration Architecture in 2007 to focus on high performance buildings and solutions for the circular economy. The company has developed a ground-breaking office project, an ultra-low energy data centre, a zero waste textiles factory and progressive solutions for green cities.

Prior to setting up Exploration, he worked with Grimshaw for ten years and was central to the team that designed the Eden Project. He is regularly booked as a keynote speaker on innovation and his TED talk has had over 2 million viewings.

Sarah Ichioka

Sarah Mineko Ichioka is a strategist, urbanist, curator and writer. She is Founding Director of Desire Lines, a consultancy for environmental, cultural, and social-impact organizations and initiatives. In previous roles, she has explored the intersections of cities, society and ecology within leading international institutions of culture, policy and research. She is co-author of *Flourish: Design Paradigms for Our Planetary Emergency* (2021) with Michael Pawlyn. Ichioka has been recognized as a World Cities Summit Young Leader, one of the Global Public Interest Design 100, and a British Council / Clore Duffield Cultural Leadership International Fellow. She holds degrees from Yale and the LSE.

Sara Vaughan

Sara Vaughan is an Innovator, Creator Brands with Purpose, Positive Change Maker, Fashion Avenger and Host of The Start Somewhere Podcast. Companies and brands she has worked with include Forevermark, The Body Shop, Unilever, IKEA, One Young World and Marie Claire.

Daze Aghaji

Daze Aghaji is a London based Youth Climate Justice Activist who centres on Regenerative Cultures, Intersectionality, Radical Social Justice and Youth Political Engagement in her work. Daze's advocacy for racial systemic change has led her to work with many leading charities, institutions, governments and grassroots change-makers globally. In 2019, she became the youngest candidate to stand in a European Parliamentary election and ran under the banner of a Climate and Ecological Emergency Independent to bring awareness to the need for political will in addressing the climate crisis. Daze is currently a Creative Director at Earthrise Studio, a creative agency dedicated to communicating the climate crisis as well as an Artist in Residence at Phytology, the Bethnal Green Nature Reserve.

About the Design Council: The Design Council is the UK's national strategic advisor for design, championing design and its ability to make life better for all. It is an independent and not for profit organisation incorporated by Royal Charter. The Design Council uniquely works across all design sectors and delivers programmes with business, government, public bodies and the third sector. The work encompasses thought leadership, tools and resources, showcasing excellence, and research to evidence the value of design and influence policy. Their Design for Planet mission was introduced in 2021 to galvanise and support the 1.97 million people who work in the UK's design economy to help achieve net zero and beyond.

www.designcouncil.org.uk

About Northumbria University: Northumbria University, Newcastle is a research-intensive, modern university with a global reputation for academic excellence. Northumbria is one of the largest universities in the UK with over 35,000 students from 137 countries. Northumbria has recorded the biggest rise in research power of any UK University in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021 exercise - moving up 27 places to 23rd.

www.northumbria.ac.uk