

2023
ANNUAL REPORT



REIMAGINING THE WORLD



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LETTER FROM THE CO-FOUNDERS



As we reflect on the year 2022-2023, it brings us immense pride to witness how GirlDreamer has evolved and thrived amidst significant changes and challenges.

This year marked a pivotal moment for GirlDreamer and for us personally. We experienced significant leadership change as Amna was selected for the prestigious global scholarship with the Obama Foundation and Columbia University in New York, embarking on a transformative journey. This sabbatical, lasting nine months, was not only a period of personal growth for Amna, but also an opportunity for GirlDreamer to introspect and strengthen from within.

In Amna's absence, Kiran, alongside our dedicated team, ensured the seamless daily running of GirlDreamer. Our focus shifted towards sustainability and stability, anchoring ourselves firmly to weather any storms that may come our way. This period was crucial for us to fortify our foundation, securing core funding for the next three years. This achievement is not just a financial milestone but a testament to the trust and belief our funders and stakeholders have in our vision and mission.

During this year, our activities might have seemed quieter externally, but internally, it was a period of intense growth and reflection. We used this time to revisit our strategies, realign our goals, and prepare ourselves for





the future. Special thanks to our funders and supporters who showed remarkable flexibility and understanding during these times of transition. Your support has been the cornerstone of our stability.

We are happy to share that Amna has now returned to GirlDreamer, bringing with her a wealth of global insights on social change. The learnings from her experience are invaluable, promising to enrich our approach and strategies.

Though we reduced our external activities, 2022-2023 was nonetheless a successful year. It allowed us to focus on what truly matters - building a robust, sustainable organisation capable of driving impactful change. As we step into 2024, we are excited to unfold this new chapter, implementing our learnings and continuing to support and create greater access to opportunities for young women of colour.

Thank you for being part of our journey. Your support, trust, and belief in our mission fuel our passion and commitment to making a difference. Here's to a brighter, more impactful 2024!

With gratitude and anticipation,



Kiran Kaur & Amna Akhtar

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

2023 was a period of significant change and growth for GirlDreamer. Faced with unprecedented challenges, we prioritised programming that would most benefit our community both online and offline. Here are some of our biggest accomplishments over this period:



100%

of GirlDreamers from in-person programmes and events reported keeping in touch with someone they met after the programme ended.



4

Brand new types of events and programmes delivered in 2023 including nature retreats, speed mentoring and supper clubs



2,800

People directly and indirectly impacted by 20 Dream Fund grantee organisations



£15,000

Distributed via the Dream Fund



85%

of GirlDreamers across all programmes and events reported an increase in confidence



4.8*/5

Average rating for the perceived sense of community in each GirlDreamer programme and event



REFLECTION AND STRATEGY

This year's annual report offers more insight and reflection into our year at GirlDreamer. With significant changes bringing significant learning, we want to create a deeper understanding of what those were and how they impacted us:



Leadership Change

The temporary transition in leadership, with Amna embarking on a global scholarship, brought both challenges and opportunities. Kiran's leadership during this time exemplified resilience and adaptability and this period underscored the importance of having a strong, versatile team that can thrive even under unexpected circumstances. It also provided a chance for team members to step up, showcasing their leadership capabilities and contributing fresh perspectives to our mission.



Organisational Sustainability

Securing core funding for three years has been a monumental achievement, ensuring financial stability and allowing us to focus on long-term goals rather than short-term exigencies. This stability enabled us to invest more in strategic planning, strengthen our governance with additions to our Board of Directors and the implementation of a new Advisory Board, reinforcing our commitment to young women of colour. We also used this period to establish stronger relationships with our funders and partners, ensuring a collaborative approach towards sustainability.



Internal Development

A significant part of this year was dedicated to internal development. We focused on enhancing our organisational capabilities, streamlining processes, and investing in staff development. This internal fortification is crucial for our outward impact, ensuring that we operate efficiently and effectively. It also involved revisiting our strategic plan, integrating insights from Amna's global experience, and aligning our goals with the evolving needs of the communities we serve.



GirlDreamer GOVERNANCE

As well as our core team and board of directors, we are also governed and shaped by our incredible advisory board.

Our board is composed of 12 young women of colour, who represent different backgrounds, professional industries and locations around the UK. They help to shape, inform and influence our community activities and general direction as an organisation to best reflect the community we serve.



Zainab Al-Farabi

A British Arab woman, born to Iraqi/Iranian parents. Much to her brown parent's dismay, she ditched her corporate law career and moved into working in Diversity & Inclusion, following some of her experiences in the sector. It was one of the best moves I've made - I love championing and advocating for social justice issues and causes. I came across GirlDreamer during the height of the pandemic and it was just what I needed. I had never been surrounded by so many women of colour and felt like I was at home and at peace. I share my experiences as a brown woman often and when the advisory board opportunity came up, I knew I wanted in! My goal for my role is to support GirlDreamer in making its offerings accessible and inclusive as possible, to enable all women of colour an opportunity to thrive.



Jessie Auguste

A software engineer passionate about addressing the digital divide, and empowering diverse people to engage with and build using technology. Firm believer in the power of community, love to contribute to spaces that empower women of colour to be their best selves. My goal at GirlDreamer is to use my tech passion and skills to support the organisation, and to develop my leadership skills whilst working with an incredible and passionate group of women.



Shirin Shah

A corporate and commercial lawyer in the life sciences and technology sector. I am passionate about spaces where women of colour can come together and share their experiences in a nuanced way and where they feel safe to be their whole selves. This led me to co-found South Asian Sisters Speak (SASS) in 2016 and I was introduced to GirlDreamer's amazing work through this. I hope to bring together my legal skills, my experience growing a grassroots community group, as well as my own lived experiences to help GirlDreamer on the next stage of its journey.





Chloe Lewis

I work at the Department for Education, and I've held roles in delivery, policy and most recently procurement, thinking about how and what we buy for effective programmes. Outside of that, I'm (still!) a student, going into my penultimate year of my PhD at the University of Cambridge. My PhD is in Education and I look at the experiences and underrepresentation of Black British doctoral students. My big interest is in their relationships with their supervisors and how these support their success. Finally, I run The Catalyst (thecatalystcollective.co.uk), a nonprofit mentoring organisation that matches up Black girls in secondary school with Black women for a year of mentoring. I've been an admirer of Girl Dreamer's work for a while now and it's such a pleasure to join the Advisory Board. I really love and believe in community as a source of joy, resource and strength and I love the way GD draws people together and keeps them connected. I hope I can contribute to this as part of the AB.



Priyanka Roychoudhury

I am a dreamer. Or that's what I would like to describe myself as. I believe in keeping my eyes on the stars and my feet on the ground. I work as an economist and volunteer at organisations working on gender justice and environmental sustainability. I joined the GirlDreamer advisory board to do more for the GirlDreamer community and contribute to the empowerment of women of colour. My goal is to use this opportunity to lower down the ladder to support others in my community just like I was given the opportunity to climb the ladder by others before me.



Aderonke Ademola

I am a postgraduate student at the University of York, studying Criminology and Social Research. I intend on pursuing a career within academia, with a focus on researching and exploring the legacy of colonial policing in the UK! Outside of my interest in academia, I am an ardent music lover (I listen to just about everything) and I enjoy anything creative. What inspired me to join the advisory board is who and what it stands for. Similarly to the GirlDreamer ethos, I am deeply passionate about the provision of more opportunities for women of colour, anti-racism and diversity and inclusion. I'm excited to see how I can contribute as an advisory board member; whilst embodying everything mentioned above, to hopefully facilitate systemic change!



Alyaa Hassan

I am a Sudanese young professional working as a Consultant at an International Development firm, and I am currently pursuing a master's degree in Gender, Peace, and Security at LSE. I have joined the GirlDreamer community as a member of the advisory board because I want to contribute to supporting WOC in the UK, especially those from marginalised communities, in their professional and personal development. I am looking forward to assisting GirlDreamer in its strategic planning by providing insights and recommendations to support its ethos, mission, and vision.





Kajol Desai

I am a partnerships manager by profession working for a startup that works to develop leadership skills and provides opportunities to underrepresented young people. I have a keen interest in how we can individually and collectively fulfil our potential to create a better world for everyone (as a Hindu, what we'd call Dharma) and its this inclined me to engage with different organisations and platforms that aspire to utilise universal values to develop individuals with a drive to give to the world around them...that's how I came across GirlDreamer whilst I was at University and became a fan of their work! I'm hoping that my lived experiences being a WOC and having engaged deeply in different capacities with a variety of people globally will allow me to contribute different perspectives to GirlDreamer as it begins to expand further and undoubtedly impact even more people!



Mariam Ali

The best piece of advice I've ever received is to try to do what you enjoy because when it inevitably becomes difficult, that will keep you going. That thinking led me to studying chemistry at university and realising what I really love is getting to the heart of a problem and trying to make my way to a solution. I currently work as a data analyst in the public sector and regularly get to do just that. As I've grown and been in various spaces, I've developed an appreciation for the people and organisations that take the time to create a welcoming warmth. When I came across the opportunity to join the GirlDreamer advisory board, it felt like the chance to facilitate real change and contribute to the same support that I've benefited from. I'm excited to bring my skills together in a setting that is very new to me.



Rabia Mirza

I have over 7 years of working in the social impact sector in advocacy, campaigning and strategic communications roles. Currently I'm a senior programme manager for the Media Trust, managing our flagship strategic comms training programme, Stronger Voices, for equalities organisations. I was part of Girl Dreamers first ever women of colour surf cohort in the UK - this was a pivotal experience for personal development and I've never looked back. That's why it's an honour to be a part of the advisory board and my goal is to help steer Girl Dreamer into it's next exciting phase as an organisation, so that we are able to help more women and girls of colour, like me.





Abimbola Oladipo

I am a proud South Londoner, born and raised in a culturally vibrant area. Currently, I work at Stripe, a FinTech company empowering businesses with an exceptional payments platform. Focused on our Users, we aim to grow the GDP of the Internet, fueling my passion for technology and business. Leading the World Economic Forum Global Shapers community in London has been mind-opening. Collaborating with curious minds, we explore AI, Climate, Health Tech, and more. It's been inspiring and transformative. Joining the GirlDREAMER Advisory board was a full circle moment for me. Social enterprises like GirlDREAMER changed my life, reaching into my community and providing resources I couldn't access otherwise. Now, I can pass on this legacy to talented young women in the UK. Honoured to work with the amazing founders, Amna and Kiran, and the wider board team, I am grateful for the opportunity. These experiences bring immense joy and meaning in my life. Making a difference professionally and in the community fills me with gratitude. Blessed to be surrounded by brilliance, I embark on this journey.



Amber Shand

Amber Shand is an award winning Software Engineer, keynote speaker, and consultant dedicated to helping women in tech to build their confidence, use their voice, and be seen. Coming from an Economics and Accounting degree, she learned how to code during the pandemic. From teaching women how to code and witnessing them step into the industry in their first roles, she noticed the extent to which imposter syndrome seemed to persist for them and also herself. This led her to create the Own Your Wins newsletter with 1,900+ subscribers to work on closing the confidence gap for women in tech. She was inspired to join GirlDREAMER's advisory board from her experience doing the GAB programme back in 2021. She quickly fell in love with what GirlDREAMER is about, their values, and mission, and wanted to be part of the behind the scenes decision making.



OUR APPROACH



Life as a woman of colour in the UK has unique upsides as well as challenges. GirlDreamer understands this deeply, since our team exclusively comprises members of the very community we serve. Our mission is to improve the lives of women of colour by increasing their wellbeing and providing opportunities for them to realise their leadership qualities to their full potential.

Community is a fundamental part of what we do. Our togetherness is our strength, and we know that when women of colour come together, the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. Unfortunately, it is not uncommon for women of colour to feel alienated in their lives. Whether at school, at work, at home or in third spaces, many systems and structures are not built with women of colour in mind and at times can even purposely exclude them. GirlDreamer is an organisation that was founded to centre the voices of women of colour, and provide opportunities and spaces that prioritise their needs.

GirlDreamer focuses on two crucial aspects of life for our community: Wellbeing and Leadership.

Wellbeing prioritises the health and sense of self of our community members, at both the mental and the physical level. Psychological safety is a huge factor that influences why different people choose to engage with us. While we are well aware that women of colour are not a monolith, providing safe spaces for our community to get together to learn, share, eat and play is a key priority for us. It leads to a stronger sense of self, of belonging and allows space for healing.



REIMAGINING THE WORLD

Leadership is an important life skill that women of colour can use to create the positive change they wish to see in the world. We know that there is an abundance of leadership qualities in our community, with the plethora of businesses, side hustles, networks and events that we know of, and the many more that we don't. The missing piece is the access, the funding and the moral support to get women of colour led organisations off the ground and to scale their success.

In a world where your mere existence is challenged, GirlDreamer exists to champion women of colour and provide bespoke support to counter the status quo.

Our programmes and events prioritise wellbeing and leadership to provide support where it is most needed and foster community to fill the gaps left by the outside world. GirlDreamer strives to be a warm embrace for members of our community, providing a home away from home and introducing you to lifelong friends you haven't met before. Our mission is to ensure equity, access and joy for all our GirlDreamer community - past, present and future.



REIMAGINING THE WORLD

IMPACT MEASUREMENT

Impact measurement is key to understanding the extent to which our programmes and initiatives are creating change. GirlDREAMER has developed a framework to understand our key social impact goals and the metrics needed to measure progress against them.

Using the Theory of Change framework, GirlDREAMER has identified seven core principles that underpin our social change work across all areas. These principles guide us to measure what really matters when investigating the impact that we have achieved.

GirlDREAMER tracks impact by conducting post-intervention surveys and gathering feedback for each of the programmes and events that we hold. The questions we ask are guided by our core impact principles, with different programmes often targeting different impact goals. We also collect feedback on how to improve our programming and to better understand the needs of our community. These learnings will help to guide our decision making and programme schedule to ensure that GirlDREAMER activities are beneficial to community members and reflect their changing needs and priorities, always.



The Seven Principles of Impact for GirlDREAMERS:

1

Awareness - understanding of possibilities and opportunities that are available.

2

Context - understanding the context of challenges you may face and learning how to better move through the world as a WoC.

3

Aspiration - belief in your potential to achieve things beyond society's expectations.

4

Agency - belief that you have the power to make decisions that shape your future.

5

Community - connecting with likeminded people who share life experiences and can provide support.

6

Action - implementing these learnings by taking tangible steps to achieve specific personal and professional goals.

7

Leadership - taking ownership of your community and creating new networks and organisations to serve the underserved.

OUR IMPACT



Leadership

Dream Fund
LinkedIn Speed Mentoring
Hatch Enterprise Entrepreneurship Panel



Wellbeing

Cairngorms Retreat
Supper clubs



REIMAGINING THE WORLD

Dream Fund



Thank you for the opportunity. The ease of this fund was second to none and so many funders should learn from your approach, they make it so difficult for small organisations like mine that are already struggling to thrive and use their resource. So thank you for making this such an easy but thorough process. It's so greatly appreciated and it made our year!

The Dream Fund is a micro-funding initiative to support grassroots women of colour-led initiatives with small amounts of unrestricted funding to support their ventures. The Dream Fund supports organisations ranging from social businesses to community organisations, media projects and charities.

In 2023 we supported 20 organisations through the Dream Fund. We were able to

increase our funding pots this year due to collaboration with BBC Children in Need. Through the WeMove Fund, we ringfenced additional funding for black women led organisations this year. Organisations funded included patient interest groups, skills development initiatives, networking communities and mentorship schemes. Collectively, Dream Fund grantee organisations impacted almost 3,000 people directly and indirectly through their range of programmes.

When asked about the biggest challenges facing their organisations, Dream Fund grantees most commonly mentioned the difficulty they faced in balancing their organisation alongside their other work commitments. This was closely followed by a lack of access to funding, and the sense of being overworked and under-resourced. These findings show that the Dream Fund programme contributes to some of the most significant challenges that women of colour entrepreneurs face.



1,372

People directly impacted by Dream Fund organisations in 2023

82%

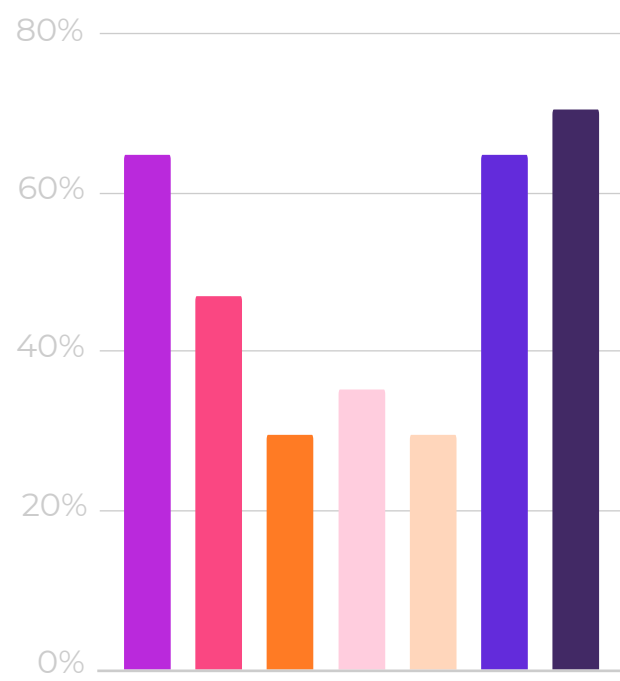
of recipients feel more confident in their leadership abilities after winning the Dream Fund

20

Organisations Funded



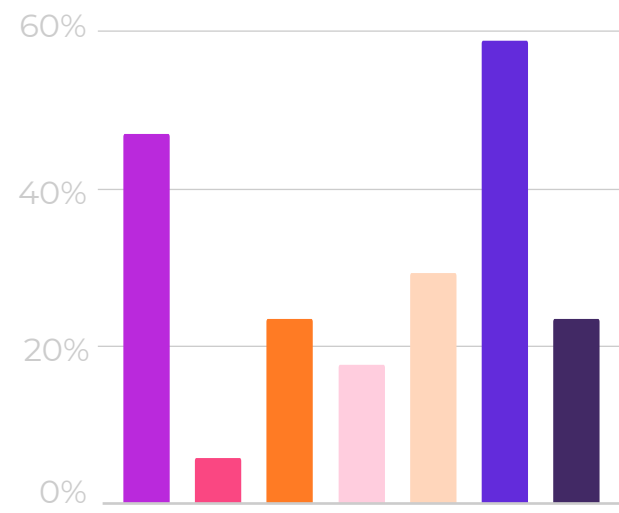
Biggest challenges facing Women of Colour led organisations in 2023



- 64.7% Access to funding
- 47% Applying for funds
- 29.4% Other finance/fundraising related activities
- 35.3% Marketing or Branding my organisation
- 29.4% Capacity for organisational needs
- 64.7% Being overworked and under-resourced
- 70.6% Balancing other work/jobs with running my organisation

Dream Fund grantee organisations were able to use the funding to formalise and scale their organisations and activities. Funds were most commonly used to pay for additional resources for the organisations (59%). The majority of recipients stretched the funding received over three or more purposes. Funds were used to host events, establish online infrastructure, hire expert support, provide free services, build internal capacity and cover transport costs for beneficiaries.

How funding has supported Dream Fund recipients



- 47% Kickstart an idea
- 5.9% Register my organisation
- 23.5% Sustain my project for 6 months or more
- 17.7% Sustain my organisation for 6 months or more
- 29.4% Create additional capacity for my organisation (human support)
- 58.8% Pay for additional resources for my organisation
- 23.5% Other



59% of Dream Fund recipients are currently actively applying for additional funding, and a further 18% have already secured additional funding. Those organisations in the 18% were able to gain a huge £54,000 in additional funding after receiving their Dream Fund grants. This shows that the benefits of being awarded the Dream Fund can stretch far beyond the programme itself.

Looking forward, 76% of Dream Fund grantees said they would benefit from access to a pool of specialised consultants that can support with specific organisations such as grant applications and marketing support upon request. Grantees also requested access to larger funding pots to support their organisations as they scale.

GirlDreamer has secured new partnerships that will allow for greater funds to be distributed, and is developing a broader programme to support grantees with their business needs over 2024.



The process was really straight forward. The amount was really helpful in kickstarting this new project.

I feel more confident and optimistic in my abilities as a leader after gaining this funding	★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 4.2
Gaining this funding has improved my ability and capacity to support my community	★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 4.1
Gaining this funding has increased my confidence in applying for additional funding	★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 4.2
I have met other organisations and founders with similar experiences and challenges	★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 4.6



LinkedIn Speed Mentoring

In March, GirlDREAMER partnered with LinkedIn to create an event in celebration of International Women's Day. Ten GirlDREAMERs were invited to the LinkedIn offices in London to take part in a unique speed-mentoring programme to further their professional development. Each mentee was able to speak to three experts from LinkedIn, covering topics such as breaking into new industries, personal branding, and how to get the most out of the LinkedIn platform. Each mentee was also given free access to LinkedIn Premium for six months, helping them to elevate their profiles and progress their job hunt using new tools and features on LinkedIn.

GirlDREAMER also engaged a photographer who took formal headshots for each mentee to use on their professional profiles. 86% of participants reported that taking part in this event inspired them to take steps towards achieving their goals. Some examples of these goals include actively pursuing aspirational career paths, attending more networking opportunities, and embracing a growth mindset whilst job hunting. 100% of participants reported keeping in touch with someone they met at this event.



It was very useful to speak to 3 different mentors and get their different perspectives. It provided me with a better understanding of where I'm at and what I want my next steps to be.



1 in 7

applicants were randomly selected to participate, showing the scale of demand

86%

of participants were inspired to take steps towards achieving their goals after this event

6

Months of free access to LinkedIn Premium after the event



“

The practical tips shared by the mentors and the opportunity to network/connect with them (were the most useful to me)

“

This event was unique because the people involved were all genuinely helpful and welcoming. Although I was interacting with many successful and confident people, they were all down to earth and willing to offer as much of their knowledge as possible. I could really feel a sense of community and care from GirlDreamer.

I have a better understanding of the opportunities available to me	★★★★☆	4.2
I feel better equipped to pursue opportunities I am interested in	★★★★☆	4
I feel more confident in my ability to apply for opportunities I am interested in	★★★★☆	4
I feel more confident in trying new things as a result of this event	★★★★☆	4.2
Taking part in this event has inspired me to take steps towards achieving my goals	★★★★☆	4.4
How likely are you to recommend this event to a friend?	★★★★☆	4.4



REIMAGINING THE WORLD

So, You Want To... Start a Social Business?

100% of participants agreed that taking part in this event had inspired them to take steps towards achieving their goals

67% of participants feel more confident in their ability to apply for relevant opportunities after this event



It was great to hear from people at different stages about practical steps and actions to take.

This year, GirlDreamer partnered with Hatch Enterprise to host an online panel discussion to encourage social entrepreneurship. The event, titled “So, You Want To... Start a Social Business?” featured four outstanding women of colour entrepreneurs who shared insights about their experiences in establishing their own organisations.

The purpose of the event was to help attendees understand more about what’s involved in establishing and running a social business. The session also served as an opportunity to promote the next round of the Dream Fund, as well as to signpost to services offered by Hatch Enterprise and similar services.

The speaker panel was particularly inspirational because it featured alumni of both the Dream Fund and Hatch Enterprise, showcasing how being part of these networks can support growth and business success. 110 people signed up to the event and over half attended the panel live, asking insightful questions and gaining inspiration for their own initiatives. The focus on social entrepreneurship was important to participants, evidenced by feedback praising the selection of speakers. Attendees left the event with a better understanding of the steps they need to take to build or grow their ideas and inspired to take action to achieve their goals.



Speakers

Nafisa Bakkar

CEO & Co-founder of Amaliah, Author of How to Make Money

Thuta Khin

Co-founder of Leiho

Yasin Bojang

Co-founder of Home Girls Unite

Ameenah Begum

Founder of Planet Friendly Paint



OUR IMPACT | Short term Programmes and Community Events



As a brown woman, it was very inspiring to see brown women succeed in the work they do and it really gave me a push to not focus on the obstacles but on the goal and my passion.

The content in the event I attended was **relevant to my needs**

★★★★☆ 4.3

This event **increased my skills, knowledge and/or confidence**

★★★★☆ 3.7

I have a better understanding of the opportunities available to me

★★★★☆ 3.6

I feel more confident in my ability to apply for opportunities I am interested in

★★★★☆ 3.8

Taking part in this event **has inspired me to take steps towards achieving my goals**

★★★★☆ 4.4

How would you **rate your overall** experience of participating in the event?

★★★★☆ 4.4

How likely are you **to recommend this event to a friend or colleague?**

★★★★☆ 4.5



Cairngorms Retreat



This was the most wholesome week I've experienced in a long time. A real sense of community, understanding and friendship is what I now walk away with. The vulnerability and openness the group shared within hours of meeting each other is unheard of.

GirlDreamer partnered with Backbone CIC to provide a unique retreat experience in the Scottish Highlands. Ten GirlDreamers were given the opportunity to explore and learn about the Cairngorms National Park, enabling them to connect with nature, learn safety techniques and develop their leadership skills. We believe that it is important for our community, many of whom live in large metropolitan areas, to access opportunities to experience the great outdoors and connect with themselves in beautiful and peaceful settings.

This retreat provided a safe space for young women of colour to experience domestic travel destinations and learn more about the natural environment in the UK.



(My highlight was the connection I felt in emotional, mental, physical and spiritual ways with both nature and the incredible women I was with.

100% of survey respondents reported that this retreat was the first time they had visited the Cairngorms National Park in Scotland. 75% of respondents strongly agreed that they felt a greater sense of appreciation for nature and the outdoors as a result of this experience. Most of the participants strongly agreed that the residential felt like the break they needed from daily life. All respondents maintained connections with someone they met on the retreat, and 100% strongly agreed that they would recommend the retreat to a friend.



100%

of GirlDreamers felt a sense of community and maintained contact with someone they met at the retreat

75%

of participants reported an increase in appreciation for nature after the retreat

5*

Average Rating





This residential encouraged me **to push myself physically**



The residential encouraged me **to push myself mentally**



I felt **a sense of community** being part of this experience



This residential felt like **the break I needed from daily life**



I feel a **greater sense of appreciation for nature and the outdoors** as a result of this experience



I feel **more confident** in trying new things as a result of this residential



How likely are you **to recommend** this retreat to a friend?



“

It felt like I belonged somewhere even when I was miles away from anyone I knew from my usual life. The power of the community pushed me to be better - be it being more honest with myself, challenging myself with the outdoor activities or comfortable with being vulnerable. Being an immigrant in this country with no family to turn to for support, this community felt like my safe haven and I hope to nurture it actively going forward.

“

It also felt good to care for others and be cared for, and to relate over things that I usually have to over-explain in my daily life.



“

(I learnt that) sharing lessens the burden. We don't need to be a one woman army all the time!



GirlDreamer Supper Club

GirlDreamer launched a new Supper Club to platform incredible women of colour chefs whilst providing opportunities to connect with likeminded people. The event series was designed exclusively for members of the GirlDreamer community to create more in-person connections and foster the community spirit within our network. The Supper Club is rotational, meaning that each event is hosted in a different venue in cities with a strong GirlDreamer presence. The idea is to provide a range of experiences for GirlDreamers, catering to different budgets and preferences and accessible to people living in different parts of the UK. Our vision is to support amazing Women of Colour chefs and restaurateurs across the country, whilst providing a welcoming space for GirlDreamers to come together.

Our events have been catered by the likes of Asma Khan, owner of Darjeeling Express and named the "Coolest Person in Food and Drink in 2019" by Business Insider. We have also dined at Sabrina Fung's Blow Water Cafe, which had previously been supported by GirlDreamer during its fundraising campaign.



3

Women of Colour chefs have catered the GirlDreamer Supper Club in 2023 across

2

Cities



“

I came to the Supper Club to meet like minded people and eat amazing food, and I left having done just that! So grateful to GirlDreamer being able to provide opportunities to connect and socialise in such a comfortable and safe space.

Supper Club member

“

Having intentional time to stop and connect with myself and others was such a boost in life. I was struggling with anxiety and ways to deal with it, but since this course I've created a simple daily practice for myself to help me manage and it's been a game-changer.



“

One of the best events of my supperclub year! I really hope more evenings like this become part of the norm; meeting incredible women, inspiring each other and uplifting each other. I can't wait to host again with GirlDreamer.

Sohini Bannerjee, Smoke and Lime. GD Supper Club host, August 2023



SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT



9,256
followers



Digest
Fortnightly
Thought pieces

Monthly updates
Mission focused



3,427
followers



116
shared opportunities with
our community

Each opp receives on
average a total of
100
clicks



1,200
followers

12
Guest
bloggers

Opps range from
**governance,
corporate, arts, tech,
entrepreneurship and
more**



OPPORTUNITIES

A key part of our work is bridging the gap between access and opportunity.

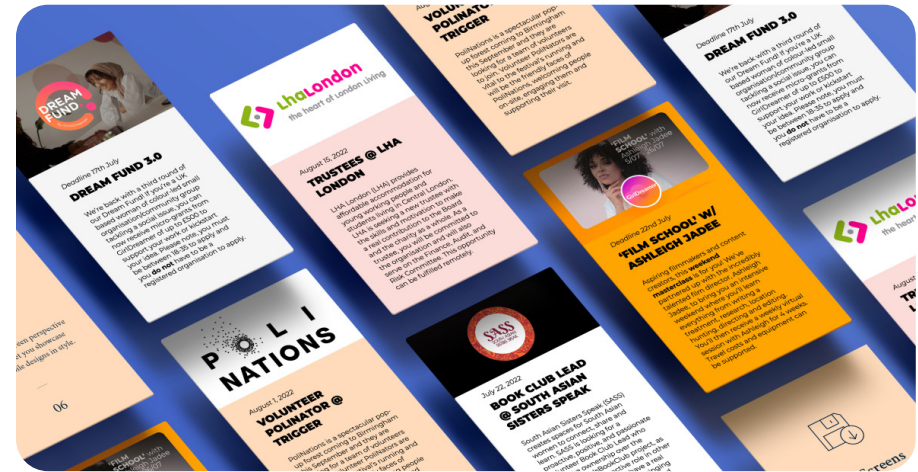
Our way of doing this is through our Opportunities service. Here, we advertise a range of opportunities including job opportunities, events, scholarships and trusteeships as well as internal GirlDreamer programme opportunities.

In 2023 we shared 116 opportunities on our Opps page, securing partnerships with a range of organisations to help them to broaden their outreach. We partnered with 33 organisations including Trustees Unlimited, which shared a wide range of opportunities from their extensive partner network through our Opps service.



“GirlDreamer is professional, creative, responsive and authentic with deep roots in their community. Working with them enables you to promote opportunities to a wide range of incredible young women of colour, and to support a social enterprise led by young women of colour at the same time. Why would you not want to work with them?”

Sophie Livingstone MBE, CEO | Little Village



“GirlDreamer has created a tool that’s simple to use and effective in putting important opportunities in front of rich talent. Using those tools has delivered instant results for The Cares Family – two of the people we selected for our Multiplier programme came directly through their networks. I’d recommend the Opps service to anyone.”

Alex Smith, CEO | The Cares Family



REIMAGINING THE WORLD

FINANCES

This year marked a significant milestone for our Dream Fund. Since its inception in 2020, our commitment to its growth has been unwavering, with each passing year witnessing a doubling of its impact.

In 2023, we are delighted to announce a significant investment from The Alliance for Gender Equality in Europe, marking our first international partnership and a substantial step towards achieving our goals.

We were awarded £100,000, which we will directly allocate through our Dream Fund, enabling us to support an additional 50 women of colour-led start-ups and small charities.

Furthermore, we secured extended support from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation for a two-year period. This additional support will bolster our organisational capacity, allowing us to effectively execute our new strategic direction for the years 2023 to 2025.

We continue to benefit from three years of core funding, which began in 2022, and we are actively utilising this crucial support to maintain our team, infrastructure, and ongoing initiatives.

As is tradition, we express our profound gratitude to our dedicated funders for their continued belief in our vision and steadfast support. Together, we are working diligently to create a more equitable society where young women of colour can thrive.



SECURED
**EXTENDED
SUPPORT
FOR 2 YEARS**

£100,000
awarded

**3
YEARS**
of core funding

THANK YOU

We're extremely grateful to all of our funders, community members, supporters and champions who have made another year at GirlDreamer possible and successful.

Your unwavering support and generous contributions have been the pillars of our success, enabling us to champion and serve so many young women of colour in 2023. Your belief in our mission has not only fuelled our endeavours but also inspired a wave of positive change, touching lives and shaping futures.

Your involvement and support is a testament to your commitment to fostering inclusive and equitable opportunities for young women to dream, achieve, and lead. As we celebrate our collective achievements, we reflect on our unique position which allows us to sit comfortably between funders, clients and our community and we take on that role with great pride and responsibility.

Together, we have created greater access and safer spaces where dreams are nurtured, and potential is realised. Thank you for being a part of GirlDreamer's story, for your trust, and for joining us in making a meaningful difference.

As we look ahead, our strategy is informed by the past year's learnings. We're excited to implement a revised strategy that incorporates global perspectives on social change. Our commitment remains firmly rooted in creating greater access to opportunity for young women of colour to tackle social and economic inequality, but with a renewed approach that leverages our strengthened foundation and the insights gained.

This year has been about laying a solid foundation for the future of GirlDreamer. We've emerged stronger, more focused, and better equipped for the challenges ahead. Our journey continues with renewed energy and commitment, as we remain dedicated to driving positive change and empowering the next generation of social leaders.



REIMAGINING THE WORLD

“

Thank you for the wonderful work you do!”

“

Thank you for providing such wonderful opportunities! You are making a difference.”

“

I love the space you provide and your platform. Keep showing up for us and creating tables we can have a seat at”

“

A big thank you to all those involved in making this trip happen, honestly one of the best trips i've been on!”



GirlDreamer

MORE INFO

girldreamer.co.uk

