

Global Impact Report 2024



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We empower youth to transform society through impact-driven entrepreneurial journeys in our international community.

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Foreword

In uncertain times, community is our most important safety net. Community provides protection when things turn for the worst. Community provides an alternative to division. Community gives hope that better things are to come. Perhaps most importantly, community gives us the strength to turn those hopes into reality.

As we embark on this reflective journey looking back on all that has happened in 2023, we highlight the profound significance of community in navigating tumultuous times. This past year has tested our collective resolve, while magnifying the role that

interconnection and compassion play in fostering positive change. We're proud that our community's unwavering commitment to transformative change has only gotten stronger.

The following pages highlight this commitment and provide an insight into the world we envision: one full of collaboration, respect, and shared purpose. Join us in celebrating constructive action and relentless optimism, which have defined the meaningful achievements of the SIA community in 2023.



What We Do

2023 marked a turning point for SIA. With so much change around the world and in the ecosystem since SIA's early beginnings in 2009, there was a need to realign and understand SIA's true purpose. What do we do best? What space do we occupy in this global movement towards social and environmental transformation? How can we best empower young people to drive this transformation?

With these questions in mind, we set out on an extensive journey to redefine SIA, both inside and out. The main principle was co-creation. We wanted to bring the entire community onboard to make it a truly co-creative effort. And after 28+ consultation sessions and 8 full day workshops with over 200 stakeholders including alumni, partners, team members, and more, SIA has a redefined mission, vision, and a strategy to lead our community through to 2030.

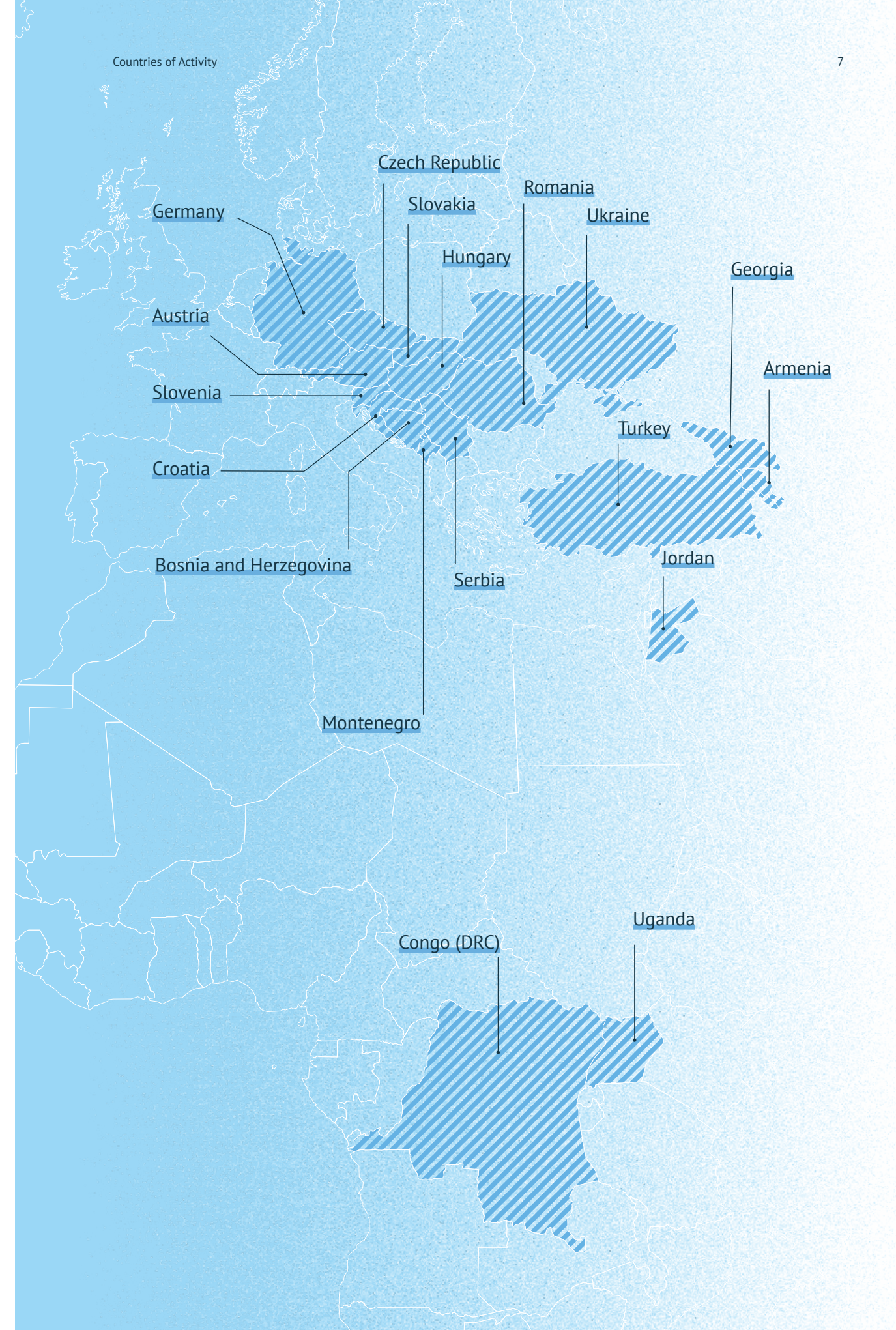
Vision

We envision a world where youth drives the transformation towards an environmentally sustainable and socially just society with equal access to opportunities for all.

Mission

We empower youth to transform society through impact-driven entrepreneurial journeys in our international community.

2030 has a nice ring to it. Our next 6 years will be marked by ambition, capitalizing on the power of community to take us one step closer to the world we envision. In the meantime, we will spend 2024 laying the groundwork for these important changes and making sure we have all the necessary tools to achieve success.



SIA 2023 Edition

1

Discovery

SIA kicked-off in 18 countries across Europe, Africa, and for the first time, the Middle East. Now fully “back” from COVID-19, local organizers have embraced a hybrid model of both in-person and online discovery workshops and events. The free-of-charge, easily accessible sessions allowed youth to discover the field of social entrepreneurship by learning how to generate an idea, develop a business and impact model, and much more. Sessions also allowed youth to connect with each other and get inspired by local social entrepreneurs from their communities.

2

Incubation

Motivated young agents of change with the desire to take their early-stage idea to the next level applied to participate in their country's incubation program. The most promising ventures were selected and embarked on a unique and individualized capacity-building journey full of bootcamps, webinars, mentorship, and more. All venture teams were also invited to pitch their ideas to the world during our global Community Voting campaign, with the aim of receiving the most votes from the public and winning a Community Award.

3

Award Phase

Having completed their incubation programs, teams gathered with members of their local SIA community to find out who would take home the awards. The most promising ventures received pre-seed funding, access to high-value networks, publicity, and a ticket to the SIA Summit in Novi Sad, Serbia. Over 3 days, all participants gained access to skill-building workshops, thought-provoking keynote speeches and connection to the international SIA community. Graduating ventures were also invited to join the International Alumni Community, giving them access to other founders around the world, exclusive opportunities for further support, and international SIA channels to gain exposure and inspire young people to build their ventures.



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When it comes to impact measurement, we use all our scientific rigor to make sure we understand what works and what doesn't. We work with extensive surveying, in-person and online at every stage of the program, making sure we have the most accurate information to refine our approach. We have learned a lot over the years, and extend gratitude to every member of the community who has taken their time to answer our questions.

Peter Vandro

Senior Researcher, Founder and Manager of the Social Entrepreneurship Center at WU Vienna, Founder of Social Impact Award

D Awareness

Impact Field

By inspiring youth with stories from thousands of local social entrepreneurs, we raise awareness about social entrepreneurship as a potential career path and vehicle for civic engagement. In 2023, this work took on new dimensions.

Content Expansion

A significant development was the hiring of our new social media coordinator, responsible for expanding our content on social media. By acknowledging the power of these new channels to reach young people, we were able to craft innovative content highlighting the work young social entrepreneurs are currently doing around the world, and share that in an accessible way.

We also took our yearly communications campaigns to the next level. Through an in-depth co-creative process with the entire SIA network and Austria based design studio SIRENE, we were able to create globally aligned messages and visuals that fit local realities in each of our countries of activity. This approach allowed us to reach record numbers of young people, raising unprecedented awareness about the field in our countries of activity.



Awareness+
Community Voting

76,3 %
Career Clarity

Participants felt that SIA helped them understand whether or not to become a social entrepreneur.

83,1 %
Impact Inspiration

Participants felt that SIA inspired them to further explore work in the impact sector.

12
Spreading the Word

On average, applicants raise awareness about social entrepreneurship to 12 people.

18
Countries of Activity

144
Cities of Activity

14.945
Community Voters

3.658.083
Organic Reach

Journey to Impact

2023 also marked our expansion into a new awareness raising medium: [art exhibitions](#).

It's been clear for centuries that art expands the mind, with its ability to get a message across in a way that reaches into our emotions. Rare, however, are the moments art has stepped into our field.

In 2022, during the SIA Summit in Vienna, Austria, we built the basis for ["Journey to Impact"](#), a body of multimedia work spotlighting the incredible lives of young agents of change building solutions to the most pressing social and environmental issues of our time, whose stories mostly go untold. SIA commissioned painter Jeremy Miedler for a large-scale canvas in SIA colors, Nikolas Rode for analog portraits of these entrepreneurs, and Fraem Films for video interviews.

Over a full day, young entrepreneurs from around the world were invited to get their photo taken and get interviewed. Participating entrepreneurs were later invited to have an honest and open conversation about their challenges, successes, and past experiences as agents of change trying to make a difference.

The photos were paired with written portraits, giving way to the first of many ["Journey to Impact"](#) exhibitions, the first of which took place in Berlin, Germany along with the national award ceremony. Organizers welcomed Hamburg-based impact entrepreneur Elnaz Nouri, who was showcased in the exhibition, to share her story in person with the audience. Similarly, the second exhibit took place in Novi Sad, Serbia, at the SIA Summit 2023 and welcomed Turkish entrepreneur Ravzanur Eker, who was also showcased in the exhibit, to share her story.



Education

Impact Field

SIA offers free-of-charge and highly accessible workshops, events, and webinars that allow youth to discover the field of social entrepreneurship and kick-start their journey as social innovators. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, we've felt an increasing responsibility to expand our educational offerings and improve access to them. 2023 marked another big step in the right direction.

Skills-Based Volunteering

The past year has made it clear: the future is collaborative. For youth to succeed, they need the expertise and know-how of established actors. Conversely, these actors greatly benefit from the innovative ideas and drive of young people. By connecting experienced employees with young, prospective entrepreneurs, our skill-based volunteering partnerships have provided hundreds of SIA participants with the necessary know-how to take their first steps in the field.

“ ”



We're proud of another successful collaboration with Social Impact Award and the opportunity to provide young people across Central and Eastern Europe with the tools they need to unleash their potential. The success of this year's program, supported by SAP colleagues, is a clear sign that today's youth have the necessary skills, drive and dedication to solve the world's most pressing issues. We're looking forward to welcoming this unique community at the SAP Headquarter in Germany for the 2024 SIA Summit.

Claire Gillissen-Duval
CSR EMEA MEE Senior Director at SAP

84,7 %

Educational Value

Participants felt that SIA helped increase their overall knowledge about the field.

86,9 %

Facilitator Expertise

Participants felt workshop facilitators were competent and knowledgeable.

87,2 %

Physical Accessibility

Participants felt that offline workshops were made physically accessible.

88,1 %

Digital Accessibility

Participants felt that the digital content was made easily accessible.

9004

Event, workshop,
and webinar participants

299

Workshops, events,
and webinars

BeeCharitable Interview



Kai Aslan,
CEO and Co-founder of BeeCharitable

Can you introduce your venture BeeCharitable to the readers?

BeeCharitable brings together charity and eSports. We want to enable gamers around the globe to be charitable while having fun and playing their favorite games. To this end, we developed a tournament platform for eSports, free for everyone to use. We also stream our events live on third-party streaming platforms to engage with gamers who prefer watching instead of playing themselves. The best part? While actively using our platform or watching our stream, you automatically generate donations for a good cause. Our sponsors and our team spend a large portion of revenue on charity, working closely with a variety of NGOs to always help where it's most needed.

If there was a completion achievement for participating in SIA, you would score 100%. Tell us about that journey.

A year ago, as our idea was slowly taking form, we discovered SIA through a workshop at the Techbase in Regensburg, Germany. It sounded promising and to be honest, it delivered. We created our social impact canvas during that workshop and afterwards applied to the incubation. We were accepted as

one of the 15 finalist teams within Germany and had access to various resources for the development of our venture. We ironed out the remaining flaws in our business model. The most valuable part for us though was being able to meet incredible people with whom we closely connected, which included other startups but also experts in their respective fields.

Where are you planning on taking BeeCharitable in the coming year?

Drawing inspiration from our inaugural charity tournament with SOS Children's Village, we aspire to extend a helping hand wherever it is most needed. We're looking to expand our partnerships with NGOs working across a variety of Sustainable Development Goals.



Scan the QR code to learn more about BeeCharitable or reach out via email at info@beecharitable.com



D Support

Impact Field

We support the most promising young social entrepreneurs with know-how, mentoring, access to networks, and pre-seed funding. We also provide a wide range of offerings to strengthen their resilience and their venture's resilience. By providing spaces and resources that respond to individual alumni needs, we are able to foster sustainable and innovative social ventures that have all the right tools to address the most pressing issues of our time.

Social Innovation

SIA ventures offer solutions to each of UN Sustainable Development Goals. A select few SDGs received most of the attention in 2023, highlighting the issues that youth is most mobilized by:

Good health and well-being
Quality education
Climate action
Decent work and economic growth
Responsible consumption and production

80,7 %
Low Risk of Burnout
 Venture teams experienced moderate to no risk of burnout.

62,6 %
Stress Management
 Venture teams found participating in SIA helpful in improving their stress management.

84,3 %
Long-Term Ambitions

Venture teams plan on continuing their efforts after SIA.

91,2 %
Expert Guidance

Venture teams found experts helpful for the development of their venture.

94,4 %
Solving the Problem

Venture teams have a deep understanding of how their product/service can address the challenge they are working to solve.

81,1 %
Impact Feasibility

Venture teams feel their venture is more feasible than before participating in SIA.

84 %
Supporting the Marginalized

Participants frequently experience discrimination because of social status or attributed characteristics in daily life.

699
 Total # of applications

181
 Incubated ventures

€ 111.881,45
 Awarded funding

SIA Jordan

For the first time in SIA history, the program took place in the Middle East, in Jordan. A historic country full of beauty, Jordan is also home to one of the world's largest refugee populations and a huge income divide between rich and poor. Over 60% of the country's population is under 30, with high rates of unemployment.

Social entrepreneurship has slowly gained traction in the country over the past few years, with its promise to support young people, create unemployment, and solve some of the country's largest issues through innovative solutions. After one year of SIA, we can safely say there is huge promise for the country and the response has been better than could ever have been expected.



“ ”



Being an entrepreneur is not an easy thing, but it gets easier when there are helping hands supporting your success. That's where the SIA Jordan team came in. They patiently motivated us through any struggle, with training, workshops and mentorship, full of love and humility. Since the start of SIA Jordan, startups have had great potential for impact and innovation. We've gained the confidence to transform ideas into reality and bring our visions into the business world. It isn't only an incubator for our startup, it's a companion throughout this journey.

Ilham Al Taei,
Co-founder of Farm Jo, SIA Jordan Winner 2023

Key Highlights

Right from the discovery phase, the program welcomed participants from outside of the capital city Amman. Many of them did not win a ticket to the incubation, but it was a promising sign that SIA is wanted across the country. The 10 early-stage ventures that did win a ticket and complete the incubation were supported by a group of local mentors and experts, making great strides towards becoming full-fledged ventures. Startup focus areas were diverse, ranging from healthcare to education and everything in between.

Ecosystem Development

After a successful year, it's clear that SIA can have a very positive impact in Jordan. SIA is one of the first programs to introduce social entrepreneurship to Jordanian youth, an underserved group actively looking for economic opportunities. It also provides technical and financial support for early-stage ventures, an important segment of the entrepreneurship funnel that remains underserved.

We're looking forward to another successful year in Jordan in 2024.

Community

Impact Field

Community was crucially important in 2023. We put renewed emphasis on connecting young social entrepreneurs, experts, partners, and supporters with one another, to nurture communities and enable peer-to-peer support. The highlights were our Reflection Retreat, our Community Labs and the SIA Summit.



“ ”



You start as a finalist in the incubation. You then graduate, become a summit participant, become an alumna, participate in one of the community labs, become the facilitator of that same community lab a year later, and come back to the summit as a speaker. SIA gives you the opportunity to grow as a social entrepreneur, help your team grow, and share your experience with other entrepreneurs. By becoming facilitators, our team has become more confident, we've understood how useful our experience is to others, and we've made new friends.

Alisa Sokolova,
Co-founder at Collab, SIA Russia Finalist 2019

78,2 %

Alumni Role-Modeling

SIA alumni stories inspired applicants to take part in the program.

61,9 %

Advocacy

Venture teams will actively engage in advocacy work for their cause.

76,1 %

International Community

Applicants feel SIA provides access to international knowledge and expertise.

16

Network Expansion

On average, venture teams established 16 new contacts helpful to the development of their venture throughout the program.

1363

Alumni Ventures



Reflection Retreat

As is the case every year, we brought together the incredible people running the SIA program around the world for a few days of reflection and connection. Taking place in the Slovenian mountains, 2023's retreat was a little break from day-to-day operations and allowed the whole network to hone in on its errors and successes.

Community Labs

In 2022, we launched the community labs as part of an effort to provide alumni with support beyond the incubation. These themed working groups bring together SIA alumni passionate about Health and Wellbeing, Education, and Climate Action for a 4 month peer-to-peer learning journey. In 2022, all labs were hosted and facilitated by SIA alumni.

“ ”



The summit was an exciting finale to our SIA journey, celebrating this global community of young visionaries. Presenting my platform and hearing others' local solutions on this global stage was an invaluable experience! Being part of this inspiring community is truly an honor and it definitely deepens my commitment to making a difference.

Zeynep Ağırbaş,
Co-Founder of Craft Antakya, SIA Turkey 2023 Winner



SIA Summit 2023

Winners from 15 SIA countries, alumni, and experts from the public, private, and civil society sector gathered for 3 days of connection, skill-building workshops, and thought-provoking keynote speeches in Novi Sad, Serbia. The event's festival style format put participants in the driver's seat, offering a wide-variety of sessions, panels, and experiences to choose from.

Hosted in the cultural capital of Serbia, Novi Sad, the summit was many young social entrepreneurs' first international experience. By immersing themselves in a new city, visiting local social enterprises, and connecting with people from all around the world, participants opened their minds to new possibilities for themselves and their venture.

In many ways, the SIA Summit 2023 was a full circle moment. Many years ago, when SIA was much smaller, the Summit was held in Serbia. The country is Managing Director Ana Janosev's home, and her first connection to SIA was made in Serbia. As Ana stepped down from her role as Managing Director of SIA at the end of 2023, the Summit represented her "send-off". Rightfully so, the closing ceremony was an emotional moment for the entire community, who has had her around for 8 years.

Closing Remarks



Jonas Dinger,
Managing Director of Social Impact Award

Every year, the pressure gets bigger. Whether environmental, political, technological, or social ... The fabric of society is constantly tested. Fortunately, we see trust, empathy, respect and care as important factors for resilience. Communities built on these principles still stand strong.

The stories and numbers in this report testify of the strength of the SIA community, one that values collaboration over competition and compassion over oppression. It is like a window into the future, one where unique talents are appreciated and recognized without judgment. From alumni sharing their experiences with other alumni, to collaborating with artists, to cross-sectoral partnerships, community is at the heart of everything we do at SIA.

Over the coming years, we will double down on our efforts to be a resilient and engaged community. Transformation doesn't happen in isolation and community is what makes it all possible. The strength of our community directly influences our potential as a driving force for societal transformation towards environmental sustainability, social justice, and equal opportunities for all. We will work hard to maintain it.

We'd like to extend a big thank you to our hosts, mentors, facilitators, volunteers, partners, experts, supporters and anyone else who played a role in achieving what was showcased throughout the report. We could not have done it without you.

A special thank you goes to our Strategic Partners for enabling our work and our impact.



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