

CSF Strategy

2020 - 2025

The Centre for Sustainable Fashion (CSF) Strategy 2020 -2025 sets our direction for the next 5 years with short and long term aims and objectives, a delivery plan and a framework for accountability. It builds on academic Research, Knowledge Exchange and educational practice undertaken by CSF since the Centre’s formation in 2008.

Our work contributes to and interacts directly with an arts-based higher education and fashion designing in wider social, cultural, economic and environmental sustainability agendas.

The related Strategic Plans are envisioned as living documents, to enable us to be proactive and adaptable, and to thrive in the face of anticipated and unpredictable challenges and uncertainty.

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I CSF AT A GLANCE

Centre for Sustainable Fashion
a critical and diverse
participatory learning ecosystem that
creates and connects



providing conditions to develop



**Fashion Design
for
Sustainability**

based on respect for our
interdependencies with each other
as part of Nature

to have Agency to
Stop Devastating Planet and People
by developing
Regenerative Fashion Cultures and Practices

2 RATIONALE

Centre for Sustainable Fashion (CSF) shapes and contributes to Fashion Design for Sustainability as a field of study that conceives, realises and communicates multiple ways in which fashion can manifest equity and take place within earth's carrying capacity. This study takes place at academic, personal, professional and societal scales.

We seek to create conditions for mutual learning, reflection and action that are open to and representative of the living world with people of generational, locational, community, gender and racial diversity. Participatory practices of design as transformation enable learning in situated contexts, manifesting fashion as sustainability in action.

Fashion's activities and artefacts represent vital elements of being human within an ecological context. Fashion is however complicit in the three-fold climate, societal and personal health and equity crisis. By working with other disciplines, we take an earth and equity centred approach to the application of design and communication technologies. The Centre uses design to create cultures and practices of care, regeneration and resilience to respond directly to the Climate Emergency.

Since its conception in 2008, CSF has continued to produce an extensive range of new research, extending knowledge and understanding of fashion as a discipline. Its influence locally and globally is expanded by working with industry to impact practice, education to transform fashion's role in society, and with wider publics to influence political change.

The Centre's academic publications include the most cited research in fashion and sustainability, exhibitions visited by large and diverse audiences around the world, courses reaching learners in 192 countries, direct teaching at undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD levels, industry changing initiatives through partnerships in world-leading fashion houses and fashion publishers, as well as longstanding research and support with micro and small designers and their businesses.

In the last 5 years, CSF has realised over 25 substantial research, KE and education projects (in addition to multiple incubation projects) with a total value of over £5m. Additionally, centre members are contributing to the UKRI Creative Clusters *Business of Fashion, Textiles, Technology* at LCF and a number of UAL partnership projects with international universities.

CSF supports a burgeoning PhD community and post-doc researchers, funded through projects and sponsorships, that imbue the Centre's work with diverse perspectives. Advocacy work and policy development includes a centre member acting as Special Advisor (SPAD) to the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) in Ethics and Sustainability in Fashion. Regular contributions to high reach media channels at national and international levels, as well as working with UN programmes enables high level engagement with diverse audiences.

In 2018, the Centre hosted *What's Going On?* A discourse in Fashion Design for Sustainability, with a network of international researchers, educators, students, alumni, industry practitioners and NGOs to share thinking and practice. Outcomes include the creation of the Union of Concerned Researchers in Fashion, published research and new partnership projects.

Traditional ways of measuring impact are not always appropriate in capturing and measuring ecological, social, cultural and economic value in and through fashion. By creating new value indicators, we intend to inform practice across higher education, industry and government sectors. This strategy supports our work in making us accountable for the social, cultural, environmental and economic impact of our work.



3 MISSION

MISSION

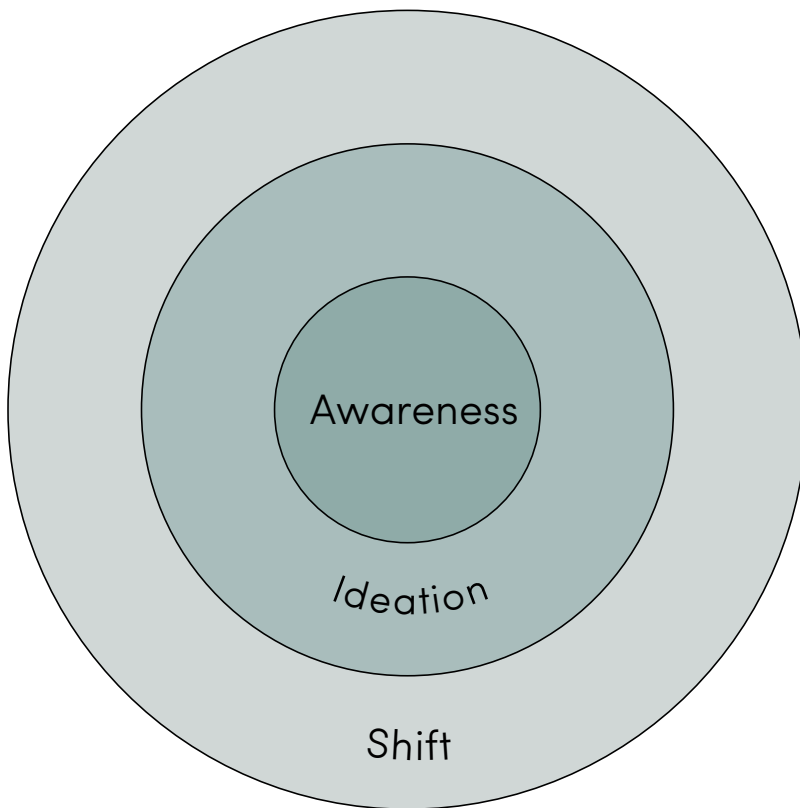
Engage in participatory design and transformation design practices to act on the climate, societal and personal health and equity crisis in and through fashion.

Develop agency and capabilities in those involved in fashion to critically respond, adapt and transform fashion into restorative practices and cultures.



4 LEVELS OF INTERVENTION

Centre for Sustainable Fashion takes a multi-strand approach to Fashion Design for Sustainability and related participatory design practices, by means of a diverse portfolio of projects, partnerships and collaborations related to intervention points across three scales of transformation:



Projects and activities at a pervasive level that are widely accessible with broad reach and impact.

Educational resources, reports, open source knowledge, toolkits, exhibitions

Projects and activities developed out of an understanding of challenges in the development of sustainable products, services and practices.

Bespoke design projects, R&D and innovation, funded research, industry-academia collaboration

Projects and activities that start with Earth and Equity to develop cultures, practices and indicators of change as sustainability in action.

Art installations, academic publications, residencies, community-led projects



5 CORE THEMES



Cultures and Practices of Sustainability

Sufficiency: Questioning Consumption and Growth

Ecological Literacy

Action in Climate Emergency

Post-Human Thinking

Social, Racial, Gender and Intergenerational Justice

Community Resilience

Practices of Care and Wellbeing



6 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

Demonstrate subject leadership in Fashion Design for Sustainability and related participatory practices

1. Produce new knowledge & perspectives in Fashion Design for Sustainability, Transformation Design & related participatory practices
2. Challenge reductionist and detrimental narratives in Fashion
3. Lead a community of practitioners in Fashion Design for Sustainability
4. Inform Policy and engage in Advocacy to set new agendas in Fashion



Recognise and nurture skills, expertise and capabilities of Fashion Design that realise a regenerative fashion system

5. Facilitate an environment for critical, supportive questioning and experimentation
6. Nurture capabilities of future change-makers
7. Participate in co-learning with our communities

Develop a set of unique evidence-based frameworks and methodologies for transformation

8. Create resources and methodologies for Transformative Learning in situated contexts
9. Devise sustainability impact measurement framework
10. Develop a Framework to improve diversity and inclusivity in our practice
11. Engage in and evidence practices of care

7 GUIDING PRINCIPLES & CODE OF CONDUCT

Our guiding principles encompass our philosophy, values and culture, and provide a reference for how we intend to conduct ourselves.

We have **Integrity**.

- We are fair and responsible in our personal and professional dealings with ourselves and others
- We hold ourselves accountable, taking ownership of actions and inactions within our control, and potential consequences on others
- We work in a professional, competent, and conscientious manner

We practise **Cultures of Care**.

- We ground our work in care for the planet and all its life forms
- We develop respectful, caring work practices that reflect our values
- We support a work environment that encourages active listening, and clarity and honesty in conversations

We are **Collaborative**.

- We work in a participatory manner, openly, seeking collaboration across social, cultural, generational, political, and geographic boundaries
- We work inclusively, recognising individuality and multiplicity as an advantage, in our collaborations within UAL and externally

We are **Inquisitive**.

- We are courageous and ambitious and engage in speculative, experimental, curious and playful explorations
- We are open to new perspectives, defer judgement, seek alternatives, and challenge normative systems, behaviours and practices
- We nurture creative expression

We are **Rigorous**.

- We are critical and systemic in our approach
- We promote cultures of excellence in knowledge-based objective inquiry
- We engage in processes of reflection and review of our practices to ensure continuous learning, quality and integrity

We are **Committed** to transforming the fashion system.

- We promote cultures and practices of restoration and resilience
- We are committed to social justice and equity in the treatment of individuals and groups by opposing prejudice, discrimination and dishonesty
- We seek to decarbonise, decolonise and be anti-racist in our practice

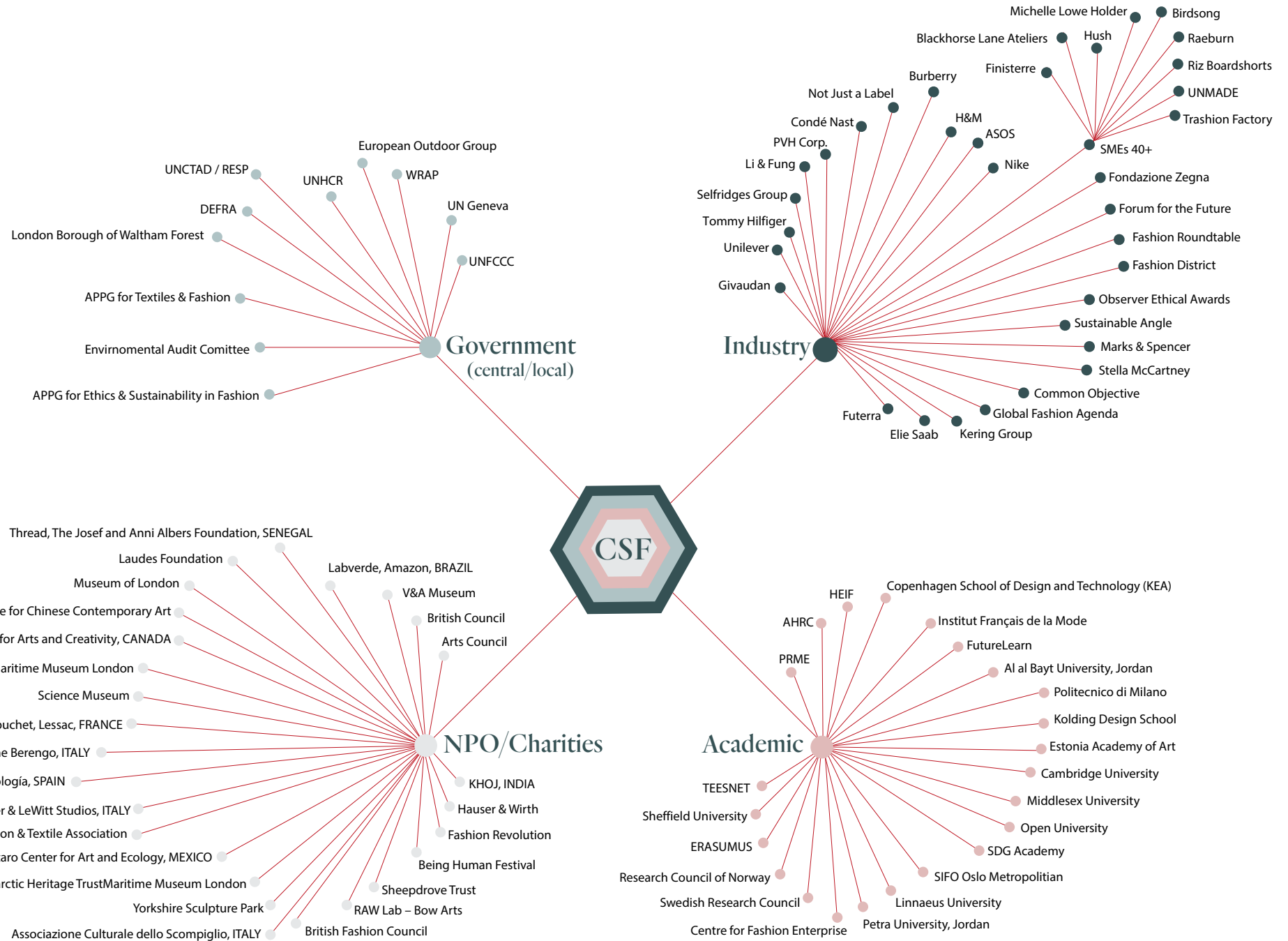
We are **Catalytic**.

- We engage in purposeful projects that bring about and evidence meaningful change at a range of scales and locations of change
- We balance feasibility, viability, and desirability
- We focus on the stickiness of our action over quick fixes





8 NETWORKS & PARTNERSHIPS



9 FUNDERS & RESOURCES

CURRENT FUNDERS

(Not including in kind contribution)

Research/Art/ Creative practice

UK

AHRC (FSP)

AHRC Clusters (BFTT WP3)

Arts Council (Raft of the Medusa)

UKRI covid scheme (Modelling and Supporting recovery)

London Borough of Waltham Forest (Making for Change)

Maritime Museum London (AWP)

Harewood House, Leeds (AWP)

Estuary Festival (AWP)

Non-UK

Erasmus+ KA2

Research Council of Norway

(Lasting: Prosperity through Project Durability)

European Capital in Matera (7ox7o The Meal)

Trusts and Foundations

Antarctic Heritage Trust (AWP)

Sponsorship

Sheepdrove trust (Postdoctoral Researchers)

Unilever (Za'atari Action)

Ermenegildo Zegna (Fabulae Naturae)

NGOs

UNHCR (Za'atari Action)

Knowledge Exchange

ASOS

Burberry

Condé Nast

Futerra

Kering

PVH Europe

Tommy Hilfiger

Stella McCartney

FUTURE FUNDING SOURCES:

UKRI - AHRC, NERC, InnovateUK, ESRC, EPSRC

R&D/innovation grants and follow on funding

EU funding, inc. Horizon Europe, MSCA

Arts Council

Industry Consultancy, sponsorship

IP income from industry resources & products

Contract Research

Industry PhDs , KTPs

International funding from collaborative projects

Cross-sectoral partnerships, incl. in kind

Trusts and Foundations

October, 2020

“Knowledge and learning
are humanity’s greatest
renewable resources for
responding to challenges and
inventing alternatives.
Yet, education does
more than respond to
a changing world.
Education transforms the world.”

ual **london college
of fashion**



centre for
sustainable fashion

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References:

Guiding Principles are based on CSF Pedagogical principles, CSF design lifecycle & other sources

Quote: UNESCO Future of Education <https://en.unesco.org/futuresofeducation/>