

Project:

A one-week leadership experience for young people facing unequal access to opportunity

Mission:

Programme for 13-16 year olds from underrepresented backgrounds, designed to build confidence, widen exposure, and strengthen future direction.

The gap is not talent. It is access.

Problem (what I see)

Access is uneven. Many young people have ability, but lack early exposure to opportunity, guidance, and examples they can realistically relate to.

Challenge (why it happens)

Students from underrepresented backgrounds are less likely to encounter professional networks, structured guidance, or the confidence that grows through repeated exposure and support.

Wider issue (why it matters)

The result is not only individual disadvantage, but wasted social capacity: talent is widely distributed, while access remains uneven.

It affects diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

What we are building

A one-week pilot personal development programme for 15–20 students.

The programme is designed to give participants:

- Stronger communication and self-belief
- Exposure to real educational and career pathways
- Contact with mentors and practitioners
- Practical experience of teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving

The goal is not a motivational week. The goal is a shift in what feels possible.

Why this model

Many short programmes create a moment of inspiration but no lasting structure.

This model is being built differently:

- Small cohort, high attention
- Mentors with credible lived and professional experience
- Strong focus on confidence, exposure, and next steps
- Designed as the first step in a longer-term support pathway

The pilot is designed to test a model that can be repeated, improved, and scaled.

Why this mission is personal

My path into social enterprise came through working with young people and seeing how access directly shapes their confidence, choices, and future direction

- 2018-2023** **Klassobana**
Helped build non-formal education initiatives designed to bridge the gap between school and life skills
- 2019-2021** **GLOW Georgia**
Leadership camps and outreach for girls aged 13-16, including travel to underserved mountain regions.
- 2021-2023** **Free University Alumni Fund**
Raised funding to support 12 high-achieving students from low-income backgrounds.
- 2023-2026** **Design Institute**
Built scholarship routes, career orientation programmes and international education partnerships.

Impact

45

Students supported through partner-backed education access routes, scholarships and grants.

60

Partners across 10 countries, including universities, cultural institutes, brands and design organisations.

10K

Young people reached through education and community initiatives

What I am looking for now

I am building the first pilot and looking for early collaborators who can strengthen it in practical ways

School and community partners

to help identify students and
support delivery

Programme mentors and contributors

to share perspective,
guidance, and lived
experience

Financial backers

to offer funding, venue
access, introductions, or
strategic advice

If this aligns with your work, I would be glad to speak

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