

GYC CHAIR UPDATE

ISSUE 2

The GAMBICA Young Council (GYC) certainly got off to a flying start upon our creation in 2022 and it has been a delight to see that continue as we move through 2023. Having already identified our initial areas of focus as Sustainability, Education (STEM outreach) and Education (upskilling), this term has really been about getting into the nitty gritty of these issues and beginning to develop some initiatives that we are very proud of, and hope will be of great benefit to our industry.



To make the most of the time we spend together, we decided that it would be best to split into three working groups:

Our Sustainability working group very quickly identified that the huge volume of information regarding sustainability can be quite overwhelming for businesses, and it can be difficult to know where to start, where to go to for support and which information is factual. To combat this, we are working to create a hub of reliable sustainability resources. This will include examples of best practices from the industry, a 'jargon buster' guide and a database of businesses offering sustainability support. We have also joined the main GAMBICA Sustainability Council so we could share ideas and ensure we are working effectively together rather than duplicating efforts. Finally, rather than just sharing information around sustainability, we wanted to put our money where our mouth is and are currently assessing the carbon impact of our own 3 monthly in person meetings and how we can reduce or offset these entirely.



Emma Sanderson
GYC Chair



Following a fantastic meeting at the national STEM learning centre in York and all GYC members registering as STEM ambassadors, our Education (STEM outreach) working group wanted to build on this momentum. As well as attending individual STEM events and engaging with students, we are looking to get involved with STEM events on a national scale so we can reach and inspire as many young people as possible. The GYC are from a wide variety of backgrounds and levels of education, and we hope that by sharing our stories we can be of real benefit to young people. We are also working on a GAMBICA STEM toolkit, which will include shared resources, ideas and guidance for GAMBICA members to use when engaging in STEM activities. We're incredibly passionate about inspiring young people whilst shining a light on the opportunities available in our industry, and we urge all GAMBICA members to get involved in STEM if you aren't already.



As well as inspiring people to join our industry, we want to raise the employability and skills of those already in the industry. Our Education (Upskilling) working group want to support the development of future leaders and felt that a great way to do this is to research and evaluate a variety of different courses. We hope that sharing our findings will help take the guesswork out of choosing a suitable and effective training course for both the employee and their employer. After wider group discussions around the value of mentorship, we also want to provide guidance on the best ways to find, engage with, and capitalise on the time spent with a mentor.



Finally, we are very excited to have opened up another space on our GYC council and encourage anyone within the first 10 years of their career in the industry to reach out and get involved here:

<http://www.gambica.org.uk/activities/gambica-young-council>

We are proud of what we have achieved so far, but certainly have no plans to slow down. As my term as the GYC chair comes to an end, I now pass the baton to George Brown from OMRON who will lead the GYC through the next 3 months, where we will continue to develop our initiatives, challenge our ideas and learn a lot along the way!