

we the curious  
**Our Manifesto**



Creating a culture  
of curiosity



## **A message from Donna Speed, CEO**

**Welcome to We The Curious, a place to explore the living, breathing, creative world of science that's all around us.**

The exciting thing about science is it's never finished, and while it has the potential to transform all our lives for the better, that only works if there is true representation, equity and equality of access for those who make, research, fund, deliver and experience the opportunities and benefits science brings.

To create this Manifesto, we took a step into the unknown, asking the question 'what is our purpose?' and perhaps more importantly 'who are we for?' It was from these questions that the new direction for our science centre was born. A centre with curiosity at its heart: recognising that, wherever we come from, whoever we are, we all have questions.

How might opening up our way of thinking about science in this way help push the boundaries of who can truly influence science?

This Manifesto sets out our vision for a culture of curiosity and our commitment to always be led by people, to work harder to become truly inclusive, and to always be responsive to what you are curious about.

**Because science is for you, for me,  
for everyone.**

## **Our Vision**

**What if everyone is included, curious and inspired by science to build a better world together?**

## **Our Mission**

**To connect and empower people through sharing creative experiences which celebrate unknowns in science.**

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## **We The Curious is:**

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A collective voice for the power of positive change in our communities, to shape our collective futures

A space that removes boundaries and barriers, connecting and empowering people through creative experiences which celebrate science

A place for everyone to learn, play and experiment – we're about asking questions, being playful and testing things out

An educational charity on Bristol's Harbourside, led by scientific thinking, multi-disciplinary learning, social equity and people's curiosity

Creating and building connections through our people, visitors, collaborators, researchers, participants, and partners... across the city and beyond.



**It's not just  
our mission to  
inspire people  
about science,  
but for science  
to be inspired  
by people**

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**Science transforms lives  
It begins with curiosity**

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Curiosity is the engine that drives both artistic and scientific enquiry

It is the knowledge emotion, a bridge between feeling and understanding

Curiosity is the seed for beautiful questions that lead to deep learning and new discoveries



# **Are sheep right or left handed and does it make a difference?**

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Charlie,  
Nailsea



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## **Ask beautiful questions:**

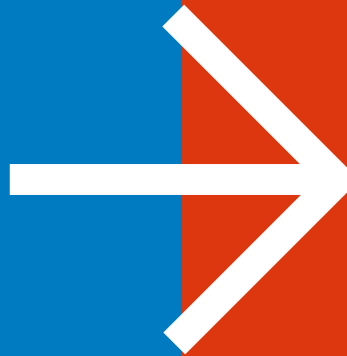
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We are a space where everyone can create and connect to new ideas, be heard and have influence

We believe a society of curious people is a more resilient, compassionate, creative and connected society

## Moving from

- / One day visit
- / Just for kids
- / Simulating science
- / Outreach
- / Fixed approach
- / Exhibit
- / Meet the expert



## To

- / Building ongoing, deeper relationships
- / For everyone
- / Developing knowledge together
- / Part of the community
- / Multi-disciplinary
- / Experiential and participatory
- / Being curious, asking beautiful questions and experimenting together

# Our Five Pledges:

**/ Cultivate Curiosity**

**/ Open City  
Research**

**/ Include Everyone**

**/ Strive for  
Sustainable  
Futures**

**/ Build Resilience**





**If we are made  
up of cells, what  
makes us feel  
emotions?**

Meena,  
Redcliffe



## **Cultivate Curiosity**

- / Harness** the problem-solving power of curiosity to tackle complex problems and imagine different futures together
- / Champion** question-asking and embrace the joy of the process
- / Advocate** for the wellbeing benefits of curiosity – enticing us to explore, building a sense of meaning; as well as developing new skills
- / Embrace** curiosity as a leveller, acknowledging diverse perspectives and adopting a multi-disciplinary approach
- / Provide** safe spaces for people to share ideas and explore challenging topics, leading to a greater sense of connection



Amanda,  
North Somerset



## Open City Research

**/ Champion** public research, by hosting Open City Labs for contemporary science, where anyone can take part in active research

**/ Challenge** current models of public engagement with science, by creating opportunities for contribution throughout the research process

**/ Improve** outcomes for everyone, by supporting academic and community researchers to co-develop programmes that value public partnership

**/ Advocate** for ourselves, our community partners, our audiences and the value of our shared knowledge to society



**If the universe is expanding, what is it expanding into?**

Raffaele,  
Ashley Down



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## ● Include Everyone

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**/ Position** diversity of experience, dialogue, and debate at the heart of what we do, and challenge what and who count in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths

**/ Share** authority, create opportunities and support people to use science to develop new skills and challenge injustices

**/ Create** an environment and a team of staff, volunteers and collaborators that reflects the diversity of the city - where everyone feels they belong

**/ Integrate** a meaningful, multi-disciplinary approach into what we do and include creative ways to express ideas and experiences within science

**/ Listen** to people and respond to their needs - collaborating with others in what we design, do and make

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Jasmine,  
Montpellier

**Can we power  
all of Bristol  
using just  
the sun?**



## **Strive for Sustainable Futures**

- / Pioneer** a living example of progressive sustainability solutions, reducing our environmental impact through energy use, water consumption, procurement, waste management and biodiversity
- / Strive** to become the world's first carbon net zero science centre by 2030: eliminating, reducing and offsetting greenhouse gas emissions from all areas of our operation
- / Assess** environmental risks to our organisation from global climate disruption, and respond through a climate change adaptation plan
- / Develop** public programmes, school workshops and exhibitions with our communities, that use science and multi-disciplinary approaches to explore critical sustainability issues
- / Lead** the science centre sector in environmental sustainability and decarbonisation, whilst supporting local action through the Bristol Climate Leaders



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## **Build Resilience**

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**/ Evolve** and adapt by learning from every challenge, rising with a strength of purpose and renewed commitment to our charitable aims

**/ Develop** our practice and culture as a welcoming, anti-racist, inclusive workplace, where decision making and authority is shared, and everyone can contribute, thrive and feel they belong

**/ Upgrade** and refine organisational systems, policies and nuts-and-bolts processes, to ensure physical and digital infrastructure is fit for the future

**/ Strengthen** existing income sources and seek new opportunities to deliver long-term financial stability

**/ Monitor** against a consistent set of KPIs to understand progress and continually learn and improve

**/ Innovate** to better deal with risk, mitigate threats, and adapt to climate change

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“  
I have no  
special talent  
I am only  
passionately  
curious”

Albert Einstein

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**Photo credit:** Ailsa Fineron

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**Do touch the  
exhibits, Do use  
your phone,  
Do laugh out  
loud, bring your  
kids, friends,  
grandparents or  
come and escape  
on your own  
You, me, everyone  
testing the world  
out together**