

Partnership Proposal

CAMBRIDGE
SCIENCE
CENTRE

Building a Better Future –
Empowering young people to create
more sustainable neighbourhoods
and communities



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Building a Better Future

The UK's future as a global science and technology leader depends on nurturing the next generation of STEM thinkers, doers, and innovators. But for too many young people – particularly those growing up in sub-standard or insecure housing – their local environment negatively impacts their learning and potential.

At Cambridge Science Centre (CSC), we believe that every young person should have access to the transformative power of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics). For those from disadvantaged backgrounds, this access can be life-changing – unlocking pathways to education, skilled careers, and economic mobility.

Building a Better Future places STEM at the heart of local communities through a theme that directly connects to young people's lived experience: The Built Environment. Housing, infrastructure, sustainability, and neighbourhood design are not abstract concepts – they shape young people's daily lives, educational outcomes, and long-term prospects. By exploring these issues through a STEM lens, we help young people see both the relevance of science and their own potential to create change.



Raising STEM Aspirations via the Built Environment

The houses we live in, the buildings we work in, and the neighbourhoods we call home will change dramatically over the next few decades. The breadth of STEM careers in the Built Environment is growing rapidly: It offers highly tangible and practical opportunities for young people in education today.

Working closely with industry partners, Cambridge Science Centre will deliver a 12-month community-focused **Building a Better Future** programme from Summer 2026 to Spring 2027. With a core focus on inclusive and sustainable urban environments, this programme will introduce young minds to the science and engineering behind how we design, retrofit, construct and supply infrastructure to our homes, offices, and neighbourhoods.





Connecting STEM to lived

experience: The built environment – including housing, schools, and public space – shapes young people's daily lives. Our programme will offer regular, repeat engagement, encouraging young people to explore how STEM can improve the spaces they know best.

Ensuring everyone has a part

to play: We will prioritise engagement with less well-served communities and school groups in and around Cambridge and Wisbech in the Fenlands. Through Built Environment challenge activities co-developed with our partners, we aim to empower young people and their families to play an active role in moving their communities toward a more sustainable future.

Showcasing career opportunities:

Corporate partners are encouraged to help us highlight real-world career paths by connecting young people with inspiring professionals. Through talks, supported hands-on activities, and lab sessions, partners will help us demonstrate the richness of STEM careers and the diversity of people working in the Built Environment sector.

Strengthening civic

participation: Public consultations on planning and development often do not adequately reflect the views of young people in the broader community. In Cambridgeshire, where complex decisions about land use are increasingly frequent, this lack of engagement is a growing issue. Without understanding how the built environment is shaped, young people are excluded from decisions that affect their lives. Through this programme, we aim to increase their civic confidence and participation.

Through the **Building a Better Future** Programme, we will equip young people with the curiosity, knowledge, and confidence not just to imagine a better future – but to help shape it.





About Cambridge Science Centre

Cambridge Science Centre (CSC) has over a decade of experience inspiring a passion for STEM. More than 500,000 young people, families, and school groups have engaged with our hands-on programmes across the East of England.

Our work is driven by three core principles:

STEM confidence transforms life prospects –

Early engagement with STEM opens up long-term opportunities and builds the confidence to pursue them.

STEM education is failing many young people –

A curriculum focused on content and outcomes often overlooks the importance of relevance and curiosity.

STEM should be experienced, not just taught –

We foster discovery and joyful exploration, helping young people make sense of – and shape – the world around them.

Each year, CSC engages approximately **50,000 learners**, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and inspiration to shape a brighter future.



Project Plan

The full **Building a Better Future programme** will be delivered at our main site in Cambridge Science Park. To ensure broader reach and community engagement, selected activities will also be delivered via our Inspire Wisbech site. The programme will offer:*

Exhibitions: Two Built Environment showcase exhibitions (~40 sqm), one on designing sustainable buildings and one on developing inclusive neighbourhoods.

Workbenches: Two hands-on workbench challenges that engage in-depth problem-solving and critical-analysis with multiple degrees of freedom to consider. Topics will complement the Exhibitions.

Labs: Six experimental activities that are directly led by our Science Communicators. Curiosity driven challenges designed to spark conversation and drive deeper thinking about a range of topics.

Community Engagement: The programme is designed to support skill development and retention by promoting repeat visits and making activities highly relevant to young people's lived experiences.

Community Sessions: Six sessions across the year challenging up to six underserved community groups to plan a local neighbourhood, providing opportunities to explore the breadth of the Built Environment sector.

The Big Questions: Young people will be posed a "Big Question" to consider over the year, and responses will be collected and celebrated during Science Week, March 2027



Our Project Timeline:

February 2025
Explore

October 2025
Sign-Off

Summer 2026
Showcase



Analyse
June 2025

Launch
April 2026

Science Week
March 2027

We anticipate engaging over 10,000 young people through this programme.

* The final programme of activity and exhibit plan will be subject to funding.

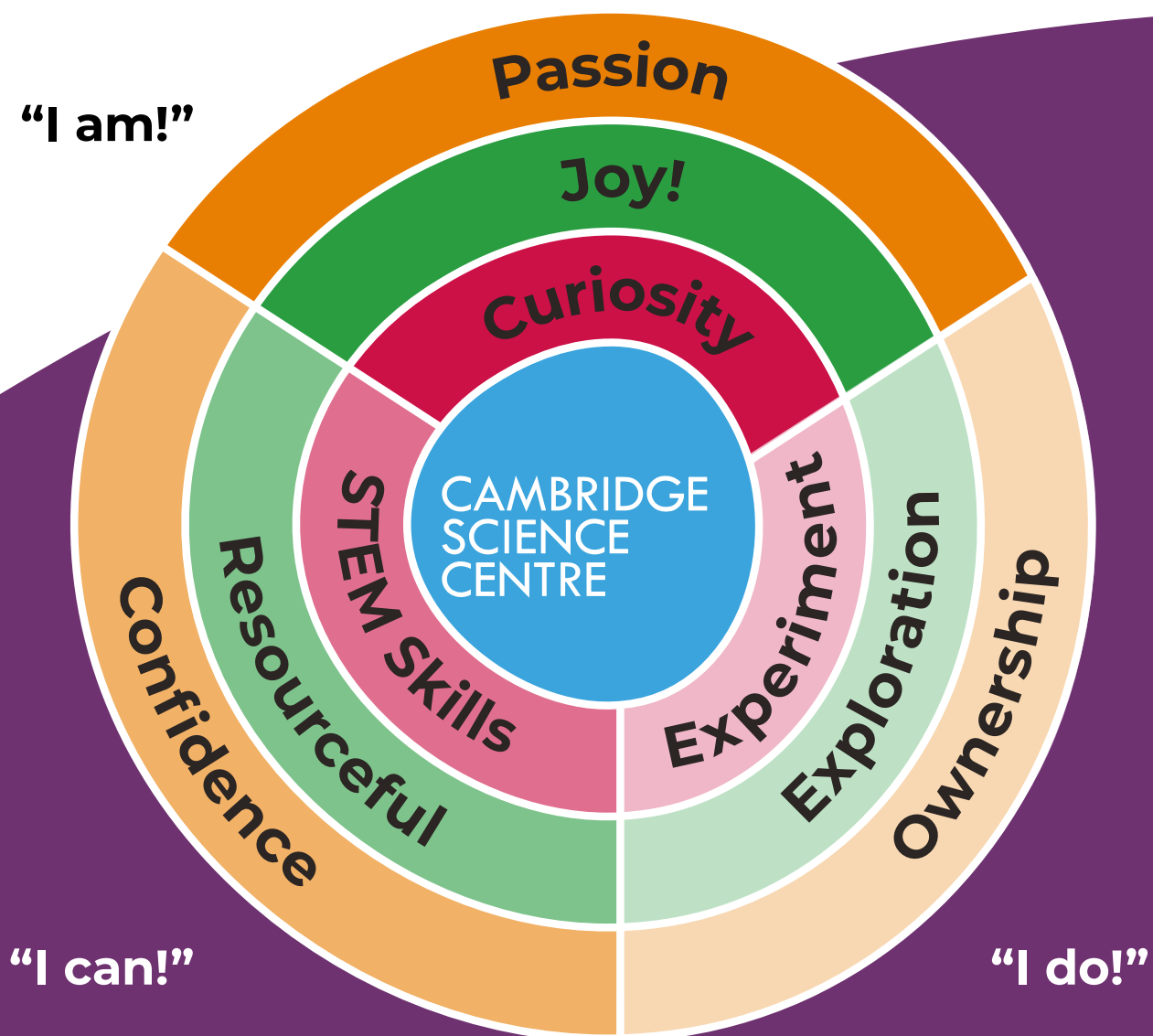
Engagement Opportunities

Our programme supporters are true Partners in our mission. We ensure you can clearly see the impact of your support – inspiring young people to explore STEM careers within the Built Environment sector.

Advisory Council: Our major Partners can participate in quarterly Advisory Council meetings, helping shape and steer the project as it progresses. All Partners will be part of a collective project group, hosted on Google Groups where ideas can be shared.

Visibility: Via a comprehensive marketing plan, we will recognise our Partners and keep the public up-to-date via high-impact signage and advertising, press releases, content-rich case-studies and regular social media posts.

Cambridge Science Centre Impact Architecture (Logic Model):



CSC provides...

which develops

...on a path to



Impact Measurement & Reporting:

All of our work is underpinned by the Cambridge Science Centre Impact Architecture (Logic Model) – a simple yet effective framework that links activity design directly to intended outcomes. We provide regular, data-rich project updates and a comprehensive end-of-project impact report. Our tracking is designed to feed directly into company CSR reporting, with tailored reports available for our Principal Partners.

Volunteering & Thought

Leadership: Your employees can be the role models who inspire young people to see a future in your industry. We offer opportunities for company representatives to deliver talks, join expert panels, and take part in hands-on engagement through our Lab Takeovers - where your team can bring real-world STEM experiences to life.

Networking: All partners will be invited to exclusive networking events with educators, industry leaders, and local stakeholders. A dedicated Building a Better Future Showcase Event will take place in early summer 2026, celebrating the programme's impact and partnerships.



Recognition and Request for Support

We are deeply grateful to our project partners; whose support is vital to fulfilling our social mission. We are committed to recognising and celebrating the important contributions they make to our work.

Partner Recognition	Principal Partner	Lead Partner	Partner	Community Supporter
Positions Offered	2	5	10	10
Donation	£50,000	£25,000	£10,000	£5,000
Advisory Council	Yes	Yes		
Press Release	Dedicated	Group	Mention	
Blog/Case Study	Dedicated	Group	Mention	
Social Media	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Print & Signage	Logo	Logo	Line Credit	Selected Line Credit
Website	Logo	Logo	Line Credit	Line Credit
Other Supporter Acknowledgements (e.g., Reports)	Logo	Logo	Line Credit	Line Credit
Networking Events	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Corporate Team-Building	Included	At Cost		
Lab Take-Overs	2 Included	1 Included	1 Included	At Cost
Progress Reports	Customised	Yes	Yes	Yes

Project Target: £250,000

To move forward into the development phase, the Building a Better Future programme requires a minimum of £150,000 in confirmed donations by October 2025.

Join Us in Inspiring the Next Generation of STEM Changemakers

We're inviting forward-thinking partners to help us co-create and deliver a bold, high-impact Building a Better Future programme – one that connects young people with the real-world science, technology, and innovation shaping the spaces they live in.

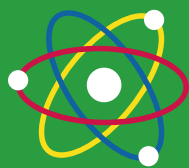
If your organisation works in the Built Environment – from housing and infrastructure to design, engineering,

or sustainability – we'd love to explore how we can work together. Your support could help unlock life-changing opportunities for young people, while showcasing your commitment to skills, innovation, and community impact.

Let's build something brilliant together.

Pilot Phase Partners:





Cambridge Science Centre

The Trinity Centre, Cambridge Science Park,
Milton Road, Cambridge, CB4 0FN

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