The Global Market is an experience. A chance to slow down, savour, be astonished, and meet incredible people. Join us!

The Global Market is a pop-up market platform for newcomer women to sell their products, supporting their micro-businesses to thrive. Our initial team of 5 came together in the Refugee Livelihood Lab at RADIUS, SFU. Many of us had our own dreams of small business ownership, and knew the struggles of this process. We discovered we each had a passion for showcasing authentic Global food, products, and handcrafts of refugee and newcomer women. We wanted to create spaces for the wider community to meet, eat, shop, and connect, all while supporting these women-owned small businesses to shine.

Newcomer women, in particular those who are from visible minority groups, face multiple barriers when entering the labour force. The Global Market initiative addresses these problems through support, education and low-barrier entry to market spaces. The following three stories illustrate our impacts by following the journeys of vendors and community members who access the Market.

“\nThe Global Market introduced us to a hidden world of very talented women, who are truly like gemstones

- Rachel, customer
When Duna first arrived in Canada from Iraq, she missed her traditional clothes and felt ill at ease in store-bought styles. Originally a dentist, her first opportunity to sell her original designs came through the Global Market. Realizing there was enthusiastic demand, she is now building her venture to share the sensuous fabrics and patterns that characterize Ishtar.

Visit her work at Van Abaya, #217, 10198 152nd Street in Surrey, or email ishtar4000@gmail.com to place a custom order.

Sabreen came to Canada as a Refugee Claimant from Palestine. Sabreen is a very independent woman and she always wanted to rely on herself. She worked at Denny’s for many years until she hurt her shoulder. Injured, and without many options, Sabreen still did not want to depend on Social Assistance. So, she started her own home based catering business. After initial success, she learned she could not continue without obtaining a Food Safe Certificate. Although it seems like a minor hurdle to someone not facing the barriers she did, the challenges ground Sabreen’s sales to a halt. Through the Global Market, Sabreen was able to access a fully subsidized Food Safe training offered in her language, and in a supportive community. From here Sabreen was able to go on to grow her at home business.

You brought me back to life and took me out of my usual routine
- Sabah, vendor

Want to be a vendor or sponsor a market?
- Call 604-498-3137
- Email: teamglobalmarket@gmail.com