



THE GLOBAL MARKET

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.

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

- Rachel, customer ”

MAKING MAGIC

At the test market, Zaid and Haitham, two brothers who are active members of the Arab Student Association at UBC danced the Dabkeh. This traditional dance is performed by many Palestinians, Lebanese, Syrians, Iraqis and Jordanians. It is special because it is a cooperative dance, stemming from a call to go and help neighbours build houses by stamping the feet to compact the earth.

At Global Market, we know that dancing makes the heart come alive. It keeps culture centred and builds community. What we didn't know is the impact including this dance would have! A few weeks later, a mother approached us with a request: her teenagers originally from Palestine saw this dance and wanted to learn it! The teens told us they felt learning the dance would help them connect to their roots and strengthen their sense of identity. They also wanted to meet other youth of the same cultural background. They had been feeling cut off from culture and wanted to reconnect. What could be better than dancing for this? We arranged a dance lesson, which may become a regular event - because the Global Market is about giving, receiving, and building spaces for magic to occur.

“

You brought me back to life and took me out of my usual routine

- Sabah, vendor ”

COME CHECK US OUT

Want to be a vendor or sponsor a market?

- Call 604-498-3137
- Email: teamglobalmarket@gmail.com

DUNA'S STORY

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.

When people put on Duna's Mushtaqi's handsewn, traditional Iraqi clothes, they start to shine. Clad in elegant wraps with intricate detailing, people seem to walk a little taller, and exude a compelling confidence. Duna thinks this is because of the importance of culture, the scent of home, and the story of her brand. Ishtar House of Design is named after the Babylonian Goddess of Love and Desire.



Visit her work at Van Abaya, #217, 10198 152nd Street in Surrey, or email ishtardesign4000@gmail.com to place a custom order.

SABEEN'S STORY

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.

