

# Ada Scotland Festival

## Trustees' Annual Report

1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023



## Charity contact information



Ada Scotland Festival

Scottish Charity Number: SC050808

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## Charity Trustees

1. Matthew Barr (Chair)
2. Anna Doyle (Treasurer)
3. Ella Taylor-Smith (Secretary)
4. Toni Scullion



## Objectives and activities

*Together, we can offer a more joined up approach to tackling gender imbalance in Computing Science, playing to individual partners' strengths while improving the visibility of all concerned.*

The Ada Scotland Festival brings together partners involved in addressing the issue of gender balance in Computing Science education in Scotland. The University of Glasgow's Dr Matthew Barr leads on the initiative, alongside Festival co-founders Dr Ella Taylor-Smith (Edinburgh Napier University) and Toni Scullion (dressCode) and Anna Doyle (BIMA, CYF) and a voluntary advisory board, drawn from across the sector.

The Ada Scotland Festival has grown out of a SICSA-supported workshop. The workshop brought together employers, lecturers and teachers to identify ways in which the continuing gender imbalance in Computing Science might be addressed. The need for a more joined-up approach was one of the outcomes of the workshop, and that's where the Festival comes in.

The Ada Scotland Festival launched in October 2020, featuring a mix of online events, activities, and competitions. While the Festival takes the form of a series of scheduled events (around Ada Lovelace Day in October), the Festival website provides a persistent platform for organisations to engage with the public.

## Structure, governance and management

### Type of governing document

The Ada Scotland Festival is a single tier Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), governed by a constitution<sup>1</sup>. This constitution may be altered by resolution of the charity trustees - in their capacity as members of the organisation - passed at a members' meeting (subject to achieving the two thirds) or by way of a written resolution of the charity trustees in their capacity as members.

### Trustee recruitment and appointment

Our trustees have been with us from the Festival's inception in 2020, comprising co-founders Dr Matthew Barr, Dr Ella Taylor-Smith and Toni Scullion, and Anna Doyle. Our constitution requires a minimum of four charity trustees, and allows for up to 12. To date, having four trustees has proven sufficient. However, should the scope of the Festival increase in the future, we will seek to recruit additional trustees from our network of partners and advisory board. The existing trustees may appoint a new charity trustee by way of a resolution passed by majority vote at a board meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ada.scot/about/constitution/>

## Partners and events

When the Festival launched in October 2020, it featured 32 partners, 16 live events, and dozens of other online activities. In 2022, we featured 21 live events – including in-person events for the first time – and many new partners, including:

- Apps for Good
- Barclays
- BBC
- CENSIS
- Equate Scotland
- Game Doctor Ltd
- Leidos
- LT Harper
- Morgan Stanley
- Scotland Women in Technology
- Scottish Government
- Tech We Can
- Edinburgh Napier University
- University of Dundee
- University of Stirling
- Women in AI Scotland

Here's a flavour of our 2022 events...



### Ada Scotland Festival Launch Event

The launch of the Ada Scotland Festival 2022, hosted by our Headline Sponsor, Barclays!



### First Steps in Tech at the BBC

BBC Scotland, in partnership with the Ada Scotland Festival, are holding an in person event to explore what a career in tech is like in a global media organisation.

# Scotland Women in Technology

## **Women Do Cyber: Supporting diversity and routes into the sector**

GCU, SWiT and Cisco invite you to join this in-person for an interactive discussion to learn how we can support diversity in the cyber and tech workforce to ensure we can both attract and retain skilled talent.





### **How technology can provide business opportunities. A Women Entrepreneurship Week event**

This in-person event brings together Dr Carla Brown, Game Doctor Ltd, Prof Norin Arshed, University of Dundee and Gillian Fleming, Mint Ventures in a panel session followed by discussion and networking.



### **Barclays Code Playground – Coding Basics with VEXcode**

A virtual coding session, open to anyone who would like to learn the basics with VEXcode, led by Barclays Eagles.



### Live Podcast Recording: An Audience with Toni Scullion

Join us as we record our Women in Tech podcast live with award-winning gender diversity advocate, dressCode charity founder & Ada Scotland Festival co-founder Toni Scullion, with time for Q&A and networking.



### Women in AI UK – Scotland Launch

Women and AI is coming to Scotland! Come and join us celebrate the launch of Women in AI activity in Scotland!



**Barclays presents: Am I too technical to be promoted?**

Barclays Women in Technology network are delighted to host a panel event to discuss the careers of senior female technologists. Our panel members are all senior colleagues in the business and will include roles such as software developers and product owners, amongst others.



**Barclays presents: First Steps in Tech – How to Take the Right Career Path**

Are you curious about launching a rewarding career full of impact, doing work that both inspires and challenges you? This panel will explore the early stages of a career in technology.



### **Barclays presents: Let's Chat... with Sarah Rashid**

To kick off Barclays virtual events at the Ada Scotland Festival 2022, Barclays Women in Technology network are hosting an informal chat with one of our senior leaders in Glasgow.

  **October 19**  
**12:30 - 13:30**

# Making Work Work for You

For women students and professionals working or wanting to work in tech

**EQUATE** Scotland **WOMEN TECH**

### **Making Work Work for You**

This workshop provides tips on how to progress your career and overcome some of the barriers women face in the tech industry



### Tech We Can Live Assembly “Tech to Help People”

Join us on Thursday 27 October at 9.30am, when our Head of Early Education, Becky Patel, will deliver a brand new live virtual 30-minute Tech We Can assembly for children aged 5 – 11.



**Scottish AI Playbook**

## Wiki Editathon!

Friday 28th October  
ONLINE | 10am to 1pm (BST)

Want to help us develop the Scottish AI Playbook while learning new skills in wiki editing?

Join us to update the Playbook with Inclusivity and Technical Resources.

DATAFEST2022  Scottish AI Alliance 

Teresa Berndtsson / Better Images of AI / Letter Word Text Taxonomy / CC-BY 4.0

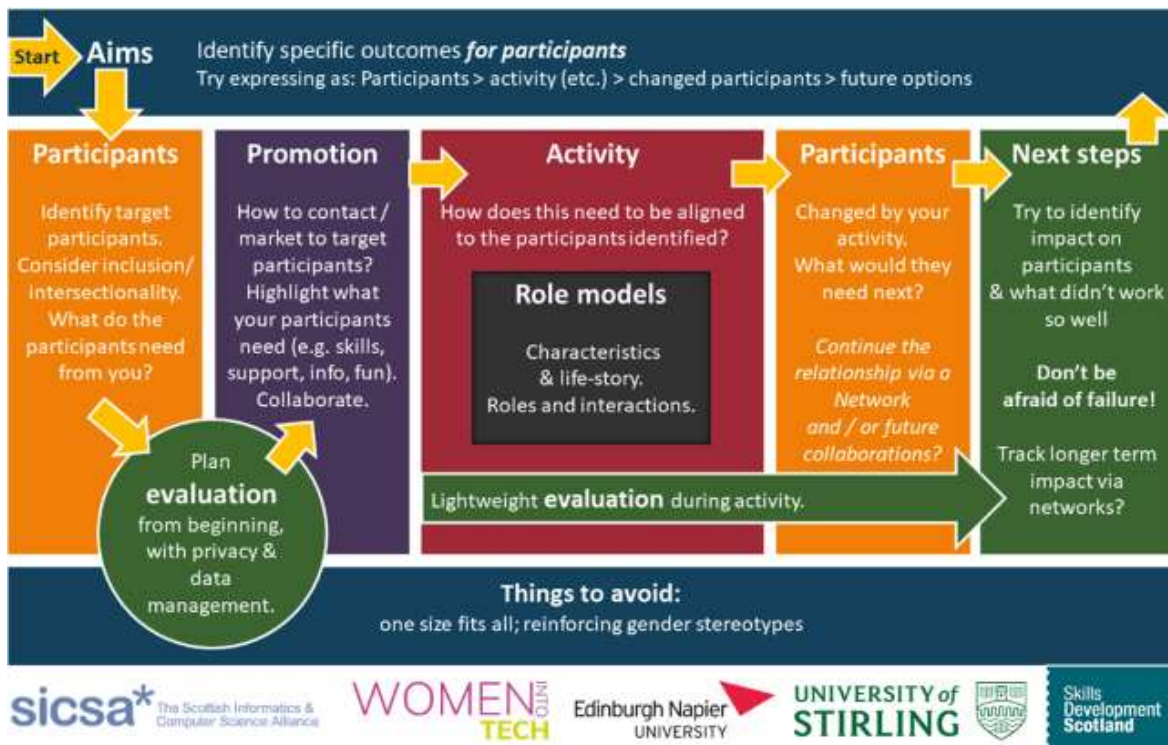
## **Scottish AI Playbook Editathon with DataFest Fringe and ada.scot**

Want to get involved with developing the Scottish AI Playbook wiki while learning new skills in wiki editing? Then the Scottish AI Playbook Editathon is for you!



## **Scottish Government Digital, Data & Technology (DDaT) workshop**

An interactive workshop exploring the Digital, Data and Technology roles in the Scottish Government and the important work they carry out.



## Online Workshop: Running Effective Gender Balance Activities

This workshop will share tested and easy to use techniques to improve the efficacy of gender balance projects.



## Leidos presents: No Wrong Path to Tech

Join our interactive virtual panel event to hear from four amazing women whose careers started off very differently.



### **Get Linked-In-To-Cyber**

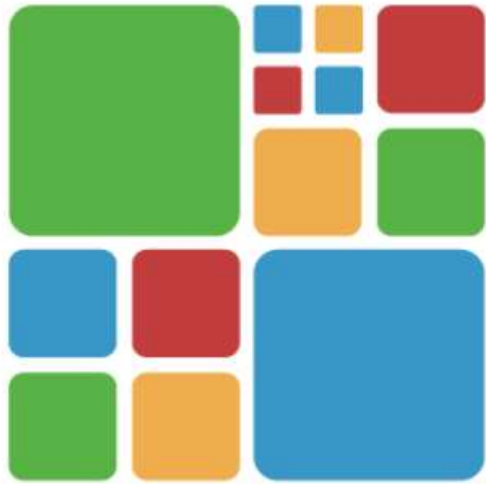
Looking to build your cyber career but don't know where to start? Hear from three experts how to leverage your LinkedIn profile to get noticed.



### **An Introduction to Sensor Technology**

A short online talk, including live interactive demos, exploring the important role of sensor devices in everyday life.





# Apps for Good

## **How Teaching Tech Innovation can help Shape the Future for Young Scots**

In this short online session, we'll share more about how our computing courses map to the Curriculum for Excellence, as well as introduce our brand new climate action course, Innovate for Climate Change.

## Financial review

### Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The trustees aim to hold in reserve sufficient funds to be able to run the Festival again the following year.

### Donated facilities and services

The University of Glasgow and Edinburgh Napier University provide limited in-kind support for trustees based at these institutions (Matthew Barr and Anna Doyle at University of Glasgow, and Ella Taylor-Smith at Edinburgh Napier University). The School of Computing Science at Glasgow serves as the charity's legal address.

## Future plans

The Ada Scotland Festival will return in October 2023, with a similar mix of online and in-person events.

## Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



Print name                      Matthew Barr

Designation                    Chair

Date                              27/12/2023