

A Platform for Good

A summary of the year's activities and evaluation of our strategy, Being the Change.



"We are incredibly grateful for our partnership with the BDC, and the invaluable support we've received over the years. This includes our collaboration on our Big Bike Appeal in 2022, which aimed to raise funds to provide refurbished bikes for Ukrainian refugees in Islington.

BDC joined the appeal as our local matched funding partner which helped double the impact of our support, in addition to providing space to store and distribute the bikes. BDC have also kindly supported us with our ongoing Islington Giving Crisis Appeal - from the use of BDC's fab billboard in the heart of Islington, to generous donations. The support has helped us raise emergency funds for residents who are struggling during the cost of living crisis, and we've reached £120,000 for this appeal to date.

We are also grateful for BDC's contributions and involvement on the Islington Giving Grants committee. This provides strategic leadership and direction for Islington Giving as a whole, enabling us to fulfil our mission in addressing local poverty and inequality and making Islington a better borough to live in for everyone."

Islington Giving

Islington Giving is a network of coalition partners, individuals and businesses committed to addressing local poverty and inequality in Islington. We raise funds, give grants and share power to support local people and projects.

Our Company

In a year where we began to build back stronger from the pandemic, our team have been at the forefront of an incredible raft of initiatives and campaigns. Delivering our first ESG strategy in early 2021 allowed us to embed this comprehensive approach into our corporate business objectives for the year and enabled our continued focus on putting people and the planet alongside profit as our highest priorities.

The BDC management team has always held the fundamental belief that in order to achieve and maintain a successful business and provide an excellent level of service, we have to ensure the highest level of care and well-being for our staff. This is why we retain our people for so long and why they also demonstrate the Company's values in action.

The turbulence of the past few years needs few reminders, with a landscape that has been constantly shifting, politically, economically and for most, very personally; it's been ever more important to maintain a close relationship with both the team in the venue as well our community, clients and the wider industries in which we operate. Many of our targets have been met, and have evolved further to address this changing backdrop.

Over the course of the year, we've continued to assess our targets and have made some bigger strides in certain areas. Most notably our commitment to reaching Net-Zero before 2030, as well as progressing through the initial B Corp assessment. For us, B Corp embodies our strive for continuous improvement so I am excited to see this come to life in the year ahead with their evolving best practice model.

What follows in this document is testament to the whole team, and their individually unique contributions to using the Company's position as a platform for good. I am proud to have seen so much of their capacity for kindness and generosity as well as their commitment to wanting a better world for us, and the generations of tomorrow.

Dominic Jones

Chief Executive, BDC London

Target Update for 2022

Our Environment

Target Set 2022 – 2023	Update on Progress
Look into alternative ways to generate our own energy on site at the venue	Investigations into the option of solar panels on the Gallery Hall roof were undertaken but proved insufficient in terms of energy that would be generated: other options are under exploration
Increase electric vehicle charging points in the car park and loading bay	These have now been increased with 20 points across the car park and loading bay with capacity for more points as demand grows
Build relationships with environmentally focused businesses to support our events on their journey to net zero	Work began in May with ecollective in independently assessing our carbon footprint and journey to Net-Zero and we contributed to isla's Venue Guide in November
Increase recycling and composting to reduce waste sent to recovery by 10%	We reduced our general waste sent to energy recovery by 38 tonnes which equates to a 14.9% reduction
Deliver our route to net zero by the end of 2023	Delivered 18 months early in Summer 2022

Our Community

Target Set 2022 – 2023	Update on Progress
Deliver City and Islington College student events training in support of hosting Local Village Network's charity event in May	The event was hosted and supported in May 2022, with educational collaboration given to the college in the process
Run a collaborative charity fundraising initiative with BDC staff and tenants	In March we hosted a BDC Quiz with our staff and tenants to raise money for The Brain Tumour Charity
Welcome back the food bank on a larger scale	We welcomed Soho Give back in Summer collaborating on another large scale food bank with The Felix Project
Support Islington Giving and in particular feed in to their "Going Greener" funding campaign	With a new member on the Islington Giving Board we supported them on the Going Greener campaign, giving local community projects access to funds for environmental initiatives

Our People

Target Set 2022 – 2023	Update on Progress
Reassess with Investors in People, improving on our last assessment points	Assessment received in January 2023 and recertified at Gold Standard
Deliver an updated flexible working policy for post pandemic life	Our middle management team presented their feedback from the wider company on how the teams wanted to take flexible working forward
Refresh Mental Health First Aider training and open up to more of the team	The Mental Health First Aider refresher was undertaken in February 2022
Roll out an internal comms campaign on company culture	Following our recent Investors In People assessment we are revisiting this alongside a wider rebrand project in Summer 2023

Our Suppliers

Target Set 2022 – 2023	Update on Progress
Support our suppliers on their own journeys to net zero	We have been working with suppliers on measuring event statistics and have refreshed our sustainability group with a view to a wider rollout in 2023
Work closely with suppliers on events to ensure that they have the flexibility needed in delivering new event calendar	Our events teams were proactive in addressing flexibility across the calendar as outlined in the supplier section
Help teams to market and promote job vacancies needed to fill vital roles after the pandemic	Available opportunities are shared within the BDC community network when they arise

Our Industry

Target Set 2022 – 2023	Update on Progress
Continue our participation with the AEV across working groups, involving new members of the teams in these	Kate Vandenburg (Chair of the Marcomms Group) and Max Bull's (Chair of the AEV Board) tenures came to an end and Leanne Pettyfer became a new member of the DE&I Group – other staff remained active
Work transparently and supportively with the industry on the net zero carbon events pledge	We publically shared our roadmap to Net-Zero and plans for how we will achieve this through the isla Venue Guide and at multiple speaker opportunities
Proactively support more event industry charity endeavours	We were involved in more industry charity event this year and expect to continue as such in the year ahead

Our Environment

Certified CarbonNeutral® Since 2010: Net-Zero before 2030

Publishing our first ESG report, Being the Change, back in January 2022 brought into focus our priorities for people and planet allowing us to embed the targets and approach into our corporate business objectives. We were proud to then win the Exhibition News Award's ESG Award in March 2022.

We signed up to the post-COP 26 Net Zero Carbon Events Pledge, supporting the industry's move to a more sustainable future, committing to the challenges that lie ahead of us. Playing a part in working groups held by isla and the AEV, amongst other opportunities to knowledge share, played a key part in facing this together. We have been open and transparent with our story so far, having just surpassed 13 years as a carbon neutral venue.

Over the last twelve months we set out to work more closely with leading environmental companies and we were lucky to be able to begin our journey with ecollective. The team at ecollective helped us to independently measure our carbon footprint in great detail, and map out the necessary next steps to take us from being a carbon neutral to a net-zero businesss.

ec| lective



Through their carbon consulting, they set our benchmark year of 2018/19 (pre-pandemic) and measured our current year (2021/22) against this, with some incredible findings.

With our energy reduction and waste management initiatives as well as having made the switch to renewable electricity for the building, we have reduced our carbon footprint by 66.7% over the last few years. We are really proud to have got off to such a good start on our net-zero path, but we are aware that this is something that we will need to continually work to refine and improve. All our work on this is available at bdc.london/net-zero

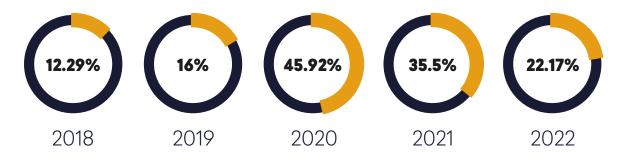
We have seen a stronger return to events than expected over the last year, however we have still managed to reduce our general waste sent to energy recovery by over 38 tonnes, by 14.9%.

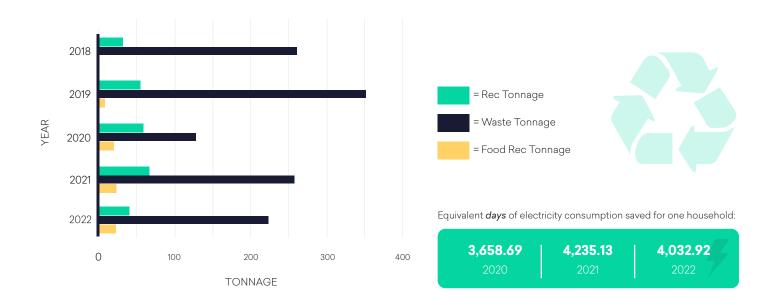
"The BDC clearly has been working on driving its carbon footprint down for a while. They have made great progress, (their figures are very impressive) but the focus now is on the remaining carbon footprint. They have clear next steps to complete in the next few years and we are excited to follow and support them on their decarbonisation journey."

Charlie Cotton,

Founder, ecollective

Overall Recycling Rate:





We have made significant reductions in our waste by diverting reusable items through our donate not waste project, and through donating surplus food. Whether it's furniture left after an office move, spare monitors, stationery, branded bags or clothes, through to food and drink products, we love to see these diverted from waste and sent on to fulfil another purpose. This is something that we will be looking to track and measure in better detail over the years ahead.



It's not a secret that we divert the waste we cannot reuse, recycle or compost from landfill at the venue, but over the years we have been working extremely hard to improve our recycling and composting rates as well as reducing the amount of waste sent to energy recovery. One of the ways in which we do this, is through finding better homes for items that still have life left in them.

'Donate Not Waste' was born from the idea that event and venue waste that is still reusable can continue to be used elsewhere. We are fortunate that our work in the community has helped us to establish links with projects that we can donate such items to.

Targets **2023 - 2024**:

- Source alternative replacement for the use of gas in the venue as part of our road to net-zero
- Deliver post event reporting on events to organisers on their environmental impact
- Share updated measures for 2022 following April's ecollective review
- Staff training on our next steps to be delivered by ecollective



Upper Street Car Park Ltd



Having held a large pop up food bank at the BDC in summer 2022, we have also made some great connections with new charities and groups. This resulted in September last year, when we donated a pallet of ambient food following a consumer event to The Felix Project at their North London depot to be distributed. Other items included a bulk of watering cans sent to the Garden Project, furniture and new clothing to other charities.

Our catering team at The Good Eating Company also work to reduce their waste food. This is done through better planning on events, and by sending any food that can still be safely consumed to our onsite residents at the charity, Go Dharmic, who have projects in London feeding the homeless.

We have identified that this is not currently tracked and so in the year ahead, our sustainability group has begun plans to trace how much food and how many reusable donations have gone on to help others.

Our target to increase electric vehicle charging points was met and over the year, we have seen the uptake of their usage increase. This has contributed to a saving of 24,267kg of CO2 saved in 2022. As we look to support logistic teams in their efforts to implement e-fleets we will continue to assess the requirements for increasing this provision in our loading bay.



Our Community

Helping people and communities since 1989.

The Morris Charitable Trust (MCT) was founded in 1989, by the Morris Family, owners of the Business Design Centre. The BDC contributes a proportion of annual profits to facilitate the Trust's charitable activities or the voluntary support of their staff, through their time and expertise, towards local charitable causes. The Trust is run by a Board of Trustees, made up of BDC Directors, staff and Morris family members, who provide their services on a voluntary basis. The Morris Charitable Trust is also a founding member of Islington Giving.



The Trustees £152,910 Jack Morris CBE **Dominic Jones** Paul Morris OBE Linda Morris Chairman of the BDC, MCT CEO of Shareholder Morris Family of the BDC **Total Donated** and The Brain Tumour Charity the BDC Member in 2022 by the Kate Vandenburg Lucie Grant Marc Morris Carly King Morris Charitable Trust Marketing & Comms Morris Family Morris Family Property Manager Director of the BDC Member Member at the BDC

Since we began reporting on our company-wide activities, Carly King of the BDC and Morris Family Member Marc Morris joined the Board of Trustees. Luke Hurst, BDC Director, also joined the team with responsibility for the financial auditing of projects supported and charitable accounting.

In 2022, Kate Vandenburg joined the board of Islington Giving, our local borough's giving organisation. Over the course of the year, this involved attending regular meetings, participating on their strategy session for supporting residents and charities across the borough as well as sitting on their Going Greener panel which gave grants to applicants for environmental funding.

The Company also supports a number of charities directly. As well as being Chair of the BDC Board, Jack Morris is Chairman of The Brain Tumour Charity, which was fundraised for at the BDC Quiz in March, raising a total of £1,355. We welcomed tenants and staff to take part for an evening, with Jack as our regular quiz master.

Local Village Network (LVN) is also a key charity that we have been supporting since 2017. LVN is a registered grassroots charity set up to reduce network poverty. Their aim is to level the playing field by enabling all young people aged 10-24 equal access to positive networks and mentors, delivered within a positive and nurturing environment. They set out to reduce social exclusion and increase community cohesion between young people, businesses, and statutory services and this is something that we have supported them with in varying ways over the years. This year we once again hosted their annual event in May. We've also donated to them to set up their 'Amplify Me' project which our team will soon be going into a local school to deliver. 'Amplify Me' is a 6-week course of 1-2 hour weekly sessions, delivered by LVN facilitators to 15-20 students and will feature volunteer mentors from the BDC. The programme is designed to expose students to volunteer professionals from all walks of life that they wouldn't otherwise meet, improving their ability to communicate to new and diverse people, in situations similar to those they may encounter while entering employment.







Little Village

Targets **2023 - 2024**:

- Deliver LVN's Amplify Me
 Programme at Beacon High School
 and support their Power of the Hour
 Event at the BDC
- Host The Brain Tumour Charity's
 TIME Art Exhibition
- Take on the Twilight Walk in support of The Brain Tumour Charity.
- Host another large scale community food bank

The crisis in Ukraine was supported through a substantial donation to the Disasters Emergency Committee earlier in the year. Many refugees were also homed with sponsors in our local borough, Islington and this was something we were also keen to help with. Working with Islington Giving and YES Outdoors, we match funded donations to a Bike Appeal. The funding went to refurbish bikes and provide new lights, locks and helmets to Ukrainians in the borough and space was given at the venue to welcome the new owners, both adults and children, to set up and collect the bikes. Space was also given for weekly gatherings of people from Ukraine to come together and meet whilst settling into their homes here.

Members of the BDC team have attended fundraising events over the course of the year, one in particular that we have supported historically was the Anne Frank Annual Lunch, held on Holocaust Memorial Day. This event takes place each year in January and the money that is raised goes on to deliver the Anne Frank Trust's Ambassadors programme. These young people are trained by education teams across the country, to deliver Anne's message of social justice and equality for all in their schools, local communities, and online. The Ambassadors are encouraged to make their voices heard and given the necessary support to tackle issues that they feel strongly about, including all forms of racism, sexism, homophobia or any other form of prejudice. They creatively put together their own campaigns, using assemblies and exhibitions to pass on the message that Anne could take no further than the pages of her dairy: 'we are all equal'.



Amplify Me by Local Village Network



Homestart Camden & Islington

Following last year's large scale food bank at Christmas, we welcomed back the Soho Give in partnering with this time, The Felix Project. Taking place over three days the food bank delivered fresh and ambient food as well as items such as hygiene products and nappies, to hundreds of local families. Timed with the summer holidays, we welcomed these organisations and our teams helped to deliver support for the community who were unable to access free school meals at that time of year.

We have since used our new connection with The Felix Project to make a donation of packaged food left over from an exhibition to their depot in North London. This link, now established is one we intend to continue to support into the future.

Our People

Taking care of the team at the BDC is one of the foundations of our business. In order to be great at what we do, we fundamentally need to ensure the happy and healthy lives of the people that matter the most, our people.

"At the BDC, there is a true sense of fulfillment. Everyone has a unique significance to the business, and this is highlighted through the company's ability to recognise and reward both small and big achievements. There is great care among staff and they place employee welfare at the heart of the business, which is extremely motivating and allows for great friendships to develop."

Yasmin Ansari

Marketing Coordinator, Business Design Centre



Tia, Race for Life £752.50 for Cancer Research UK

BDC Diversity, Equity Inclusion Goals for **2023 - 24**

- Incorporate DE&I into the Corporate Objectives for 2023/24
- 2. Review our core values to assess their inclusiveness
- 3. Include DE&I statement into the induction programme for new starters
- Add DE&I policy to BDC website, our exhibitor manuals and make available to clients and suppliers
- 5. Incorporate inclusivity training for the wider team into the training plan for 2023/24
- Create guidelines for our interview process, job advertisements and standardise questions ensuring consistency
- Review job descriptions to appeal to the widest audience, removing gendered terms
- Identify acceptable behaviours for employees to convey, in order for everyone to feel comfortable in the workplace

This year has been even more important to focus on wellbeing and vital support as we have built back from the turbulence of the pandemic and have ridden the crashing waves of instability in the country. We began by asking the middle management team to work with the wider company on how they would like to address hybrid working and have managed to find a new flow of flexibility addressing individual needs at a personal level. One to one sessions with line managers incorporated deeper discussions about individual personal circumstances, raising the impact of recent economic events which led to a winter support payment being made to staff in November.

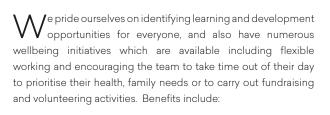
Seminars on diversity, equity and inclusion were delivered by an external speaker for the first time, in addition to the next round of Mental Health First Aider training. CEO, Dominic invited the newest members of the BDC to suggest how they felt change could be made to further improve staff welfare, and these initiatives are now being developed into action. This has formed a steering group for change from the newest members of the team to deliver directly back to the top, something that is now an ongoing process for the future.

It's fair to say that the people at the BDC are the key drivers of the Company's values, especially when it comes to their unique and individual approaches to caring and supporting others. Not only have they been integral to organising and volunteering on many of the initiatives we have delivered as a Company, but since we last reported, there have been some incredible fundraising activities that the team have individually undertaken and we are so proud of their achievements.

SHAVE SHAVE About Donate to shavers Your shave Your profile Logout



Rick, Brave the Shave £1,595.00 for Macmillan Cancer Support

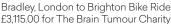


- · Auto-Enrolment Pension Scheme
- Private Healthcare (BUPA)
- Healthcare Cash Plans (Healthshield)
- Travel Season Ticket Loans
- · Childcare Vouchers
- · Cyclescheme Loans
- Flu Vaccinations
- Free Eye Tests
- · Subsidised Chair Massages
- Free Access to Calm or Headspace Apps

We make it a priority to communicate throughout the year so that the team are always aware of what's happening in the business and the impact that they are having. This is done in many ways, both formally and informally:

- Publish Yearly Corporate Objectives from the Chief Executive
- Business Financial Updates Throughout the Year
- Management Forum Bimonthly Meetings
- Middle Management Group Meetings
- Departmental Meetings
- · Quarterly Company Breakfasts
- Regular 121's with Line Managers
- Team Goal Setting Days
- Appraisal System Personal and Business Objectives / Employee Reviews
- Training and Development Plans
- · Incentive Scheme Payments
- Induction and Buddy System for New Starters
- Annual Summer and Christmas Company Parties







The BDC Slowcoaches £3,248 for Cancer Research UK



James, Half Marathon £2,360.00 for Natasha Lewis Foundation

Targets **2023 - 2024**:

- Deliver on our DE&I Goals for 2023-24
- Work with Mencap on their internship programme to employ two candidates
- Create a newly refurbished staff wellness room
- Deliver a deposit scheme to support staff moving into rented property

We hold company gatherings for employee milestones, which are regular, those who celebrate 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 (and onwards) years enjoy long service awards – including, extra annual leave, travel voucher gifts, and lunches with CEO, Dominic Jones. Exceptional performance is awarded through Starburst Awards, including a monetary reward, usually presented at the Summer or Christmas parties. Towards the end of the year, we welcomed back Bruce McRae, our Investors in People assessor.

Through interviews an anonymous survey, as well as a range of observational sessions, the Company went through the reassessment process, with very positive findings. Despite the effects of the pandemic, culture and the work that has been done have resulted in the BDC retaining its Gold Standard IIP Award.



Investors in People Report

We are proud to have re-certified at a Gold Standard in 2023.

"Business Design Centre have responded to the pandemic with exemplary leadership, pace and agility to the challenges presented.

New ways of working have been quickly put into action and wellbeing has risen on the agenda."

IIP Assessor

verall feedback from our IIP Assessment showed that our people are very proud to work at Business Design Centre thanks to the positive impact they have with tenants, event producers, exhibitors and colleagues.

The report commented on the effective response to COVID19 by the BDC Leadership Team and the investment in solutions that will provide long-term benefits to staff as we respond to the ever-evolving work place and exhibition space environment. The BDC gives people access to high quality learning and everyone interviewed confirmed they have the training they need to do their jobs and grow their careers.

The organisation is seen as having a culture of openness and empowerment. Empowerment is the most regularly recalled of BDC's values. Within teams there were many examples of people working together to come up with improvements to the way they do their job, and that the CEO regularly holds sessions with employees where they are asked what improvements they would like.

"I feel it is very open about the future here. I think the speed that we have turned it around since the pandemic is testimony to our planning."

BDC Employee

Sustainability continues to develop, with 90% of respondents believing that BDC has a positive impact on society. Everyone is proud of the work done to help others and how the Business Design Centre is having a positive impact on society.

Everyone described an organisation that is culturally improving with high levels of trust and engagement between people and leaders. 97% of respondents agreed that they trust the leadership. Approachability, trust and engagement are evident in all areas, which is recognised by everyone. This is seen as a real motivator and a true reason as to why people work for Business Design Centre.





"Business Design Centre has been great with my development they support me with training and new opportunities."

BDC Employee

Our Industry

The importance of knowledge sharing with the wider industry remains a high priority.

A s with every year, we work closely with our industry's associations, the Association of Event Venues, Association of Event Organisers and Event Supplier and Services Association. Our staff have continued to support these associations, particularly the AEV, and have been involved in benchmarking and delivering best practice across the industry. It is through this collective voice that we feel change can be best implemented and in recent years, this has been more important than ever.



In 2022, Max Bull ended his two year tenure as Chair of the AEV and Kate Vandenburg ended her years as Chair of the Marcomms Working Group. Wider team members participated in groups across areas including HR, Sustainability, Event Management. Leanne Pettyfer also joined the new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Group. This cross association group, led the BDC to set out its goals for DE&I in the year ahead under the overarching aim to 'Identify what positive change looks like for your company, then work hard to attain it.'

In 2022 we also shared our plans to meet a Net-Zero target by 2030 and have done this transparently and openly with the industry with the hope that it will help others to move along on their own journey. We have done this through promoting the content available on our website as well as by collaborating with other organisations. We submitted a case study to isla's guide 'Sustainability in Practice: A Pathway for Venues', which was created in partnership with VisitBritain Business Events and supported by the Association of Event Venues (AEV), the Meetings Industry Association (mia) and beam. We believe that its through sharing our learnings, we can support the wider industry in tackling the response to the climate crisis, and is something we will continue to do in the years ahead.



We also participated at industry events, most recently speaking at the AEV's Conference and on the EventRelief Podcast where Kate Vandenburg was joined by B Lab Uk's Kyle Soo. The EventRelief Podcast was a fundraising event in support of three event industry charities EventWell, Make It Blue and Meeting Needs, one of the causes we were proud to support. Other industry activities we made donations to included One Day at Christmas as well as participating in the Golf Day for the Rainy Day Trust and Sticky Wicket for the Lord Taverners, where we made it to the semi final.

Targets **2023 - 2024**:

- Continue to share our environmental impact at industry events through our association relationships
- Offer increased amount of venue space to industry training sessions
- Refresh the team in attendance across the AEV Working Groups to include new staff



Our Suppliers

We continue to maintain close relationships with a number of onsite supplier teams.

We have refreshed our Sustainability Group following the pandemic and have a new team of staff and suppliers sitting together every six weeks to drive forward change. We hope after our key changes have been established, to open this up to a wider number of people but as it stands, we include the in house supplier teams that have the biggest impact on our environmental challenges. This has already resulted in much closer working relationships between the teams on topical issues around addressing waste and communications.





Onward Display
Large format signage



Granite Consulting
Internet and
networking services



Aztec Events

Audio visual services



Teamwork UKFacilities Management



TeamexEvent Security services



Signify Digital

Digital Marketing services



The Animation Guys

Animation Design services



Full Circle
Stand fitting



GD Electrics
Electrical services

Working closely with GD Electrics and Teamwork UK, we have been able to take the first steps in providing our events data to support their carbon reduction plans. This is testament to the close and longstanding bonds we have with our suppliers and why they frequently come to us with solutions.

Over the past, 18 months we have also maintained close relationships, in order to facilitate the return of events often out of their regular calendar positions. This has meant we have stored panelling onsite to alleviate the need for additional transport, addressed cash flow for booked labour on a case by case basis, helped logistics by making space available to store



Targets **2023 - 2024**:

- Widen our Sustainability Group to incorporate more suppliers from across the venue teams and support their input into event measurements.
- Extend training offered to staff on Net-Zero to our onsite suppliers
- Run supplier focused marketing campaigns to promote onsite suppliers



exhibitor kit ahead of time where possible and have been flexible with onsite machinery required for show needs.

Our suppliers attend a weekly meeting with our events team, where they are able to understand the following two-week schedule and request support where they may need it. These ongoing meetings allow for all staff involved in the events to speak with stand build and electrical teams, AV and catering as well as our signage and security companies.

We always endeavour to work from within and generally contract suppliers on site to help with maintenance work and re-fits of our showrooms, studios and office spaces. The companies on site, and those we work with regularly, are considered part of the BDC Family. The teams will be seen at the BDC Community Quiz and even at our staff Christmas Party. As a small Company, our suppliers really are an extension of the BDC team. Whether it's dedicating a staff area for security to enjoy breaks or nominating our shining star, Marta Tomczak (Teamwork UK) for the AEO Peoples Indomitable Spirit Award, we are proud to support them and to still have so many regular faces that our clients have come to know and love.







