



Council of Fashion Designers of America
ANNUAL REPORT **2017**



The mission of the
**Council of Fashion Designers
of America** is to strengthen
the impact of American fashion
in the global economy.



Letter from the Chairwoman,
Diane von Furstenberg,
and the President and Chief Executive Officer,
Steven Kolb

In fashion, we respond to the world we live in, a point that was powerfully driven home in 2017. We were excited to see talents with broad cultural backgrounds and political ideas begin to express their experiences and beliefs through their collections. Diversity moved into the spotlight in ways we have never seen before. Designers embraced new approaches to business, from varying show formats to disruptive delivery cycles.

It was also the year to make your voices heard, and CFDA listened. We engaged in civic initiatives important to our industry and partnered with Planned Parenthood, the ACLU, and FWD.us. We also relaunched our CFDA Health Initiative with guidelines to help those impacted by sexual assault or other forms of abuse.

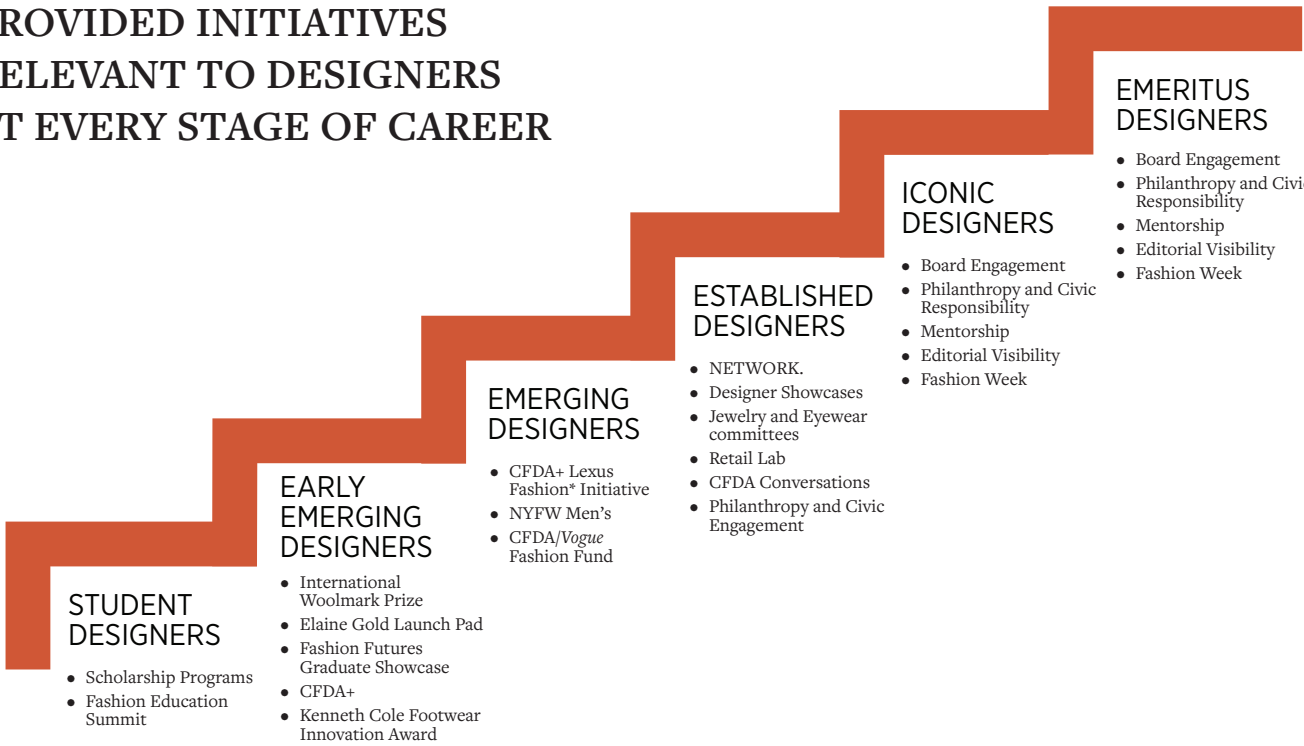
There's no going back. In 2018, CFDA is moving ahead at full speed with an increased focus on inclusivity and women in fashion, the latter through an exciting new study with *Glamour* magazine.

We may be a reflection of the world we live in, but we also work hard to make that world a better place. Altruism, after all, never goes out of style.

CFDA STRENGTHENED PILLARS WITH MISSION-DRIVEN ACTIONS



PROVIDED INITIATIVES
RELEVANT TO DESIGNERS
AT EVERY STAGE OF CAREER





Membership

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Membership in the Council of Fashion Designers of America is open to Americans who are designing in the United States or abroad, or international designers whose businesses are based in the United States.

Applicants must meet certain criteria and submit an online presentation of their work accompanied by a detailed written application and letters of recommendation. The Admissions Committee meets annually to review candidates' applications before making recommendations to the CFDA's Board of Directors. An affirmative vote by the board is required for the acceptance of each new member.

FOURTEEN JOIN THE FAMILY

ANDREA FOHRMAN / ANDREA FOHRMAN JEWELRY

Andrea Fohrman Jewelry is an independent fine-jewelry company based in Los Angeles. The jewelry is made by local artisans and craftspeople in Los Angeles and New York City. Almost every design is both handcrafted and -cast, giving each piece a one-of-a-kind feeling. Fohrman personally handpicks each stone, which she collects from all over the world. Her pieces are made in 18-karat gold of mostly recycled metals. The paradox of timelessness and modernity inspires Fohrman to design handmade, contemporary pieces that always retain their uniqueness and femininity.

BONNIE YOUNG / BY. BONNIE YOUNG

Bonnie Young started her career at Ralph Lauren after graduating from Cornell University. She joined Donna Karan in 1992, heading inspiration and international fabric development from Milan.

Young launched her namesake capsule women's collection in 2012. For fall 2016, she debuted BY. Bonnie Young women's ready-to-wear, which is rooted in a modern point of view—for women who look for great, versatile pieces to add to their wardrobe. Think artful with a powerful sensibility that speaks directly to her customers.

CHLOE GOSSELIN / CHLOE GOSSELIN

Following a decade of traveling the world as a model, Chloe Gosselin returned to school to study shoemaking and production at Ars Sutoria in Milan and the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York.

Founded in 2014, the Chloe Gosselin luxury shoe brand blends French cool with Italian craftsmanship. Each shoe is designed in her New York studio and handmade in a remote town a few miles from central Florence. Emphasis is on classic design, the finest fabrics, and exceptional craftsmanship, with a distinctive youthfulness and fun aesthetic.

BECA McCHAREN-TRAN / CHROMAT

Chromat is architectural swim- and athleticwear designed for strong, powerful women. Becca McCharen-Tran drew from her background in architecture when she founded the label in 2010.

Each Chromat collection explores the intersection of architecture, fashion, and technology, producing garments that augment and enhance the body's performance through innovative design and cutting-edge technical fabrics. The brand is focused on empowering women of all shapes and sizes through perfectly fit garments for everybody.

The swimwear, sportswear, lingerie, and signature architectural cages are all made in New York City.

JULIA JENTZSCH / JULIA JENTZSCH

Julia Jentzsch graduated with an MA in fashion design from London's Royal College of Art. For 15 years, she worked in design houses alongside John Galiano, Jil Sander, and Tom Ford.

Jentzsch founded the Julia Jentzsch company in 2007 as a consulting design business, and has since evolved it into manufacturing high-end, New York City-made women's clothes under her name. She views her collection as a continuation of Germany's early-twentieth-century Modernist movement via contemporary clothes that are designed to last.

STIRLING BARRETT / KREWE

Krewe was founded in 2013 by Stirling Barrett, a New Orleans native and creative entrepreneur. His vision of the city as a thriving cultural hub was his inspiration for launching Krewe. Through the brand, he believes in spreading the culture of New Orleans and its celebration of individual style, one frame at a time.

Barrett studied fine art and creative advertising while attending Southern Methodist University. Upon graduating, he briefly worked in the creative-advertising field before finding his passion for designing eyewear.

MONICA SORDO / MONICA SORDO

Born and raised in Caracas, Venezuela, Monica Sordo grew up surrounded by metals from her father's industrial-design workshop. He continues to influence her work as a mentor and guide. She furthered her design interest while studying fashion styling at Milan's Istituto Marangonia.



Chloe Gosselin



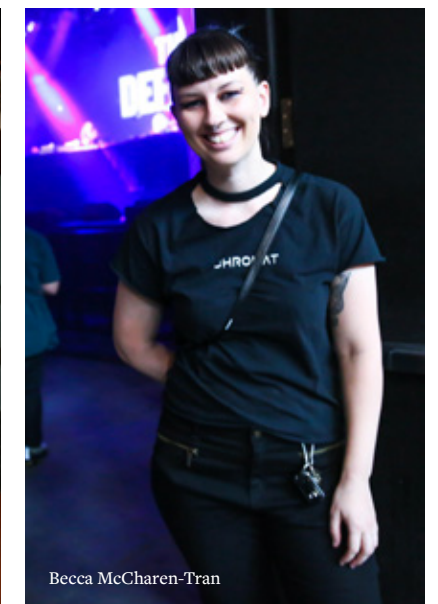
Julia Jentzsch



Andrea Fohrman



Bonnie Young



Becca McCharen-Tran



Stirling Barrett



Monica Sordo



Wing Yin Yau



Kerby Jean-Raymond



Temple St. Clair



Laura Kim and Fernando Garcia



Virgil Abloh



Chris Leba

Membership THE NEW MEMBERS

Each collection features an architectural presence from the designer's travels, drawing from Art Deco detailing and iconic buildings she has fallen in love with. Sordo pushes design boundaries through the arrangement of dynamic angles and deep dimensions in her uniquely transformable pieces.

LAURA KIM AND FERNANDO GARCIA / **MONSE**

Laura Kim learned the basics of sewing, patternmaking, and sketching in her native Seoul, South Korea. While at Pratt Institute, she interned at TSE Cashmere, Donna Karan, and Oscar de la Renta, which offered her a permanent job. Kim worked with de la Renta for twelve years as design director, supervising all aspects of collection development and managing a studio responsible for fabric design, ready-to-wear, knitwear, and accessories.

Fernando Garcia grew up traveling the Dominican Republic and northern Spain. He was drawn to the creative field at an early age, and his love of drawing on napkins led him to study architecture at the prestigious University of Notre Dame. Upon graduating, he took his love for art and architecture into fashion. He moved to New York and interned at Oscar de la Renta, which led to a six-year career as a principal designer.

Kim and Garcia met at Oscar de la Renta, and together they launched Monse in 2016. They also serve as co-creative directors of Oscar de la Renta.

VIRGIL ABLOH / **OFF-WHITE C/O VIRGIL ABLOH**

Virgil Abloh began his career working at Fendi under Silvia Fendi, and in 2010 assumed the role of creative director for Kanye West.

In 2013, Abloh founded Off-White c/o Virgil Abloh, a fashion label that focuses on current culture. The brand offers seasonal men's and women's collections, along with furniture and ready-made goods to reinforce an approach to lifestyle.

Manufacturing is based in Milan because Off-White focuses on making merchandise with the best fabrics and fit. This is a young brand embracing the now in a sophisticated manner. (Abloh became Louis Vuitton's men's artistic director in 2018.)

KERBY JEAN-RAYMOND / **PYER MOSS**

Kerby Jean-Raymond began his career in 2001 while

still attending the High School of Fashion Industries in Manhattan. Early in his career, he focused mainly on creating womenswear: He was assigned an apprenticeship under Kay Unger at her namesake label, and later worked with Georgina Chapman and Keren Craig at Marchesa.

Pyer Moss, founded in 2013, began as a project to reinvent classic athletic gear and uniforms by adding opulent cues and refining the fit. The Pyer Moss collection is produced in New York City.

CHRIS LEBA / **R13**

Chris Leba graduated from the Fashion Institute of Technology and began his design career at J.Crew. He later worked at Tommy Hilfiger, American Eagle Outfitters, and Polo Ralph Lauren. He founded R13 Denim in 2009 with the goal of presenting luxury basics in the rebellious spirit of America's history. The brand offers everything from denim and leather to sweaters, flannels, and shoes. Leba chooses to pay homage to that "Other America," as he puts it—the always provocative underground of culture and art.

TEMPLE ST. CLAIR / **TEMPLE ST. CLAIR**

Temple St. Clair founded her company in 1986 in Florence, beginning her partnership with the world's finest goldsmiths, the centuries-old Florentine Jewelers' Guild. She celebrates a connoisseur level of gemstones with one-of-a-kind pieces born out of an ongoing quest for the rarest stones in the world.

In 2017, Temple St. Clair joined Louis Comfort Tiffany and Alexander Calder as the third American jewelry designer whose work is in the permanent collection of the Museum of Decorative Arts at the Louvre in Paris.

WING YIN YAU / **WWAKE**

Wing Yin Yau studied sculpture at the Rhode Island School of Design, and assisted New York City artists and galleries before moving into design. After a series of necklaces based on textile sculptures, Yau founded Wwake in 2012 to merge art with the intimacy of jewelry.

Wwake offers a new perspective on heirloom jewelry by recontextualizing jewels into unexpected arrangements and modern silhouettes. The pieces, crafted in New York with conflict-free diamonds, deliver the experience of art through simple and valuable objects.

Josie Natori and Steven Kolb [center] with new members at the welcome cocktail.



NEW MEMBERS
CELEBRATE
AT JOSIE NATORI

10.17 “The CFDA is like a family,” said Josie Natori. “We can share stories and give advice.” Natori hosted the new members at her elegant Upper East Side apartment. Many longtime CFDA designers came out to toast the new arrivals, including Vera Wang, Michelle Smith, Christian Roth, John Bartlett, Kerry O’Brien, Reed Krakoff, Christopher Peters, Shane Gabier, Paul Andrew, Rafe Totengco, Peter Som, Shelly Steffee, Irene Neuwirth, and Italo Zucchelli. At one point, Natori hit the notes on one of her two grand pianos, playing Barbra Streisand’s “People” with Jeffrey Banks providing the vocals.

Membership OPPORTUNITIES

Seeing Georgia O'Keeffe's Work at the Brooklyn Museum

3.27 CFDA members were invited on a guided tour of “Georgia O’Keeffe: Living Modern,” at the Brooklyn Museum. Rosie Assoulin, Mara Hoffman, Lizzie Fortunato, Gaby Basora, Cynthia Sakai, Monica Botkier, Jordan Askill, Whitney Pozgay, and Katrin Zimmermann were among the designers in attendance.

An Inside Look at Louis Vuitton's Journey

11.8 CFDA members attended a private breakfast and tour of the “Volez, Voguez, Voyagez” exhibition in the Financial District of Manhattan. Members, including David Cohen, Gemma Kahng, Bonnie Young, Isa Tapia, Paul Marlow, Martin Cooper, and Selima Salaun, took in the comprehensive exhibition about the adventures of the House of Louis Vuitton, from 1854 to the present.

CFDA Eyewear Designers Create Digital Design Showcase

11.30 For the first time, CFDA eyewear designers created a digital design showcase with the aim of presenting a strong platform for the edCFDA and bringing awareness to their designs. Within the membership, the edCFDA plan and participate in various promotional and fund-raising efforts to bring attention to the art and design of eyewear.

Entering Yayoi Kusama's Extraordinary World at David Zwirner

12.6 CFDA members attended a private viewing of the Yayoi Kusama “Festival of Life” exhibition at David Zwirner gallery. Danielle Snyder, Jodie Snyder Morel, Jonathan Meizler, Leigh Plessner, and Amy Chan immersed themselves in Kusama’s extraordinary vision through her paintings and sculptures, as well as her infamous infinity rooms.



Membership MEETINGS

INSIDE THE BIANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

The CFDA’s Biannual Membership meetings are an opportunity for the CFDA to share plans for upcoming initiatives and objectives, as well as a valuable time for Members to interact and network. In addition to the two New York meetings, we held a member meeting in Los Angeles.

4.4 Members convened at Cynthia Rowley’s studio in New York City. Bora Park Chow of Facebook spoke about the power of connecting with consumers through social media. The CFDA’s Fashion Manufacturing Initiative was also a topic of conversation.

4.6 Raan and Shea Parton of Apolis hosted the California-based CFDA members at their flagship store in Downtown Los Angeles. Among the topics discussed: the shortage of talent for hire in L.A. and the need for business-development support and community-building opportunities.

10.18 The newly inducted members attended an exclusive New Member Orientation with the CFDA staff at Theory in New York’s Meatpacking District, followed by the general Membership Meeting. Guido Campello of Cosabella gave a presentation on the importance of AI and technology. The latest member benefits were discussed, as well as NETWORK., a new CFDA program launching in 2018.

Clockwise from top left: Diane von Furstenberg and Stacey Bendet Eisner; Jasmin Shokrian, John Whitledge, and Shea Parton; Erin Fetherston and Sophie Buhai; the Membership Meeting at Theory; Chris Leba and Wing Yin Yau; designers at the New Member Orientation.

Membership IN MEMORIAM

REMEMBERING
KENNETH
JAY LANE

“Glamour is all year round.” Few embraced the idea of the good life quite like Kenneth Jay Lane, who passed away at the age of 85 at his Manhattan home in July. “Elegance, luxury, and good taste,” he once said, “never go out of style.”

Lane made his mark on American style by elevating costume jewelry with imagination and innovation, and giving each design the allure of fine baubles. Over the past half-century, he adorned the world's most fashionable women with such stunners, including the Duchess of Windsor, Elizabeth Taylor, Diana Vreeland, Audrey Hepburn, and, more recently, Lady Gaga, Sarah Jessica Parker, and Madonna.

"We were extremely close," CFDA Chairwoman Diane von Furstenberg said. "He was so good-looking. He had so much style, and his houses were beautiful."

A native of Detroit, Lane studied at the University of Michigan and the Rhode Island School of Design. He then worked at *Vogue*, Delman Shows, and Christian Dior before launching his own costume jewelry in 1963.

"Kenny Lane was much more than just the greatest costume-jewelry designer in the world," Carolina Herrera said. "He was a great American personality."



Membership CURRENT ROSTER

504 Members as of December 2017

Joseph Abboud	Liliana Casabal	Nick Fouquet	Adam Kimmel	Carlos Miele	Jeff Press	Sue Stemp	BOARD OF DIRECTORS Diane von Furstenberg, Board Chairman Michael Kors, Vice Chairman Marcus Wainwright, Vice Chairman Vera Wang, General Secretary Mimi So, Treasurer Stan Herman Ralph Lauren Reed Krakoff Tracy Reese Norma Kamali Tommy Hilfiger Jenna Lyons Kara Ross Prabal Gurung Deborah Lloyd Ashley Olsen Georgina Chapman Italo Zucchelli Stacey Bendet Dao-Yi Chow
Amsale Aberra	Edmundo Castillo	Istvan Francer	Calvin Klein	Derrick Miller	Virginie Promeyrat	Annette Stephens	
Virgil Abloh	Kristy Caylor	Shane Gabier	Michael Kors	Nicole Miller	James Purcell	Phoebe Stephens	
Reem Acra	Jean-Michel Cazabat	Brooke Garber Neidich	Monica Rich Kosann	Malia Mills	Jessie Randall	Scott Sternberg	
Alexa Adams	Salvatore Cesarani	Fernando Garcia	Fiona Kotur Marin	Rebecca Minkoff	Tracy Reese	Robert Stolt	
Adolfo	Greg Chait	Floriana Gavriel	Reed Krakoff	James Mischka	William Reid	Steven Stoltman	
Babi Ahluwalia	Amy Chan	Judy Geib	Regina Kravitz	Isaac Mizrahi	Robin Renzi	Jay Strongwater	
Sachin Ahluwalia	Nancy Chanin	Nancy Geist	Nikkli Kule	Lauren Moffatt	Loree Rodkin	Jill Stuart	
Waris Ahluwalia	Kip Chapel	Robert Geller	Lisa Kulson	Bibhu Mohapatra	David Rodriguez	Ben Stubbington	
Steven Alan	Georgina Chapman	Geri Gerard	Christopher Kunz	Sean Monahan	Eddie Rodriguez	Anna Sui	
Marc Alary	Ron Chereskin	Rosetta Getty	Nicholas Kunz	Claude Morais	Narciso Rodriguez	Koi Suwannagate	
Simon Alcantara	Wenlan Chia	Gai Gherardi	Blake Kuwahara	Paul Morelli	Robert Rodriguez	Daiki Suzuki	
Victor Alfaro	Wenlan Chia	Flora Gill	Steven Lagos	Robert Lee Morris	Charlotte Ronson	Robert Tagliapietra	
Fred Allard	Dao-Yi Chow	Adriano Goldschmied	Derek Lam	Miranda Morrison	Lela Rose	Elie Tahari	
Linda Allard	David Chu	Adam Goldston	Richard Lambertson	Rebecca Moses	Kara Ross	Johnny Talbot	
Raquel Allegra	Eva Chun Chow	Ryan Goldston	Richard Lambertson	Kate Mulleavy	Ippolita Rostagno	Vivienne Tam	
Joseph Altuzarra	Doo-Ri Chung	Wes Gordon	Adrienne Landau	Laura Mulleavy	Christian Roth	Isa Tapia	
Carolina Amato	David Cohen	Chloe Gosselin	Liz Lange	Matt Murphy	Cynthia Rowley	Rebecca Taylor	
Francesca Amfitheatrof	Peter Cohen	Matteo Gottardi	Byron Lars	Blake Mycoskie	Rachel Roy	Tanya Taylor	
Sophia Amoruso	Kenneth Cole	Gary Graham	Nicholas Graham	Gela Nash-Taylor	Sonja Rubin	Yeohlee Teng	
Paul Andrew	Michael Colovos	Nicholas Graham	Rogan Gregory	Josie Natori	Ralph Rucci	Olivier Theyskens	
Dana Arbib	Sean Combs	Rachel Comey	Henry Grethel	LeAnn Nealz	Kelly Ryan	Gordon Thompson III	
Raul Arevalo	Martin Cooper	Ulrich Grimm	Jussara Lee	Charlotte Neuville	Ernest Sabine	Monika Tilley	
Greg Armas	Tim Coppens	Joy Gryson	Vanessa Noel	Irene Neuwirth	Jamie Sadock	Isabel Toledo	
Nak Armstrong	Maria Cornejo	George Gublo	Nanette Lepore	David Neville	Michael Saiger	Cynthia Sakai	
Jordan Askill	Brian Atwood	Michael Cornejo	Michael Cornejo	Roland Nivelais	Selima Saluan	Selima Saluan	
Rosie Assoulin	Esteban Cortazar	Scott Hahn	Monique Lhuillier	Vanessa Noel	Justin Salguero	John Truex	
Brian Atwood	Britt Cosgrove	Jeff Halpos	Andreas Lieberman	Misha Nonoo	Lisa Salzer-Wiles	John Truex	
Lisa Axelson	Yigal Azrouël	Kobi Halperin	Phillip Lim	Maggie Norris	Angel Sanchez	Trina Turk	
Lubov Azria	Victor Costa	Cathy Hardwick	Johan Lindeberg	Paige Novick	Behnaz Sarafpour	Mish Tworowski	
Yigal Azrouël	Jeffrey Costello	Erica Courtney	Marcella Lindeberg	Juan Carlos Obando	Jake Sargent	Patricia Underwood	
Mark Badgley	Steven Cox	Karen Harman	Adam Lippes	Kerry O'Brien	Brad Schmidt	Kay Unger	
Matt Baldwin	Steven Cox	David Hart	Deborah Lloyd	Mary-Kate Olsen	Lorraine Schwartz	Carmen Marc Valvo	
Linda Balti	Keren Craig	Stan Herman	Gabriela Hearst	Sigrid Olsen	Jeremy Scott	Rony Vardi	
Jeffrey Banks	Philip Crangi	Lazaro Hernandez	Carolina Herrera	Thaddeus O'Neil	Kendra Scott	Nicholas Varney	
Leigh Bantivoglio	Angela Cummings	Caroline Herrera	Brett Heyman	Luca Orlandi	R. Scott French	John Varvatos	
Jhane Barnes	Emily Current	Siki Im	Tommy Hilfiger	Max Osterweis	Scot Shandalove	Stuart Vevers	
Stirling Barrett	Carly Cushnie	Bob Mackie	Carole Hochman	Alex Orley	George Sharp	Cynthia Vincent	
John Bartlett	Sandy Dalal	Jeff Mahshie	Mara Hoffman	Matthew Orley	Anna Sheffield	Adrienne Vittadini	
Gaby Basora	Robert Danes	Catherine Malandrino	Sarah Lytvinenko	Samantha Orley	Danielle Sherman	Clare Vivier	
Dennis Basso	Ruthie Davis	Colette Malouf	Victor Lytvinenko	Maxwell Osborne	Marcia Sherrill	Diane von Furstenberg	
Michael Bastian	Donald Deal	Mary Jane Marcasiano	Bob Mackie	Ariel Ovadia	Sam Shipley	Patricia von Musulin	
Shane Baum	Pamela Dennis	Lana Marks	Jeff Mahshie	Shimon Ovadia	Tadashi Shoji	Marcus Wainwright	
Bradley Bayou	Mark Davis	Paul Marlow	Jeff Mahshie	Rick Owens	Thakoon Panichgul	Daniel Silver	
Veronica	Pamella DeVos	Ramon Martin	Catherine Malandrino	Thakoon Panichgul	Monica Paolini	Howard Silver	
Veronica Swanson Beard	Kathryn Dianos	Robert Marc	Eric Javits, Jr.	Shea Parton	Raan Parton	Jonathan Simkhai	
Erin Beatty	Rachel Dooley	Mary Jane Marcasiano	Kerby Jean-Raymond	Nellie Partow	John Patrick	Christian Siriano	
Susan Beischel	Keanan Duffy	Lisa Jenks	Julia Jentzsch	Marcia Patmos	Edward Pavlick	Monique Péan	
Sara Beltran	Stephen Dweck	Ulla Johnson	Alexander Julian	John Patrick	Monique Péan	Patty Perreira	
Stacey Bendet	Alan Eckstein	Ashley Jung	Gemma Kahng	Deborah Marquitt	James Perse	Christopher Peters	
Richard Bengtsson	Libby Edelman	Norma Kamali	Donna Kang	Jen Kao	Becca McCharen-Tran	Jack McCollough	
Chris Benz	Sam Edelman	Betty Johnson	Ulla Johnson	Donna Karan	Kasper	Jenni Kayne	
Coomi Bhasin	Mark Eisen	Ulla Johnson	Alexander Julian	Donna Karan	Kasper	Jenni Kayne	
Alexandre Birman	Meritt Elliott	Ashley Jung	Gemma Kahng	Deborah Marquitt	James Perse	Christopher Peters	
Alexis Bittar	Karen Erickson	Norma Kamali	Donna Kang	Jen Kao	Becca McCharen-Tran	Jack McCollough	
Kenneth Bonavitacola	Patrik Ervell	Ulla Johnson	Alexander Julian	Donna Karan	Kasper	Jenni Kayne	
Sully Bonnelly	George Esquivel	Ashley Jung	Gemma Kahng	Deborah Marquitt	James Perse	Christopher Peters	
Monica Botkier	Pina Ferlisi	Norma Kamali	Donna Kang	Jen Kao	Becca McCharen-Tran	Jack McCollough	
Marc Bouwer	Lisa Marie Fernandez	Betty Johnson	Ulla Johnson	Alexander Julian	Donna Karan	Kasper	
John Brevard	Luis Fernandez	Ashley Jung	Gemma Kahng	Deborah Marquitt	James Perse	Christopher Peters	
Barry Brick	Erin Fetherston	Norma Kamali	Donna Kang	Jen Kao	Becca McCharen-Tran	Jack McCollough	
Thom Browne	Andrew Fezza	Ulla Johnson	Alexander Julian	Donna Karan	Kasper	Jenni Kayne	
Dana Buchman	Patricia Ficalora	Shaun Kearney	Lisa Kebede	Pat Kerr	Naeem Khan	Sharon Khazzam	
Sophie Buhai	Cheryl Finnegan	Eileen Fisher	Jennifer Fisher	Sarah Flint	Andrea Fohrman	Dana Foley	
Tory Burch	Virginia "Gigi" Burris	Stephen Burrows	Anthony Camargo	Guido Campello	Carlos Campos	Louise Camuto	
Kevin Carriean							

Education Initiatives

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

CFDA+

From scholarship to sustainability, CFDA Education and Professional Development supports all phases of the designer lifecycle, including student, graduate, early emerging, and established professional. Initiatives provide fashion designers relevant access to resources, microfunding, industry exposure, mentorship, and education. Program highlights include the CFDA+Lexus Fashion* Initiative, case, CFDA+, the Kenneth Cole Footwear Innovation Award, Elaine Gold Launch Pad, an annual Fashion Education Summit, and the legacy CFDA Scholarship Program.



The 2015–2017 CFDA + Lexus Fashion Initiative Finalists.

CFDA+LEXUS FASHION* INITIATIVE

INSPIRE | INNOVATE | IMAGINE

The mission of the CFDA + Lexus Fashion* Initiative is to inspire thought leadership, facilitate the implementation of innovative business practices, and activate meaningful change in American fashion.

Building upon the CFDA and Lexus’s longstanding partnership and shared vision to support fashion’s journey to sustainability, the CFDA + Lexus Fashion* Initiative is a business-development program designed to inspire commitment to transformative leadership, sustainable innovation, and positive change.

C/LF*I provides education and mentorship, supported by milestone-based awards generously underwritten by Lexus. The primary goal of the

2015–2017
CFDA + LEXUS FASHION* INITIATIVE PARTICIPANTS

BROTHER VELLIES | Aurora James
DEZSO BY SARA BELTRAN | Sara Beltran
ERIN SNOW | Erin Isakov
K/LLER COLLECTION | Katie DeGuzman & Michael Miller
NICHOLAS K | Christopher Kunz & Nicholas Kunz
PRABAL GURUNG | Prabal Gurung
SVILU | Britt Cosgrove & Marina Polo
TOME | Ryan Lobo & Ramon Martin
WWAKE | Wing Yin Yau
ZERO + MARIA CORNEJO | Maria Cornejo

initiative is to facilitate steps to measurable progress, thereby furthering American fashion’s journey to sustainability.

Participants learn how to navigate fashion’s complex supply chain to make informed, strategic design and business decisions using a triple-bottom-line approach—valuing people, the planet, and profit holistically. Fashion’s environmental, social, and financial impacts are examined alongside potential for problem-solving through new materials, processes and systems. With the support of an expert team of volunteering advisors and mentors, participants target aspects of their design and business strategies, defining actionable goals in areas including materials, production, service innovations, and organizational-change management.

STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT AWARDS = POSITIVE FUTURES

2015–2016
ADVISORY BOARD AND MENTORS

Inka Apter | Eileen Fisher
Robert Bergmann | Responsibility in Fashion
Sarah Broach | creative business consultant
Barbara Burchfield | Conscious Commerce
Burak Cakmak | Parsons School of Design
Anna Scott Carter | Clean by Design
Kristy Caylor | CERC
Grace Cha | Brand Marketing and Strategy Consultant
Natalie Chanin | Alabama Chanin
Simon Collins | Fashion Culture Design
Melanie Copple | Nest
Lauren Croke | Strategy Consultant
Rachel Espersen | Lexus
Julie Gilhart | fashion consultant
Linda Greer | The National Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
Annie Gullingsrud | Cradle to Cradle
Scott Hahn | Loomstate
Debera Johnson | Pratt Brooklyn Fashion + Design Accelerator
Jason Kibbey | Sustainable Apparel Coalition
Sara Kozlowski | Council of Fashion Designers of America
Kristin Lane | Nest
Lisa Linhardt | Linhardt Design
Melissa Joy Manning | Melissa Joy Manning
Lewis Perkins | Fashion Positive (C2C)
Shan Reddy | Redline Consulting
Timo Rissanen | Parsons School of Design
Jake Sargent | Softmatter
Lisa Smilor | Council of Fashion Designers of America
Tyson Toussant | Bionic Yarn
Amber Valletta | Master and Muse
Olivia Wilde | Conscious Commerce

4.19 The 2015–2017 virtual residency concluded with a challenge to the ten inaugural CFDA + Lexus Fashion* Initiative participating brands to imagine a positive future.

At the Greenwich Hotel, each brand pitched a holistic strategic blueprint illustrating a valuable plan for “moving the needle” in their design and business using a triple-bottom-line approach sustainably, consciously, and imaginatively. A final selection committee, which included Burak Cakmak, Kristy Caylor, Laurent Claquin, Rachel Espersen, Julie Gilhart, Jason Kibbey, and Steven Kolb, determined awards totaling \$250,000 based on vision, viability, and impact potential.

AWARDS	C/LF*I 1.0 STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT SELECTION COMMITTEE
ERIN SNOW GRAND PRIZE \$150,000 LEXUS AWARD	Kristy Caylor Cerci
WWAKE \$50,000 LEXUS AWARD	Burak Cakmak Parsons School of Design
ZERO + MARIA CORNEJO \$50,000 LEXUS AWARD	Laurent Claquin Kering
	Rachel Espersen Lexus
	Julie Gilhart fashion consultant
	Jason Kibbey Sustainable Apparel Coalition
	Steven Kolb CFDA



The 2015–2017 CFDA + Lexus Fashion Initiative winners Wing Yin Yau, Maria Cornejo, and Erin Snow.

2017–2018 CFDA+LEXUS FASHION* INITIATIVE 2.0

11.2 Advisory-board members, mentors, and industry insiders gathered at The Blond, in New York, to celebrate the five 2018 CFDA + Lexus Fashion* Initiative participants: Cienne, M.Patmos, St. Roche, Studio One Eighty Nine, and Whit. Each brand will receive expert mentorship during the nine-month virtual residency. Generously underwritten by Lexus, Fashion* Initiative 2.0 participants will be eligible for milestone awards totaling \$100,000 to advance tangible, strategic R & D and/or implementation goals. At the conclusion of the program, in June 2018, the brand with the most visionary, viable, and impactful strategic blueprint for a positive future will be awarded a Lexus Grand Prize of \$80,000.

CFDA + LEXUS FASHION* INITIATIVE 2.0 PARTICIPANTS

CIENNE | Chelsea Healy & Nicole Heim
M.PATMOS | Marcia Patmos
ST. ROCHE | Paud Roche & Sue Stemp
STUDIO ONE EIGHTY NINE | Rosario Dawson & Abrima Erwiah
WHIT | Parker Argote & Whitney Pozgay

ADVISORY BOARD

Giusy Bettoni | C.L.A.S.S.
Barbara Burchfield | Conscious Commerce
Burak Cakmak | Parsons School of Design
Anna Scott Carter | Clean by Design
Kristy Caylor* | CERCI
Natalie Chanin* | Alabama Chanin
Rachel Espersen | Lexus
Julie Gilhart | fashion consultant
Ron Gonen | Closed Loop Fund
Linda Greer | The National Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
Amanda Hearst | Maison de Mode
Jason Kibbey | Sustainable Apparel Coalition
Steven Kolb | CFDA
Sara Kozlowski | CFDA
James LaForce | LaFORCE
James Mendolia | C.L.A.S.S.
Lewis Perkins | Fashion Positive (C2C)
Hassan Pierre | Maison de Mode
Timo Rissanen | Parsons School of Design
Lisa Smilor | CFDA
Amber Valletta | Master and Muse
Rebecca Van Bergen | NEST



Chelsea Healy, Steven Kolb, Nicole Heim, Rachel Espersen, Abrima Erwiah, Sue Stemp, Marcia Patmos, Whitney Pozgay, and Parker Argote.

Education Initiatives PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1:1 Diagnostic Sessions with Julie Gilhart

The fashion consultant and program advisor Julie Gilhart led 1:1 diagnostic sessions with each brand to identify priority goals for actionable change. Strategic scoping of potential design and business-solution areas included materials, manufacturing, and operations. In some cases, key challenging areas were reframed as opportunities by examining business models and stakeholder communities, including social innovation, civic responsibility, and design advocacy.

FJORD'S SUMMER IMMERSION

Through Fjord's one-week Human Centered Design Immersion Program, selected graduates of the CFDA's Educational Initiatives are embedded in design studies (Fjord's method of looking at the innovation process), working directly with the Fjord team at the firm's New York studio.

The CFDA+ 2016 Design Graduate Tiffany Huang and the 2016 RISD apparel alum and Harvard researcher Taylor Greenberg-Goldy were each selected to participate in one-week immersions in June and August, respectively. Huang's work focused on researching the digital experiences in SoHo retail spaces. To conclude Huang's immersion, she and the Fjord team developed a storytelling system for CFDA's Cadillac Retail Lab. During Greenberg-Goldy's Fjord immersion, she worked on the retail experience for Prabal Gurung's October residency at the Cadillac Lab.

CFDA's partnership with Accenture includes creating talent-development programs for today's designers with Fjord, and design and innovation from Accenture Interactive. The Fjord immersion program is part of a broader collaboration between Accenture and the CFDA to help shape how the fashion industry integrates consumer insights into business practices.



Taylor Greenberg-Goldy at the Fjord immersion program.

Fashion Systems and Sustainability Workshop: Lynda Grose & Timo Rissanen

11.28 Parsons School of Design's Timo Rissanen and California College of the Arts' Lynda Grose led a one-day roundtable and workshop session on fashion systems and emerging design strategies. The C/LF*I 2.0 cohort was introduced to leading sustainability frameworks. A scalable, lifecycle-based approach to design was encouraged. Grose and Rissanen framed key areas of impact by environmental, social, financial, and cultural value.



From top: Lucy Jones at the Hyères International Festival of Fashion and Photography; the think-tank session with London College of Fashion at Hyères.

CFDA at the Hyères International Festival of Fashion and Photography

In April 2017, the CFDA brought the CFDA+ 2016 Design Graduate and CFDA Eileen Fisher Social Innovator fellow Lucy Jones to the Hyères International Festival of Fashion and Photography. Jones participated in a think-tank session facilitated by London College of Fashion's Katarina Rimarcikova and Amanda Johnston that featured the fashion technologist Amanda Parkes, the fashion activist Caryn Franklin, and Lucas Delattre, an author and lecturer at Institut Français de la Mode. Eight fashion future and fashion marketing MA students from the London College of Fashion also joined the conversation.

Discussions centered on technology, craft, tradition, and sustainability, which, when interconnected, create an undeniable positive force in fashion.



Elaine Gold Launch Pad designers Maria Kazakova, Alexis Isabel, Ali Rose, Jack Burns, Jameel Mohammed, Emily Adams Bode, and Lucy Jones.

ELAINE GOLD LAUNCH PAD

The Council of Fashion Designers of America and the Accessories Council partnered to create the Elaine Gold Launch Pad four-year program, underwritten by a \$1.5 million donation to the CFDA Foundation.

Named in honor of the vibrant accessories executive and innovator, who passed away in 2015, the Elaine Gold Launch Pad is a 23-week virtual residency for early emerging talent in the first three years of their professional journeys.

A key goal of the program is to catapult ideas with potential into visionary, viable ventures with impact. The unique creative entrepreneurship program provides focused design and business mentorship, with milestone-based micro awards totaling \$175,000 to support idea activation.

Participants are encouraged to imbue their ethos with sustainability, technology, and innovation, and are challenged to explore new business models and create value through new ways of designing, making, producing, selling, and storytelling.



Above left: John Jones of Fjord, Carly-Ann Fergus of XRC Labs, Tomm Miller of Barneys New York, Rachel Zimmerman of Kith, and Tony King of King & Partners at a New Models of Commerce Roundtable at Samsung837. Above right: Karen Giberson and Steven Kolb.



2017-2018 ELAINE GOLD LAUNCH PAD FELLOWS
ALEXIS ISABEL | Alexis Isabel
BODE | Emily Adams Bode
FFORA | Lucy Jones
GENUSEE | Jack Burns, Mark Richardson, and Ali Rose
JAHNKOY | Maria Kazakova
KHIRY | Jameel Mohammed

2017-2018 ADVISORY BOARD AND MENTORS
Dana Arbib | A PEACE TREATY
Greg Armas | ASSEMBLY NEW YORK
Sarah Blair | BARNEYS NEW YORK
Sarah Broach | MZ WALLACE
Marshall Cheek | TORY BURCH
Lauren Croke | KYUREEOSITY
Keanan Duffy | POLIMODA
Carly-Ann Fergus | XRC LABS
Karen Giberson | ACCESSORIES COUNCIL
Julie Gilhart | FASHION CONSULTANT
Claudia Gorelick | FJORD
Lauren Hurst | NYU New Standard Institute
John Jones | ACCENTURE, FJORD
Steven Kolb | CFDA
Sara Kozlowski | CFDA
Leila Larijani | UBS Financial Services
Tara Levy | TL PROJECTS
Lisa Lindhardt | LINDHARDT DESIGN
Colette Malouf | Colette Malouf
Rebecca Minkoff | Rebecca Minkoff
Sebastien Park | IDEO
Selima Salaun | SELIMA OPTIQUE
Jake Sargent | SOFTMATTER VENTURES
Brad Schmidt | CADET
Kristin Schneider | NEST
Fabio Silva | FRSILVA LAW
Lisa Smilor | CFDA
Michelle Tullac | IDEO
Wing Yin Yau | WWAKE
Frank Zambrelli | DESIGN QUADRANT

Education Initiatives PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NYC Fashion Forward/ Ladders for Leaders

New York City Economic Development Corporation and CFDA helped New York to place a record number of young adults in high-quality paid summer internships through the Ladders for Leaders program, with over 40 CFDA member brands taking on more than 70 fashion interns in the areas of design, brand, retail, and production.

7.26 Over 70 New York City high school students went to Warby Parker’s headquarters in Manhattan to hear career advice from CFDA’s Leigh King, the fashion designer LaQuan Smith, Haerfest’s Daniel Joo, Marie Baptiste, founder and CEO of Rue107, and Cara Smyth of the Fair Fashion Center.

Legal Bootcamp with Fabio Silva

10.20 Fabio Silva hosted a one-day legal bootcamp for the Launch Pad cohort at CFDA headquarters. Tailored specifically for fashion and early emerging designers, the interactive session included topics such as trademarking, intellectual property, contracts, legal entities, and licensing.

A Family-style Evening with Li Edelkoort

10.29 The renowned trend forecaster Li Edelkoort hosted the Elaine Gold Launch Pad for a private dinner at her West Village townhouse. The gathering gave Edelkoort the opportunity to elaborate on her “Anti-Fashion” manifesto, and discuss the future of fashion culture, trends, and the importance of meaning and authenticity in the global fashion system.

Sprint & Micro Awards Presentations

With help from volunteering Elaine Gold Launch Pad mentors, designers were given six weeks to “sprint” strategic design and business ideas. Building on the recommendations from earlier diagnostic sessions, the program-midpoint milestone was a key opportunity to prototype, test, and refine goals. Each sprint presentation was pitched to advisory-board members who provided feedback to help validate insights, frame next steps, and issue calls to action. Using holistic criteria combining vision, potential, and viability, the advisory board determined micro-awards funds totaling \$60,000 to accelerate short-term goal implementation.

DIAGNOSTIC SESSIONS WITH FJORD AND IDEO

Advisors John Jones and Claudia Gorelick of Fjord and Sebastien Park and Michelle Tulac of IDEO launched a series of one-on-one diagnostic sessions with the Launch Pad cohort. The IDEO and Fjord-facilitated sessions led participants to frame high-priority goals, construct a focused inventory of needs, and define key areas of strategic imperatives.



Elaine Gold Launchpad, from left: Jack Burns and Ali Rose of Genusee with Dominic Tan

CFDA and NYCEDC Fashion Future Graduate Showcase

5.23-5.24 Done in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation, Fashion Future Graduate Showcase is a new curated platform connecting graduate talent to professional opportunities. Designed to support the vital transition from education to industry, the CFDA and NYCEDC talent pipeline provided 85 fashion-school graduates with access to elevated HR, editorial, and influencer exposure.

Five leading fashion institutions were invited to participate in the inaugural edition: New York’s Parsons School of Design, Fashion Institute of Technology, and Pratt Institute were joined by Academy of Art University in San Francisco and Providence’s Rhode Island School of Design. Each school’s dean, chair, or director nominated graduates diversely skilled in the specializations of apparel, accessories, jewelry, textiles/materiality, technical design, and emerging fashion pathways of sustainable systems and social entrepreneurship.

A selection committee that included Jane Chun (NYCEDC), Ryohei Kawanishi (Landlord), Sara Kozlowski (CFDA), Stephanie Laffitte (Rochambeau), Claudia Li, and Joseph Maglieri (CFDA), and reviewed 128 portfolio-based applications, naming 85 talents as 2017 Fashion Future Graduates.

Each FFGS17 graduate got sponsored headshots, and 26 selected designers won spotlighted editorial photography shot by Dario Calmese at Amazon Fashion Studios in Brooklyn. In addition, each designer received guidance from the CFDA Education and Professional Development team in creating designer mission statements and bios, and editing their portfolios to strengthen their digital profiles. FFGS17 launched as a two-day physical exhibition and one-year digital showcase, with designer profiles featured on CFDA.com. The CFDA selected 60 graduates to present their work in New York on May 23 and 24. The curated exhibition, produced by the Gathery, took place in midtown Manhattan’s Center415, and provided the designers with a customizable pop-up space to showcase their collections and portfolios, and engage with visitors.

Over the two days, FFGS17 design graduates interacted with CFDA members and expert industry voices, including in three special professional-development panels/workshops. Speakers included Steven Kolb, Kate Daly, Dao-Yi Chow, Wen Zhou (3.1 Phillip Lim), Claudia Li, Simon Collins (Fashion Culture Design), Roopal Patel (Saks Fifth Avenue), Bridget Foley (WWD), Emma Ancelle (LVMH), and Claudia Gorelick and John Jones (Fjord/Accenture).

More than 600 employers, recruiters, media professionals, editors, influencers, and retailers attended FFGS17, including HR and talent acquisition from Reebok, Theory, Joseph Altuzarra, Carolina Herrera, Zara, *Vogue*, and Barneys New York. Feedback from participating schools, graduates, attendees, and media was very positive, with survey findings scoring the program as 100 percent impactful.

Fashion Future Graduate Showcase 2017 was made possible through the sponsorship support of CFDA Strategic Partners: Accenture, Suntech, and LIFETWTR.



Top: A jacket designed by Jacob Olmedo of Parsons School of Design on display at the Fashion Future Graduate Showcase.
Above: The Fashion Future Graduate Showcase at Center415.

FASHION EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sarah Broach MZ WALLACE	Joffrey Moolhuizen
Sandy Dalal DESIGNER	PARSONS SCHOOL OF DESIGN
Keanan Duffty POLIMODA	Katrin Zimmermann EX OVO PRODUCTIONS
Shelley Fox PARSONS SCHOOL OF DESIGN	Sara Kozlowski CFDA
Sara Kozlowski CFDA	Marc Schneider
Joe Medved JOE'S BLACKBOOK	KENNETH COLE PRODUCTIONS

CFDA FASHION EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Fashion Education Committee is composed of CFDA members, industry leaders, and CFDA Education and Professional Development voices. The mission of the CFDA Fashion Education Committee is to serve as an iterative canvas and sounding board. Members are invited to engage quarterly as catalysts, supporting navigation of current and planned CFDA program opportunity spaces and to identify key needs from the vantage point of various stakeholders. Through shared opinion the intention is to co-create value in the fashion-education ecosystem. The committee meets quarterly to discuss strategic planning across existing programs and proposed new offerings.

Education Initiatives PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



From top: Carly-Ann Fergus and Shelley Fox.
An impression from the Fashion Education Summit.

The 2017 CFDA Fashion Education Summit: Global Intersections at the Crosby Street Hotel

3.31-4.1 The 2017 CFDA Fashion Education Summit aimed to connect the dots between education and industry through collaboration. The summit was conceived as a two-day open-idea exchange across CFDA program circles, with the hope of empowering design via global intersections. Interactive sessions with more than 50 participants included space for iterative conversation using motifs of fashion, design and empowerment, authenticity and co-creation, culture and diversity, innovation and craft, making and system, and sustainability and futures.

A think tank led by the London College of Fashion engaged all guests in co-creating a manifesto for sustainable futures. In addition, Fjord led a roundtable on design thinking, while six urban-design students from Harvard Graduate School of Design presented their ideas on the future of fashion manufacturing. Participating thought leaders over the two days included Maiyet’s Lauren Hurst, Becca McCarren-Tran of Chromat, Amanda Parkes, Nest founder Rebecca van Bergen, and the designers Prabal Gurung, Lucy Jones, Maria Kazakova, and Noa Raviv.

2017 KENNETH COLE INNOVATION FELLOW

Erika Tompkins | ACADEMY OF ART UNIVERSITY

2017 SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sarah Blair | BARNEYS NEW YORK
Sam Broekema | INSTYLE MAGAZINE
Kristy Caylor | CERCI
Aki Choklat | COLLEGE FOR CREATIVE STUDIES
Kenneth Cole | KENNETH COLE PRODUCTIONS
Sara Kozlowski | CFDA
Marc Schneider | KENNETH COLE PRODUCTIONS



Kenneth Cole and Erica Tompkins.

The Kenneth Cole Footwear Innovation Award

In celebration of more than 35 years of rich brand heritage, innovation, and philanthropy, Kenneth Cole Productions and the CFDA partnered to create the Kenneth Cole Footwear Innovation Award to inspire design leadership.

The Kenneth Cole Footwear Innovation Award is a one-year fellowship opportunity offered to fashion graduates that combines design with social consciousness. Students graduating from an accredited, full-time American degree program are invited to develop portfolio submissions in the category of footwear that are supported by a fully envisioned brand story and an empowered design idea.

Kenneth Cole Innovation Fellows explore the power of design to create value in society through empowered awareness, culminating with the design, development, and presentation of a researched project that’s mentored by the Kenneth Cole team. During the year-long placement, the awarded designers receive an annual stipend of \$50,000 and work rotationally across multiple teams, gaining a holistic understanding of the entire life cycle of a product.

2016 Kenneth Cole Innovation Fellows Launch Capsule at Bowery Store

The FIT graduate Blake Felty and the Kent State graduate Kara Kroeger were chosen as the inaugural fellows. As their fellowship term concluded in the fall, CFDA celebrated their success by launching a limited-edition capsule collection at the Kenneth Cole Bowery flagship store.



Education Initiatives SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

THE CFDA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Established in 1996 as a merit-based opportunity, the CFDA Scholarship Program has awarded \$1.9 million and 285 scholarships to fashion-design students from leading American colleges and universities. Beyond the lifespan of the financial award, CFDA Scholars earn recognition, honor, and prestige—and are connected to CFDA members, which helps them gain hands-on professional experience and prepares them for successful futures in the industry. There is a legacy of talented scholarship recipients progressing into prominent roles in the industry, including CFDA members Peter Som (1996), Jack McCollough of Proenza Schouler (2001), and Chris Benz (2003).

In 2017, the Scholarship Program was reimagined, and a two-phase selection process was introduced. Selected finalists for the CFDA Scholarship, Liz Claiborne Scholarship, and Geoffrey Beene Design Scholar Award were invited to New York to present their portfolios in person to CFDA member-based selection committees. In addition, new creative briefings were developed, expanding opportunity to all design specializations for the primary CFDA award and encouraging sustainable innovation in the Liz Claiborne Award. The Geoffrey Beene Design Scholar Award was repositioned as an opportunity for graduate students of eligible MA and MFA programs, with additional requirement for finalists to produce a three-dimensional prototype of their creative concepts.



2017
CFDA SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
\$25,000 Juliana Baik | WOMENSWEAR | Fashion Institute of Technology, New York
\$25,000 Zewei Hong | MENSWEAR | California College of the Arts, San Francisco

2017
SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Carly Cushnie | CUSHNIE ET OCHS
Sara Kozlowski | CFDA
Michelle Ochs | DESIGNER
Ariel Ovadia | OVADIA & SONS
Shimon Ovadia | OVADIA & SONS
Sophie Theallet | SOPHIE THEALLET

Clockwise from below: Illustrations by Zewei Hong, Susan Zienty, Alicia Ball, and Juliana Baik.



The Liz Claiborne Design Scholarship Award

In 2009, the Council of Fashion Designers of America and Art Ortenberg, Liz Claiborne’s husband and business partner, established the Liz Claiborne Design Scholarship Award. This prestigious \$25,000 award honors Liz Claiborne as a design leader, creative entrepreneur, and pragmatic innovator of fashion.

CFDA SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
\$25,000 Susan Zienty | Academy of Art University, San Francisco

SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Alexa Adams
Sara Kozlowski | CFDA
Thaddeus O’Neil
Matt Scanlan | NAADAM CASHMERE
Brad Schmidt | CADET
Tanya Taylor

DESIGN FOR FUTURES

Liz Claiborne’s legacy was founded upon her instinctive vision of contemporary fashion’s changing needs, behaviors, and desires. Much of her brand’s innovation was framed at the intersection of fashion design, business, technology, and society. Today, fashion paradigms are shifting faster than ever before. The way we make, show, sell, buy, wear, and consume fashion is changing: Supply chains are being redesigned, and new models for sales, presentation, and editorial are being invented, with see now–buy now platforms existing alongside bespoke, slow fashion, and customization.

Beginning in 2017, Liz Claiborne Design Scholarship applicants were challenged to design with a view to positive futures, imagining what Liz Claiborne might create, if she were to build a new brand story and collection in this current fashion landscape of change. Applicants were asked to submit portfolios that consider every choice made in the design process, and its impacts, environmentally, socially, and ethically; and to create a brand story with the power to influence, transform, and inspire change for good.



Susan Zienty in her presentation.

2017 GEOFFREY BEENE DESIGN SCHOLAR
\$25,000 Alicia Ball | MFA in fashion, Savannah College of Art and Design

2017 HONORABLE MENTION
Yang Liu | MFA in fashion design and society, Parsons School of Design

SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Doo-Ri Chung | DESIGNER
Francisco Costa | DESIGNER
Siki Im | DESIGNER
Sara Kozlowski | CFDA
Becca McCharen-Tran | CHROMAT
Russel Nardozza | GEOFFREY BEENE

THE GEOFFREY BEENE DESIGN SCHOLAR AWARD

“Design is an unknown.”—Geoffrey Beene

A futurist and architect of the body, Geoffrey Beene was renowned for the originality of his designs, innovative use of fabrics, geometric cuts, and unerring modernity. Over the course of four decades, these core design elements remained consistent.

The Geoffrey Beene Design Scholar Award encourages graduate-level MFA and MA design students to reimagine the legacy of Mr. Beene through exploration of the body, three-dimensional form, technology, and materiality in fashion. Each year, one Geoffrey Beene Design Scholar is awarded a scholarship of \$25,000 based on innovation, experimentation, and exploration.

The prestigious scholarship award is generously underwritten by a \$2.5 million donation by the Geoffrey Beene Foundation.



Becca McCharen-Tran, Francisco Costa, Doo-Ri Chung, and Russell Nardozza.

2017 CFDA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

- | | |
|--|---|
| Academy of Art University California | Philadelphia University Pennsylvania |
| California College of the Arts California | Pratt Institute New York |
| Columbia College Chicago Illinois | Rhode Island School of Design Rhode Island |
| Drexel University Pennsylvania | Savannah College of Art and Design Georgia |
| Fashion Institute of Technology New York | Stephens College Missouri |
| Kent State University Ohio | Syracuse University New York |
| Marist College New York | School of the Art Institute of Chicago Illinois |
| Massachusetts College of Art And Design Massachusetts | University of Cincinnati Ohio |
| Miami International University of Art and Design Florida | Virginia Commonwealth University Virginia |
| Parsons School of Design New York | |

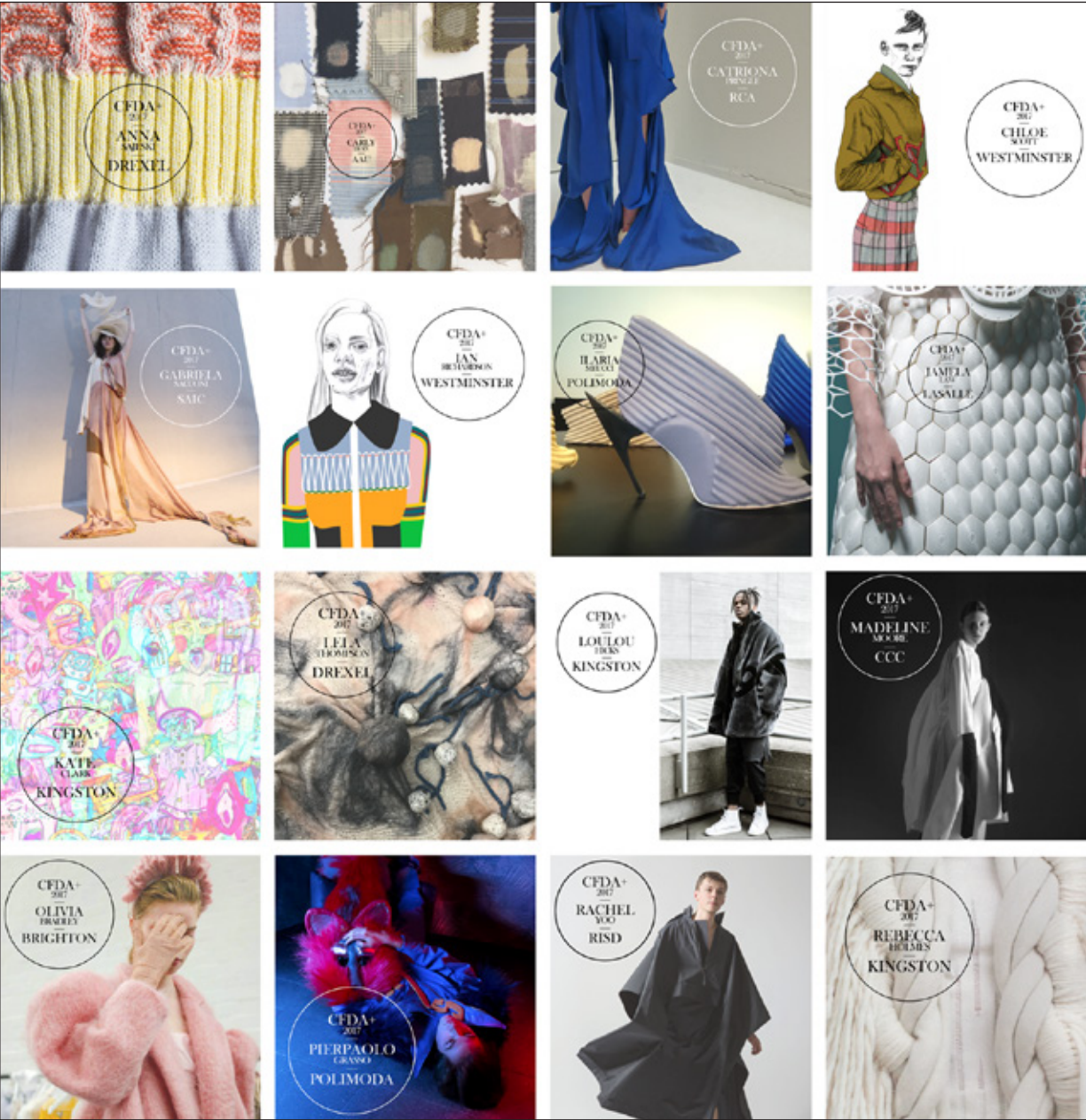
Education Initiatives CFDA+

CFDA+ 2017

CFDA+ is a curated platform to spotlight exemplary graduating talent.

In 2013, CFDA+ was created to provide CFDA members with creative capital from around the world. Since then, the CFDA has reviewed more than 1,000 portfolios, interviewed over 600 recent graduates from 43 leading schools in 32 countries, and showcased 245 graduate talents. Now in its fifth year, CFDA+ 2017 spotlighted 41 graduate talents, selected globally from 24 schools, who are unique in their creativity but share a collective notion that we are all connected.

Each selected design graduate received a one-year portfolio feature on CFDA.com, placement in a CFDA+ digital talent book shared with CFDA members, and global exposure through Floriane de Saint Pierre’s Paris-based Eyes on Talents digital platform foundation.



2017 CFDA+ DESIGN GRADUATES

- Olivia Bradley | WOMENSWEAR | University of Brighton
Sidharth Chawla | HANDBAGS AND OPTICAL | Parsons School of Design
Kasubika Chola | TEXTILES AND DENIM | Kingston University
Kate Clark | TEXTILES | Kingston University
Emma Collins | MENSWEAR | Marist College
Carly Dean | TEXTILES | Academy of Art University
Yiran Duan | MENSWEAR | Parsons School of Design
Kaitlyn Fitzgerald | CHILDRENSWEAR | Parsons School of Design
Pierpaolo Grasso | MENSWEAR AND GENDER FLUIDITY | Polimoda
Loulou Hicks | MENSWEAR AND STREETWEAR/SPORTSWEAR | Kingston University
Rebecca Holmes | WOMENSWEAR AND KNITWEAR | Kingston University
Naeun Kim | UNIVERSAL (UNISEX) AND MENSWEAR | Savannah College of Art and Design
Jennifer Koh | WOMENSWEAR | Parsons Paris
Peggy Kuo | TEXTILES AND SURFACE/PRINT DESIGN | Academy of Art University
Jamelia Law | TEXTILES | LaSalle College of the Arts
Nikki Kaia Lee | WOMENSWEAR AND TEXTILES | Savannah College of Art and Design
Fang Katy Liu | TEXTILES | Academy of Art University
Shania Matthews | WOMENSWEAR AND KNITWEAR | Polimoda
Jasper McGilvray | MENSWEAR | University of Westminster
Ilaria Meucci | FOOTWEAR AND HANDBAGS | Polimoda
Christina Miyagi | TEXTILES | Academy of Art University

- Madeline Moore | UNIVERSAL (UNISEX) | Columbia College Chicago
Noah Pica | MENSWEAR | Rhode Island School of Design
Catriona Pringle | WOMENSWEAR AND KNITWEAR | Royal College of Art
Ian Richardson | WOMENSWEAR AND ACCESSORIES | University of Westminster
Gabriella Sacconi | UNIVERSAL (UNISEX) | School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Anna Sajeski | KNITWEAR | Drexel University
Chloe Scott | MENSWEAR | University of Westminster
Aastha Shah | WOMENSWEAR AND TEXTILES | Academy of Art University
Samuel Tick | FOOTWEAR AND LIFESTYLE | Savannah College of Art and Design
Erika Tompkins | WOMENSWEAR | Academy of Art University
Lela Thompson | KNITWEAR | Drexel University
Sophie Ward | KNITWEAR | Kingston University
Alyssa Wardrop | WOMENSWEAR | Fashion Institute of Technology
Shelby Wauligman | UNIVERSAL (UNISEX) | University of Cincinnati
Alice Winzar | WOMENSWEAR | University of Brighton
Ann Xiao | UNIVERSAL (UNISEX) | Ultimo Tafe Sydney Institute of Fashion
Zimo Yan | TEXTILES | Savannah College of Art and Design
Nicholas Yip | MENSWEAR | University of Westminster
Rachel Yoo | MENSWEAR | Rhode Island School of Design
Ryan Zhen Yu | WOMENSWEAR | Academy of Art University





Professional Development

CFDA CONVERSATIONS

FASHION INCUBATOR

The CFDA's Professional Development programming provides members with relevant, practical information and resources that can be put to use in operating their businesses more effectively, while also helping them to gain valuable insights and develop strategies for growth. Created exclusively for CFDA members and {Fashion Incubator} designers, Professional Development workshops, seminars, and discussions are curated to be meaningful, and are presented by engaging industry experts, influencers, and thought leaders.

Professional Development CFDA CONVERSATIONS

CFDA Conversation: Selling in China, Hosted by SGS North America

1.20 SGS North America, Inc., invited CFDA members and their production teams to a discussion on navigating the Chinese market. SGS offered members a guide to quality and product regulations for apparel and accessories.

Wool Appreciation Course

3.31 The Wool Appreciation Course provided an in-depth understanding of the unique benefits, performance, and fiber attributes of Merino wool, as well as information regarding the wool supply chain. Product experts from The Woolmark Company presented sessions to CFDA members, as well as the current class and alumni from the {Fashion Incubator}.

CFDA Conversation: Fashion & the Plus-size Market

8.8 This panel discussion at the Crosby Street Hotel examined the importance and challenges of fashion and the plus-size market. Refinery29's Christene Barberich moderated it, and model Candice Huffine, designer Christian Siriano, and Alexandra Waldman, cofounder of the brand Universal Standard, served as panelists. The consensus was that there are still a number of physical and psychological barriers that need to be addressed, but having this dialogue was a great place to start.



Christian Siriano, Candice Huffine, Alexandra Waldman, and Christene Barberich.

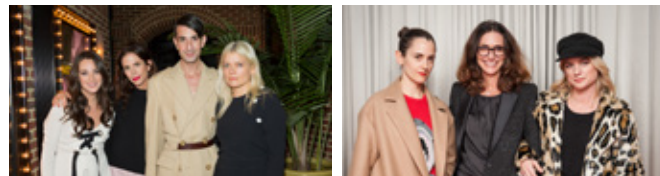
CFDA Conversation: Sourcing Socially Responsible Artisans

8.23 Moderated by Timo Rissanen of Parsons School of Design, the conversation addressed just how designers can effectively forge artisanal collaborations that are both mindful and beneficial to their business. The panelists included Annie Millican of Nest, Annie Oakley Waterman of AOW Handmade, Hassan Pierre of Maison de Mode, Dana Arbib of A Peace Treaty, and Tara St. James of Study NY. The panelists advised CFDA members on how to go about researching socially responsible artisans and then successfully collaborate with them.

CFDA and the Wall Group Host Talk and Networking Events in New York and Los Angeles

11.8 + 11.13 In partnership with The Wall Group, the CFDA hosted a panel discussion at New York's Roxy hotel about the designer-stylist relationship, which was followed by a cocktail networking hour. Led by Vogue.com's style editor, Edward Barsamian, and with stylists Micaela Erlanger, Cristina Ehrlich, and Kate Young as panelists, the discussion focused on designer collaborations, the style evolution of existing clients, and the power of technology in finding new fashion talent.

A second panel discussion and networking event, at the W Hollywood, featured the celebrity stylists Karla Welch, Elizabeth Stewart, and Ilaria Urbinati, and was moderated by the stylist and beauty writer Melissa Magsaysay. During the panel, the hosts shared insights and best practices for how designers can work most effectively with celebrity stylists.



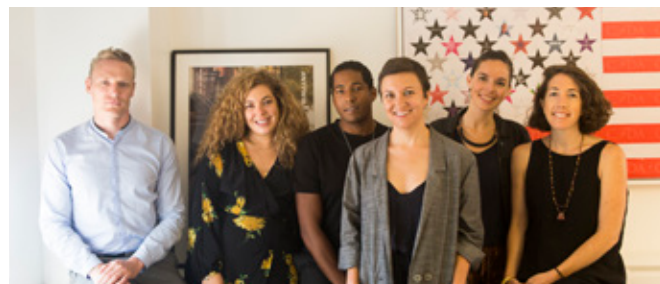
Left: Micaela Erlanger, Cristina Ehrlich, Edward Barsamian, and Kate Young. Right: Karla Welch, Elizabeth Stewart, and Ilaria Urbinati.

An Evening with...Law Roach

11.14 The CFDA held an intimate conversation for CFDA members and {Fashion Incubator} designers in Los Angeles featuring the "image architect" Law Roach, who shared the story of his career, inspirations, future dreams, and how his work propelled him into celebrity-stylist stardom.



Daniel Dugoff, Alexandra Alvarez, Dan Joo, Law Roach, Molly Yestadt, Tim Joo, and Katie deGuzman.



Timo Rissanen, Dana Arbib, Hassan Pierre, Tara St. James, Annie Millican, and Annie Oakley Waterman.

Professional Development {FASHION INCUBATOR}

THE {FASHION INCUBATOR} PARTNERS WITH JOOR

In order to provide supplemental tools and resources to participating designers, the CFDA {Fashion Incubator} partnered with Joor to give designers access to its online wholesale marketplace. Through the generous support of Target, each {Fashion Incubator} brand's account on the platform was sponsored for the duration of the program.

Foundations Workshop

1.19 To kick off the program's curriculum, the business mentors Christine Park and Shan Reddy hosted a three-part series discussing the fundamentals of running a small business. Each month they covered a new topic, including sales (cohosted by April Uchitel of Violet Grey); production (cohosted by Lisa Metcalf of Launch USA); and human resources (cohosted by Kristy Hurt of Kristy Hurt Consulting).

Ji Oh Business Development Dinner at W New York—Union Square

2.6 Ji Oh brought together top editors and influencers during New York Fashion Week to preview her fall 2017 collection at a dinner that she hosted at the W New York—Union Square.



Ji Oh at W New York—Union Square

CFDA {Fashion Incubator} Market Day

2.16 The CFDA invited the industry at large to an open-house market day at the {Fashion Incubator} space, where all the participating designers showcased their fall 2017 collections.



Karen Duffy, Marylou Luther, Jason Alkire, and April Uchitel.

Brother Vellies Does SXSW Brunch at W Austin

3.17 To coincide with the South by Southwest festival, Aurora James of Brother Vellies hosted a "morning after" brunch at the W Austin in partnership with Planned Parenthood. The afternoon included a small trunk show of the brand's latest collection, with a portion of proceeds benefitting the nonprofit.



Aurora James at SXSW.

Brother Vellies Takes Inspiration Trip to Bali

4.2-4.8 Aurora James of Brother Vellies visited W Bali and traveled around the island in search of inspiration for spring 2018. James met with local artisans, and she discovered unique and native traditions like basket-weaving and Ikat printing.



Aurora James in Bali.

Professional Development {FASHION INCUBATOR}

Yestadt Millinery Opens Pop-up Shop at W New Orleans

4.27-5.1 Yestadt Millinery’s Molly Yestadt took on Jazz Fest at the W New Orleans—French Quarter with a three-day pop-up shop cohosted by the author and poet Cleo Wade, and featuring a performance by the musician Kristin Diable.



Molly Yestadt in her New Orleans shop.

Haus Alkire Stages Trunk Show at W San Francisco

5.3-5.4 Haus Alkire’s Julie and Jason Alkire hosted an intimate designer showcase with the celebrity stylist and MGK Style owner Mary Gonsalves Kinney at the W San Francisco. The designers connected with local influencers, stylists, and clients, who previewed and shopped the collection. A percentage of the proceeds went to Teach for America.



Jason and Julie Alkire with Mary Gonsalves Kinney at their trunk show in San Francisco.

Charles Youssef Holds Trunk Show at W New York

5.4 The designer Charles Youssef and the celebrity stylist Ann Caruso hosted an intimate trunk show at the W New York. Attendees were able to view the collection and consult with Youssef himself. A percentage of proceeds went to the breast cancer nonprofit 5 Under 40.

Alix Takes Inspiration Trip to W Koh Samui

5.14-5.21 Alexandra Alvarez of Alix visited Koh Samui, Thailand, working her way around the island in search of colorful inspiration for her upcoming collections. She paid respects at the Big Buddha Temple (Wat Phra Yai), snorkeled in the crystal-clear water at Nanyuan Island Resort, and explored the Fisherman’s Village market.

The New York Fashion Tech Lab Networking Event at Spring Place

5.17 The New York Fashion Tech Lab cohort met with CFDA {Fashion Incubator} designers to present their platform technologies as an opportunity to connect the next generation of fashion designers and tech developers.

CFDA {Fashion Incubator} Visits Tumblr

6.7 The designers sat down with Tumblr’s head of culture and events, Valentine Uhovski, to discuss the social platform and its various programs. The talk focused on the fashion community, collaborations with other social-media platforms, and how each brand can best utilize Tumblr.



The {Fashion Incubator} designers at Tumblr.

An Evening with... Andrew Rosen

6.7 The 4.0 {Fashion Incubator} designers visited Theory founder and CEO Andrew Rosen at his office for an evening of storytelling and discussion on the businesses challenges that emerging designers face today. Rosen shared stories about his beginnings in the industry and how he created an iconic brand. He also stressed the importance of a brand showcasing a cohesive story while staying true to its vision.

The Tomorrows and Maison Mrkt Host Digital Brand-marketing Workshop

6.8 Ally Lewis and Louise Denny, cofounders of the brand and content consultancy The Tomorrows, and Matt Nastos, cofounder of the digital marketing agency Maison Mrkt, hosted a digital brand-marketing workshop at the {Fashion Incubator} space. Among the topics: telling your brand story across all social-media channels; improving your messaging and content delivery; building and optimizing brand content; building your audience and driving traffic; and identifying easy opportunities small businesses can take advantage of that don’t require a budget.

Haus Alkire Takes Inspiration Trip to W Verbier

6.20-6.25 Haus Alkire’s Julie and Jason Alkire traveled to Verbier, Switzerland, in search of inspiration for spring 2018. They hiked, cycled, fished, toured a vineyard, and rode a helicopter over the Alps. The designers also dried, pressed, and photographed flowers from different elevations, which became custom prints for their collection.



Julie and Jason Alkire in Verbier.



The {Fashion Incubator} designers at Facebook.

The 4.0 {Fashion Incubator} Visits Facebook

6.28 + 11.30 The designers attended a series of workshops, hosted by Bora Chow at Facebook headquarters, to learn how the platform’s tools and resources can best support their business needs. The first meeting focused on consumer behavior in a mobile-first world and media best practices, followed by a tour of the Facebook office. The second session coached designers through Facebook resources and tools to customize a brand page, perform DPA set-up, and navigate Blueprint.

K/LLER Collection Sources Inspiration in Bogotá

7.6-7.11 K/LLER Collection’s Katie deGuzman traveled to Bogotá, where she met with local artisans to learn more about traditional craft techniques, as well as with the designers behind the Colombian leather company Blumarino. She also toured the Museo de Oro and traveled to the countryside, where she visited the private homes of artisanal weavers and watched them demonstrate their skills.



Katie deGuzman in Bogota.

Barneys Executives Host Store Tour and Lunch

7.13 Barneys New York's Marina Larroude, Jay Bell, and Matt Mazzucca invited the 4.0 designers to tour the store, learn more about the company history and Barneys' exclusive brands, and better understand Barneys customers and how they shop. The tour concluded with an intimate lunch at Fred's.



The {Fashion Incubator} designers visit Barneys.

Alix and Thaddeus O'Neil Stage Miami Swim Week Pop-up Shop

7.20-7.23 In celebration of Miami Swim Week, Alexandra Alvarez of Alix and Thaddeus O'Neil traveled to W South Beach to host a limited-time pop-up shop featuring the designers' respective collections. Located in one of the hotel's private bungalows, the shop celebrated its opening with a private VIP event, including a preview of each designer's spring 2018 collection.

Ji Oh Looks to W St. Petersburg for Inspiration

7.24-7.29 Ji Oh traveled to St. Petersburg, where she worked her way through the city in search of inspiration for her fall 2018 collection. She toured popular museums, visited antique markets and vintage shops, attended a Russian ballet, and sampled local cuisine. Visiting the Udelka flea market was the highlight of her journey, and many of her vintage finds directly inspired her latest collection.



Ji Oh in St. Petersburg.

The Instagram Master Class

8.7 Instagram's Eva Chen invited the 4.0 {Fashion Incubator} designers to a master class at the Instagram offices in New York, where they learned about best practices and fashion 101.

The Intermix Creative Retail Lab

9.6 The CFDA {Fashion Incubator} partnered with Intermix to spotlight womenswear and accessories brands participating in the program. Over the course of New York Fashion Week, customers were able to shop the latest designs from Alix, Brother Vellies, Haerfest, Haus Alkire, Ji Oh, K/LLER Collection, and Yestadt Millinery at the Intermix Creative Retail Lab at 810 Washington Street, and online. CFDA and Intermix cohosted a cocktail to fete the pop-up.

Haerfest Opens Pop-up Shop at W Bellevue

10.25-10.27 Haerfest traveled to the newly opened W Bellevue, in Washington state, for an exclusive three-day pop-up shop. To amp up the luxe shopping experience, Haerfest and W Hotels teamed up with the influencer Nelson Young to host the VIP preview party. The label's cofounders, Tim and Dan Joo, also hosted a lunch-and-learn at WeWork Bellevue for WeWork members and the press.



Dan and Tim Joo at the W Bellevue.

Professional Development {FASHION INCUBATOR}

MailChimp Workshop

11.2 Through the support of MailChimp, all incubator designers received sponsored MailChimp accounts for the duration of the program. In addition, their education team met with designers to work through email marketing strategies and best practices while using the platform.

W CFDA {Fashion Incubator} L.A. Showcase

11.16 Alix, DDugoff, Haerfest, K/LLER Collection, and Yestadt Millinery staged small-scale presentations of their spring 2018 collections in a reimagined loft space at W Hollywood. The stylist Law Roach came in to help merchandise and style each collection. D'Marie, CFDA's new strategic partner, connected technology and talent, and each designer was paired with models and social-media influencers, including Taylr Anne and Kristen Noel Crowley, to bring their collections to life for the retailers, consumers, and media in attendance.



The {Fashion Incubator} designers in L.A.

Haerfest Finds Inspiration in Hong Kong

12.3-12.8 Haerfest's Tim and Dan Joo traveled to W Hong Kong in search of inspiration for their latest collection. They fully immersed themselves in Chinese culture at the Ten Buddha Monastery, rode in a cable car up the mountain to see Tian Tan Buddha (Big Buddha), hiked up Dragon's Back Trail, and indulged in local delicacies and cocktails.

Thaddeus O'Neil Sources Goa for Inspiration

1.8-1.14.2018 Thaddeus O'Neil traveled to Goa, India, where he stayed at the W Goa and worked his way through the city in search of inspiration for his next collection. He connected with local artisans, ventured through the spice and flower market, and spent time on the beach, where the fishermen and the ocean's waves inspired him.



Thaddeus O'Neil in Goa.

Tim and Dan Joo.





Initiatives

FASHION CALENDAR/FASHION WEEK

NYFW MEN'S

FASHION MANUFACTURING INITIATIVE

The Council of Fashion Designers of America continued to demonstrate its impact on the industry through the expansion of three key programs: New York Fashion Week, the Fashion Calendar, and the Fashion Manufacturing Initiative (FMI). Each program significantly contributed to the structure and growth of the fashion sector in New York and beyond.

THE FASHION CALENDAR

The Fashion Calendar, which relaunched in December 2016, continues to serve as the foremost scheduling and planning tool for designers, the press, retailers, public-relations firms, and others tied to the fashion industry.

Home of the centralized New York Fashion Week: Men's Retail and Media Registration, and the NYFW Official Schedule application, the Fashion Calendar is the go-to resource for the industry.

Customizable features, seamless account navigation, robust scheduling tools, invaluable archival information, and networking capabilities make the Fashion Calendar a unifying leader in the industry.

Publisher Ruth Finley originally founded the Fashion Calendar in 1945 as a biweekly publication. On October 1, 2014, the CFDA acquired the Fashion Calendar, and brought it into the digital era with modernized features. The Fashion Calendar is a subscription-based service, available exclusively online, and can be visited at fashioncalendar.com. For any questions, please email us directly at fc@cfda.com.

Calvin Klein 205W39NYC at New York Fashion Week: Women's in February.



Lela Rose's brides during New York Fashion Week: Bridal in April.

NEW YORK FASHION WEEK

The CFDA is the organizer of the Official New York Fashion Week Schedule, including women's, men's, bridal, resort, and pre-fall. The CFDA continues to nurture talent during the NYFW schedule by furthering the research and developments marked by the 2016 study on the future of New York Fashion Week with The Boston Consulting Group.

In partnership with Launchmetrics, the CFDA helped lead a new study in 2017 called Front Row to Consumer: The Voices Driving Fashion Week in Today's Digital Era, and focused on how brands can better invest their energy and resources in an evolving NYFW landscape. The study results were released in January 2018. Education, business development, creative expression, and diversity continue to be cornerstones of the NYFW ecosystem.

The Official NYFW Schedule for the February 2018 shows, which was published in December 2017, underwent a redesign to more accurately and inclusively identify the different design categories of shows across the menswear, womenswear, co-ed, and unisex/nonbinary markets, as brands diversify their consumer base and challenge expectations.

New York Fashion Week Upcoming Market Dates

NYFW: MEN'S February 5–7, 2018 July 9–11, 2018 ** February 4–7, 2019 **	NYFW: BRIDAL April 11–17, 2018 October 2018 April 2019 **Subject to change
NYFW: WOMEN'S February 8–14, 2018 September 6–12, 2018 February 7–13, 2019	

New York Fashion Week: Men's by the Numbers

NYFW: Men's seasons four (January 30–February 2, 2017) and five (July 10–13, 2017) enjoyed a full schedule, with a total of 105 designer shows (February 2016 had 58 runway shows and collection presentations, July 2016 had 47 runway shows and presentations).

NXTSTP

11.8 The nextstp program launched its inaugural edition. Designed by the CFDA with support from Amazon Fashion, nextstp connects industry leaders from media, production, design, and communications with the fashion industry's most noteworthy emerging talent to determine their readiness to participate in New York Fashion Week.

During the full-day experience, featured guest speakers and panelists included: Chioma Nnadi of Vogue.com, Ruth Gruca of Made, Roopal Patel of Saks Fifth Avenue, Matthew Schneier of *The New York Times*, Mike Eckhaus and Zoe Latta of Eckhaus Latta, and CFDA members, including Tim Coppens, Ryan Lobo and Ramon Martin of Tome, and Nicole and Michael Colovos of Colovos.

Through conversation, networking, and education, nextstp brought young designers forward to decide for themselves the most efficient and effective ways to showcase their collections to the industry and beyond, based on their branding and business needs. Reaching across womenswear, menswear, unisex/nonbinary, and accessories, the CFDA personally invited the designers based on their strengths, but, more significantly, their contributions to the broader industry and the future of fashion.

New York Fashion Week: Men's Partners

The 2017 New York Fashion Week: Men's seasons were made possible by the support of our presenting partners Cadillac, Axe, LIFEWTR, Nordstrom, Samsung, SKYY Vodka, WWD, Design Within Reach, Launchmetrics, the Four Seasons Hotel, *The New York Times*, Skylight Group, and Tumblr.

Designers showing at our official and affiliate venues get a deeply subsidized venue rate that's made possible by our partners.

Below: The John Varvatos finale at New York Fashion Week: Men's in February. Middle: A look from Palomo Spain at NYFW: Men's in February. Bottom: New York Fashion Week: Men's July ambassadors Young Paris and Kelly Oubre Jr.



THE FASHION MANUFACTURING INITIATIVE

The Fashion Manufacturing Initiative (FMI), a program of the Council of Fashion Designers of America in partnership with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC), was created to nurture, elevate, and preserve garment production in New York City, ultimately connecting fashion designers to local manufacturing. The program includes the FMI Grant Fund, which offers matching grants to facilities committed to improving their services through innovation and technology; apparel-skills training courses to generate a stronger workforce; a New York City Production Database on CFDA.com; and ongoing professional-development sessions and collaborative industry events.

Along with support from the NYCEDC, FMI is possible because of Andrew Rosen and Theory, as well as our generous premier underwriters the Coach Foundation and Ralph Lauren and partners and underwriters the AAFA, DHL, Google, Première Vision New York, and Rag & Bone.

PARTNERSHIPS

AAFA

4.24 The American Apparel & Footwear Association celebrated its thirty-ninth American Image Awards in New York, recognizing the best of the industry, including Andrew Rosen, founder and CEO of Theory, as Person of the Year, and Stuart Vevers of Coach, Inc., as Designer of the Year. The annual gala event benefited FMI.



Dilone and Stuart Vevers.



FMI Grant Fund

The FMI Grant Fund is a matching-endowment program established to provide fashion-production facilities with the capital to grow and elevate their businesses. The program aims to promote innovation and advancement in New York City facilities in an effort to drive local, sustainable, and successful garment production and propel American fashion forward.

Funds from the Grant Fund help local garment manufacturers widen or refine the services they provide to the design community. Investments cover the acquisition of innovative equipment, advanced technology, workforce training, professional development, and capital improvements, all factors that benefit the sustainability of American fashion.

Since its inception, over the course of its four rounds, the program has awarded grants to 22 New York City facilities, for a total of nearly \$2.3 million in investments from the CFDA, NYCEDC, and partners.

4.0 FMI RECIPIENTS

Create-a-Marker
Design Incubator
Puntastic Furs
HC Contracting
New York Binding Co.
New York Embroidery Studio
Zoila's Sample Room

2.0 FMI RECIPIENTS

Design Incubator
Dyenamix
Dynotex
New York Embroidery Studio
Oomaru Seisakusho 2
Rainbow Leather
Sunrise Studio

3.0 FMI RECIPIENTS

Bestec Concept
Coyote Leather & Suede
David Wolfson & Associates
Four Seasons Manufacturing
Ferrara Manufacturing
Le Studio Anthost
Vogue Too Pleating, Stitching, and Embroidery

1.0 INAUGURAL FMI RECIPIENTS

Create-a-Marker
High Productions
In Style USA
Martin Greenfield Clothiers
New York Embroidery Studio
Vogue Too Pleating, Stitching, and Embroidery
Werkstatt

CFDA.com Production Directory

The Production Directory, underwritten by DHL, helps create more clear connections between fashion designers and local manufacturers. Search listings on CFDA.com using a range of customizable sorting capabilities to find exactly what service, product category, or sample/production minimum you need.

In September 2017, over 30 cut-and-sew, denim, and knitwear facilities in the Greater Los Angeles area were added to the directory, bringing the total list to nearly 190 companies.

Initiatives THE FASHION MANUFACTURING INITIATIVE

DHL

The 2017 CFDA Fashion Awards marked the beginning of the CFDA's partnership with DHL, its official logistics partner, which delivered the Trovas to honorees and winners. The partnership also included DHL Office Hours to generate an ongoing conversation with CFDA members about their global logistics and e-commerce, and the DHL Logistics Award for an emerging designer, which will be announced in 2018.



DHL and the Trova.

10.23, 10.26 In partnership with DHL and Accenture, CFDA published the thought-leadership study The Human-Centered Supply Chain, Delivered by DHL. It presented the most important challenges, disruptions, and changes influencing the fashion industry, and how they affect both the supply chain and designers. The findings were presented to designers and press at NeueHouse locations in New York and Los Angeles. [Click here.](#)

Première Vision New York

1.17, 7.18 The CFDA renewed its partnership with Première Vision New York for 2017, adding even more extensive benefits for CFDA members and emerging designers alike. Both the January and July Première Vision New York trade shows included FMI Showcases, which each featured a half-dozen local manufacturers and gave those manufacturers a business-development opportunity to connect with new designer clients.

Alongside the FMI Showcase, the Première Vision ambassador program continued, with Maria Cornejo announced as the 2017–18 Première Vision New York ambassador. Cornejo created an exclusive collection of her brand's key silhouettes. She used fabrics by Schoeller Textil, including a 2017 Fashion Smart Creation Prize-winning sustainable fabric, and past FMI Grant recipient David Wolfson and Associates produced the collection in New York's Garment District. The collection was showcased at Première Vision New York in January 2018.

RESEARCH & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

5.9 Messe Frankfurt—Texprocess and Techtextil Trip
The CFDA coordinated a trip to Messe Frankfurt's Texprocess and Techtextil trade shows in Frankfurt with a select group of FMI Grant recipients in May. Intended as a business-development opportunity, the trip allowed them to meet with top exhibitors specializing in advanced manufacturing technology. Many of the recipients included those vendors with the latest grant requests, helping to bridge the New York manufacturing industry and the latest advancements in garment machinery and software technology.

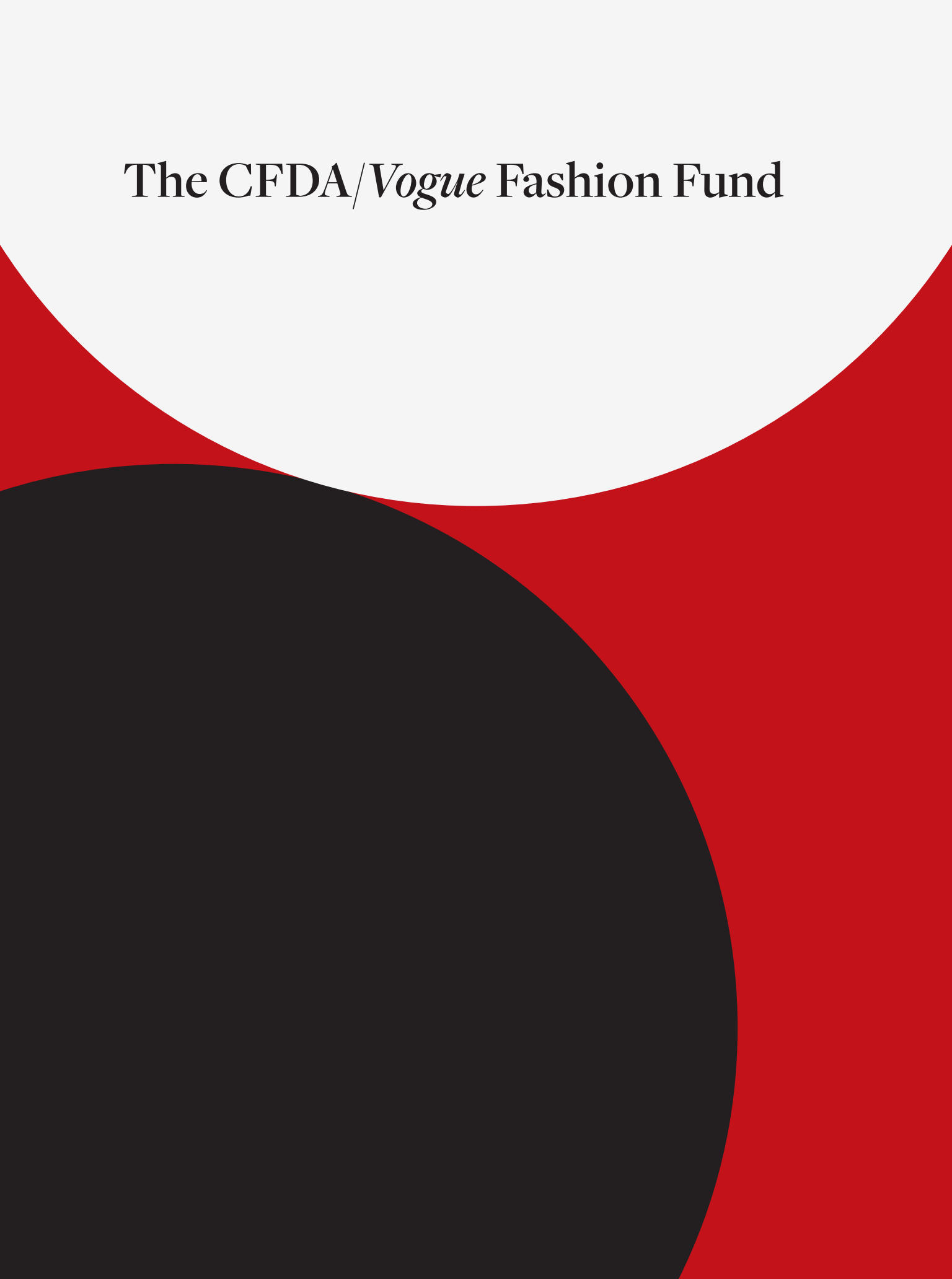
The Wharton x Future of Fashion Manufacturing Technologies Internship

During summer 2017, CFDA teamed up with Stacey Bendet of Alice + Olivia and the Jay H. Baker Retailing Center of the Wharton School of Business to offer a research-based internship for two dual engineering-and-management undergraduates. The students were tasked with researching how to rethink traditional methods of garment manufacturing, and how to embed innovation in an industry in transition.

The students consolidated leading developments in garment and textile manufacturing to create a strategic blueprint for what American fashion-manufacturing factories will look like in the future. Topic areas included advanced robotics, digital fabrications, fiber and textile innovation, laser cutting, and bonding. Under the guidance of the CFDA, the Alice + Olivia team, and professors at Wharton, the students had the opportunity to meet and learn from factory owners and industry experts such as Andrew Rosen of Theory.

Looks on display at Première Vision New York.





The CFDA/*Vogue* Fashion Fund

The CFDA/*Vogue* Fashion Fund was established in 2003 to help emerging American design talent find continued success in the business of fashion. With the money raised and growing industry support, the CFDA/*Vogue* Fashion Fund has contributed significant financial rewards and provided business mentoring to the winning designers. A committee of industry experts selects recipients based on the exceptional talent they have already demonstrated in fashion design, and for their capacity for future distinction in the industry.

The CFDA/Vogue Fashion Fund

The Digital Announcement

7.17 The 2017 announcement of the CFDA/Vogue Fashion Fund finalists was done entirely digitally, with simultaneous Instagram posts from the CFDA and Vogue.

Pitch Day Training and Presentations

10.17, 11.1 For the first time, the CFDA/Vogue Fashion Fund featured Pitch Day training and presentations, implemented for the designers to understand the value of their companies, how to talk about this value to outside parties, which opportunities are wise for taking on investment, and key points and topics they should hit when speaking to potential investors. Using the skills they learned in the training, the designers were tasked with presenting their business pitches to a panel of potential investors.

2017 FINALISTS

Ahlem Manai-Platt | AHLEM
Becca McCharen-Tran | CHROMAT
Christopher Bevans | DYNE
Jordan Askill | JORDAN ASKILL
Matthew Harris | MATEO NEW YORK
Eli Azran | RTA
Sandy Liang | SANDY LIANG
Telfar Clemens | TELFAR
Patric DiCaprio, David Moses, Claire Sully, and Bryn Taubensee | VAQUERA
Victor Glemaud | VICTOR GLEMAUD

THE 2017 CVFF PROGRAM WAS GENEROUSLY UNDERWRITTEN BY

Amazon Fashion	Lane Bryant
Caleres	LIFEWTR
The Coach Foundation	M-A-C Cosmetics
IMG Fashion	Nordstrom
Instagram	Saks Fifth Avenue
J.Crew	Theory
JD.com	Vogue
kate spade new york	

Design Challenge: The Art of Collaboration

10.25 The designers were tasked with exploring the fine art of collaboration, and challenged to work with their partners to create a single look or piece that spoke to both of their brands' DNAs. They were paired up in five groups of two: Vaquera and Mateo New York, Chromat and Victor Glemaud, Dyne and Sandy Liang, RTA and Ahlem, and Jordan Askill and Telfar. The final looks were presented to the judges in Los Angeles, at the Chateau Marmont.

Instagram Challenge: A Fashion Family Portrait

10.25 Eva Chen, a new Fashion Fund judge and head of fashion partnerships at Instagram, challenged the ten finalists to create an image that represents their interpretation of a "fashion family portrait." Using both stories and final images, each designer had to present an image that highlights the individuals that contribute to their brand.

CVFF Makes a Poolside Splash at the Chateau Marmont

10.25 The finalists' last challenge was the CFDA/Vogue Fashion Fund runway show and cocktails at the Chateau Marmont. James Corden hosted the event, which was set poolside for the first time. The annual show drew a mix of designers, and film and screen stars, including Tom Ford, Billie Lourd, Selma Blair, and Millie Bobby Brown: "The Super Bowl for people who don't watch the Super Bowl" is how Corden described it.

Below left: Zendaya. Below right: The CFDA/Vogue Fashion Fund at the Chateau Marmont. Bottom: Tom Ford, Anna Wintour, and James Corden.



Top left: Alexander Wang and Nicki Minaj. Top right: Ashley Graham. Above: Jack McCollough, Adam Selman, and Lazaro Hernandez.

The 2017 CFDA/Vogue Fashion Fund Awards Gala at the Weylin

11.6 The fourteenth annual CFDA/Vogue Fashion Fund dinner crossed the bridge this year for a fete at Brooklyn's the Weylin, in a beautiful domed space that was once the Williamsburg Savings Bank. Keynote speaker Maria Grazia Chiuri of Christian Dior had an inspiring message: "Be brave. Believe in yourself. You have to do what you feel is right for you."

Telfar Clemens of Telfar was crowned the winner, and received a monetary award of \$400,000, while Ahlem Manai-Platt of Ahlem and Becca McCharen-Tran of Chromat both received the runners-up award and each took home \$150,000. In addition to the monetary awards, the three designers were assigned mentors to oversee their progress.



Top: Patric DiCaprio, Claire Sully, David Moses, Bryn Taubensee, and Matthew Harris with a model. Above, from left: Victor Glemaud and Becca McCharen-Tran with a model in the look they cocreated; Eli Azran and Ahlem Manai-Platt; Jordan Askill and Telfar Clemens; Christopher Bevans and Sandy Liang.



AMERICANS IN PARIS

3.4-3.6, 9.30-10.2 In 2017, the Americans in Paris designers presented their collections in a former townhouse once inhabited by Coco Chanel. In March, Steven Kolb cohosted the cocktail party with Gigi Hadid and *Vogue*’s Selby Drummond at Le 1728 restaurant. Anna Wintour, Hailey Baldwin, Emily Ratajkowski, Carolyn Murphy, Winnie Harlow, Trish Goff, Mara Hoffman, and Christian Siriano attended.

In late September, a cocktail hour in the showroom, hosted by Karlie Kloss, Eva Chen, and *Vogue*’s Mark Holgate, allowed guests—including Barbara Bush, Jourdan Dunn, and Jason Wu—an exclusive personal walk-through with each brand. The designers also took a private tour of the “Christian Dior, Couturier Du R  ve” exhibition at the Mus  e des Arts D  coratifs with *Vogue*’s Grace Coddington, Tonne Goodman, and Phyllis Posnick.

Above: The 2017 Americans in Paris. Top right: Stirling Barrett. Middle right: Chloe Gosselin. Bottom right: Kristopher Brock and Laura Vassar Brock.

- PARTICIPATING DESIGNERS
IN MARCH AND OCTOBER:**
- ADAM SELMAN | ADAM SELMAN
 - BECKETT FOGG AND PIOTREK PANSZCZYK | AREA
 - KRISTOPHER BROCK AND LAURA VASSAR BROCK | BROCK COLLECTION
 - CHLOE GOSSELIN | CHLOE GOSSELIN
 - JI OH | JI OH
 - STIRLING BARRETT | KREWE DU OPTIC
 - MORGAN CURTIS | MORGAN LANE
 - MARYAM MALAKPOUR AND MARJAN MALAKPOUR | NEWBARK
 - LAURENCE CHANDLER AND JOSHUA COOPER | ROCHAMBEAU



CFDA Fashion Awards

The annual event, which is held in partnership with Swarovski, recognizes the outstanding contributions made to American fashion by individuals from all areas of the industry and related arts, with awards given for design excellence in womenswear, menswear, accessories, and emerging talent, as well as extraordinary accomplishments in journalism, creative vision, lifetime achievement, and positive change. The CFDA Fashion Awards Guild, an invitation-only network composed of top fashion retailers, journalists, stylists, influencers, and the 500-plus member-designers of the CFDA, submit nominations for each award category. The CFDA Board of Directors ratifies the nominees, as well as recipients of the honorary awards.

Revealing the Nominees and Honorees

3.23 Anna Wintour, Gilles Mendel, Rachel Roy, Adam Selman, Pamela Love, Samantha Orley, and Simon Doonan were among those who gathered in New York to celebrate the 2017 roster of America's best and brightest talents. The room at Ramscale Studios, an iconic penthouse high above the Hudson River where the event was held, was as impressive as the guest list, especially with the addition of hanging Swarovski crystals and fragrant florals. "This is the Oscars of fashion," said Menswear Designer of the Year nominee Todd Snyder. "It's a true honor to be a part of it. It's really a dream come true."

Swarovski Fetes Kenneth Cole and Emerging Talent Nominees with Panel and Cocktail

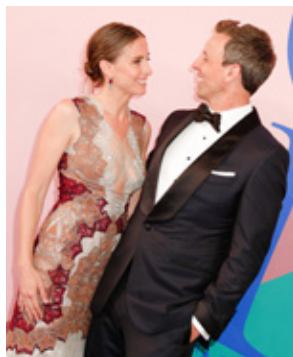
5.4 Laura Vassar Brock of Brock Collection distilled the struggles of an emerging designer best: "One of the biggest and most constant conversations we have internally is: how?" She, her husband, Kristopher Brock, and fellow Swarovski Award nominees Gabriela Hearst, Sander Lak of Sies Marjan, and Fernando Garcia of Monse joined a Swarovski-hosted panel moderated by Swarovski Award for Positive Change recipient Kenneth Cole at Parsons School of Design. Following the talk, guests headed to Omar's La Ranita for a post-panel cocktail that brought out Leigh Lezark, Carlos Campos, Fern Mallis, Ellen von Unwerth, Jeffrey Kalinsky, Roopal Patel, Isa Tapia, and Rebecca Minkoff.

The Awards Creative

Diane von Furstenberg's "Attitude is Everything" was one of several designers' quotes on the invitation to the 2017 CFDA Fashion Awards, done in partnership with Swarovski. The creative concept highlighted the voices of American designers in a way that is relatable. The printed and digital collateral, as well as nominee films, were developed by The Creative Group at Condé Nast. Stefan Beckman oversaw the attendee experience, including arrivals, decor, and stage design. KCD produced the awards, and N+N Films developed the evening's honoree tribute films.

The 2017 Digital Portfolio

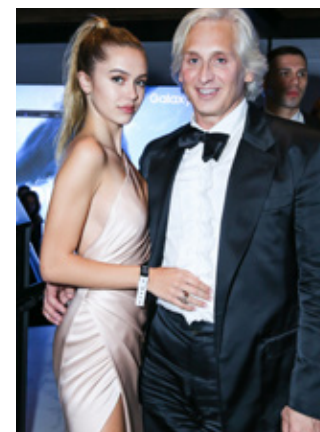
Instead of appearing in the traditional Awards Journal, the nominees and honorees were presented in a digital portfolio with portraits and videos on CFDA.com. The portfolio was developed by The Creative Group at Condé Nast, and photographed by Cass Bird, with Bardia Zeinali serving as video director.



From top: Janelle Monáe, Gloria Steinem, Diane von Furstenberg, and Cecile Richards; Pat McGrath and Raf Simons; Vera Wang, Rick Owens, and Donna Karan; Alexi Ashe and Seth Meyers; Jonathan Simkhai, Janet Mock, and Brad Goreski; Virgil Abloh and Bella Hadid.

AN AWARDS NIGHT TO REMEMBER

6.5 The 2017 CFDA Fashion Awards, held in partnership with Swarovski at The Manhattan Center's Hammerstein Ballroom, were an inspiring, endearing, and empowering affair. In addition to host Seth Meyers's brilliant monologue, there were plenty of memorable moments. CFDA Chairwoman Diane von Furstenberg addressed the audience with a pointed question: "How many of you are immigrants?" A large proportion of the room raised its hands. The Board of Directors' Tribute to feminist Gloria Steinem, Planned Parenthood president Cecile Richards, and super-entertainer Janelle Monáe was another highlight. "Now there is more activism than I have ever seen in my lifetime," Steinem said. "And maybe, just maybe, thanks to all of you in this room and billions more around the world who are woke—we are not the richest, but we are the majority and we are woke, and maybe we are about to be free." And with more than 350 fashion students in the house to absorb such impactful messages of hope and change, one thing is guaranteed—the future of fashion is bright.



Top: Jidenna. Bottom, from left: Delilah Belle Hamlin and David Meister; Robert Geller, Laura Vassar Brock, and Ana Beatriz Lerario Geller.

CFDA Fashion Awards

Womenswear Designer of the Year
Raf Simons, CALVIN KLEIN

Menswear Designer of the Year
Raf Simons, CALVIN KLEIN

Accessory Designer of the Year
Stuart Vevers, COACH

Swarovski Award for Emerging Talent
Fernando Garcia and Laura Kim, MONSE

Swarovski Award for Positive Change
Kenneth Cole

Geoffrey Beene Lifetime Achievement Award
Rick Owens

International Award
Demna Gvasalia, Vetements and Balenciaga

Founder's Award
Pat McGrath

Fashion Icon
Franca Sozzani

Board of Directors' Tribute
Janelle Monáe, Cecile Richards, and Gloria Steinem

The Official After-party at Samsung 837

6.5 After the awards, guests headed to Samsung 837 to continue the celebrations. The party was hosted by the Swarovski Award for Emerging Talent nominees Virgil Abloh, Laura Vassar Brock, Kristopher Brock, Fernando Garcia, Laura Kim, Gabriela Hearst, and Sander Lak, and each designer showed up with his or her posse of friends and fans. Jenna Lyons, Christian Siriano, Jonathan Simkhai, and the Haim sisters were among the revelers. Jidenna performed while designers and guests had a chance to unwind and enjoy the night.

Streaming the Awards on Facebook Live

6.5 For the first time in its history, CFDA broadcast the Fashion Awards in real time to a worldwide audience via Facebook Live, with both the red-carpet and ceremony segments produced by Soul Kitchen Creative. Brad Goreski hosted the broadcast and got the scoop on the designers, celebrities, winners, and, of course, all the amazing fashion.



Philanthropy & Civic Initiatives

FASHION TARGETS BREAST CANCER

HEALTH INITIATIVE

CIVIC

The Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) Foundation is a separate not-for-profit organization that was created to raise funds for charity and industry initiatives. Specifically, the CFDA Foundation fund-raises annually for Fashion Targets Breast Cancer, which supports breast cancer patient care, as well as programs for HIV/AIDS, and disaster relief support. In 2017, the CFDA began to engage in civic initiatives.

Philanthropy & Civic Responsibility

Frames for a Cause

EdCFDA (the eyewear designers of the CFDA) launched in 2014 and has created a special capsule of frames to support Fashion Targets Breast Cancer. The Frames for a Cause eyeglasses, inspired by FTBC’s signature blue-and-white hues, were designed by Patty Perreira for Barton Perreira, Selima Salaun for Selima Optique, Blake Kuwahara, Jeff Press for Morgenthal Fredericks, Daniel Silberman for Illesteva, Barbara McReynolds and Gai Gherardi for L.A. Eyeworks, Robert Marc, Shane Baum for Leisure Society, Grant Krajecki and Natalie Levy for Grey Ant, and Christian Roth. They were sold at Barneys New York and optical retailers worldwide.

Kate Hudson on Philanthropy and Fabletics’ FTBC Designs

Thank you for being the CFDA’s FTBC ambassador for the second time. Looking back on your first year, what did you enjoy about this role the most? What did you learn?
Thank you! I feel honored to be able to support such a wonderful cause again. I really enjoyed being able to help shine a light on something so important and that affects so many people. One of the highlights for me was being able to host an event in support of FTBC at one of our Fabletics stores. Seeing the Fabletics community come together and getting to meet and talk to them face-to-face meant so much.

How important is philanthropy to Fabletics?
Philanthropy definitely plays a big role at Fabletics and influences a lot of the decisions we make. As an organization, we’re really passionate about supporting and empowering girls and women in every way possible. We work with the United Nations Foundation’s Girl Up movement by donating a portion of proceeds from our Demi Lovato x Fabletics collections to their SchoolCycle initiative, which provides bikes to girls in developing countries so they can get to school and continue their education. I say it a lot, but when you can use your creativity to have a positive impact, I just think it’s such a wonderful thing.

What do you love about Fabletics’ new designs for FTBC so much? Which one is your favorite piece?
I love that we moved away from all pink and did something a little more adventurous with blue, black, and pink. I also love the prints and think they’re super wearable. I’m really into the Esther High-Waisted Leggings, because high-waisted is always my favorite. The Maeve Sports Bra is also really special because it’s reversible.

Who is your ideal customer for these? Are there any friends or family that must have them?
Honestly, like everything we design, they’re made with every woman in mind! They’re still performance outfits but are super comfortable so you can wear them working out or just day to day. My mom will definitely be rocking them, as well as a ton of my friends.

What are your hopes for the new Fabletics FTBC collection?
That women love it, feel incredible wearing it, and that we continue to raise money and awareness for a worthy cause. It’s that simple.

FASHION TARGETS BREAST CANCER

Fabletics and CFDA Launch Fashion Targets Breast Cancer Global Campaign

For the second consecutive year, Fabletics—the global active-lifestyle brand cofounded by Kate Hudson in 2013—supported the Fashion Targets Breast Cancer (FTBC) program, with Hudson as its ambassador. Fabletics launches an FTBC-branded capsule collection that was available during Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October. It featured three two-piece outfits designed in signature FTBC colors: a sports bra and high-waisted leggings, a sports bra and capris, and a tank top with leggings. Proceeds of sales from the three looks directly benefited FTBC global. To quote the message of the 2017 campaign, “Doing Good Is Always in Fashion.”

THE HEALTH INITIATIVE EVOLVES

In a climate marked by brave women and men and their revelations about an unacceptable culture in politics, sports, and entertainment, as well as in fashion, CFDA evolved its Health Initiative to better reflect the issues facing the fashion industry. The expanded Initiative, now called the Initiative for Health, Safety, and Diversity, is centered on three main messages:

HEALTH Designers have a responsibility to protect the well-being of women, and especially young girls, in our business, and to send the message that health is always in style.

SAFETY We have zero tolerance for unsafe environments, and strongly encourage everyone in our industry to report abuse in the workplace.

DIVERSITY America is a beautifully diverse country, and our industry should champion this on runways, within companies, and in every aspect of fashion.

Please read more about our Initiative for Health, Safety, and Diversity on CFDA.com, and keep it in mind when you cast your New York Fashion Week shows, advertising campaigns—and always.



From left: Anna Wintour and Marcus Wainwright; Mara Hoffman and her son, Joaquin Piñón; Keren Craig and Georgina Chapman.

CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

Fashion Stands with Planned Parenthood

CFDA collaborated with Planned Parenthood to launch the Fashion Stands with Planned Parenthood campaign for New York Fashion Week: Women’s and Men’s in February and July, respectively. The initiative featured a special pin to raise awareness and support for the critical health care that the organization’s centers provide and the millions of Americans it serves each year. The pins, designed by Condé Nast’s Creative Group, were distributed to participating designers, PR agencies, modeling agencies, creative agencies, Fashion Week locations, industry influencers, and the press. CFDA worked with board member Tracy Reese to encourage designers to proudly wear the pin on their final walk, place it on one or more models in their show, and distribute them to all front-row attendees, as well as their front-of-house staff. Participating designers and brands included Tory Burch, Cushnie et Ochs, Diane von Furstenberg, Rosetta Getty, Prabal Gurung, Mara Hoffman, Milly, Zac Posen, Public School, Narciso Rodriguez, Proenza Schouler, and Jonathan Simkhai.

Designing an Immigration System that Works with FWD.us

CFDA and FWD.us joined forces on a report that addresses the impact of immigration policy on the United States’ fashion industry, its role in creating American jobs, and changes needed to bolster the future health of the industry.

The report outlined two hurdles impacting the fashion industry: access and retention of top talent, and the difficulty and high cost of navigating our badly broken immigration system. Among the recommendations, the report cites reforming and expanding the H-1B and O-1 high-skilled visas, creating a startup visa so that foreign-born entrepreneurs can build companies and create jobs here in America, and establishing a process for hardworking undocumented immigrants to earn legal status after successfully passing a background check.

Designers such as Phillip Lim, Robert Geller, Maria Cornejo, Waris Ahluwalia, Sachin Ahluwalia, Maxwell Osborne, Dao-Yi Chow, Fernando Garcia, and Laura Kim attended the press conference unveiling the report in February.

Fashion for ACLU

For New York Fashion Week: Women’s in September, CFDA partnered with the ACLU to launch the Fashion for ACLU initiative and send the message that there is no room for racism, bigotry, or hatred in our democracy. CFDA and the ACLU jointly created a special blue lapel ribbon, which was distributed to over 50 participating designers and labels, including Alice + Olivia, Derek Lam, Diane von Furstenberg, Monse, Narciso Rodriguez, Prabal Gurung, Public School, and Tracy Reese. Lyft did a special NYFW promotion and donated \$5 of every ride to and from Fashion Week events (up to \$10,000) when passengers entered a special promo code in the Lyft app.



Top left: Dao-Yi Chow and Maxwell Osborne. Top right: Sachin and Babi Ahluwalia. Bottom left and right: The ACLU ribbon on Fashion Week guests.



Strategic Partnerships Group

The CFDA's Strategic Partnerships Group (SPG) creates exclusive global business opportunities for CFDA members. Businesses can become part of SPG either as a Corporate Affiliate or by offering exclusive member benefits. Corporate Affiliates are businesses who join the CFDA and gain access to the membership by creating meaningful business-driven benefits for CFDA members. SPG examines where there are gaps between businesses and CFDA members, and seeks to fill those gaps through the creation of innovative and resourceful collaborations and partnerships.

Strategic Partnerships Group

ACCENTURE

The CFDA's partnership with the global professional-services company Accenture includes creating talent-development programs for today's designers with Fjord, Accenture Interactive's design-and-innovation consultancy. Through Fjord's Immersion Program, young CFDA designers were embedded in design studies with the team in their New York studio. The 2017 participants—CFDA+ 2016 design graduate Tiffany Huang and 2016 RISD apparel alum Taylor Greenberg-Goldy—researched digital experiences in SoHo retail spaces; just one part of a broader collaboration to help shape how the fashion industry integrates consumer insights into business practices. Coinciding with the launch of the Fashion Future Graduate Showcase, this powerful new collaboration fosters creativity and aims to redefine the future of retail and fashion.

BARBIE

Perhaps the most recognizable guest on the red carpet at the 2017 CFDA Awards was the beloved fashion icon Barbie. She announced her plans to attend the event to her 1.9 million followers on Instagram (@barbiestyle), and appeared wearing custom creations from the Swarovski Award for Emerging Talent nominees Brock Collection, Monse, and Gabriela Hearst.



Above: Barbie in Monse, Gabriela Hearst, and Brock Collection at the CFDA Fashion Awards. Right: Carolyn Murphy, Jennifer Martin, and Dr. Jeffrey Morrison at Equinox.

CADILLAC

Longtime CFDA supporter Cadillac stepped up its commitment to menswear and New York Fashion Week: Men's by providing each designer who showed at Cadillac House's Platform 4 (P4) with an additional grant to help bring his or her vision to life. These included Gustav von Aschenbach by Robert Geller, Dyne, Kenneth Ning, Matiere, Luar, and Rochambeau. In addition, Todd Snyder held his post-show bash at Cadillac House, with guests such as Nick Wooster, Bruce Pask, Jim Moore, André 3000, Eric West, Matt Bommer, and Sean O'Pry.

CBIZ

CBIZ worked with the CFDA to encourage the growth of manufacturing facilities, maximize profitability, and strengthen a place for facilities in the market. Working with the CFDA to strengthen the garment industry in New York, CBIZ also provided business support to the city's manufacturers.

CLIO

Clio Fashion & Beauty, the preeminent creative-awards show, launched an exclusive partnership with the CFDA to raise the visibility of the awards program and highlight the talent behind the advertising that is moving the fashion and beauty industries forward.

EQUINOX

The CFDA and Equinox partnered on a series of panels and workshops via the CFDA Health Initiative. Together, we launched the Equinox Coalition for Health as Beauty program, sharing the goal of encouraging and promoting health and wellness in the fashion industry. Cynthia Rowley, Rebecca Minkoff, and Todd Snyder cohosted fitness classes held at Equinox gyms.



GARDE ROBE

The CFDA partnered with the fashion-archive-management, inventory, and textile-preservation service Garde Robe to offer CFDA members top-quality solutions to archive and protect their samples, including cost-effective ways to catalog, maintain, and manage their irreplaceable clothing archives.

LIFEWTR

The CFDA entered into a new wide-ranging, multifaceted global partnership with LIFEWTR, the premium bottled water that advances creativity, art, and design, to help emerging fashion designers make their mark in the highly competitive national and international markets. LIFEWTR was the official water partner of the 2017 CFDA Fashion Awards in June, with Series 2 bottles and artwork prominently featured at the venue. LIFEWTR also had a presence at New York Fashion Week: Men's in July with a Women in Art pop-up gallery.

The CFDA curated the brand's Series 3 bottles with unique designs by CFDA+ talent Adam Dalton Blake, Tiffany Huang, and Ghazaleh Khalifeh, which graced nearly 40 million LIFEWTR bottles. Through LIFEWTR and the CFDA, Blake, Huang, and Khalifeh were also able to present their collections at New York Fashion Week: Women's, and received mentorship, access, and networking opportunities.



MILANO UNICA FABRIC PROGRAM

The program, now in its second season, connected American designers with Italian mills so the designers could learn made-in-Italy production techniques and create unique textiles for their collections. Participating talents Siki Im, Jonathan Meizler of Title of Work, and Rachel Comey traveled to Italy to meet with a variety of mills.



Left: Adam Dalton Blake. Top, from left: Tiffany Huang; Ghazaleh Khalifeh. Above: The LIFEWTR Series 3 CFDA+ bottle designs.

Strategic Partnerships Group

SAMSUNG

CFDA's multilayered partnership with Samsung 837 successfully continued through 2017. Samsung supported the CFDA Fashion Awards, and hosted the official after-party. Samsung 837 supported New York Fashion Week: Men's in 2017 by underwriting the Platform 3 emerging-designer show space. In addition, the CFDA provided ongoing support connecting Samsung to key industry influencers and CFDA Members to continue fostering the growing relationship between fashion and technology.

SELVAGE CLOTH

The CFDA partnered with New Zealand's ethical-fabric company Selvage Cloth to help designers find a sustainable solution to excess and unwanted textiles. Selvage Cloth buys surplus fabric from designers, and redistributes this product to remote markets or ones that are not in direct supply chains, guaranteeing that stock purchased will not be resold in existing markets.

SINGAPORE FASHION WEEK

(Mercury Marketing & Communications)

Jason Wu headlined Singapore Fashion Week with his spring 2018 collection. He showed it at the National Gallery Singapore as a part of the continued partnership with Mercury Marketing & Communications, which produces SGFW. Wu participated in a number of events throughout the week to celebrate his arrival, including a Zipcode panel discussion with *Harper's Bazaar* Singapore editor in chief Kenneth Go and the influencer Nicole Warne (a.k.a. @garypeppergirl); a welcome lunch at Publico, in the new Intercontinental Singapore Robertson Quay; and two Net-a-Porter trunk shows, followed by evening cocktails at the Fullerton Hotel. Post-show, he was feted at a Swarovski dinner at the Michelin-starred restaurant Saint Pierre.

The partnership extended to a group of emerging local brands that showed at SGFW, Ginlee Studios, Whole9Yards, Ling Wu, and Nida Shay, whose designers all visited New York to attend top-tier mentorship meetings with CFDA members and partners.

SUNTCHI

The CFDA entered a strategic five-year partnership with Suntchi to connect China's premier business network and marketing giant's branding platform with U.S.-based fashion brands and designers, and to provide new opportunities for our 500-plus members. With unrestricted access to China, American designers will have the unique opportunity to enter a key market in the global economy, strengthening their presence worldwide and expanding their businesses. Suntchi will also host annual meetings and events in both China and the U.S., creating opportunities for CFDA designers to collaborate with Chinese designers and brands, meet brand-licensing agents for the Chinese market, and find investors there—critical steps for smaller brands. To promote CFDA members, Suntchi will create a website to familiarize Chinese consumers with American fashion designers, helping the brands to penetrate the Chinese market and set up e-commerce businesses there.

Each of the five years revolves around a separate pillar of American fashion. For 2017, that was education, and Suntchi supported the Fashion Future Graduate Showcase.



Backstage at the Jason Wu show during Singapore Fashion Week.



Christopher Bevans with models wearing Dyne.

INTERNATIONAL WOOLMARK PRIZE

The International Woolmark Prize, a global initiative that helps identify the most important designers of the future and highlights the modernity of Merino wool in their collections, continued this year as a part of an ongoing relationship between The Woolmark Company and CFDA.

The 2017–2018 IWP finalists included the menswear labels Death to Tennis, Dyne, Kenneth Ning, N-p-Elliott, and Palmiers du Mal, and the womenswear lines Andrea Jiapei Li, Claudia Li, PH5, Protagonist, and Zaid Affas.

The former *Vogue* editor André Leon Talley, *Marie Claire*'s Kate Lanphear, *InStyle*'s Laura Brown, *W* magazine's Stefano Tonchi, CFDA's Steven Kolb, the consultants Julie Gilhart and Malcolm Carfrae, *Esquire*'s Nick Sullivan, and The Woolmark Company's Michelle A. Lee were on the panel and selected Dyne and Zaid Affas as the winners to represent the USA region in the international finals in 2018.

W HOTELS

In addition to the CFDA {Fashion Incubator}, W Hotels supported CFDA's Strategic Partnerships Group through the collaboration Xu Zhi for W Hotels, a celebration of W Shanghai—The Bund. Designer Xuzhi Chen, a graduate of the 2015 CFDA+ program, created six looks and several travel accessories inspired by Shanghai's glamorous past and present, and unveiled the collection during Shanghai Fashion Week.

CFDA & POPSUGAR BRUNCH AT COACHELLA

CFDA and PopSugar held the third-annual brunch during Coachella, at the Colony Palms Hotel, in Palm Springs. The Great's Emily Current and Meritt Elliott, and Clare Vivier of Clare V., hosted it. Notable guests included Hannah Bronfman, Olivia Culpo, Victoria Justice, and Yara Shahidi.



Clare Vivier, Emily Current, Steven Kolb, and Meritt Elliott at Coachella.

RETAIL LAB

The innovative Retail Lab program by Cadillac and the CFDA provides tangible value to designers who are driving the fashion industry forward. Participating designers, selected through a competitive application process, gain important retail experience under the tutelage of fashion-industry experts. Retail Lab’s main component is a custom shop in New York, on Cadillac House’s ground floor. The designers learn keys integral to success in retail, including business development, marketing, and public relations. In addition to covering costs associated with a retail space, such as real estate, display units, mannequins, signage, and a point-of-sale system, Cadillac provides each designer with a \$75,000 grant toward wholesale buys, sales support, and marketing. An advisory board curates the program curriculum, develops a Retail Lab handbook, and provides valuable mentorship guidance throughout. It consists of Kelli Adams of Redscout; Steven Alan; Stacey Bendet Eisner of Alice + Olivia; Rachel Besser of the Domino Media Group; Simon Doonan of Barneys New York; Julie Gilhart; Reed Krakoff; Robin Kramer of Kramer Design Group; Melody Lee of Cadillac; Matt Marcotte; Marigay McKee of MM Luxe Consulting; Darcy Penick of Shopbop/East Dane; Josh Peskowitz of Magasin; Billy Reid; Liz Rodbell of the Hudson Bay Company; Rachel Shechtman of Story; Jan-Hendrik Schlottmann of Derek Lam; Bobby Schuessler of Who What Wear; Jay Silver of CBIZ; Jill Standish of Accenture; and Robin Zendell of Robin Zendell, LLC.

As Innovation Partner of CFDA’s Retail Lab, Accenture works closely with the lab’s select group of designers to develop customized retail strategies and equip them with the critical business knowledge and digital skills required to stay competitive in today’s challenging retail market.



PUBLIC SCHOOL

Residency: January–March
Maxwell Osborne and Dao-Yi Chow of Public School’s store concept involved cutting a vintage Cadillac in half and staging it as if it had crashed through a wall. The trunk of the Cadillac DeVille was full of the brand’s signature sweatshirts and hoodies, which were for sale. Fabulous, Dale Moss, and Eddie Huang attended the store’s opening party.

TANYA TAYLOR

Residency: April–June
Tanya Taylor’s store design mirrored her collection: radiant, with bright colors and playful-yet-elegant pattern schemes. A group of mannequins stood on brightly colored boxes filled with dyed sand. The dressing room was equally vivid—and Instagrammable—featuring hot pink-and-purple swirling wallpaper created from one of her prints.

PAMELA LOVE

Residency: July–September
Pamela Love collaborated with Callico Wallpaper to create a custom gold-leaf wallpaper that anchored her store design. Along with her jewelry, curated apothecary items, vintage furniture, and clothing were available for sale. Love hosted several in-store shopping events with the beauty brand Origins, during which customers could have mini-facials and their tarot cards read.

PRABAL GURUNG

Residency: October–December
Prabal Gurung’s store design included custom finishes, such as a signature spike detail throughout, abstract and thought-provoking art, and a cultivated mix of special items from Nepal. Certain products benefitted the ACLU, Planned Parenthood, and his own Shikshya Foundation Nepal.

FRED SEGAL

The CFDA partnered with the iconic retailer Fred Segal to open a shop-in-shop at the store’s new flagship, on Sunset Boulevard in West Hollywood. Approximately once a quarter, the CFDA conceptualizes a shop theme and curates it with products from CFDA members. The partnership launched in fall 2017 with the CFDA Loves L.A., featuring merchandise from Adam Lippes, Anndra Neen, A Peace Treaty, Ashley Pittman, Colette Malouf, Monogram, Nanette Lepore, Ovidia & Sons, St. Roche, and Whit. This was followed by the CFDA Loves the Holidays, featuring items from Cynthia Rowley, Deborah Marquit, Derek Lam, Gigi Burris Millinery, Kenneth Cole, Mansur Gavriel, Tim Coppens, and Title of Work.



Opposite: Tanya Taylor. Above: CFDA Loves L.A. shop-in-shop, Los Angeles.

Financial Overview 2017

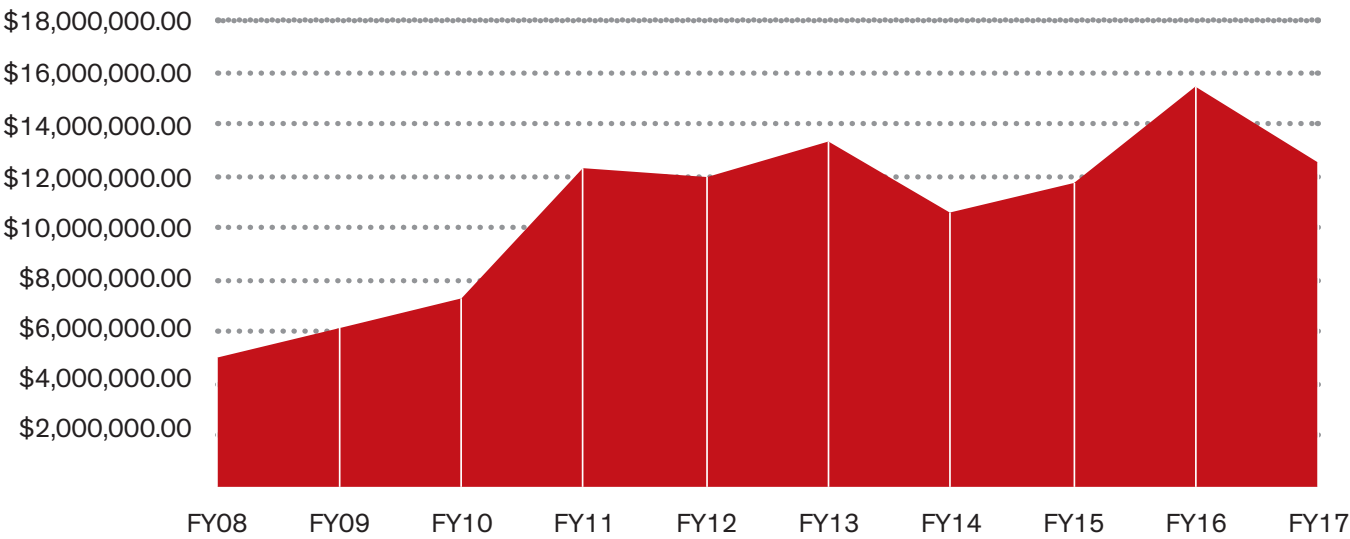
For fiscal year 2017 the Council of Fashion Designers of America and the CFDA Foundation ended in sum with total net assets of \$36.7M, while revenue from operations decreased \$2.9M from prior year 2016. Despite these decreases in FY17, program service spending increased to 95% overall so that the organization could expand support of its membership and the larger fashion community. Also noteworthy, in FY17 net investment returns increased approximately 55% compared to the previous year-end results.

REVENUE	2017	2016
Membership Dues	\$1,012,128.00	\$1,442,392.00
Educational & Professional Development	\$5,744,857.00	\$7,811,034.00
Philanthropy	\$3,658,913.00	\$4,436,372.00
Special Events, net	\$704,644.00	\$343,800.00
Other	\$1,370,019.00	\$1,413,253.00
	\$12,490,561.00	\$15,446,851.00

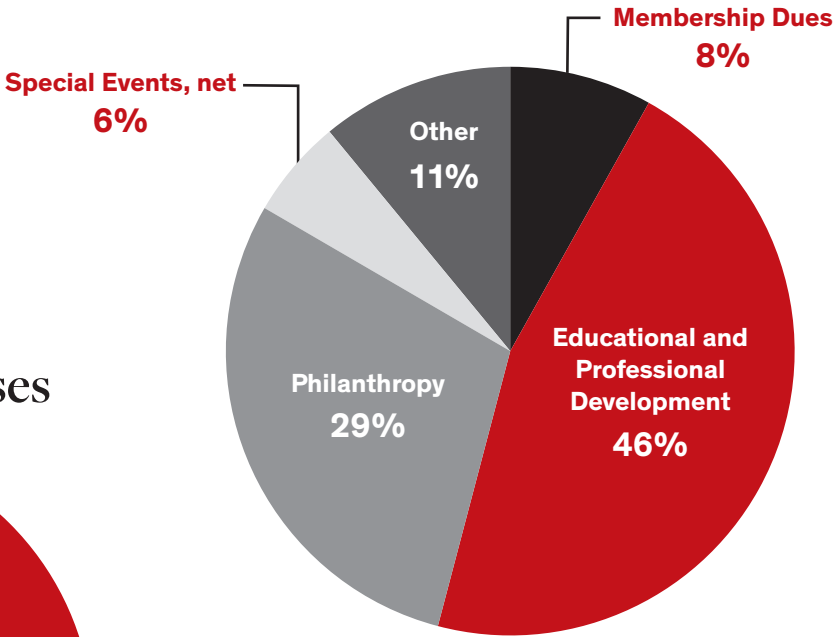
EXPENSES (including depreciation)	2017	2016
Programs	\$14,586,608.00	\$12,941,382.00
Management & General	\$268,619.00	\$647,985.00
Fundraising (including Special Events)	\$404,768.00	\$353,401.00
	\$15,259,995.00	\$13,942,768.00

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	2017	2016
Revenue	\$12,490,561.00	\$15,446,851.00
Expenses	\$15,259,995.00	\$13,942,768.00
Excess (deficit) of operating revenue and support over operating expenses	(\$2,769,434.00)	\$1,504,083.00
Investment return, net	\$1,758,135.00	\$1,134,947.00
Impairment Loss on other intangible assets (from Fashion Calendar)	(\$500,000.00)	(\$1,229,500.00)
Change in Net Assets	(\$1,511,299.00)	\$1,409,530.00
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$38,219,056.00	\$36,809,526.00
Net Assets, End of Year	\$36,707,757.00	\$38,219,056.00

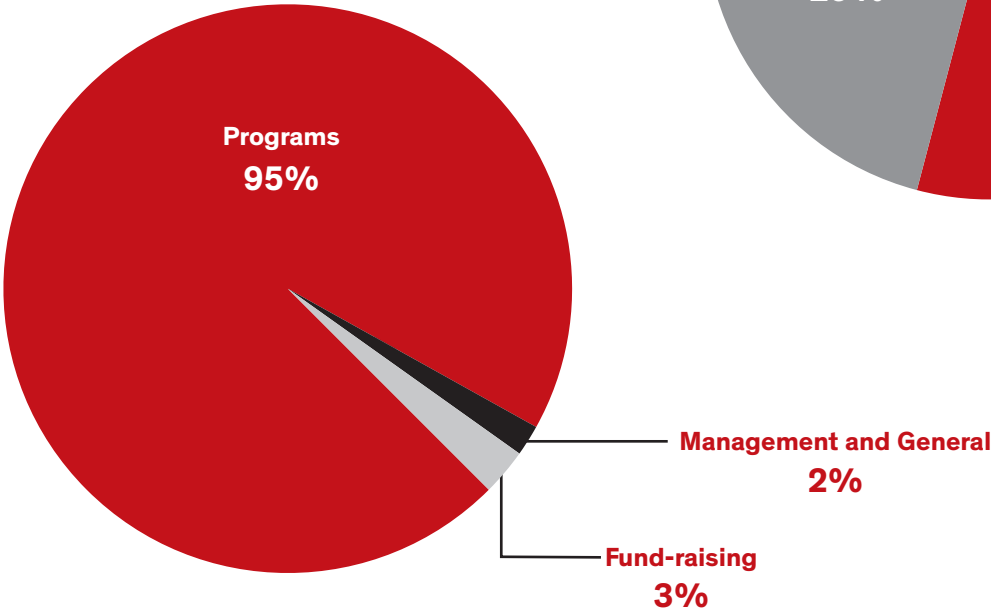
Total Revenue FY08–FY17



Percentage of Revenue



Percentage of Expenses



Editorial & Communications

CFDA.com continues to grow as a top editorial, news, and information platform. The site features daily stories and news celebrating American fashion and our members, and analysis of issues that face our industry today. In addition to highlighting all CFDA initiatives, CFDA.com features recurring series such as Fearless Fashion Females, Words with (Fashion) Friends, and reviews of fashion exhibitions at New York City’s top museums. It also focuses on features around sustainability, diversity, and civic responsibility. Check it out!



Special Thanks to Billy Farrell Agency

CFDA STAFF MEMBERS

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CaSandra Diggs | CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL OFFICER
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Stephanie Soto | PROGRAM COORDINATOR OF EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Karyl Truesdale | OFFICE MANAGER
Victoria Urso | MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR



BEST PERFORMING INSTAGRAM POSTS OF 2017

Among the most-liked Instagram posts of 2017 were Hailee Steinfeld in a lavender-hued Vera Wang gown on the Golden Globe Awards red carpet. The young actress was followed closely by our official voting announcement for the CFDA Fashion Awards. Also in the top posts: Anna Wintour at the CFDA Fashion Awards, and Heidi Klum and Zac Posen arriving at The Manhattan Center’s Hammerstein Ballroom that night holding hands. CFDA’s top performer, however, was also the most talked about: a sketch of then-incoming First Lady Melania Trump wearing a Ralph Lauren ensemble to the presidential inauguration. The post proved to be highly controversial, with as many critics as there were supporters among the nearly 500 comments.

Social Media Followers 1,255,500+



Instagram
556,000+



Facebook
242,000+



Twitter
448,500+



YouTube
10,000+



C*F*DA