

# COLUMBUS FASHION COUNCIL



## 2021 Annual Impact Report

Providing scholarships to fashion design students & a platform for local and emerging fashion designers.



# COLUMBUS FASHION COUNCIL

As a non-profit 501(c)(3) status organization, the Columbus Fashion Council's mission is to provide scholarships to fashion design students and a platform for local & emerging fashion designers. Our vision is to expand the fashion economy in Central Ohio through a combination of industry growth initiatives, community organizations support, funding access opportunities, and creative program development. We strive to nurture and develop the fashion community to keep our fashion talent living and working in Central Ohio, while contributing to & strengthening the American fashion industry.

# Founder/Executive Director

## *Thomas McClure*



“In 2021, our fashion community remained resilient amidst the challenges our world continued to face. We came together as a community to do what we do best and to show the world there’s hope to be found within the fashion industry - hope shared by the fashion designers, the models, the makeup artists, the hair stylists, the photographers & videographers, the production crew, and other fashion industry professionals who came together to create what we call American fashion. I commend these artists, students, and small businesses for keeping the hope alive through fashion and for creating much needed magic in this world. The Columbus Fashion Council is proud to be working with such talent in Central Ohio and will continue to develop high impact programs that help them shine. Together, we make Columbus shine!”



“In its 12th year, the organization has evolved from bringing the community together for fashion events, fundraising for fashion design students, and platforming fashion designers, to creating a new meaning for American fashion as a whole. The Columbus Fashion Council has put Columbus on the map. And while we have a long way to go to develop the industry, Columbus is making a splash in the national market and we are so proud to be at the forefront of that.”



**Board President**  
*Lubna Najjar*



# Board of Directors



Lubna Najjar  
Board President  
H. Modra Brand Development



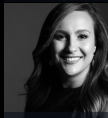
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Ohio State University



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Governance Chair  
Atlas Partners



Karina Nova  
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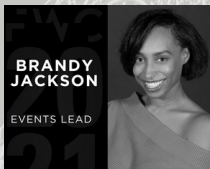
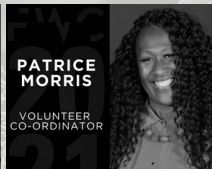
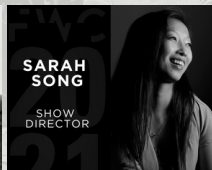
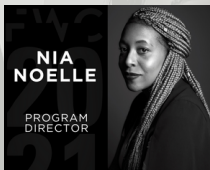


Tony Alexander  
Board Member  
Great Oak Funding



Thomas McClear  
Founder/Executive Director  
Columbus Fashion Council

"I'm proud to be working with this amazing group of community & industry leaders, who help guide the organization towards better serving the small businesses, artists, and students in Central Ohio's fashion community."



# Team Leads

# CFDA CONNECTS

## CFDA CONNECTS

“Our organization serves the whole American fashion industry—all 50 states—and we are excited that CFDA Connects will collectively bond our industry and affiliates with the diverse and burgeoning small businesses that make up our country’s economy. The symbiotic relationships will generate mutual support opportunities serving to everyone’s benefit, and the larger we grow our network, the stronger the American fashion industry becomes.” - Steven Kolb, CEO of the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA)

The Columbus Fashion Council is proud to be a founding member of the CFDA Connects Program, along with ten other influential fashion organizations from around the country.

Columbus Fashion Council | Dayton Emerging Fashion Incubator | Hawaii Fashion Week | Indiana Fashion Foundation | Kansas City Fashion Week | Miami Fashion Week | Philadelphia Fashion Week | Ragtrade Atlanta/Atlanta Fashion Week | Saint Louis Fashion Fund | Texas Fashion Industry Initiative Interform | Nashville Fashion Week

# The Impact Stories



2021





# Maria Mendoza

2021 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



“I am very thankful to the Columbus Fashion Council for being such a big help to young designers. This scholarship could not have come at a better time. It will definitely help me make my senior thesis the best that it can be, as well as giving me the encouragement to keep working hard. I am truly blessed and grateful for this scholarship.”



# Joan Madison

FASHION DESIGNER



“Fashion Week Columbus and the Columbus Fashion Council have been very instrumental in helping me to build my brand. I have worked with Tommy, and his amazing team, and have been participating in the Finale Runway Shows and the High Fashion Tea Runway Shows for the past 10 years. These organizations provide an amazing platform for designers to collaborate with a pool of other Columbus industry creatives like other designers, models, photographers, hair stylists, and makeup artists to help us facilitate our vision, and then to showcase our designs on the runway. By giving us this exposure, and platform it has really helped me to elevate my brand, which has led to other opportunities.”



# Matthew Chess & Rian Ismadia

FASHION DESIGNERS



“Fashion Week Columbus and Columbus Fashion Council are both a network for support and a motivating factor for excellence. The Columbus Fashion Council has been instrumental in Maris Equi’s inroads into brick and mortar retail. They know people and methodologies that helped us advance in ways we could not do on our own. Fashion Week Columbus is a stage that pushes us to excel. I can honestly say we would not be innovating with design the way we are now without the motivation of Fashion Week Columbus.”



# Zhane Wiley

FASHION DESIGNER

“The Columbus Fashion Council assisted my brand by providing a platform to showcase my creations, and allowed me the space to grow as a professional and designer. I enjoyed all of the encouragement to stand out and be bold as this was my first collection! I will cherish the experience of being a featured designer at Fashion Week Columbus as I expand my fields of artistry.”



# Gerardo Encinas

FASHION DESIGNER



“The exposure that the Fashion Week Columbus platform has given me has made my brand grow year after year to the point of opening my own boutique in December 2021. As a professional, the Columbus Fashion Council challenges me to be more creative and showcase a better collection every year. They also provide necessary resources, services, and connections to allow me to make a living doing what I love in Columbus.”



# Xantha Ward

FASHION DESIGNER

“Fashion Week Columbus will always be a memorable experience for me. Professional staff and volunteers. I enjoyed preparing my collection and meeting other designers, as well as having new opportunities and meeting new clientele. These last few years have been challenging for us all. In spite of the challenges, the Columbus Fashion Council came up with creative ways to to make sure Fashion Week Columbus was successful.”



# Destiny Howard

FASHION DESIGNER



“I really enjoyed my experience showing with Fashion Week Columbus. I like how I got feedback on my collection while it was in production and how I had a creative say when it came to styling my models. I also liked the exposure I received and being able to do a pop-up shop after the runway show. The networking and promotional events were great as well. I had a lot of fun overall and I would love to show with Fashion Week Columbus again.”

FASHION  
COUNCIL

C/DA  
CONNECTS

PASSPORT  
2 FASHION

FASHION  
INDUSTRY  
MIXER

PHILANTHROPY  
MEETS FASHION

THE FASHION  
PRESENTATIONS

C/DA  
CONNECTS

# High Impact Programs

COLUMBUS  
FASHION  
COUNCIL

The  
Fashion  
Industry  
Conference

CFC  
SCHOLARSHIP

COLUMBUS  
FASHION  
AWARDS

C/DA  
CONNECTS

PASSPORT  
2 FASHION

FWC  
FASHION WEEK COLLEGE

FASHION  
INDUSTRY  
MIXER

PHILANTHROPY  
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CFC  
SCHOLARSHIP

COLUMBUS  
FASHION  
AWARDS

[columbusfashioncouncil.org](http://columbusfashioncouncil.org)

2021



# 2021 Columbus Fashion Awards

The Columbus Fashion Awards recognizes and celebrates individuals & organizations that have made a lasting impact through fashion or within the fashion community & industry.



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## FASHION WEEK COLUMBUS

The flagship program of the Columbus Fashion Council, which serves as a brand launching platform for designers, models, makeup artists, hair stylists, photographers, production crew, and other professionals.



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## THE FASHION INDUSTRY

A CFDA (Council of Fashion Designers of America) partnered two-day conference dedicated to knowledge sharing, which included over 14 hours of educational conversations led by 30 industry experts.



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## CFC SCHOLARSHIP

The Columbus Fashion Council Scholarship is awarded annually to a college fashion design student who excels in their fashion design program. Almost \$40,000 in scholarship funds have been awarded.



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## PHILANTHROPY MEETS FASHION

Partnered with CCAD (Columbus College of Art & Design), this program offers student & professional designers an opportunity to meet & learn from a well known fashion designer in an intimate setting.



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## BEAUTIFUL GARBAGE FASHION SHOW

Partnered with Nurtur Salon (an Aveda concept), this show focuses on sustainability & zero waste and showcases the creativity of the designers using materials that may be considered waste.



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## FASHION INDUSTRY MIXER

In partnership with IL Moda Brand Development, the Fashion Industry Mixer brings together the fashion community & industry to create connections and opportunities.



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## THE FASHION PRESENTATIONS

The Fashion Presentations takes place during Fashion Week Columbus and allows Central Ohio designers, artists, and fashion brands to gain exposure through a presentation style show.



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## VIRTUAL FASHION INDUSTRY MIXER

This program was started during the pandemic to stay engaged with the fashion community, offering connections and education through virtual panel discussions with industry experts & rockstars.





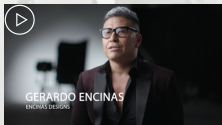
Community Partners



# Impact Highlights



2021



# Featured Media





- **15+ Designers** were provided a platform to showcase their collections, provided guidance, resources, and high-end marketing assets, along with networking & press opportunities
- **150+ Models** were featured at various fashion shows and events, and provided an opportunity to be scouted by regional and international modeling agencies
- **100+ Volunteers** were provided hands-on experience and networking opportunities to help pursue their aspirations in the fashion industry
- **\$6000 in Scholarship Funds** was awarded to Maria Mendoza, a senior at the Columbus College of Art & Design, which will help her complete her fashion design program
- **13 Fashion Shows** - we produced (or partnered with) 13 fashion shows & fashion events, providing a platform for fashion designers, models, makeup artists, hair stylists, photographers, and production crew to launch their brands, jumpstart their careers, or to further pursue their fashion industry goals.
- **100 Fashion Industry Professionals** - we brought together makeup artists, hair stylists, photographers, videographers, and fashion production crew to create successful runway shows, fashion presentations, photoshoots, video shoots, and fashion events, which also helped further their own brands as a small business throughout Central Ohio and beyond.
- **100+ Students, Designers, and Fashion Industry Professionals** were included in an intimate in-person Q&A chat with high-profile fashion designer, Alex Vinash at the CCAD Canzani Center
- **30 Industry Experts & 14 Hours** - through The Fashion Industry Virtual Conference, in partnership with the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA), we were able to provide educational programming to Central Ohio's fashion community
- **\$115,000+ of In-Kind Valued Partnerships** were created to help develop and execute the high impact programs of the Columbus Fashion Council

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# IMPACT MADE IN 2021

# IMPACT MADE SINCE 2010

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- **150+ Designers** - we've provided a platform, guidance, resources, marketing materials, and development of 150+ Ohio based fashion designers
- **1500+ Models** - we've featured over 1500 models on our runways & events, while presenting opportunities to be represented by major regional and international modeling agencies, and potential paying modeling jobs with various companies & brands.
- **2000+ Volunteers** - we've worked with over 2000 volunteers, providing hands-on experience within the fashion industry and networking opportunities to further their own pursuits within the industry.
- **1000+ Fashion Industry Professionals** - we've worked with over a 1000 makeup-up artists, hair stylists, photographers, videographers, and fashion production crew, who are all small businesses working and living in Central Ohio doing what they love
- **Almost \$40,000 In Scholarships** - we've raised almost \$40,000 in scholarship funds for Columbus College of Art & Design fashion design students, assisting them in completing their fashion design program.
- **150+ Fashion Shows** - we've produced over 150 fashion shows & fashion events, providing a platform for fashion designers, models, makeup artists, hair stylists, photographers, and production crew to launch their brands, jumpstart their careers, or to further pursue their fashion industry goals.

# Columbus Fashion Council Members

## FOUNDERS CIRCLE



## CORPORATE MEMBERS

J. HILBURN  
*I am...* STYLIST

JENNIFER SHERMAN



HER DENIM  
FOR HER. BY HER



**By The People**



## INDUSTRY & PATRON MEMBERS

Christian Cowan  
Laurel Dewitt  
Alex Vinash  
Adolfo Sanchez  
David Tupaz  
Stevie Boi  
Althea Harper  
Nary Manivong  
St. Frompong  
Vanni Wang  
Tad B

Darsy Amaya  
Rian Ismadia  
Matthew Chess  
Xuena Pu  
Joan Madison  
Tracy Powell  
Gerardo Encinas  
Destiny Howard  
Xantha Ward  
Zhane Wiley  
Vince Quevedo  
Geneveva Christoff  
Juan Ferreyros

Joel Reyes  
Feret Campos  
Renaee Kotarski  
Shajuan Jackson  
Lisa Benton  
Scott Heffner  
Tim Neumann  
Sam Javor  
Ann McFarlin  
Don Wise  
Adam Hoffman  
Tony Bentivegna  
Lisa Whittington

Laura Vaughn  
Sarah Song  
Patrice Morris  
Brandy Jackson  
Aditi Bhatiya  
Shelby McMillin  
Nina Muetzel  
Joanne McGonagle  
Felicia Dunson  
Isolda Tilson  
Sana Hanna

Jennifer Moore  
Paul Feeney  
Fashion Mingle  
Philip Bradshaw  
MJOCHELE  
Steffanee Adams  
Adrianna Snyder  
Tobias Banks  
Molly Schneider  
Ida Mays  
Jishike Social Couture LLC

Dionna Harvell  
Julie VanDeLinder  
Arianna Shaw  
Diana Jones  
Christine Candlish  
Mackenzie Palma  
Janet Thiede



FACEBOOK



INSTAGRAM

[WWW.COLUMBUSFASHIONCOUNCIL.ORG](http://WWW.COLUMBUSFASHIONCOUNCIL.ORG)

*Photography Credit: Tony Bentivegna, Tim Neumann, Jaime Aguilar, Isolda Tilson, Adam Hoffman, Dave Toth*

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