



The Gift of Fashion

Fashion Show

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023
10:00AM TO 1:00PM

ZAPPOS DOWNTOWN
400 STEWART AVE. LAS VEGAS, NV 89101



LAS VEGAS
FASHION
COUNCIL



This Year's Event

Welcome to the 14th Annual Fashion Forward Event, and this year's grand finale theme: The Gift of Fashion! Fashion Forward is a unique design challenge for Clark County high school students, patterned after the popular TV show, Project Runway. It aims to enhance the education of local design and fashion students and gives aspiring designers the opportunity to showcase their designs in a public setting.

Proceeds from this signature event supports the Junior League of Las Vegas, its mission, and advance our area of focus which aims to make an impact on youth ages 12 and over in the areas of education, and overall health and wellness within our community.

This year, students from 7 schools started Round 1 of the competition by creating an up-cycled garment from materials and funds generously donated by Goodwill of Southern Nevada.

Participating schools includes: Centennial High School, Del Sol Academy of the Performing Arts, Green Valley High School, Las Vegas Academy of the Arts, Las Vegas High School, Shadow Ridge High School and West Preparatory Academy.

Today, finalists from Round 2 will present their original design during the finale show, The Gift of Fashion. Their inspired wears were created using blue fabric donated by Allegiant Airlines, trim from Star Costume and Theatrical Supply, and \$30 to use towards materials donated by the Junior League of Las Vegas. We are so proud to showcase the hard work that the students have created with the guidance of their fantastic teachers. Thank you for joining us and your support. Enjoy the show!

Fashion Forward Comittee

Chair: Danielle Steinbock

Members: Carolyn Carney, Sarah Castonguay, Jane Celera, Tava McGinty-Jimenez, Christina Moon, Amber Robinson, Kristen Vuckovic

Community Council VP: Megan Bichsel

Event Schedule

10 a.m. Doors Open

10:05 a.m. Welcome and Sponsor Acknowledgements

10:30 a.m. Show Begins

11:45 a.m. Awards Presentation

1 p.m. Event Ends

Fashion Show Advisory Council

Master of Ceremonies: DJ Mo BLVD



Photography: Sinner Studios



**Runway Advisor: Heather Renner,
Miss Nevada 2022**



**Competition Advisor: Carrie Vlaming,
Drama Teacher at East Career and
Technical Academy**

Judges



Britta Carlson-Sessums:

Founder and Owner, Britta Leigh Designs.

Britta has been sewing and creating home décor for more than 35 years. As an experienced seamstress, she created her family-run business, Britta Leigh Designs, taking great pride in the relationships she builds with her customers and in the community. She and her team are fastidious about quality construction and strive to create long lasting, stylish, and sophisticated creations.

“My tools are industrial sewing machines that allow me to create garments using everything from light-weight chiffon to handbags with leather. About twenty years ago, I began creating high quality handbags that mixed my love of fashion with my love of sewing as a creative outlet to offset a high stress finance career. The result, Britta Leigh Designs!”

Britta joined the Junior League of Las Vegas in 2002 and held numerous chair and board positions including President in 2012/2013. A native Las Vegan and life-long sewer, Britta helped start the Fashion Forward project as the Provisional Training project in 2007-2008.

Judges (continued)



Jennifer Inaba:

Sustainable Fashion Advocate

Las Vegas Fashion Council Board of Directors

Jennifer is an award-winning communications professional and a sustainable fashion advocate who has worked in the conservation and advocacy space for nearly 20 years. She has a driven focus on sustainability and environmental justice to protect the future of the planet and people – with a specific interest in the fashion industry.

Jennifer provides pro bono advocacy and policy support for Fashion Revolution USA, the world's largest fashion activism movement to increase awareness and transparency in the industry, and is an ambassador for Remake, a global advocacy organization fighting for fair pay and climate justice in the clothing industry. She is currently a PhD candidate studying how to improve fashion industry transparency and consumer education. Jennifer joined the Las Vegas Fashion Council Board of Directors in 2023 to bring an environmental and social sustainability lens to their efforts to diversify and expand the Las Vegas economy through the fashion industry.



Judges (continued)



Larissa Navarro:

Owner, LarissaCoutureLV

Larissa has cultivated her passion for fashion since she was a child. She watched her mother's own clothing business grow from a home office to the first retail location. Larissa is a 4th generation seamstress and fashion designer who studied at Monterrey Center for Higher Learning of Design. At age 21, she opened her first store and original label Larissa Classic, selling high end corporate uniforms to the business chic women.

A decade later, Larissa followed her passion and moved to Las Vegas with her family. Starting over with two children isn't easy, but a fashionista never stops working. From a home studio to her own store in less than 8 years, Larissa built her client base from the ground up while working as the head of production for The Dealer's Room, eventually rebranding her style as LarissaCoutureLV in 2015.

Today her work ranges from hospitality uniforms to modeling agencies, from dance wear to formal wear, and from toddlers to golden years. As CEO and lead designer of her own label, Larissa looks forward to many more years of professional growth and community engagement.

Judges (continued)



Kevin Smith:

Founder & Lead Educator

Trade & Fashion Academy Las Vegas

Kevin Smith started the school in 2016, and officially launched the business in 2017. He previously was the Education Director for Stitch Factory, a Downtown Project funded venture, which evolved into what is now known as TAFE LV. Kevin previously taught Fashion Design at The International Academy of Design and Technology, where he graduated. He also studied in London, UK & Wuxi, China. In a previous life, Kevin worked in public and private mental health, specifically in regards to vocational rehab for adults with severe mental illness. This was all upon graduating from The Ohio State University, where his college football heart still beats...Go Buckeyes!!

Kevin Smith was the VP of the Las Vegas Fashion Council from 2017-2020, Mr. Las Vegas Pride 2005, and a very proud graduate of Leadership Las Vegas Class of 2021! He is absolutely thrilled at the chance to give back to our beloved community, and help some very special community members have the most amazing shining moment that they SEW Deserve. "We Rise by Lifting Others."

Judges (continued)



Morgan Waldron

*Director of Marketing and Communications
Goodwill of Southern Nevada*

Morgan Waldron is the director of marketing and communications at Goodwill of Southern Nevada. Waldron manages a broad portfolio including digital and traditional media, paid and owned media, public relations, store atmospherics, and communications supporting Goodwill's nonprofit mission focusing career and workforce development. In her role, Waldron has crafted innovative and vibrant partnerships and promotions. In 2019, she partnered with the Las Vegas Fashion Council to host their first "Recycled Fashion Show" at the LINQ, and she quickly became passionate about sustainable fashion and educating our youth on how to reuse materials for a more sustainable impact on our environment. This innovative partnership in Las Vegas led to a national campaign with Project Runway and Goodwill Industries International. Prior to joining the nonprofit sector, Waldron gained valuable experience working on accounts like the reality TV show Holly's World on E!, Capriotti's Sandwich Shop, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, The Venetian Hotel, Top Rank Boxing, Ferraro's, Healthcare Partners of Nevada, and a variety of celebrities in Las Vegas.

Thank You to All Our 2023 Judges!

Teachers



Brandy Andrews (Las Vegas Academy) teaches Costume Design and Theatre StageCraft at The Las Vegas Academy of the Arts. She has a Bachelors in Studio Arts from George Mason University in Fairfax, VA. Brandy discovered her love of costuming as a young child and attributes this to her theatrical family background and years of experience teaching dance and choreography.

She will tell you that her dream job includes encouraging young designers to draw and sew, bringing their works to life! Brandy is thrilled to be with her students sharing their work with Fashion Forward. Her work has been featured in Cinderella, Skin of Our Teeth, 42nd Street, Comedy of Errors, Dog Fight, Little Mermaid, Something Rotten, and Curious Incident of the Dog in the Middle of the Night. Prior to teaching at LVA she has freelanced with principal dancers from Cirque and National performing artists. She would like to thank her family, Bob, Ally, Casey, and Ethan for their love and support!



Teachers (continued)



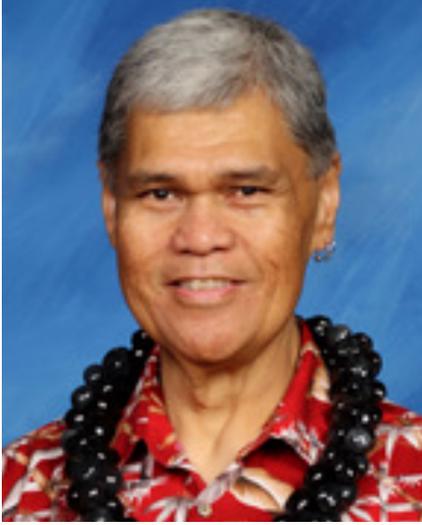
Katina Hartley (Shadow Ridge High School) is the Fashion and Theatre Director at Shadow Ridge High School. Her students learn an array of fashion skills as well as costuming techniques, which they get to apply for the theatre productions. She has been an educator for seventeen years, with this being her fourth year at Shadow. Prior to working in education, she held positions as a costume designer and scenic designer for multiple theatre houses in Seattle. Her professional experience includes designing and constructing garments for historical recreation, film, and photography. She has thoroughly enjoyed working with her students in the Fashion Forward competition.



Sasha Jones (Del Sol Academy of the Performing Arts) started sewing like many of her students do, by watching videos on the internet and studying books about sewing. Her love of theatre began as a fluke in high school, where they welcomed her with open arms. She knew that she was where she was meant to be.

Ms. Jones graduated with dual bachelor's degrees in secondary education and technical theatre with an emphasis in costume design and construction. She's worked at a number of theatre companies doing costumes and wardrobe, including Muncie Civic Theatre (Muncie, IN), Triad Stage (Greensboro, NC) and the Heritage Repertory Theatre (Charlottesville, VA). In 2017, Ms. Jones started teaching drama at a middle school, which ultimately landed her dream job at Del Sol Academy as the costuming and makeup instructor and costume designer.

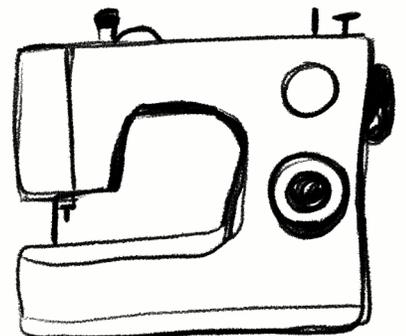
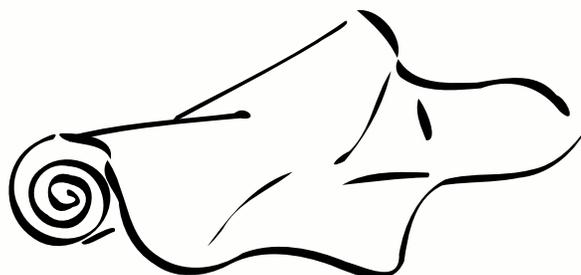
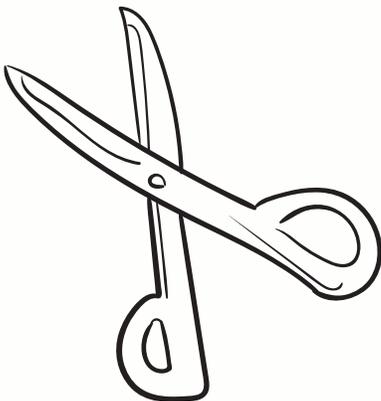
Teachers (continued)



Abraham K Mokunui Jr. (Las Vegas High School) teaches Fashion Construction I, II, III & As at Las Vegas High School. He joined CCSD in 2019 holding an Associate's Degree in Fashion Technology from Honolulu Community College, a Bachelor's of Education Degree in Speech Communication with a minor in English Language Arts from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Concordia University. He brings experience from working in the fashion industry in Hawai'i and endeavors to share his "aloha spirit" with his students hoping to encourage them to "Don't Stop Believing!"



Charla Ricketts (West Preparatory Academy) teaches fashion and culinary classes. She has a Bachelor's degree in Family & Consumer Science Education and an Associate's degree in Early Childhood from Southern Utah University. She is working on a Master's degree in Educational Technology. Charla has taught in CCSD for 31 years. She has 5 children and 9 grandchildren.



Teachers (continued)



Jasmine Reuel (Centennial High School) has been teaching at Centennial High School for the past 17 years ever since she graduated from BYU-Idaho. She is a transplant from New Mexico and likes the fact that she still can live in a desert. She received her masters from Sierra Nevada College in Teacher Leadership. She is also the head female swim coach at Centennial. Her passions are in sewing all kinds of new things. She likes to challenge herself and right now her passion lies in bag making. Her other loves in her life are her 2 Basset Hound fur babies and Henry the cat.



Christiane Wilson (Green Valley High School) teaches Fashion, Textiles and Design at Green Valley High School in Henderson. She is new to CCSD and the state of Nevada having relocated last year from Salt Lake City, Utah where she taught Family and Consumer Science. Ms. Wilson's interest in fashion began in her junior high home economics classes and continued in high school where she attended a specialized career program for fashion design and merchandising. After high school, Ms. Wilson attended the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City. Ms. Wilson is thrilled to be running the new fashion program at GVHS and she hopes to inspire and encourage her students to explore the fashion industry!

Thank You to All Our 2023 Teachers!

Prizes

1st place Couture:

- \$400 donated by Junior League of Las Vegas
- 1-year Student membership to the Las Vegas Fashion Council
- 9-week Fashion Design Internship/Course at Trade and Fashion Academy donated by Kevin Smith
- Ticket to MAGIC trade show donated by Kevin Smith
- Sewing Machine and Serger donated by Britta Leigh Designs

2nd place Couture:

- \$200 donated by Junior League of Las Vegas
- (8) hour Fashion Design/Pattern-Making/Sewing course at Trade and Fashion Academy donated by Kevin Smith
- One month paid internship donated by Larissa Couture Las Vegas

3rd place Couture:

- \$125 donated by Junior League of Las Vegas
- Ticket to MAGIC trade show donated by Kevin Smith

1st place Designer:

- \$300 donated by Junior League of Las Vegas
- 9-week Fashion Design Internship/Course at Trade and Fashion Academy donated by Kevin Smith
- Ticket to MAGIC trade show donated by Kevin Smith
- One month paid internship donated by Larissa Couture Las Vegas
- Sewing Machine donated by LuAnn Kutch

2nd place Designer:

- \$150 donated by Junior League of Las Vegas
- (8) hour Fashion Design/Pattern-Making/Sewing course at Trade and Fashion Academy donated by Kevin Smith

3rd place Designer:

- \$100 donated by Junior League of Las Vegas
- Ticket to MAGIC tradeshow donated by Kevin Smith

Prizes (continued)

Specialty Awards:

Best Technical Award

Sewing machine donated by Judy Beal
Paid internship with Britta Leigh Designs



Rising Star Award

Personal branding, headshot photo session donated by Kristen Vuckovic
Paid internship with Britta Leigh Designs



Finalists

Centennial High School

Designer:

- Jazmin Amaro
- Ruth Grano
- Nora Gunnerson
- Angelica Herrera
- Sophia Hinton
- Makyla Jones
- Jaylene Perez
- Katelin Ramirez
- Natalie Sligar

Couture:

- Lexus Castaneda
- Kayleigh Mapps
- Elizabeth Mead
- Diana Orozco
- Madison Viloso



Del Sol Academy

Designer:

- Destiny Gagnon
- Lauren Danni Pico Gonzalez
- Kai Grosz
- Marlen (Raine) Hernandez Alvarado
- Milo Manard
- Arianne Martinez
- Haeley Rojas
- Jaidyn Williams

Couture:

- Jennifer Barajas
- Kassandra Barajas
- Jasmine Boyce
- Kayla Castillas
- Daire Chavez
- Rashell Escamilla-Ortiz
- Ariana Flores
- Theadore Marshall
- Eileen Aloma Masmijal
- Clay Padavan
- Natalie Perez-Pott
- Raquel Rodriguez
- Lael Salamaca
- Jessica Steele
- Jessica Talcott



Finalists (continued)

Las Vegas Academy

Couture:

- Peyton Gauthier
- Jacob Grantz

Las Vegas High School

Designer:

- Tatiana Soto

Couture:

- Destiny Morales
- Mia Ramirez

Green Valley High School Arts

Designer:

- Lorelai Bleyl
- Mercaediez Craft
- Kristina Duran
- Philippa Larsen
- Julia West

Shadow Ridge High School

Designer:

- Charlotte Larason
- Tia Macdonald

Couture:

- Alisia Flanagan
- Leilani Teeters

West Preparatory Academy

Designer:

- Paola Vera

Couture:

- Estrella Alvarez Martin
- Denise San Pedro-Pena



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Junior League of Las Vegas (JLLV) is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. We welcome all women who value our mission. The Junior League of Las Vegas, together with its predecessor, the Service League of Las Vegas, has served the Las Vegas community for more than 70 years.

Junior League of Las Vegas is made up of more than 500 exciting and diverse women from across the Las Vegas Valley. Our organization has been instrumental in founding numerous nonprofits and in improving the community through the thousands of volunteer hours contributed by our members. Some of our many projects include a partnership with the Shannon West Homeless Youth Center, annual drives for Thanksgiving meals and holiday gifts for children and donating thousands of dollars annually to local educators through our Education Grants program. The Junior League of Las Vegas was also instrumental in developing local programs including the Ronald McDonald House, Discovery Children's Museum, HELP of Southern Nevada and the Shade Tree Shelter.



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
LAS VEGAS

Thank you for attending

*The
Gift of Fashion*

