

# 2022



Fashion Forward is a unique design challenge for Clark County high school students, patterned after the popular TV show, *Project Runway*. Fashion Forward 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. Fashion Forward is celebrating its 11th year and is thrilled to be back after a 2-year pandemic hiatus. Fashion Forward is a signature JLLV event which has traditionally hosted an exciting finale in the Spring of each year. Proceeds from Fashion Forward support 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's Event

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The theme for 2021-2022 is **Reuse Reimagine Refashion: Creating Fashion Sustainability**. 373 students from 7 schools started Round 1 of the competition this past fall. Las Vegas Academy, West Preparatory Academy, Del Sol Academy, Las Vegas, Green Valley, Shadow Ridge, and Centennial are the participating high schools.

There are 2 categories for the competition. The Designer students sewed a pencil pouch project, and the Couture students created an up-cycle garment to determine who were going to advance to Round 2 of Fashion Forward. Goodwill Industries generously donated \$20 gift cards for each student in Round 1.

46 finalists tasked with sewing an original design have advanced to Round 2. Over 200 yards of fabric was kindly provided by Allegiant Airlines for this year's finale. Designer students also got \$40 and Couture students got \$50 VISA gift cards donated by the JLLV. These were the materials used to bring to life an ensemble from student sketches which encapsulated "Creating Fashion Sustainability". We are so proud to showcase the hard work that the students have created with the guidance of their fantastic teachers, especially in view of the pandemic.

## Fashion Forward Comittee

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**Co-Chairs:** Lila Asnani & Lori Lopez Priest

**Members:** Erica Bobak, Samantha Lawson-Boffelli, Carolyn Carney, Jennifer Franco, Rosalie Gonzalez, Kimberly Groome, Kaiya Herrington, and Amy Wingate

**Provisional Assistants:** Jane Ashley Celera and Morgan Hogue

**Community Council VP:** Tya Mathis

**Special Thanks to Our Sustaining Advisors:** Dalisa Cooper and Britta Carlson-Sessums

**Special Thanks to Our Teacher Advisor:** Carrie Vlaming

# Event Schedule

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**10 am:** Doors open

**10:05 am:** Welcome and Introduction

**10:30 am:** Judging begins

**11:45 am:** Student promenade and awards presentation

**1 pm:** Event ends

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# Judges

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**Ricci Lopez** - Ricci is a veteran of luxury retail having 29 years of knowledge and expertise in the business. His impressive work history includes Gianni Versace, Hervé Léger, Dolce & Gabbana, Hugo Boss, and Stitched. Born and raised in Las Vegas; as were his parents before him. Ricci graduated from the prestigious Bishop Gorman High School before obtaining a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from UNLV with an emphasis on print journalism. He went on to build a name for himself on the Las Vegas Strip, Hollywood, and Rodeo Drive, working extensively to style celebrities and cultural influencers who enjoy his unique brand of white-glove service. He currently holds the position of Retail and Creative Director and Partner for the new flagship boutique at Aria Resort and Casino.



**Morgan Waldron** - Over the course of two decades, Morgan Waldron has established herself as one of Southern Nevada's most versatile marketing professionals through her wide-ranging experience in gaming manufacturing, fast casual and fine dining, and the nonprofit sector. In 2017, she joined nonprofit Goodwill of Southern Nevada (Goodwill®) and currently sits as the Director of Marketing and Communications for the organization. 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.

## Judges (continued)

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This innovative partnership in Las Vegas led to a national campaign with Project Runway and Goodwill Industries International. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her fiancé and son, who is a freshman in college. She spends her vacations snowboarding with her family in the winter and visiting California beaches in the summer.



**Larissa Navarro** - 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 designer who studied at Monterrey Center for Higher Learning of Design. At 21, she opened her first store and original label Larissa Classic, selling high end corporate uniforms to the business chic women.

Larissa followed her passion and moved to Las Vegas with her family. 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. When that closed in 2008, she worked for other private labels and created her own, eventually rebranding her style as LarissaCoutureLV in 2015.

Today her work ranges from 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, she looks forward to continued professional growth and community engagement.

## Judges (continued)

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**Kevin Smith** - is the Founder & Lead Educator of Trade & Fashion Academy Las Vegas. He started the school towards the end of 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 TAFA 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 this 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."

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## Thank You to All Our 2022 Judges!

# Teachers

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**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!"



**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!

## Teachers (continued)

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**Jasmine Reuel (Centennial High School)** has been teaching at Centennial High School for the past 16 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.



**Charla Ricketts (West Prep)** teaches fashion and culinary classes. She was raised in Southern Utah where her mother taught her to sew at a very young age. She has a Bachelor's degree in Family & Consumer Science Education and an Associate's degree in Early Childhood from Southern Utah University. She has almost completed a masters in Educational Technology from Lesley. Charla has taught in the CCSD for 30 years. She has 5 children and 7 grandchildren.



**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.

## Teachers (continued)

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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!



**Sasha Jones (Del Sol High School)** 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. As a nervous freshman, moving into a new school, she didn't have any friends, and when others seemed to snub their noses at the strange kid with the weird sense of humor and style, the theatre department welcomed her with open arms and she knew that she was where she was meant to be.

In college, Ms. Jones double majored and graduated with dual bachelor's degrees in secondary education and technical theatre with an emphasis in costume design and construction. After college, she 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).

## Teachers (continued)

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In 2017, Ms. Jones started teaching drama at the middle school level and practiced sewing on the side by doing alterations, cosplay creation, and costuming for friends and colleagues. Then fate led her to Las Vegas where she started teaching drama at Mack Middle School on the east side of Las Vegas. Fate then reached out once more and helped her land her dream job at Del Sol Academy as the costuming and makeup instructor and costume designer.



**Katina Hartley (Shadow Ridge High School)** is the Technical Theatre teacher at Shadow Ridge High School, instructing students in production design/construction, costuming and performance for the last two years. She has been an educator for sixteen years and prior to working in education, she held positions as 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.



### Special Teacher Advisor

Carrie Vlaming is a retired Clark County drama teacher with over 25 years experience. From papermaching a 10' tall Peach for James and the Giant Peach to sewing 40 flower dresses for Alice in Wonderland, she has made it all for school.

## Teachers (continued)

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She has taught everything from Film Studies to Fashion Modeling to Costume Design. Her students have competed in the Fashion Forward contest. But now that chapter is over, she is reconnecting with her joy of sewing to make one of a kind items that inspire the imagination. She has an Etsy store called Simprov Designs selling vintage clothing, costumes and more. She enjoys giving back to the Las Vegas Junior league by volunteering on the Fashion Forward committee.

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## Thank You to All Our 2022 Teachers!

Our teachers had the important task of mentoring and guiding all of the students throughout the process. We are grateful that they were able to share their time and expertise.



# Prizes

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## 1st place Couture:

- \$500 scholarship sponsored by Las Vegas Fashion Council
- 9-week Fashion Design Internship/Course at Trade and Fashion Academy and ticket to MAGIC trade show sponsored by Kevin Smith
- Paid 3-month internship sponsored by Larissa Couture Las Vegas
- Paid internship sponsored by Britta Leigh Designs
- Sewing Machine and Serger

## 2nd place Couture:

- \$250 scholarship sponsored by Junior League of Las Vegas
- (8) hour Fashion Design/Pattern-Making/Sewing course at Trade and Fashion Academy sponsored by Kevin Smith

## 3rd place Couture:

- \$125 scholarship sponsored by JLLV
- Ticket to MAGIC trade show sponsored by Kevin Smith

## 1st place Designer:

- \$300 scholarship sponsored by Junior League of Las Vegas
- 9-week Fashion Design Internship/Course at Trade and Fashion Academy and ticket to MAGIC trade show sponsored by Kevin Smith
- Paid 3-month internship sponsored by Larissa Couture Las Vegas
- Sewing Machine

## 2nd place Designer:

- \$150 scholarship sponsored by JLLV
- (8) hour Fashion Design/Pattern-Making/Sewing course at Trade and Fashion Academy sponsored by Kevin Smith

## 3rd place Designer:

- \$100 scholarship sponsored by JLLV
- Ticket to MAGIC tradeshow sponsored by Kevin Smith

## Specialty Awards

### Best Technical Award

Sewing machine  
Paid internship to Britta Leigh designs

### Best Use of Theme

\$50 VISA gift card

### Most Creative

\$50 VISA gift card

### Best Newcomer

\$50 VISA gift card

# Finalists

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## Centennial High School

### *Designer:*

- Juliana Alejandro
- Abrianna Crossley
- Adrionna Carbonell
- Michelle Cuahutitla Ochoa
- James Esquivel
- Sophia Knudson
- Mackenzie Loberg
- Elizabeth Mead
- Caroline McLoone
- Hannah Picache
- Aylen Ramirez
- Laura Rosengren
- Ashley Rowe
- Darrah Simon
- Vakaria Summers
- Marieya Townsend
- Jordyn Turner
- Dalila Ugalde Diaz

### *Couture:*

- Danielle Brito

## Del Sol Academy

### *Couture:*

- Jennifer Barajas Vazquez
- Daire Chavez Lozoya
- Ariana Flores
- Therese Marshall
- Anne Marie Jean-Baptiste
- Lael Salamaca

# Finalists (continued)

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## Green Valley High School

*Designer:*

- Aurora Valenti

## Del Sol Academy

*Couture:*

- Jennifer Barajas Vazquez
- Daire Chavez Lozoya
- Ariana Flores
- Therese Marshall
- Anne Marie Jean-Baptiste
- Lael Salamaca

## Las Vegas Academy

*Designer:*

- Scarlet Allen
- Janet Cruz
- Saiyeda Dastagir
- Allyson Efel
- Peyton Gauthier

*Couture:*

- Maile Cochran
- Ella Figiera
- Kalia Geston
- Jacob Grantz
- Sara Holstein
- Olivia Swadkins

## Las Vegas High School

*Designer:*

- Yulissa Ramirez

*Couture:*

- Abigail L Farnsworth
- Mia I Ramirez
- Nancy Rodriguez

## Shadow Ridge High School

*Designer:*

- Alisia Flanagan

## West Preparatory Academy

*Designer:*

- Katia Mayorga-Torres
- Jordy Mercado-Mejia



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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**

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I would like to thank my fabulous committee for all their hard work and effort in bringing Fashion Forward to life this year. You stepped up to the challenge and I am so proud of each and everyone of you. Amy, Carolyn, Erica, Jennifer, Kimberly, Rosalie, Tori and especially Lori; you are all exceptional women and a credit to our League. The project, students and our community are so fortunate to have you! Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Lila

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