



## CFDA ANNOUNCES THE 2021 CFDA SCHOLAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

*Celebrating 25 years of the Scholarship Program, the CFDA awards a record \$500,000 to 19 students. This year marks the introduction of new scholarships with the Coach and Swarovski Foundations.*

NEW YORK, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 – Celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CFDA Scholarship Program, the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) is proud to announce the recipients of 2021 CFDA Scholar Awards.

For 2021, the program is awarding a record \$500,000 in scholarships to 19 top fashion students. The CFDA received more than 320 application submissions from 22 participating American fashion schools and graduate programs.

“Over the past 25 years, our scholarships have helped many young designers realize their dream of a career in the American fashion industry,” CFDA CEO Steven Kolb. “We launch into the next 25 years with a strong Scholarship Program that addresses the specific areas required for American fashion to have a leading role in the global fashion landscape. CFDA would like to thank our partners for their support, and we look forward to seeing the 2021 Scholars thrive in the industry.”

This year, the CFDA and Coach Foundation are inaugurating the Coach Dream It Real x CFDA Design Scholarship, created to growing futures of under-represented student talent with financial need. Students whose portfolio work demonstrated potential and interest to use their design voice to advocate, advance, and transform fashion are supported by the award for 2021.

“I know firsthand how transformative an education can be in helping young designers nurture their voice and find community,” said Coach Creative Director Stuart Vevers. “I am honored today to recognize six incredibly inspiring students whose passion and creativity embody the future of fashion.”

CFDA and Swarovski Foundation are launching the Swarovski Foundation Re:Generation Innovation Scholar Award to advance learning and innovative design thinking within sustainable systems.

“The Swarovski Foundation is proud to partner with CFDA on this new award as part of our mission to foster creativity and drive progress towards the 17 Sustainable Development Goals,” Chairperson of the Swarovski Foundation Nadja Swarovski said. “At this pivotal time, it is imperative to support emerging creatives who are working on new approaches to our sustainability challenges, and we commend all the shortlisted applicants for their innovative design thinking.”

This year’s various selection committees included: Alan Mak, Angela Luna, Araks Yeramyian, Brandon Blackwood, Carmen Gama, Dao-Yi Chow, Doo-Ri Chung, Emily Bode, Jeffrey Banks, Ji Oh, Katrin Zimmerman, Kevan Hall, Mara Hoffman, Mara Hutton, Nadja Swarovski, Paul Fang, Ralph Rucci, Ruthie Davis, Stacey Bendet, Stuart Vevers, Tanya Taylor, Tom Hutton, Wes Gordon, and Yeohlee Teng.

The CFDA would like to thank the American Apparel & Footwear Association, Brown Foundation, Catie Marron, Coach Foundation, Dany Garcia, Pinterest, Swarovski Foundation and by CFDA Members Patricia Underwood and Jeffrey Banks, who have made donations to the CFDA Scholarship Fund in honor of Monika Tilley’s legacy.

The CFDA’s commitment to education began in 1996 with the establishment of the CFDA Scholarship Program founded by CFDA Member Monika Tilley. Talented scholarship recipients have progressed to prominent industry roles such as Peter Som (1996), the inaugural CFDA Scholarship Award recipient, Chris Benz (2003), and Jack McCollough of Proenza Schouler (2001). Since its establishment, the CFDA awarded more than \$2.2 million and 302 scholarships to student design talent attending 22 leading American colleges and universities. From 2015-2020, 76 percent of scholarships were awarded to women and 72 percent from ethnic/diverse backgrounds.

### **The 2021 CFDA Design Scholar Award Recipients are:**



COACH DREAM IT REAL X CFDA DESIGN SCHOLARSHIP AWARD (\$25,000 per student): Charlie Kenney, Drexel University; Esther Park, Rhode Island School of Design; Firas Zedan, Parsons School of Design; Hannah Harris, Savannah College of Art and Design; Iyomi Ho Ken, School of the Art Institute of Chicago; Junhyeong Park, Fashion Institute of Technology

RE: GENERATION INNOVATION SCHOLAR AWARD CFDA + SWAROVSKI FOUNDATION (\$30,000): Bailey Adams, Fashion Institute of Technology

CFDA DESIGN SCHOLAR AWARD (\$25,000 each): Nayon Kim, Parsons School of Design; Ryane (Nyanna) Johnson, University of Cincinnati

CFDA DESIGN FOR JUSTICE SCHOLAR AWARD BFA/BA (\$25,000): D'on Lauren Edwards, Savannah College of Art and Design

CFDA DESIGN FOR JUSTICE SCHOLAR AWARD MFA/MA (\$25,000): Alexandra Petina, Eva Heugenhauer, Tao Li/Design Team 1, Hearing Disability (Deaf), Parsons School of Design

CFDA SUNTCHI IMAGE-MAKER AWARD (\$25,000): Rebecca Flood, Parsons School of Design

CFDA COVID RELIEF FUND (\$100,000 DISCRETIONARY FUND): Carmen Lee, Fashion Institute of Technology (\$15,000); Iyomi Ho Ken, School of the Art Institute of Chicago (\$50,000); Mia Seo, Savannah College of Art and Design (\$10,000); Stephanie Kim, Fashion Institute of Technology (\$25,000)

LIZ CLAIBORNE DESIGN FOR IMPACTFUL FUTURES SCHOLAR AWARD (\$25,000): Nikita Deuja, Fashion Institute of Technology

GEOFFREY BEENE DESIGN MASTERS SCHOLAR AWARD (\$50,000): Padina Bondar-Gibbs, Parsons School of Design