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CHICAGO FASHION

Chicago boasts a diverse and thriving fashion community that spans all areas of the industry. With over 250 fashion designers, four fashion design colleges, world class boutiques and department stores, and a host of industry professionals, Chicago is quickly becoming a fashion capital.

In June of 2006, Mayor Richard M. Daley announced the appointment of Melissa Gamble as Director of Fashion Arts and Events and the formation of Mayor's Fashion Council, a group of designers and industry leaders brought together to assist in developing the fashion industry in Chicago. Together, the team is identifying ways to retain and support new and established designers as well as assist design students in transitioning from school to career.

Each year, the City hosts Fashion Focus Chicago, a citywide celebration of fashion with a week of runway shows, industry seminars, and shopping events. In October 2007 the third annual Fashion Focus was held. Over 100 of Chicago's finest designers were shown throughout the week with a total of 35,000 people in attendance.

Through the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, year-round programming to support and highlight local designers is also underway. Events such as the Chicago Sidewalk Sale on Daley Plaza and Glitter: A Holiday Shopping Event create additional opportunities to showcase the city's cutting-edge talent.

To learn more about this exciting industry, please check out www.chicagofashionresource.com.

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