



GUCCI CHANGEMAKERS AWARDS A THIRD ROUND OF GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS TO EMPOWER SOCIAL CHANGE

SUPPORTING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES WITH \$3 MILLION DOLLARS IN FUNDING TO DATE

New York, August 12, 2022 – Today, Gucci announced the third round of recipients for its Gucci North America Changemakers Impact Fund and Scholars Program. More than 200 organizations and 400 students applied to the program with 12 non-profits and 12 students awarded with funding.

Launched in 2019, the Gucci North America Changemakers program awards annual Impact grants to support community organizations focused on increasing inclusion and diversity across communities and within the fashion industry. In addition, the program awards scholarships of up to \$20,000 dollars and provides mentorship and virtual internship opportunities through Gucci America.

To date, Gucci has awarded over 50 students with almost \$1 million dollars in scholarships as well as over 40 non-profit organizations with almost \$2 million dollars in grants. The Changemakers community continues to grow, offering students the opportunity to pursue their unique path within the design and fashion industries and allowing non-profit organizations to make grassroots impact within their communities.

Antoine Phillips, Vice President of Brand and Culture Engagement at Gucci America reflected, "It has been an honor leading Gucci Changemakers North America as we continue to set the industry standard for impactful and creative community focused initiatives. These talented young people and non-profit organizations inspire the Gucci community every single day to dream bigger than ever before. Through this work, we are focused not only on amplifying their stories of impact, but inspiring lasting change through the power of arts and culture."

Following the open call for applications at Crenshaw High School in November 2021, Gucci worked diligently with the North America Changemakers Council and outside experts to review all application to select the grantees and scholars. Gucci focuses funding within 12 focus cities across North America including Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Toronto, and Washington D.C. Gucci North America Changemakers is pleased to present this year's recipients.

GUCCI NORTH AMERICA IMPACT FUND

The 12 awarded non-profit recipients will receive a grant for \$50,000 for a one-year funding cycle and will be used to create new programs or scale existing initiatives. The newest cohort of Gucci Changemakers Impact Fund grantees represent the inspiring work of organizations led by diverse non-profit leaders working across the fields of social, cultural, and economic issues impacting communities across North America. Their focus areas include performing arts training for diverse young people, inclusive public art to inspire social change, economic mobility programs, support for crisis-impacted Indigenous communities, and professional development for HBCU graduates.

The list of the 12 selected grantees is as follows:

- Living Walls, Atlanta, GA
- Free Root Operation, Chicago, IL
- Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit, Detroit, MI

- Young Audiences Arts for Learning, Houston, TX
- Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA
- Miami Homes for All, Miami, FL
- 826 New Orleans, New Orleans, LA
- GatherFor, New York, NY
- BlackStar Film Festival, Philadelphia, PA
- Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples, San Francisco, CA
- UforChange, Toronto, ON, Canada
- HBCU 20X20, Washington D.C.

In addition, the selected grantees will have the opportunity to engage in volunteer activities with Gucci employees, Town Hall conversations with Gucci leadership, and additional programming with Gucci's North America Brand and Culture Engagement team.

GUCCI NORTH AMERICA SCHOLARSHIP

The 12 scholarship recipients come from diverse backgrounds and are pursuing various careers within fashion and design at undergraduate colleges and universities. They will each receive an academic scholarship for up to \$20,000 in addition to mentorship and virtual internship opportunities through Gucci America.

The 12 talented and deserving recipients of this year's 2022 Gucci North America Changemakers Scholarship program:

- Antonio Finamore-Phillips, Otis College
- Cassius Palacio, University of Southern California
- Dekaye Hailu, University of California, Los Angeles
- Doreen Pierre, Parsons School of Design
- Dorothy Pallanes, Drexel University
- Exodus Broussard, Loyola Marymount University
- Jalynn McDuffey, Florida A&M University
- Madison Grant, Xavier University of Louisiana
- Mahlon West, Howard University
- Miles Richards, College of Creative Studies
- Nathan Batra, The Savannah College of Art and Design
- Theodora Etokimo, Toronto Metropolitan University

In addition, Gucci Changemakers will provide the third year of scholarship funding to the 2019 **GUCCI CHANGEMAKERS X CFDA SCHOLAR BY DESIGN AWARDEES:**

- Ajai Kasim, Parsons School of Design
- Kaya Ugorji, Fashion Institute of Technology

As part of the Changemakers Program, Gucci offers mentorship opportunities. This year, all awardees will have the opportunity to participate in the Gucci Program for Scholars, a 6-week long virtual summer program that helps to educate students on the various career paths available within the fashion industry. The program includes fashion industry education, engagement with all departments across Gucci North America, Gucci corporate mentor assignment and skill building workshops.

As a focus city for the Gucci North America Changemakers program, Gucci has created a deep connection with Detroit and its pervasive culture and community. In honor of the brand's new location in Downtown Detroit and in partnership with 2020 Changemakers grantee Design Core, Gucci is honored to spotlight the talented and creative Changemakers scholars and Design Core designers with a multi-media exhibition at MOCAD in early September.

The next round of applications for both the Gucci North America Changemakers Impact Fund and Scholarship Program will open in Fall 2022.

For more information about the Gucci Changemakers Initiatives applications and eligibility requirements, please visit <http://changemakersus-scholarshipprogram.gucci.com> or call 1-877-482-2430

Become a Gucci Changemaker! #GucciChangemakers
###

GUCCI EQUILIBRIUM

Gucci Equilibrium is our commitment to generate positive change for people and our planet. It unifies the principles we uphold and the actions we pursue to treat our world and each other better, for our collective future. Discover Gucci's sustainability news and articles on our efforts by visiting equilibrium.gucci.com

GUCCI CHANGEMAKERS

Gucci Changemakers North America is a social impact initiative established in March 2019 focused on increasing inclusion and diversity within the fashion industry and across communities and cities. Gucci Changemakers North America focus cities include Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Toronto, and Washington DC.

GUCCI NORTH AMERICA CHANGEMAKERS COUNCIL

Antoine Phillips, Bethann Hardison, Brittany Packnett, Cleo Wade, Dapper Dan, Dawinder S. Sidhu, DeRay McKesson, Eric Avila, Ivy McGregor, June Ambrose, Kimberly Blackwell, Michaela Angela Davis, Naomi Campbell, Robert Carter, CaSandra Diggs, Will.i.am, Yaseen Eldik, Yasmeen Hassan, Yvette Noel-Schure