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## **Smithsonian Makes Runway Debut for 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Fashion, Architecture & Design Event**

### **Cosmo Couture - September 24**

#### **Judging Panel Announced**

**September 10, 2015 (Washington, DC)** – This year the annual **Cosmo Couture Fashion & Design Event** pays tribute to the largest museum complex that shapes the future by preserving heritage, discovering new knowledge and sharing rich history with the world. Cosmo Couture, in its 6<sup>th</sup> year, is an annual event produced by the **Washington Metro City Center (WMCC) of the International Interior Design Association Mid-Atlantic Chapter (IIDA-MAC)**, where interior and exterior collide. This year's event will take place on **Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>** at the Howard Theater and will be emceed by **ABC7's Good Morning Washington anchor Larry Smith** and news correspondent **Jennifer Donelan**. Each year WMCC selects the theme from which the design teams create apparel out of interior materials. This year Cosmo Couture pays tribute to our diverse collection of Smithsonian Museums.

**Cosmo Couture 2015** fosters a direct collaboration between local Architecture and Interior Design firms and their manufacturing partners in the Washington DC area, to create garments reflecting a given theme. Garments are constructed out of interior materials such as tile, carpet, wood, vinyl, glass and rubber - materials used in the built environment and finding ways to apply them to haute couture fashion, creating a bridge between fashion and architecture.

IIDA-MAC announced this year's panel of judges which will include **Michael McCarthy (Editor of DC Magazine)**, **Emily Gonzaga (Owner & Creative Director of D'Milikah – Brazilian Fashion House)**, **Adam Woitkowski (Vice President / General Manager at Saks Fifth Avenue in Tysons Corner)**, **Stara Glam Pezeshkian (Editorial Stylist)**, and **Christopher Schafer (Menswear Designer - Christopher Schafer Clothier)**. Twenty-five design teams will participate in this year's event. Awards will be given in various categories such as Most Creative, Audience Favorite, Best Performance and Best Interpretation of Theme to name a few.

Each design team randomly selected a museum from the Smithsonian collection at the Cosmo Couture 2014 kick-off party held in June. Design teams have four months to work on their creations. Some of the museums selected for design inspiration include the American History Museum, American Indian Museum, Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Air & Space Museum, the National History Museum, and the African Art Museum to name a few. IIDA-MAC selected 13 museums from the Smithsonian collection in which design teams will create their works of art.

The 2015 Cosmo Couture beneficiary is **[Rebuilding Together of Washington, DC \(RTDC\)](#)**. RTDC's mission is to preserve and revitalize low-income homes and community facilities in our Nation's Capital. RTDC makes free home repairs for low-income DC homeowners who are Veterans, elderly, disabled or caring for young children in seriously deteriorating conditions and for nonprofit community centers that serve DC's most vulnerable citizens of all ages. RTDC's home repairs enable low-income homeowners to remain in their homes, where they can live in warmth and safety with independence and dignity. To date,



the IIDA Mid-Atlantic Chapter has donated over \$90,000 to previously selected charities from Cosmo Couture proceeds during the past five years.

Cosmo Couture attracts approximately 800 attendees each year. Event tickets range from \$85-185 and sponsorship and table opportunities are also available online at <http://www.cosmocouture.org/tickets.shtml>.

### **EVENT DETAILS**

**What:** Cosmo Couture 2015 - Fashion & Interior Design Event (6<sup>th</sup> Annual)

**Presented by:** Washington Metro City Center of the International Interior Design Association – Mid Atlantic Chapter

**Beneficiary:** Rebuilding Together of Washington, DC

**When:** Thursday, September 24, 2015

**Where:** The Howard Theater, 620 T Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

**Time:** 5:00-10:00PM

VIP Reception 5:00-6:00PM, Cocktails 6:00-7:30PM, Runway Show 7:30-9:00PM, Desserts 9:00-10:00PM

**Website:** [www.cosmocouture.org](http://www.cosmocouture.org)

### **About the International Interior Design Association-Mid Atlantic Chapter**

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the International Interior Design Association (MAC) is a professional organization dedicated to advancing the knowledge of interior design among professionals and expanding the awareness and appreciation of interior design among the general public.

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter encompasses the District of Columbia, all of Maryland and Northern Virginia including the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William, Stafford and Fauquier. It also includes the independent cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax, Leesburg, Middleburg, Warrenton, Manassas, Manassas Park and Fredericksburg. Members from Harper's Ferry and Shepardstown, West Virginia are also encouraged to participate in our activities.

Due to its size and geographical expanse, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter includes two City Centers: the Washington Metro City Center (WMCC) and the Baltimore-Annapolis City Center (BACC).

[www.iidamac.org](http://www.iidamac.org)

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