

# FABRIC

ARIZONA APPAREL  
FOUNDATION

FABRIC | Arizona Apparel Foundation  
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## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### DESIGNER IN RESIDENCE FINALISTS

#### **13 Local Fashion Brands Selected as Finalists in the 2020 AZ Apparel Foundation Designer in Residence Accelerator Program**

Tempe, Arizona – December 20, 2019 – The AZ Apparel Foundation announces the 13 brands chosen as finalists for its prestigious Designer in Residence Accelerator program.

Out of nearly 50 applicants, 13 finalists were chosen by a distinguished panel of judges comprised of professionals from related industries including fashion, finance, marketing, business, beauty, film, and more. Finalists will be interviewed by the AAF Board of Directors on January 8, 2020. Six winners will be selected from this finalist talent pool for 2020, which is double the number of recipients awarded in 2019. The winners of the AZ Apparel Foundation Designer in Residence Accelerator Scholarship will be announced on January 13, 2020.

This scholarship provides a six-month training program and resources to accelerate the brands of six Arizona-based, fashion-design entrepreneurs. The finalists were chosen for their potential to build a scalable niche brand in Arizona. A 501(c)3 nonprofit, the AZ Apparel Foundation

raises funds to provide these emerging businesses, all of the tools necessary for success as well as guidance from industry experts and professionals – at no cost to the winners. Each award is valued at over \$18,500. The AZ Apparel Foundation has already successfully supported ten scholarship winners, including a brand offering women’s under-garments in all skin tones, a Native American graphic art brand that brings light to indigineous issues, and a modest evening wear collection to name a few.

The 13 finalists of 2020 are:

**Ali Miller – Ali Miller Designs** | Wedding Dresses (Mesa, AZ)

**Bonnie Wiscombe – Novalie** | Misses ready-to-wear (Mesa, AZ)

**Dale James Hinerman – Dale James the Brand** | Men’s/women’s special occasion (Paradise Valley, AZ)

**Hillary Lenfesty – Freestyle Collective** | Women’s post surgery fashions (Phoenix, AZ)

**Jacob Firestone – Winters Clothing** | Future inspired men’s wear (Tempe, AZ)

**Jennifer Walter – Serving Glamour** | Transgendered women’s fashion (Peoria, AZ)

**Kinari Patel – Kinari Sari** | Refashioned Saris (Chandler, AZ)

**Lindsay Johnson & Nikki Lewis – Sequoia Clothing Co.** | Tall women’s activewear (Phoenix, AZ)

**Loren Aragon – ACONAV** | Native American Couture (Maricopa, AZ)

**Nick Wetta – West Major** | Men’s vintage inspired western shirts (Phoenix, AZ)

**Rico Worl – Trickster Company** | Indigineous Athleisure (Tempe, AZ)

**Roxane Kyte – Couture Aprons** | Luxury aprons (Scottsdale, AZ)

**Scott Warren – Heights Apparel** | Tall men’s directional apparel (Tempe, AZ)

“We are very excited about this year’s group of applicants. It was challenging to narrow down the finalists from the nearly 50 applications we received because there were so many promising entrepreneurs creating unique niche brands applying for this year’s scholarship,” said Angela Johnson, Co-Founder of AZ Apparel Foundation and FABRIC. “Congratulations to the finalists! We can’t wait to meet you in person to learn even more about your vision.”

The AZ Apparel Foundation invites the public to a celebration of the achievements of these 13 finalists on January 30, 2020, at FABRIC. The event is in conjunction with the “Behind The Seams” series showcasing Arizona’s fashion industry experts. Appropriately enough, the January program features 2017 winner Jared Yazzie of the brand OXDX who will share his story and experience with the community.

**WHAT:** Celebration of the Designer In Residence 2020 Finalists at “Behind The Seams”

**WHEN:** January 30, 2020 | 6 p.m.

**WHERE:** FABRIC – 132 E. 6th St., Tempe, AZ 85281

**RSVP:** <https://www.labelhorde.com/bookings-checkout/behind-the-seams-with-jared-yazzie>

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**FABRIC** (FASHION AND BUSINESS RESOURCE INNOVATION CENTER) is a fashion incubator where emerging designers can grow their abilities and their businesses. Featuring co-working and event spaces, workshops and classes as well as mentorship, micro-manufacturing and marketing opportunities, FABRIC allows designers to take their idea from concept to sewn to sold. The facility is a unique partnership of the City of Tempe, the 501c-3 Arizona Apparel Foundation, LabelHorde and Arizona Fashion Source and is located in downtown Tempe just off of Mill Avenue and on the Arizona State University footprint as well as online at [fabrictempe.com](http://fabrictempe.com).

**ARIZONA APPAREL FOUNDATION** is a non-profit 501(c)(3) with the mission to provide Arizona's emerging designers and brands with innovative, small batch manufacturing and strategic business resources, so they can build sustainable fashion businesses locally. With the help of over 600 fashion community volunteers and a prestigious board of directors, AAF provides DESIGNER IN RESIDENCE SCHOLARSHIPS, FREE CLASSES, FREE EVENTS, VOCATIONAL TRAINING for disadvantaged workers and many fashion related programs and services to the community. AAF'S signature events include AZ ECO FASHION WEEK ([www.AZEcoFashionWeek.com](http://www.AZEcoFashionWeek.com)), the anniversary fundraiser and will soon include AZ Fashion Tech Week. AAF can be found on [AZApparelFoundation.org](http://AZApparelFoundation.org).

**LABELHORDE** is a category-driven DIRECTORY of fashion businesses enabling users to easily locate local emerging and established designers, boutiques, manufacturers, photographers, models, stylists, industry supplies, fashion schools and all things fashion related in Arizona. [LabelHorde.com](http://LabelHorde.com) also features a FASHION CLASSIFIEDS page for local fashion jobs, a FASHION CALENDAR that lists all local and important national fashion events. LabelHorde offers fashion EDUCATION in the form of lessons, classes and consultations, tech pack services, and design studio resources at FABRIC that designers need to start and run their businesses. LabelHorde's signature event is the annual LabelHorde Fashion Show featuring 60+ local designers/brands on one runway.

**ARIZONA FASHION SOURCE** is the apparel manufacturer in FABRIC that uses sustainable and state-of-the-art manufacturing processes to create samples and production runs with NO MINIMUMS. AFS manufactures heavy- and light-weight knits and wovens on industrial sewing equipment and the latest CAD programs. This enables emerging designers/brands to take a more conservative step into manufacturing. AFS also provides the scraps that are created from the cutting process to local designers to remake into new garments through a zero-waste initiative called reFABRICate. AFS can be found on [AZFashionSource.com](http://AZFashionSource.com).

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