



San Francisco's Tenderloin district and the 1951 animated film "Alice in Wonderland" provided the inspiration for the SHOP657 Collection, a private-label collection created by Academy of Art design students. SHOP657 pieces, along with the graduation collections, appeared on the runway at the San Francisco design school's May 11 fashion show. For more from the event, see page 6.

Kent Smith Stepping Down as Head of Los Angeles Fashion District BID

By Deborah Belgum Senior Editor

During his first days in 1999 as head of the **Los Angeles Fashion District**, Kent Smith remembers getting a call one Monday morning from his operations coordinator informing him there had been "a BBQ" in the district over the weekend.

"I didn't realize that BBQ was code for someone being set on fire in their car," he recalled inside his offices on the eleventh floor of the **California Market Center**.

Seventeen years later, crime has dropped and more people walk the streets to shop and dine. The word "BBQ" now has a different meaning.

With a major improvement in the neighborhood since he took over, Smith is stepping down this summer as the executive director of the Los Angeles Fashion District Business Improvement District—formed in 1996 as the first business improvement district in Los Angeles. Now eight BIDs

► Kent Smith page 4

For Better, Not Worse: Apparel With a Purpose

By Sarah Wolfson Contributing Writer

With every **For Better, Not Worse (FBNW)** shirt sold, a bag of groceries goes to a child in need.

"My two main goals are to make an impact on kids' lives and [encourage] other companies to see how they can make a profitable business while giving back to the community," said FBNW founder Patricc Reed, who started the Los Angeles-based company after leaving his previous position as operations director and partner of **Groceries Apparel**.

FBNW is made in Los Angeles using locally sourced materials. Constructed from jersey knit, tri-blends and cotton, the collection consists of basic graphic tees, tanks, hoodies and sweatshirts that come in black, white, heather gray and sand colorways. Each piece has a positive mes-

FBNW page 7



XCVI buys Agave ... p. 2 Chargeback advice from Stage Stores ... p. 2 Technology ... p. 3 California College of the Arts runway ... p. 8

Agave Denim and XCVI Ink Design, Manufacturing and Distribution Deal

Los Angeles–based **XCVI** has acquired **Agave**, the men's and women's denim lifestyle collection founded by Jeff Shafer in 2002.

Shafer will continue on as the brand's creative director, splitting his time between Washington state and Los Angeles. XCVI will manufacture and distribute the collection. Details about the acquisition were not disclosed.

"We are delighted to welcome Agave to XCVI's distinguished portfolio," said Alon

Zeltzer, XCVI's chief executive, in a statement. "With a 20-year history of authentic California design, we share a passion for brand building with an updated approach that will refine this timeless classic."

Founded in 2002, Agave produces premium-denim jeans and knit tops for both men and women. "In building the Agave brand, it has always been integral for me to manufacture the product in an ethical and sustainable way," Shafer said. "I am honored to share this vision with the entire team at XCVI."

The collection will primarily be produced in Los Angeles, with more labor-intensive pieces produced overseas, said Daniela Zeltzer, XCVI's marketing and communications director, who runs the family-owned company with her brother, Alon Zeltzer.

"In the last few years, we've been looking for the right opportunity, and when the Agave brand surfaced there were so many similarities (corporate culture, similar demographic, lifestyle) that it seemed like such a special opportunity," Daniela Zeltzer said. Founded in 1996, XCVI creates casual contemporary pieces for women under its XCVI and **XCVI Move** brands as well as produces full-package design-throughproduction for brands such as **Ralph Lauren**, **Guess?**, **Inc.**, **Rag and Bone**, **True Religion**, **NYDJ** and **New Balance**. XCVI produces in its own facilities in Los Angeles as well as at factory-direct partners, all of which are certified by **WRAP** or **Bureau Veritas**.—Alison A. Nieder

FINANCE

Feedback on Chargebacks: Stage Stores VP Offers Advice for Avoiding Chargebacks

By Alison A. Nieder Executive Editor

At a recent event in Los Angeles, **Stage Stores** executive Kenneth J. Lettre offered some words of advice for avoiding chargebacks. During the Q&A session, Lettre, Stage Stores' vice president of vendor compliance and relations, got to hear real-world examples of manufacturers' experiences shipping the Houston-based retail chain.

One company discovered it was getting chargebacks for putting the price ticket on the wrong part of the garment. The manufacturer thought the garment was a sweater but later discovered Stage Stores thought it was a vest.

Lettre's advice was to "always ask questions before you ship. When in doubt, send me a photo."

Lettre's presentation, titled "Path to Good and Consistent Supplier/Retailer Compliance Communication," was part of an A/R and chargeback management seminar organized by Robert Prather, president of **Deduction Management Services**, and held in partnership with Los Angeles–based software solutions firm **AIMS360**.

The key to avoiding chargebacks is good communication between the retailer and the supplier, Lettre said.

"We're expecting you to comply; that's our goal at Stage Stores," he said. "We want you to comply, and if you have questions about requirements, we want you to ask."

The first step, Lettre said, is to read Stage Store's compliance guide, which the company has posted on its B2B site at *www.gxs. com/stage*. The company updates the guide twice each year and highlights the new changes to make it easy for suppliers to review.



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Lettre said another mistake vendors make is assuming all retailers have the same shipping requirements. "Do not assume," he said.

this. So we assumed Stage Stores did, too." Stage Stores will send email alerts to vendors notifying them about a shipping violation. The retailer gives vendors the option

The suppliers will say, 'Macy's does it like

to include as many people as they want on the email alert. The email includes a link with details about the violation, including comments and/:or photos.

"The reason for the guide is easy," Lettre said. "We want consistent presentation on our sales floor as fast as we can. I would rather not charge back anyone anytime. Anytime I charge back it causes me more work." Stage Stores also

keeps a compliance Kenneth J. Lettre and Robert Prather data score card for

each supplier with up to 2½ years of past approved violations, Lettre said. "We would rather you have zero charg-

es," he said. "If you're going to have one, it should be one and done."

There's also a window for disputing chargebacks.

"Compliance violations are not like fine wine. They do not get better with age," Lettre said. "Our compliance guide says you have two months to respond. That's why we send you emails. We want you to see it and correct it on the next shipment."

And if a company decides to dispute several chargebacks, Lettre said, "Do the com-

pliance department a favor" and consolidate everything into a single email.

On the rare occasion a vendor simply cannot comply with the guide, Lettre said to contact the company.

"We have to create a guide that's one size fits all," he said. "If there's an item you say you cannot do, give me a call."

> Lettre also suggested vendors schedule a visit to Stage Stores' distribution center.

> "You get to see the reasons why behind the compliance guide," he said. "We want to have product waiting to go out on the floor. What we don't want is a box that looks like it was run over by a truck."

The event was held on May 10 in Suite C855 at the **California Market Center**. In addition to Lettre, Prather discussed the essentials of chargeback management—in-

cluding proper posting, interdepartmental cooperation and best practices—for shipping, logistics and packing. Edwin B. Siegel, a senior partner with the law offices of **Siegel & Siegel**, and Stephen F. Moss, senior vice president and manager of **Network Commercial Services**, talked to the crowd about the litigation process in California and out of state, when to extend credit, and when to forward a delinquent account to collections. Scott Allen, director of training for AIMS360, discussed ways to use Web-based ERP (enterprise resource planning) technology to handle accounts receivables and avoid chargebacks.



Technical Advice for the Retailer—From Bricks-and-Mortar to Online-Only

By Alison A. Nieder Executive Editor

For a little perspective on retail technology, Sean Finnigan took the discussion back to the year 1400, the beginning of an international commercial-freight boom in Europe.

The introduction of faster clipper ships and railways in the 1800s meant speed-to-market-albeit 19th-century style. Finnigan ticked off more key technological developments-including the cash register, which automatically tallied the receipt, and the shopping mall, which created an "aggregate marketplace." The advent of online commerce in the 1990s brought another shift for retail, followed by the introduction of the iPad in 2010 and the beginning of mobile commerce.

"In today's environment, the customer can interact with you anytime, anywhere. It doesn't matter where you are," he said.

Finnigan, vice president of program services for Teamwork Retail, was speaking at "Take It to the Next Level: Empowering Retailers Through Technology," an all-day event on May 10 at the Old Ranch Country Club in Seal Beach, Calif., hosted by One Step

Retail Solutions.

The event drew a mix of bricksand-mortar retailers, e-tailers and companies with a combination of both. Finnigan's talk, titled "Technology's Impact on Brick & Mortar: Survive the Wave," focused on the need for both a physical and online presence in today's market.

"Today's customer sees no separation between the physical and the digital," Finnigan said, adding that the physical store remains crucial to driving sales.

"Ninety-five percent of all retail sales are captured by retailers with a bricks-and-mortar presence," he said. "The physical store helps retailers drive online sales. Customers use the physical store before or after the transaction-hopefully not to return items, but sometimes [they do]. You do not want to exclude any channel for your customer interaction. The value of the store for customers and retailers is far greater than the sales capacity within the store.'

Finnigan compared retailers to surfers, who are always looking forward to the next wave. "Retail is no different," he said. "Every wave is different.

As you ride it you're constantly adapting to the changes.'

Technological changes are giving retailers more opportunities to provide customer service, but the challenge is gathering this information and getting it into the hands of the sales associates.

"What's your most valuable asset? Your customer," Finnigan said.

Retailers can learn more about the customer through their purchase history and a company's loyalty program.

"Historically, [this information] lived in different places. It's been a challenge to bring it all together," Finnigan said.

"Use technology to strengthen customer relations while making operating easier."

Finnigan advised retailers to create a central customer database that integrates the customer profile for mobile, e-commerce and in-store.

"Put management of that in the hands of your customer," he said, pointing to Uber as a good example of a company that gives the customer control over requesting a car, monitoring its arrival and knowing the cost in advance. Loyalty and rewards programs are another way to gather information while providing service.

Another key component is access to inventory information, the concept of the "endless aisle," which allows customers to seamlessly shop in-store or online, to take advantage of programs such as "reserve online, pick up in store." "All this information needs to flow into the same order-



Friedman Group's Karen Barry

database."

An email receipt encourages loyalty and engagement, Diaz said.

"It becomes a tool you can utilize to engage customers once they leave the store," he said. "E-receipt [customers]

spend 30 percent more than those who get paper receipts."

content based on what he or she has al-

expecting you to know who they are and

to personalize their experience," he said.

needs to have a "consistent identifier"-

such as an email address or a phone num-

ber-that allows the retailer to "recognize

"Retailers are adopting e-receipts to capture email," said Diaz, adding 25

percent of consumers will agree to an

email receipt. "When you have an email

receipt, it makes it more likely they will

give you a valid email. It helps clean your

customers across multiple touchpoints."

"More and more today the customer is

But to do that, Diaz said, a retailer

ready purchased or browsed.

Diaz's company compiles the customer information and emails the receipt. FlexReceipts will create a customer profile that can gather multiple identifiers associated with the same customer. FlexReceipts plugs into any "point-of-sale" system, Diaz said, and it can integrate with the retailer's loyalty program or act as a "light loyalty program" for stores that don't have their own. For her keynote address, titled

Teamword Retail's Sean Finnigan FlexReceipts' Tomas Diaz management system so you can provide that information to the associate," Finnigan said, encouraging attendees to find strong retail partners who can adapt to technological

> changes in the marketplace. "Because no single solution meets all retailers' needs. select partners that have strong integration capabilities," he said.

> There are also new technological developments on the horizon, Finnigan said, such as a way to track not only who enters the store but where they spend the most time in the store.

> For Tomas Diaz, chief executive officer of Orlando, Fla.based FlexReceipts, the sales opportunity doesn't end with the purchase.

> We work with retailers of all different sizes," he said. "We understand they all are looking for a better way to interact with customers post-purchase."

> Diaz's company turns an emailed receipt into a marketing opportunity. The company is currently working with 700 retailers in the U.S. and Canada. An enriched email receiptor "smart receipt" -can allow a retailer to personalize the next offering to that specific customer by including tailored

"Behavior Standards and Best Practices Training for Onthe-Ground Managers," Karen Barry encouraged the group to set customer service and selling standards-but warned them not to confuse standards for "attitudes." "Don't focus on attitudes like 'have a positive attitude,"

she said. "It doesn't work because an attitude is just an opinion. You can't fix the attitude, but you can correct a salesperson's behavior."

Barry is a trainer with Lenexa, Kan.-based Friedman Group, which provides retail training and consulting.

"Friedman Group teaches the science of sales. You need to bring the art to it," she said.

It's also crucial for retailers to identify their most pressing problems. As an example, Barry said, a retailer might determine that the company's most pressing problem is customers who shop in the store and then buy online. Barry suggested retailers find a way to remind customers that they are a local business and to be a more valuable resource to the customer by providing "personalized benefits."

"Find your problem so you can find real solutions," Barry said, adding that retailers should "start small." "We're looking for progress, not perfection," she said.

Calendar California Market Center Atlanta 824 Building **Mav 20** June 8 Lady Liberty Building Primrose Design Building Through June 5 Los Angeles Splendid/Ella Moss Warehouse Through June 9 Sale Market June 4 Academy Awards Building Cooper Design Space, 11th floor Select Dallas Market Center Black & White Ball, presented by Los Angeles California Market Center Los Angeles Through May 21 Dallas Through June 9 Los Angeles Through June 9 National Jewish Health Through June 11 Skirball Cultural Center Brand Assembly <u>May 24</u> Los Angeles Cooper Design Space Transit June 9 Los Angeles **ITMA Showtime** California Market Center Kingpins Coast Through June 8 International Market Center InnoCentre Los Angeles W South Beach High Point. N.C. **Designers and Agents** Through June 9 Hong Kong South Beach, Fla. Through June 8 Through May 25 The New Mart Through June 10 Los Angeles June 7 Beyond the Label's TEDxLA Series June 6 Through June 8 **NW Trend Show** Skirball Cultural Center LA Fashion Market **ΔΙ Τ** Hangar 30 Los Angeles California Market Center California Market Center

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June 2 Atlanta Apparel AmericasMart

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June 12

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Kent Smith Continued from page 1

blanket downtown Los Angeles, and another 26 span the Greater Los Angeles area.

Smith said he feels it's a good time to leave because there have been so many improvements to the area and a host of projects scheduled to come on line in the next few years

He doesn't have a new job lined up yet but does want to spend more time with his wife of three years, Dr. Lori Shoemaker, who lives in Palo Alto, Calif., and is a research scientist at Stanford University. "I feel I have a third career in me," he said.

An ad hoc committee is starting the search for a new BID chief executive.

Before arriving in Los Angeles, Smith, a Canadian, worked for 14 years

with The Forks, a development company in Winnipeg. With a master's degree in environmental design from the University of Calgary, Smith worked as the company's chief executive and president to develop 70 acres of land that once had been a railway yard at the confluence of the Red River and the Assiniboine River in the dilapidated downtown area of the Canadian city.

The redevelopment project built a children's museum, stage and concert area, open plaza, marina, walkway along the river, 117room boutique hotel, 1,000 residential units, and 200,000 square feet of retail. It is now Winnipeg's No. 1 tourist attraction.

Later, at a meeting of the International Downtown Association in Phoenix, Smith met Steven Gibson, now head of the **Figueroa Corridor Business Improvement** District in Los Angeles, who urged the urban planner and developer to apply for the top position at the LA Fashion District BID.

Smith had been to Los Angeles as a tourist and considered downtown Los Angelesfilled with buildings from the 1920s and 1930s—a diamond in the rough. "I could see the bones of a phenomenal set of neighborhoods were here, but it just wasn't happening. With a little bit of love and work, I knew it could," he recalled. He got the job.

A fashion city

When Smith started, there were only 56 blocks and 300 business owners who were part of the BID. Now the BID encompasses 100 blocks and

1 000 business owners. The annual budget has gone from \$1.5 billion to \$4.6 billion. It also cov-

ers collecting more than 6 tons of trash a day, painting out 24,000 graffiti tags a year and fielding 50,000 calls on an annual basis. There are 42 part-time people on the clean team and 24 safety officers who work 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In addition, there

are seven staff members. "We are like a little city here," Smith said

One of the first projects Smith worked

Lofts at 217 E. Eighth St.

on was helping pass the city's Adaptive Reuse Ordinance, which allowed old buildings that had been establishments such as banks, office buildings, manufacturing centers or warehouses to be converted into residential units. The 1999 ordinance started in downtown Los Angeles and then spread to other local neighborhoods.

That led the way for projects such as Santee Court—a collection of nine contiguous historic industrial buildings that once had housed manufacturing companies. The structures, between Seventh and Eighth streets, were converted by businessman and developer Mark Weinstein into 550 residential units that opened in 2004 and paved the way for more residential conversions along Main and Los Angeles streets.

Another early residential conversion project was the Orpheum Lofts on Broadway. They sit over the 1926 Orpheum Theatre, owned by Steve Needleman and Anjac Fashion Buildings. Now lofts and apartments have sprung up all over the Fashion District as well as other historic neighborhoods in Los Angeles. Where once there were 10,000 residents in downtown Los Angeles, there are now 50,000.

"I knew what residential development could do," Smith said, not-

ing that he and Carol Schatz, chief executive and president of the Central City Association of Los Angeles, believed that bringing residents to downtown would give the area an economic boost and lead to more nighttime entertainment. "Before, trying to find a restaurant that was open at night in downtown was hard," Smith said. "Now, downtown LA is a dining destination."

The Fashion District saw its first hotel opening two years ago with the conversion of the ornate 1927 United Artists building on Broadway into the upscale Ace Hotel. Now three more hotels are slated to debut. The Tuck, a small 14-room hotel in a onetime warehouse and brothel at 820 S. Spring St., is scheduled to open its doors at the end

The former Case Hotel—a mid-1920s structure at 1106 S. Broadway that later became the YWCA Job Training Corps building—is being converted into a boutique hotel called the Downtown LA Proper Hotel.

And not far away at 1060 S. Broadway, the former Los Angeles Railway Building is being transformed into a branch of the Hoxton hotel chain.

> Brand-new apartment projects are popping up all over the place. Apartment developer Geoff Palmer is erecting two enormous buildings encompassing more than 680 apartments sitting between the Ace Hotel and the California Market Center.

All of this wouldn't have

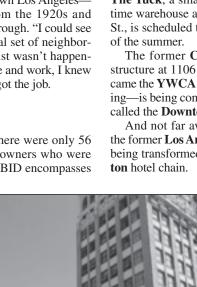
been possible if it weren't for the original goal of the Fashion District BID, which was to make the area clean and safe. Collecting gar-

bage, putting out trash cans, having a safe

team patrol on bicycle during the day and in cars at night have helped lower the crime

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Kent Smith



Smith at the United Artists Theatre/Ace Hotel with some of the people who pushed the renovation project forward

rate by more than 50 percent in recent years and made people feel safer walking on the streets.

"Ninety percent of our budget is spent on the public realm," Smith said.

That has kept building owners and businesses happy. "He has been invaluable to us," said Ethan Eller, who was on the Fashion District BID board from 2000 to 2006 and is property manager of **The New Mart**, a former manufacturing building built in 1926 now filled with nearly 100 high-end showrooms. "In the beginning it was all about safe and clean. The thing he expanded the most was if people don't know about it, it hasn't achieved anything."

Eller said Smith got the word out to the public about all the opportunities available for shopping, dining and viewing historical buildings, plus posting valuable information on the BID's website, which includes a detailed map of the area and instructions on how to get to the area.

Ilse Metchek, president of the **California Fashion Association** and former owner of clothing company **Ilse M**, described Smith as unflappable.

"He inherited a beehive of negative activity. It was the wholesalers versus the retailers [meaning the buildings who housed showrooms versus the buildings who housed retailers]. The two sides really had two different marketing strategies," she said. "That, in essence, was the problem. There was always a fight about budgets and where they were going to spend their money and how they were going to spend their money. ... He had the most diverse constituents that I've ever seen, with different agendas, different cultural backgrounds and truly different budgetary requirements-and he did a fabulous job."

Brad Luster, a BID board member and president of **Major Properties**, which has two buildings in the Fashion District, said Smith has had the task of working with divisive factions that encompass 1,000 building owners.

"As owners, we all have our own agendas and selfish designs for what the BID should do and how the money should be spent," he said. "At the end of the day, he got everybody to cooperate. That's hats off for working for 17 years for a few thousand different bosses."

AAFA Names Joseph Abboud 'Person of the Year'

Joseph Abboud has been creating men's fashion for more than 30 years with timeless style seen in his namesake brand and in his creative vision for several leading menswear stores.

With that in mind, the **American Apparel & Footwear Association** has named Abboud the 2016 "Person of the Year." The award is being presented to the designer at the AAFA's 38th annual **American Images Awards** in New York on May 24.

"From his early beginnings to his recent return to the runway, Joseph has championed American style and artisanship, and we're proud to have him represent our industry," said Rick Helfenbein, AAFA's president and chief executive.

Since he was 16, Abboud has been passionate about fashion. He started his career in menswear at **Louis of Boston** and, later, **Polo Ralph Lauren**. In 1987, he launched his own self-named label and soon was garnering awards. He is the only designer to win the "Menswear Designer of the Year" two years in a row (in 1989 and 1990) from the **Council of** Fashion Designers of America.

Abboud joined **Tailored Brands Inc.** as its chief creative director in December 2012. The following year, Abboud was reunited with his namesake brand when Tailored Brands acquired **JA Holding Inc.**, the parent company of the Joseph Abboud brand.

The designer then relaunched his label and set out to design sophisticated, modern-American lifestyle collections selling at its own online shopping site and later at the Joseph Abboud flagship store in New York.

Abboud, as creative director of Tailored Brands, oversees creative for the company's nameplates of **Men's Wearhouse**, **Moores Clothing for Men**, **K&G** and **Jos. A. Bank**, totaling 1,700 stores nationwide.

Other 2016 American Image awards and honorees include **BBC International** as company of the year, **Shinola** as retailer of the year, Christian Siriano as designer of the year and Iris Apfel as fashion maverick.

—Deborah Belgum



Fashion to Life

Hong Kong is the famous trendsetter, gathering international fashion brands and designs. Boasting around 1,200 international exhibitors in 2016, the fashion week is a one-stop shop for sourcing and merchandising. It offers buyers a fantastic spread of the latest trend in garments and accessories from high-end fashion to mass merchandise.

A vivacious market for business

Zones highlight of the fair include Fashion Gallery, International Fashion Designers' Showcase, Emporium de Mode, World of Fashion Accessories, Salon of Scarves and Shawls, Fabrics and Yarn and Men In Style. This year, fashion week has two new zones, "Women's Wear" & "Knitwear". hktdc.com Small Orders zone comprises exhibitors with a minimum order quantity of five to one thousand.



Event excitement

The great atmosphere of this internationally renowned fashion week is created by the full array of fashion shows, house shows, designers' collection shows and runway shows and runway parades daily. During the fair period, there are also trend forecast seminars by Fashion Snoops and WGSN group and buyers' forum. Networking events facilitates the cozy environment for buyers to expand their business with industry peers.

CENTRESTAGE -Asia's Premier Fashion Event

The inaugural edition of CENTRESTAGE will be held from 7-10 September 2016 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. It is a dedicated marketing platform for international and regional brands, ready-to-wear and designer labels, with a focus on Asia. Exhibitors will showcase their latest/new collections to regional fashion media, invited fashionistas and fashion buyers, especially those from multi-brand stores, select shops, department stores, and fashion e-tailers. An impressive array of fashion shows and events will be held during the fair. For details, please visit www.centrestage.com.hk

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Academy of Art Taps Rodarte Designers for Graduation Runway Show

Rodarte designers Kate and Laura Mulleavy received honorary doctorate degrees from the Academy of Art University on May 11 at the San Francisco design school's graduation fashion show. Academy of Art University President Dr. Elisa Stephens presented the Mulleavys with their honorary degrees as well as a certificate of honor from the office of San Francisco Mayor Edwin M. Lee.

The runway show featured collections by Academy of Art students majoring in fashion design, knitwear design, menswear design, technical design, textile design and jewelry/metal arts as well as the SHOP657 Collection, a private-label collection created

by fashion design, textile design, jewelry and metal arts and fashion merchandising students created by Cherish Bai, Jayme Goodman, Meeneshwer Madhu, Sylvia Rivera, Soji Solarin, Yuki Zhang, Yun Ling Tham Timmy and Neysa Makizuru. The SHOP657 Collection was made from repurposed and locally sourced materials. For inspiration, the students mixed the animated film "Alice in Wonderland" with a commute through San Francisco's Tenderloin district. Following the show, several pieces were selected to be produced for sale at SHOP657, the San Francisco retail store run by the Academy of Art school of fashion.

For her runway collection, fashion design student Wen Jiang was inspired by architecture and the work of Munich-based photographer Nick Frank to create her color-blocked collection of wood pieces

Menswear design student Annie Yang looked to the work





Justin Moreno with textiles by Namrata Bhandari



Busara Jasmine Juewei Xu





Ben Ellis

of Brazil-based artist Daniel Steegmann to create a collection of oversized, multilayered garments. Yang worked with textile design student Jasmine Juewei Xu, who layered cotton twill and cotton sateen with baby powder to create a textile with a fading texture.

Fashion design student Xiuzhen Li explored "the notion of decay," looking at the patterns of "growth and deterioration" to create a collection of layered pieces of lace and felt. Li's pieces also featured beading work done by fashion design students Alvin Ang and Amy Tzu Chen Hsu.

Fashion design student Vanessa Nash-Spangler was inspired by the Fibonacci sequence and hexagons to create her brightly colored collection of tulle, silk and organza embellished with oversized ruffles and flowers.

Fashion design student Busara Boussard combined the "colors, shapes and architectural details of the EPM Museum in

EVENTS





Febri Artha Jayanti with knitwear by Rebecca Dovenryd Almberg

Back row, left to right: Wendy Greuel, Pam and Steve Hirsh, Councilman Bob Blumenfield, Councilman Jose Huizar, Jennifer Hirsh, Aaron

Naftali, Kobe Naftali, Adam Hirsh. Front row, left to right: Eden Naftali,

Seattle" with lacrosse uniforms and equipment for her color-blocked menswear collection. Boussard worked with jewelry/ metal arts student Eirin Midtskogseter, who created shoulder and arm jewelry to complement Boussard's designs.

Menswear design student Ben Ellis was inspired by French artist Andre Derain to create a men's line made from denim and jersey, including repurposed fabric from thrift stores and donated T-shirts.

For her collection inspired by Antelope Canyon and the Hopi tribe, fashion design student Sophie Cheng laser cut and etched patterns on the garments, which featured hand-dyed ombré string details, draped details and ruffles.

Fashion design student Karin Kate Wong's collection combined comfort and sexuality with silky, soft fabrics in draped and backless silhouettes accented with silver lamé and tie closures

Inspired by the translucent fabric sculptures of Korean-American artist Do Ho Suh, menswear design student Ke Zhang created a tailored collection of menswear inspired by pajamas and 1900s men's undergarments.

Fashion design student Febri Artha Jayanti worked with knitwear design student Rebecca Dovenryd Almberg for a collection of structured and tailored pieces inspired by American artist Valerie Hegarty as well as the habits worn by early-20thcentury nuns.

For their collaboration, fashion design student Regina J. Yoon and textile design student Jadi Haynes created a collec-



The May 13 event was held in front of the Cooper Design Space, which is now run by Hirsh's son, Steve. Several Hirsh family mem-

bers were in attendance, including his daughter, Jennifer Hirsh, who told the crowd she and her family are proud of her father's legacy in the fashion district, which is "so much of a big part of the fabric of my life."

"My dad would have been half pleased and half wondering why everyone isn't at work already," she quipped.

Steve Hirsh credited his sister Liz Hirsh Naftali for spearheading the effort to rename the intersection after their father.

"This has been a long time coming," he said. "[My father] loved this intersection. He put more shoe leather in this intersection than anyone. He'd be so excited to see the changes [in downtown Los Angeles]."-Alison A. Nieder

with jewelry by Shuangning Sici Li

Celine Sohrabian Annie Yang with textiles by

jewelry by Eirin Midtskogseter

SHOP657 collaborative collection



Jiagi Lu

Vanessa Nash-Spangler

LA Fashion District Intersection Renamed for Stanley Hirsh

The May 13 dedication ceremony renaming the intersection of Ninth and Los Angeles streets for the late manufacturer, property owner and philanthropist Stanley Hirsh drew a crowd of city and apparel-industry notables--manv of whom praised Hirsh for his role in rebuilding downtown Los Angeles

Los Angeles City Councilman José Huizar, who represents the 14th district, which includes the Los Angeles Fashion District, described him as "someone who really truly loved the city of LA and would do anything to make it better. Downtown LA's revitalization is because of people like Stanley who took the risk."

Jan Perry, the general manager of the City of Los Angeles' Economic & Workforce Development Department (and former ninth district city councilperson), called him "a selfmade man."

Wendy Greuel, currently a commissioner on the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Board and the former city controller, said she knew Hirsh from her days working with then-Mayor Tom Bradley.

"He was a pioneer in the downtown garment district, a philanthropist and a civic leader. To most of us, he was a friend," she said.

Kent Smith, the outgoing executive director of the Los Angeles Fashion District, credited Hirsh with helping create the first Business Improvement District in Los Angeles.

"Stanley went to the East Coast and took a look at the BIDs in Philadelphia and New York and said, 'Why can't we do that in LA?" Smith said.

What started as an 18-block pilot program 20 years ago has grown into the 100-block Los Angeles Fashion District Business Improvement District, which is supported by more than 1,000 property owners, Smith said.

"Now there are 34 BIDs throughout the city and there are eight in downtown LA. These eight are the foundation of the downtown renaissance," he said.

Ilse Metchek, executive director of the California Fashion Association, said she first met Hirsh when he launched his manufacturing business, S. Howard Hirsh.

Metchek described the dedication of Stanley Hirsh Square as "a wonderful honor."

Liz Hirsh Naftali, Tayla Naftali

"I think the whole city should be named for Stanley Hirsh," she said.

Hirsh, who passed away in 2003, originally was a Los Angeles apparel manufacturer who produced under the labels Alex Coleman, Elizabeth Stewart, California Girls, Hirshies, A.C. Sport and Jennie & Lizzie. He later shifted his focus to retail estate, building a portfolio that includes the Cooper Design Space (then known as the Cooper Building). He founded the Downtown Property Owners Association (DPOA), which provided the foundation for

Regina J. Yoon with textiles by Jadi Haynes

Academy of Art Continued from previous page

tion inspired by "the styles and ideologies of ancient and contemporary Korean shamanism," made in cotton, lasercut faux leather and broderie anglaise with beading done by fashion design student Jessica Victoria Wijaya.

The oversize silhouettes of '90s hip-hop combined with the 1970s-era Chinese anti-gravity pilot suits inspired menswear design student Brandon Kee for his collection, which featured yellow jacquard jumpsuits, washed violet pants and light-pink coats.

Fashion design student Jiaqi Lu used crepe silk and textured cotton to create a sculptural collection inspired by 3-D printing and origami.

A blending of the lines between masculine and femi-



Kate Mulleavy, Elisa Stephens, Laura Mulleavy and Celine Sohrabian

nine inspired the collaboration between menswear design student Justin Moreno and textile design student Namrata Bhandari, who took inspiration in the "swirling floral fabric typically seen on the skater girls in Kabul" for a collection of "street-luxe" fashion.

Fashion design student Celine Sohrabian, who landed the Rodarte summer internship, found inspiration in "distortion of shape, obscurity and a play on unconventional fabrics," such as latex paired with metallic tweed, for her collection of asymmetrical and oversized pieces. Sohrabian worked with jewelry/metal arts student Shuangning Sici Li, who used silver, resin and cement to create jewelry to complement Sohrabian's designs.

—Alison A. Nieder

FBNW Continued from page 1

sage, a phrase or affirmation embossed across the front.

After leaving Groceries, Reed was looking to launch a business with a philanthropic mis-

After speaking with an administrator in the **Pasadena Unified School District**, Reed learned that while there are programs to provide children with school lunches or classroom supplies, many kids lack sufficient food at home to eat over the weekends, holidays and summer, especially.

FBNW teamed up with the Pasadena Unified School District and a sub department called **Families in Transition (FIT)**, which provides outreach, services and assistance to families in need.

"Every public school in that district except one is a 'title one,' which classifies them as low income," Reed said, adding that he's expanding the program to include Los Angeles County schools as well.

Reed works with FIT to identify families in need, and food drops are arranged approximately two weeks before the drop date.

"I look at my sales records for the number of shirts sold since the previous drop. I then give that number to Families in Transition."

FBNW held its first food drop on March 5, when Reed and a team of volunteers distributed 212 bags of

groceries. Reed did all the shopping. Each bag included oatmeal, a can of vegetables, a pack of crackers, soup, ramen noodles and a granola bar.

"In our first food drive, we were lucky enough to get **Whole Foods** to [participate]," Reed said. "They loved the



Patricc Reed, center



For every FBNW shirt sold, the company donates a bag of groceries to a child in need.

l oat- to be live in a few months.

"At the end of the day, it's not solely about the product or the brand but how that distribution makes an impact," Reed said. "So far, the response has been amazing."

For more information, visit *www.fbnw.us.*



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idea so they donated an additional item to put in our bag as well as the bag itself. Next month we are going to host a popup in the Pasadena Whole Foods store, which happens to fit our demographic. That's part of my goal. I want companies

to see what we are doing so they contribute as well."

Reed plans to start by distributing food four times annually with plans to increase the number of food drops as the company grows. Eventually, he hopes to be distributing thousands of bags of food weekly across multiple cities nationwide.

FBNW is planning to distribute more than 550 bags at the next food drop on June 4.

"We still have a couple more weeks to increase that number. [However,] I'm happy with where we are for the June drop thus far," Reed said.

FBNW exhibited at its first trade show, the consumer marketplace **Unique LA**, held recently at the **California Market Center** in Los Angeles.

"I started looking at trade shows, and I was into their [direct-to-sell platform]. I figured we should attend and try to sell to reach our June goal [of more than 750 bags]," Reed said.

Reed also opened up sales to wholesale accounts, landing orders from **Sodo** and **Dungarees**. Wholesale price points range from \$17.50 to \$20.50.

The next step is to create a new website for FBNW, which Reed—the company's only employee—expects

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Sophia Lemos

California College of the Arts hosted its 2016 annual fashion show on May 13 on the back lot of the design school's San Francisco campus.

The runway show featured the work of 12 senior designers, including Nicole Adames, who took inspiration in artist Paul Klee's hand puppets for her menswear collection made with wool and raw selvage denim. Rieko Cho used wool, lace and organza for her feminine collection inspired by clouds, dreams and childlike drawings. Caitie Dodge's collection featured textured knits that are "twisted and mixed to reveal hidden patterns." Moises Estrada found inspiration in World War II female pilots for his collection, which featured military strapping, denim and ponte di roma knits. Sophia Lemos used knits, crepe and gauze for her collection, which was inspired by 1930s Constructivist art and architecture. Jiyun Moon combined origami with Korean street fashion and skateboard culture for a menswear collection made with recycled materials and splashes of color.

Inspired by Alphonse Mucha's painting "Rose," Elina Xie's bridal collection features nontraditional fabrics, laser cutting and embossing techniques mixed with hand beading and embroidery.

The voluminous shapes of Melissa Yanga's collection are meant to recall a blooming lotus bud steeping in a teapot. Yanga paired naturally dyed silks and linens with fasteners made from shell and horn for a collection of classic silhouettes laser etched with botanical images and motifs based on the designer's own tattoos

Caroline Chun was inspired by a man's misbuttoned shirt to create her collection, in which she deconstructed traditional silhouettes to create an "askew" collection of pieces that could be worn multiple ways. Titled "Fin de Siécle," Wenxin Zheng's

collection explored unconventional beauty standards using layers of diaphanous and matte fabrics in silhouettes that play with proportions

Kristi Pak reworked the fisherman's sweater with a collection that layered chunky, textured sweater knits and paired them with heavyweight suiting fabrics in draped and tailored silhouettes.

Tiantong Zhou's collection of layered pieces in stark architectural silhouettes was softened by warm, textured wools and soft knits.—Alison A. Nieder

Retailers Relying More on Promotions This Year to Clinch a Sale

If it seems there is a sale every weekend at your local store, you are probably right.

Statistics show that during the first three months of this year, retailers were putting up more signs for special promotions than during the same period last year.

According to a study by DynamicAction, which studied data from more than \$5 billion in consumer transactions for its "Retail Index: Spring 2016," full-price sales were down 4 percent during the first quarter of this year compared to last year and orders using promotions jumped 63 percent.

March was an especially promotional month, with an 86 percent increase in orders using promotions compared to 2015.

While retail profits were up an average 5.2 percent compared to last year, most gains occurred in January with increasing volatility in February and March.

In addition, retailers found it harder to convert first-time buyers into second-time buyers with those conversions down 6 percent from last year.

"The antiquated strategy of retailers relying exclusively on their promotional calendars to run their operations has fostered an ingrained need for discounts by consumers, who are increasingly being trained to wait for promotions or discounts prior to making a purchase," said John Squire, chief executive and cofounder of DynamicAction, based in Redwood City, Calif.

The very best retailers are preparing right now to answer customers' needs and beat shareholders' expectations during the holiday season of 2016 by focusing on curbing the promotional addiction and utilizing their full data set to better manage inventory and operations," he added.-Deborah Belgum

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