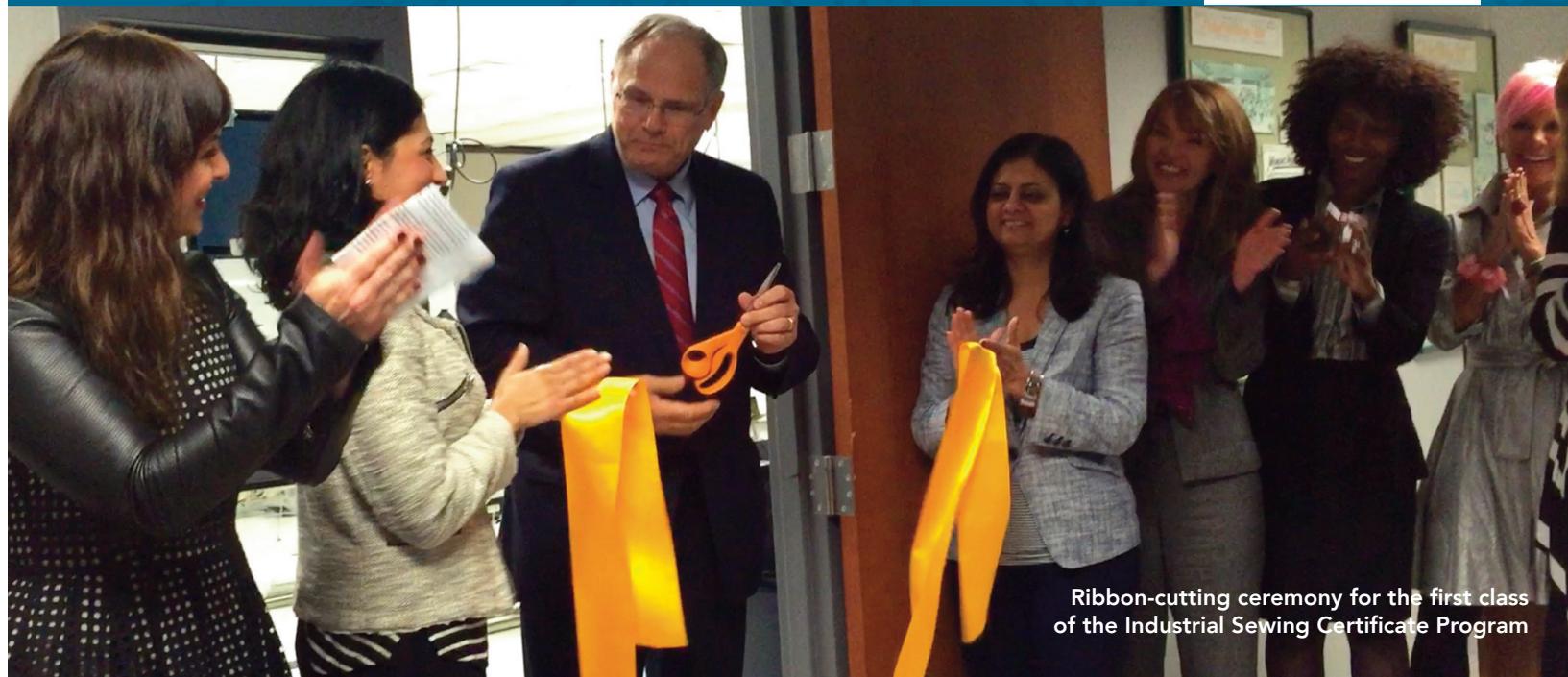


# Detroit Garment Group Guild ANNUAL REPORT 2014



Ribbon-cutting ceremony for the first class of the Industrial Sewing Certificate Program

2014 has been an exciting year for DG3, and our accomplishments reflect our mission to provide education and opportunities for Michigan's fashion community as well as cut and sew manufacturers of all industries. **Our biggest accomplishment was the launch of our Industrial Sewing Certificate Program**, in partnership with Henry Ford College M-TEC, Michigan Works!, Lear Corporation, TDIC and other cut and sew partners. The first class graduated in November 2014, and in 2015, both day and evening classes will be running throughout the year in an effort to provide skilled industrial sewers to fill more than 300 open jobs in the state.

Other highlights of the year include a second **sold-out FashionSpeak fashion conference**, which focuses on the business of fashion, headlined by Detroit native and fashion design icon Tracy Reese. And we can't forget the exciting Samurai: Beyond the Armor fashion-design competition in partnership with the DIA, which culminated in a standing-room only fashion show in the museum's grand Rivera Court. We rounded out the year with more great partnerships including a fashion-accessories designer showcase as DIFFA's Dining by Design event and a fashion-design challenge to create dance costumes for The Pink Fund's Dancing with the Survivors event.



Dollar amount raised in funds and donated machines to furnish our new sewing classroom



Current number of open sewing jobs

providing education and opportunities for Michigan's fashion community as well as cut & sew manufacturers of all industries

# WHAT WE DID

## Successfully Ran Five Programs

- May 17, Samurai: Beyond the Armor Fashion Design Competition at Detroit Institute of Arts, Rivera Court. Ten local designers were challenged to create outfits inspired by the DIA exhibition, Samurai: Beyond the Sword. Competition entrants were judged based on the design and construction of 10 electronically submitted portfolio pieces. The 10 finalists received a private tour of the exhibit and received an education on the life, dress and weapons of the samurai. The finished looked traveled to three community locations for viewing and voting, and the winner, Janna Coumoundouros of Lilacpop, who created her dress out of leather from locally based global supplier Inteva, was announced during the standing-room only fashion finale.



- September 20, Fashion Accessory Designer Showcase at the Michigan Aids Coalition's DIFFA Dining by Design event at the Federal Reserve Building in Detroit. Fifteen local accessory designers showcased their wares in a live fashion show as DG3 educated the sold-out crowd about the designers, their backgrounds, materials used and types of items they create.



- October 2, Dancing with the Survivors event at Art Van in Novi. Seven local designers were paired with seven breast-cancer survivors, to create costumes for their performances in the Dancing with the Survivors event, created by The Pink Fund. The designers received an education in both creating dance wear and designing for various issues related to breast cancer, including mastectomies, prosthetics and scarring. The dancers took to the dance floor in the custom creations, helping to raise funds which The Pink Fund used to pay non-medical bills of men and women while undergoing cancer treatment.



- October 13, Industrial Sewing Certificate Program launch at Henry Ford College M-TEC in Dearborn. In response to Michigan businesses' needs for skilled industrial sewers, DG3 and stakeholders partnered to create an Industrial Sewing Certificate Program. The program ensures that each student is trained in the skills necessary to begin working in a variety of cut and sew production industries, utilizing lightweight to heavyweight materials. The 6-week class runs Monday-Friday, for 180 hours of classroom and hands-on training. This employer-approved, skills-base training program is delivered by experts from the Michigan sewing industry. Once qualified, graduates are estimated to earn between \$10 to \$16 per hour according to industry surveys with the possibility of upward movement.



- October 16, FashionSpeak fashion conference at One Woodward in Detroit. The second-annual conference, which focuses on the business of fashion, and is Michigan's only conference for the fashion industry, once again sold out, this time to an even larger crowd, who came together for a day of learning, with topics including Decoding the Supply Chain, Creating Loyalty for Your Brand, and Getting Your Products or Services in Front of Editors. Iconic designer and Detroit native Tracy Reese headlined the event. The conference mission is "Keep Michigan Talent in Michigan." DG3 achieves that goal by giving both students and professionals the tools, education and resources to be better business owners.



## WHY WE DID IT

### To Champion Our Fashion Community

If we want our fashion community to thrive we have to give them the tools, education and resources they need to take each step on their journeys. This year, we have positively affected about 300 students and professionals with our programming.

### To Create Change for the Unemployed and the Underemployed

With the Industrial Sewing Certificate Program, those who don't make a living wage - or for some, no wage at all - have an opportunity, with funding, to learn a trade with more than 300 open positions locally.

### To Increase Michigan's Cut and Sew Manufacturing Opportunities

Cut and sew companies can't find skilled sewers and that means they can't meet their demands. Or, for that matter, expand their operations. By providing these companies with the workforce they need, who are ready to step right into the jobs, they have opportunities to grow and thrive. And, as one of the only locations in the country with an industrial sewing program in place, the state can lure other cut and sew manufacturers to relocate here so they also can have access to our skilled sewers.

## WHAT'S NEXT

2015 will be our biggest year yet, with additional pathways in place for our sewing graduates in pattern making and sewing machine repair, and another information-packed FashionSpeak conference. Plus, in fall 2015, look for our new multi-purpose facility in Southwest Detroit, which will house a manufacturing facility, designer incubator, education room, retail space and DG3's offices. Our facility will serve as the root of Detroit's first Garment District, which will launch along with our facility opening. Stay tuned!

# SUPPORT US!

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, **DG3** relies on our **generous donors and sponsors** so we can run our various programs, support our communities, and **make a difference in both our economy and the lives of many, from designers with dreams of running their own companies, to unemployed individuals with dreams of supporting their families.** Make a donation today or contact us at 248.722.8407 or [karen@detroitgarmentgroup.org](mailto:karen@detroitgarmentgroup.org) to determine how we can partner together to inspire and create lasting change in our fashion and cut and sew manufacturing communities.

## CONNECT WITH US

DG3 sends out a weekly newsletter filled with everything that's going on in our fashion community, as well as all our latest news and upcoming programs. We also connect with our communities, donors and sponsors via social media utilizing Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We've recently added a second Instagram account, Detroit Fashion Scene, in an effort to change national thinking regarding what our fashion community, from models and makeup artists to photographers and designers, have to offer.

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