

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sharaun Brown Named 2026 FGI Chicago Trailblazer Award Honoree and Master of Ceremonies for 11th Rising Star Awards

International supermodel, television host, entrepreneur, and Founder & CEO of The Model Tribe will be honored as FGI Chicago celebrates the emerging professionals shaping the future of Chicagoland fashion.

CHICAGO, IL — FGI Chicago will honor international supermodel, television host, speaker, media personality, and Founder & CEO of The Model Tribe [Sharaun Brown](#) with the **2026 FGI Chicago Trailblazer Award** at the **11th FGI Chicago Rising Star Awards** on Saturday, October 10, 2026, at Public Works Gallery in Chicago. Brown will also take the stage as **Master of Ceremonies**, leading FGI Chicago's celebration of emerging talent and the people helping move Chicago's fashion industry forward.

The **FGI Chicago Trailblazer Award** recognizes an individual whose vision, innovation, leadership, and influence have helped forge new paths within the fashion industry. A finalist on *America's Next Top Model*, Brown has built a dynamic career spanning fashion, television, and live entertainment, most recently serving as the Official Trophy Model Presenter at the 2025 and 2026 Grammy Awards and the 2026 Disney Legends Awards at D23. Her work has placed her onstage for iconic moments alongside some of the biggest names in entertainment. Through [The Model Tribe](#), Sharaun also mentors and empowers the next generation of models and creatives.

"Sharaun embodies what the Trailblazer Award represents—someone who continues to evolve, create new opportunities, and forge her own path in the fashion industry," said Jessica Crane, Regional Director of FGI Chicago. "Her career demonstrates that there is no single path to success, and that is an important message for the emerging professionals we celebrate through the FGI Chicago Rising Star Awards. We are honored to recognize Sharaun and thrilled to have her lead this year's celebration as our Master of Ceremonies."

"Receiving the FGI Chicago Trailblazer Award is an incredible honor, especially from a fashion community that has meant so much to me throughout my career. I've always believed success is about more than the opportunities you receive—it's also about creating opportunities for those coming behind you. I hope to continue opening doors and inspiring the next generation to see just how far they can go."

— **Sharaun Brown**

The **FGI Chicago Rising Star Awards** recognize emerging Chicagoland professionals building their careers and businesses across fashion and its related industries. Eligible nominees have been in business or professional practice for one to seven years. Through member-driven nominations and voting, the program provides a platform to recognize rising talent while strengthening connections between emerging and established professionals throughout Chicago's fashion community.

The **11th FGI Chicago Rising Star Awards** will bring together professionals from across the region to discover emerging talent, build industry connections, and celebrate the creativity and innovation happening within Chicagoland. The event will feature a **grazing brunch, professional networking, finalist exhibits, the Rising Star Awards presentation, and the presentation of the 2026 FGI Chicago Trailblazer Award to Brown.**

The **11th FGI Chicago Rising Star Awards** will take place **Saturday, October 10, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at **Public Works Gallery, 2141 W. North Avenue, Chicago**. Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are now available at [FGI.ORG/Chicago](https://www.fgi.org/chicago).

About FGI Chicago

Founded in **1934**, FGI Chicago is the Chicago Region of Fashion Group International, a global professional membership organization serving the fashion, beauty, lifestyle, retail, and related industries. FGI Chicago brings together emerging and established professionals through industry-focused education, professional networking, development opportunities, and recognition programs designed to strengthen connections, foster collaboration, and advance Chicagoland's fashion community. As part of FGI's international network, Chicago members are connected to a broader community of industry professionals and resources around the world.



11TH RISING
STAR AWARDS

2026 FGI CHICAGO
TRAILBLAZER AWARD HONOREE

SHARAUN BROWN

Master of Ceremonies

OCTOBER 10, 2026

PUBLIC WORKS GALLERY

FGI.ORG/CHICAGO





