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FGI Chicago Announces 15 Rising Star Award Finalists and Two Honorary Award Recipients

Finalists across five categories and two honorary award recipients will be recognized during the 11th FGI Chicago awards celebration on Oct. 10.

CHICAGO — Sept. 9, 2026 — Fashion Group International (FGI) Chicago has announced the 15 finalists and two honorary award recipients who will be celebrated at the 11th FGI Chicago Rising Star Awards on Saturday, Oct. 10, at [Public Works Gallery](#) in Chicago. Representing fashion design, footwear, styling, content creation and beauty, this year's finalists reflect the breadth of talent shaping Chicago's fashion and creative industries. Before the winners are revealed in October, the public is invited to meet the finalists and discover their work at *On the Rise: Celebrating Chicago's Rising Stars—Past and Future* on Sept. 17.

2026 FGI Chicago Rising Star Award Finalists

Footwear

Yohance Lacour — YJL
Vanessa Arroyo — SERES®
Holly Garrard — Fundae Shoes

Fashion Designer — Ready to Wear

Angela Aeschliman — Aesch Liman, Co.
Brian S. Leon — KOUSH
Raj Patel — Karmic Couture

Fashion Stylist

Rahela Tanase — Intuitive Fashion & Rahela Designs
Christina Schutz — Lookbook Stylist
Matteo Frausto — The Thrifted Gay

Fashion Content Creator

Juliann Brown — Juliann Marie
Brit Cooper Robinson — Dressing for the Dopamine
Ticara Devone — Ticara Devone

Beauty

Shureice Kornegay — Fleeky Friday
Alexandra Carrillo — By The Polish
Darrell Spencer — Crowned Skin

Two Honorary Awards Celebrate Creative Impact

The 11th FGI Chicago Rising Star Awards will also honor two members of Chicago's creative community whose work and influence extend beyond this year's competitive categories.

[Sharaun Brown](#) will receive the FGI Chicago Trailblazer Award in recognition of her influential career as a model, television personality and advocate for emerging talent. She will also serve as master of ceremonies for the 11th FGI Chicago Rising Star Awards.

Photographer [Denise Belyea](#) will receive the FGI Chicago Visual Impact Award for her distinctive visual storytelling and contributions to Chicago's fashion image-making community.

Meet Chicago's Rising Stars on Sept. 17

Ahead of the 11th FGI Chicago Rising Star Awards, FGI Chicago will host *On the Rise: Celebrating Chicago's Rising Stars—Past and Future* on Thursday, Sept. 17, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Industrious Central Loop sponsored by ALLY Shoes.

Designed to connect Chicago's fashion community across generations, the ticketed evening gives guests an opportunity to meet the 2026 finalists, explore displays of their work and connect with fellow professionals from across the industry. Sept. 17 is also the final day for FGI Chicago members to cast their votes for the 2026 Rising Star Award winners.

The evening will feature *A Conversation with the 2024 Winners*, moderated by Jess Crane, regional director of FGI Chicago. Panelists include Dana Asady of Mabrook Bridal, Samantha Dong of ALLY Shoes, Nasreen Hussain of Neisa Studio and Teddi Krochman of @teddilovesfashion.

The conversation will explore what has happened since their 2024 wins, how their careers and businesses have evolved, and what comes after being named a Rising Star.

On the Rise: Celebrating Chicago's Rising Stars—Past and Future

Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026 | 6-9 p.m.

Industrious Central Loop | 231 S. LaSalle St., Suite 2100, Chicago

Winners Revealed Oct. 10

The 11th FGI Chicago Rising Star Awards will take place Saturday, Oct. 10, at Public Works Gallery, where the winners in all five categories will be revealed.

Guests will gather for a grazing brunch, finalist displays, networking and the awards ceremony, with Sharaun Brown serving as master of ceremonies. Brown will receive the FGI Chicago Trailblazer Award, and photographer Denise Belyea will receive the FGI Chicago Visual Impact Award during the ceremony.

The 2026 FGI Chicago Rising Star Awards are presented with support from Public Works Gallery, The Model Tribe, Naked Life and Gotham Bagels.

Sponsorship opportunities remain available for organizations interested in supporting the 11th FGI Chicago Rising Star Awards and connecting with Chicago's fashion community. For sponsorship information, visit fgi.org/chicago or contact fgichicago@gmail.com.

11th FGI Chicago Rising Star Awards

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 | 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

VIP entry | 10:30 a.m.

Public Works Gallery | 2141 W. North Ave., Chicago

Chic brunch attire

Tickets and event information for *On the Rise* and the 11th FGI Chicago Rising Star Awards are available at fgi.org/chicago.

About Fashion Group International Chicago

Established in 1934, Fashion Group International (FGI) Chicago is the Chicago Region of FGI, a global professional membership organization connecting and supporting professionals across fashion, beauty, retail and related creative industries. FGI Chicago is volunteer-run and provides educational programming, networking opportunities and industry resources to its members and the broader Chicago fashion community.

Media Contact

Jess Crane

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The 2026 FGI Chicago Rising Star Awards are presented with support from [Public Works Gallery](#), [The Model Tribe](#), [Naked Life](#) and [Gotham Bagels](#).

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