



# TRASHION REVOLUTION

[MODERN  
MYTHOLOGY]

9.6.25





A night-time photograph of the Chicago skyline, featuring numerous illuminated skyscrapers. A bright lightning bolt strikes the Willis Tower on the left side of the frame. The city lights reflect on the water in the foreground.

# TRASHION REVOLUTION

2025

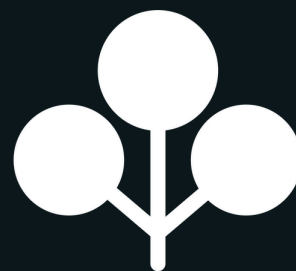
# MODERN MYTHOLOGY

## DESIGNER RULES & GUIDELINES



# WHAT IS TRASHION REVOLUTION?

Trashion Revolution is a **community activation** event and competition that uses **fashion and art** to inspire **action** in **environmental and social justice**.



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# APPLICATION PROCESS



Designers can apply to be in the show by any of these methods:

- 1) **Send a link to your portfolio, website or gallery installation along with a concept sketch for a Trashion Revolution 2025 design**, plus a description of materials used, process and meaning of the design.
- 2) Send photos of *previous* “trashion” design(s) plus a description of materials used, process and meaning of the design, **along with a concept sketch & description for a Trashion Revolution 2025 design.**



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3) Send photos of a **completed design** for Trashion Revolution 2025, plus a description of materials used, process and meaning of the design **that has not been walked in any previous runway fashion show** (gallery or other event appearances are acceptable) that you would like to enter for our show.

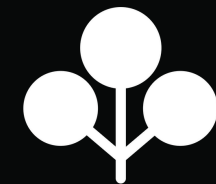
Please send all application materials and inquiries to **jordan@triveniinstitute.org**.





PLEASE READ THROUGH THIS ENTIRE DOCUMENT  
BEFORE APPLYING AS A DESIGNER.

THANK YOU.



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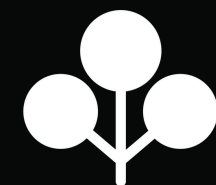


# IMPORTANT DATES

**June 20th, 2025 APPLICATIONS DUE.** See above application process.

**June 30<sup>th</sup>** – Models will be cast and paired with designers.

**July Rehearsal (TBD)** All-team rehearsal at Macy's on State. **This is mandatory for models** and designers are welcome to do fittings, etc.



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# IMPORTANT DATES

**August Rehearsal (TBD)** All-team rehearsal at Macy's on State. **This is mandatory for models** and designers are welcome to do fittings, etc.

**August 25<sup>th</sup>, 9am** - Final designs must be completed, photographed, and submitted for our "Lookbook" for judges along with a description of materials used, process and meaning of the design.  
**NO EXCEPTIONS.**



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Our judging panel needs at least a week to review all of the submissions before the actual show. If any designer cannot complete their design by the 8/25 deadline, they are welcome to still walk the design in the show as an “Exhibition Entry” but will not be eligible for the contest.



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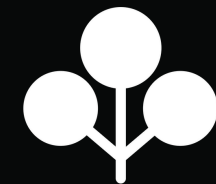


# IMPORTANT DATES

**September 5<sup>th</sup> Dress Rehearsal ~ MANDATORY**

**September 6<sup>th</sup> - Trashion Revolution: Modern  
Mythology**

**Thank you for your interest in Trashion  
Revolution!**



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WHY IS  
TRASHION  
REVOLUTION  
IMPORTANT?





**Waste is not cool.**



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# 1

**Plastic production is a human health crisis.**

A **false** narrative (i.e. **mythology**) fed to us by the plastics industry is that plastic is inert and benign.

**Truth:** it is a toxic material that is poisoning us with PFAS, phthalates, microplastics and thousands of other chemicals every day. Plastic is in our lungs, our blood..it's even in human placentas and breast milk. A recent study found an average of a teaspoon of microplastics in the brains of human cadavers.





**Plastic production is an environmental justice issue.** From extraction and production to consumption and disposal, the communities most suffering from the toxic effects of plastic production and pollution are predominantly BIPOC and low-income frontline communities living in sacrifice zones.



## **Plastic pollution is a disaster for wildlife.**

For every image we actually see of a suffering animal, there are literally millions more who are suffering and dying tragic deaths who we do not see: alone out at sea or in forests, caught in a ghost net or choking on a balloon. All over the planet, every second of every day, animals are dying slow, painful deaths and orphaning their young.





**Plastic production is directly driving climate change.** As coal plants are being decommissioned due to the boom of the renewable energy sector, giant ethane crackers (plastics production plants) are taking their place. The fossil fuel industry has pivoted to plastics as their main source of future profits, and plastic production is predicted to *quadruple* by 2050.





# WHAT'S THE GOAL OF TRASHION REVOLUTION?





The goal of Trashion Revolution is **not** to show that beautiful “sustainable” art can be created from trash and therefore it’s a solution to the single-use plastic (SUP) waste crisis. This is like trying to empty a bathtub one teaspoon at a time with the faucet on full blast. The most effective solution is to STOP or REDUCE the production of new single-use plastics through **policy** and **decreased consumer demand**.



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Absolutely gorgeous art and design can be produced from trash. But no amount of art or design will save us from the massive amounts of plastic permeating every part of the Earth and our bodies.

**Fashion created from plastic pollution *is not* “sustainable.”**

**Fashion created from plastic pollution *is* an incredible way to start conversations, engage people, and inspire action.**



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The goal of Trashion Revolution is to **raise awareness** of single-use plastics (**SUP**) and inspire the audience to consider **solutions** to single-use plastics such as **REDUCTION** and **REUSE**. We will not solve the environmental crises caused by SUP without **turning down the spigot** on the **production** of new plastics.

No amount of **recycling, down cycling** or **upcycling** will solve this issue (that is a myth). **REDUCTION** and **REUSE** are the real solutions.



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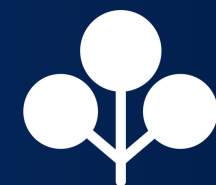


**MYTH:** “Plastic is recyclable.”

**TRUTH:** Plastic is only *downcyclable* - either immediately or after only a few cycles, it must be turned into a permanent object like decking or park benches. Plastic bottles cannot become new bottles indefinitely like aluminum or glass.

**MYTH:** “Plastic is harmless.”

**TRUTH:** Plastic contains thousands of harmful chemicals, many of them carcinogens and endocrine disruptors.



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**MYTH:** “Plastic is liberal left talking point that’s blown way out of proportion.”

**TRUTH:** Plastic - and *all* of our environmental problems - should be bipartisan issues because they affect the habitability of the planet we all share.

**MYTH:** “Biodegradable plastic is a solution.”

**TRUTH:** The term “biodegradable” is unregulated and can mean just about anything. Plastic may break apart into smaller pieces, like micro- and nano plastics, but it never completely goes away.



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**MYTH:** “Compostable plastic turns into soil in landfills.”

**TRUTH:** Compostable plastic - and organic material - does not compost in a landfill because there is no oxygen. It produces methane.

**MYTH:** “Gen Z or an innovative technology will fix everything..”

**TRUTH:** Denialism and magical thinking are powerful coping mechanisms, but they are not solutions. We need to own this problem and do something about it.



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# CONTEST RULES

# 1

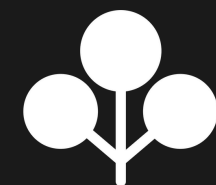
All materials used must be sourced from **TRASH**, i.e. **used plastic that you did not purchase new**, with few exceptions. Possible exceptions would be things that are difficult (or a biohazard) to incorporate used, e.g. dental floss, tampon applicators, condoms, medical waste, etc.

**Please avoid buying any materials at all costs**, since this is a trashion show and we do NOT want to place any votes for more plastic with our dollars.



**NOTE:** A “gray area” is plastics that are like “dead stock” fabrics: they haven’t been used, but have already been purchased and are “excess supplies.”

Common sources of these plastics are labs, closing businesses and private homes. Triveni has received some donations of these plastics, and designers are welcome to use them. If you have your own, please let us know how you acquired them and if you’d like to use them yourself or donate them to Triveni.



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Examples of *non-essential* **Single-Use Plastic**  
Source Materials (this list is NOT exhaustive, these  
are just a few ideas):

- Plastic bags, produce bags
- Coffee cups and lids (Starbucks, Dunkin Donuts, etc.)
- Plastic water bottles, beverage containers
- Plastic utensils, plastic chopsticks
- Plastic straws, stirrers and splash guards
- Plastic drink glasses and plates for events and parties

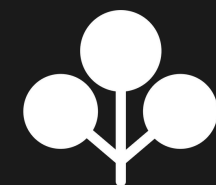


- Coffee pods (K-Cups, Nespresso, etc.)
- Cigarettes
- Styrofoam (polystyrene) cups, plates, trays and packaging
- Trays, cups, utensils used by airlines
- Amazon prime mailers, plastic air-bags and other plastic packing materials
- Plastic tea-bags (these contaminate your tea with microplastics and chemicals)
- Plastic tampon applicators
- Red Solo cups, all single-use cups



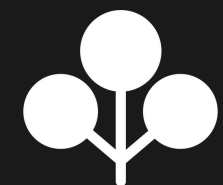


- Synthetic hand-towels \*SO many restaurants are now using synthetic single-use hand towels instead of paper
- Balloons - all types



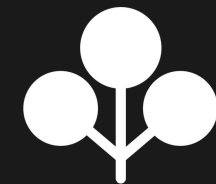
Examples of single-use plastics that are generally referred to as “**Disposable Plastics**” (plastics typically used for a longer time period, but are still destined for a landfill or worse):

- Food packaging of all types; wrappers, chip bags, pouches, to-go containers, drive-thru containers, etc.
- Commercial/industrial fishing line
- Synthetic fishing nets (commercial/industrial and recreational use)
- Disposable razors





- Toothpaste tubes
- Laundry detergent jugs, cleaning products, baby supplies
- Pet food bags
- Coffee bean bags
- Sushi trays



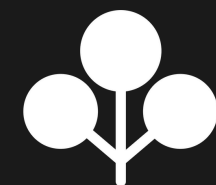
## 2

All designers may make **ONE** look composed of primarily single-use and/or disposable plastic that again **MUST BE POST-CONSUMER PLASTIC (TRASH)**. Aim for at least 80-90% of your look to use these materials (we understand that you may need to incorporate other materials to hold your look together).



Our vision is the glamour of a fashion show, the drama of the opera, the design of an art gallery and the message of an environmental direct action.

Trashion Revolution is the “**Future Met Gala of the Climate Crisis.**” When you’re designing your piece, ask the question, “Can I see this at an elementary school art show, or the Metropolitan Museum of Art steps?”



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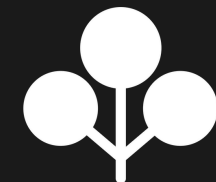


### 3

Since this is raising awareness of plastic pollution, **designers are encouraged to use *non-essential plastics* for which there are clear alternatives.**

Good examples:

- **Plastic bags.** Easy alternative: reusable bags
- **Coffee cups and lids.** Easy alternative: reusable cups
- **Water bottles.** Easy alternative: reusable water bottles

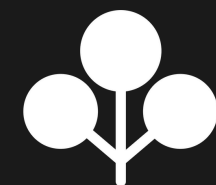


- **Plastic utensils.** Easy alternative: bamboo (or other material) reusable utensils
- **Plastic tea bags.** Easy alternative: tea bags made from paper that are compostable
- **Plastic tampon applicators.** Easy alternative: cardboard applicators
- **Balloons.** An alternative is to forego balloons or find another non-plastic decoration (made from paper that can be composted)
- **Plastic straws, stirrers and splash guards.** An alternative is to forego these items or use reusables



There aren't good alternatives for things like hospital supplies, face masks/face mask filters, condoms, etc. so these items constitute *essential plastics*. So to make a more impactful statement, try to incorporate **non-essential plastics** for which we have alternatives.

**A message in Trashion Revolution is to reduce the plastics in our lives that we can reduce.** We want to inspire our guests to take action in their lives that reduces their plastic usage.



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# 4

Once your source materials are collected, what you do to them is up to you. Melt (wear a face mask!), paint, sew, glue...whatever your creative vision is. But **please make sure that your piece is well-constructed** and will withstand a model wearing it for several hours, and then up and down the runway. We don't want to be leaving a trail of trash for the next model to trip on (trash on the runway would be on-brand, but we'd prefer for your piece to stay intact).





# THE COMPETITION





In 2023, our first year, we offered \$2900 in prize money: 1st \$1000, 2nd \$500, 3rd \$400, 4th \$300, 5th \$200 and 5 Honorable Mentions at \$100 apiece.

In 2024 we awarded prize money for only the Top 3 winners - 1<sup>st</sup> \$1000, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$500 and 3<sup>rd</sup> \$250 - and provided a \$150 honorarium to each designer who was accepted into the competition. (Prize money winners did not receive an additional honorarium.)





This year, in 2025, we are again awarding prize money for the Top 3 winners - 1<sup>st</sup> \$1000, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$500 and 3<sup>rd</sup> \$250 - but instead of Triveni providing a \$150 honorarium to all accepted designers, we are asking designers to secure their own sponsors for their honorarium, from which they will receive \$150, through our “Sponsor a Model or Designer Program” we started in 2024: designers and models went out into the community and found businesses and other people to sponsor them for \$150, and those logos went on the slides that were projected at the show, either by the designer's or the model's name.



For the winners of the 2025 show, designers can keep their prize money *and* \$150 from their sponsors.

The Sponsor a Model or Designer Program helps to build community and visibility. Second, it invites designers to participate in the fundraising for our cause.

Designers and models are able to forfeit their honorarium or donate their earnings back to Triveni.



For those who would like to receive an honorarium of \$150, we will help with outreach to entities that designers and models have identified as potential sponsors. Those could include local businesses, alderpeople, other elected officials, friends, family, nonprofits, educational institutions, churches, employers, etc. Designers and models will receive the entire amount that they raise, up to \$150..

Donations to Triveni are tax-deductible.





Lastly, designers who are interested in creating a fundraising team can earn a percentage of the funds they raise for our nonprofit above their individual \$150 sponsorship. We will be discussing this more at meetings.

We are currently capping applications at 25 for designers. That is 25 total designs, teams of two or more designers working on one design will count as one slot. Multiple designers per team will need to split the honorarium between them.



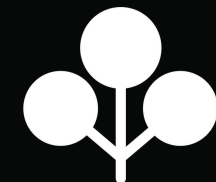
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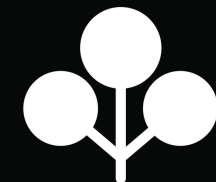
# JUDGING CRITERIA AND THE LOOKBOOK

Judges will be scoring each designer on four criteria:

- **Craftsmanship and Technical Skill.** How well was the design constructed? What were the techniques used? What other materials are incorporated to hold the design together?
- **Adherence to the Guidelines.** Did the designer read the guidelines? Are there other materials involved aside from single-use/disposable plastic? Where were the materials sourced?



- **Meaning / Message of the Piece.** What is the “story” this piece is telling? What issue(s) is the designer trying to highlight?
- **Aesthetic / Presentation.** What is the overall presentation on the runway? How well does the model embody this piece and how does the piece look and move on the runway?





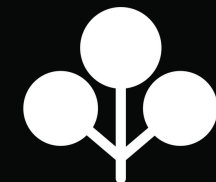
To be eligible for the contest, designers are required to submit 1) Photos of the completed design 2) An artist/designer bio/statement 3) A full description of materials used, where they were sourced and techniques used to construct the design and 4) the meaning/message of the design. Judges will have a full week to pre-judge the designs.

At the show they will primarily be judging the craftsmanship and aesthetic of each piece since this is the time they can get up-close with each design and also observe it on the runway.



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Since this is a competition, Triveni will not be providing a HMUA (Hair and Makeup Artist) team for models. We will have HMUA resources to choose from for designers who need to find professionals for a certain aesthetic for hair and makeup.



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TWICE  
MONTHLY  
MEETINGS



We will be having twice monthly all-team meetings  
on **Zoom at 7pm the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of  
every month** through the show on September 6<sup>th</sup>  
and immediately following the show.

Monday, June 9th

Monday, June 23rd

Monday, July 14th

Monday, July 28th

Monday, August 11th

Monday, August 25th

Monday, September 8th



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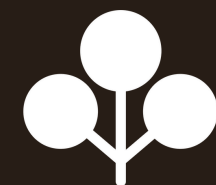
These meetings are not mandatory but we highly encourage all designers, models, production staff, event staff and volunteers to drop in. It's a place to build community, share what we all are working on, answer questions and discuss all things about the show.

Over the next 3 months we will be promoting our designers on Instagram and social media! Please take photos and short video clips of your design process, from sourcing your material to the final design.



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Our talented and committed designers, models and event staff ARE the show. We are the ones who are telling these stories. Legislation can change behavior, but **stories change hearts and minds.** We want our shows to both inspire people to make changes in their own lives *and* build grassroots support for important local and state legislation. We appreciate each and every one of you so much for giving your time, talent, skill and soul to our project.



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