

## Sustainable Fashion Design Lab 5-Week Course for Grades 7-10 | Interactive Syllabus\*



**Dates:** October 12, 2020 - November 11, 2020 (5 weeks)

**Location:** Zoom video conference

**10 Sessions:** Mondays & Wednesdays , 5:30 pm-7:00 pm EST

**Office Hours:** 30-min before & after each class

**Course Materials:** Computer or tablet for online webinar participation; all course reading, listening, and viewing materials are free online resources; recycled clothing materials; needle and thread

**Lead Instructor:** Nana Asare <Nanaasare97@outlook.com>

\*Note that the syllabus is subject to change

### Course Description

Do you love fashion? Do you like creating and designing? Do you care about making the fashion industry better and more innovative? Then, this course is for you! Students will learn how to be designers, brand creators, and business people!

In these ten sessions, we will explore the global impact of the current fashion industry while also learning about how future designers can create and build sustainable fashion brands. Currently, the fashion industry is responsible for 10 percent of the world's carbon emissions. By 2050, more than 25 percent of the entire global carbon budget will go to this one industry. Designers and brands across the globe are tackling this problem by reimagining existing clothing pieces, reinventing supply chains, and exploring new sustainable materials.

A team of instructors, along with guest designers and sustainable clothing experts, will support participants as they explore sustainable fashion while honing their own style. For their final project, our young designers will create and present their own eco-friendly fashion piece using everyday materials along with developing a marketing and social impact plan for getting their designs out in the world.

### Course Goals

1. Students will understand the impact of the fashion industry on the environment, as well as new and historical trends in sustainable fashion
2. Students will redesign and reimagine fashion pieces (e.g. clothing, jewelry, accessories, etc.) by learning basic repurposing skills
3. Students will develop business plans for imagining their fashion brand and sharing their fashion pieces
4. Students will design and create a sustainable fashion piece for their final project

### Final Portfolio Project

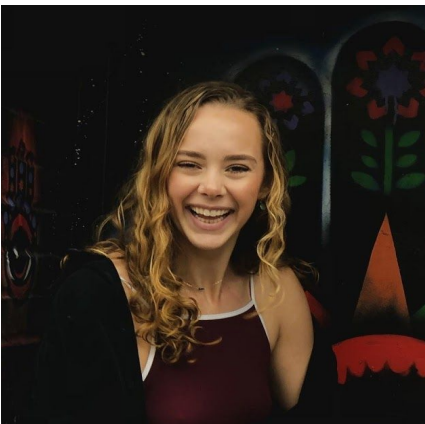
By the end of the course, students will have created their own redesigned item of fashion. Potential projects include using old clothing to create accessories, restyling clothing through painting, embroidery, and graphic printing. All projects will be digitally archived in a format compatible with leading online college applications.

## Instructional Team



Nana Asare, Co-Instructor | He/Him

Nana Asare is an upcoming stylist based in the New York City Area. Nana is also a student attending Morgan State University, studying fashion merchandising and product development. In Nana's free time he enjoys upcycling his thrifted clothes to fit his eclectic style. "I am excited and very much grateful to be able to reach and give the high quality knowledge that I learned in the industry on sustainable fashion to my amazing students."- Nana Asare



Lydia Paddock, Apprentice Instructor | She/Her

Lydia Paddock is a senior at Wesleyan University. She is studying Psychology; Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; and Education Studies. She works in the Cognitive Development Lab at Wesleyan University and is on the Women's Rowing Team. She is passionate about creating and reimagining clothing, and can knit, crochet, embroider, and sew. Lydia is a summer intern at Mesh Ed and the Brooklyn Creative Learning Lab and has been making new fashion items during the Covid-19 quarantine from her and her brother's old clothes.

## Visiting Guest Experts and Company Case Studies

All guest experts are subject to change

### Lexy Funk



**Lexy Funk** is the Founder and CEO of [Brooklyn Industries](#). Her clothing brand has stores in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Portland and Chicago and is dedicated to using fashion as a medium for making art. During the global pandemic, her company switched entirely from selling clothes in “brick & mortar” stores to selling entirely online and she started a new thrifting business.

### Marcus Chung



**Marcus Chung** is the VP of Manufacturing and Supply Chain at [Third Love](#). As a social responsibility leader, Marcus’ experience includes leading global teams to deliver exceptional product quality, cost and delivery results. In addition, he has developed strategies to drive sustainability and protect garment workers’ rights in the supply chain.

### Ona Hauert



**Ona Hauert** is a senior at Wesleyan University, and the founder of her own fashion design company called [onaprints](#). A one-woman operation, onaprints strives to slow down the pace in today’s fashion industry, with long-lived, timeless clothing. Each piece she creates is one-of-a-kind.

Click [here](#) to see Ona turn a shirt into a work of art.

### Brooklyn Industries



### Third Love



### OnaPrints



## Course-at-a-Glance

### Pre-work: Orientation

Get set with a 15-minute online meeting with the instructional team to preview online tools and to establish student goals.

### Week One: Our Sustainable Design Community

*"There is no power for change greater than community discovering what it cares about."  
- Meg Wheatley*



**Student Assignment:** What do you love about fashion? What do you want your final project to include? What will you make? What do you need to make this vision come to life?

#### Session 1: Monday, October 12

*Getting to Know Our Design Community  
Spotlight Issue: What is Sustainability?*

- **Build Community Practice:** Who are you? What do you love about fashion?
- **Course Goals:** Creating sustainable fashion piece(s), building our own brand, & practicing sustainable fashion in our lives!
- **Define:** What is sustainability?
- **Prep for Next Class:**
  - Bring your favorite fashion piece

#### Session 2: Wednesday, October 14

*Visualizing Your Project!*

- **Visualize Project:** Create a vision board for what you hope to accomplish with your final project
- **Create:** Students will create a design plan for completing their final project
- **Prep for Next Class:**
  - Prepare questions for the guest speaker
  - Bring your redesigned fashion piece

### Week Two: What's Going on in the Fashion Industry?

*"As consumers we have so much power to change the world by just being careful in what we buy." —Emma Watson*



**Student assignment:** Reflect on what your fashion brand would represent, what would your brand value, what would your designs look like?

#### Session 3: Monday, October 19

*Fast Fashion & Our World  
Guest Speaker: Lexy Funk*

- **Define:** What is a brand?
- **Reflect:** What do we know about the impact of the fashion industry on the environment? What are brands that we use? How do they impact the environment?
- **Explore:** How to build our own brand?
- **Collaborate:** Guest Speaker Lexy Funk will share her experiences with building Brooklyn Industries & students will have time to ask questions!
- **Prep for Next Class:** Keep working on your fashion project!


#### Session 4: Wednesday, October 21

*Visualizing Your Fashion Brand*

- **Clarify:** Review our final project goals and what we are working towards
- **Visualize:** Create a plan for your own fashion brand
- **Prep for Next Class:**
  - Prepare questions for the guest speaker.
  - Keep working on your fashion project!

## Week Three: The Sustainable Fashion Industry

*"Fashion can be a universal player in protecting the planet" -Pharrell Williams*

 **Student assignment:** How can you refine your business plan to incorporate sustainable practices? What help do you need to design your fashion pieces?

### Session 5: Monday, October 26

*What are sustainable fashion brands?*

**Spotlight Issue: Unethical Labor Practices**

**Guest Speaker: Ona Hauert**

- **Define:** What makes a brand sustainable?
- **Evaluate:** Sustainable fashion brands & their missions
- **Explore:** The growth of the sustainable fashion industry
- **Collaborate:** Guest Speaker Ona Hauert who has her own sustainable fashion brand will share their experiences and students will have time to ask questions.
- **Prep for Next Class:**
  - Finalize your fashion brand!
  - Keep working on your fashion project!


### Session 6: Wednesday, October 28

**Refining Your Designs!**

- **Develop:** This will be a work period for students to ask questions, develop hands-on skills, and continue refining their work for the final project/presentation!
- **Prep for Next Class:**
  - Prepare questions for the guest speaker.
  - Keep working on your fashion project!

## Week Four: Practicing Sustainable Fashion (Then & Now)

*"It isn't enough just looking for the quality in the products we buy, we must ensure that there is quality in the lives of the people who make them." - Orsola De Castro*

 **Student assignment:** Brainstorm and come up with three ways consumers can be socially conscious with their purchases. What changes can individuals make? How will this inform your final project (eg. design type, placement, etc.)?

### Session 7: Monday, November 2

*Sustainability in Fashion & Community*

**Spotlight Issue: Unethical Fashion Practices**

**Guest Speaker: Marcus Chung**

- **Reflect:** What sustainable practices do you participate in already? In what ways, can you improve your sustainable fashion practices?
- **Uncover:** The history of sustainable fashion in communities across the world
- **Explore:** How can we encourage our communities to become more sustainable?
- **Collaborate:** Guest Speaker Marcus Chung will share his experiences with encouraging sustainable practices throughout the fashion industry and students will have time to ask questions.
- **Prep for Next Class:**
  - Keep working on your fashion project!


### Session 8: Wednesday, November 4

**Final Lab!**

- **Develop:** This will be a work period for students to ask questions, develop hands-on skills, and continue refining their work for the final project/presentation
- **Prep for Next Class:**
  - Keep working on your fashion project!

## Week Five: Sharing Our Sustainable Brands!

*"Creating is about sharing ideas, sharing aesthetics, sharing what you believe in with other people." - Shepard Fairey*

 **Student assignment:** Come prepared to share your work with our class and community!

### Session 9: Monday, November 9

#### *Final Presentations*

- **Share:** Students will share their fashion pieces and tell us about their fashion brands!

### Session 10: Wednesday, November 11

#### *Final Presentations*

- **Share:** Students will share their fashion pieces and tell us about their fashion brands!

### About the Brooklyn Creative Learning Lab

The Brooklyn Creative Learning Lab is the incubator for new courses and digital tools built by Mesh Ed, an educational design collective that develops and launches out-of-school enrichment programs and digital portfolio tools for middle school, high school, and early college students. Learn more about our summer and fall 2020 Creative Learning Lab offerings on our [website](#).