

## DESIGN GUIDELINES

This fashion show will feature one-of-a-kind creations by artists, using recycled or repurposed materials.

**Attention Designers!** We are going to explore new themes in the coming years. This year, our theme is New Boots. We encourage designers to include boots of any kind in their outfits. Feel free to play with the idea. We'd be happy to see high tops, muck boots, low boots, thigh-high boots, baby boots, army boots, robot boots, and puss-in boots - the variations are endless! Artists are not limited to any theme for their designs but are encouraged to think big, fantastical, outrageous, and spectacular in their creations. We are looking for showstoppers on the runway and are always interested in seeing all-gender fashion and models for 2024. We are ready for your WOW and look forward to your design submission by **Friday, October 6th, 2023!**

We are also asking you to create an art piece from a previously worn boot (however you define "boot") that will be used as decor throughout the theater. The pieces will be raffled off to audience members and the proceeds will be shared back with the designers. This is not required to submit a design proposal. This is a brand-new idea and will evolve over the course of the next few months. If your outfit is chosen for the runway, we'll be in touch as the idea matures. We hope you're willing to play with this idea with us!

**All recycled materials are acceptable.** Materials used by designers in past years include plastic bags, feathers, warming blankets from a marathon, CDs and DVDs, newspaper, dryer lint, old tarps, candy wrappers, vinyl records, used videotape, and much more. Sew, weave or assemble your materials. Please label the sketch of your design so the panel can clearly imagine your vision.

**The final product needs to be a transformative creation.** Create high fashion from other people's castaways. Creating something new from something old is essential – just wearing old clothes doesn't count. The Design Panel prefers proposals that truly transform materials to be unrecognizable from their original purpose.

**Model your own work or design and recruit a model.** If you'd like to design but don't want to strut the runway, find a model – and a muse! Models will be required to attend a training session near the show date.

**Collaborate if you want.** Collaborative design teams are a great way to tackle a creative dream and build relationships. We all know flights of fancy can happen when creative people get together! The fashion show is a fun way for inspired coworkers or crafty friends to work together for a great cause.

**Organic material is okay if found,** but please don't denude any trees in pursuit of fashion. Label your design sketch so the panel can identify the materials you plan on using.

**The means of construction don't have to be recycled.** It's okay to use thread, staples, or tape to hold things together.

**Hair and makeup:** Professional hair styling and makeup are available upon request. If requested, you must consult with your hair/makeup artist.

**Proposals:** You can submit as many design proposals as you wish, but in order to include as many designers as possible, we may have to limit the number of accepted designs and or runway walks per designer. Some designers will have multiple designs accepted as long as they can walk down the runway together (i.e. a couple or a grouped theme).

**Tips and Notes for 2024:** To reboot the 9th Season of The ARTS Council's Fashion Show, we are working from the ground up, shoes that is! Audience members will be asked to slip on and show off their favorite footwear at this year's fundraiser and designers will be asked to upcycle a used pair of footwear to match their runway look. These upcycled shoe designs will be featured throughout the live event on Saturday, February 24, 2024. We can't wait to see you there!

**Questions?** Contact Meghan at [meghan@eARTS.org](mailto:meghan@eARTS.org).

*Looking for the unconventional and avant-garde!*