

Chuks Collins Leads African Fashion Pavilion NYC Activation and African Fashion Council Student Designer Competition

NEW YORK, NY, UNITED STATES, October 12, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Under the creative direction of multidisciplinary artist and designer [Chuks Collins](#), the African Fashion Council (AFC) proudly announces the African Fashion Pavilion NYC Activation — a cultural celebration merging mentorship, innovation, and fashion excellence. The Student Designer Competition invites emerging designers from top fashion institutions to explore the theme “Threads of Eatonville – Past, Present & Forward.”

“This activation isn’t just a showcase — it’s a bridge,” says Collins. “It’s about mentorship, storytelling, and legacy-building. From Eatonville to New York, this is our way of connecting the threads between past and future generations of designers.”

Applications are open to students currently enrolled in accredited fashion or design programs.

Finalists will be selected to present their capsule collections during the NYC showcase in front of press, buyers, stylists, and cultural leaders.

The grand prize winner will receive:

- A runway slot at the Pan-African Fashion & Food Expo (PAFFE) in 2027
- One-on-one mentorship with industry leaders
- Feature placement in the PAFFE marketing and media campaign
- A \$500 production grant and creative development support from AFC

Submissions must include:

- 3-5 original sketches or design renderings



The poster for the African Fashion Council Student Designer Competition 2025 features a background image of a woman with curly hair, wearing a white shirt and a yellow measuring tape, holding a coffee cup. The text on the poster includes:

Eatonville Rising & The African Fashion Council Presents
STUDENT DESIGNER COMPETITION 2025
THEME: THREADS OF EATONVILLE – PAST, PRESENT & FORWARD

Designers are invited to translate the heritage and renewal of Eatonville, Florida—one of America's first self-governed Black towns—into contemporary fashion storytelling. Finalists will be selected to present their capsule collections at the **African Fashion Pavilion NYC Activation** in November 2025.

Who Can Apply?

- Currently enrolled fashion & design students
- Students enrolled in school either a fashion program or otherwise.
- Designers with creativity & craftsmanship

What You'll Gain

- NYC Showcase at African Pavilion (Nov 2025)
- Featured Runway Slot at PAFFE 2027 (Orange County, Florida)
- Media Exposure & Professional Press Coverage
- Mentorship with Chuks Collins & AFC Team

Key Dates

- Application Deadline: October 15th, 2025
- Finalists Announced: October 16th, 2025
- **NYC Showcase:** November 11th, 2025

SCAN THE QR CODE TO APPLY NOW!

- A short concept statement (max 250 words)
- Proof of enrollment

Deadline: October 15, 2025

Application portal: <https://theafricanfashioncouncil.org/nyc-activation>

Presented by AFC and powered by Eatonville Rising – Sacred Ground and Storied Eyes: An Intellectual Journey, a program of the [Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community, Inc. \(P.E.C.\)](#), supported in part by the Orange County (Florida) Government's Arts & Cultural Affairs Program, the NYC Activation honors the legacy of Eatonville, Florida, one of America's first self-governed Black towns. Through this activation, AFC and Collins reaffirm their mission to amplify diasporic creativity and empower the next generation of designers with tangible opportunities for growth, exposure, and connection.

Media requests please contact Marie Driven Theodore at Playbook MG via marie@playbookmg.com.

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