

BSA's 25th Annual Fashion Show Sets the Stage This Year: Another Unforgettable Night

Every year, the Black Student Association (BSA) here at Loyola University Maryland transforms the final month on campus into a vibrant showcase of fashion, culture, and community. The annual BSA Fashion Show is more than just a stage with cool clothing, it is a celebration of Black creativity, talent, and heritage. As one of the university's most anticipated events, the show continues to grow in popularity with every year drawing in more students, faculty, and the attention of local business owners. Last year's show set the bar high, as the 25th show introduced a brand new milestone, the first-ever LMU Alumni Walk. This year, the BSA is ready to take things even further and bring back the shock factor.

The BSA is a student-led organization that is dedicated to creating a supportive environment for Black students and people of color here at Loyola. This show has continued to be a cornerstone of cultural celebration on campus. Through events like the fashion show, the BSA not only creates this space for every student to express themselves, but it also builds bridges between Loyola's students and the Baltimore County community.

Since its creation, the BSA Fashion Show has been a platform for showing talent, featuring students as models, scene leaders, and directors who all get to partner with Black-owned local businesses. Last year's event, themed "Afrotopia," brought together breathtaking designs, dynamic performances, and a sense of unity that was needed. With every catwalk and strut, students not only get to showcase fashion but also make a confident stance allowing self-expression.



Organizing an event of this scale is not an easy process. From having auditions, choosing models and scene leaders, choosing the local designers, choreographing the models' walks, to setting up lighting and sound. The BSA e-board has faced many challenges in bringing the 25th show to life. "The planning process was intense," said BSA president Alyssa Williams, reflecting on last year's event. "After seeing everything come together, watching my scene and seeing their confidence on stage just made it all worth it in the end".

One of the biggest highlights of the night was the introduction of the first-ever Alumni Walk. Featuring former BSA fashion show members who had once graced the same stage as students, creating such a moving tribute to the event's history and impact on Loyola.

The BSA Fashion Show isn't just about aesthetics, it's about the empowerment it provides. For many students of color at Loyola, the event provides the opportunity to see themselves represented and feel celebrated in a predominantly white institution. "Being a first-time model last year was so scary, but my nerves went away as soon as I felt the energy in the room," shared Kailyn Taylor, a junior at Loyola. "It wasn't just about looking good on stage, it felt so good to be seen".



Additionally, the show serves as an important link between Loyola students and Baltimore's Black-owned businesses. Designers, stylists, and boutique owners use the event as a platform to showcase their work, gaining exposure and support from the Loyola community.

Building off last year's success, the BSA is gearing up for an even bigger and better fashion show this year. With a fresh theme, a new designer, and returning alumni, the excitement is

already building. As one of Loyola's largest annual events, the show continues to sell out, proving its significance not just to the BSA members but to the entire university.

Beyond the runway, the BSA remains confident in its promise to promote awareness, inclusivity, and cultural pride. As the countdown to this year's event begins, one thing is certain: the BSA Fashion Show is not just a night of fashion, it's a night of Loyola history in the making.

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