

Dear Friends,

August 30, 2023

I am pleased to report that this has been an incredibly successful year for the LSU Textile & Costume Museum, and you and your support have made it all possible!

In the fall of last year, under the direction of board member Hollen Brown and with the support of committee members, we had our first-ever *Fall Pop-Up Sale!* Traffic was good, and about ten outside vendors sold various wares, including vintage jewelry, fashion, handmade wreaths, art prints, and more. We are still considering the viability of future pop-ups as fundraising events.

Spring was a busy time for the friends. In April, a new exhibition opened curated by Pamela Vinci entitled *'Til Trends Do Us Part: A Retrospective of Changing Fashion in Bridal Wear.* The opening in April was standing room only, and we offered our first-ever behind-the-scenes tours of collection storage—tour tickets sold out! Dusty Manson worked her usual magic to provide themed refreshments for the opening, and board members greeted guests. Thanks to the ongoing publicity efforts of Beth and Laura Phillips, the exhibition has been one of our best attended in history. Multiple local news outlets, including the *Advocate* and *InRegister*, ran stories about the show and mentioned us on social media. In May, Vice President Beth Phillips, with the support of her planning committee, delivered a beautiful reception at the Louisiana Governor's Mansion, where approximately eighty guests gathered to congratulate Pamela Vinci on her successful career with LSU and to wish her well in retirement. Pam's contributions to the museum over the years have been many, and her legacy and support will live on in the newly created [Pamela Rabalais-Vinci Museum Exhibition Support Fund](#). If you have not already done so, please consider donating to this account to honor Pam and support our exhibition efforts.



Left to right: Curator Emeritus Pam Vinci, First Lady of Louisiana Donna Edwards, Curator & Director Dr. Michael Mamp, President Jeanne Triche, and Vice President Beth Phillips at the Louisiana Governor's Mansion.

Included for your review with this letter are revised bylaws approved by the board at their last regular meeting. This long overdue revision simplifies many of our processes, reduces the size of our board, and places term limits on board member service. Several board members have tirelessly served the organization for decades, and I appreciate their efforts. As the LSU Textile & Costume Museum embarks on a new growth and public programming period, the time is right to welcome new ideas and involvement. Please take a moment to review the revised bylaws, and we appreciate ratification by the current paid membership at our annual meeting scheduled for October 1, 2023, from 2-4 pm.

This year our annual meeting will also be the opening of our next exhibition entitled *Women Fashioning Women* curated by Dr. Michael Mamp, which joins a burgeoning field of

inquiry regarding the history of women fashion designers. Ironically, in an industry fueled and supported by women, the accomplishments of women fashion designers are lesser known. We attempt to further expand the body of knowledge with an examination of the work of American and European women designers such as Gabrielle Chanel, Ceil Chapman, Anne Fogarty, Jeanne Lanvin, Claire McCardell, Vera Maxwell, Mary McFadden, Jeanne Paquin, Pauline Trigère, and many more. With a wide range of artifacts pulled from the holdings of the LSU Textile & Costume Museum and others borrowed from partner institutions, Dr. Mamp responds to the assessment of feminist and theorist Bell Hooks, who said, "to be in the margin is to be part of the whole but outside the main body." *Women Fashioning Women* repositions the accomplishments of influential but oft-forgotten women fashion designers, **solidifying their place in the main body of fashion history.**



Left to right: Mary McFadden lingerie dress and evening coat c. 1978; Vera Maxwell ensemble of lime green and royal blue silk shantung 1965 (scarf by Valerie Neumann); Pauline Trigère burnout velvet evening dress and sash c. 1980. Photo by Morgan Strzynski

Members like you make programming like this possible. Especially now, your membership matters as we embark upon a two-exhibition-per-year schedule. *Women Fashioning Women* will run from October 1 until March 28, 2024, and then, in late April 2024, we will open *Coming Home: Geoffrey Beene* at the TCM gallery and the LSU Museum of Art. Please consider generously renewing your membership or becoming a new member—help us by recruiting others you think may be interested in supporting the museum! We so greatly appreciate the long-term support of many of our constituents, and we also are eager to grow our membership. You can complete your membership donation online here: [Renew/Join Membership](#) or complete the enclosed form and send your check via the mail.

I hope to see you for our **annual meeting on October 1, 2023, from 2-4 pm in the Human Ecology Building lobby at 330 Tower Drive.** We will ratify our bylaws, approve the slate of nominees for officer positions, hear a program from Dr. Mamp introducing the new exhibition, and enjoy the beautiful new show that celebrates the accomplishments of women.

Thanks for your support; we are excited to see you in October! It has been my honor to serve as President.

With Gratitude,

Jeanne Triche
President
Friends of the LSU Textile & Costume Museum