

NONPROFITS

Prada, Dorchester Industries launch program supporting designers of color

September 1, 2021



The Dorchester Industries Experimental Design Lab is a three-year program that will serve as a platform for artists of color. Image credit: Prada Group

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Italy's Prada Group is collaborating with manufacturing organization [Dorchester Industries](#) to launch a program empowering designer of color.

Subscribe to **Luxury Daily**
Plus: Just released
State of Luxury 2019 **Save \$246 ▶**

Prada and Dorchester Industries have announced the launch of the Dorchester Industries Experimental Design Lab, a three-year program that will serve as a platform for artists of color. The first cohort of awardees will be selected and announced next month.

"I'm thrilled to collaborate with Prada Group to generate a new hub of design energy on the South Side by engaging a network of skilled designers, artists and intellectuals around our first cohort of awardees and their projects," said Theaster Gates, founder of Dorchester Industries and Rebuild Foundation and co-chair of the Prada Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Council, in a statement.

Platform for designers of color

The Dorchester Industries Experimental Design Lab is aiming to amplify the work of designers in fashion, furniture, industrial and graphic design and the arts. Through awards, the program will guarantee financial support and creative opportunities to foster relationships between talented designers of color and leading global companies.



The new program will foster emerging designers in Chicago. Image credit: Rebuild Foundation/Chris Strong

"For too long, our creative communities have possessed the talent but lacked exposure and opportunity," Mr. Gates said. "Now more than ever, today's leading creatives must elevate the work of emerging designers of color and connect them to great companies interested in diverse talent."

The program will be anchored in Chicago, where Mr. Gates established his Rebuild Foundation in 2009.

In May, Prada announced it was deepening its commitment to diversity and inclusion with new 2021 initiatives.

Prada is also partnering with the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) to develop scholarships which support aspiring fashion professionals and undergraduate students of color in the United States and Africa. The group is also working with the UNFPA, the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency, to develop an educational fashion module to promote gender quality in Africa ([see story](#)).

© 2021 Napean LLC. All rights reserved.

Luxury Daily is published each business day. Thank you for reading us. Your [feedback](#) is welcome.