

JEWELRY

## Natural Diamond Council welcomes latest class of emerging designers

January 26, 2023



*The Natural Diamond Council Class of 2023 including, Bernard James, Amina Sorel and Kristina Buckley Kayel on top from left to right; and Symone Cumie, Jessenia Landrum, Gwen Belotti and Rosario Navia, bottom left to right. Image credit: Natural Diamond Council*

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

The Natural Diamond Council is amplifying admittees to the Emerging Designers Diamond Initiative program for 2023.

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In partnership with bespoke jewelry designer Lorraine Schwartz, the program works to ease entry into the cloistered jewelry industry by providing underrepresented jewelry designers with ample market resources. Included in the program's provisions is a \$1 million-dollar allocation of diamond credit to those designers who are Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color (BIPOC).

"The diamond industry can be an extremely difficult industry to break into as an emerging designer because it is a tight knit, generational business that is passed down through family members and close friends," said Lorraine Schwartz, bespoke high jewelry designer, in a statement.

"Helping up-and-coming BIPOC designers gain entry to diamond vendors and credit financing as well as offer tools to expand their businesses is important to me and to the generations to come," Ms. Schwartz said. "This program is another opportunity to give back to those communities that have embraced me and have been a wonderful part of my journey as a designer over the last 20 years."

### Rising and shining

This year-long program provides its winners with a number of educational, financial and professional opportunities

Recognizing the difficulty in purchasing diamonds without connections or references, the program offers a \$20k worth of credit and a 24-month period during which to pay it back. It also helps them navigate the process surrounding the financing of diamonds.

The designers will be given access to all aspects of the business including marketing, legal, production and supply chain resources.

Educational opportunities include access to online learning platforms, diamond education seminars, individual

mentorship and sales advice.



*Natural Diamond Council provides a \$1 million diamond credit allocation to BIPOC designers. Image credit: Natural Diamond Council*

Among the program's promotional opportunities are monthly networking sessions, and having content featured on Natural Diamond Council's social media channels.

Designers must be U.S. based. Those jewelers who do not work with diamonds are still encouraged to apply.

Joining Ms. Schwartz on the selection committee are David Kellie, CEO of Natural Diamond Council as well as Rajni Jacques, global head of fashion and Beauty Partnerships at Snapchat. Rounding out the panel is Jason Rembert, stylist, designer and founder of Aliette.

The Natural Diamond Council seeks to educate the public about gemstones through a number of different avenues.

In September of this year, the organization appointed British actress Lily James as its global brand ambassador ([see story](#)).

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