

RETAIL

NMG partners with National Minority Supplier Development Council

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The new program can reimburse brands for the fees attached to gaining NMSDC certification. Image credit: NMSDC

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

U.S. retail group NMG is supporting apparel labels founded by diverse creatives.

Forging a new partnership with American non-profit National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC), the conglomerate is granting access to its resources to help upstart companies scale their business. The move is a part of NMG's ongoing quest to meet and exceed ESG goals.

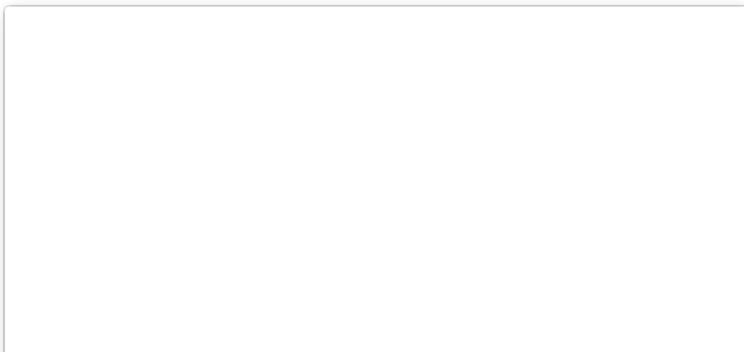
"As a relationship business, NMG is committed to cultivating a culture of belonging that celebrates diverse backgrounds and experiences in our workforce and our marketplace," said Eric Severson, chief people, ESG and belonging officer at NMG, in a statement.

"Through our partnership with NMSDC, we're taking important steps toward standardizing recognition for diverse-owned brands within the fashion industry, while empowering our brand partners and suppliers to join us."

ESG extended

The new program can reimburse brands for the fees attached to gaining NMSDC certification, which supplies businesses with networking opportunities, capacity building and contracting offers with the council's 1,700 corporate members, NMG included.

This repayment is completed through a grant, which is applicable to fashion labels and suppliers who meet the non-profit's qualifications, are minority-owned and are not certified yet. During the group's 2024 fiscal year, it has a goal to certify 25 companies and vendors.



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To honor Black History Month, NMG is spotlighting four African-American-owned brands, Lalais, anOnlyChild, V.Bellan and Soko, that are a part of the initiative.

“SOKO is thrilled to join forces with Neiman Marcus Group and the National Minority Supplier Development Council,” said Shamika Lee, chief operating officer of SOKO, in a statement.

“Our commitment to craftsmanship and social impact aligns seamlessly with NMG’s vision, and together, we’re creating opportunities that extend beyond commerce, shaping a narrative of diversity, belonging, and conscious consumerism.”

NMG’s efforts to support diverse voices are part of its ESG Strategy, specifically, its goal to increase its spending with minority-owned businesses by 2025. According to its 2023 ESG report, the company is making strides internally to improve racial and ethnic diversity at all levels of employment ([see story](#)).

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