

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

'Threads of Impact' theme guides upcoming FIT Annual Gala

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The professional's contributions to American culture and fashion. Image credit: FIT

By ZACH JAMES FOR LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

The Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) is celebrating the career of a tenured business leader.

Taking place on April 14 at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York, the school's 2026 Annual Gala will follow the theme of "Threads of Impact." Richard Dickson, president and CEO of American apparel company Gap Inc., is this year's guest of honor, as FIT highlights the professional's philanthropic contributions and impact on American fashion and popular culture.

"We are thrilled to celebrate Richard Dickson at FIT's Annual Gala, in recognition of his remarkable achievements and leadership," said Jason S. Schupbach, president of FIT, in a statement.

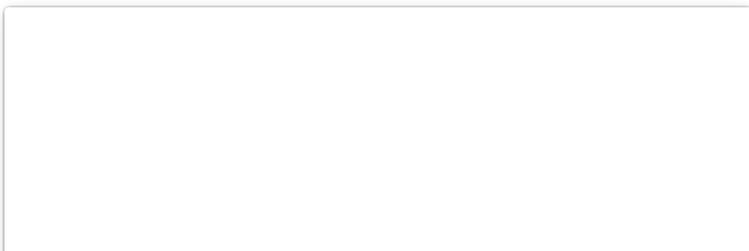
"Richard's commitment to empowering the next generation reflects the heart of our mission and inspires the entire FIT community," Mr. Schupbach said. "We are grateful for his generous support, as his work affirms what FIT has always shown: that when industry and education work as one, they are the catalyst for real-world change that shifts our culture."

Industry spotlight

Mr. Dickson has led Gap since July 2023, but joined its board of directors in 2022 while at the helm of toy company Mattel.

While at the children's goods manufacturing company, he oversaw the reinvigoration of the Hot Wheels, Fisher-Price and Barbie brands he also served as an executive producer of the hit *Barbie* feature film. Now, he guides Old Navy, Banana Republic, Athleta and Gap, with the latter label surging in relevance and sales since his appointment.

The executive is also being recognized for his support of children afflicted with AIDS and HIV, as well as for his commitment to corporate responsibility. For these efforts, he previously received the Elizabeth Taylor Commitment to End AIDS Award and the Chief Executives for Corporate Purpose Force for Good Award.



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“Gap Inc. is a house of iconic American brands guided by our purpose to bridge gaps to create a better world; that includes bridging the opportunity gap,” said Mr. Dickson, in a statement.

“FIT embodies that same spirit, bringing education and industry together to unlock talent and expand what’s possible,” he said. “We’re committed to opening doors, investing in emerging creatives, and building meaningful pathways into this industry for the next generation.

“I’m truly honored by this recognition and proud to champion the students and future leaders who will shape what’s next in design and fashion.”

[Registration](#) to attend the event is available now. Last year, FIT presented the 2025 Couture Council Award for Artistry of Fashion to French designer Olivier Rousteing during its fall luncheon ([see story](#)).

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