

Fashion Icon April Walker Celebrated at Fifth Annual National Black Footwear Forum

The recognition occurred at the fifth annual National Black Footwear Forum



in urban fashion and streetwear, was honored with unveiling the April Walker Apparel Design Creation Stu/deo at [Pensole Lewis College](#) (PLC Detroit), the only design-focused HBCU. This recognition occurred during the fifth annual [National Black Footwear Forum](#), collaborating with the Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America (FDRA). The event was attended by key industry figures, media, and select friends and family, creating an atmosphere of celebration and camaraderie.

The studio encapsulated storytelling at its best, featuring walls adorned with photos showcasing Walker's journey from her early days to the present. A striking life-size mural of Walker, painted by renowned muralist Sydney James, added a vibrant touch to the space, further enriching the narrative of her impactful career.

The National Black Footwear Forum serves as a yearly platform for innovation and empowerment, bringing together creative professionals, students, executives, and supporters to promote inclusivity and diversity in the industry.

As a creative director, educator, and author, Walker has made a significant impact on the fashion landscape. She played a crucial role in building a multi-billion-dollar streetwear industry, overcoming distribution challenges, achieving millions in sales, and collaborating with icons such as Run-DMC, LL Cool J, and Wu-Tang Clan. Walker also designed costumes for Tupac in *Above the Rim* and had Mike Tyson wear products from *Walker Wear* in the boxing ring. Fab Five Freddy has famously called her the “Coco Chanel of hip-hop urban fashion.”

“I felt a profound sense of humility,” Walker remarked. “The opening of my design stu/deo is a full-circle moment for me. After over 30 years of hard work, I’m honored to see this dream realized.”

Walker’s contributions have been recognized by prestigious organizations, including Forbes and CFDA, and her impact is further highlighted in acclaimed documentaries, including Netflix’s “Ladies First” and NBC’s “50 Years Fly.”

Discussing her vision for the stu/deo, Walker expressed her aspiration to inspire the next generation of designers: “I aim to create a space that fosters creativity, encourages aspiring designers to dream big, and transforms ideas into reality. It will connect the past with the future and serve as an incubator for innovation.”

Her mission extends beyond fashion; she is a strong advocate for change in the urban fashion industry, promoting opportunities for people of color through her “each one, teach one” philosophy. The success of various brands emerging from her program underscores her commitment to community, culture, and social equity.

“This dedicated space symbolizes a heartfelt full-circle moment,” Walker stated. “It connects the past with the present and inspires future creators about what is possible—a testament to the power of vision and the dandelion effect.”

April Walker’s legacy is defined by her commitment to transformative change and creating opportunities for all. “I owe it all to God for guiding me on this journey. Being acknowledged and having the chance to honor my dreams while positively impacting others is truly gratifying.”

Follow April on Instagram at [@iamaprilwalker](#). For more details about the Black Footwear Forum, visit [www.blackfootwearforum.com](#) or follow PLC Detroit on Instagram [@plcdetroit](#) for updates and event coverage.

Media Contact

PCPR

pcpr@pcpr.co

Source : Pensole Lewis College

[See on IssueWire](#)