Refugee Artisans and Local Designers Collaborate on One-of-a-Kind Masterpieces

ECDC African Community Center’s We Made This Announces Designing Women: A Cross-Cultural Collaboration in Support of Local Refugee Designers

DENVER, June 22, 2017 – ECDC African Community Center’s We Made This program, a sewing training and entrepreneurship initiative for Denver-area refugees, announces Designing Women: A Cross-Cultural Design Collaboration. Lt. Governor Donna Lynne will join the celebration to share welcoming remarks.

The We Made This program, which seeks to unlock the courage and creativity of refugees through a multicultural sewing community, has paired recent graduates with local professional designers to collaborate on innovative apparel designs. The Designing Women gala will showcase their collaborative designs together with art pieces and codesigned home goods. In addition to enjoying music, a silent auction, drinks and heavy d’oeuvres from across the globe, guests may participate in a live auction of the designs, learn about the design collaboration, and see the first showing of the new We Made This video.

The event will take place on Friday, July 21 from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Space Gallery, 400 Santa Fe Drive, Denver. It will be an opportunity to enjoy unique cross-cultural designs, experience the design process, and show support for Denver’s refugee community and the work of ECDC’s African Community Center and We Made This. Managing Director, Melissa Theesen states, “Refugees bring incredible resilience, creativity, and passion to our community. The showcase designs are going to be remarkable.” General Admission tickets start at $50 and all funds raised will benefit We Made This programming and participants. Tickets can be purchased here.


ECDC African Community Center (ACC) is a branch office of the Ethiopian Community Development Council that has helped refugees and immigrants build safe, sustainable lives in the Denver area for more than 15 years. Reception and placement activities that ACC conducts are paid for, in part, through financial assistance provided by the Department of State. We Made This is a program of ECDC/ACC, which is funded in part by the Colorado Refugee Services Program. CRSP is a division of the Colorado Department of Human Services and funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Refugee Resettlement. ACC is a 501(c)(3) entity. For more information about ACC, visit www.acc-den.org and follow on Facebook.

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