THE FABSCRAP ANNUAL REPORT

2016/2017
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OUR MISSION

FABSCRAP is a new kind of non-profit building the infrastructure to assist the fashion, entertainment, and interior design industries to measure and extend the life of their unwanted fabrics.

BY
- providing convenient pickup of unwanted fabrics and utilizing the most current recycling technologies,
- serving as an accessible resource for high-quality and affordable material,
- tracking, compiling and sharing all data possible . . .

WE AIM TO
- maximize diversion of commercial textile waste from landfill,
- engage the local creative community in reuse,
- educate the industry and public about the value of textiles, the environmental consequences of textile waste, and the current end-of-use options.
FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

FABSCRAP’S first annual report! I’m so proud of what we’ve started and so humbled by the support we’ve received from brands, volunteers, and makers.

I’d like to take this opportunity to document FABSCRAP’s formation. Prior to its launch, I worked at the NYC Department of Sanitation. While managing the City’s clothing recycling program, several brands asked me how to recycle the textile waste created by their companies. It didn’t fit within the City’s program and I was unable to find another solution for them. It was frustrating; we’re so programmed to believe that businesses are only concerned with the bottom line, yet here were several companies seeking sustainability! I started a working group with about 30 members—all from within the fashion industry—to examine the problem. Shout out to those individuals who cared enough to spend time on this issue, meeting regularly and recording textile waste data from their office, and non-competitively sharing all the info and resources they could find. What I learned in this working group became the foundation for FABSCRAP. I had the opportunity to pitch the model to a panel of investors on the show Project Runway: Fashion Startup, and from that experience gained the capital to get started and three new board members. They encouraged me to file for nonprofit status, which we received September 6, 2016.

More so than any individual effort or idea, I truly believe the growth and success of FABSCRAP speaks to the insidious scale of the textile waste problem. It’s so pervasive that we spent this year simply responding to the demand for service. Almost without fail, the requests were accompanied with some shame—everyone is disappointed when beautiful, usable fabric is sent to landfill and knows we, collectively, should be doing better. FABSCRAP innately honors all those who took fabric home, who stored it under their desks, who never stopped searching for options. Likewise, I hope FABSCRAP is a new resource and relief for the many creators, makers, and designers already dedicated to using vintage or secondhand fabrics and committed to sustainability. Finally, I will never cease to be amazed by and appreciative of the many, many volunteers who really walk the talk and felt compelled to get involved by spending time at FABSCRAP.

This year FABSCRAP evolved from idea to operating organization to sincere, knowledgeable, enthusiastic, caring community. Thank you for being part of it. – Jessica Schreiber

Jessica Schreiber, founder and Executive Director of FABSCRAP.
May 2016
Jessica making the very first FABSCRAP client textile pickup.

January 2016
The first FABSCRAP volunteer session, exceeding all expectations from the creative community.

November 2016
Founder Jessica Schreiber pitches FABSCRAP on Project Runway: Fashion Startup.

June 2017
Our first official hire, Annie Keating joins the FABSCRAP team.

September 2017
First Pop-Up Shop at PhilaU in collaboration with DESIGN UP STUDIO.

September 2017
Our first delivery of recyclable material to the shredder, the process of making shoddy.

November 2017
FABSCRAP partners with our 100th client, both a milestone and a measure of support.

November 2017
A special feature in Apparel Magazine names Jessica Schreiber one of the industry’s Under 30 Elite.

December 2017
FABSCRAP moves out of storage and into the warehouse in Jamaica, Queens.

September 2017
FABSCRAP launches our Super Scrappy fundraising campaign to support the work we do.

December 2017
DESIGN UP STUDIO becomes part of FABSCRAP, with Camille Tagle as co-founder.
HOW TO BE FAB

FABSCRAP is a Service, and a Resource. Our unique process is designed to make it as easy as possible to be a client, and as compelling as possible to access our materials for reuse. All the while we are creating a new community of like-minded individuals.

INCOMING MATERIALS / FABSCRAP IS A SERVICE

**step ONE**
**PICK UP**
Businesses who sign up for service receive brown and/or black FABSCRAP bags to easily collect unwanted material and can conveniently schedule a pickup of the full bags and/or rolls of unwanted fabric.

**step TWO**
**SORTING and TRACKING**
With the help of volunteers, we sort the incoming material for reuse or recycling. Part of what makes FABSCRAP unique is the meticulous data we capture on all incoming, sorted, and outgoing material.

OUTGOING MATERIALS / FABSCRAP IS A RESOURCE

**step THREE**
**REUSE**
Fabric greater than one yard, spandex, leather, trims and yarns are saved for reuse. We're increasing accessibility to high-quality materials through our Reuse Room, regular Pop-Up Shops, and our online store.

**step FOUR**
**RECYCLING**
Fabric less than one yard and proprietary materials are shredded into shoddy – which is used in insulation, carpet padding, moving blankets, etc. Paper and cardboard are separated for recycling as well.

**step FIVE**
**OUTREACH**
A significant amount of time is spent in classrooms, on panels, at events, giving tours, and creating content to share our data and research on textile waste. We’re educating the next generation of the fashion industry.
1. **MEET FABSCRAP**

We are both a SERVICE and a RESOURCE. FABSCRAP is proving it is possible to positively disrupt the commercial textile waste industry in New York City. We’re diverting valuable materials from landfill, while providing the creative community with a new opportunity for more sustainable sourcing... one bag at a time.
FABSCRAP is a service for incoming materials. We provide reusable FABSCRAP bags in two colors: black, for proprietary materials and brown, for everything else. Companies can order as many bags as they need. When the bags are full or there are rolls ready, we’re there to pick up. We bring replacement bags to the pickup, so there is no interruption in recycling.

The unique data we collect
We weigh all incoming material and all sorted material by company. Annually or upon request, each company receives a report detailing: total weight diverted from landfill, the end-use of sorted material, and the environmental impact as CO2 emissions saved. It is important to note that while there is growing data to measure the amount of clothing entering landfills, FABSCRAP is the only organization creating a data pool and publicly sharing measures and characterizations of the hidden commercial textile waste stream.

We collect 27 bags per week. That’s an average of 926 lbs four times a month. (Left)
WE ARE A SERVICE

KEY RESULTS
FABSCRAP is meticulously measuring the commercial textile waste stream, data that is critical and currently missing in the fashion industry.

926 Lbs. PER WEEK IN 2017.

THE AVERAGE CLIENT PICK-UP IS SEVEN BAGS.
The equivalent of 215 Lbs. PER REQUEST.

FABSCRAP COLLECTS 5,402 Lbs. OF TEXTILES EVERY MONTH.

FABSCRAP 2017 TOTALS 68,717 Lbs.

<table>
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<th>Properly</th>
<th>Non-Properly</th>
<th>Recycling</th>
<th>Reuse</th>
<th>Landfill</th>
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<tr>
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<td>non-proprietary</td>
<td>bags</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>250</td>
<td>135</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

FABSCRAP IS ONLY POSSIBLE THROUGH THE HANDS-ON WORK OF MOVING, STORING, SORTING, AND REDISTRIBUTING HUNDREDS OF POUNDS OF TEXTILES EVERY DAY.
FABSCRAP is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization rethinking commercial textile waste. We provide convenient pickup of unwanted textiles from NYC businesses for recycling and reuse, ensuring the maximum diversion of textiles from landfill, by utilizing the most current recycling technologies and engaging the local creative community in reuse. This is a summary of your company’s participation and impact. Thank you for being FAB!

# Sorting Stats

We keep any fabric greater than one yard, all leather and fur, yarns, and trims for reuse. We sort for 100% cotton, 100% polyester, and 100% wool to gather data in anticipation of potential fiber-to-fiber recycling opportunities. We sort out fabric with ANY spandex content. All other fabric blends are sorted together. We remove all paper and cardboard for recycling and aim to throw away as little as possible.

**REUSABLE FABRIC - 33%**
- 100% POLYESTER - 1.5%
- ANY SPANDEX - 18%
- PAPER - 17%
- 100% COTTON - 9%
- 100% WOOL - 0.9%
- OTHER FIBERS/BLENDS - 30%
- LANDFILL - 3%

**What happens to all the material we collect and sort? There are three main destinations...**

- **Recycling** - Fabric less than one yard, proprietary materials, paper, and cardboard.
- **Reuse** - Fabric greater than one yard, spandex, leather, trims, yarns.
- **Landfill** - Proprietary fabrics, spandex content, proprietary leather, unusable trims, and plastic film.

# Sharing Data

FABSCRAP shares data with our clients in their individual Annual Report. We broadly inspire brands to become aware of their waste in both volume and the massive untapped opportunity for reuse.

**FABSCRAP is the only resource for pre-consumer textile waste data is collected, some examples of the final individual client reports. (Right)**
“FABSCRAP’ing is catching on as a verb in our office as in, to FABSCRAP!”

- FABSCRAP CLIENT

“It’s a relief to know we’re making an effort, hopefully the FABSCRAP data will inspire better practices.”

- FABSCRAP CLIENT

WHO’S FAB

FABSCRAP proudly provides service and/or material to like minded change-maker brands and businesses. In our first year, we recycled fabric from 107 fashion and interior brands. We let every client decide whether we can publicly share our partnership, about 1/3 are listed here.

Kozinn + Sons
Lafayette 148
Loomstate
Maiyet

Abraham
ADAY
Better Than Jam
BF+DA
Earth Angel
Eileen Fisher
Ellery Homestyles
ESPRIT
Express
GRAMMAR
Himatingka
J. Crew
Kahle
Kordal

Mara Hoffman
Marc Jacobs
MM. LaFleur
Nautica

Oscar de la Renta
Petite Soul
PonyBabe
Rallier
Reboundwear
Steven Alan
Tracy Reese
Victor
Lori Weitzner
Ziel
END USES
We keep all fabrics greater than one yard, any non-proprietary fabric containing spandex, leather, fur, sequins, trims, and yarns for reuse. Fabric less than one yard and proprietary material without spandex is shredded into a material called shoddy for insulation, carpet padding, and moving blankets. We specifically sort for fibers with high potential for use in fiber-to-fiber recycling technologies. All paper and cardboard is recycled as well. Though our aim is to send as little as possible to landfill, currently there is no other option for proprietary spandex, proprietary leather, unusable trims, and plastic film.

MAKING RECOVERED TEXTILES EASILY ACCESSIBLE
Our “Reuse Room” is a dedicated retail space within our warehouse, open by appointment, where designer fabrics are sold by the pound. At the end of 2017, FABSCRAP joined forces with DESIGN UP STUDIO to host 8 fabric pop-up shops at local fashion schools.

FREE FABRIC
We are proud to provide free textiles to other nonprofits, teachers, charitable projects and to our dedicated community of volunteers.

MORE THAN HALF OF THE FABRIC WE COLLECT IS LATER AVAILABLE FOR REUSE TO OUR VOLUNTEERS AND THROUGH OUR SHOPS. (Left)
WE ARE A RESOURCE

Key Results

FABSCRAP is making it easier than ever to access and up-cycle high-quality material discarded by the fashion industry.

3,918 Lbs.
OF FABRIC PROVIDED FREE TO CHARITIES, NON-PROFITS, AND OUR VOLUNTEERS.

13,858 Lbs.
TOTAL AMOUNT OF FABRIC DIVERTED FROM LANDFILLS FOR REUSE.

55% MATERIAL SORTED FOR REUSE IS GIVEN AWAY.

45% MATERIAL SORTED FOR REUSE IS SOLD.

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5,000 LBS OF TEXTILES, THE AVERAGE MONTH FOR FABSCRAP.
Through our service and outreach, FABSCRAP is drawing attention to the commercial textile waste problem. We’re not only sharing data to re-educate a network of individuals and industry professionals, we are creating the opportunities to be an active part of finding the solution . . . rewriting the future of the industry.
FABSCRAP'S VOLUNTEERS

There is no mechanized system for sorting textiles by fiber or to remove stickers, staples, and headers. FABSCRAP couldn’t operate without our dedicated volunteers. What started as one day of volunteer sessions each week has grown to four full days of volunteer help. Each three-hour session includes an introduction to FABSCRAP, a warehouse tour, and short training. At the end of the sorting session, our volunteers may select up to 5 pounds of fabric for free!

FABSCRAP EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Reaching out to current and future fashion professionals amplifies the potential for change in our industry. FABSCRAP spent 78 hours guest lecturing in classrooms, speaking on panels, being interviewed on pod-casts or for the press, and tabling at sustainability events. Based on attendance and reported listeners, over 80,000 people have been exposed to our work and the urgent problem of textile waste.

CREATING COMMUNITY

LEADING CHANGE
OUR OUTREACH

Key Results
We combine meticulous record keeping with a spirit of community. Our data is exceptional, but FABSCRAP could not exist without our volunteers.

1/10 VOLUNTEERS RETURN FOR MORE AFTER THEIR FIRST SESSION.

585 INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS IN OUR FIRST YEAR.

2,423 Lbs. OF INCOMING MATERIALS SORTED EVERY MONTH.

OVER 80,000 STUDENTS, INDIVIDUALS AND INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS EDUCATED ABOUT TEXTILE WASTE THROUGH OUR COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.

78 HOURS LOGGED BY JESSICA IN PANELS, TOURS AND EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH.

FABSCRAP IS THE TEAMWORK OF CARING AND COMMITTED INDIVIDUALS, AND SIMPLY WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT EVERY HELPING HAND.
FABS C R A P IS BUILDING A COMMUNITY.
3. FINANCIALS

FABSCRAP’S fee-for-service model holds the fashion industry responsible for funding one solution to the textile waste problem. We launched with generous contributions from our board and greatly appreciate the support of all our customers. Our largest programmatic expenses are storage space (warehouse rent) and transportation.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Some, not nearly enough, heartfelt thanks to the people, businesses, and organizations that have contributed to FABSCRAP in our rookie year . . .

FABSCRAP BOARD
Gary Wassner  David Hirschler  Christine Hunsicker
Rebecca Minkoff  Nicholas Dominguez  Jessica Schreiber
For their insight, direction and dedication in our first year.

Hanky Panky – for the hospitality and warehouse incubation space.
MPH – for consistent and customer focused pickup service.
Anand Kapasi – for invaluable legal advice and guidance.
Queen of Raw – for helping us reach a new audience of sustainable fabric buyers on-line.
David Hirschler – for the anytime advice and vote of confidence to take the leap in the first place.
Emily Freyer, Caitlin Ratzer, Nick Prior – for doing more than was ever fair to ask.
Valentina Huete, Gilbert Sanchez, Brittany Dickinson, Rachel Giudici – for enthusiasm and weight lifting.
Annie Keating – our first intern and irreplaceable first employee of FABSCRAP.
Camille Tagle – kindred spirit in fighting textile waste, entrepreneurial drive, and clean workspaces.
Narcille Lorio – for generous and game-changing financial support.
Nick Dominguez – for sharing the roller coaster ride from the start.
McGuffin&Co – for visualizing the FABSCRAP story beyond the data for Client Reports and the first Annual Report.
Fumihiko Sugino – photography assistant.
Melissa Levy – styling and fashion, represented by Streeters London.