The Patchwork Initiative

A collaborative initiative of the S.o.G.E.S Student Sustainability Center, Dep. of Design and Merchandising & the Avenir Museum
**Origins & Overview**

*The Patchwork Initiative* is a student-led, cross-collaborative project on CSU’s campus with the goals of reducing clothing consumption and growing a culture of clothing restoration campus and in the community.

- Led by the SoGES Student Sustainability Center working closely with campus partners, the *The Patchwork* draws inspiration from small-scale, circular economics models.

- Building off of previous supply-chain textile efforts from the Student Sustainability Center, research and community efforts put forth by *CSU’s Department of Design and Merchandising*.

- Leaning into a growing interest in thrift, clothing reuse and clothing waste reduction seen across campus and within the student body, help collectively organize and combine efforts for clothing swap events.

- Raise awareness of the sustainability impacts and environmental damage of the clothing and textile industry.
The Patchwork’s Intentions

**Inform** - community members and students on environmental, social and economic issues within the fashion and textile industry via engaging expert panels, tabling events and outreach campaigns.

**Train** - interactive, community centered free or low cost educational workshops on basic clothing repair, reuse and “upcycling”.

**Assist** - Help offer low-cost, anonymous opportunities for students in need to access professional clothing. Additionally, help offer clothing repair skills to the greater community and those in need.

**Reduce** - seasonal clothing waste at CSU by periodically collecting pre-loved and lightly used seasonal clothing from students, faculty, staff, and community members to use second hand. Additionally, work to reduce club driven clothing orders on our campus.
So Far...

3 Official Campus Partners ~ 7* Mending Workshops & Special Events
100+ students instructed ~ 150-200 hrs
So Far – Workshops & Panels

● **Pres 1; Sustainability in Textiles**
  ○ (02/22)Presented by Dr. Sonali Diddi.
  ○ Primer to sustainability in fashion.
  ○ First official Patchwork event.

● **MW 1; Mending Fundamentals - Stitching**
  ○ First workshop attempt.
  ○ Entirely led by our student workshop team lead, Caelan.

● **MW 2; Special Mending Techniques - Darning**
  ○ First co-taught event.
  ○ Led by workshop team, alongside Avenir Director, Doreen Beard

● **MW 3; Special Mending Techniques - Patches**
  ○ Student taught.
  ○ Much less instructional, more 1:1 support environment
So Far - Special Events

● **Night at the Museum**
  ○ Hosted by the Avenir Museum of Design & Merchandising.
  ○ Multiple 200 year old clothing articles.
  ○ Exposed students to the historical nature and powerful potential of mending.

● **(Upcoming) CSU Mending Cafe**
  ○ CSU Earth Week Fair
  ○ First student-focused mending cafe.
  ○ Exposure to the student body.

● **(Upcoming) FoCo Earth Week Mending Cafe**
  ○ First community-facing patchwork event.
  ○ Reboot of successful 2018/2019 Fashion & Apparel Merchandising Mending Cafe series which brought immense community support.
What comes next...

Fall 2022 (Official launch semester!)

- 2 Student led, faculty co-hosted skill-building Workshops.
- 2 Social mending events.
- 1 community-focused workshop.
- Campus-wide semester clothing swap
- *New Student Orientation workshop?
- Mended special historic exhibit hosted by the Patchwork and our partners at the Avenir Museum