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

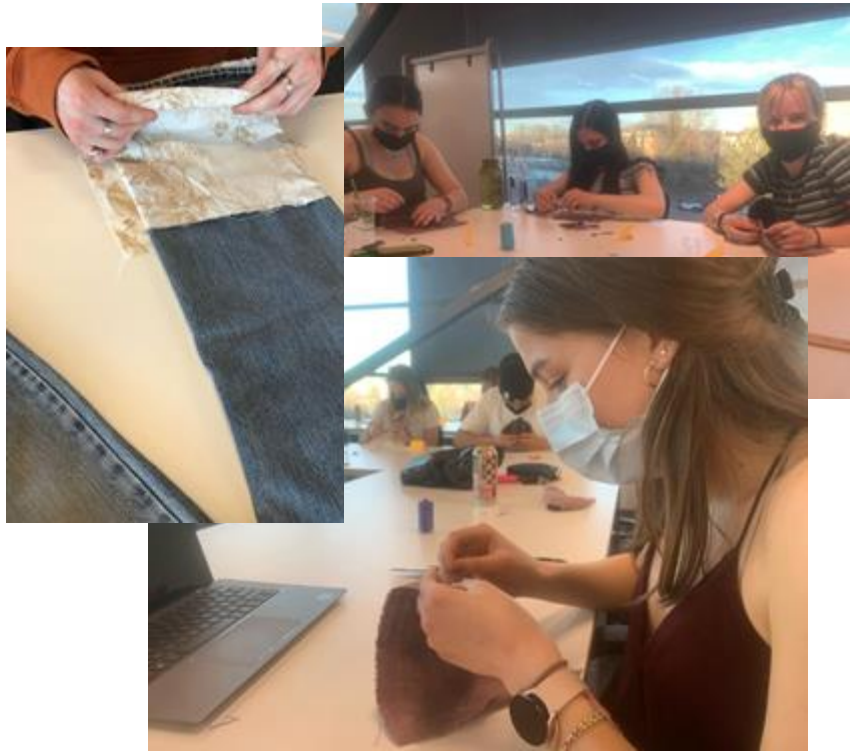
So Far - Workshops & Panels

- **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
- *Mended* special historic exhibit hosted by the *Patchwork* and our partners at the Avenir Museum
- *New Student Orientation workshop?