DECEMBER 2026 / CULTURE + STYLE

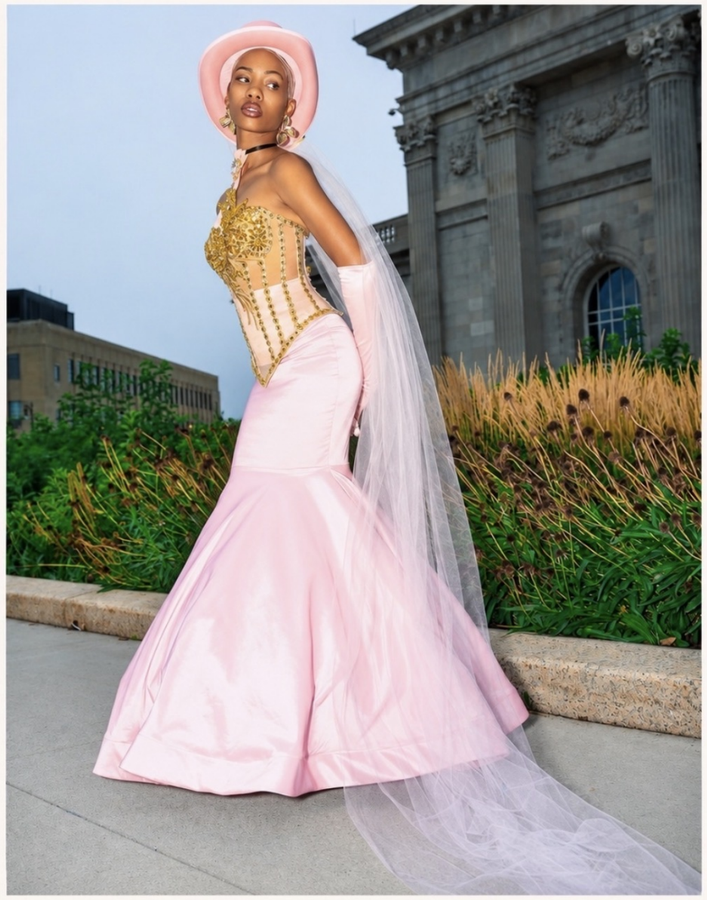
THE DET GALA

WHERE FASHION BECOMES ART AND DETROIT BECOMES THE CANVAS

BY BEAUTIFUL MACHINE STAFF

Detroit has never needed permission to make a fashion statement. From the polished elegance of Motown's golden era to the bold streetwear and independent designers defining its contemporary style, this city has always understood that fashion is more than clothing. It's identity, attitude and artistic expression. On Saturday, December 5, 2026, that philosophy will take center stage as the inaugural DET Gala transforms ONE5ONE Showcase in Downtown Detroit into a celebration of fashion, art, music and culture.

DET GALA





Produced by Daishawn Franklin of Indie Fashion, the event will bring together designers, visual artists, entertainers, cultural influencers and some of Detroit's most stylish personalities for an evening built around one compelling theme: “Fashion Is Art.” Rather than follow the familiar formula of a traditional black-tie affair, the DET Gala is inviting guests to become part of the creative experience. Its official dress code, “Dress As Art,” encourages attendees to abandon conventional formalwear in favor of dramatic silhouettes, unexpected textures, architectural designs and personal interpretations of wearable art. The red carpet will be more than an entrance. It will be an extension of the exhibition, with guests contributing to the visual spectacle.

That approach feels particularly fitting for Detroit, a city whose influence on music, fashion and popular culture has never depended on following trends. Detroit creates its own. The DET Gala aims to capture that independent spirit while providing a sophisticated platform for the designers and artists helping shape the city's creative future. At the heart of the evening will be curated runway presentations featuring independent fashion designers, complemented by immersive art installations, gallery exhibits and a silent auction. The concept places fashion alongside traditional visual art, recognizing the craftsmanship, imagination and cultural storytelling that connect the two.

Adding considerable star power to the celebration is R&B superstar Donell Jones, whose unmistakable voice and enduring catalog have made him a favorite among generations of music lovers. Known for classics including “Where I Wanna Be,” “U Know What's Up” and “You Know That I Love You,” Jones will headline the evening's gala celebration with a special live performance. His music brings a sense of nostalgia and romance to an event already designed around elegance and artistic expression. Additional entertainment will feature Larry Callahan & Selected of God, offering guests another musical highlight during the festivities.

Detroit's own Kash Doll will also make a special guest appearance as the gala's “Queen of the City.” The rapper and entertainer has built a career around confidence, individuality and an unapologetic connection to her hometown. Her presence reinforces the relationship between fashion, music and cultural influence that defines the evening. Known for embracing glamour while maintaining her unmistakable Detroit personality, Kash Doll embodies the kind of self-expression the gala encourages. Alongside Jones, she brings a compelling combination of contemporary star power and established R&B excellence to the inaugural celebration.

While the entertainment lineup is impressive, the DET Gala's larger significance lies in the opportunities it creates for Detroit's fashion and artistic communities. The city has no shortage of designers with original ideas, distinctive aesthetics and the ambition to reach broader audiences. What emerging talent often needs is visibility and access to spaces where creativity can connect with opportunity. By placing independent designers before an audience of tastemakers, entertainers, community leaders and fashion enthusiasts, the gala has the potential to introduce new names, encourage collaborations and strengthen the relationships that help a creative industry grow.

DET GALA





The evening will unfold through a series of experiences beginning at 6 p.m. with an exclusive VIP GOLD Gallery Reception and Silent Auction. General admission guests will arrive at 7:30 p.m. for an art exhibit and cocktail reception, followed by the fashion show at 8:30 p.m. The celebration moves into its final phase at 9:30 p.m., when Donell Jones takes the stage as part of THE GALA festivities. Each element has been designed to give guests an opportunity to engage with the work, personalities and performances that make up Detroit's creative landscape.

Beyond the glamour, the inaugural event will also support a meaningful cause, with proceeds benefiting Sabrina's Girls. The charitable component connects the evening's celebration of artistic achievement with a commitment to community impact. It's a connection that matters in Detroit, where creativity, entrepreneurship and community investment have long helped define the city's character. By incorporating philanthropy into its foundation, the DET Gala has an opportunity to establish an identity that extends beyond the red carpet.

THE CITY THAT MADE ITS OWN RULES

The Next Chapter of Detroit Style

The arrival of the DET Gala also speaks to a broader evolution taking place within Detroit's cultural landscape. Long recognized for its contributions to music, automotive design and American style, the city continues to develop new platforms for its creative talent. Independent designers, photographers, stylists, visual artists and entrepreneurs are building a fashion community with its own identity, one that draws inspiration from Detroit's history without being confined by it. Events that bring these disciplines together can play an important role in expanding that visibility and creating opportunities that extend well beyond a single evening.

For Franklin and Indie Fashion, the inaugural DET Gala represents an ambitious step toward establishing a distinctive annual cultural experience. Its combination of fashion, visual art, live entertainment and philanthropy offers a fresh interpretation of what a Detroit gala can be. More importantly, it places the city's creative talent at the center of the conversation rather than treating it as a

When the doors open on December 5, the most memorable statements may come not only from the runway or the stage, but from the guests themselves. That's the beauty of an event built around artistic freedom. Every silhouette, every unexpected design and every personal expression becomes part of the experience. With Donell Jones delivering the soundtrack, Kash Doll bringing hometown star power and Detroit's designers showcasing their creativity, the DET Gala is positioning itself as a celebration worthy of the city that inspired it.

The inaugural DET Gala takes place Saturday, December 5, 2026, at ONE5ONE Showcase, 151 W. Fort Street in Downtown Detroit. Festivities begin at 6 p.m., with tickets and additional information available at www.thedetgala.com. Follow @thedetgala on Instagram for event updates.

In a city that has spent generations influencing the way the world looks, sounds and dresses, the message behind the DET Gala couldn't be more fitting: Fashion is art, and Detroit is the canvas.

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