

Chicago Menswear Day Announces Inaugural Event to Spotlight Chicago's Evolving Menswear Community

The inaugural event will spotlight the creativity, craftsmanship, and evolving identity of Chicago menswear.

CHICAGO, IL — 9/14/26 — I am excited to introduce Chicago Menswear Day (CMD), a new annual platform created to celebrate and elevate Chicago's evolving menswear community. My name is Nikhil Kapoor, I am the founder of the inaugural event that will take place Saturday, October 3, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at One East Wacker, bringing together approximately 250 designers, brands, boutiques, media, buyers, creators, industry professionals, and menswear enthusiasts for an afternoon centered around designer showcases, networking, media engagement, and fashion presentations.

Chicago has a strong and growing community of designers, brands, retailers, and creatives contributing to menswear, but many of them still look to places like New York and Los Angeles for opportunities to gain visibility and grow their brand presence. Chicago Menswear Day is created to give the people shaping menswear a platform, and provide those opportunities here in Chicago. With many menswear creatives having roots, storefronts, clients, and established followings here, I wanted to build a space where they could showcase their work and connect with new audiences. At the same time, menswear is changing, and we can not recreate the city's menswear industry as it was in the past. I believe there is an opportunity to build on what already exists and show people what menswear can be today and what it can become in the future.

At the heart of Chicago Menswear Day is an immersive live mannequin showcase highlighting the artistry of bespoke tailoring and handmade menswear. Participating designers will present their garments on models throughout the venue, allowing guests to experience the craftsmanship and individuality of each piece up close while engaging directly with the designers behind the work. The event is designed to extend beyond a traditional runway presentation, giving designers and brands dedicated showcase areas to connect with potential clients, buyers, media, creators, and the broader menswear community. QR codes throughout the event will allow attendees to learn more about participating designers and brands, explore their offerings, and find where to purchase their work. The afternoon will also conclude with a collective fashion presentation bringing participating designers and their work together.

For our inaugural event, the designer lineup will include Bespoke Below, Wool & Linen, George Patrick Designs, and Victor Mendoza. The Ford General Store, a Chicago menswear boutique, will also have a dedicated brand presence at the inaugural event. The Ruby Experience will be one of the event's beverage sponsors, alongside additional food and drink offerings. I will continue confirming additional participants and announcing them in the lead-up to the event.

I want Chicago Menswear Day to create opportunities for the evolving menswear community that extend beyond the event itself. I believe there is a lot of value in putting your work in front of people, standing behind what you believe in, and giving audiences the opportunity to see what is possible through menswear. I want designers to leave with new connections and opportunities. I want attendees to leave with a greater understanding of Chicago menswear and a sense of where menswear can go in the future.

I plan on intentionally curating attendance to bring together people who are invested in Chicago's menswear community and can help create meaningful opportunities for the participating designers and brands. The goal is to put their work in front of new people, expand their visibility, and give them the opportunity to build new connections. A limited number of public RSVPs will also be available, giving menswear enthusiasts and people of the Chicago community an opportunity to be part of the day. I would be grateful to connect with media and industry professionals interested in attending or covering Chicago Menswear Day and welcome you to reach out to me directly.

EVENT DETAILS

What: Chicago Menswear Day

When: Saturday, October 3, 2026 | 12:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Where: 1 E Wacker Dr #200, Chicago, IL 60601

Expected Attendance: Approximately 250

Website: www.chicagomenswearday.com

RSVP: Limited public RSVPs available through Eventbrite

MEDIA CONTACT

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ABOUT CHICAGO MENSWEAR DAY

Chicago Menswear Day (CMD) is an annual platform created to celebrate and elevate Chicago's menswear community. Founded by Nikhil Kapoor, CMD brings together designers, brands, boutiques, media, buyers, creatives, industry professionals, and fashion enthusiasts through showcases, presentations, networking, and industry engagement. CMD builds on Chicago's existing menswear ecosystem while creating new opportunities for visibility, connection, and discovery. The inaugural Chicago Menswear Day will take place October 3, 2026, at One East Wacker.