

# Speaker Bios

**Vikki Tobak** is an author, journalist and curator. She is the author of critically lauded books *Contact High: A Visual History Of Hip-Hop* (Clarkson Potter/Random House, 2018) and *Ice Cold: A Hip-Hop Jewelry History* (Taschen 2022). Her work has appeared in many publications, including *Complex*, *Rolling Stone*, *Paper*, *Vibe*, and *i-D*. She has lectured widely about music photography and contemporary culture.

**Elizabeth Way** is associate curator at The Museum at FIT and co-curator of the *Fresh, Fly, and Fabulous: 50 Years of Hip Hop Style* exhibition. Her past exhibitions include *Global Fashion Capitals* (2015), *Black Fashion Designers* (2016), *Fabric in Fashion* (2018), and *Head to Toe* (2021). Way edited *Black Designers in American Fashion* (Bloomsbury, 2021).

**Emil Wilbekin** is a media professional who produces and creates digital, print, social media, and event-based content, appearing on VH1, MTV, CNN, and *Today*. He was the editor-in-chief of *Vibe* magazine and managing editor and editor-at-large at *Essence* magazine. Wilbekin founded Native Son, an advocacy and networking group for gay and queer Black men.

**Sharene Wood** wears many hats: serial entrepreneur, philanthropist, wife, mother. She is president and CEO of 5001 FLAVORS, Harlem Haberdashery, and HH Bespoke Spirits & Beverages. Wood has been a featured panelist at Cornell University, Google, and the Museum of the City of New York.

**Guy Wood** grew up with the explosion of hip hop culture and expanded into the fashion industry as head designer of 5001 FLAVORS, a custom clothing company designing looks for artists such as The Notorious B.I.G., Lady Gaga, Fat Joe, Alicia Keys, Jay-Z, and many more. Wood has helped to define trends and motivate markets with his custom creations. He is also creative director of Harlem Haberdashery, the award-winning boutique and retail expression of 5001 FLAVORS.

**To Register**  
fitnyc.edu/museum  
museuminfo@fitnyc.edu

The symposium is free and open to the public. However, reservations are required. Seats are first come, first served with an RSVP. The Museum at FIT and the college reserve the right to cancel a program at any time. If you require accommodations due to a disability, please contact museuminfo@fitnyc.edu to discuss your needs. Please provide enough advance notice so that it is possible to honor your request adequately.

The Katie Murphy Amphitheatre is in the Fred P. Pomerantz Art and Design Center on the northwest corner of Seventh Avenue and West 27th Street in New York City.

The *Fresh, Fly, and Fabulous: Fifty Years of Hip Hop Style* Symposium has been made possible thanks to the generosity of the Couture Council of the Museum at FIT and The Coby Foundation. The Museum at FIT's programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

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**About The Museum at FIT**  
For information about visiting The Museum at FIT; its membership group, the Couture Council; and tours and donations, please visit fitnyc.edu/museum.



Image: Kisha, New York City, 2000. Photo courtesy of Jamel Shabazz.



# FRESH FLY FABULOUS 50 YEARS OF HIP HOP STYLE Symposium

Friday, February 24, 2023  
Katie Murphy Amphitheatre

The Museum at **FIT**

# Schedule

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10 am	Welcoming remarks, <b>Dr. Joyce F. Brown</b> , president of FIT
10:05 am	Introduction, <b>Dr. Valerie Steele</b> , director and chief curator of The Museum at FIT
10:10 am	<b>Elena Romero</b> and <b>Elizabeth Way</b> in conversation about “Fresh, Fly, and Fabulous: Fifty Years of Hip Hop Style”
10:30 am	<b>Martha Diaz</b> , <b>Syreeta Gates</b> , and <b>Adeerya Johnson</b> in conversation about “Archiving Hip Hop”
<b>10 min. break</b>	
11:10 am	<b>Kim Osorio</b> and <b>Emil Wilbekin</b> in conversation with <b>Elena Romero</b> about “Hip-Hop Fashion in Magazines”
11:40 am	Morning Q&A with the audience
<b>12:10–2 pm Lunch</b>	
2 pm	<b>Shara McHayle</b> and <b>Vikki Tobak</b> in conversation with <b>Elizabeth Way</b> about “Hip-Hop Jewelry in a Sociopolitical Context”
2:30 pm	<b>Jenny Bui</b> and <b>Guy Wood</b> in conversation with <b>Shay Wood</b> about “Customization in Hip-Hop Fashion”
<b>10 min. break</b>	
3:10 pm	<b>Andy Hilfiger</b> in conversation with <b>Elizabeth Way</b> about “Tommy Hilfiger and Hip-Hop Artists”
3:40 pm	<b>Ralph McDaniels</b> in conversation with <b>Elena Romero</b> about “Style and Sounds: Phat Fashions, Video Music Box, and the Hip-Hop Entrepreneur”
4:10 pm	Afternoon Q&A with the audience

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**Jenny Bui** is “The Queen of Bling,” the Bronx-based celebrity nail artist to Cardi B, and an Opi Global Ambassador. She is the winner of the “Nail Artist of the Year” American Influencer Award (2019 and 2020), and her work has been featured in commercials for Pepsi, on the TV show *Cardi Tries*, and in *Vogue*, *Forbes*, and *Cosmopolitan* magazines.

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**Martha Diaz** is an award-winning media producer, archivist, curator, educator, and founder of the Hip-Hop Education Center. A graduate of NYU’s Moving Image Archiving and Preservation Program, Diaz has worked on archival projects with Parkwood Entertainment and Tupac Shakur Estate, to name a few. She is an inaugural Fellow at the Center for Creative and Entertainment Arts at Virginia State University and curator/archivist at the Universal Hip Hop Museum.

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**Syreeta Gates** is committed to immortalizing hip hop so that it lasts forever. She is an art collector, archivist, and founder of The Gates Preserve. She produces live culinary competitions that bridge hip hop with food and beverage, elevates hip hop culture through LEGO, and celebrates Black life as a filmmaker and writer. Gates holds degrees in urban youth culture and moving image archiving and preservation.

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**Adeerya Johnson** is a PhD student, hip-hop feminist scholar and the digital collections archivist of the early hip-hop collection at the Museum of Pop Culture. Johnson is working on a two-year grant funded project where she archives hip-hop artifacts from 1975 to 2001 for the museum’s online portal to provide the public access to over 1,300 hip-hop artifacts.

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**Andy Hilfiger** has been blurring the lines between music and fashion for decades. He began his fashion career at 12, selling jeans at his brother Tommy Hilfiger’s first business, The People’s Place. Hilfiger relocated to New York City to perform in the downtown rock scene. He was instrumental in introducing the Tommy

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Hilfiger brand to pop culture. He currently serves as the vice president of Business Development for Authentic Brands Group.

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**Shara McHayle**’s fashion career began in the early 90’s directing the marketing & sales strategy at PNB Nation, the first statement-driven streetwear brand. McHayle launched Hoop88Dreams with her daughter in 2019, an e-commerce platform that specializes exclusively in hoop earrings. Proving that “The World Is Yours,” McHayle draws on the intrinsic nature of hip hop and continues to bet on herself and the culture that raised her.

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**Ralph McDaniels** is the founder and curator of the *Video Music Box*, which airs on NYC-TV, (channel 25 or 22). McDaniels, also known as “Uncle Ralph,” has directed and produced over 400 music videos, and co-produced the films *Juice* (1992) and *You’re Watching Video Music Box* (Showtime, 2021). McDaniels’s microphone is held in the collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

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**Kim Osorio** is a hip-hop journalist, executive producer, author, and media personality. Osorio spent her formative years covering hip hop in the 1990s, before becoming the first female editor-in-chief of *The Source* magazine. Osorio’s memoir is *Straight from the Source* (Gallery Books, 2013). She is executive producer on the television shows *Love and Hip Hop* and *Growing Up Hip Hop*.

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**Elena Romero** is assistant chair and assistant professor of Marketing Communications at FIT and co-curator of *Fresh, Fly, and Fabulous: 50 Years of Hip Hop Style*. Romero is the author of *Free Stylin’: How Hip Hop Changed the Fashion Industry* (2012) and is a featured expert in the style documentaries *The Remix: Hip Hop x Fashion* (2019) and *Fresh Dressed* (2015).