

**THE FIRST EDITION OF THE BLACK CARPET AWARDS CELEBRATES THE
CHAMPIONS OF DIVERSITY& INCLUSION**

The initiative created by Afro Fashion Association took place on February 24, 2023 at MEET Digital Culture Center – Milano.

The first edition of the Black Carpet Awards, a new initiative that celebrates Diversity and inclusion in the global community, took place on Friday 24th February 2023, in conjunction with the Milan Fashion Week. Conceived and created by the Afro Fashion Association, the gala event - which took place at the MEET- Digital Culture Center in

Milan - wanted to celebrate the successes of unheard and underrepresented voices in our society in the sectors: Fashion, Design, Art, Food, Music, Business, Sport and Cinema.

An international jury of experts in different fields, led by the founder Michelle F.Ngommo, has chosen the **Leaders of Change** in the following fields: Culture, Creativity, Community, Heritage, Entrepreneurship. The jury chose 5 winners, while 5 more were voted for by the online public.

During the evening of the Black Carpet Awards Tafari Hinds, also known as Metafari, (curator RED-EYE) exhibited a work by him in the Immersive Room of the MEET Digital Arts Center. This showcase highlighted the outstanding work of BIPOC artists who have a significant impact on the international scene.

This first edition showed all the enthusiasm and emotion that the promoters have transmitted and shared with their guests. Such an unusual and original initiative has an extremely important value both for the fashion sector and for every area that may have the power to influence our society through its own authority and its own actors. The evening was attended by many notable international guests such as Anna Wintour, Edward Enningful, Sebastian Suhl and Khabi Lame, among others.

Michelle F. Ngommo, President of Afro Fashion Association presents the initiative thus: "Celebrating all stories..... this is what we are doing through the Black Carpet Awards. Very often we feel comfortable comparing ourselves with people who share our same background or our same opinion, but the different perspectives are enriching. Diversity and inclusion are not synonyms and certainly are not abstract concepts, nor at least should they be addressed as a "politically correct" theme because they are an integral part of our daily life The Black Carpet Awards, unlike what the name might lead you to believe, is not just about the black community, but about the color black as

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an absolute, as the "sum of all colors", which is obtained by mixing all the different pigments. The idea is exactly this, all together, sitting at the same table and joining forces, to discuss the beauty of diversity and how it is a crucial factor for heritage culture and for the economic growth of society. This, in my opinion, is certainly the uniqueness and originality of this event".

The initiative and the event found many partners, who embraced the proposal to support Diversity & Inclusion as new active values within companies and society as a whole. Among these: Vogue Italia, Condè Nast, Meta - Instagram, Macsiotti, Capri Holdings, Bulldog, Miller Knoll.

And now let's meet at the 2024 edition of the BLACK CARPET AWARDS!

Afro Fashion Association is a non-profit organization, founded in 2015 by Michelle F.Ngomno, who believes in the profound transformative power of fashion, design and culture as tools for intercultural exchange, empowerment and sustainable economic development. The association offers support to talents with multicultural backgrounds present in Italy and works with companies, institutions, universities and other associations present in the area, so that diversity, equity and inclusion can be a real value and be applied appropriately and concrete in our society. Working for this change, "Unseen Profiles" was born in February 2022, supported and promoted by Vogue Italia, as the first database of around 3,000 professional profiles with multicultural backgrounds, made available to companies that intend to implement diversity within their businesses.

BLACK CARPET AWARDS 2023 - WINNERS

LEADER OF CHANGE: CULTURE

PEOPLE'S CHOICE: **Khaby Lame e Sarah Kamsu**

JURY VOTE: **Fred Kuwornu**

LEADER OF CHANGE: CREATIVITY

PEOPLE CHOICE: **Daphne Di Cinto**

JURY VOTE: **David Blank**

LEADER OF CHANGE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

PEOPLE CHOICE: **Tia Taylor**

JURY VOTE: **Angela Haisha Adamou**

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LEADER OF CHANGE: COMMUNITY

PEOPLE CHOICE: **Nadeesha Uyangoda**

JURY VOTE: **Andi Nganso**

LEADER OF CHANGE: LEGACY

-EDWARD BUCHANAN
- VICTOIRE GOULOUBI

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