

**MFC Tie Dye Inc.
(Make Fashion Clean)**

2017-2023

Project Report



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makefashionclean.org



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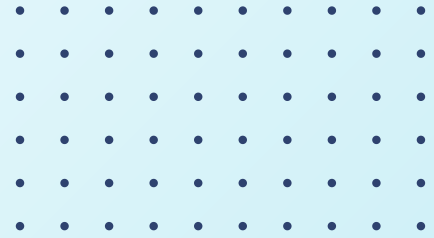
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Executive Summary

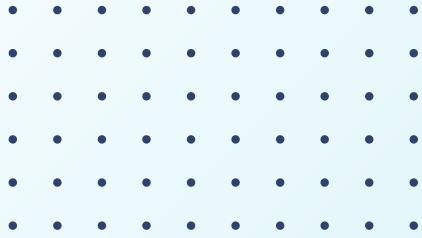
Over the past 7 years (2017–2023), MFC Tie-Dye Inc. has allocated an average annual budget of approximately \$25,000 USD to support around 11 artisans and trainees at our community-based partner, The MFI Foundation, in Greater Accra, Ghana. These artisans have upcycled an average of 2,670 pieces of used clothing sent to Ghana from the Global North each year into new fashion items for sale locally and in the United States. MFC has also collaborated with The Aftermath Learning Lab on numerous environmental education activities such as *The Aftermath Sculpture* made from textile waste that was exhibited at 4 venues in 2022 through 2023 and had an estimated 42,000 unique visitors across these exhibitions. MFC also partnered to design the Textile Waste Facts course providing an introduction to the issue of textile waste as an environmental justice issue, which had 2,160 unique visitors over one year. MFC also partnered on the inaugural LEAPS Textile Waste Conference, which gathered together policy-makers, fashion designers, and other stakeholders in a virtual conference to discuss the problem of textile waste and potential structural solutions. While most of MFC's budget is still supported by team member and project supporter donations, MFC has established an Etsy store where products made at The MFI Foundation are sold, generating revenue for the upcycling partnership. While the organization has faced some challenges due to the nature of it being volunteer-run and the COVID-19 pandemic occurring during this period, MFC remains focused on achieving its vision by 2027, which is for The MFI Foundation to be a sustainable and ethical producer for other brands and organizations around the world, allowing MFC to end or take on a new mission.

Mission

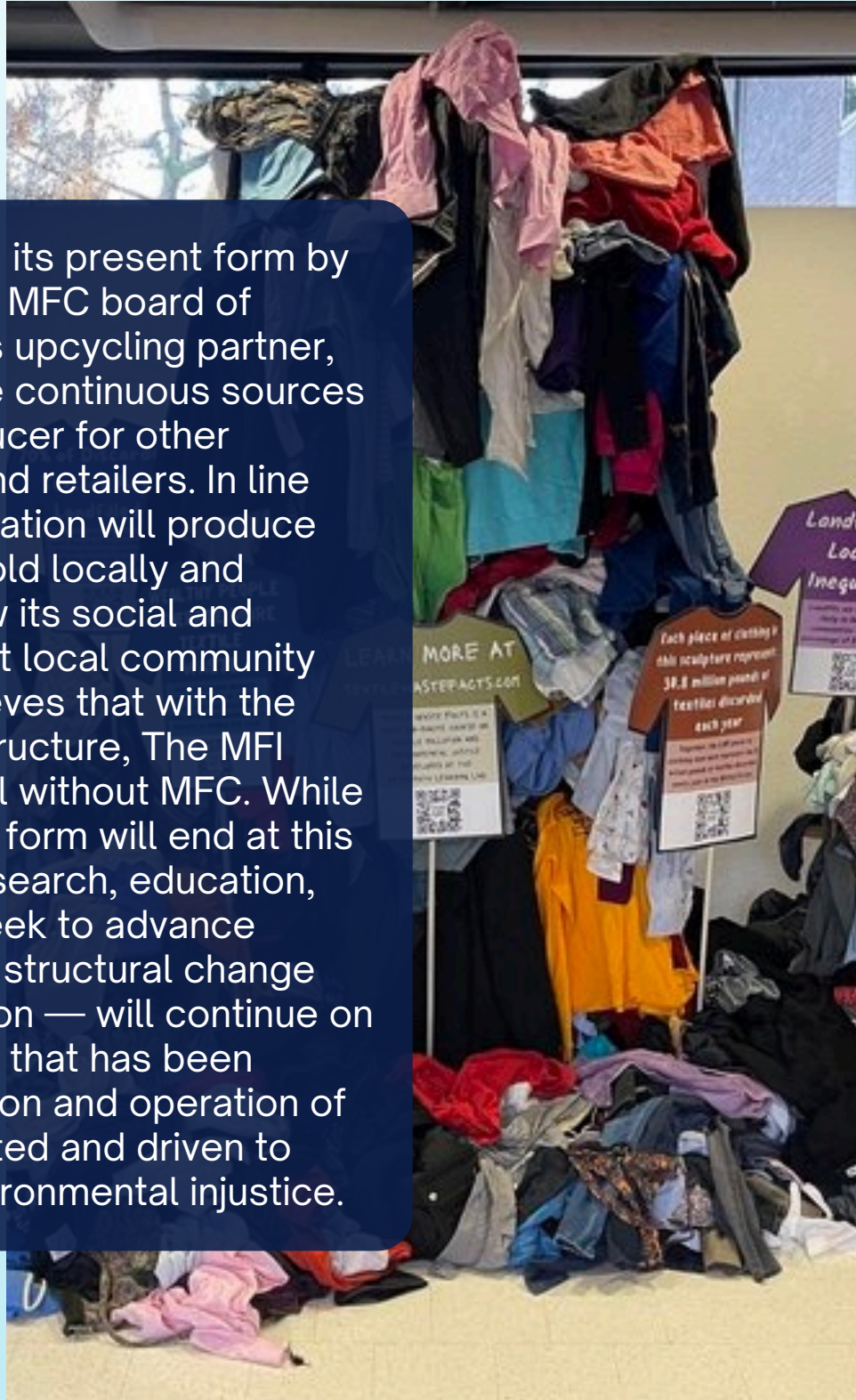


MFC Tie-Dye Inc. (Make Fashion Clean or MFC) is a 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission is to reduce global fashion pollution by upcycling textile waste and educating about pollution. MFC creates repurposed denim and tie-dye products out of textile waste sent to Ghana from the Global North in partnership with a non-profit community-based organization in Greater Accra, Ghana called **The Matilda Flow Inclusion Foundation (The MFI Foundation)**. This upcycling partnership generates employment and job training in the creative economy for artisans who have been displaced by the global fast fashion and secondhand clothing industries. It also diverts textile waste from landfills, open-air dumps, and the environment to reduce the impacts of pollution. MFC also collaborates with the **The Aftermath Learning Lab** on research and art projects at the intersection of textile-related pollution, policy, education, environment, and health.

Vision



MFC's vision is to not exist in its present form by the end of 2027. By then, the MFC board of directors believes that MFC's upcycling partner, The MFI Foundation, will have continuous sources of income as an ethical producer for other sustainable fashion brands and retailers. In line with its vision, The MFI Foundation will produce quality, upcycled products sold locally and globally and continue to grow its social and environmental impact to meet local community demand. The MFC team believes that with the right relationships and infrastructure, The MFI Foundation will be successful without MFC. While our organization in its current form will end at this time, our collaborations in research, education, and art advocacy — which seek to advance knowledge and contribute to structural change that end global textile pollution — will continue on in new forms. The community that has been developed through the creation and operation of MFC will also remain connected and driven to address global issues of environmental injustice.



Leadership and Team



Dr. Julia DeVoy

Research Director
Voting Board Member
Co-Founder



Stacey Johnson

Equity & Culture Director
Voting Board Member



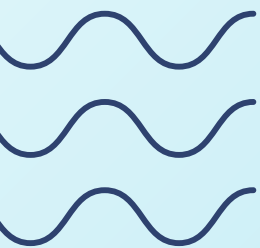
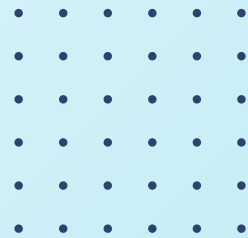
Michelle DuJat

Design Director
Voting Board Member



Mary-Ann Mufute

Partnerships Director
Voting Board Member



Leadership and Team



Cameron Halloran

Inventory Director
Voting Board Member
Acting Treasurer



Cecelia Cheng

Grants Director
Voting Board Member
Acting Secretary



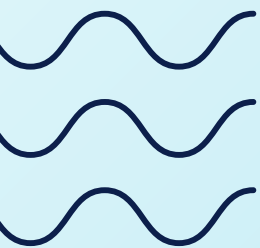
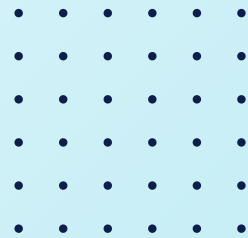
Dielle Lundberg

Project Coordinator
Non-Voting Board Member
Co-Founder



Matilda Lartey

Founder
Executive Director
MFI Foundation



Leadership and Team

Other MFC Team Members*

Sarah Bibbey, Strategic Advisor, Acting President
Caeli Tegan Zampach, Grants Advisor
Ellen Traylor, Administrative Advisor

Past MFC Board Members

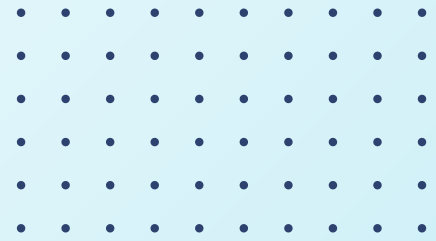
Chika Egbuzie (2019 to 2020)
Ava Floyd (2018 to 2022)
Chidimma Ozor (2020 to 2022)
Sam Plouff (2021 to 2022)

MFI Foundation Board Members*

Genevieve Amma Kujam
Matilda Lartey
James Mensah Tumado
Richmond Bright Mensah Tumado
Grace Nyame
Adieu Kofi Wisdom

* Team Members as of December 2023

Equity and Values



LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We collectively acknowledge that MFC Tie-Dye Inc. is legally registered on the unceded traditional, ancestral, and contemporary land of the Dakota people. Though this land was stolen in the treaties of 1837 and 1851, it is still stewarded by the Dakota people. As we participate in environmental justice work, we must consider the Indigenous communities simultaneously most connected to and affected by the issues facing our planet. This land acknowledgment is an evolving statement that we will continue to update through reflection, conversation, and action.

MFC'S CORE VALUES

MFC's three core values include:

- (1) Environmental Justice
- (2) Racial, Economic, and Gender Equity
- (3) Ethical and Inclusive Innovation

AREAS OF ACTIVE WORK ON EQUITY IN THE PROJECT

Area 1. Co-Liberation

- We are working with the MFI Foundation to solve structural barriers the project faces (e.g. barriers related to financial transfers from product sales to Ghana, shipping, marketing, reporting requirements, and quality control) toward the vision of project sustainability through sale of upcycled products to work toward financial autonomy for The MFI Foundation and its Ghana-based leadership team by the end of 2027.

Equity and Values



AREAS OF ACTIVE WORK ON EQUITY IN THE PROJECT (CONTINUED)

Area 1. Co-Liberation (continued)

- We are developing an up-to-date “memorandum of understanding” between The MFI Foundation and MFC using respected frameworks for equitable collaboration to identify areas within the project for greater equity and to create a template for future partners of The MFI Foundation.

Area 2. Growth

- We are continuing to expand the MFC leadership team, with attention to diversity of lived experiences.
- We are adding educational opportunities for MFC team members to increasingly put principles of decolonization into practice in our work.
- We are continuing to learn how to more effectively run our organization and make changes — given this is a part-time volunteer role for all team members — so that it is sustainable and does not contribute to burnout for team members who have other professional/community roles.

Area 3. Advocacy

- We are creating an organizational communication guide that informs our approach to advocacy and communication.
- We are continuing to revise our project website to include more content that conveys the voices of different team members. We are currently working with The MFI Foundation to re-design their websites to include local language and advocacy from team members.
- We are developing strategies to connect with local and domestic environmental justice movements.
- We are working to put pressure on the global fashion industry to challenge the ways that it continues to perpetuate systems which disproportionately harm artisans in the Global South.

Project History and Timeline

Founding (2016-2017)

In 2016, Matilda Larley — a fashion designer and environmental educator in Greater Accra, Ghana — founded The MFI Foundation in Ghana to provide inclusive employment and job training for artisans whose livelihoods in the creative economy had been displaced by the global fast fashion and secondhand clothing industries.

The relationships between Matilda Larley and the co-founders of MFC — Dielle Lundberg, Julia DeVoy, and Sarah Bibbey — go back to 2013. The co-founders worked alongside Matilda as she expanded her sewing studio into a larger upcycling studio and founded The MFI Foundation during 2016.

In June 2017, after years of discussion and months of collaboration with Matilda and the newly created MFI Foundation board, the co-founders incorporated MFC Tie-Dye Inc. in the United States to assist with bringing upcycled fashion products made at the MFI Foundation to global markets, in line with Matilda’s vision of selling them around the world to grow the impact.



SUMMER 2016

Construction of The MFI Foundation upcycling studio in Amasaman-Fise, Ghana



FALL 2016

The MFI Foundation launches its artisan employment and training programs



FALL 2016

MFC co-founders launch a pilot to sell tie-dye made at MFI Foundation online



WINTER 2017

MFC co-founders consider founding a U.S. based non-profit organization to work with The MFI Foundation



SUMMER 2017

MFC Tie-Dye Inc. incorporates as a 501c3 non-profit organization in the state of Minnesota



FALL 2017

MFC starts to more clearly define its mission and vision and begins efforts to expand its team for organizational growth



Project Timeline 2016

Photo Descriptions:

- A. Construction of the original MFI Foundation upcycling studio
- B. The completed original MFI Foundation upcycling studio
- C-E. Matilda Larthey completing a training in tie-dye methods with a local artist with decades of experience in tie-dye arts
- F. Matilda with two of the early board members of The MFI Foundation, Wisdom and Genevieve, who are both advocates for persons with disabilities in their communities
- G. Matilda shipping a box of sample products to the MFC co-founders in the U.S. for the online sales pilot
- H. MFC co-founder Dielle Lundberg on-site with Matilda and her daughter Ruby at The MFI Foundation during its founding



Photo Descriptions:

- A. Matilda Lartey with a graduating trainee after completion of a six-month training program at The MFI Foundation
- B. Graduating cloth-maker selling tie-dye in the community
- C. Matilda training artisans in yarn-making and knitting
- D. Deconstructed t-shirts at The MFI Foundation hang-drying after the tie-dye process to be upcycled into fashion
- E. Inside The MFI Foundation upcycling studio
- F. Sample products being prepared for product photography
- G. MFC sweatshirt from an early product photoshoot
- H. Matilda with artisans and trainees at The MFI Foundation
- I. MFC co-founders Dielle Lundberg and Julia DeVoy

Project Timeline 2017



Project History and Timeline

Acceleration (2018-2019)

Following the incorporation of MFC in 2017, the MFC co-founders sought to grow MFC by expanding the team, further defining the vision of the new U.S.-based organization, and developing sales channels in stores and online.

In spring of 2018, MFC was accepted as a participant at the Boston University Innovate@BU Summer Accelerator program, receiving a seed grant and a structured program for mentorship. MFC began to modify its strategy and project messaging, in line with a more structural analysis of the issue of global textile pollution, identifying areas for growth in research and advocacy.

In Ghana, The MFI Foundation grew, expanding from working with less than five artisans at a time to approximately ten. The upcycling studio was renovated and expanded, and The MFI board grew. The organization also developed critical partnerships in the community with local disability advocacy groups, social welfare organizations, the government social welfare office, and faith-based groups.



SUMMER 2018

MFC participates in a social innovation accelerator program at Boston University



FALL 2018

MFC collaborates with the 'Dirt to Shirt' course at Olin College on a research project



FALL 2018

MFC launches a kickstarter campaign that gains media attention but misses its funding goal



WINTER 2019

MFC begins collaborating with interns and research assistants at Boston College



SPRING 2019

MFC funds an expansion of The MFI Foundation to make space for more trainees



FALL 2019

MFC receives a YES Alumni grant for the expansion of a work-from-home program at The MFI Foundation



Project Timeline 2018

Photo Descriptions:

- A. MFC's Blue Circle Bag made at The MFI Foundation
- B. Matilda Lartey with a graduating artisan trainee
- C. Matilda hosting a community training program
- D-E. Matilda retailing upcycled products at local trade fairs
- F-I. Research collaboration with engineering students at Olin College to test natural dye methods and upcycling techniques
- J-K. MFC co-founders in Boston for an accelerator program
- L. Matilda with her certificate of completion for this program
- M. MFC co-founder Sarah Bibbey visiting The MFI Foundation in Ghana and cleaning secondhand fabrics with Matilda
- N. MFC board members Julia DeVoy and Ava Floyd

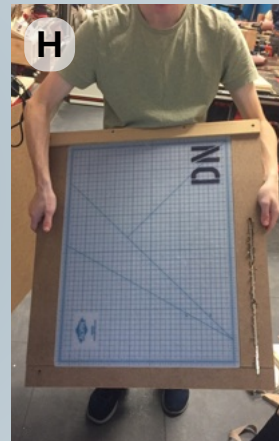
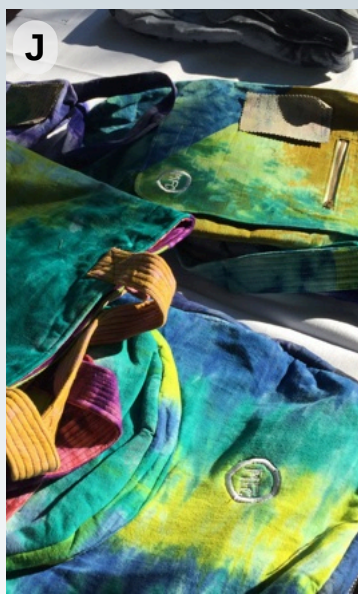
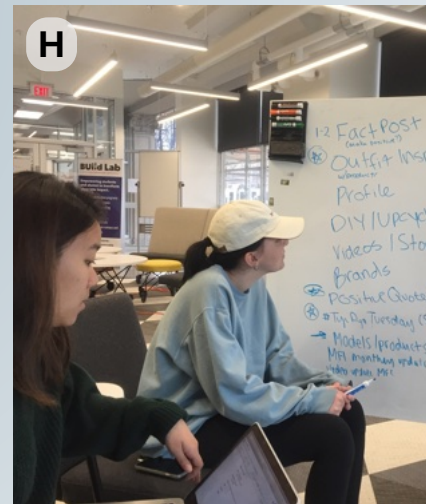


Photo Descriptions:

- A. Renovation of The MFI Foundation upcycling studio
- B. Matilda Lartey retailing tie-dye products at a fair
- C. Matilda training artisans in upcycling and fashion design
- D. Artisan trainee graduating from The MFI Foundation
- E-H. MFC interns working on product marketing projects
- I. MFC co-founder Dielle Lundberg speaking at a Boston University innovation conference about MFC's mission
- J. MFC products exhibited at a craft fair in Boston
- K. MFC Inventory Director Cameron Halloran visiting MFI
- L. Students and an instructor from Massachusetts College of Art and Design visit The MFI Foundation to learn about its work

Project Timeline 2019



Project History and Timeline

Pandemic Challenges (2020-2021)

The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in spring 2020 created numerous challenges for MFC, especially for team burnout. This related to the small leadership team, volunteer nature of positions, health and pandemic-related personal challenges, limited funding, and the rapidly growing scale of The MFI Foundation. In Ghana, The MFI Foundation transitioned to a fully work-from-home model, a change that coincidentally aligned well with last year's YES Alumni grant to expand the artisan work-from-home program.

Despite these challenges, MFC had numerous critical developments during this period, including the founding of the Aftermath Learning Lab in partnership with researchers at Boston College supported by two research grants, receipt of a follow-up grants from YES Alumni to support an advocacy project and a start-up grant from the optiMize program at the University of Michigan, addition of team members, and critical conversations about the long-term vision of MFC, equity in the project, and a need for organizational restructuring and team expansion.



SPRING 2020

The MFI Foundation moves fully to a work-from-home model during COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns



SUMMER 2020

MFC launches an Etsy store to sell fabric masks and beaded jewelry made in collaboration with The MFI Foundation



SUMMER 2020

MFC collaborators receive a Boston College Ignite Grant, laying the groundwork for the Aftermath Learning Lab



FALL 2020

MFC receives a follow-up YES Alumni grant for a new advocacy collaboration with the MFI Foundation



SUMMER 2021

MFC collaborators receive a Boston College Schiller Institute Grant to design *The Aftermath Sculpture*



WINTER 2021

Aftermath Learning Lab publishes its first peer-reviewed research article in *Waste Management* journal



Project Timeline 2020

Photo Descriptions:

A, D-E. Artisans and trainees upcycling at The MFI Foundation
 B-C. Artisans and trainees in the work-from-home program
 F-G. Scrap fabrics and finished fabric beads
 H-I. Blue Circle Bags under construction
 J. Fabric masks made at The MFI Foundation during COVID-19
 K-M. Artisans and trainees at The MFI Foundation
 N. MFC board members Julia DeVoy and Cameron Halloran
 O. Matilda Lartey at a community event distributing hygienic supplies during the early COVID-19 pandemic
 P-R. MFC board members Julia DeVoy and Sarah Bibbey on a call with Matilda, Matilda at work, Sarah with a Blue Circle Bag

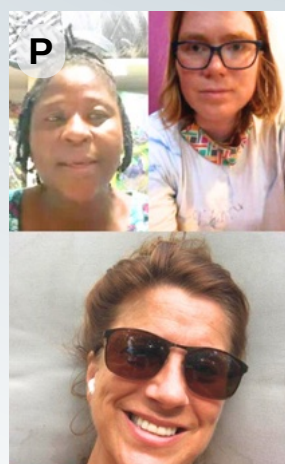
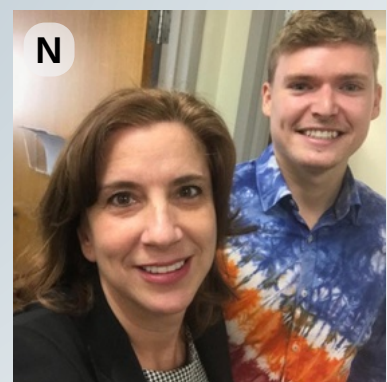
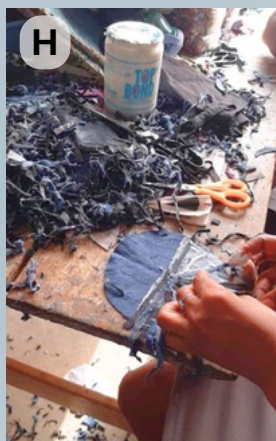
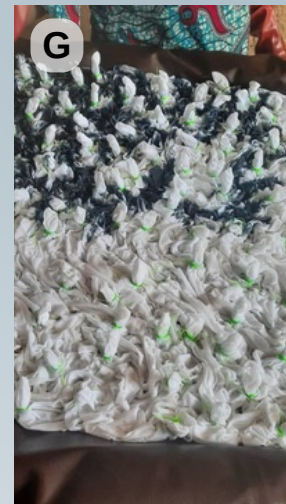


Photo Descriptions:

- A-B. Artisans and trainees at The MFI Foundation
- C. Matilda tie-dyeing upcycled t-shirts
- D. Matilda preparing boxes of upcycled products made at The MFI Foundation to be crate shipped to MFC in the U.S.
- E-F. Upcycled fabric masks during the COVID-19 pandemic
- G-I. Tie-dyeing of fabrics for sale locally
- J. Aftermath Learning Lab research assistant Eva Ottum films a tutorial describing how she and others in the lab designed a landfill simulating reactor to study decomposing textiles
- K. A peer-reviewed publication from the Aftermath Learning Lab about patterns of textile waste generation in the U.S.

Project Timeline 2021



 View PDF


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Waste Management
Volume 136, December 2021, Pages 303-309



Post-Consumer textile waste and disposal: Differences by socioeconomic, demographic, and retail factors

Julia E. DeVoy,^a  , Elizabeth Congiusta,^a Dielle J. Lundberg,^b Sarah Findeisen,^a Sunand Bhattacharya,^a

Project History and Timeline

Steady Growth (2022-2023)

In early 2022, MFC went on hiatus to allow for team members to recover from pandemic-related challenges and begin an organizational restructuring process. Upon return, MFC added a Design Director, Inventory Director, and Partnerships Director, allowing MFC to end the Acting Director position and distribute responsibilities across the board through a nonhierarchical structure of directors and a more limited Project Coordinator role.

Meanwhile, the Aftermath Learning Lab grew significantly and had several major achievements, including a multi-media art installation displayed at multiple venues, the development of The Textile Waste Facts educational resource, and the inaugural hosting of the LEAPS Textile Waste Conference to convene stakeholders to discuss structural solutions to textile pollution.

In 2023, MFC re-opened its Etsy Store after a one-and-a-half year hiatus due to inventory and fulfillment-related challenges. MFC also revamped its website and social media channels. The MFI Foundation continued to grow.



WINTER 2022

MFC goes on hiatus from all but essential operations to recover from the pandemic and plan for restructuring



SPRING 2022

The Aftermath Sculpture is exhibited at Boston College and the Smithsonian Museum of American History



SUMMER 2022

MFC collaborators receive a follow-up Boston College Schiller Institute Grant for an environmental education game



FALL 2022

The Aftermath Sculpture is exhibited at Boston University School of Public Health and the Boston University Art Initiative



SPRING 2023

MFC co-hosts the LEAPS 2023 Textile Waste Conference with the Aftermath Learning Lab and The MFI Foundation



FALL 2023

MFC re-opens its Esty Store to bring new upcycled products made at The MFI Foundation to customers



Project Timeline 2022

Photo Descriptions:

A-C, E. Artisans and trainees at The MFI Foundation
 D. Renovation of The MFI Foundation upcycling studio
 F-H, N. Aftermath Learning Lab research assistants and co-investigators attending and presenting at the ACCelerate Festival at the Smithsonian Museum of American History
 I-L. *The Aftermath Sculpture* at Boston College, Smithsonian Museum of American History, and Boston University
 M. Panel discussion with MFC board member Stacey Johnson, project coordinator Dielle Lundberg, and Matilda Larthey
 N. MFC board members Julia DeVoy and Dielle Lundberg
 O. MFC board member Sarah Bibbey with Matilda in Ghana

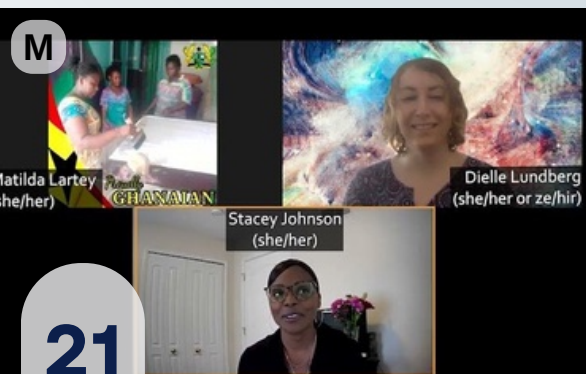
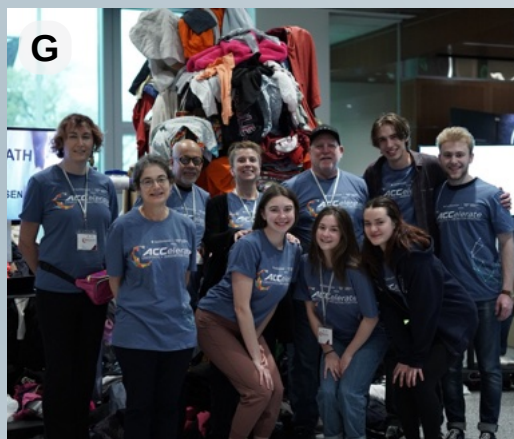
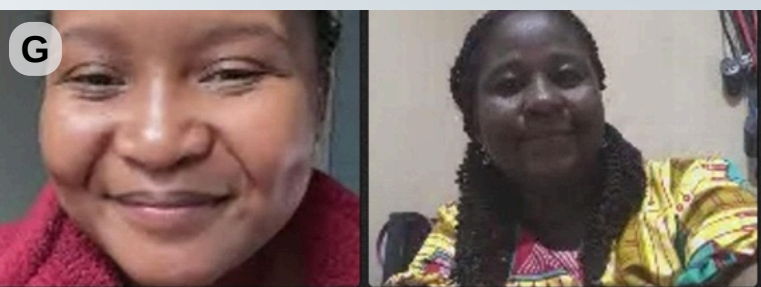
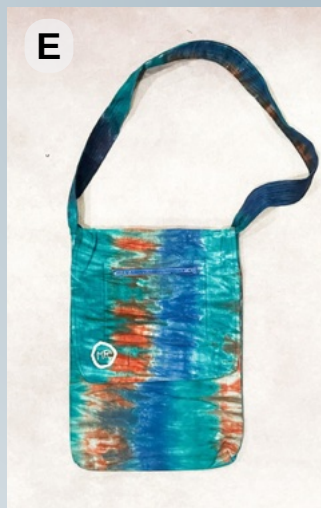
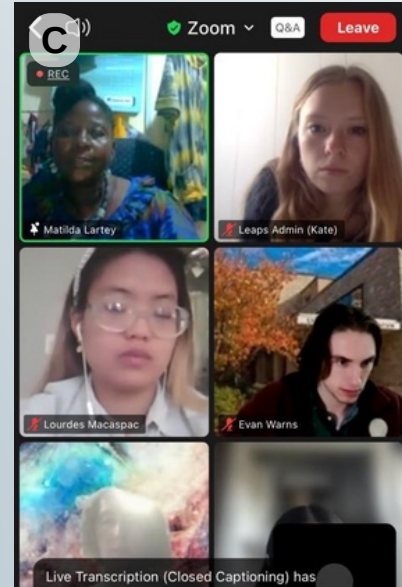


Photo Descriptions:

A-B. Artisans and trainees at The MFI Foundation
C. Aftermath Learning Lab research assistants with Matilda Larley and MFC Project Coordinator Dielle Lundberg co-leading a policy hackathon about solutions to global textile waste at the inaugural LEAPS 2023 Textile Waste Conference
D, H. Aftermath Learning Lab research assistants and alumni
E. MFC product photography for re-launched Etsy Store
F. Aftermath Learning Lab principal investigator and MFC board member Julia DeVoy interviewed by NBC LX News
G. MFC board member Mary-Ann Mufute and project coordinator Dielle Lundberg on a planning call with Matilda

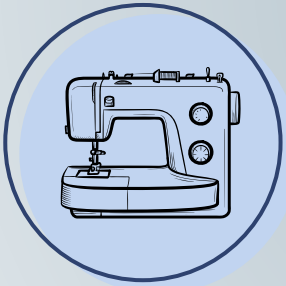
Project Timeline 2023



Programs and Collaborations

From 2017 to 2023, MFC has supported The MFI Foundation with approximately 24,000 USD of funding annually, serving as the main financial sponsor for its upcycling studio and associated programs. These programs transform textile waste in Ghana into fashion to be re-sold locally and globally. They also provide employment and job training to artisans whose livelihoods have been displaced by the global fast fashion industry. In these programs, The MFI Foundation focuses on creating opportunities for persons with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities, and women.

ARTISAN EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM



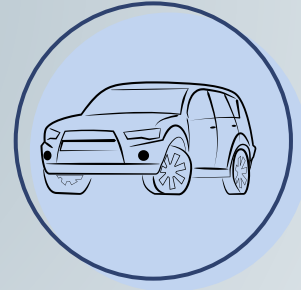
This program provides full-time positions with living wages to skilled artisans who specialize in sewing and tailoring. The position allows for artisans to receive benefits such as social security and support for housing relocation. These artisans assist with training the other artisan apprentices.

APPRENTICE TRAINING PROGRAM



This program trains artisans in sewing, tailoring, and fashion design over a period of 6 months to 4 or 5 years. Participants earn a stipend each month for the duration of their apprenticeship. By comparison, most apprentices in Ghana are required to pay for their apprenticeship training.

WORK FROM HOME PROGRAM



This program provides work-from-home positions for artisans and apprentices. The program is designed for people for whom work-from-home is more convenient or better meets their access needs. Artisans receive training in bead-making and other skills. Matilda visits these artisans once a month to supervise and check-in.

Programs and Collaborations

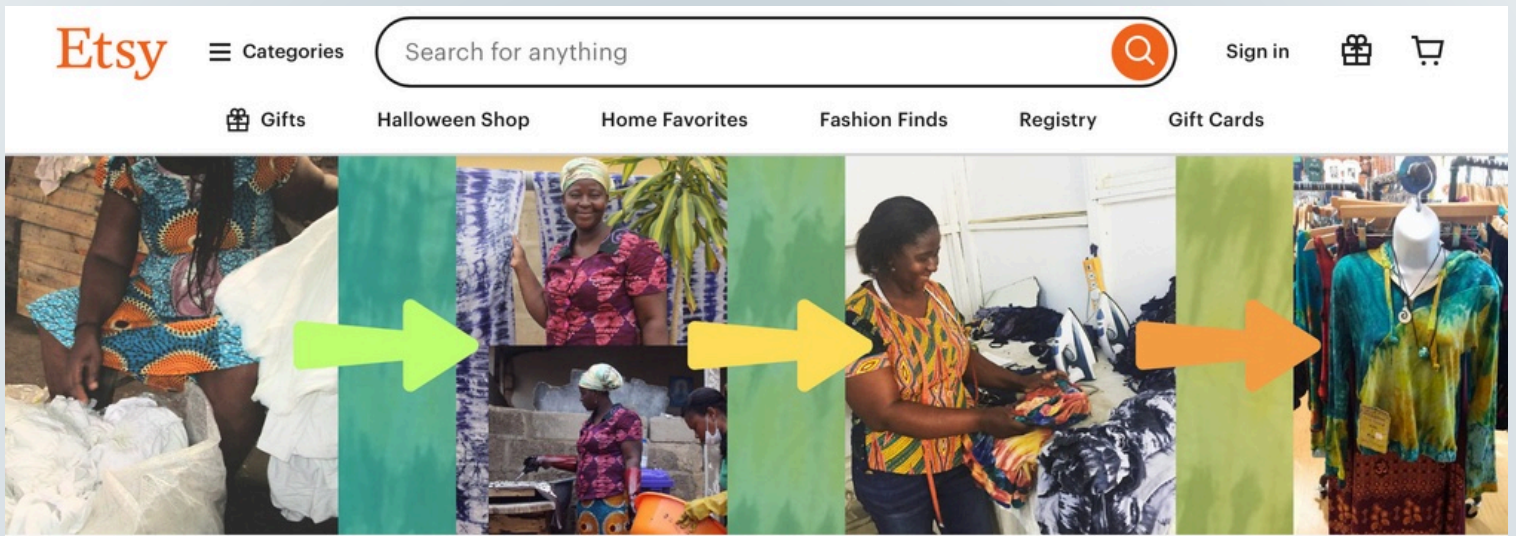


Photo Descriptions:

A-C. Matilda Lartey trains artisans and apprentices at The MFI Foundation in tie-dye methods, cutting fabrics and fashion design, and sewing techniques D-F. Apprentices and artisans cut fabrics and make fabric beads G. A pile of used clothing sourced from Kantamanto Market which the artisans are preparing to clean, deconstruct, and transform into new products H. An apprentice at The MFI Foundation trains in sewing a Blue Circle Bag I. A look inside The MFI Foundation upcycling studio during a day of work where artisans are sewing products

Programs and Collaborations

ETSY STORE SELLING PRODUCTS FROM THE MFC-MFI UPCYCLING PARTNERSHIP



MFCTieDyeInc

Upcycled tie-dye to reduce global textile pollution

36 Sales | ★★★★★



Cameron
Contact

Follow shop

Announcement

Last updated on Sep 26, 2023

The MFC Tie-Dye Inc. Etsy Store has re-opened! Place your order to contribute to our upcycling partnership with the MFI Foundation which transforms textile waste sent to Ghana from the Global North into denim and tie-dye products to reduce textile pollution. Orders for U.S. customers placed Monday to Sunday ship next Tuesday!

Featured items

Sort: Most Recent ▾



Teal Inferno Upcycled Sweatsh...
\$40.00
FREE shipping



Galaxies Upcycled Trousers
\$30.00



Muted Rainbow Patchwork Up...
\$25.00



Rainbow Bliss Upcycled Backp...
\$45.00
FREE shipping

Programs and Collaborations



THE AFTERMATH LEARNING LAB: AN MFC COLLABORATION SINCE 2019

Aftermath Learning Lab is an environmental health research and art lab whose mission is to reduce global textile waste and other technology-related pollution through research at the intersection of art, policy, developmental psychology, education, and public health with an applied environmental justice lens. The lab is an academic-community partnership between researchers at Boston College and partners Make Fashion Clean (MFC) and The Matilda Flow Inclusion Foundation (MFI Foundation). The lab is run by an interdisciplinary team of researchers studying human development, informal STEM learning, health equity, and design-driven thinking along with artists, environmental educators, and activists.

PROJECTS

Greenhouse Gas Generation and Other Human Health Effects of Post-Consumer Fashion Waste in the U.S. (2020-2021)

Assessing Public Health and Environmental Racism Impacts of Textile Pollution through Computer-Based Social Justice Research and Multi-Media Art and Data Dissemination (2021-2022)

Development of an Educational, Multiplayer Video Game to Address Environmental Racism and Drive Political and Community Action (2022-2023)

FUNDING

The Aftermath Learning Lab's activities have been funded by an Ignite Grant from Boston College for academic year 2020-2021, a Schiller Institute Grant for Exploratory Collaborative Scholarship (SIGECS) from Boston College for academic year 2021-2022, and a follow-up SIGECS grant from Boston College for academic year 2022-2023. Undergraduate research assistants from Boston College collaborating with the lab have also been funded by undergraduate research funds from Dr. Julia DeVoy from 2019 to present.

Programs and Collaborations

One of the Aftermath Learning Lab's major initiatives since its founding has been *The Aftermath Sculpture*, a large-scale multi-media sculpture and art advocacy collaboration about the global impacts of textile pollution created by The Aftermath Learning Lab. It was designed by developmental psychologist Dr. Julia DeVoy, health researcher and artist Dielle Lundberg, fashion designer and environmental educator Matilda Larley, internationally recognized artist Mark Cooper, STEAM education researcher Dr. Brian Smith, Make Fashion Clean (MFC Tie-Dye), and The MFI Foundation with support from the Boston College Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society. The installation consists of a modular shelving system, secondhand clothing collected from the Boston College community, protest signs that link through QR codes to the lab's Textile Waste Facts educational resource (a crash course about global textile pollution designed to accompany the sculpture), and a project documentary. The goal: to face up to a global economy of throwaway consumption and "fast fashion" that contributes to global textile pollution, waste colonialism, environmental racism, and the climate crisis.



* Photo descriptions on the following page

Programs and Collaborations



Photo Descriptions:

The sculpture went on a national tour and has visited the following locations: Bridgewater State University (Page 27, B), the Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society at Boston College (this page, G), St. Mary's College of Maryland (this page, F), Boston University Charles River Campus (this page, E; Page 27, A), Boston University School of Public Health (this page, D), The ACCELERATE Festival at The Smithsonian Museum of American History (this page, B and C), and The McMullen Museum at Boston College (this page, A).

Programs and Collaborations

Another Aftermath Learning Lab initiative that MFC has collaborated on is **The LEAPS Textile Waste Conference**, a virtual conference that exists to leverage environmental, art & policy stakeholders (LEAPS) to advance awareness, collaboration and transformation around policy and structural solutions to textile waste and related environmental health challenges. The inaugural conference was hosted on May 18, 2023 by the Aftermath Learning Lab in partnership with The Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society at Boston College and community partners Make Fashion Clean (MFC Tie-Dye) in the U.S. and The MFI Foundation in Ghana.

Textile Waste as a Public Health Equity Issue and the Need for a Political and Structural Response

So we'll do our best to make up time. But we're going to jump into some introductory remarks, and I am going to be kind of kicking things off by speaking for a few minutes about textile waste as a public health equity issue.

LEAPS Conference 2023

MFC by Make Fashion Clean (MFC)

Playlist · 10 videos · 188 views

The LEAPS Conference 2023 was a virtual conference held on May 18, 2023 to bring together diverse stakeholders...more

▶ Play all

- Impact Case Study: Trash2Treasure at Northeastern University**
Make Fashion Clean (MFC) · 44 views · 1 year ago
- A Sustainable Approach to Collect and Organise Post-Consumer Textile Waste in Ohio**
Make Fashion Clean (MFC) · 46 views · 1 year ago
- Producing a Landfill Simulating Bioreactor: Considerations, Design and Impacts**
Make Fashion Clean (MFC) · 24 views · 1 year ago
- Re-imagining Gen Z Fashion: Making Trendy, Sustainable Clothing**
Make Fashion Clean (MFC) · 25 views · 1 year ago
- Linking Ecological Consciousness to Narrative Approaches & Recent Climate Reporting**
Make Fashion Clean (MFC) · 35 views · 1 year ago
- Innovation Sandbox Pitch: From the Start Up To Infinity**

* The LEAPS 2023 Textile Waste Conference was recorded and is archived for viewing on YouTube at: https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLduDDOay8rf-bnYBxAsYKJ3SHqYmFI_ye&si=XZnAh6smRCrQMFzz

Programs and Collaborations

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS AND COVERAGE OF THE AFTERMATH LEARNING LAB

2023:

Julia E. DeVoy. “Accelerating Just Transition: A Call to COP28 Action (SE# 7, Zone B6).” Invited panel speaker on December 5, 2023. United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (UNFCCC COP 28). Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Available at: <https://laudatosimovement.org/news/accelerating-just-transition-a-catholic-call-to-cop28-action/>.

Julia E. DeVoy. “Dispatches from Dubai: Experiences as an Official Observer Organization at the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (UNFCCC COP 28).” Invited panel speaker on December 4, 2023. Boston College Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society. Virtual Event from Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Available at: <https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/sites/bc-news/articles/2023/fall/bc-hosts-live-discussions-from-cop28-uae.html>.

Dielle J. Lundberg. “Textile Waste as a Public Health Equity Issue and the Need for a Political and Structural Response.” Presented at the LEAPS 2023 Textile Waste Conference, Boston College, May 18, 2023. Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JO_GrY-0L_s.

Mark Cooper. “Aftermath: An Exploration of Art and Activism.” Presented at the LEAPS 2023 Textile Waste Conference, Boston College, May 18, 2023. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MzjllYjd8i0>.

Matilda Lartey. “Aftermath: An Exploration of Art and Activism.” Presented at the LEAPS 2023 Textile Waste Conference, Boston College, May 18, 2023. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UjeLN2V8Gow>.

Evan Warns. “Producing a Landfill Simulating Bioreactor: Considerations, Design and Impacts.” Presented at the LEAPS 2023 Textile Waste Conference, Boston College, May 18, 2023. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqkCtyUTN-g>.

Katherine Canniff. “Linking Ecological Consciousness to Narrative Approaches & Recent Climate Reporting.” Presented at the LEAPS 2023 Textile Waste Conference, Boston College, May 18, 2023. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqkCtyUTN-g>.

Programs and Collaborations

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS AND COVERAGE OF THE AFTERMATH LEARNING LAB (CONTINUED)

2023 (continued):

Julia E. DeVoy. “Fast Fashion, Textile Waste and Environmental Impact.” St. Lawrence University. April 26, 2023. Available at: <https://www.stlawu.edu/events/fast-fashion-textile-waste-and-related-environmental-impacts>.

Julia E. DeVoy, Qingwan Cheng, Griffin Lawler, and Kate Canniff. “Aftermath: Fast Fashion and Textile Waste.” Wilmington Memorial Library. April 6, 2023. Available at: <https://wilmingtonapple.com/2023/04/12/video-wilmington-library-hosts-lecture-on-fast-fashion-textile-waste/>.

James Rojas. “Boston 'Aftermath' Sculpture Depicts Fast Fashion, Rapid Textile Production.” WBZ NewsRadio Boston. March 16, 2023. Interviews Julia E. DeVoy. Available at: <https://wbznewsradio.iheart.com/content/boston-aftermath-sculpture-depicts-fast-fashion-rapid-textile-production/> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7C5Dh5n5TTw>.

“Have You Ever Thought about the Environmental Impact of Fast-Fashion? - Julia DeVoy, PhD Joins Eric Alvarez.” LX Explains: NBC LX. Interviews Julia E. DeVoy. March 5, 2023. Available at: <https://x.com/NBCLX/status/1632430300939669508?s=20>.

2022:

Dielle J. Lundberg and Julia E. DeVoy. “The Aftermath of Fast Fashion: How Discarded Clothes Impact Public Health and the Environment.” Boston University School of Public Health. September 22, 2022. Available at: <https://www.bu.edu/sph/news/articles/2022/the-aftermath-of-fast-fashion-how-discarded-clothes-impact-public-health-and-the-environment/>.

Julia E. DeVoy, Elizabeth Congiusta, Dielle J. Lundberg, Sarah Findeisen, and Sunand Bhattacharya. “Post-Consumer Textile Waste and Disposal: Differences by Socioeconomic, Demographic, and Retail Factors.” *Waste Management* 136 (December 2021): 303–309. Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.wasman.2021.10.009>.

Programs and Collaborations

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS AND COVERAGE OF THE AFTERMATH LEARNING LAB (CONTINUED)

2022 (continued):

Julia E. DeVoy, Mark Cooper, Evan Warns, and Kate Canniff. “The Aftermath of Textile Waste: How Fast Fashion is Impacting the Environment and Public Health, and What Can Be Done About It.” Boston Public Library: Faneuil Branch Library. October 11, 2022. Available at: <https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/631b40bea57e0b98876890cf>.

Julia E. DeVoy, Mark Cooper, Sunand Bhattacharya, and Jennifer Beard. “Textile Waste & Environmental Racism: The Opportunities For Art To Impact Public Health.” October 6, 2022. Available at: <https://www.bu.edu/sph/practice/activist-lab/activist-lab-events/textile-pollution-environmental-racism/>.

Matilda Lartey, Stacey Johnson, and Dielle J. Lundberg. “Textile Waste, Environmental Justice, and the Aftermath of Fast Fashion”. A Collaborative Panel Discussion by The Aftermath Learning Lab and Make Fashion Clean. September 11, 2022. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TFBjdesFsA>.

Julia E. DeVoy, Dielle J. Lundberg, Matilda Lartey, Mark Cooper, and Brian Smith. “The Aftermath Documentary.” Boston College Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society. 2022. Filmed and Edited by Cyrus Rosen, Qingwan Cheng, Julia E. DeVoy, and Dielle J. Lundberg. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpzW3HOOqmw>.

“We’re Not Going to Recycle Our Way Out of This Problem.” Interviews Dielle Lundberg. Boston University School of Public Health. April 30, 2022. Available at: <https://www.bu.edu/sph/news/articles/2022/reducing-textile-pollution-through-research-and-art/>

2021:

Sarah Findeisen, Elizabeth Congiusta, Julia E. DeVoy, and Dielle J. Lundberg. “Post-Consumer Textile Waste and Recycling: Differences by Socioeconomic, Demographic, and Retail Factors.” Eleventh International Conference on The Constructed Environment. May 2021. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=quDGkvnKeg>

Programs and Collaborations

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS AND COVERAGE OF THE AFTERMATH LEARNING LAB (CONTINUED)

2021 (continued):

Eva Ottum, Evan Warns, Julia E. DeVoy, and Dielle J. Lundberg. "Engineering a Bioreactor Using Frugal Innovation." Eleventh International Conference on The Constructed Environment. May 2021. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HFBxDTPvEwU>.



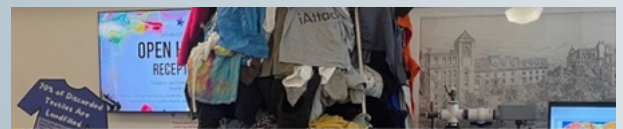
Waste Management

Volume 136, December 2021, Pages 303-309



Post-Consumer textile waste and disposal: Differences by socioeconomic, demographic, and retail factors

Julia E. DeVoy ^a ✉, Elizabeth Congiusta ^a, Dielle J. Lundberg ^b, Sarah Findeisen ^a, Sunand Bhattacharya ^a



ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

The Aftermath of Fast Fashion

How Discarded Clothes Impact Public Health and the Environment

Now what?

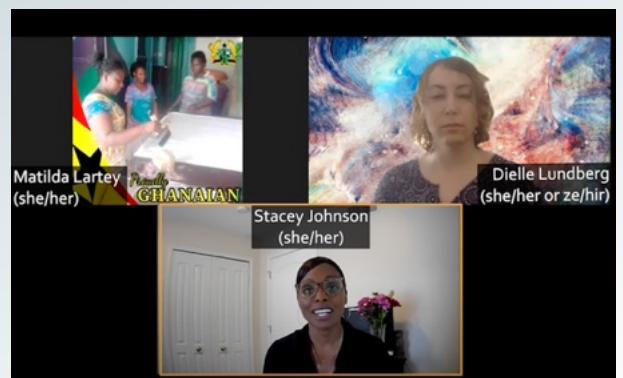
- Moving from prototyping to production
- 1 t-shirt over one year → XXXXXXXX T shirts
- Not perfect, but any estimate better than none
- Global estimates
- Local estimates



Make sure there's no problems. And so then that's kind of where we're at now, right where we're moving from prototyping like this image on the right into actually producing these we're hoping that in a year, we can get an idea of what one T-shirt will release in terms



It's always great to find a new shirt on sale! But have you ever thought about the environmental impact of "Fast-Fashion?" Julia DeVoy, PH.D. joins @EricAlvarezTV on LX Explains to help us understand the impact of this trend. Watch LX Explains, weeknights.



Impact Highlights

MFC-MFI FOUNDATION UPCYCLING PARTNERSHIP SOCIAL IMPACT (2017-2023)

11

Average number of artisans and trainees employed at MFI Foundation

5

Average number of trainees employed at MFI Foundation (out of the 11 total)

2

Average number of trainees graduating from 6 to 12 month programs in a year

8

Average number of community skills training programs held by MFI Foundation in a year



Impact Highlights

MFC-MFI FOUNDATION UPCYCLING PARTNERSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT (2017-2023)

2,670

Total number of used clothing items upcycled in a representative year

380

Number of used cotton t-shirts upcycled in a representative year

670

Number of used jeans upcycled in a representative year

285

Number of used jackets upcycled in a representative year

1,355

Number of other used clothing items upcycled in a representative year

* 2019 was selected as the representative year due to the availability of data and it representing a relatively average year of production for The MFI Foundation.



Impact Highlights

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IMPACT (2017-2023)

12

Undergraduate internship placements with mentorship provided by MFC

14

Undergraduate or graduate research assistants with Aftermath Learning Lab

42,000

Unique viewers of *Aftermath Sculpture* over 4 exhibitions

2,160

Unique visitors to the Textile Waste Facts online course

60

Live attendees at the inaugural LEAPS Textile Waste Conference

232

Views of the LEAPS Textile Waste Conference recordings in one year



Project Challenges

Small Team with No Paid Staff:

MFC is a volunteer-run 501c3 non-profit organization whose budget has not yet exceeded 30,000 USD annually. Given the small project size, there are no paid staff members, meaning all team members are contributing volunteer hours on top of their other responsibilities and commitments. This has resulted in challenging decisions around delegating time and other resources between governing the organization and attempting to grow it.

COVID-19 Capacity Constraints:

MFC's small team and limited capacity reached a breaking point during the COVID-19 pandemic when the organization and team members each faced some unique challenges. For MFC, we faced new challenges such as The MFI Foundation moving to work from home, shipping being delayed, and declines in sales. Individual team members faced health challenges and burnout.

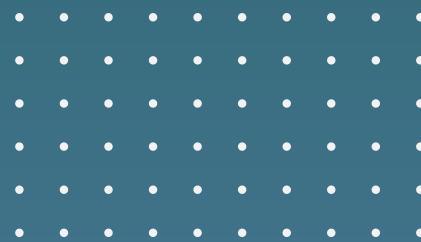
Funding Constraints:

Over the period from 2017 to 2023, The MFI Foundation expanded (and had the capacity to further expand to meet community demand) more than MFC had funding for. A large portion of MFC funding continues to come from team member contributions, highlighting the need for MFC to increase product sales and develop additional streams of donations and other income.

MFC to MFI Foundation Transfer Issues:

Over seven years, the Ghana cedi depreciated substantially, and significant regulatory changes occurred in Ghana regarding international financial transfers. While the project initially used Western Union, this service was subject to data leaks that led to excessive scam calls. WISE transfer proved to be a more reliable solution for years until it fell out of regulatory requirements. Remitly became the project's new primary transfer service.

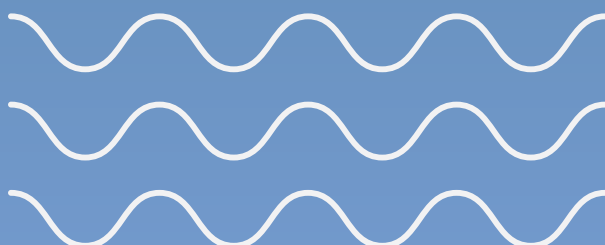
Financial Report



* 7-Year Budget for MFC Tie-Dye Inc. (2017-2023) in USD

Category	7-Year Total	1-Year Average	% of Total
Total Budget	\$174,647	\$24,950	n/a
Funding for MFI Foundation Programs*	\$168,604	\$24,086	96.5%
Shipping of MFC/MFI Upcycled Products	\$1,278	\$183	0.7%
Marketing Expenses	\$1,920	\$274	1.1%
Admin and Other Expenses	\$2,845	\$406	1.6%

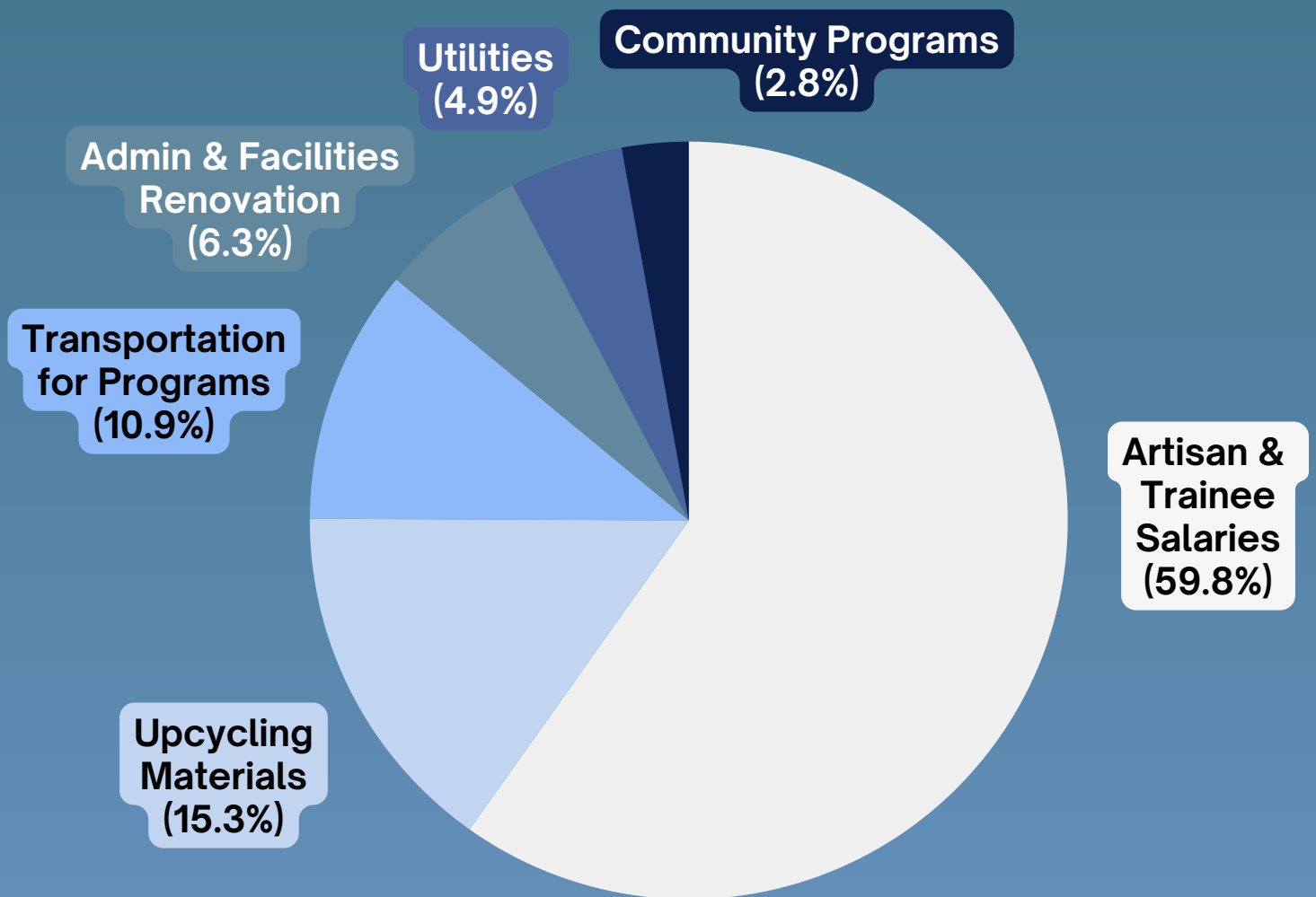
* Funding sent to The MFI Foundation directly supports the organization's upcycling programs that employ and train artisans in Ghana and upcycle textile waste. The funds directly support salaries and stipends, benefits, and supplies needed for this work. They are also used to maintain The MFI Foundation upcycling studio and pay for utilities and other operating expenses like transportation. Lastly, these funds help finance outreach for The MFI Foundation to undertake skills training and advocacy programs in the community. A breakdown of how the funding sent to the MFI Foundation is used is provided on the following page.



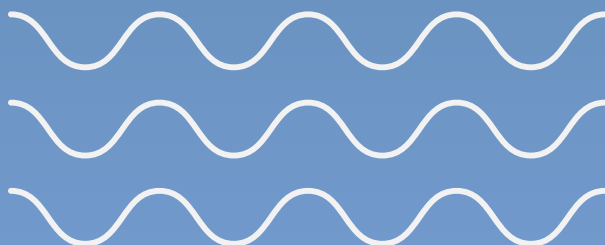
Financial Report



* Breakdown of Expenses for MFI Foundation Programs (2023)



* Chart sourced from The MFI Foundation's 2023 Annual Report



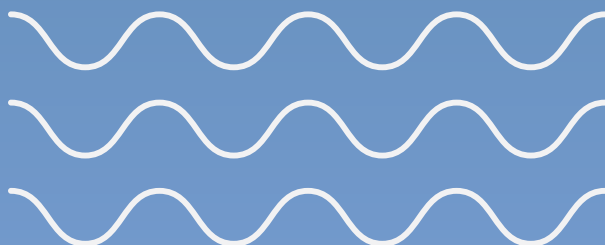
Financial Report



* Income for MFC Tie-Dye Inc. (2017-2023) in USD

Category	7-Year Total	1-Year Average	% of Total
Total Income	\$177,116	\$25,302	n/a
Donations from MFC Board Members and Project Advisors	\$93,111	\$13,302	52.6%
Donations from Project Supporters	\$56,779	\$8,111	32.1%
Grants	\$23,639	\$3,377	13.3%
MFC / MFI Product Sales	\$3,588	\$513	2.0%

* MFC has received grant support from Innovate@BU at Boston University, the YES Alumni Program, the optiMize program at the University of Michigan, and from the Boston College Schiller Institute (for work as part of The Aftermath Learning Lab's grant activities). Grant funding has directly supported The MFI Foundation.





MFC Tie-Dye Inc. 2017-2023 Project Report

**Approved by the MFC Board of
Directors on December 2, 2024**

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