

INSPIRING BEAUTY

 | **50 YEARS OF
EBONY
FASHION FAIR**

EXHIBITION FACT SHEET

Exhibition Description: The Chicago History Museum and Johnson Publishing Company present *Inspiring Beauty: 50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair* a story of power, vision, and innovation told through the legacy of **Eunice W. Johnson**, Chicago's Johnson Publishing Company, and the prism of iconic fashion collected over the show's 50-year history. *Inspiring Beauty* explores how a world-renown traveling fashion show redefined the concept of American beauty by being one of the first venues to showcase the fashion and beauty sense of African American women.

Exhibition Dates: **March 16, 2013 through January 5, 2014**

Exhibition Highlights:

- The exhibition will examine the show's impact, significance, and the life force behind the show, Eunice W. Johnson. As producer and director of the Ebony Fashion Fair show and secretary-treasurer of Johnson Publishing Company, she created theatrical presentations that brought high fashion and scholarship to local communities nationwide.
- The exhibition features over 60 garments from the *Ebony Fashion Fair* costume collection significant to late 20th century fashion including works by **Valentino Garavani, Oscar de la Renta, Christian Dior, Stephen Burrows, Bill Blass, Patrick Kelly, and Bob Mackie** among others.
- Exelon is the local presenting sponsor for the *Ebony Fashion Fair* exhibition, with additional support from the Costume Council of the Chicago History Museum.

The Museum's Costume Collection:

- The Chicago History Museum has one of the largest and richest costume collections in the world.
- The collection contains over 50,000 garments and accessories from the 1720s to present.

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- The Museum’s emphasis on provenance provides historical background information on fashion that is not often presented in other museum exhibitions or collections.

Location: Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60614, 312.642.4600

Admission: The exhibition is included with Museum admission of \$14 adults/ \$12 seniors and students, and free for Children 12 years of age and younger. Please visit www.chicagohistory.org for a schedule of Illinois Resident Discount Days, offering free admission to the Museum.

Website: www.chicagohistory.org

Transportation: CTA buses 11, 22, 36, 72, 73, 151, and 156 stop nearby. The Brown Line Sedgwick station and Red Line Clark/Division station are also located approximately one half-mile from the Museum.

Parking: Public parking is conveniently located one block north of the Museum at Clark and LaSalle Streets; enter on Stockton Drive.
Cost: \$9 with Museum validation; Visa, MasterCard, and Discover credit cards are accepted.
Accessibility: Specially located spots have been reserved for persons using mobility devices. Call 312.642.4600 for more information.

The **Chicago History Museum**, a major museum and research center for Chicago and American history, is located at 1601 N. Clark Street. The Museum can be reached by CTA buses 11, 22, 36, 72, 151, and 156. Parking is conveniently located one block north of the Museum at Clark and LaSalle Streets (enter on Stockton Drive). Admission to the Museum is \$14 adults with audio tour, \$12 seniors/students with audio tour, free for children 12 years and younger. Please call 312.642.4600 or visit us at www.chicagohistory.org. The Chicago History Museum is affiliated with the Chicago Historical Society and acknowledges the Chicago Park District’s generous support of all the Museum’s activities.

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