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## **CHICAGO-BASED DESIGNER LARA MILLER TAPPED TO HEAD CHICAGO FASHION INCUBATOR**

The City of Chicago and Macy's announced today that acclaimed Chicago-based designer and Mayor's Fashion Council member Lara Miller is the new Executive Director of the Chicago Fashion Incubator. Lara, a celebrated member of Chicago's fashion industry, will lend her experience as a designer to the six designers in residence at the CFI.

As part of her role as Executive Director, Lara's leadership responsibilities will include advising the designers on business decisions, professional development opportunities, and production of their lines. Lara takes on this role in addition to her thriving fashion business and through her experiences she will be able to share first-hand the steps to building successful foundations for the CFI designers.

"We could not have asked for a better candidate for this position," said Jason Felger, President of the Chicago Fashion Incubator Board of Directors. "The designers will greatly benefit from Lara's talent, knowledge of the fashion industry, and reputation in the community."

Born and raised in Chicago, Lara's work is strongly influenced by the city's architectural and cultural landscape. Lara has been a Mayor's Fashion Council member since the council's formation in June of 2006 and has been instrumental in the success of council initiatives. Lara is a graduate of the School of the Art Institute, she's a Crain's 40 Under 40, and her line is carried in over 50 stores throughout the world including the UK, Australia, and Japan.

### **About the Chicago Fashion Incubator**

The Chicago Fashion Incubator (CFI) at Macy's on State Street provides six emerging Chicago-based designers with the resources, including workspace, curriculum and mentoring, to launch their careers in fashion. The Designers in Residence (DIR) are provided office space, including computers and software; a workshop room with sample production space and a resource section; as well as a showroom. DIR are required to complete a core curriculum of workshops and seminars conducted at the Incubator location at Macy's on State Street for the duration of a one-year period starting in March 2009. CFI is part of Fashion Focus Chicago, which supports and promotes fashion designers living and working in Chicago through events, seminars, and city programs.

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