



CALIFORNIA FASHION ASSOCIATION

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The Los Angeles Business Journal presents



Southern California Apparel Awards 2014

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Industry Icon Award: Ilse Metchek of California Fashion Association

Ilse Metchek, the President of the **California Fashion Association (CFA)**, created the organization in 1994, with assistance from the major financial and manufacturing participants of the region's apparel industry. The **CFA** provides leaders of the Southern California manufacturing and textile community with the opportunity to share information about the business of conducting business in the current global economy.

The **CFA** was the outcome of Fashion Industry Round Table, hosted by then Mayor Richard Riordan. At that meeting, participants agreed that an industry organization was necessary to answer the questions of the media and other groups, to gather significant statistics, on-going data, and instigate cooperative efforts with city, state, and federal officials investigating the incident, on behalf of the apparel & textile industry at large.

Ilse Metchek, then the General Manager of the California Mart, was designated to act as the temporary Executive Director of the newly-formed **CFA**. Since then, the **CFA** has become a multi-pronged Association, dealing with all the significant issues affecting the apparel and textile industry of California.

Prior to the formation of the **CFA**, **Metchek** was Executive Director of the California Market Center (then called the California Mart), and before that, she was President of White Stag Inc., a division of Warnaco Industries. As a manufacturer, **Metchek** was Owner and President of Ilse M. Inc., which she purchased from the Anjac Corporation in 1984. Her career at Anjac began as the company's designer in 1967; and seventeen years later, she owned the company.



Metchek's current professional affiliations include Board Membership of the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation, Advisory Board to the UCLA Extension School, Advisory Council of the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising, member of Fashion Group International of Los Angeles, and President of Image Makers L.A.—a consulting group to apparel industry businesses.