

of technology in creating its bike bags, luggage and day packs. With purchases including an automatic cutting table, “we are able to keep costs down,” he said. A canvas Lunch Bag from Frost River retails for a reasonable \$25. Duluth is also a very artsy, cultural spot that draws tourists who like to hike, canoe, mountain bike and cross country ski. “We’re trying to be as progressive as possible without being caught in a trend and growing little by little,” Bartell said. ●

7. LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



Thanks to sunshine, beaches and a revitalized downtown, LA is attracting brands. Brad Mowry, CEO of Artisan Cloth, is seeing growth especially in product development and design in denim and casual bottoms due to the existence of several local commercial/industrial laundry facilities. “Designers and brands can work with a laundry on product development from scratch, then have an innovative custom-made product, reference recipe/process application and costs in hand in less than two weeks. That is an incredible resource in a creative market,” the exec said. Artisan Cloth currently handles sales and development for Kurabo fabrics, plus technical and creative wash/wet process consulting projects.

While many facilities are attempting to find ways to streamline rising costs in utilities and wages in the area, Mowry points to LA’s denim legacy with over a quarter century of experience and the vast “ideas, resources, inspiration, and even the competition between facilities to provide a healthy motivation towards excellence an innovation.” ●

8. MIAMI, FLORIDA

With warm weather and convenience to South America, Miami is on the rise for design and manufacturing, according to Angie Cohen, owner of sewing school DesignLab Miami. “Local and state governments are working to entice both



designers and manufacturers to the area,” she said, including Naeem Khan, who recently leased 30,000 square feet of space downtown. At DesignLab, Cohen is helping kids as young as six learn about new materials, technologies and processes. Twelve-year-old student Ariel Swedroe’s line (Swedroe by Ariel) is inspired by the prints of her grandfather, artist Robert Swedroe. Ariel is using 3D prints, laser cutting and LED lighting techniques in bathing suits and dresses.

In July 2014, Macy’s and economic development agency The Beacon Council announced plans to create the Miami Fashion Incubator at Macy’s, a project to promote talent in fashion, create jobs and support small businesses linked to the sector. ●

9. PORTLAND, OREGON



“There is a major manufacturing scene happening in Portland,” said Dan Tieg, founder of Wild Outdoor Apparel. From “mountain to bar,” as Tieg describes his line, to high fashion, productivity is humming. “We are seeing a lot of outdoor product with a fashion bend,” including Wild, Bridge & Burn, Nau and Make it Good, said Sue Bal, business development manager for the athletic and outdoor industry at the Portland Development Commission. The PDC runs aoportland.com, which includes a job board, loan programs and community events. A peer-to-peer roundtable allows executives from small-to-medium-size companies to meet experts from areas including e-commerce, branding and finance to help grow their businesses. ●

Looking to diversify Portland Fashion Week and branch into other areas of the industry, The Portland Fashion Council is working to build a platform on sustainability. “We will be showing the fashion world that sustainability is here now, it’s the way things must be,” said Fashion Week Productions Founder Tod Hunter Foulk. “I think why Portland is such a hub for designers, well it must be something in the water, as it is a completely organic movement, with mutual support and encouragement within the community itself,” he said. ●

10. WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA



“The heart of the textile revival is in the Carolinas,” said Michael Penner, CEO of Peds Legwear at Texworld USA’s “Made in America: A New Reality?” talk. The economy has required rejuvenation and the government has answered the call with tax incentives. Penner recently reshored Peds to North Carolina, revamping a factory in Hildebran and putting people to work. In a region known for hosiery, Peds is in good company with other USA-touting sock brands. Dan St. Louis, director of the Manufacturing Solutions Center, keeps the art of hosiery alive by offering Hosiery 101 classes; product testing and helping firms find manufacturing solutions. In apparel, Morganton-based Carolina Textile District helps entrepreneurs connect with suppliers.

Entrepreneurs Mariano deGuzman and Grace Gouin of Appalatch set up shop in Asheville because “we not only can drive to most everyone in our supply chain within a few hours, but the mountains and the culture of Western North Carolina provide us with inspiration that drives our brand forward,” said deGuzman. Case in point, Appalatch gets its wool from a sheep farmer just outside of Asheville. “Telling his story alone and that his sheep’s wool makes our clothing does so much with that connection,” he explained. ●

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The City of Chicago’s fashion initiative (Fashion Focus Chicago) is working to make the area more affordable with live/work space options, industry resources and mentorships, according to The City of Chicago’s Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events.