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## **Buffalo Fashion Runway Announces 2026 Buffalo Black Icons to Be Honored at Black Carpet III at Shea's Buffalo Theatre**

### **Honoring Legacy, Leadership, and Living Tribute Through Culture**

**Buffalo, NY** — Buffalo Fashion Runway (BFR) proudly announces the 2026 Buffalo Black Icons who will be honored at **Black Carpet III**, taking place on **Saturday, February 28, 2026**, at **Shea's Buffalo Theatre**.

Now in its third year, Black Carpet has grown into one of Buffalo's premier cultural fashion productions, blending runway, storytelling, performance, and community recognition. This year's show marks a historic leap to Shea's during its Centennial celebration and reflects on 100 years of Buffalo fashion and the cultural forces that shaped the city.

At the heart of Black Carpet III is the Buffalo Black Icons recognition. An honor presented to ten individuals whose work has strengthened Buffalo through leadership, service, creativity, advocacy, faith, business, and civic engagement.

The selection of **ten** honorees each year is intentional.

The Buffalo Black Icons segment serves as a **living tribute to the ten lives lost on May 14, 2022**. By honoring ten Black leaders at every Black Carpet production, Buffalo Fashion

Runway both remembers those we lost and uplifts those who continue carrying the legacy of resilience, love, and community forward.

Black Carpet III does not separate remembrance from celebration. Instead, it weaves them together recognizing that legacy lives on through action, leadership, and collective progress.

**2026 Buffalo Black Icons Honorees:**

- Charlene Miller (Mama Charlene)
- Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes
- Darnell “DJ” Haywood
- Councilwoman Leah Halton-Pope
- Renata Toney
- Lindsey Taylor
- Mo Sumbundu
- Thomas Beauford Jr.
- Rashida A. Dowell
- Terrance L. Heard

Each honoree represents a pillar of excellence within Buffalo’s Black community, individuals whose impact extends across generations.

Black Carpet III will feature over 20 designers, 100+ models, live music, dance, spoken word, and immersive storytelling — marking Buffalo Fashion Runway’s most ambitious production to date.

VIP tickets are officially sold out.

Tickets are available at:

<https://www.sheas.org/performances/black-carpet/>

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Photos of [Buffalo Black Icons](#)