

Collections Policy

Preserving the histories we wear.

Proposed collecting philosophy — not a formally adopted policy.

Formal operational procedures remain to be adopted. An inquiry is not an acquisition, donation, loan or transfer of ownership.

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01 — Scope Of The Collection

The Museum of Street Style (The MoSS) is being established to document, study, and preserve the material and visual histories of street style.

Our collecting vision recognizes clothing and personal expression as important records of cultural life.

A garment can document a movement. A photograph can preserve a generation. An everyday object can reveal the relationship between identity, community, politics, music, and place.

The MoSS seeks to preserve these histories and make them accessible to future generations.

As the institution develops its collections and archival programs, the following principles will guide its approach to collecting, documentation, research, and preservation.

This statement describes the museum's proposed collecting philosophy. Formal acquisitions, loans, conservation procedures, and collection management practices will be governed by policies adopted as the institution becomes operational.

What we preserve.

The MoSS intends to develop a collection reflecting the global history, evolution, and influence of street style.

Its collecting interests encompass objects, images, documents, and recorded histories that illuminate the relationship between clothing and cultural expression.

Areas of interest include:

Garments & Textiles

Clothing associated with cultural movements, communities, designers, and significant moments in the history of street style.

Footwear & Accessories

Sneakers, footwear, jewelry, bags, headwear, and other objects that reflect changing forms of personal and collective expression.

Photography

Street photography, fashion documentation, portraits, and visual records of cultural movements and everyday life.

Printed Material

Magazines, independent publications, advertisements, posters, flyers, catalogs, and other printed ephemera.

Music & Performance

Garments, photography, video, and archival materials documenting the relationship between music, performance, and street style.

Personal Archives

Collections maintained by individuals whose experiences contribute to the history of style and cultural identity.

Digital Culture

Digital photography, video, online publications, and other born-digital materials documenting contemporary style and emerging cultural practices.

Oral Histories

Recorded conversations with designers, photographers, artists, cultural figures, and community members whose experiences contribute to the historical record.

02 — Collecting Philosophy

Cultural significance is not determined by commercial value.

The MoSS recognizes that historically important objects are not always rare, expensive, or associated with celebrated designers.

An everyday garment may hold extraordinary cultural significance because of who wore it, where it was worn, or the community it represents.

Our collecting philosophy is intended to recognize both influential cultural figures and the everyday people whose expressions of style have shaped global visual culture.

We seek to examine objects within their historical and social contexts rather than treating them solely as fashion artifacts.

03 — Geographic & Cultural Scope

Street style is a global language shaped by local histories.

The MoSS intends to document cultural movements across cities, countries, and communities, with particular attention to the relationships between migration, music, identity, and fashion.

The museum's broader vision extends internationally, recognizing the contributions of communities throughout Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas, and beyond.

Our approach will seek to avoid presenting any single city or cultural tradition as the exclusive origin of street style.

04 — Acquisitions

Building a collection with integrity.

The MoSS intends to develop its collection through appropriate acquisitions, donations, loans, and collaborations.

Before accepting material into a permanent collection, the institution will seek to establish clear documentation regarding its origin, ownership, significance, condition, and legal status.

Acquisition decisions should consider:

Relevance to the museum's mission; Historical and cultural significance; Authenticity; Provenance; Legal ownership; Ethical considerations; Preservation requirements; Research value; Long-term stewardship responsibilities

The museum will not knowingly acquire material obtained through theft, unlawful transfer, or other improper means.

Formal acquisition procedures will be established before the museum begins accepting objects into permanent custody.

05 — Provenance & Documentation

Every object has a history.

Provenance research is fundamental to responsible collecting.

The MoSS intends to document the known history of objects and materials entering its collections, including their creators, previous owners, cultural context, and circumstances of acquisition.

Where documentation is incomplete, the museum will seek to identify and communicate those limitations.

Historical interpretation may evolve as additional information becomes available.

The institution intends to maintain accurate and appropriately accessible collection records.

06 — Community Responsibility

Preserving culture requires respecting its creators.

The MoSS recognizes that street style often emerges from communities whose contributions have been historically overlooked, misrepresented, or commercially appropriated.

Our collecting and research practices will seek to acknowledge the individuals and communities responsible for developing cultural movements.

Where appropriate, we intend to engage relevant communities in the documentation and interpretation of their histories.

The museum will consider cultural sensitivity, privacy, attribution, and the interests of communities connected to collected materials.

We recognize that legal ownership alone does not resolve every ethical question surrounding cultural heritage.

07 — Conservation & Preservation

The MoSS intends to establish professional standards for the care and preservation of its collections.

Preservation planning will address the specific requirements of garments, textiles, footwear, photographs, printed materials, audiovisual recordings, and digital archives.

Future collection management procedures will consider:

Environmental conditions; Appropriate storage; Object handling; Conservation assessment; Condition documentation; Digitization; Digital preservation; Security; Disaster preparedness; Long-term collection care

Conservation activities will be undertaken with appropriate professional expertise.

08 — Digital Collections

A museum without borders.

The MoSS intends to make selected collection materials accessible through a digital archive.

The digital collection will support research, education, and public engagement by connecting objects to their historical contexts.

Digital records may include:

Object descriptions; Creator information; Dates and locations; Historical context; Photography; Related exhibitions; Research references; Rights information; Provenance documentation, where appropriate

Public access to collection records will be subject to applicable copyright, privacy, cultural sensitivity, and other relevant considerations.

Not all collection materials will necessarily be available online.

09 — Research & Scholarship

The MoSS seeks to advance the study of street style through original research, archival documentation, and collaboration.

The museum intends to encourage interdisciplinary approaches connecting fashion history with anthropology, photography, music, sociology, architecture, and cultural studies.

Research findings will be presented through exhibitions, publications, digital resources, and educational initiatives.

The institution will seek to distinguish documented historical evidence from interpretation and speculation.

10 — Loans & Collaborations

The MoSS anticipates working with collectors, photographers, designers, cultural organizations, estates, and other institutions.

Potential collaborations may include:

Temporary exhibitions; Research partnerships; Digitization projects; Archival documentation; Object loans; Educational initiatives; Oral history projects

All loans and collection-related collaborations will require appropriate agreements addressing ownership, custody, handling, insurance, reproduction rights, and other relevant responsibilities.

11 — Intellectual Property & Reproduction

The MoSS recognizes the intellectual property rights of artists, photographers, designers, authors, and other creators.

The inclusion of material within a museum collection does not automatically transfer copyright or reproduction rights to the institution.

The museum intends to document relevant rights information and obtain permissions where required.

Requests to reproduce collection materials will be reviewed according to applicable rights, agreements, and institutional policies.

12 — Collection Access

The MoSS seeks to support meaningful access to its collections for researchers, educators, students, and the public.

Access may be provided through digital records, exhibitions, publications, educational programming, and future research facilities.

Specific access arrangements will depend on the institution's operational capacity and the legal, ethical, and preservation requirements associated with individual materials.

13 — Deaccessioning

The MoSS recognizes that responsible collection stewardship requires clear procedures governing the removal of objects from a permanent collection.

Before any deaccessioning activity takes place, the institution intends to adopt formal procedures consistent with applicable law, professional museum standards, donor restrictions, and its public mission.

Decisions regarding deaccessioning should be subject to appropriate oversight, documentation, and ethical review.

The museum will establish specific rules governing the permissible use of any proceeds from the disposal of collection objects.

14 — Collection Inquiries

The MoSS welcomes preliminary conversations with individuals and organizations possessing materials relevant to the history of street style.

We are particularly interested in learning about archives, photographs, garments, publications, and personal histories that may contribute to future research and collecting initiatives.

Submitting an inquiry does not constitute a donation, transfer of ownership, loan agreement, or acceptance of material into the museum's collection.

Please do not send physical objects without prior written authorization.

Collection inquiries are received through the private inquiry form below; no dedicated collections team is represented as appointed.

The general Contact page remains an alternative institutional inquiry pathway.

The MoSS — Museum of Street Style

It all starts and ends here.

For collection inquiries, use the Collections Policy page on The MoSS website. Please do not send physical objects without prior written authorization.