

# JESSICA BACON

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Visionary Design Leader with over 15 years of experience in apparel and textile design, product development, and brand strategy, specializing in artisan craftsmanship, sustainability, and social impact. **Creator of patented athletic wear design (US Patent D730-016)** demonstrating innovation in functional apparel and ability to translate market needs into commercially successful products. Proven track record in managing creative teams, developing merchandising strategies, and building strategic partnerships. Passionate about ethical sourcing and creating market-relevant, artisan-centered products that drive both social impact and commercial success.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### CREATIVE DIRECTOR OF DESIGN AND MERCHANDISING

Smile Spinners Fabric Boutique and Sewing Studio | Marysville, PA | Jan 2015 - Jan 2023

- Led strategic expansion of product offerings, emphasizing eco-conscious textiles and sustainable design practices
- Directed a creative team and managed fashion design intern program, providing mentorship and fostering innovation
- Developed and executed merchandising strategies resulting in consistent sales growth through both in-store and online channels
- Established partnerships with textile distributors through targeted outreach at tradeshow and industry events
- Created and implemented seasonal fabric purchasing calendar and managed procurement budget
- Designed and launched online WebShop platform, managing all aspects of inventory lifecycle and user experience
- Developed educational workshops focused on sustainable design and artisan craftsmanship techniques
- Spearheaded community engagement initiatives, including annual charity events and educational programs
- Applied patented design principles to develop innovative product samples and collections

### ACCOUNT SUPERVISOR - PRINT DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIALTY TEXTILES

City Prints and Premier Fabrics | Manhattan, NY | Jan - Dec 2014

- Directed sourcing relationships with designer accounts, connecting creative vision with production capabilities
- Collaborated with in-house print artists to translate client concepts into market-ready designs
- Negotiated costs and production quantities to optimize outcomes for both manufacturing partners and clients
- Managed production calendars and design timelines, ensuring on-time delivery of all projects
- Maintained comprehensive fabric and print library, making seasonal updates based on market trends
- Facilitated sample development process from concept through production approval

# SOURCING SUPERVISOR - TEXTILE DEVELOPMENT AND ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT

Premiere Textiles | Manhattan, NY | Feb - Dec 2013

- Managed 15+ design accounts across various market segments, translating brand requirements into sourcing strategies
- Partnered with 30+ international textile mills across Asia, including daily communication and quality oversight
- Led a team of associates, coordinating product development activities to meet client deadlines and quality standards
- Developed trend-driven reports to align client needs with mill partner capabilities
- Managed key accounts including JCP, Abercrombie, American Eagle, Guess, J.Jill, and Jones of New York

## TEXTILE R&D ASSISTANT TO DIRECTOR

The Jones Group | Manhattan, NY | June 2010 - March 2012

- Collaborated with designers to develop seasonal fabric selections and innovative textile concepts
- Coordinated with local and international vendors on new collections and development initiatives
- Managed production calendars and sample tracking for multiple product lines simultaneously
- Attended industry trade shows for trend research and competitive analysis

## EDUCATION

Fashion Institute of Technology | New York, NY

- BS in Production Management for Apparel and Textiles (2008)
- AAS in Fashion Design, Tailoring Specialization (2006)
- Awarded Production Management Scholarship (2007)

## INNOVATION & PATENTS

US Patent D730-016: Athletic Pants "NuFit Knickers" Softball Pants

- Developed innovative "Slide-Zone" technology that enhances both performance and durability
- Created solution-driven design addressing specific market needs for 3N2 Sports
- Demonstrated ability to blend functional requirements with aesthetically appealing design
- Showcased expertise in translating user feedback into commercially viable product innovations
- Applied principles of ergonomic design to improve athletic performance and comfort

## PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- **Technical Expertise:** Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, Microsoft Office, Website Development Platforms
- **Industry Knowledge:** Extensive training in sustainability practices, textile fundamentals, color standards, quality assurance, and production techniques through Cotton Incorporated Industry Workshops
- **Languages:** English (native), Spanish (intermediate spoken and written)