

RMDZ - Upcycle Chino

February 10, 2026

Program Name: Upcycle Chino

Program Duration: July 1, 2026 - December 31, 2026

of Business Leads: 15 - 20

Overview:

Upcycle Chino is a micro-manufacturing sector development initiative focused on recycled-content textile production and sustainable fashion manufacturing. The initiative supports local recycled-material manufacturing by transforming discarded and surplus textiles into value-added garments and fashion products. The program advances circular manufacturing practices that reduce landfill disposal, extend the lifecycle of textile materials, and strengthen the City's capacity for small-batch, environmentally responsible manufacturing.

Core program components include:

- Conversion of post-consumer and surplus textiles into finished market-ready garments and products
- Small-batch production methods suitable for micro-manufacturing and product commercialization
- Fabric deconstruction, material recovery, and quality control processes that support recycled manufacturing
- Integration of circular manufacturing models and sustainable sourcing strategies
- A public fashion showcase to increase visibility and market demand for locally manufactured, recycled-content goods

Program Budget:

RMDZ Funds - \$42,545

Technical Assistance Outline:

Course 1: Sustainable Fashion Foundations

Duration: 3 weeks

Focus:

- Introduction to sustainability & circular fashion
- Textile waste and reuse
- Denim deconstruction techniques
- Design ideation and sketching

Outcomes:

- Understanding of sustainable fashion principles
- Initial garment concepts
- Material selection and prep

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Course 2: Garment Construction & Design Execution

Duration: 3 weeks

Focus:

- Pattern modification
- Sewing and garment construction
- Fit, finishing, and detailing
- Quality control and presentation

Outcomes:

- Completed upcycled garments
- Understanding of garment production workflow

Course 3: Fashion Presentation & Creative Entrepreneurship

Duration: 4 weeks

Focus:

- Styling and presentation
- Branding and storytelling
- Fashion show preparation
- Introduction to retail and merchandising
- Financial Literacy

Outcomes:

- Fashion show-ready garments
- Understanding of creative business pathways
- Public presentation experience

Activity Metrics:

15 - 20 businesses captured from lead generation

100 garments or products produced per participant

500 (lbs) of textiles recovered and reused

650 instructional hours delivered (course hours per cohort)

One Website and 1,000 views of total social media engagement

Evaluation Metrics:

\$42,545 total program cost vs \$42,545 total budget spent

15- 20 total number of businesses served

100 upcycled garments made

500 (lbs) of textiles diverted from landfill

Increase in awareness of sustainable fashion by 50% (pre/post survey)