



## Tuiga - A Traditional Samoan Attire



The fashion team was led by the talented Tuifaasisina Korina Seiuli Lee and supported by creative co-designers Isabella Mageo, Ammon Fepuleai, and Tuafaleloa Keniseli Fanolua. They showcased a variety of captivating designs that celebrated the cultural heritage of American Samoa. Each piece told a story, reflecting the designers' deep cultural roots and artistic innovation.

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“ An achievement and blessing for me is promoting fashion and designs that reflects my cultural heritage on a significant platform. ”

## Tuifaasisina Korina Seiuli Lee

Tuifaasisina Korina Seiuli Lee currently resides in Tafuna, American Samoa, and is well-acquainted with platforms both locally and abroad. As the owner and CEO of Le Taupou Manaia Academy of Traditional Samoan Dance, Music, and Arts in American Samoa, Samoa, and New Zealand, she is renowned for promoting Samoan culture through fashion, music, and dance.

She aims to showcase the island's beauty and preserve and revive traditional Samoan treasures like the Tuiga Fafau, a three-piece headdress worn by models and Taupou. She wishes for younger generations to continue the tradition of creating these traditional handicrafts.

Tuifaasisina hopes to inspire more artists to share their talents across the Pacific, emphasizing the importance of knowing one's heritage. Her evolving art of music and dance, showcased in her fashion shows, reflects the talents she has passed down through her dance academy.

A highlight of her experience was dressing Miss Pacific Islands, Miss Moemoana Schwenke, in traditional Samoan attire for the Samoan Tualuga. Tuifaasisina feels blessed to still model and dance with her team and cherishes the beautiful spirit of Pacific islanders. She advises the younger generation to embrace their heritage and leave a lasting impact on the world.

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# Fashion - Cultural Bridal & Gowns



**Isabella AhMu-Mageo**

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Fashion is an infinite art form with multiple dimensions and limitless possibilities to create stories, produce feelings, and inspire people. As we share among our Pasefika families, we share the same aspect that makes what we can fashion.

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Isabella AhMu-Mageo, daughter of Lele AhMu and Tuiafenoa Teofilo Toa Laulu Mageo from the villages of Aua and Pago Pago, expressed pride in being selected for the fashion tour. She saw it as both an honor and opportunity to expand and share the art of fashion with a network of Pasefika people. This platform allowed her to promote the rich blend of traditional and contemporary *laei* and cultural fashion that American Samoa has to offer. Collaborating with three other talented designers, she felt they successfully achieved their goal, showcasing the beauty and diversity of Samoan fashion to the world.

Isabella explained that the merger of traditional, contemporary, and modern fashion and art has always been present among the Pacific nations. She emphasized that their greatness continues through collaboration among artisans. In her words: "There's more to our fashion than usual."

# Fashion - Cultural Bridal & Gowns



# Fashion - The Harmony Collection

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**Do what you love and love what you do. The most important thing to remember is to stay true to your art form.**

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**Ammon Fepuleai**

Ammon Fepuleai, is from the village of Pago Pago, American Samoa. He joined the American Samoa delegation team to share his talent and art form with the Pacific community, while also seeking to learn from them. His goal was to bring their designs to life for the fashion show, and he felt confident in his team. “I was proud of my team when I saw all the love and support from the crowd.”

He mentioned how the speaker from Samoa emphasized the immutability of our identity. This profound insight resonated with him, and he will always cherish the opportunity to exchange knowledge and experiences with the Pacific community. Ammon hopes to use what he has seen and learned from the Pacific Festival to improve his craft. His advice for future delegations is to plan your designs in advance and anticipate unexpected changes. His favorite memory from the festival so far is spending time with his team.

# Fashion - The Harmony Collection



# Fashion - Gigi Kai (Grand Skirt)

**“ Feed your Focus, and Starve your Distraction ”**



**Tuafaleloa Keniseli Fanolua**

Tuafaleloa Keniseli Fanolua is from the village of Taputimu, American Samoa. Participating in the Pacific Festival has allowed her to showcase her talent on a larger stage and build connections with other island nations. Her main mission was to ensure that the fashion line she presented was cohesive and aligned with the theme of "Regenerating Oceania." Ken believes she achieved this without compromising cultural practices and heritage.

She aims for her design aesthetic to evolve over time through the integration of new sewing techniques. Her advice for future FestPAC events is to embrace fellowship and prioritize well-being. A favorite memory from her FesPAC journey so far is modeling the "Gigi Kai" (Grand Skirt) Pa'u skirt.



# Fashion - Gigi Kai (Grand Skirt)



# AMERIKA SAMOA



2024 FESTIVAL OF PACIFIC ARTS & CULTURE - HAWAII



## HO'OU LU LĀHUI Regenerating Oceania

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