

Dr. Marsha Dickson, Irma Ayers Professor, Fashion and Apparel Studies, Co-director of Sustainable Apparel Initiative, University of Delaware

Dr. Marsha Dickson is internationally known for her research and teaching on socially responsible practices in the apparel industry and has been awarded Apparel Magazine's All-Star Award and the International Textile and Apparel Association's Distinguished Scholar Award for that work. Her research has been conducted in several countries, including China, Guatemala, India, Thailand, and Vietnam. She is founder and President of an international consortium of Educators for Socially Responsible Apparel Business. Dickson is also a member of the board of directors of the Fair Labor Association, a non-governmental organization originally formed by President Clinton to address labor standards and working conditions in the apparel industry.

Pushpika Freitas, Founder and President, MarketPlace: Handwork of India

Pushpika Freitas is founder and president of MarketPlace: Handwork of India. Pushpika began her career by founding and directing the Leprosy Rehabilitation Center in Mumbai, India. Because of the passion she found in empowering women, she later founded SHARE (Support the Handicapped's Rehabilitation Effort), a non-profit organization in Mumbai that works closely with MarketPlace. SHARE currently works with 14 cooperatives, primarily composed of women artisans. In 1986, Pushpika founded MarketPlace: Handwork of India, in Evanston, Illinois, to create markets and promotional campaigns to support fair trade products made by artisans in India

Renee Bowers, Buyer, Ten Thousand Villages

As the Executive Director, Renee manages the strategic, administrative, and programmatic aspects of the Fair Trade Federation. Prior to joining the FTF, Renee built long term, sustainable fair trade relationships with artisan groups around the world. As a buyer at Ten Thousand Villages, she worked directly with producer groups in India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka to develop fairly traded product, build artisan capacity, and explore the impact of fair trade.

Renee has diverse experience within the non-profit and crafts sectors, both in the United States and abroad. As a Senior Performing Arts Fellow with the American Institute of Indian Studies, Bowers worked closely with traditional puppeteers and puppet carvers in Karnataka, South India. Renee has a BA from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. She also holds a graduate certificate in Socially Responsible and Sustainable Apparel Business from the University of Delaware.