



## BLOSSOM

Beautiful. Resilient. Confident. She has blossomed.

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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## **BLOSSOM Fashion Show to be Hosted by TV Personality Nigel Barker and Feature Couture Designer Elda de la Rosa**

***WINGS new event will honor media star Candace Jordan and  
bring awareness to domestic violence through couture fashion***

**CHICAGO (April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024)** – WINGS will present BLOSSOM, a fashion show on Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 21c Museum Hotel in Chicago at 6:30pm. Produced by **Zzazz Productions**, the runway will feature the Spring '24 collection by couture designer **Elda de la Rosa**. The show will be hosted by **Nigel Barker**, internationally renowned photographer and judge on the hit TV show America's Next Top Model. The event will also feature a musical performance by **jazz dynamo Elaine Dame**, and WINGS will honor Chicago's own, **Candace Jordan**. Walking the runway will be domestic violence survivors including **Melissa DuPrey**, critically acclaimed solo artist and actress, and special guest **Domenica Lida Biondolillo**, former Ms. Chicago 2023. Internationally published photographer **Lori Sapio** will shoot the runway. All proceeds from BLOSSOM will be used to expand counseling and supportive services for domestic violence survivors.

**One in three women and one in four men** are affected by domestic violence in their lifetime, according to the CDC's Division of Violence Prevention. Despite the statistics which prove this is a pervasive global problem, it is still a subject that is very difficult for many to discuss.

"If I invite a group of women to come and listen to me speak about domestic violence, the result would be an empty room. If I invite this same group of women to come to a beautiful couture fashion show, the room would be packed," said Tracey Mayer, a development consultant for WINGS, designer, and a survivor of domestic violence. **"It's time we begin talking openly about domestic violence** and encourage everyone to join us in our movement. **Domestic violence is a huge problem to tackle, but we believe we can solve it if we all work together.** WINGS is jumping on the momentum that is being built in the beauty industry to bring awareness to domestic violence: like YSL Beauty UK 'Abuse is not Love' and Sephora CARES 'You are not Alone' programs," said Mayer.

BLOSSOM is possible due to generosity from sponsors and numerous people donating their time and talents. Event sponsors include: The Ford Family, Melissa and Michael Canning, Sunitha and Ramana Chamarti, KL Klein Gifting Foundation, Wintrust, BMO Wealth Management, Mary Patricia Burns, Light Drawn Studios, Dr. Gertrude Lyons, The Lyon Family Foundation, and Sheila King Marketing + Public Relations. BLOSSOM's in-kind sponsors include: Brenda Arelano (makeup artist), Salon Snob (hair stylist), Veronica Beard Gold Coast, Chicago jazz singer Elaine Dame, photographer Lori Sapio, photographer Alexis Goettsch, Media Rey, and Unforgettable Events.

**Sponsorships and tickets** to this exclusive fashion show are selling fast. Guests will enjoy drinks, appetizers, and a special gift. To learn more about the event, visit <https://bit.ly/BlossomFashion>.

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#### **About WINGS:**

The mission of WINGS Program, Inc. is to provide housing, integrated services, education, and advocacy to end domestic violence. As the largest provider of domestic violence services in Illinois, WINGS offers a continuum of resources across Metropolitan Chicago.

Since 1985, WINGS has continued to break the cycle of violence and create new opportunities for women, men, and children with proven programs and impact. WINGS innovative, scalable, impactful, and community-based solutions assist hundreds of survivors change their lives annually. Of clients completing an exit survey, 99% reported not returning to their abuser.

**Anyone experiencing domestic violence can receive help by calling the 24-hour hotline at 847.221.5680.** Survivors interested in learning more about WINGS counseling services may call 847.519.7828. **For more information, visit [www.wingsprogram.com](http://www.wingsprogram.com).**

SAVE 04/25/24  
THE DATE



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Fashion Show  
Featuring Couture Designer

Elda de la Rosa

Hosted by Nigel Barker



Moderating Candace Jordan



Presented by



21c Museum Hotel Chicago

VIP Reception 6-7pm  
General Admission 6:30pm  
Fashion Show 7:30pm

Musical performance by Elaine Dame

To benefit



Invitation to follow

