FUNCTIONAL FABRIC FAIR
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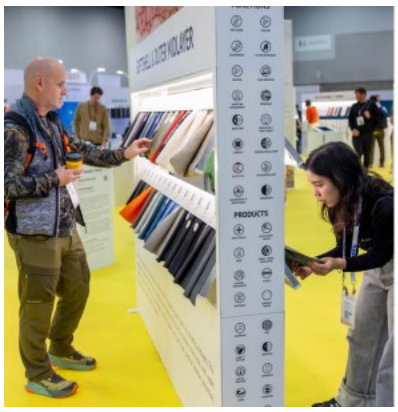
Functional Fabric Fair Fall 2026 Portland Posts Record Attendance, Sells Out Exhibit Hall

More than 350 exhibitors filled the exhibit hall, while a sold-out Day 0 OIA Catalyst Conference kicked off three days of education, sourcing and networking for Fall/Winter 2027/28

NORWALK, CT (November 2, 2026) – Functional Fabric Fair powered by PERFORMANCE DAYS® returned to the Oregon Convention Center in Portland for its Fall 2026 edition, October 26–28, 2026. The show closed with its highest attendance to date, up 7% over Fall 2025, along with a sold-out exhibit hall of more than 350 exhibitors and a sold-out Day 0 OIA Catalyst Conference, developed in partnership with the Outdoor Industry Association (OIA). Two days of sourcing and Expert Talks programming followed on October 27–28.

Over three days, the fair served as a hub for discovery in sustainable material innovation, with a strong focus on next-generation textiles, emerging technologies and future-ready sourcing. Programming highlighted how advancements in fibers, finishes and fabric engineering are changing performance, durability and end-use across apparel categories.

Attendees included apparel executives, product developers, designers and sourcing leaders from brands such as Adidas, Alo Yoga, Arc'teryx, Bass Pro Shops, Brooks Running, Carhartt, Columbia Sportswear Company, Dick's Sporting Goods, Eddie Bauer, Fanatics Apparel, HOKA, Huckberry, Lands' End, Lululemon, Marmot, New Balance, Nike, Nordstrom, Patagonia, REI, Rhone, Spanx, TravisMathew, Under Armour, Vuori and more.





A Sold-Out Exhibit Hall

The Fall 2026 exhibit hall sold out with more than 350 sustainability-certified suppliers, including over 50 companies exhibiting at the fall edition for the first time. Exhibitors presented functional fabrics, finishes, trims, accessories and material innovations for workwear, sportswear, outdoor, activewear, lifestyle, bodywear, rain gear and more.

“No other show brings together this caliber of attendee with suppliers this intentional about meeting them, and this edition proved it,” said Steve McCullough, Event Vice President, Functional Fabric Fair. “Selling out the exhibit hall and Day 0 while growing attendance tells us Portland has become a must-attend sourcing destination for the performance apparel community. Brands came with real development timelines and left with new supplier relationships, and our exhibitors told us the quality of conversations on the floor was the strongest they have seen. We’re grateful to our partners at OIA, our sponsors and every exhibitor and attendee who made this edition a success.”

What Exhibitors Said

“Just three hours into our first day exhibiting, I turned to my business partner and joked that we could pack up, head home two days early, and the trip would’ve already been more than worth it. For companies like MN8 operating at the intersection of advanced materials, human performance, and wellness, Functional Fabric Fair brought together exactly the right audience. We ended up having more than 30 meetings in just two days, were so busy we barely had a chance to step away from our booth and were genuinely impressed by the caliber of conversations and enthusiasm for innovation. We will definitely be back next year!” – Stephen Schweickart, Co-Founder, MN8 Corp.

“Functional Fabric Fair remains one of the most valuable industry events for our team. It provides a valuable opportunity to meet with customers face-to-face, strengthen partnerships, and generate new business opportunities in a focused and productive environment. As the show continues to grow, it has become an even more effective platform for expanding our network and supporting our long-term growth. The connections we build at Functional Fabric Fair continue to create lasting value for our business.” – Tara Natter, General Manager – Textiles, Toray International America

“As a longtime exhibitor, Functional Fabric Fair continues to be one of the most important shows on our calendar. This fall, we had the opportunity to connect with many of our customers, several of whom brought additional members of their teams, while also building relationships with promising new business prospects. Every meeting was valuable and productive, making this a highly successful show for our business. We left with great momentum and strong opportunities heading into the new year.” – Judy Loh, Sales Manager, K and K Clothing Accessories Co., Ltd.

What Attendees Said

“Functional Fabric Fair is a valuable opportunity to connect with material innovators, discover emerging technologies, and see firsthand how the industry is advancing performance and sustainability. I always leave with fresh ideas and stronger partnerships that help shape what’s next for our products.” – Gurvinder Malhotra, Vice President – Global Raw Materials, Alo Yoga

"I like attending Functional Fabric Fair as it makes it easier to have all your suppliers in one space. It's so nice to connect in person and its only a short trip for us. We were able to talk about developments in person and kick off new projects and concepts as a team." - Madeline Trolan, Senior Manager Fabrics and Trims, Vuori

“If you are seeking innovative materials, this is the place to find them. You can discover something that has just entered the market or is about to do so and stay ahead of the curve.” – Bill Morris, Materials Analyst, Fabrics Vetted

“This was my first visit to the Portland show and I truly appreciate how much emphasis there is on education, inspiration and innovative concepts. I can always count on the NYC show to deliver a curated edit of the best of the best, but Portland is where you go to also grow and learn. For building my swimmable activewear brand, there is so much value in attending both.” – Melissa Calamia, Founder & Designer, CALA.MIA

Sold-Out Day 0 OIA Catalyst Conference

The Day 0 OIA Catalyst Conference sold out, bringing more than 300 industry professionals together on October 26 for practical sustainability guidance, regulatory updates, real-world case studies, sessions on AI and interactive breakout table workshops. The conference gave the outdoor and performance industry a place to tackle critical sustainability challenges and connect with peers. GORE-TEX® Brand was title sponsor, with Hyosung TNC as Platinum sponsor.

“Day 0 of Functional Fabric Fair set the stage for meaningful conversations about the future of the outdoor and active apparel industries, and Catalyst reminded us what we can accomplish when we work together,” said Kent Ebersole, president of Outdoor Industry Association. “People came to Portland with big questions about durability, circularity, climate and compliance, and they left with new partners, resources and ideas to put into practice. The passion and engagement I saw this week made me eager to continue the conversations and push for continued progress.”





Expert Talks

The Expert Talks series, sponsored by AATCC, presented nearly 20 sessions on performance science, circularity, regulatory change and trend forecasting. Stewart Sheppard, Founder & Principal Consultant of S2 Consulting, returned as host, giving attendees direct access to breakthrough developments and the companies driving measurable sustainability progress. Recorded sessions will be available to watch on demand on The Loop.

Focus Topic: Bio-Based Materials

As the textile industry shifts away from fossil-based resources, bio-based materials have become a key driver of performance innovation. The Fall 2026 Focus Topic spotlighted materials derived partly or fully from biomass that reduce fossil dependency and improve transparency. Expert Talks sessions addressed the questions this shift raises, including scalability, feedstock sourcing, traceability and certification.

Show Floor Sourcing & Innovation Areas

Curated discovery areas and live demonstrations helped attendees quickly find new materials and connect with the companies driving textile innovation.

Three fiber forums gave attendees a close look at natural and renewable materials. New this edition, the **Cellulose Forum** spotlighted plant-based and cellulose-based materials as renewable, scalable, performance-driven alternatives with reduced environmental impact. These ranged from natural fibers such as hemp, linen and nettle to regenerated cellulosics like lyocell, modal and viscose. The **Cotton Forum**, presented by Cotton Incorporated, shared the latest from the cotton sector, from enhanced performance features to sustainability advancements. The **Wool Forum** featured high-performance wool fabrics hand-selected by textile specialists to show off wool's natural breathability, durability and sustainability.

Category forums focused on specific product needs. The **Bodywear Forum**, presented by London Contour Experts, highlighted innovations in swimwear, shapewear, dancewear and sports bras that unite performance and style. The **Garment Tech Forum** showcased construction components and finishing technologies that help designers and product developers streamline production without sacrificing performance.

Looking forward, the **Innovation Zone** introduced never-before-seen textile technologies along with insights from industry leaders. The **Future Fabrics Expo Innovation Hub**, presented by Future Fabrics Expo, offered a curated selection of lower-impact materials and sustainability leaders, with an emphasis on regenerative design and circular material flows. The **Trend Forum**, curated by academics, apparel brands and fabric technologists, presented future fabric and color directions across 12 key categories with sustainability at the forefront. Looking back, the **Outdoor Recreation Archive**, presented by Utah State University, traced the historical roots of pivotal innovations in outdoor apparel.

Forum Award Winners – Fall 2026

The Fall 2026 Functional Fabric Fair and Performance Forum Awards were selected under the guidance of Alexa Dehmel, a performance sportswear design expert and functional materials advisor who curates the show's key Forums. The awards celebrated outstanding achievements in textile innovation, sustainability and performance across seven categories.

- Bodywear Award – High Fashion Garments, Int'l Co., Ltd.
- Cellulose Award – Pharma Foods International Co., Ltd.
- Cotton Award – Yesung Textile Co., Ltd.
- Eco Award – Pontetorto S.p.A.
- Innovation Award – Paltext Company, Ltd.
- Performance Award – FLYTEC
- Wool Award – Takisada-Nagoya Co., Ltd.

Networking & Community

Attendees connected throughout the show floor at the newly redesigned **Italian Bar**, the **Sustainability Exchange**, where they met with certification bodies and sustainability-focused organizations, the **Thermore Coffee** area, **Lobby Activation** sponsored by drirelease and the **VIP Lounge**. The **Networking Happy Hour**, sponsored by Sorona®, drew a full crowd on October 27, followed by the **Official After-Hours Party** at Metropolitan Tavern at Hotel Eastlund, sponsored by DURAFLEX and co-sponsored by Brookwood and AATCC.

Looking Ahead to 2027

- **WINTER:** Orlando | January 27–29 | Orange County Convention Center (co-located with the PGA Show)
- **SPRING:** Portland | April 13–15 | Oregon Convention Center (Day 0 on April 13)
- **SUMMER:** New York | July 20–21 | Javits Center
- **FALL:** Portland | October 19–21 | Oregon Convention Center (Day 0 on October 19)

For full show information and updates on all 2027 editions, visit www.functionalfabricfair.com.

Event photos can be found here.

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About Functional Fabric Fair powered by PERFORMANCE DAYS®

Functional Fabric Fair powered by PERFORMANCE DAYS® is a trade-exclusive event and platform showcasing the latest trends in textile development for the apparel industry. In addition to a curated marketplace dedicated to the responsible sourcing of high-performance functional fabrics and accessories, Functional Fabric Fair provides expert-led education, supplier recommendations, and a university program that exposes students to textile and apparel developers. FunctionalFabricFair.com

About RX

RX is a global leader in events and exhibitions, leveraging industry expertise, data, and technology to build businesses for individuals, communities, and organisations. With a presence in 25 countries across 41 industry sectors, RX hosts approximately 350 events annually. RX is committed to creating an inclusive work environment for all our people. RX empowers businesses to thrive by leveraging data-driven insights and digital solutions. RX is part of RELX,

a global provider of information-based analytics and decision tools for professional and business customers. For more information, visit http://www.rxglobal.com

About Outdoor Industry Association

Based in Boulder, Colo., with offices in Washington, D.C., Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) is a catalyst for meaningful change. A member-based collective, OIA is a passionate group of business leaders, climate experts, policy makers and outdoor enthusiasts committed to sustainable economic growth while protecting — and growing access to — the benefits of the outdoors for everyone. For more than 30 years, OIA has catalyzed a thriving outdoor industry by supporting the success of every member company across four critically aligned areas: market research, sustainability, government affairs, and inclusive participation. OIA delivers success for its members through education, events, and business services in the form of solutions and strategies, consultation, collaboration, and opportunities for collective action. For more information, visit outdoorindustry.org.