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LaunchTennessee

## **36 | 86 to Showcase the Southeast's Top Fashion Entrepreneurs**

*Featuring the Creative Minds Behind the Region's Most Notable Fashion Brands*

Nashville, Tenn., April 28, 2015 - Launch Tennessee (LaunchTN) announces a new line up of fashion industry speakers for their **36 | 86** flagship event highlighting the best in Southern culture, entrepreneurship and investment.

Joining the 36|86 roster are some of the fashion industry's most significant entrepreneurs and influencers. Together they will speak about how to create and build brands with longevity, the importance of American manufacturing, and the role of the newly formed Nashville Fashion Alliance.

**Steven Kolb** is the Chief Executive Officer of the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA). In this role, he oversees all operations and activities for the American fashion industry's renowned group of 470 American fashion womenswear, menswear, jewelry and accessories designers.

**Billy Reid** is the fashion designer behind the American luxury fashion company that bears his name. Billy Reid operates with a deep appreciation for quality construction and craftsmanship and an enthusiasm for U.S. production, offering seasonal collections for men and women and a full range of accessories, shoes and denim. Billy Reid has twelve namesake shops, including a flagship in Florence, Alabama, and two locations in New York City.

**Libby Callaway** is a freelance fashion marketing and media consultant based in Nashville. As a freelance fashion and style writer, she has penned stories for publications and websites including Elle, the New York Times' T magazine, Style.com, Travel + Leisure and Glamour.

**Matt and Carrie Edmenson** founded imogene + willie with one defining passion: to make blue jeans, an integral garment in the fabric of America's history. Matt and Carrie were convinced to reclaim jean manufacturing stateside and have succeeded in pursuing their convictions while building a clothing and lifestyle brand, which preserves the simple principles of quality goods made and manufactured in the United States.

**Natalie "Alabama" Chanin** is the owner and designer of the Alabama Chanin lifestyle company, which produces well-designed and thoughtfully-made goods using 100% sustainably sourced organic cotton jersey. Made in the USA, Alabama Chanin celebrates and preserves unique traditions and crafting techniques, with a strong commitment to community. The company's Family of Businesses, located in Florence, Alabama, includes: the Alabama Chanin hand-sewn collection, A. Chanin machine-made line, The School of Making, The Factory Store + Café, and Building 14 design and manufacturing services. In 2013, Chanin won the CFDA/Lexus Eco-Fashion Challenge, an award competition that identifies and celebrates the greatest American designers working in the realm of sustainable fashion.

**Dean Wegner** is the President and CEO/Owner of Omega Apparel Incorporated, which he acquired in June 2012. Omega is the #1 supplier of dress trousers, slacks, and skirts for the US Military.

These 36|86 participants join Julia Hartz and Kevin Hartz, Co-Founders of Eventbrite, Lon Binder, CTO of Warby Parker, Meghan Joyce, East Coast General Manager of Uber, Om Malik, managing partner at True Ventures and Andy Weissman, partner at Union Square Ventures, among others.

Tickets for [36|86](http://www.thirtysixeightysix.com), June 8-10, 2015 at Marathon Music Works in Nashville, are available at [www.thirtysixeightysix.com](http://www.thirtysixeightysix.com).

**About 36|86** - A LaunchTN production, 36|86 gathers startups, business leaders, media and investors for a celebration of entrepreneurship and southern culture. 36|86 connects the "doers," "makers," and "innovators" in the southeast, around the country, and across the globe.