

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **TCF Australia supports 'Malambo' at 'FASHION EXPOSED REVIVED' in Sydney from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 2015**

'Malambo' offer handcrafted handbags and accessories spiced with South American flavour.

Founder Celestina Lacombe started the innovative, socially responsible business in 2012.

Celestina said, "Malambo was conceived as a social enterprise and what fuels us with passion is to empower people in impoverished rural areas to become sustainably productive and take the lead of their existence. My inspiration comes from my Caribbean background – the colours, sounds, heat, drums and smell of guava."

Malambo is being supported by TCF Australia to attend and show their products at Sydney 2015, *FASHION EXPOSED REVIVED* in February.

Designers across the country such as Celestina Lacombe will be given the opportunity to sell their wares at the dedicated TCF Australia Emerging Designer Showcase at *FASHION EXPOSED REVIVED* between 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 at Sydney Showground. The show will highlight Spring/Summer 2015/2016 & Winter 2015, and will include Womenswear, Menswear, Childrenswear, Accessories, Footwear, Lingerie & Sleepwear, and Retail Services.

These emerging designers will be exposed for the first time to the fashion industry trade fair market. They will have first time access to business workshops, online mentoring, forums, industry cluster networks, and national and global linkages to small businesses operating in the textile, clothing, footwear and leather industry across Australia.

Celestina Lacombe said, "By attending *FASHION EXPOSED REVIVED* I'd like to expand Malambo's presence in Australian markets through wholesale, and to be known as a handcraft company that uses creativity to ignite change on a community level. We hope this will be the first step to grow and become a role model in social enterprise in world-class handcrafts whilst also addressing wide community needs."

Carol Hanlon, CEO of TCF Australia said, "Celestina will be offered one on one mentoring through the entire trade fair process from preparing for a trade event, setting up to selling to pack up and will have dedicated TCF personnel on hand to help her every step of the way."

*FASHION EXPOSED REVIVED* – TCF AUSTRALIA EMERGING DESIGNERS SHOWCASE is sponsored by Australian Gift & Homewares Association, TCF Australia, TCFWA, TCF Global, Belmont BEC, TCF Energy Efficiency Project and BPW Business Incubator.

Malambo is available online at [www.malambo.com.au](http://www.malambo.com.au)

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**ABOUT TCF Australia**

The Textile, Clothing and Footwear Resource Centre of Western Australia Inc. (TCF Australia) is a not-for-profit national support centre for the Textile, Clothing Footwear and Leather industry providing support and specialised resources, services and training. From its headquarters in Belmont, WA, TCF Australia aims at networking to maintain and establish key partnerships for the national TCF industry.