30 Facts about the Costume Collection
1. The Museum has the largest collection of Bes-Ben hats in the world.

These hats were designed by Chicago milliner Benjamin Green-Field.

The ‘swan’ hat was his best seller.
2. The Museum has a vast collection of maid, military, work and sports uniforms.

The US Army Air Force officer's uniform was worn by Colonel Leon Mandel II during World War II
3. The Museum has clothing and costumes worn by performance artists such as Irene Castle, Ruth Page, Sally Rand, & CSO Conductor Sir George Solti.
4. The costume collection has been **published** in a number of books and catalogs.
5. The Collection houses more than **200** examples of clothing and accessories from the **House of Dior**.
6. Erté, Pauline Trigère, James Galanos, Gianni Versace, Andrew Gn, and Wes Gordon have toured the Costume Collection at CHM.
7. Hamish Bowles, International editor at large of Vogue, toured the Costume Collection on two separate occasions.
9. There are over 800 hand fans in the collection.
8. About half of the Costume Collection is housed in a **bunker** located in Harvard, Illinois (≈ 75 miles NW of the city).

The facility is buried under **6 feet** of earth and sits on **40 acres** of land.
10. The collection contains more than 4,000 hats worn by men, women, and children dating from the late 1700s to present day.
11. There are 18 examples of dresses designed by Charles James in the collection.

Evening gown, ‘Butterfly’, 1954
12. Designers: Sharon Harris, Catherine Scott, Mark Heister, Billy Falcon, Noriko, Hino & Malee, Price Walton, Nick Cave, & Becky Bissoulis are housed in the collection.

Mark Heister, 1980
13. Costumes from the Museum’s collection have been loaned to numerous national exhibitions.

Evening dress, 1973 by Halston
14. CHM owns almost every copy of Marshall Field & Company’s quarterly publication, *Fashions of the Hour*. 
15. The Costume Council’s first major fundraiser was held in 1977 in conjunction with store I. Magnin and fashion designer Ralph Lauren.
16. CHM houses gowns worn by American first ladies:

Mary Todd Lincoln,
Lady Bird Johnson,
and
Nancy Reagan.
17. The pair of Nike basketball shoes worn by former Chicago Bull, Michael Jordan during the 1989 play-offs are apart of the Costume Collection.
18. The Museum published **over 500 digital** records featuring the costume collection in the last four years.

CHMs online digital portal was **funded** by the Costume Council.
19. The men’s collection includes clothing worn by:
Scotty Piper,
Benjamin Green-Field,
Arthur Rubloff,
Helmut Jahn,
Norman DeHaan,
and
William Wrigley.
20. The collection includes rare garments such as Poiret’s ‘Sorbet’ gown from 1913, a 1940s ‘zoot’ suit & Rudi Gernreich’s ‘topless’ bathing suit from 1964.
21. Examples of clothing worn by politicians, including US Presidents: 

And elected officials: Mayor Jane Byrnes, Mayor Harold Washington, Governor Deneen of Illinois, and Senator James Hamilton Lewis.
22. A number of **debutante gowns** dating to Chicago’s first Cotillion in 1949 reside in the collection.
23. In 2012, the Museum organized the **first** exhibition featuring clothing worn in Johnson Publishing Company’s annual **Ebony Fashion Fair**.
24. A large walk-in-refrigerator onsite houses fur and plastic objects, including the eye glasses belonging to Nathan F. Leopard, Jr.
25. Clothing worn by Chicago businesswoman, socialite, and philanthropist, Bertha Honoré Palmer is in the collection.
26. At the conclusion of the seven city tour of *Inspiring Beauty: 50 Years of The Ebony Fashion Fair*, Johnson Publishing Company will donate **45 ensembles** to the Museum's Costume Collection.
27. The jewelry collection includes luxury, costume and hair jewelry, with examples by Tiffany & Co. Lalique, Trifari & Co. Yves Saint Laurent, Carence Crafters and Kalo.
28. Members of the **Costume Council** were photographed by **Victor Skrebneski** for the October 1984 issue of *Town & Country*

Article: **Chicago: A Tradition of Elegance**
29. The Museum houses a significant collection of couture, which includes works by:

Worth, Pingat, Paquin, Poiret, Lanvin, Callot Souers, Chanel, Vionnet, Madame Grès, Balenciaga, Dior, Dessès, Fath, Givenchy and Yves Saint Laurent
30. The **fashion** collection includes works by:

- Claire McCardell,
- Norman Norell, Adrian,
- Pauline Trigère,
- Bonnie Cashin, Bill Blass,
- Geoffrey Beene, Halston,
- James Galanos, Hanae Mori,
- Issey Miyake, Versace,
- Karl Lagerfeld, and
- Oscar de la Renta

Evening dress, Fall, 1979 by Bill Blass