

**The OR Foundation** is a USA and Ghana-based not-for-profit working at the intersection of environmental justice, education and fashion development. The OR has been working between the two countries for over a decade and has focused the last five year on working in solidarity with the Kantamanto ecosystem to advocate for a more just secondhand clothing system, while also working on the ground to make improvements to waste management and labor conditions. The OR Foundation is on a mission to catalyze a Justice-led Circular Textiles Economy in Accra, Ghana, one that prioritizes the prosperity of those who have suffered the burden of fashion's linear economy for decades.

### **Liz Short Format Version**

**Liz Ricketts** is an educator, designer and the co-founder of The OR Foundation, a USA and Ghana-based non-profit working at the intersection of environmental justice, education and fashion development. Under Liz's leadership, The OR Foundation has been researching the global secondhand clothing economy since 2016 and is on a mission to catalyze a Justice-led Circular Textiles Economy in Accra. Liz holds a Masters in Education from Harvard University and graduated from the fashion design program at the University of Cincinnati.

### **Liz Long Format Version**

**Liz Ricketts** is an educator, designer, amateur hemp farmer and the co-founder of The OR Foundation, a USA and Ghana-based non-profit working at the intersection of environmental justice, education and fashion development. The OR has been working between the two countries for over a decade and has spent the last five years delving into the "afterlife" of clothing within the context of Kantamanto secondhand clothing market in Accra, one of the largest secondhand markets in the world. Through this work, The OR has highlighted Kantamanto as both an ecological disaster -- a dumping ground for the excess clothing generated by other countries -- and a model of sustainability from which other countries could learn. The OR Foundation is currently working with Ghanaian designers, activists, retailers, government officials, engineers and textile manufacturers to develop localized recycling and decomposition solutions to the waste crisis, accompanying vulnerable laborers out of debt slavery and advocating for policy reform in both the Global North and in Ghana as part of their mission to catalyze a Justice-led Circular Textiles Economy in Accra.

Liz has taught at universities, high schools and middle schools throughout the USA, Ghana and South Africa, sharing her experiences with the next generation of designers. In 2018 she launched the Sustainable Fashion Initiative (SFI) at the University of Cincinnati DAAP with the mission of making the fashion program waste free. Through SFI, students reduced the program's textile waste by 70% in just one semester while also organizing outreach events and publishing research. Liz also consults with brands and waste management departments around the world.