



WHERE THE FUTURE IS BUILT



ULI NEW YORK WELCOMES NEW VOLUNTEER LEADERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

We are grateful to have members who are willing to volunteer their time, effort, and expertise to help us grow and expand the District Council's influence in our region. Our volunteers consistently deliver value to fellow members, our industry, and our community.

Please join us in welcoming this year's incoming leadership and thanking our outgoing leaders for their exceptional service to ULI New York.

ULI New York Executive Leadership

Incoming Chair

Helen Hwang

Meridian Investment Sales, LLC

Outgoing Chair

Bethany Logan Ropa

UBS Investment Bank

Incoming Vice Chair

Richard Roberts
Red Stone Equity Partners

Outgoing Vice Chair
Helen Hwang
Meridian Investment Sales, LLC

Incoming Chair for Mission Advancement
Robin Zeigler
MURAL Real Estate Partners

Incoming Governance Chair
Bethany Logan Ropa
UBS Investment Bank

Outgoing Governance Chair
Brian Collins
BDT & MSD Partners

Incoming Treasurer
Jessica Ritchie
EY

Outgoing Treasurer
Simina Tewkesbury
EY

DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMITTEES

ULI New York Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Incumbent Co-Chair
Jessica Elliott
Hart Howerton

Incumbent Co-Chair
Eric Rothman
HR&A Advisors, Inc.

Membership Committee

Incoming Chair
Lisa Flicker
Jackson Lucas

Incoming Vice Chair
Layth Madi

Outgoing Chair
Andrew Filkoff
Alchemy Properties

Outgoing Vice Chair
Lisa Flicker

ULI New York Mentor Program

Incoming Mentor Program Co-Chair

Dino Christoforakis
*AVANI Residential/Vential
Investments*

Incumbent Mentor Program Co-Chair

Lola Bellini
*Axia Investment Holdings
LLC*

Outgoing Mentor Program Co-Chair

Scott Sambade
Appian Real Estate

Incoming Mentor Program Vice Chair

Neda Levy
Leo Search Parters

Incumbent Mentor Program Vice Chair

Nathalia Bernardo
Rockwood

Outgoing Mentor Program Vice Chair

Dino Christoforakis
*AVANI Residential/Vential
Investments*

ULI New York Program Steering Committee

Incoming Co-Chair

Jason Vesuvio
Pavarini McGovern

Incumbent Co-Chair

Young Ji
NYCEDC

Outgoing Co-Chair

Amy Ironmonger
K&L Gates LLP

LOCAL PRODUCT COUNCILS

Housing Council

Incoming Co-Chair

Will Innes
*NYC Department of Housing
Preservation & Development*

Incumbent Co-Chair

Lesley Lisser
Invesco

Outgoing Co-Chair

Jillian Faulls
The Corcoran Group

Incoming Vice Chair

Alex Merchant
NYC Housing Development Corporation

Outgoing Vice Chair

Silke Rapelius
GKV Architects

Infrastructure Council

Incoming Co-Chair

Incumbent Co-Chair

Outgoing Co-Chair

Emily Gallo
HNTB

Ignacio Montojo
HR&A Advisors, Inc.

Jee Mee Kim
Arcadis

Incumbent Vice Chair
Chi Chi Truong
Arup

Mixed-Use Council (Blue Flight)

Incoming Co-Chair
Terri Gumula

Incumbent Co-Chair
Rashid Walker
First Street Capital

Outgoing Co-Chair
Beth Zafonte
Akerman LLP

Incoming Vice Chair
Steve Grant
MCRE Partners

Outgoing Vice Chair
Terri Gumula

Mixed-Use Council (Green Flight)

Incoming Co-Chair
Ali Sutherland-Brown
Karp Strategies

Incumbent Co-Chair
Meredith Lovejoy
Cumming Group

Outgoing Co-Chair
Julia Murphy
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill

Incumbent Vice Chair
Dan Carr
Alpaca Real Estate

Tech and Innovation Council

Incoming Co-Chair
Robert Okpala
Buro Happold

Incumbent Co-Chair
Nadine Anderson
Galvanize Climate Solutions

Outgoing Co-Chair
Victor Amoo
The Portland Group

Marketing & Communications Council

Incoming Co-Chair
Emmanuelle Slossberg
SHVO

Incoming Co-Chair
Sarah Berman
The Berman Group

Climate & Sustainability Council

Incoming Co-Chair

Varun Kohli

Corgan

Incoming Co-Chair

Cindy McLaughlin

CarbonBuilt

Incoming Vice Chair

Suhail Y Tayeb

NYU Schack Institute of Real Estate

COMMUNITY IMPACT COMMITTEES

TAPs Steering Committee

Incoming Chair

Abi Rudow

VHB

Outgoing Chair

Douglas Smith Land

JetBlue

Incoming Vice Chair

Kati Chen

Madison Energy Investments

Outgoing Vice Chair

Abi Rudow

VHB

UrbanPlan Steering Committee

Incoming Co-Chair

D'juro Villaran-Rokovich

Akerman LLP

Incumbent Co-Chair

Jie Zhu

L + Z Architecture DPC

Outgoing Co-Chair

Mark Strauss

NYU Schack Institute of Real Estate

AFFINITY GROUPS

Women's Leadership Initiative

Incoming Chair

Kendra White

BXP

Outgoing Chair

Lauren Amicucci

BRP Companies

Incoming Vice Chair

Yasmin Rehmanjee

Buro Happold

Outgoing Vice Chair

Kendra White

BXP

**Incoming Membership
Engagement Co-Chair**

**Incumbent Membership
Engagement Co-Chair**

**Outgoing Membership
Engagement Co-Chair**

Heather McGeory

Fifth Wall

Michelle Greco

BBG Inc.

Alexandra Tohovitis

Woods Bagot

Incoming Communications Co-Chair

Alicia Koledin

AKcelerate/AYON Studio

Outgoing Communications Co-Chair

Alison Coen

Brighton Capital Advisors

Incoming Communications Co-Chair

Lindsay Egert

Lockton Companies

Outgoing Communications Co-Chair

Sylvia Xiaomeng Li

HR&A Advisors, Inc.

Incoming

WLI Programming Co-Chair

Annie Yan Bailey

Two Trees Management Co.

Incumbent

WLI Programming Co-Chair

Leah Blank

The Hardy Group

Outgoing

WLI Programming Co-Chair

Yasmin Rehmanjee

Buro Happold

Incoming

Scholarship Co-Chair

Marsella Marsella

RBH Group

Incumbent

Scholarship Co-Chair

Jessica Tan

MURAL Real Estate Partners

Outgoing

Scholarship Co-Chair

Erin Purcell

Nuveen Green Capital

Incoming

University Outreach Co-Chair

Tzara Peterson

Ennead Architects

Incumbent

University Outreach Co-Chair

Carly AuClair

RXR Realty

Outgoing

University Outreach Co-Chair

Angel Eng

MGN Microgrid Networks LLC

Young Leaders Group

Incoming

YLG Executive Co-Chair

Waverly Neer

NYCEDC

Incumbent

YLG Executive Co-Chair

Frank Futia

*NYC Dept. of Citywide
Administrative Services*

Outgoing

YLG Executive Co-Chair

Marcos Zapata

KeyBank Real Estate Capital

Incoming

Communications Co-Chair

Cayla McElwee

JP Morgan

Incumbent

Communications Co-Chair

John Morgan

The Hudson Companies

Outgoing

Communications Co-Chair

Madeline Clappin

Arketekcher

Incoming

Membership Co-Chair

Ryan McGuirl

Avison Young

Incumbent

Membership Co-Chair

Jon Zelnick

Princeton University

Outgoing

Membership Co-Chair

Alec Dockser

SaberTrade/GreenGen

**Incoming Professional
Development Co-Chair**

Marcos Zapata

KeyBank Real Estate Capital

**Incumbent Professional
Development Co-Chair**

Chris Hendler

Tishman Speyer

**Outgoing Professional
Development Co-Chair**

Vlad Dash

Goldman Sachs

Incoming

Incumbent

Outgoing

YLG Programming Co-Chair

Josh Koss

Herrick Feinstein, LLP

YLG Programming Co-Chair

Alec Ventrice

Vornado Realty Trust

YLG Programming Co-Chair

Waverly Neer

NYCEDC

NEXT New York

**Incoming
Executive Co-Chair**

Karl Mittermayr

George Comfort & Sons Inc.

**Outgoing
Executive Co-Chair**

Alexis Saba

Sive Paget Riesel

**Incoming
Executive Co-Chair**

Onur Akansel

Seal Investments

**Outgoing
Executive Co-Chair**

Jeffrey Levine

Federal Reserve Bank of New York

**Incoming
Executive Vice Chair for Membership**

Georgina Lalli

Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates

**Outgoing
Executive Vice Chair for Membership**

Karl Mittermayr

George Comfort & Sons Inc.

**Incoming
Cohort One Co-Chair**

Jamie Piazza

*The Piazza Development
Company LLC*

**Incumbent
Cohort One Co-Chair**

Helen Paul

Cushman & Wakefield

**Outgoing
Cohort One Co-Chair**

Sharif Mitchell

Northern Liberties

**Incoming
Cohort Two Co-Chair**

Eric Selbst

Rockefeller Group

**Incumbent
Cohort Two Co-Chair**

Grant Takeda

Westbrook Partners

**Outgoing
Cohort Two Co-Chair**

Onur Akansel

Seal Investments

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR INCOMING LEADERS



Abi Rudow

Senior Environmental Planner | VHB

TAPs Steering Committee Chair

Abi Rudow, AICP, is a Planner with VHB, a national planning, engineering, and design firm with clients in various markets including real estate, transportation, local government, institutional, and energy. Abi has been a part VHB's environmental and community planning practices for 8 years, supporting commercial and residential development on Long Island, New York City, and the Hudson Valley. Abi's past projects include the Greater East Midtown Rezoning, 175 Park, and the New York State Downtown Revitalization Initiatives in Baldwin and Kingston, NY. She worked previously for Kramer Levin and the White Plains Planning Department. Abi holds a Masters of Urban Planning from the NYU Wagner School of Public Service and a BS in Policy Analysis and Management from Cornell University. Abi is proud to be serving as the Chair for the Urban Land Institute's TAPs Steering Committee and is eager to leverage the collective expertise of ULI's members to help address some of the most complex urban problems faced by New Yorkers today.



Alex Merchant

Vice President for Strategic Operations | New York City Housing Development Corporation

Housing Council Vice Chair for Membership

Alex is the Vice President for Strategic Operations at the New York City Housing Development Corporation (HDC). HDC finances affordable housing for low-, moderate-, and middle-income New Yorkers. He works on strategic, cross-cutting priorities for the President's Office. Previously, Alex was the Chair of the ten-agency Emergency Housing Voucher Program Task Force, a policy advisor in City Hall, and a REIT and construction analyst at J.P. Morgan. He is also a member of the Centro Cultural Cubano de Nueva York and enjoys the outdoors.



Ali Sutherland-Brown

Principal | Karp Strategies

Mixed-Use Green Council Co-Chair

Ali is a multidisciplinary leader with 15 years of experience delivering economic development, real estate, and engagement projects at scale. As Principal at Karp Strategies, she runs inclusive and efficient teams to develop actionable insights for public and private sector clients across the Northeast. Ali leads the firm's economic development practice, and has helped to grow the firm in scale and services since joining as the first employee in 2016. She has led or advised clients on projects with future impact in the billions, and engaged tens of thousands of stakeholders across the region. Before joining Karp Strategies, Ali worked across sectors at the NYC Department of City Planning, the Institute for Urban Design (now the Urban Design Forum), and in law and academia. She holds a Bachelor's in History and American Studies from Princeton and a Master's in City Planning from MIT, and is a proud graduate of Coro Leadership New York.



Alicia Koledin

President and Founder | AKcelerate

Marketing and Communications Manager | AYON Studio

WLI Communications Co-Chair

A “recovering” architect, Alicia Koledin has spent over two decades in the A/E/C industry, defining her unique career path with design, technical and marketing roles. Before launching AKcelerate in 2017, she worked at prestigious international architecture firms, including Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; Gensler; and Diller Scofidio + Renfro. Now her mission is to leverage her big-firm expertise to help elevate smaller women and minority-owned businesses, including AYON Studio Architecture • Preservation, P.C., where she recently developed and personally took on the role of Marketing and Communications Manager. Other current and past clients include 3XN, AKF, CetraRuddy, Curtis + Ginsberg, DeSimone, KBE-NY, River Architects, Thornton Tomasetti, and Zubatkin Owner Representation. Because stronger relationships lead to more meaningful collaborations, Alicia focuses her award-winning efforts on strategic business development, targeted marketing, and effective messaging to ensure both immediate success and long-term growth. Her industry influence continues to expand, with numerous thought leadership articles, regional conference presentations, and educational workshops. Alicia is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati’s College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning (DAAP). She consistently cultivates her membership in AIA, ALNY, PWC, NTHP, SMPS, ULI, and WHF and enjoys volunteering with various local chapter committees, as well as her local community garden.



Annie Yan Bailey

Development | Two Trees Management Company

WLI Programming Co-Chair

Annie Yan Bailey is part of the development team at Two Trees Management Company currently focused on executing an ambitious redevelopment of the 11-acre Domino Sugar Refinery site, spanning over half a mile of the Williamsburg waterfront, transforming it from an industrial enclave into an active neighborhood. This work is incredibly satisfying for this native New Yorker who has spent over 18 years practicing at high-end NY based architecture firms and who has recently graduated from Columbia University with a Masters in Real Estate Development. Annie is a licensed architect and a WELL, LEED and Passive House accredited professional who cares deeply about the future of New York City and the mission of the Women’s Leadership Initiative.



Bethany Logan Ropa

Managing Director, Real Estate, Lodging, and Leisure | UBS Investment Bank

ULI New York Governance Committee Chair

Bethany Logan Ropa is a Managing Director in the Real Estate, Lodging & Leisure Group at UBS, focusing on strategic advisory and debt and equity financing assignments for real estate companies. During her career at UBS, Bethany has completed over \$100 billion in M&A, equity capital markets, debt capital markets and financing transactions and has experience working across multiple sub-sectors in real estate including multifamily, industrial, retail, office, net lease, self-storage, lodging and healthcare.

Bethany is a Global Governing Trustee of the Urban Land Institute and a member of the UDMUC Bronze Product Council. Bethany is a board member of JE Dunn Construction and SparkYouth NYC and also a member of WX –New York Women Executives in Real Estate. Bethany received an MBA from the MIT Sloan School of Management, where she concentrated her studies in finance and real estate, and a BA in French from Walla Walla University.



Cayla McElwee

Commercial Real Estate Strategy Analyst | J.P. Morgan

YLG Communications Co-Chair

Cayla is an analyst on J.P. Morgan's Commercial Real Estate Strategy team, under the Commercial Bank. Cayla joined the group in August of 2023. Prior to her current role at J.P. Morgan, Cayla spent a year as an analyst at Gensler, sitting on the Real Estate Strategy team, and spent the summer prior as a development analyst with Hines. Cayla holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania in Urban Studies, with a minor in Urban Real Estate Development. Cayla joined ULI in 2023 and previously served on the Membership Committee.



Cindy McLaughlin

Head of Carbon Impact | CarbonBuilt

Climate and Sustainability Council Co-Chair

Cindy joined the executive leadership team of CarbonBuilt in 2021, and is primarily responsible for carbon impact, monetization, and policy. In this role, she is helping to develop financing solutions for ultra-low carbon concrete via an "insetting" market; developing and negotiating carbon removal and avoidance offtake and project finance agreements; and accounting for carbon in the products. She also oversees the company's policy and government relations efforts.

From 2016-2021, Cindy was founding CEO of Envelope, a technology company that built the 4300 page zoning code of NYC into 3D software to identify hidden commercial real estate acquisition opportunities. Envelope was sold to First American Title.

From 2013-2015, Cindy was President of Content, and the third employee at Orijin, a prison education technology company. Prior, she co-founded and ran or was an early employee at four fashion-related companies.

Today, Cindy advises sustainability startups and serves on the Editorial Boards of Propmodo and the Brooklyn Heights Association--chairing the BHA's Public Realm Committee and active on the BQE Transformation Committee. She has an MBA from MIT/Sloan, served as a water and sanitation volunteer in Peace Corps Congo, and lives in Brooklyn.



Dino Christoforakis
Co-Founder | AVANI Residential
Founder | Vential Investments
Mentor Program Committee Co-Chair

Currently the co-founder of AVANI Residential and the founder of Vential Investments, Dino brings 20 years of experience in domestic and international real estate investment, capital markets, and development across all major asset classes and strategies. Previously, Dino was responsible for acquiring office, life science, and retail properties at CBRE Investment Management and was the head of transactions, asset and portfolio management for office, retail, and mixed-use real assets across major North American markets at AFIAA, a Swiss global pension fund investment foundation.

Earlier in his career, Dino was responsible for acquisitions, dispositions, and asset management of retail, industrial, residential, and mixed-use real estate across major U.S. east coast markets at MCB Real Estate and held leadership positions at various other firms in the U.S. and Europe.

Dino earned an MBA in Real Estate and Finance from The George Washington University in Washington, DC and is an active member and district leader of the Urban Land Institute.



D'juro Villaran-Rokovich
Program Manager, Economic Development Services | Akerman LLP
UrbanPlan Steering Committee Co-Chair

D'juro Villaran-Rokovich is a Program Manager in the New York office of Akerman LLP as part of the Economic Development and Incentives Practice. In this role, D'juro helps clients navigate existing incentives programs and custom discretionary incentives, bringing more than three decades experience in the incentives field.

With a background in real estate development and architecture, D'juro specializes in analyzing projects for potential incentive packages and forecasting the impact of a project in a defined economic region. He works with clients to analyze, develop, and finance economic development projects in New York City and other urban areas throughout the United States. His experience ranges from tax incentives for small businesses to sizable packages for commercial and industrial companies, real estate developers, and Fortune 500 companies. He also focuses on obtaining "as of right" tax incentives for the renovation or construction of commercial and industrial projects under the City's ICAP. Additionally, D'juro assists clients in securing affordable housing tax incentives under the 421-a and 485-x programs.

Within the commercial real estate industry, D'juro has been an active member of ULI the past eleven years and member of the Urban Plan Steering Committee since July 1, 2021, and is a member of REBNY.

D'juro holds a Master's degree in real estate development from Columbia University, and both a Bachelor's and

Master's degree in architecture from Georgia Tech. He is an Associate Member of the American Institute of Architects and serves as a Board Member of Docomomo, the US New York/Tri-State chapter, which is part of an international non-profit organization advocating for the documentation and preservation of buildings, sites, and neighborhoods of the Modern Movement. Additionally, D'juro previously served on the Advisory Board of the Latino Alumni Association at Columbia University.



Emily Gallo

Vice President, Director of Infrastructure and Mobility Equity | HNTB
Infrastructure Council Co-Chair

Emily Gallo, AICP, ENV SP has 17 years of experience serving in various leadership roles in the transportation industry. She is currently Vice President, Director of Infrastructure and Mobility Equity at HNTB Corporation, an infrastructure solutions firm. In this role, she assists transportation agencies, policy makers, community leaders and HNTB teams to address equity considerations in infrastructure planning, design, construction, and operations and maintenance. Previously, Emily served as Chief of Staff at the NYC Department of Transportation, Chief of Staff and Policy Director at the NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission, and as a transportation policy analyst in the NYC Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability. Emily serves on the Board of the Tri-State Transportation Campaign and previously served as Director-at-Large on the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) Greater New York Chapter Board. Emily graduated cum laude from Yale University with a B.A. in American Studies and received a Masters Degree in City and Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania Weitzman School of Design.



Emmanuelle Slossberg

Senior Director, Sales and Marketing | SHVO LLC
Marketing and Communications Council Co-Chair

Emmanuelle combines over 30 years of experience in Architecture & Design, Real Estate, Growth Strategy, Branding, Tech, Innovation and Sustainability to provide 3D design-thinking to connect business goals with marketing efforts. She is the Creator and Chief Strategy Officer of Connect 10 Strategy, a consultancy that takes a multidisciplinary and integrated approach to help companies align and connect their growth strategies to their brand and marketing efforts in a resourceful, innovative, and sustainable way.

She has worked with developers, real estate owners, top 10 architecture firm, and luxury branding agencies and is currently working on launching Mandarin Oriental and Rosewood Residences. Prior to that, she was as the VP of Marketing for the Durst Organization, where she led Corporate, Residential and Commercial Marketing for one of the most sustainable and established real estate developer, owner, manager entities with a portfolio of 13M SF of office and retail and 3,500 residential units, including One World Trade.

Emmanuelle holds a Master in Architecture degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a BA in Art & Architectural History and Italian Studies from Wesleyan University. She is a LEED accredited professional, fluent in 5 languages, and has taught at Baruch and Parsons School of Design in New York.

As a longstanding member of ULI, she has recently launched 2 councils: a National MarCom Forum and the ULI NY

MarCom Council. Her previous leadership roles include, the ULI NY Management Committee as the Chair of Membership as well as, co-chairing of the WLI Membership Subcommittee, and the Programming and Awards for Excellence Committees. She also sits on the Board of the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, an organization affiliated with UN Habitat which promotes a better understanding of the role of sustainable urbanization and resilient design in the planning of our cities.



Eric Selbst

Director, Northeast Development | Rockefeller Group

NEXT Cohort Two Co-Chair

Eric Selbst is Director, Northeast Development, for Rockefeller Group. In this capacity, Mr. Selbst is responsible for sourcing, underwriting, due diligence and project management on Northeast development projects. Mr. Selbst has more than a decade of development experience in New York and Washington, D.C., including approximately two and a half million square feet of projects spanning commercial, academic, and residential properties. He is currently working on Rockefeller Group's 16 Dupont Street project, a 40-story ground-up residential tower in the Greenpoint Landing neighborhood of Brooklyn. Mr. Selbst previously worked on Rose Hill, an approximately 120-unit, 170,000-square-foot high-end condominium development in Manhattan's NoMad neighborhood. He has also worked on the company's redevelopment of the East Plaza at 1221 Avenue of the Americas. Mr. Selbst received his bachelor's and master's degrees from George Washington University.



Georgina Lalli

Senior Associate Principal | Kohn Pederson Fox

NEXT New York Vice Chair for Membership

Georgina Lalli has brought a sophisticated, process-driven approach and strategic vision to project management and design throughout her 15-year career as an architect, overseeing prestigious international and US projects. Her diverse portfolio spans a wide range of interests and capabilities, encompassing projects across Latin America, Europe, East Asia, and the Northeastern United States (Boston, New York City, Baltimore). Her expertise is particularly focused on leading the design and construction of complex, large-scale projects in mixed-use developments, life sciences, and healthcare.

Since joining KPF in 2020, she has been instrumental in managing and planning several landmark projects, including the Tisch Cancer Hospital Renovation at Mount Sinai Health System in New York City, and the award-winning T.Rowe Price Headquarters in Baltimore. Georgina has distinguished herself as a team leader with her strategic thinking and effective communication, fostering collaborative dynamics and defining clear design visions.

Georgina's background, influenced by Argentine heritage and an Italian upbringing, enriches her work with a unique cultural perspective and profound emotional intelligence. Licensed in both New York and Italy, she also contributes to academia as an Adjunct Professor at NYIT, teaching Visual Communication. Beyond her professional pursuits, Georgina is a passionate advocate for equality in architecture, actively supporting organizations that champion the empowerment and professional development of women and minorities in the field.



Heather McGeory
Head of Sustainability | Fifth Wall
WLI Membership Engagement Co-Chair

Heather McGeory is the Head of Sustainability at Fifth Wall, where she focuses on ESG and decarbonization strategies across Fifth Wall's funds.

Prior to joining Fifth Wall, Heather was the Global Practice Lead on Climate at APCO, a public affairs consultancy and the Chief Operating Officer & Co-Founder of the We Mean Business Coalition. She also has advised a number of climate startups on voluntary carbon markets, electric vehicle infrastructure, and net-zero building materials. She started her career at the NASA/Goddard Institute for Space Studies working on atmospheric carbon and its effect on agricultural crops and food security.

Heather was born and currently resides in New York. She graduated from Barnard College with a Bachelor of Arts in Religion and Columbia University with a Masters of International Affairs.



Helen Hwang
Senior Executive Managing Director | Meridian Investment Sales
ULI New York Chair

Helen Hwang is the Head of the Institutional Investment Sales Group at Meridian Capital Group, specializing in the sale and equity recapitalization of institutional quality real estate transactions in New York City. She has orchestrated some of the most recognizable, large-scale transactions in the market, and is especially adept at navigating complex capital solutions to achieve her client's goals, including joint ventures, preferred equity and mezzanine financing, debt workouts, loan sales, bankruptcies, private REIT sales, and ground lease formations. Her 25-year track record includes over \$30 billion in completed transactions across all asset types.

Prior to working at Meridian, Helen spent 16 years at Cushman & Wakefield, where she led the New York Investment Sales Group, crafting innovative capital solutions and fostering relationships with institutional, non-profit, and family office clients. A respected speaker at industry conferences, Helen is recognized for her thought leadership and innovative insights.

Helen has received numerous awards throughout her career, including the Real Estate Board of New York's Most Ingenious Deal of the Year, Turnaround Atlas Special Situation M&A Deal of the Year, CoStar's prestigious Power Broker of the Year, Real Estate Forum's Top Broker, 50 Outstanding Asian Americans in Business, Rebuilding Together NYC's Patty Johnson Outstanding Leadership, and Friendship Circle's Humanitarian, to name a few. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Finance from Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration and a Master's degree from the NYU Schack Institute of Real Estate.



Jamie Piazza

Principal | The Piazza Development Company
NEXT Cohort One Co-Chair

Jamie Piazza is a principal at The Piazza Development Company (PDCo). PDCo. is a Project Management and Development Advisory firm focusing on ground-up urban development and complex rehabilitation projects. Founded in 2015, PDCo has managed the development and construction of projects across all asset types including: residential, commercial, hospitality, mixed-use, adaptive re-use as well as world famous cultural institutions.



Jason Vesuvio

Vice President | Pavarini McGovern
Program Steering Committee Co-Chair

Jason Vesuvio is a vice president for Pavarini McGovern – a business unit of the STO Building Group in New York that focuses on new ground-up and major expansion/repositioning projects. He oversees business development, strategy, and marketing for Pavarini McGovern. Jason has a passion for connecting with people and helping them solve their problems and is lucky to pair that with a life-long interest of the building industry. He has 25 years of experience as a business developer of professional services for domestic and international clients and projects. Jason is a long-time member of the Programs Steering Committee for ULI-NY and a past president of SMPS-NY. He sits on several boards of advisors, including CTBUH, Pratt Institute's CM program, and the Manhattan Council of the Greater New York Councils of the Boy Scouts of America. Jason is a proud Brooklynite, uncle to 17 nieces and nephews, hack musician, world traveler, and an Eagle Scout.



Jess Ritchie

Assurance Manager | EY
ULI New York Treasurer

Jess is an assurance manager in the EY New York Real Estate, Hospitality & Construction Assurance Practice, where she has spent the past 7 years. Her clients include publicly traded equity real estate investment trusts, funds reporting under the investment company guide and NCREIF reporting standards, privately owned properties and hotels, and real estate owners and operators. Jess assists her clients with a broad range of accounting and auditing issues including SEC reporting matters, fair value measurement, consolidation and joint venture accounting, purchase price allocations

and real estate sales. Outside of her client work, Jess coordinates events for the EY New York Real Estate, Hospitality & Construction alumni network, and leads trainings for staff and senior level associates in both real estate and auditing concepts. She received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Delaware and is a Certified Public Accountant in the State of New York.



Josh Koss

Real Estate Attorney | Herrick, Feinstein LLP

YLG Programming Co-Chair

Josh Koss is a commercial real estate attorney with a track record exceeding \$3B in transactions. Having taken strategic risks early in his career, Josh has gained substantive experience that has shaped his understanding of what truly matters in real estate. He emphasizes the importance of human impact in his work, whether it involves tenants in an affordable housing development, guests in a hotel, or his partners and colleagues in a project.

Passionate about projects that prioritize lived experience and classical beauty—and anything cool!—Josh is driven to make a meaningful impact. This passion extends to his volunteer work with Urban Land Institute, where he actively supports initiatives that align with these values.

His unique blend of professional expertise and dedication to community service underscores his commitment to fostering projects that make a positive difference.



Karl Mittermayr

Head of Acquisitions | George Comfort & Sons, Inc.

NEXT New York Executive Co-Chair

Karl has an 18-year career in commercial real estate, focusing on the New York City and Tri-State area. He has experience in acquisition, disposition, recapitalization, financing, and asset management of over 12 million square feet of assets. In addition to expanding the company's footprint through property acquisitions, he manages ground-up pre-development projects totaling over 1,000 units in Westchester and Fairfield Counties. As Head of Acquisitions, Karl has guided significant asset transactions and managed various financings and refinancings. He has also been involved in property-level asset management, including the repositioning of Worldwide Plaza in 2009 and 677 Washington Boulevard in 2018. A member of REBNY and ULI, Karl holds a B.A. in Finance from Florida State University.



Kati Chen

Transactions Manger | Madison Energy Infrastructure
TAPs Steering Committee Vice Chair

Kati Chen is a Transactions Manager with Madison Energy Infrastructure, a leading clean energy developer, investor, asset owner, and operator. Kati manages the acquisition and due diligence processes to grow the company's portfolio. Previously, Kati held several roles at the New York City Economic Development Corporation, where she contributed to real estate and urban development projects, including the Office Anchor Strategy, the Immigrant Research & Performing Arts Center, and the FiDi-Seaport Climate Resilience Master Plan. Kati holds a BA from Binghamton University with a triple major in Urban/Regional Planning, Environmental Studies, and Philosophy, Politics, and Law.



Kendra White

Manager – Joint Venture Client Relationships | BXP
WLI Chair

Kendra White is a Manager of Joint Venture Client Relationships at BXP (formerly Boston Properties), focused on joint ventures across the company's six regions. Her role involves being the primary point of contact between BXP and its various JV partners, performing an asset manager role. She also works with the broader JV team to bring in new capital and build relationships with new potential partners. Prior to her JV role, Kendra was a Senior Financial Analyst for BXP focused on the New York Region. She supported the NY regional teams, including leasing, development and acquisitions, along with the executive teams in both New York and Boston. Kendra joined BXP in January 2020 after completing her Masters in Real Estate Development at NYU Schack Institute of Real Estate. Prior to Boston Properties, Kendra spent a combined 8 years working in the real estate tax practices of PwC in NYC & San Juan, PR and Ernst & Young in NYC.

Kendra is stepping up to the Chair role of ULI NY's Women's Leadership Initiative (WLI). She has been a member of ULI New York for five years, serving as a committee member and then co-chair on the ULI NY WLI University Outreach Committee for four years and then stepping up to the role of Vice Chair of WLI in FY24. In addition to her involvement with ULI, Kendra was a WX Scholar and is a member of CREWNY.



Layth Madi

Senior Vice President of Development | Lendlease

Membership Committee Vice Chair

Layth Madi serves as the SVP of Development at Lendlease. He oversees development in New York and the Tri-State Area. Layth leads Lendlease's flagship projects including One Java (834-unit multifamily development in Greenpoint), Claremont Hall (165-unit condominium tower in Morningside Heights) and 277 5th Avenue (130-unit condominium in NoMad). Previously Layth served as SVP of Development at Google Development Ventures where he defined and led the business plan for the integrated ground plane at Downtown West, Google's ambitious urban development in San Jose, CA (80-acres, 7.3M sf office, 4,000 apartments, 500K retail). Layth has extensive experience in land and real estate development across EMEA which he gained during his eleven year tenure at Solidere, a MENA based luxury development firm. As VP of Real Estate, Design and Development Layth led Solidere's signature urban developments including the Beirut New Waterfront District (72-acres / 18.3M sf) and Al Zorah Resorts (766-acres / 27M sf). Layth started his real estate career at Vornado Realty Trust.

Layth is Vice Chair of the Membership Committee at ULI, and a member of the REBNY Sustainability and Economic Development Committees. He holds Master of Real Estate and Master of Architecture degrees from Harvard University, and a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Cornell University.



Lindsay Egert

Client Advocate | Lockton Companies

WLI Communications Co-Chair

Prior to joining Lockton, Lindsay spent 2 years at AIG and 10 years at Sompo International specializing in the Financial Lines. Her clients ranged from large fortune 500 public companies to smaller private equity firms enabling her to develop risk analysis skills across various sectors. Through an extensive due diligence process, Lindsay structured policy language and priced complex deals within the IPO and SPAC market, assisting companies with the appropriate insurance requirements to become public. Throughout the pandemic, she was an integral part in facilitating insurance coverage for distressed companies going through reorganization and in need of a specialized structure. Lindsay's perspective as an underwriter and experience driving solutions in complex situations makes her an incredible advocate for clients. At Lockton, she is focused on driving pricing and coverage efficiencies for the Real Estate, Financial Services, and Technology sectors across all lines of Corporate and Commercial Insurance.



Lisa Flicker

Senior Managing Partner, Head of Real Estate | Jackson Lucas

Membership Committee Chair

Lisa Flicker has spent 25 plus years in the executive search and organizational consulting field, focused exclusively on the Real Estate industry. Providing organizational consulting, compensation consulting and executive search services to large and small firms in the public and private sectors, her focus has been on owner/developers, private equity, hospitality, banking, and investment firms. Lisa prides herself on partnering with her clients and relentlessly working to achieve superior results.

Earlier in her career, Lisa was a CPA with KPMG, where she received a Master's in Taxation. Lisa currently sits on the Advisory Board of Columbia Hospital's Naomi Berrie Center. With an authentic passion for diversity and inclusion, Lisa also sits on Project Destined's Career Advisory Board.

Lisa lives in Westchester, NY with her husband Russ and two children. When she is not volunteering or working, you can find her attempting to learn to play golf, tennis, or pickle ball. Using the other side of her brain, Lisa also enjoys taking singing lessons and learning about art.



Marcos Zapata

Production Analyst | KeyBank

YLG Professional Development Co-Chair

Marcos Zapata is in KeyBank's affordable housing loan originations group where he sizes loans and underwrites affordable housing transaction nationwide. Prior to KeyBank, Marcos was working as a Project Manager for developer, Lemor Development, where he assisted with the coordination of parties to develop/preserve housing in New York City. Along with being active in ULI's Young Leaders Group (YLG) for over 5 years, Marcos was a committee member in New York YLG's programming committee. Marcos holds a Bachelor's of Arts in Economics with a Minor in Computer Science from Lehman College of the City University of New York.



Marsella Marsella

Financial Analyst | RBH Group

WLI Scholarship Co-Chair

Marsella is a financial analyst at RBH Group, a real estate development company known for its flagship project, Teachers Village, dedicated to providing affordable housing for educators. Marsella brings over seven years of experience and leverages her expertise in financial analysis and modeling to assess investment opportunities and enhance project viability in RBH Group's mixed-use development pipeline. Prior to joining RBH Group, Marsella worked in Property & Assets Management at JLL, optimizing the value of clients' properties through effective operations management. She also served as a summer associate at HVS America, where she supported valuations for a \$50 million hotel portfolio in the Midwest. Marsella holds a Master's Degree in real estate from Cornell University, SC Johnson College of Business and a Bachelor's Degree in architecture from the University of Indonesia. A Certified Low-Income Housing Tax Credits Professional by Novogradac, she has a deep interest in creating mixed-income housing and enhancing vibrant communities in urban and underinvested areas. As a first-generation scholar, she is passionate about education's transformative power, driven by her own scholarship journey to contribute meaningfully to the communities that have supported her.



Neda Levy

Founder & CEO | Leo Search Partners

Mentor Program Committee Co-Chair

Neda is the Founder and CEO of Leo Search Partners. Prior to founding Leo Search Partners, Neda was a Partner at a highly respected boutique real estate focused executive search and organizational consulting firm with a national practice. Throughout her search career, Neda has successfully led and executed on high-profile search engagements for C-suite and senior leadership roles, including divisional leads, as well as mid-level positions across real estate sectors and various disciplines, with subspeciality in In-House Legal, Asset Management, Development and Acquisition, and Operations.

Along with her executive search experience, Neda can easily relate to her clients and their challenges drawing from her own 15+ years of experience as a VP, General Counsel as well as a Chief Administrative Officer for well-established and vertically integrated real estate investment, development, and construction firms. She is intimately familiar with strategically building strong teams within in-house legal, asset management, operations, development, and acquisition functions.

Neda is an active member of ULI-New York, a Mixed Use Council member, and a ULI Mentor since 2020. Neda is a former member of ULI-New York District Council Executive Board, and former Co-Chair of ULI-NY Program Steering Committee from July 2020 to June 2022. Neda is also the Co-Founder of the Real Estate Alumni Group for the University of Rochester launched in October 2022. She is a frequent presenter and panelist at a variety of industry conferences.

Neda earned her Juris Doctorate from Temple University School of Law, Cum Laude, and her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with High Honors from University of Rochester, Cum Laude.



Onur Akansel

Founder and Managing Partner | Seal Investment

NEXT New York Executive Co-Chair

Mr. Akansel is the founder of Seal Investment, a privately held real estate investment firm based in New York. Since its inception in late 2022, Seal Investment has invested in two ground-up residential development, located in the Upper East Side and West Chelsea neighborhoods of Manhattan. Amounting to a total equity investment of \$50 million, Seal provided with both Co-GP and LP equity. Seal's opportunistic transactions include ground-up new construction investments while its retail transactions are focused on internet-resistant neighborhood retail centers servicing high-demographic neighborhoods and vibrant college-towns.

Previously, Mr. Akansel established and led THN Development's real estate development and investment practice in New York, overseeing a land portfolio of 150 development sites, totaling approximately 3.2 million square feet. He structured and launched THN Northeast US Fund 1, focusing on commercial real estate investments in the Northeast US and residential developments primarily in Manhattan, NY.

Prior to joining THN Development, Mr. Akansel was the Head of Development at Bilgili Holding, where he led the real

estate development and investment practice for both BH and BLG Capital, the real estate private equity arm of Bilgili Holding and the largest real estate private equity firm in Turkey. His notable projects included the development of Galataport, The Peninsula Istanbul, and The Ritz-Carlton Residences Istanbul.

Before his tenure at Bilgili Holding, Mr. Akansel was a Managing Director at Ihlas Holding, where he led real estate development and investment activities in Turkey. Prior to that, he worked in New York for KEC Properties, overseeing asset management and acquisitions for the company's 700+ unit multifamily portfolio.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Akansel served as the Urban Design and Projects Coordinator at Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality for three years. He also worked as an Associate Urban Designer at Meta Brunzema Architects in New York, contributing to the Durst Organization's development plan for West Side Rail Yards in Midtown Manhattan.

Mr. Akansel holds a Master's degree in Urban Design from the University of Michigan and a Master's degree in Real Estate Development from Columbia University



Richard Roberts

Principal & Managing Director | Red Stone Equity Partners

ULI New York Vice Chair

Richard Roberts is Principal and Managing Director for Red Stone Equity Partners, LLC where he assists in the origination and management of developer relationships throughout the country and the development of new business strategies for the firm. Richard has extensive experience in affordable housing and urban market investments having worked in these areas for 30 years. Prior to joining Red Stone, he worked in the government, for profit and nonprofit sectors including serving as the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, the largest municipal housing agency in the country. He was responsible for the investment of more than \$1 billion into New York City's neighborhoods and the creation of over 30,000 units of affordable housing. He is also the founding Managing Director of the Goldman Sachs Urban Investment Group where he devised and led a creative strategy responsible for the establishment of the firm's community development investment platform. Roberts served as Senior Vice President of Government and Community of Relations at the Mount Sinai Medical Center. He also served as Chairman of the Board of the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation, the nation's largest public hospital system. Roberts is currently an adjunct professor in the Mount Sinai School of Public Health where he has taught a graduate school course on community health for the past decade.

Richard is active on a number of civic, philanthropic and industry organizations and serves on the boards of Citizen's Housing and Planning Council (Chair), the New York State Association for Affordable Housing (Executive Vice Chair), The Community Preservation Corporation (Chair), Breaking Ground, CAMBA (Chair), Self Help, Community Development Long Island and several others. Richard holds both a BA and JD from Yale University.



Robert Okpala

Partner, New York Co-Office Director | Buro Happold

Tech & Innovation Council Co-Chair

Robert Okpala is a chartered electrical engineer and Partner at Buro Happold, a global practice of engineers, designers, and advisors with over 3,000 staff and 13 offices in the United States. Robert has over 25 years' experience in design and advisory for commercial, civic, educational, and mixed-use buildings and masterplans. His expertise is in leading large multidisciplinary design teams to integrate complex engineering requirements with aspirational architecture for high-performance solutions. Robert is passionate about sustainable design within an integrated project delivery framework and is an advocate for human-centric smart technologies that improve resource efficiency, operational effectiveness, and user experience within built assets. Robert also serves as a Trustee of the Happold Foundation, a charity dedicated to using engineering skills and experience to create positive impacts for emerging and future talent within our industry. Robert joined Buro Happold in 1995 and has worked in their London, Dubai, and Riyadh offices before moving to New York in 2018.



Robin Zeigler

Founder & CEO | MURAL Real Estate Partners

ULI New York Chair for Mission Advancement

Robin Zeigler is Founder & CEO of MURAL Real Estate Partners. MURAL is a privately- owned, full-service real estate company that aims to spur economic development through mixed-use developments in emerging and underserved markets. She was formerly Chief Operating Officer for Cedar Realty Trust. Robin began at Cedar Realty Trust in March 2016 and was responsible for the operations of the fully-integrated real estate investment trust's nine million square feet of grocery-anchored shopping centers as well as the redevelopment of its mixed-use assets. Prior to joining Cedar, Ms. Zeigler worked at Federal Realty Investment Trust as Chief Operating Officer for the Mid-Atlantic Region. In that capacity she was responsible for the operations of a portfolio of over 40 shopping centers and five mixed-use development projects representing approximately 7.3 million square feet. Additionally, Ms. Zeigler provided oversight and strategic direction on mixed-use development and redevelopment projects in the region.

Ms. Zeigler holds a BS in Accounting from Florida A&M University and an MBA from Georgia State University. Robin is on the board of directors for three public companies: Jones Lang LaSalle Income Property Trust, RLJ Lodging Trust, and NETSTREIT. She is a Trustee of the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC), on the board of the ICSC Foundation as well as an ICSC Foundation Mentor. Ms. Zeigler is also a Member of the ULI NY Advisory Board and an ULI Excellence in Development Awards Juror. She also serves on the Miami Dade College Foundation Board.



Ryan McGuirl

Associate Director | Avison Young Tri-State Investment Sales

YLG Membership Co-Chair

Ryan McGuirl is an Associate Director on the Tri-State Investment Sales group of Avison Young's New York City office. Ryan has been involved in sales with an aggregate value of over \$750MM since joining Avison Young in 2021, representing a wide range of clients including not-for-profits, institutions, private equity firms and family offices. His main areas of focus include multifamily, mixed-use and development opportunities located in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Northern New Jersey. Ryan earned a Master of Science degree in Real Estate Development from NYU's Schack Real Estate Program, where he was awarded The Michael J. Farrell Academic Excellence Scholarship, was selected as a 2020-2021 NYU SPS Dean's Scholar, and participated in the NYU SPS High School Academy Mentorship Program for first-generation high school students in New York City. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from

Trinity College, where he was a member of the varsity football team and was named to the 2011 and 2012 New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) All-Academic Team. Ryan is licensed as an Associate Broker in New York and as a Real Estate Salesperson in New Jersey. He is a member of REBNY, ULI New York and is the founder of the Trinity College Real Estate Group.



Sarah Berman

President | The Berman Group

Marketing and Communications Council Co-Chair

As Founder and President of Berman Group, Sarah works to identify challenges and develop creative communications programs that increase business and reach new audiences. Sarah works with the firm's clients—from Fortune 500 companies to trade associations, government agencies and nonprofits—to develop winning publicity and marketing strategies based on her philosophy that successful campaigns are based on strong relationships.

Sarah has built a firm rooted in the construction and real estate industries and known for its vast network of construction, design and real estate connections. Sarah works actively with major mass media outlets as well as with regional and trade publications serving business-to-business markets.

Sarah earned her Bachelor of Arts from Columbia University in Urban Planning and Master of Urban Planning from the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service of New York University.



Steve Grant

Managing Principal | MCRE Partners

Mixed-Use Blue Council Vice Chair for Membership

In 2019, Steve joined with Andy Nathan to form MCRE Partners. Steve and Andy met in 1999 as senior executives at Tishman Speyer and continued their working relationship after they left to start their own companies, ClearRock and Meritage, respectively. Steve co-founded ClearRock Properties in 2009 as a regional investor focused on acquiring, repositioning and operating under-performing assets in New York, Boston and Washington, DC. The company owned/operated 15 properties valued at \$1.5bn, highlighted by the successful repositioning of 650 Madison Avenue with Carlyle leading to the highest sale price in the U.S. in 2013. Before ClearRock, Steve served 10 years as a Managing Director at Tishman Speyer, heading various functions including global leasing and asset management. He also served on the firm's development committee and in the equity capital markets group. Before joining Tishman Speyer, Steve co-led the establishment of the Trizec office in New York. From 1997 to 1999 Trizec's New York portfolio grew from zero to 8.5 million square feet. Preceding Trizec, Steve spent five years at LaSalle Partners where he led a landlord leasing and property management team in midtown and downtown Manhattan. Prior to business school, Steve worked as an institutional investment advisor at Colonial Consulting in New York City and a financial analyst at Electronic Data Systems in London, Dallas and Saginaw, MI. Steve is active with New Heights, a not-for-profit that merges basketball and educational mentoring for elementary to high school kids.



Suhail Y Tayeb

Professor | NYU Schack Institute of Real Estate

Climate and Sustainability Council Vice Chair for Membership

Suhail Y Tayeb is a Professor at NYU's Schack Institute of Real Estate, where he teaches real estate sustainability. With over 20 years of experience as a real estate developer and investor, Suhail has extensive expertise across residential and commercial sectors, engaging in all stages of the investment life cycle. He has advised high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs) and family offices on strategically diversifying and growing their portfolios and divesting non-core assets to manage risk. As a published author and speaker, Suhail's interests include sustainability, social impact, affordable housing, and the HUD Section 8 housing choice voucher program. He holds a Master's in Leadership and Strategy as a Sloan Fellow from London Business School and a Bachelor's degree in Electrical/Computer Engineering and Computer Science from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.



Terri Gumula

Mixed-Use Blue Council Co-Chair

A nearly 20-year member of ULI, Terri Gumula is an accomplished real estate professional and industry thought leader. She was the co-chair of ULI-New York's first product council and has been a long-time ULI-Mentor and member of WLI. She is actively engaged at the local and national levels and is Vice Chair of her ULI national product council. Ms. Gumula is actively involved with several leading real estate organizations including Real Estate Lenders Association, Young Men/Women's RE Association, and serves on the board of several organizations including Town and Village, CIBBOWS and Art Omi.



Tzara Peterson

Project Architect | Ennead Architects

WLI University Outreach Co-Chair

As a Project Architect at Ennead, Tzara has deep technical experience working on various complex mixed-use projects ranging from residential, commercial office/medical, life science and retail typologies. Tzara is a registered Architect in New York and holds two degrees from Cornell University: A Master of Architecture and a BS in Design & Environmental Analysis with an Interior Design concentration.

Tzara is currently on the NY Board of Directors for the Society of American Registered Architects (SARA) and has been a Visiting Adjunct Professor at Pratt Institute's School of Design since 2022. She believes that an Architect has a social responsibility to improve her profession and the communities she impacts as a whole; a project's positive qualities are not dictated by its budget, scale, or location but by the architect's thoughtfulness, engagement, and passion.



Varun Kohli, FAIA LEED AP

Principal & Director of Sustainability | Corgan

Climate and Sustainability Council Co-Chair

A fierce advocate for environmental and social sustainability, Varun creates and implements integrated design processes for significant projects globally. His meticulous approach purposefully dissolves the boundaries between built, human, and natural ecosystems.

An industry leader, Varun has contributed to major architecture firms as well as his own Studio in New York, integrating environmental analytics and sustainable design ranging from urban scale resiliency and decarbonization to major commercial, education, aviation, and mixed-use development projects, both domestically and internationally. As the Director of Sustainability at Corgan, Varun provides firm-wide leadership on climate and sustainability topics. With a focus on integrating environmental sensitivities in design, Varun collaborates with Yale Center for Ecosystems + Architecture (CEA) researchers on novel pedagogical models for environmental design and has taught courses at Harvard GSD and RPI (CASE). He recently authored a chapter in Energy Modeling in Architecture; A practice guide, published by RIBA and currently serves on the board of 'Pokhrama Foundation,' working to build a net-zero school to provide K-12 education in a remote region of northern India.



Waverly Neer

Vice President, Asset Management | New York City Economic Development Corporation

YLG Executive Co-Chair

Waverly Neer is currently a Vice President in Asset Management at the New York Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC). Waverly oversees the Made in New York Campus, a 66-acre historic site in Sunset Park Brooklyn. She works cross functionally to develop and implement the project's overall vision and repositioning strategy by identifying opportunities to expand business partnerships, generate revenue, and strategically deploy capital to effectuate local economic growth.

Prior to NYCEDC, Waverly worked as Portfolio Manager at Jamestown L.P. In her role, Waverly developed and oversaw the leasing strategy, capital improvement projects and annual business plan for a 2MM SF Industrial and Manufacturing portfolio at Industry City in Brooklyn.

Waverly holds a B.A. in Planning, Public, Policy and Management from the University of Oregon.



Will Innes

Chief of Staff | NYC Department of Housing Preservation & Development
Housing Council Co-Chair

Will Innes currently serves as the Chief of Staff for Office of Development at the New York City Department of Housing Preservation & Development (HPD). The Office of Development is tasked with annually investing more than \$1.5 billion to create 20,000+ units of affordable housing. Having most recently worked in the Biden-Harris Administration as a political appointee at FHA & Ginnie Mae, Will helped oversee the administration of a \$1.6 trillion mortgage insurance portfolio and a \$2.3 trillion mortgage-backed security insurance portfolio. Throughout this experience, Will led initiatives focusing on foreclosure prevention, community investment, and increasing access to capital markets liquidity facilities for underserved institutions. In previous positions, Will led various financial services policy development efforts with corporate and government leaders while serving in positions at Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), consulting firms, trade associations, law firms, and the United States Congress. Will holds a Master's in Public Administration (MPA) from NYU's Wagner School of Public Service with a concentration in Public Finance & Policy Analysis, and graduated Magna Cum Laude from The George Washington University.



Yasmin Rehmanjee

Partner & New York Co-Office Director | Buro Happold
WLI Vice Chair

Yasmin Rehmanjee is a partner who has over two decades of experience leading some of the most complex and iconic structural engineering designs in the country and around the world.

She is adept at leading large-scale, multidisciplinary projects with diverse teams across offices while maintaining project schedules and budgets as well as the vision of her clients' projects. With a structural engineering background, Yasmin led the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, and is currently leading several multidisciplinary projects including Hudson's Site in Detroit, confidential NYCDDC and hospitality projects. Her portfolio spans across sectors including sports and entertainment, commercial development, hospitality, higher education and healthcare.

Yasmin serves as the New York Co-Office Director where she is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the New York team. Also a passionate advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion, Yasmin was a founding member of the Buro Happold Diversity Equity Inclusion and Transparency Committee – using her influence to ensure the firm continuously works to better reflect the varied cultures, communities and clients we serve. She is a mentor and teacher to many of Buro Happold's young engineers and consultants, and has also guest lectured and taught at several universities including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Yale University School of Architecture and Syracuse University School of Architecture.

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