Opening Keynote  8:30am-9:15am

Shifting to Face the Winds: Challenges and Opportunities of Leadership in the New ‘20s
Jane Edmonds, Babson College
As we enter into the new decade, there are wild winds blowing all around: those of racism, patriarchy, neoliberalism, classism and more. These winds arrest our progress and limit our ability to flourish as individuals and as a collective society. In this pressurized and politicized environment it is time for us to turn to face them head on. This keynote will address the ways we can stay moored to ourselves without blowing away as well as how we can come together to build sails for our organizations to give them new lift and life.

Morning Panel   9:15am-10:30am

Powerhouse Owners
Our panel of Powerhouse Owners will explore what it takes to become a leader in the design and construction industry. They will share their insights about what leadership skills will be required to support the future success of the industry and how to develop those skills. Learn how leaders impact organizations and how they can be transformative to the organization. They will share their individual philosophies and practical approaches to training the next generation of leaders in their organizations and how are they leading their organizations and the industry into the future.

Panelists are:
- Sean Sweeney, Moderator, Arcadis US, Inc
- Denise Berger, AECOM
- Luciana Burdi, Massachusetts Port Authority
- Barbara Kroncke, University of Massachusetts Building Authority
- Catherine Walsh, Northeastern University

Breakout Sessions   10:45am-12:00pm

- Reputation Capital
  Catherine Schoenenberger, Stay Safe Traffic Products, Inc
  Jessica Murphy, Mirick O’Connell DeMallie & Lougee, LLP
  Your professional reputation speaks volumes about you. It can open doors and give you access to opportunities. Conversely, a negative reputation can sideline your career track. This is your Reputation Capital. This presentation will examine how reputation is built and share specific tips for changing your reputation. Attendees will hear from two experienced professionals in the construction industry about how they built their reputation and how their reputation benefits them, so attendees can put their reputation to work for themselves.

- Would You Hire You?
  Joe Wargo, Helbling & Associates
  Wendy Zang, Helbling & Associates
  How do hiring managers determine who to hire? Ever wonder what happens on the other side of the conference table? Join national executive search consultants as they share industry insight and best practices to improve your career outlook. Topics include applying for new positions,
ac ing interview questions, and evaluating an opportunity. This interactive session combines a presentation with group discussion.

- Don’t Call Them Difficult
  Laura Cooley, Limbach
  Jessica Smith, Bergmeyer Associates
  Crucial conversations are often dubbed “difficult” because we tend to fear them. But navigating these conversations is a necessary part of work life, and an essential skill for any manager. What makes a topic intimidating? What can you do in advance to best prepare for these discussions so they become productive rather than disruptive? How can you learn to frame and conduct communications in a way that increases your influence and strengthens the health of your organization?

- Forging Your Own Path - 4 Perspectives on Creating Your Roadmap to Success
  Laura Cruickshank, University of Connecticut
  Natasha Espada, STUDIO ENÉE architects
  Colleen Moore, City Point Partners, LLC
  Paige Sarazin, Sarazin General Contractors
  Have you ever thought about striking out on your own? This breakout session will allow you to begin your own roadmap for success. Led by moderator Laura Cruickshank, FAIA, a champion of WBE’s and MBE’s, our panel of business owners representing different professions in the AEC industry will share their stories and practical advice. What enabled them to invest in themselves, what resources did they need, and how did they overcome the inevitable obstacles?

**Afternoon Keynote  1:15pm-2:00pm**
Building Your Career: Challenging the Conventional Wisdom
Aisha Nadar, Advokatkfirmans RunelandAB
Do these statements sound familiar? A girl will not do as well as a boy in math. Girls will not like the study of engineering. A woman would be too soft, or timid, to endure the environment of on-site work and the harsh environment that comes with it. A woman will not be accepted as a manager in the Middle East, particularly in a military environment. A woman must “dress for success.”

When confronted with such statements in the world around me, I found it useful to ask, why? Inspired by John Kenneth Galbraith and his use of the term “The Conventional Wisdom” in The Affluent Society, I found it easy to define such statements as the construction industry’s conventional wisdom – those commonplace beliefs that are so acceptable and comfortable to the traditional participants. They are at times, without further analysis, invoked to resist change. I intend to demonstrate how challenging the conventional wisdom helped in building my career.

**Afternoon Panel  2:15pm-3:30pm**
Renegades and Trailblazers
Explore the essence of what makes these women exceptional trailblazers in their own unique niche of the construction industry. What was the spark that made these women create their own path, find their true passion and calling? Learn the characteristics they feel are critical to having a successful and meaningful career in this industry.

Panelists are:
  Anamaria Popescu, Moderator, Berkeley Research Group - Construction Practice
  Jean Carroon, Goody, Clancy
  Katherine Faulkner, Katerra
  Jane Henry, SeeHerWork
  Siggy Pfendler, Columbia
Closing Keynote  3:30pm-3:50pm
Lessons Learned
Denise Berger, AECOM
The most important lessons I learned in my life....so far! I will also reflect upon many of the stories heard over the course of the day.

Closing Remarks  3:50pm-4:15pm
Champions of Change awards, raffle prizes, and Closing Remarks will all be presented.