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# Bulletin

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WASHINGTON BUILDING CONGRESS

## Fall Kickoff

& FY'23 Board Installation



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## AWARDS

↓  
ABC National 2018 & 2017  
Excellence In Construction Eagle  
Award Winner

↓  
ABC National 2021 Excellence  
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↓  
ABC 2018, 2017, 2016, & 2014  
Masonry Subcontractor  
of the Year

↓  
ABC National 2021, 2020, 2019 &  
2018 Accredited Quality Contractor

↓  
ABC Metro Washington 2022,  
2021, 2020, 2018 & 2017 Award of  
Excellence in Construction

↓  
ABC Metro Washington 2021,  
2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016,  
2015 & 2014 STEP Safety Award,  
Gold Level

↓  
ABC Metro Washington  
2022 STEP Safety Award,  
Platinum Level

↓  
ABC Baltimore  
2022, 2021 & 2019 Award of  
Excellence in Construction

↓  
ASA 2014  
Carson V. Carlisle Jr.  
Safety Award

↓  
WBC 2021, 2020, 2019, 2017, &  
2014 Craftsmanship  
Award Winner

↓  
WBC Star Award  
Excellence in the Face of Adversity

↓  
MAMA 2021 & 2019  
Craftsmanship Excellence Award  
in Commercial Masonry

↓  
2022 ABC Baltimore Merit Award



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# C

## hairman's letter



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Washington Building Congress is a nonprofit association made up of professionals from a variety of disciplines, all with an active interest or involvement in the Washington Metropolitan Area's real estate, design, and construction community. The organization was established in 1937 to represent the collective interests of its members by providing education and networking opportunities and by promoting the advancement of the building industry. For additional information about membership, joining a committee or the WBC Bulletin, call (202) 293-5922 or visit us on the web at [www.wbcnet.org](http://www.wbcnet.org).

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It was my honor to take office as the 85th WBC Chairman of the Board on October 1, 2022. We started the new membership year off with the Oktoberfest Networking at Denizens on October 20 and have a busy schedule moving forward. Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Fall Kickoff & Installation at Columbia Country Club on September 29 and for supporting the Foundation Silent Auction. The highly anticipated WBC Holiday Party is returning to Congressional Country Club on December 13 and the Winter Networking event is coming up on January 12 at Maggiano's Tysons. Craftsmanship Awards Judging Day is also scheduled for January 12 and signup for judges is open until December 9. The Craftsmanship Awards Banquet is being held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel on March 31. We will also be returning to Lansdowne and Belmont for the WBC Golf Outing on June 12 next year. Please be on the lookout for our regular series of excellent networking and professional development activities throughout the year.

I would like to congratulate and welcome the members of the FY'23 WBC Board of Directors. Chuck Claar has graciously passed the chairman's gavel off to me for the coming year. As Immediate Past Chairman, Chuck will be serving as chairman of the WBC Foundation and the Past Chairman's Council. A very special thank you goes to Chuck for his many years of outstanding leadership and service to the association.

As outlined in my induction speech at the Fall Kickoff, I plan to focus on the following issues or projects during my tenure as Chairman of WBC:

- Work with the WBC committee chairs and vice-chairs to continue to provide quality programs and networking opportunities because from his perspective, that is the cornerstone of WBC;
- Work with the membership committee to identify ways to grow and broaden WBC's membership;
- With the participation of the Board and WBC committee chairs and vice-chairs, conduct a strategic evaluation and planning exercise to ensure that WBC is providing the right products and services to its membership;
- Support our past-Chairman, Chuck Claar, as he takes the WBC Foundation to the next level to allow the Foundation to offer educational opportunities for craftsmen and secondary education; and
- Continue to focus on growing WBC's efforts related to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in our organization and industry.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask that you please renew your WBC membership. We truly value your continued participation and support. The membership year runs October 1 to September 30, and annual renewal payments must be received no later than December 31 to be included in the 2023 WBC Industry Index membership directory. There are also several great advertising opportunities available for the printed directory. If you have questions regarding membership renewal, sponsorship or advertising, please contact Rita Reis at (202) 293-5922.

Please keep in mind that participation on WBC committees is open to all member firm employees. Meeting attendance is offered in a virtual format to help make participation more convenient. Take a look at the committee sign up form in this edition of the Bulletin and let us know where you would like to serve. Member involvement helps guide the direction of the association and provides a great opportunity to expand your circle of contacts in the industry.

I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming WBC program or event. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best regards,

Bob Freas, WBC Chairman of the Board

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# Industry Report

## HGA Relocating to Historic Woodies Building in Downtown D.C.'s Penn Quarter

### Design Firm Taking 17,000 Square Feet in Heart of Central Business District, Closer to Clients

National interdisciplinary design firm [HGA](#) announces it has signed a lease to move its [DC Metro region headquarters](#) to the historic Woodies Building at 1025 F Street, NW, in Penn Quarter. HGA is taking 17,000 square feet on the building's second floor which is located directly above Metrorail's Metro Center station. The DC studio offers services in architecture, engineering (MEP, structural, fire protection), interior design, lighting design, and workplace design.

"Moving to one of Washington's quintessential historic buildings in the heart of the city puts us closer to our clients and offers HGA an extremely visible footprint in downtown Washington via our new second floor storefront," said Jay Scruggs, principal and office director of HGA in DC. "We look forward to designing a truly HGA environment in this exceptional space that will showcase what we have learned about the post-Covid workplace."

Built in the late 1800's, the building was home to the Woodward & Lothrop flagship department store, until it closed in the 1990's. Douglas Development acquired the renowned landmark, rezoned the property, fully

renovated the interior, and restored the facades. The 10-story building, located in the heart of Washington, offers 17-foot ceilings, 11-foot windows, open floor plans, retail and Class A office space.

## Aronson Announces New Managing Partner, Lexy Kessler

Aronson is pleased to announce the appointment of its new Managing Partner, Lexy Kessler.

After leading the firm for six years, Managing Partner Larry Davis will be transitioning his role to Lexy, effective January 1, 2023.

Lexy currently serves as the partner-in-charge of Aronson's Government Contract Services Group. Jim Fennel of the Government Contract Services Group will be taking on this role in 2023.

During her tenure at Aronson, which she began as a Staff Accountant, Lexy came to be known for her leadership, innovation, and passion for mentoring the next generation. She was honored twice by the AICPA as one of the Most Powerful Women in Accounting, and is a sought-after speaker and thought leader in the industry. Lexy currently serves on the Board of Directors for the AICPA and recently served as the Chairman of the MACPA Board of Directors for the 2021-2022 term.

## Aronson Announces New Lead Partner in Government Contract Services Group

Aronson, a nationally ranked top 100 firm, announces the appointment of a new Lead Partner of its Government Contract Services Group, Jim Fennel.

Effective January 1st, 2023, Jim Fennel, current partner in Aronson's Government Contract Services Group, will be taking over as Lead Partner for the Group. Current Group Lead Lexy Kessler will be transitioning to the role of Managing Partner for the firm.

## Fox Rothschild Welcomes Robbie Pratt to Federal Government Contracts Group

Robbie joins the Federal Government Contracts Practice as Counsel in Fox Rothschild's Washington, DC office.

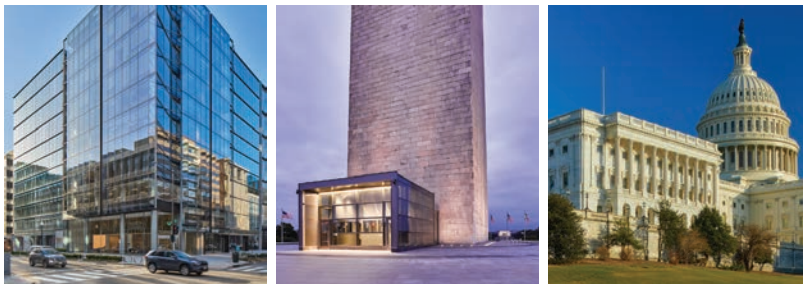
Serving as a trusted adviser on matters involving federal contracts and large and complex construction litigation, Robbie has represented large national contractors in the public procurement process as well as commercial property owners and contractors in state and federal court, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals and Civilian Board of Contract Appeals.

He counsels clients throughout the government procurement process, including solicitation review, proposal preparation, bid protests, project administration, preparation of requests for equitable adjustment and claims, and litigation.

## Steele Foundation LLC Announces Retirement of Founder Ronald W. Steele, P.E.

As Managing Member, Ron Steele led the regional firm for 53 years

Steele Foundation LLC announces the retirement of Founder and Managing Member Ronald (Ron) W. Steele, P.E. Ron Steele has directed field operations of the regionally owned and operated foundation design and



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# Industry Report

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construction firm since he co-founded it in 1968. He is succeeded in leadership of the firm by his son, [President J. Andrew \(Andy\) Steele, P.E., D. GE.](#)

With more than 50 years in the [design and construction](#) of excavation support systems, façade preservation and shoring systems for structural modifications, Ron Steele is renowned for his knowledge and experience throughout the industry.

Says Andy Steele, “Steele Foundation is one of the few firms that specializes in engineered foundation construction, which requires the skills and talent of highly-trained licensed professionals. My father’s business acumen and unique expertise in this essential construction and consulting niche built the company into the leading firm it is today. He is now retiring to California, knowing that he’s created a first-class firm that will endure because of the organizational reputation he’s built and the professional staff that he has mentored.”

### Aronson Named a Top 50 Construction Accounting Firm by Construction Executive

Aronson is thrilled to announce that the firm has been chosen as one of The Top 50 Construction Accounting Firms™ in Construction Executive magazine’s annual ranking. This is the third time Aronson has been recognized for this achievement.

### Aronson Foundation Sponsor Main Street’s Golf Tournament

The Aronson Foundation sponsored a hole at a golf outing benefiting [Main Street](#). Main Street is an affordable and inclusive, community-centered residential development – the first of its kind in not only the DMV, but in the country – where 25% of the 70 apartments units are designed and designated for adults with disabilities.

**F:**





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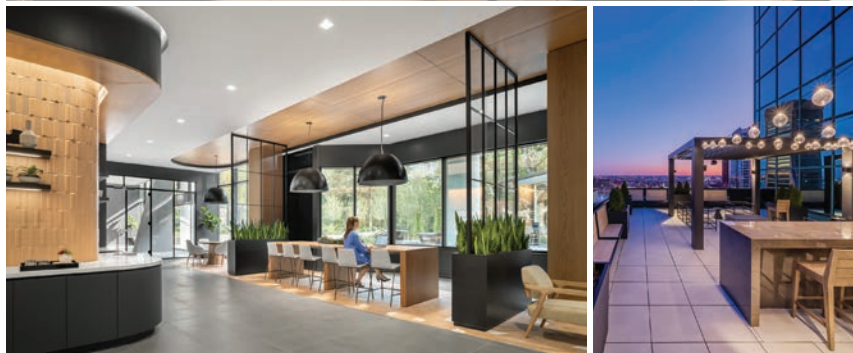
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# M<sup>ee</sup>t the Chairman

## Bob Freas

WBC's 85th Chairman of the Board

**N**ew WBC Chairman of the Board Bob Freas grew up in Tidewater, Virginia until he left for his undergraduate studies at Virginia Tech. After graduating from Virginia Tech in 1982, Bob got a job in Northern Virginia working for an engineering firm providing program and project management support services to one of the Navy's shipbuilding programs (mine hunter and sweepers).

Bob was always interested in construction during his civil engineering studies at Virginia Tech. While working as an assistant project manager on the Navy's shipbuilding program, one of his classmates from Virginia Tech approached him about joining Booz Allen & Hamilton, a diverse management consulting firm. Booz Allen had a client who was executing a construction program to build 23 facilities around the world. The client needed support from a programming and budgeting perspective, as well as schematic and preliminary design through to construction and start-up. The Booz Allen team was effectively an extension of the owner's team. Additionally, the group did a number of other engagements for clients who needed project advisory service and assistance with construction related issues. This career opportunity allowed Bob to start his journey in the construction industry.

During his time at Booz Allen, Bob completed his graduate studies at The Catholic University of America. He received a degree in engineering management, with an emphasis on construction management related courses. One of the course instructors was Tony Warner. Tony approached Bob to join Warner Construction Consultants in 1986. Bob's almost 15 year experience at Warner Construction Consultants was a further broadening of his exposure to the construction industry.

Early in his career at Warner, Bob worked in all four divisions of the company (project controls, owner's and lender's representation and dispute resolution) to broaden and expand his industry experience. The experience was phenomenal and let him see the industry from different perspectives. Bob also learned how to execute client engagements with an "eyes wide open" approach to address variables that exists from project to project and client to client.

How he got to Exponent is an interesting question, according to Bob. He was at an interview in 2000 and was told by the interviewer that Exponent was looking for someone to start a construction disputes resolution practice within the company. Bob followed up on that tip and he has not looked back over the past 21 years. Working at Exponent has been very rewarding for Bob professionally. He has worked on interesting projects locally, within North America and around the globe. Bob has also had the privilege of working with very

talented colleagues who he believes are technically the best at what they do and fun to work with.

Prior to Exponent, Bob had been a long-time member of another industry association in the District, Maryland and Virginia region. When he join Exponent and settled in, Bob decided to look around at other options because his experience at the other association had never quite gotten to what was expected and he felt there should be more. After initially attending some WBC events, Bob quickly realized that the organization offered the things that he had not found at the other organization.

Bob believes that WBC provides a significant opportunity for Exponent and its representatives to network with other members. He believes that opportunity happens within the committees and the programs that WBC offers its members. Another benefit of WBC is the industry perspective on issues and markets provided through the programs that WBC offers, according to Bob. In his opinion, WBC's programs are the best in the industry. Last, he thinks WBC provides company representatives the opportunity to build relationships that not only enhance their professional careers, but also friendships that extend beyond their professional careers.

When he is not providing client services, Bob enjoys spending time riding bikes with his wife and spending time on or around the water with his family (wife, kids and grandkids). He is also a closet RC (radio control) geek and enjoys competing in aerobatic competitions, which is not often because he has limited time to practice. **F**

# WBC Fall Kickoff





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# WBC Committees – FY'23

October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023

## Community Services

Coordinates community support initiatives, monthly volunteer opportunities, new jobsite food drive and other requests for assistance throughout the year.

**Chair:** Juliane Medd ♦ Consigli Construction

**Board Liaison:** Andrew Tomlinson ♦ G&M Services

## Craftsmanship Awards

Oversees planning and execution of the Craftsmanship Awards and Hall of Fame program. 198 entries were received in 2022 and judging was done both in-person and virtually.

**Chair:** Erik Kaniecki ♦ CBG Building Company

**Vice-Chair:** Richard Mills ♦ Dynalectric Company

**Board Liaison:** Layli Pietri ♦ Balfour Beatty Construction

## Golf Outing

Plans the annual WBC golf outing featuring 432 players on three courses. The 2023 event is scheduled for June 12 at Lansdowne and Belmont golf clubs.

**Co-Chair:** Kelly McGuire ♦ Columbia Green Technologies

**Co-Chair:** Bill Voigt ♦ Siemens Industry

## Hammerheads

Focused on engaging members under the age of 40. Hosts committee lunch & learns, networking events, workforce development outreach and community service activities.

**Chair:** Shaheen Dabestani ♦ Intertek-PSI

**Vice-Chairs:** Marguerite DeVoll ♦ Watt, Tieder, Hoffer & Fitzgerald  
Izzy Agostini ♦ Johnson Controls

**Board Liaison:** David Stocks ♦ Stocks Management Group

## Innovation

Coordinates the annual Innovation & Technology issue of *Bulletin* and tracks new developments in sustainability, energy resources, materials and building technology trends.

**Board Liaison:** Mike Wilson ♦ Carr Companies

## Marketing & Communications

Currently working on redesigning the WBC website and enhancing the association's social media presence through Facebook and LinkedIn.

**Chair:** Stacey Holsinger ♦ Steel Toe Communications

**Vice-Chair:** Tiffany Abbott ♦ Rosendin Electric

**Board Liaison:** Reggie Jones ♦ FoxRothschild

## Membership Services

FY'23 goals: 85% retention, 20 company and 20 small business members. Targeting new owner/developers firms. Plans member orientation, recruitment and retention initiatives.

**Chair:** Garrett Sefrin ♦ rand\* construction

**Board Liaison:** Mike Newman ♦ Timmons Group

## Program & Education

Plans evening panel presentations, seminars, webinars, and other professional development programs. Works with other committees on program and education coordination.

**Chair:** Megan Ross ♦ Coakley & Williams Construction

**Vice-Chair:** Tim Hogan ♦ HITT Contracting

**Board Liaison:** Jared Oldroyd ♦ Clark Construction Group

## Regional Development

Engages with economic development groups and agencies dealing with building and development to identify opportunities for learning and working relationships.

**Chair:** Frank Homer ♦ Whiting-Turner Contracting

**Vice-Chair:** David Sharon ♦ christopher consultants, ltd

**Board Liaison:** Bill Voigt ♦ Siemens Industry

## Small Business

Provides information, programs and services for small business members focusing on GSA, SBA, general contractors and other industry representatives.

**Chair:** Shana Rothman ♦ Smith, Currie & Hancock

**Vice-Chair:** Doug Smith ♦ Soil Consultants Engineering

**Board Liaison:** Maria Snyder ♦ Construction Cleaning Service

## Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Task Force

Focusing on promoting and increasing diversity of WBC membership, committees, leadership, board of directors and the industry our association represents.

**Chair:** Keven Lugo ♦ DPR Construction

**Board Liaison:** David Osei ♦ Redbrick LMD



# Get Involved: Serve on a WBC Committee!

Washington Building Congress committees play a key role in professional development, regional planning, membership services, community and public relations, and planning for WBC events and programs.

If you want your voice heard when policies and programs that affect our association and the industry are addressed, there's no better place to be than on one of WBC's committees.

Please lend a hand and make the commitment to get involved today! You can select up to two of the following committees and email your completed form to Rita Reis: [reis@wbcnet.org](mailto:reis@wbcnet.org).

Thank you for your support!

## YES! I would like to actively participate on the following WBC committees:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Services                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing & Communications |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Craftsmanship Awards                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Services        |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golf Outing                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Program & Education        | <input type="checkbox"/> Diversity Task Force |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hammerheads <i>(under 40 years old)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Development       |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Innovation                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Business             |   |

I am interested in being a committee chair or vice-chair.

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Email [reis@wbcnet.org](mailto:reis@wbcnet.org) or Fax 202.429.1922 this page to the WBC today.

*A WBC staff member will contact you to provide additional information.*

### Top 10 reasons you should volunteer to serve on a committee:

1. To give back to your industry.
2. To network one-on-one with other industry professionals.
3. To learn about current issues, trends and business opportunities.
4. To gain recognition by your peers.
5. To get the inside track on changes in the industry.
6. To meet new people, make new friends and and mingle with industry movers and shakers.
7. To assist with identifying new projects and industry innovations.
8. To enhance your business skills and abilities.
9. To give back to the community.
10. And it's fun and rewarding!

# Digital Networking and LinkedIn: Creating Meaningful Connections

**By Juliane Medd**  
*Consigli Construction*

**W**hen we think of networking, most of us only consider in-person events. However, you are limited in how many connections you can make with the time and room you share. It's a balancing act between holding your cocktail and appetizer plate and then fumbling to grab your business card. Most events are comparable to speed-dating, a few minutes of interaction in a loud environment, and then it's up to you to develop the relationship through your follow-up.

Take your in-person networking and upgrade your experience by connecting online through LinkedIn. LinkedIn allows you to get to know people more personally, expand your audience, and learn more about what's happening with the companies you want to do business.

As the largest business-oriented professional network, you should think of LinkedIn as an extension of your ongoing business development and networking efforts. Professionals use the platform to share their career journeys, tips, project updates, and best practices.

Your LinkedIn profile is a virtual representation of who you are as a business professional. You only have one chance to make an excellent first impression. Your profile is a good handshake; no one respects a weak one!

Include a recent high-resolution headshot photo. People want to connect with people. Your cover banner is the next piece of real estate on your profile. It's most

commonly used to showcase the company you work with, so use the space wisely. Highlight key markets, benefits, services, locations served, or notable projects. Third, a well-crafted about us section or elevator pitch should include your career story and expertise in the industry. Clearly outlining who you are and what company benefits you offer is key to developing connections online, especially for gaining referrals. You should also complete your title or position in the industry, work experience, skills, and education at a bare minimum.

After you complete your digital baseline, work on requesting recommendations to establish credibility in the industry. With a completed profile, people feel more connected to a personal profile or company page and are more likely to connect with you. Top it off with a social strategy and brand message, and you'll gain familiarity and trust with your intended audience.

Creating your digital network should be purposeful and planned. Setting goals on how often you will use the platform and staying consistent with your goals will help

you increase your network and expand your reach. Staying engaged on LinkedIn through comments, posts, and sharing information is best if you want to build brand awareness and stay on top of mind.

If you are at the point where you are ready to commit to sharing content more regularly, think about your skills. For example, are you a better writer, speaker, or photographer? Maybe a mix of them all. Share content that demonstrates the value you and your company can provide using a consistent tone or pattern.

In-person networking is a long-term relationship-building strategy, as is building effective relationships online. So with these tips, get started! Remember, you control your narrative. Get your brand story straight or someone else will tell it for you. Don't miss the opportunity to make meaningful connections online. [F](#)

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Members from Skanska USA Building (left to right):  
Juan Torres, Grant Cox, Bill Lemley, Darick Edmond,  
Brian Kleinschmidt, Bianca Pasikhani, Kishan  
Kamath, Valerie Forconi, Dale Kohnitsky.

# Changing Lives, Shaping Minds

## Introducing the New Harriet E. Tubman Elementary School in Gaithersburg, MD

By Dale Kohnitsky,

Executive vice president and general manager of Skanska's building operations in Washington D.C.

**S**kanska recently achieved a significant milestone – the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Harriet E. Tubman Elementary School in Gaithersburg, Md. While every project is important, this one was particularly meaningful because of its namesake, the people who built it, and the teachers and students who will grow and learn here.

Named for abolitionist and civil activist Harriet Tubman who worked along the Underground Railroad to free 70 enslaved people, this is the only school in Maryland, her home state, to bear her name. It is a remarkable space where our next leaders will be educated.

People build schools. In fact, more than 1,000 people worked more than 200,000 hours to deliver the school.

This included the staff at Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), the designer SEI, Skanska and more than 120 subcontractors. I should also note that more than \$6 million was awarded to minority subcontractors.

Teachers dedicate their lives to educating our children. The Skanska team can be proud that we delivered a remarkable facility where both students and teachers can excel.

Next week a new school year begins and the school buses in Montgomery County will deliver 400 students to the new Harriet E. Tubman Elementary School. It is exciting to think about the young men and women who will thrive in this new facility. **F**

# New Members

## New Company Members

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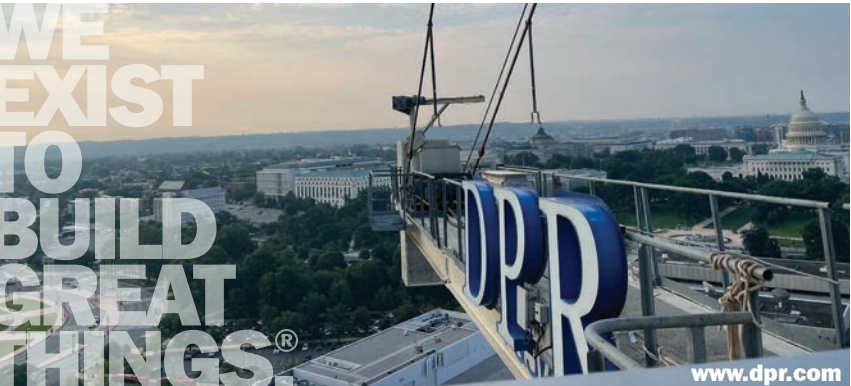
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# Calendar of Events

Dates and times subject to change.

## November 2022

**NOVEMBER 15**  
**3:00 to 5:00 pm**  
**CONSTRUCTION INCLUSION**  
**WEEK...AND THEN WHAT?**  
 1627 I Street, NW | Washington, DC

**NOVEMBER 16**  
**2023 CRAFTSMANSHIP AWARDS**  
**NOMINATIONS DEADLINE**

**NOVEMBER 18**  
**10:00 to 11:00 am**  
**INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT &**  
**JOBS ACT WEBINAR**

## December 2022

**DECEMBER 13**  
**6:00 to 8:30pm**  
**HOLIDAY PARTY**  
 Congressional Country Club | Bethesda, MD

## January 2023

**JANUARY 12**  
**7:45 am - 4:30 pm**  
**CRAFTSMANSHIP AWARDS**  
**JUDGING DAY**  
 Maggiano's Tysons Galleria

**JANUARY 12**  
**4:30 - 7:00 pm**  
**WINTER NETWORKING**  
 Maggiano's Tysons Galleria

### Advertising Information

The **Bulletin** covers issues of importance to the building industry, news about WBC members and information about upcoming events. The topics listed below will be covered as feature articles in upcoming issues of the **Bulletin**. Persons interested in contributing information or advertising should contact WBC before the third week of the month preceding the issue. The **Bulletin** is published six times a year by WBC. To place an ad, submit material or for more information call **202.292.5922**.

### Editorial Calendar

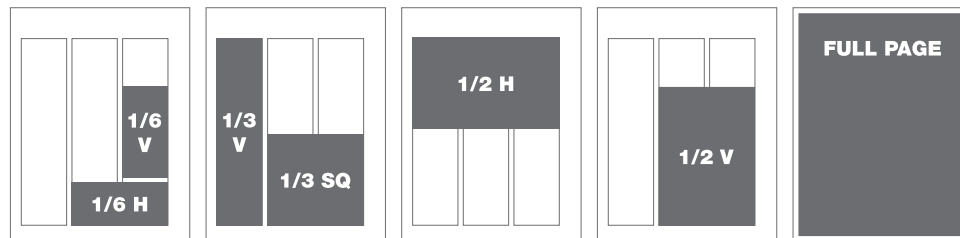
<b>December / January</b>	Members Giving Back
<b>February / March</b>	Sustainability
<b>April / May</b>	Craftsmanship Awards
<b>June / July</b>	Rebuilding Together
<b>August / September</b>	Marketing & Communications
<b>October / November</b>	WBC Leadership & Committees

### Advertising Rates

Member Rates:	1 time	3 times	6 times
1/6 horizontal or 1/6 vertical	\$155	\$130	\$110
1/3 vertical or square	\$230	\$190	\$150
1/2 horizontal or vertical	\$430	\$350	\$290
Full-page	\$630	\$510	\$410
<b>Position</b>			
Inside Front Cover	\$830	\$670	\$540
Non-Member Rates:	1 time	3 times	6 times
1/6 horizontal or 1/6 vertical	\$210	\$176	\$149
1/3 vertical or square	\$311	\$257	\$203
1/2 horizontal or vertical	\$581	\$473	\$392
Full-page	\$851	\$689	\$554
<b>Position</b>			
Inside Front Cover	\$1,121	\$905	\$729

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1/6 horizontal	4.43"w	x	2"h
1/6 vertical	2.1"w	x	4.2"h
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1/3 vertical	2.1"w	x	8.6"h
1/2 horizontal	6.75"w	x	4.2"h
1/2 vertical	4.43"w	x	6.38"h
Full-page	8.25"w	x	10.75"h
Full-page + bleed	8.5"w x 11"h		+ .125" bleed