Greetings, Members and Friends of WP+D,

It’s a high honor to have been elected as the newest Board President of WP+D after serving as Co-Chair of Professional Development since 2017. This year’s Board is bursting with talent and enthusiasm, and we look forward to an exciting new year of valuable programming and building connections among members.

In addition to running WP+D programming, the Board is focused on growing our own professional skills and on (re)connecting with Board alumnae, who gathered this past June to catch up with friends and to weigh in on the future of the organization. If you’re a Board alumna interested in re-engaging with WP+D, please contact Past President Elizabeth Scott (2015-2016) at escott@cmap.illinois.gov.

I look forward to seeing you at our next event!

Kathleen Day
WP+D President

WELCOME TO THE 2019-20 BOARD

President | Kathleen Day*
Vice President | Isabel Velez Diez*
Treasurer | Estefany Nora
Secretary | Haley Cannon*
Programs | Tracy Lewis*
Programs | Rachel Groat
Prof. Development | Claudia Rodriguez*
Prof. Development | Janet Li
Marketing | Brittani Batts
Membership | Emma Heemskerk

Returning *

Advisor:
Shavion Scott* (immediate Past President)

2018-2019 EVENTS RECAP

Fall Professional Development Mentorship Pilot Program

The first ever WP+D Mentorship Pilot Program kicked off with the Fall 2018 event, hosted at BMO Harris: Unlocking the Power of Mentorship with panelists Cindy McSherry, Jimena Sayavedra, Courtney Kashima, and Angela Brooks. Panelists shared best practices for protegés (always pick a coffee spot near your mentor’s office!) and traded stories about the impact of mentors on their career trajectories.

Spring Professional Development Time Management Workshop

This year’s Spring PD workshop, Tackling Time Management, brought together nearly 40 women to discuss universal—yet rarely openly discussed—challenges. How do you prioritize your work when you’re feeling overwhelmed? How do you...
avoid distractions? How do you find time to work towards your professional goals? Participants shared tips and advice in what several women described as a much-needed “group therapy” session held at the offices of Accion Chicago in the brand-new Hatchery at Lake and Kedzie.

**Small Networking Lunches**

Small Networking Lunches this year have featured guests in transportation, consulting, research, design, housing policy, sustainable development and more! To highlight just a couple of these many fascinating women, July featured SNL guest Sara Disney Haufe, a rising star in the world of transportation planning and the recipient of the 2019 Urban Land Institute Young Visionary award. September’s guest was Eleanor Gorski, Acting Commissioner at the City of Chicago’s Planning and Development department. We hope to see you at the next one!

Be sure to register on the first of each month--spots fill up quickly!

**WP+Drinks**

Every Third Thursday of the month, WP+Drinks is a great opportunity to connect with other women in planning and development. In addition to offering a relaxed setting to learn more about our organization, we strive to select diverse locations to host our events to attract professionals from all around the Chicagoland area.

WP+Drinks is open to both members and non-members alike and many attendees are at various stages of their planning careers.

Past WP+Drinks:

- August ‘18 | Park Grill
- September ‘18 | Kaiser Tiger
- October ‘18 | Point and Feather
- November ‘18 | Early Society
- March ‘19 | City Social
- April ‘19 | The Scout South Loop
- May ‘19 | Goddess and the Baker
- June ‘19 | Raised Rooftop Bar
- August ‘19 | The Kitchen
- September ‘19 | Adams Street Brewery

**Annual Holiday Party**

Latinicity proved to be a great venue to host our 2019 Holiday Party. We weren’t sure it would happen with the blistering winter weather but we had a great time!

Have ideas for future venues? Let us know.

**Annual Member Appreciation Picnic**

It was great to see summer finally arrive in time for our annual WP+D Member Appreciation Picnic. It was hot!

Thank You for your involvement in WP+D. Please continue to invite new women to get involved.

**FAREWELL PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

As I reflect on this past year in leadership, it epitomizes what WP+D is all about. Every year that a new face becomes a friend, colleague, guest speaker, mentor, business connection or role model now within reach, we’ve won. We are reminded why we chose this profession. We are inspired to be great. We are empowered to imagine the careers and life we want with clear representation across our network of what is possible.

I am thankful to our founders for their foresight and fearlessness in the ideation of what WP+D could be. We hope we’ve made you proud. To those who served on the board and are now part of a distinguished alumni network, we are forever bonded. A special thank you to those I’ve had the pleasure to work alongside. To every current and prospective member, this experience is what you make it and there are so many women once in your shoes ready to support your journey.

It has been a privilege to lead this amazing organization. Congratulations to the leaders who have emerged to uphold its legacy.

We were celebrating our 25th Anniversary year when I stepped into the role of President. Here’s to many, many more.

Sincerely,

Shavion Scott
WP+D President, 2016-2019