



"In the future, there will be no female leaders. There will just be leaders."
Sheryl Sandberg

WP+D NEWS



UPCOMING WP+D EVENTS

Stay tuned for more upcoming opportunities to connect with other WP+D members virtually!

April Small Networking Lunch
Alderman Maria Hadden

April WP+Drinks- virtual happy hour edition

May WP+D Bookclub

May's Spring WP+D Professional Development Workshop

Check out our website for event updates.

Send us your event! As a WP+D member, we'll share select events in our newsletter and on our social media page. Email wpdchicago@gmail.com with all the details.

WP+D 2019-2020 Board

President- Kathleen Day

Vice President- Isabel Velez Diez

Treasurer- Estefany Noria

Secretary- Haley Cannon

Programs- Tracy Lewis and Rachel Groat

Professional Development- Claudia Rodriguez & Janet Li

Marketing- Brittani' Batts

Membership Development and Retention- Emma Heemsker

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings WP+D Members and Friends,

On behalf of the WP+D Board of Directors, I hope this newsletter finds you and your family safe and coping reasonably well with the unprecedented and scary situation in which we find ourselves.

I wanted to share a bright spot amidst this uncertainty and isolation: the **WP+D Book Club** met via teleconference during Week 1 of "sheltering in place" to discuss *Dare to Lead* by Brené Brown, who's best known for her work on the power of vulnerability. It's hard to imagine a more fitting time to acknowledge our emotions and to cultivate connection among professional women.

It seems so long ago that you all came out in record numbers to our annual Holiday Party to network with other dynamic professional women and to catch up with friends and colleagues. We have many accomplishments to celebrate in the new year – check out our "2019 by the numbers" – with much to look forward to in coming months.

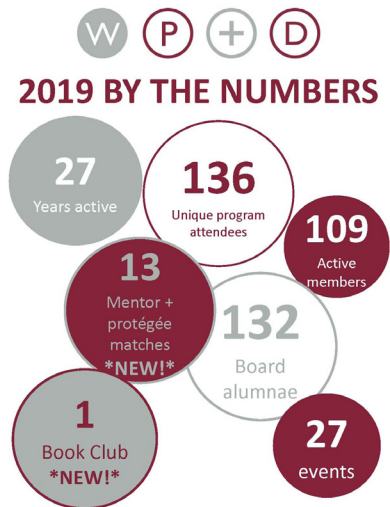
This year, the Board has engaged **DLA Piper**, the second largest law firm in the world, to undertake the critical task of updating the organization's by-laws on a pro bono basis. To complement that effort, over the next few months the Board will finalize the first ever **WP+D Policies and Procedures Handbook** to help with onboarding of new Board Members. For those of you who are curious about leadership opportunities with the WP+D Board, please don't hesitate to reach out to us! **Board openings will be announced in June.**

The Spring Workshop and Small Networking Lunch and WPDrinks for April and May has been planned to be virtual - stay tuned for details!

Wishing you good health this Spring and remember to reach out for support among your fellow women in planning and development.

Kathleen Day

WP+D Board President





RECENT EVENT RECAPS

WP+D Holiday Party



Board alumnae in force at this year's Holiday Party! From left to right: current WP+D President Kathleen Day with Past Presidents **Elizabeth Scott**, **Tina Fassett—Smith**, **Nicole Woods**, and **Shavion Scott**.

On January 31, WP+D hosted its annual holiday party at Marshall's Landing, at the Merchandise Market. The attendees enjoyed appetizers, beer, and wine while learning about the organization's accomplishments, new programming, and socializing with professionals. Thank you to all of the amazing and impressive women who attended! See you at our next professional development workshop in spring 2020!

Small Networking Lunches

Small Networking Lunches this year have featured guests in housing policy, advocacy, research, design, economic development, and more! To highlight just a couple of these fascinating women, we kicked off with our January's guest **Mary Howard**, Chief Resident Services Officer at the Chicago Housing Authority. In February, we had **Angela Hurlock**, Executive Director of Claretian Associates and Board Chair of the Chicago Housing Authority. We'll see you at the next one! Don't forget to register for the Small Networking Lunch with **Alderman Maria Hadden** this April!



WP+Drinks



Every third Thursday of the month, WP+Drinks is a great opportunity to connect with other women in planning and development. Normally, we strive to offer a relaxed setting to learn more about our organization, and connect with like minded professionals from all around the Chicagoland area. In the spirit of staying home and safe, we want to see your splendid faces online. You can't get more relaxed than that. Since appetizers are normally on us. We will send along recipes. WP +Drinks is open to our members and non-members alike and many attendees are at various stages of their planning careers. In February, we visited Remington's in the West Loop.

WP+D Bookclub



The brand new WP+D Book Club was launched last year and has been a hit! In March, members met virtually to discuss Brene Brown's *Dare to Lead*. If you are finding you have a bit more time to catch up on reading and you're hungry to connect with fellow professional women, sign up for our next session in May- stay tuned for details!