



WP+D NEWS

“There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish.”

-Michelle Obama



UPCOMING WP+D EVENTS

Small Networking Lunch

January 22, 2020 | 12-1PM
Chicago Cultural Center
78 E Washington St, Chicago, IL 60602



Mary Howard, Chief Resident Mary Howard, Chief Resident Officer

WP+D Holiday Party

January 31, 2020 | 6-9PM
222 West Merchandise Mart Plaza
[REGISTER HERE!](#)

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 pages. Email [wpcchicago@gmail.com](mailto: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 - Tracey Lewis & 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,

These last few months of the year can be especially trying for those of us who already struggle to find balance between our obligations to work, to family, and to ourselves. What delicate equilibrium we manage to achieve through careful planning throughout the year can teeter when we add end-of-year deadlines, holiday parties, kids' school performances, and travels. During these times, not only is it okay to lean on each other for support, but when we're under pressure we have the opportunity to build community through given-and-take. As leaders in our field, and especially as professional women under pressure to always appear strong, we should remember that it's sometimes as important to receive support as it is to give it.

With that in mind, we invite you to take a moment after the holiday rush to join other WP+D members and professional women at the annual **WP+D Holiday Party on Friday, January 31st at Marshall's Landing**. For those of you who are new to WP+D, the Holiday Party is our biggest event of the year, an opportunity to connect with WP+D alumnae and other senior members and friends of WP+D.

As we look ahead to 2020, we also celebrate the fact that 2019 has been a big year for women in the fields of planning and development in Chicago. New **Mayor Lori Lightfoot** appointed past WP+D panelist **Marisa Novara** as Commissioner of the Department of Housing. Former SNL guest **Erin Aleman** took the helm of CMAP; **Angela Hurlock**, who facilitated

the 2018 salary negotiation workshop, was appointed Chair of the CHA Board of Directors; and WP+D member **Kristin Faust** became Executive Director of IHDA. Former WP+D Board Member **Carolee Kokola's** organization, Bubbly Dynamics, was featured in the New York Times. We are proud to call these women friends of WP+D. Congratulations to all!

Wishing you all strength during this busy time and continued success in the new year!

Kathleen Day

WP+D Board President

WP+D ANNUAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Friday, January 31, 2020

MARSHALL'S LANDING
222 W MERCHANDISE MART PLAZA, CHICAGO, IL 60654
6PM-9PM

Tickets prices:
Members: \$40
Member+ Guest: \$80
Non-members: \$55

REGISTER TODAY!!

Mentorship Pilot Program



Mentee: Lindsey Telford



Mentor: Claudia Rodriguez

“ The WP+D mentorship program was immensely helpful to me at a time when I was considering a career move from architecture to real estate development. Claudia Rodriguez, my mentor, had also made a similar transition herself. Learning more about Claudia’s reasons for moving into development, and her experiences working in the field, helped to confirm my interest.

Now, having accepted a role in commercial real estate development, the connections made through the program are more valuable than ever. I’m immensely grateful to WP+D for providing a platform to connect with insightful and talented women working in planning and development.”

- Lindsey Telford, 2019 Mentee

RECENT EVENT RECAPS

Fall Workshop



On November 12, WP+D hosted its annual fall professional development workshop, “The Art of Self-Promotion,” at BMO Harris Bank. At the interactive workshop, attendees enjoyed appetizers and wine while learning how to promote themselves in ways that are authentic and tailored to their strengths. Thank you to all of the amazing and impressive women who attended! And special thanks to our esteemed speakers **Tania Kadakia**, Vice President, Relationship Manager in BMO Harris Bank’s Community Development lending group, **Lynn Smith**, Relationship Manager at Partner Engineering and Science, Inc., and **Stephanie Socall**, Managing Director of Lending - Affordable Housing at IFF for providing inspiring and actionable advice. 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 many fascinating women, we kicked off in October’s guest was **Stacey Sutton**, Professor at University of Illinois at Chicago’s Planning Department. This November we had **Kendra Freeman**, Director of Community Development and Engagement at Metropolitan Planning Council. December we had **Elizabeth Scott**, Senior Planner at the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. We’ll see you at the next one! Don’t forget to register on the first of the 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 a diversity of locations to host our events to attract professionals from all around the Chicagoland area. WP +Drinks is open to our members and non-members alike and many attendees are at various stages of their planning careers. Past WP+Drinks: September | Adams Street Brewery; October | The Press Room; November | Green Street Local; and December | Corner Bakery Cafe.

WP+D Bookclub



We launched WP+D bookclub in December. For our first bookclub we read *Radical Candor* by Kim Scott. The Bookclub was led by WPD member **Alexandra Livingstone**. We had a great conversation around giving and receiving feedback. Books will be themed around a variety of topics important to WP+D members. Books will be chosen via note. Join is in January when we’ll be discussing *Indistractable: How to Control Your Attention and Choose Your Life* by Nir Eyal.

WP+D Members, please feel free to send event/activity ideas to wpdchicago@gmail.com