




Day 1 - Monday, April 13

- 6:15 – 7:00 am Yoga Sponsored by BAC 
- 7:30 – 8:15 am Registration & Breakfast Buffet Open
- 8:15 – 10:00 am Opening Session



Keynote 1: Sustainable by Design

Gail Brager Ph.D, Distinguished Professor of Architecture at UC Berkeley Building Science, Technology & Sustainability program



Keynote 2 – Innovators Born or Bred

Amy Marks, EVP of Global Strategy at Symetri, a global leader in digital BIM, product design, and lifecycle solutions. Known widely as the “Queen of Prefab,” she has been a driving force in modernizing the built environment through industrialized construction and transformational methodologies.

- 10:00 – 10:15am Coffee Break + Sponsor Tables
- 10:15 – 11:15am Breakout Sessions



Session 1A - Building Future Makers: How to Inspire the Next Generation into the Trades

Discover how to turn leadership legacy into a movement empowering young people—especially women—to pursue careers in the trades.

Speaker: Angie Simon, Heavy Metal Summer Experience



Session 1B - Smarter Buildings Start with You: Real-World AI and IoT in HVAC/Commissioning in AI

What every engineer needs to know about smart tech’s impact on design and controls.

Speaker: Tracey Jumper, Microsoft



11:15–11:45am Networking Break

11:45am–12:45pm Breakout Sessions



Session 2A - Executive Presence Without Pretending: Find Your Voice in Any Room

Public speaking, presenting to C-suite, and showing confidence authentically.

Speaker: Jane Sidebottom, President/Founder of AMK, LLC



Session 2B - Inside the Walls of Net-Zero: Women Designing the Future

Case studies from women leading decarbonization and electrification projects.

Speaker: Shona O'dea, SOM

12:45–1:45pm

Buffet Lunch

1:45–2:45pm

Breakout Sessions



Session 3A - Burnout-Proof: Energy Management for Women Who Do It All

Self-care, time boundaries, and saying no — not optional skills.

Speaker: Cherish Samuels, Amazon

Session 3B - FIRECHAT: What's New in the Code: 2026 Updates That Matter for Women in HVAC

An update-heavy, info-packed session on what's changing in ASHRAE standards, IAQ, and building codes.

Speakers:



**Laura Petrillo,
Daikin**



**Emily Lorenz,
PG&E**



**Kelly Cunningham,
PG&E**



**Kelly Seeger,
Signify**



2:45–3:15pm

Coffee Break + Sponsor Tables

3:15–4:15pm

Breakout Sessions

Breakout 4A - Influence Over Authority: Leading Technical Teams

How to motivate, lead, and influence — even without direct authority.

Speakers:



**Calina Ferraro,
Smith Group**



Hetal Lee, JLL



Breakout 4B - Designing for Resilience: HVAC Strategies in a Climate-Changing World

How climate change is impacting system design, redundancy, and long-term planning (wildfires, floods, heatwaves).

Speaker: Kelley Cramm, Henderson Engineers

7:10pm

Optional Evening Activity - Dodgers Game (ticket purchase required)

*Group will depart from the hotel lobby at 5pm.



Day 2 – Tuesday, April 14

7:30–8:30am

Breakfast roundtables

Breakfast Roundtable #1-Leading with Confidence: Owning Your Voice in a Technical World



Jenn Leach

Breakfast Roundtable #2-Work–Life Flow, Not Balance: Thriving in a 24/7 Industry



Tiffany Abruzzo

Breakfast Roundtable #3-Building Belonging: Mentorship, Allyship, and the Power of Connection



Nancy Kohout



Jennifer Mott

Breakfast Roundtable #4-The Power of Authenticity: Leading Without Pretending



Kellie Huff

Marites Calad



9:00-10:00am

Opening Keynote



Opening Keynote - Climb Your Everest, Lead Your Team to Their Mountain Top Experience

Speaker: Sara Safari, *Avalanche Survivor, Empowerment Activist, Author "Follow My Footsteps"*

10:00-10:15am

Coffee Break + Sponsor Tables

10:15-11:15am

Breakout Sessions

Session 5A - Her Company, Her Rules: Women Who Launched Their Own HVAC Firms

Tactical advice, legal basics, and mindset shifts for building your own thing.

Speakers:



Brittany Dianat
iFactor



Victoria Garcia,
Airzone Control



Session 5B - More Than a Seat at the Table: Building Truly Inclusive Project Teams

From executive leader to entrepreneur, revealing how inclusion, courage, and intentional leadership can transform organizations—and the people within them.

Speaker: Dr. Giovanna Bradfield, *Brasfield & Associates LLC*

11:15-11:45am

Morning Coffee Break

11:45am-12:45pm

Breakout Sessions

Session 6A - Rising Voices: YEA Shaping the Future of HVAC

Meet the recipients of ASHRAE's 2026 Women in ASHRAE YEA Speaker Submission as they share their stories, insights, and aspirations for shaping the future of the industry.

Speakers:

Marya Thawer,
Introba

Jill Warabak, BR&A
Consulting Engineers

Mamta Chauhan,
Jones Lang LaSelle Inc.



Session 6B - From Set Backs to Come Backs

Stories of women who changed roles, industries, or locations — and how they did it.

Speakers:



Grace Pan,
Hensel Phelps



Amanda Brathwaite,
Control Air EVP

12:45–2:00pm

Lunch + Panel Discussion: From Technical Expert to Strategic Leader: The Hidden Leap women don't talk about

How to pivot from project work to people and vision management. Real stories, real roadmaps. Moderated by Karine Leblanc

Speakers:



Megan Fellingner,
Morrison Products



Sarah Matson,
ASHRAE



Angie Simon,
Heavy Metal
Summer Experience



Alicia Chan,
University of
California San Diego

2:00–2:45pm

Wrap-Up & Farewell Celebration

For more information and questions:

visit ashrae.org/conferences/topical-conferences/2026-wia-leadership-symposium

Email contact: meetings@ashrae.org

Women in ASHRAE Steering Committee:

Karine Leblanc, Chair
Nancy Kohout, Co-Chair
Tiffany Abruzzo

Kellie Huff
Jennifer Leach
Elyse McBride

Jennifer Mott
Heather Schopplein



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