



QUARTERLY **CONNECTION**

A NIBS MEMBER NEWSLETTER

APRIL 05, 2021

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NIBS.ORG

NEWS HIGHLIGHT

NIBS Launches New Website and Membership Campaign

At the National Institute of Building Sciences, we're working to tell the story of our membership community. We know our members are coming together to build a better tomorrow, and we want to share those stories online.

HAVE YOU NOTICED OUR NEW WEBSITE?

NIBS recently launched a brand new nibs.org website. The new site is the first step of many toward highlighting the work of our members, re-engaging past members and adding new members to the NIBS community.

We are also launching the Engage platform, which allows members to connect on new and ongoing projects. Engage also will allow NIBS council members to share documents, meeting minutes, and other important material with one another in a safe location.

THE MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

We know our members are playing a big role in moving the industry forward. This is why we're launching #ThisIsNIBS on social media. The campaign includes testimonial videos by NIBS members. Thank you to all who have participated in the campaign thus far! We now need your help telling the NIBS story.

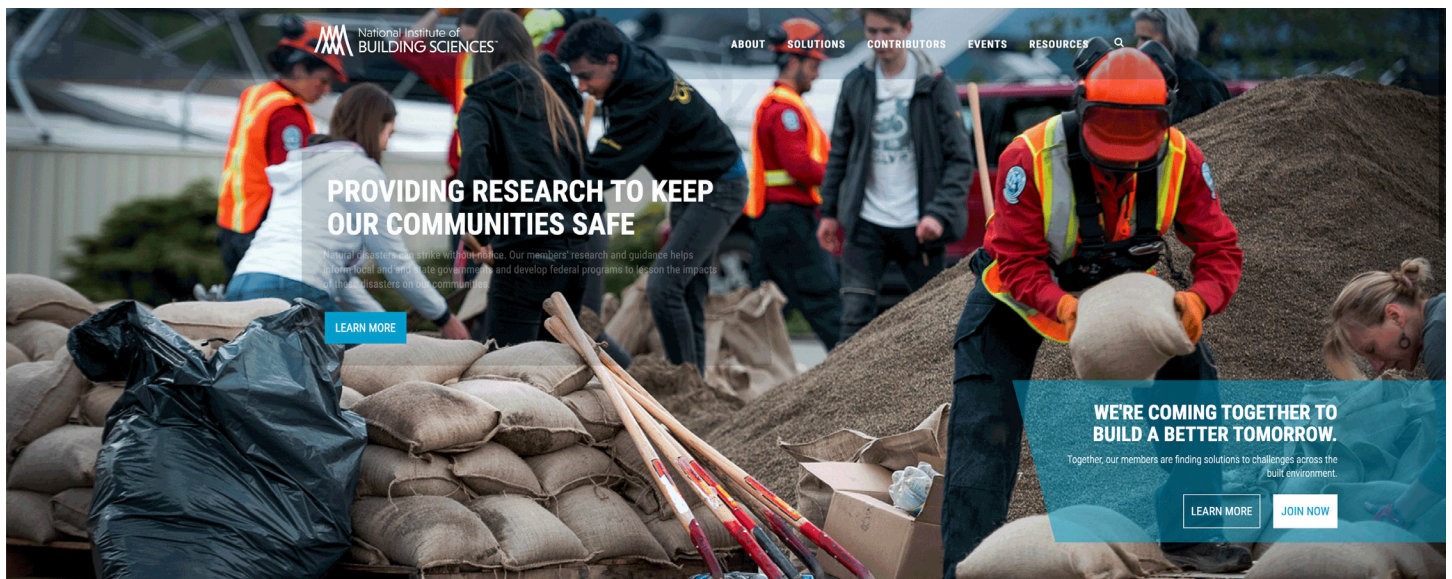
We're asking members to share their favorite part of being a member of the NIBS community on Facebook, LinkedIn or Twitter. Use the hashtag #ThisIsNIBS. Each month, we'll pick a post to win a \$50 Grubhub gift card and NIBS will share your post on our social channels.

We also need your help telling the NIBS story through interviews. We invite you share what you love about NIBS in a quick Zoom interview. These clips will be added to an exciting video that will be shared online as part of a new member outreach campaign.



If you are selected for an interview, you'll receive a \$50 Grubhub gift card as our thanks for your participation and time. To sign up, contact Kristen Petersen at kpetersen@nibs.org. We'll reach out to confirm details and schedule a time for the interview.

We're working hard to bring our members together, tell our stories and improve the built environment. Join us in building a better tomorrow.



National Institute of Building Sciences Joins Global BIM Network

The **National Institute of Building Sciences** joined more than 2,000 public sector representatives from 100 countries to form a new **Global BIM Network**.

The launch of the Global BIM Network took place March 17, 2021, during the Global BIM Summit convened by the Centre for Digital Built Britain. The Global BIM Network aims to connect international public sector representatives, multilateral organizations, and infrastructure funders to advance the digitalization of the global built environment.

The network will build on its members' transformation journeys to transition toward a digital built environment that delivers socio-economic benefits for people and places. The benefit of digital is not limited to new construction projects; it comprises refurbishment of aged infrastructure and goes beyond the construction stage to include operation and maintenance, enabling the information management for digital twins and smarter cities.

"The construction industry is historically siloed, having to develop individually, what is essentially needed by all is inefficient," says Lakisha A. Woods, CAE, President and CEO of NIBS. "While states and organizations have different practices and systems, the components of building an infrastructure are essentially the same. If we can use common processes and information structures, we can create and share them together. The same can apply globally to allow for shared expertise."



Featured speakers

10th & 17th March

www.GlobalBIMSummit.org



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY

According to the Global BIM Network website, the network is "for the public sector and by the public sector."

The network invites public sector representatives from across the world to join and participate.

"Members will share knowledge and build best practices for the global public sector's use of digital innovation to foster the sustainable development of the world's infrastructure," the website says. "Current membership consists of representatives from government ministries and agencies (economy, finance, construction, business and industry) and multilateral organizations (UNOPS, Inter-American Development Bank and Asia Development Bank). Individuals working in the private sector are welcome to access information and engage with us."

The Global BIM Network will connect members working on similar developments in different parts of the world to share insights, resources and lessons learned.

The network also will guide the ongoing development of the Global BIM platform, an open-access online repository for the global public sector and infrastructure funders seeking

guidance, documentation, protocols, operational manuals, evidence, tools, training materials and other resources to facilitate the strategic introduction of BIM worldwide. To view how Global BIM initiatives are taking place around the world, visit <https://youtu.be/39drAqzuD3M>.

BIM IN THE UNITED STATES

The U.S. National BIM Program kicked off early February with a BIM Executive Roundtable to discuss the need for a coordinated program to advance collaboration and innovation in the building industry. Construction comprises 13 percent of the global economy.

The goal is a solution at a national scale to enable digital process standards that will streamline business, accelerate the effectiveness of the supply chain, provide predictable processes, improve project outcomes, drive efficiency, and foster innovation.

The roundtable included partners from the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. General Services Administration and U.S. Federal Highway Administration, along with private sector partners from Google, Microsoft, Amazon Web Services, Autodesk, Bentley, Epic, ESRI, HDR, KieranTimberlake, and more.

“The first step is getting the right people to the table,” said Van Woods, BIM Program Manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Chair of the NIBS BIM Council, during the roundtable. “We already have an all-star team. I think we need to expand that. We must convene the stakeholders who will benefit from digital transformation.”

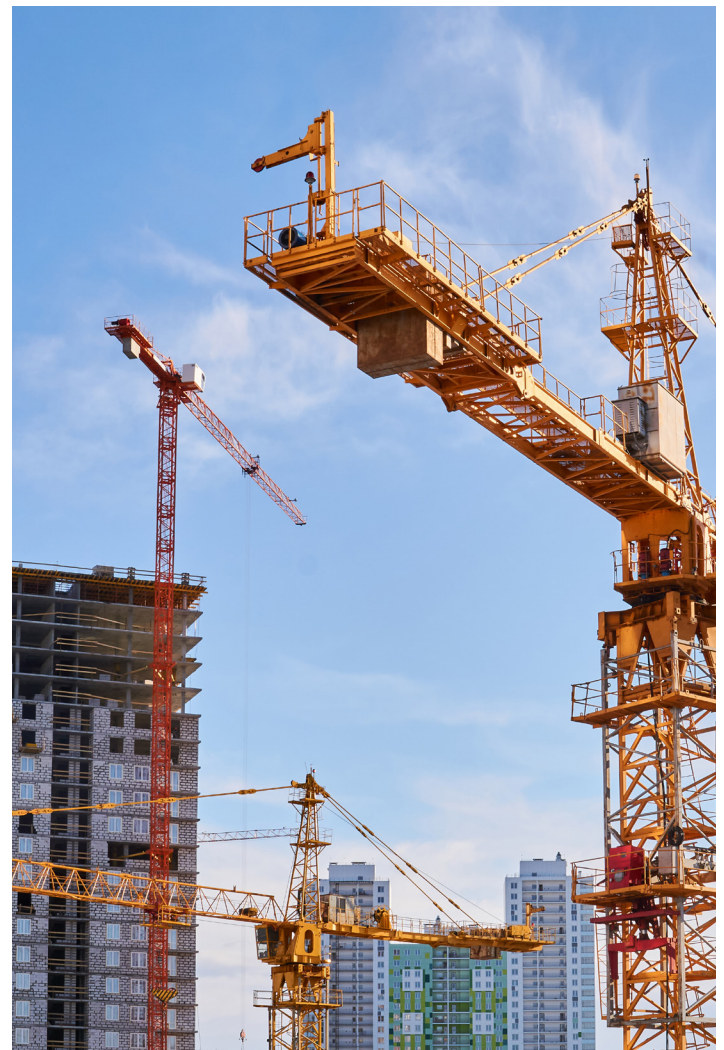
SELECTING A CHAIR TO LEAD THE NATIONAL BIM PROGRAM STEERING COMMITTEE

NIBS recently announced that Salla Eckhardt, Director of Transformation Services with Microsoft, will serve as chair of the National BIM Program Steering Committee.

Eckhardt said she hopes to bridge innovators to create a U.S. National BIM Program that will unite the industry.

“We need a standard that supports the entire digital building lifecycle from BIM-ready planning to BIM-based design and digital construction all the way to BIM as a component in built environment digital twins,” Eckhardt said.

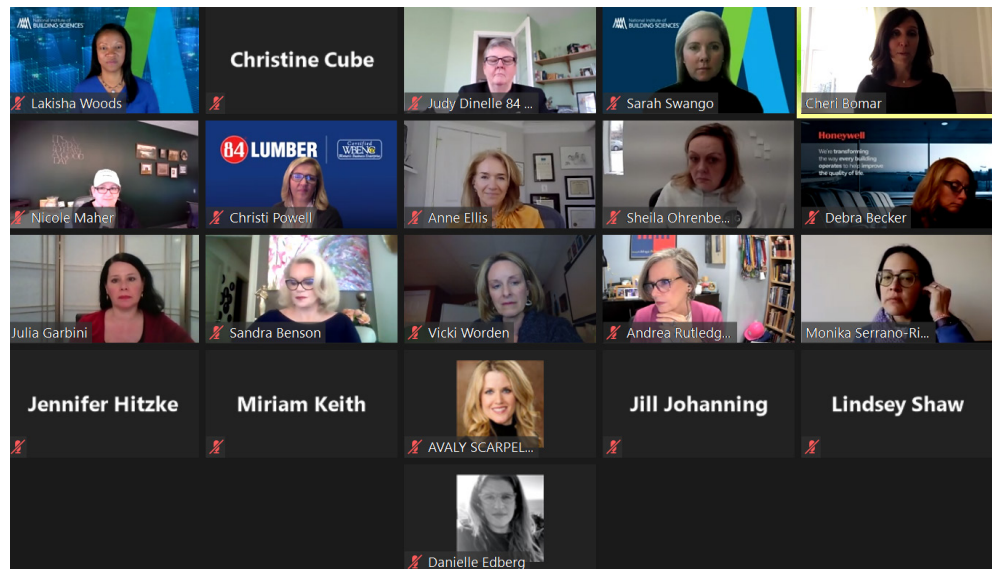
The program’s next steps include establishing a governance structure to broadly engage diverse stakeholders through targeted workstreams and developing a business model for the initial three to five years of the U.S. National BIM Program.



WOMEN EXECUTIVES IN BUILDING

Women Executives in Building: Sharing Accomplishments is Critical to Personal Branding

Sometimes sharing business accomplishments may feel like tooting your own horn, but a virtual meeting of the Women Executives in Building aimed to sway leaders from this opinion.



That’s because sharing accomplishments is not only critical for personal branding, it is also important to inspire the next generation of female leaders.

“There are not enough women in leadership in the built environment, so it is very important to showcase the success of these amazing leaders,” said Lakisha A. Woods, CAE, President & CEO of NIBS. “The key to improving the diversity in the workforce is to celebrate the achievements of women in leadership and elevate others to these roles.”

The recent meeting on building a personal brand featured speaker Cheri Bomar, Executive Vice President & General Counsel with Hardy World, LLC, which is part of 84 Lumber Co.

Bomar shared that getting projects off the ground – no matter what was asked – has been core to building her brand.

“I wasn’t afraid of new opportunities,” Bomar said. “I never said no to anyone at [84 Lumber Co.]. I would do the research and learn what was needed.”

Many leaders struggle with what to share on social media. They don’t want to seem like they’re bragging, and they want their work to speak for itself.

“I’ve learned to share and ask for input,” said Vicki Worden, CEO of Green Building Initiative, mentioning that a social media presence can help establish authenticity.

It takes work and effort to carefully curate a personal brand. And sometimes, it’s just easier to share the accomplishments of others, including your staff or board members.

“If we’re not going to promote ourselves, then we need to promote others,” Woods said. “Sharing their story builds their brand. It’s an important step.”

Other ways to build your brand, according to the Women Executives in Building:

- Leverage the relationships you’ve built with various institutions.

- Share your success stories beyond your personal family-and-friend circle.
- Elevating your accomplishments doesn't need to sound like you're rehashing your resume.
- Look for good examples of professionals on LinkedIn who can serve as mentors.
- Younger professionals are putting themselves out there. You can, too.

The next Women Executives in Building virtual leadership meeting takes place May 25. It will be about [mastering your elevator pitch](#).

Why an elevator pitch? Your pitch allows you to share expertise and credentials with those who don't know you. When done right, it not only highlights who you are, but it also promotes your company and your overall impact.

Women Executives in Building meetings are open to all female C-Suite executives in the building industry, from association executives to women-owned and operated trade businesses.

NIBS IN THE NEWS

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW U.S. STRATEGY WOULD QUICKLY FREE BILLIONS IN CLIMATE FUNDS

Federal officials, showing how rapidly the Biden administration is overhauling climate policy after years of denial under former President Donald J. Trump, aim to free up as much as \$10 billion at the Federal Emergency Management Agency to protect against climate disasters before they strike.

The agency, best known for responding to hurricanes, floods and wildfires, wants to spend the money to pre-emptively protect against damage by building seawalls,

elevating or relocating flood-prone homes and taking other steps as climate change intensifies storms and other natural disasters. [READ MORE >>](#)

FAST COMPANY

BILLION-DOLLAR NATURAL DISASTERS HIT THE U.S. A RECORD 22 TIMES IN 2020

The year 2020 broke disaster records across the country in destructive and expensive ways. The Atlantic had so many hurricanes, meteorologists ran out of tropical storm names for only the second time. Across the Midwest, extreme storms flattened crops and tore up buildings. Western states repeatedly broke records for their largest wildfires on record. Globally, it was tied for the hottest year on record. [READ MORE >>](#)

ARCHITECT MAGAZINE

RENEWED EFFORTS FOR A UNIVERSAL BIM STANDARD

According to the AIA's 2020 Firm Survey Report, the use of building information modeling software has increased significantly since 2005, with all respondents working in offices with 50-plus employees affirming the use of BIM in some capacity, including data sharing among project collaborators and stakeholders. The growth in BIM usage has been accompanied by increased interest in OpenBIM, a notion in which universal standards and benchmarks exist, and file formats enable interoperability in any BIM-compatible software. Currently, the country lacks mandated or widely used national BIM standards. Instead, BIM approaches are haphazard, varying by company, public agency, or client requirements. [READ MORE >>](#)

BUSINESS INSIDER

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES TO LEAD BIM EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE TO REIMAGINE CONSTRUCTION

The National Institute of Building Sciences is convening an exclusive list of leaders from public and private organizations to develop a solution to advance and elevate the building industry. The meeting takes place February 4. Key partners include Google, Microsoft, Amazon Web Services, and government agencies, including the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. General Services Administration and U.S. Federal Highway Administration. Representatives from the practitioner, technology and academic communities also are participating. [READ MORE >>](#)

CONSTRUCTION DIVE

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TAKES FIRST STEP TOWARD COMPREHENSIVE US BIM STANDARD

The construction industry took the first step this month toward a BIM standard in the U.S. during an executive roundtable discussion hosted by the National Institute of Building Sciences. The 40 roundtable participants included executives from Autodesk, Bentley, WSP and HDR, as well as leaders from federal agencies like the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Federal Highway Administration. NIBS has already developed a national standard through a volunteer effort, but it has not evolved yet into a comprehensive standard like the one used in the United Kingdom. The new goal through a National BIM Program, according to NIBS, is “a solution at a national scale to enable digital process standards that will streamline business, accelerate the effectiveness of the supply chain, provide predictable processes, improve project outcomes, drive efficiency and foster innovation.” [READ MORE >>](#)

ARCHITECT MAGAZINE

LAKISHA WOODS RE-ELECTED TO U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS VICE CHAIR

National Institute of Building Sciences President and CEO Lakisha A. Woods, CAE, has been re-elected to a three-year term with the U.S. Green Building Council board of directors. Woods will serve as vice chair.

“I’m honored to continue service with the USGBC board of directors,” Woods says. “This is a great opportunity to represent the public interest to advance building science and technology to improve the built environment. Healthy buildings lead to safer, more resilient and sustainable communities.” [READ MORE >>](#)

FORCONSTRUCTIONPROS.COM

NATIONAL BIM PROGRAM IS TOPIC OF BUILDING INDUSTRY EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE

The National Institute of Building Sciences brought together nearly 40 leaders from public and private organizations to discuss the need for a coordinated program to advance collaboration and innovation in the building industry.

The Building Information Management (BIM) Executive Roundtable included partners from the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. General Services Administration and U.S. Federal Highway Administration, along with private sector partners from Google, Microsoft, Amazon Web Services, Autodesk, Bentley, Epic, ESRI, HDR, Kieran-Timberlake and WSP. The objective was to start working on the common challenges and opportunities the various segments of the architecture, engineering, construction and owner (AECO) industry face. [READ MORE >>](#)

CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS

SECURING A SAFE, JUST, AND CLIMATE-READY FUTURE FOR FLORIDA

The effects of climate change and their inequitable distribution have become part of the daily fabric of life in Florida. Increasingly intense extreme heat threatens public health and air quality, and more powerful hurricanes threaten human life and infrastructure. Recurrent flooding from sea level rise has become a widely known characteristic of the state, damaging homes, disrupting commutes, threatening water quality, and interfering with tourism. Much like the recent health and economic consequences of COVID-19, the impacts of climate-fueled extreme weather and pollution are universal experiences in Florida that disproportionately affect low-income communities and communities of color, which have the fewest resources to reduce these risks or recover from lost wages, higher energy bills, costly medical emergencies, or property damage. [READ MORE >>](#)

FACILITY EXECUTIVE

BUILDING SEISMIC SAFETY COUNCIL HONORS BUILT ENVIRONMENT LEADERS

Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Building Seismic Safety Council (BSSC), the National Institute of Building Sciences recently recognized the leaders who have provided significant direction to the BSSC mission, contributing to its success. These industry leaders were recognized during the BSSC Meeting and Symposium. BSSC has coordinated the efforts of federal agencies, the building industry, and thousands of experts to develop 10 editions of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Recommended Seismic Provisions. These recommendations have served as the foundation of the nation's seismic standards and model building codes.

[READ MORE >>](#)

TAHOE DAILY TRIBUNE

WILDFIRE FUNDING IS AN INVESTMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY (OPINION)

Every year, the Truckee/Lake Tahoe communities hold their collective breath when wildfires start burning forestland in California. Last year, more than 4.3 million acres in California burned, destroying more than 10,000 homes, killing 31 people, and emitting more than 100 million tons of carbon dioxide. Five of the state's 20 largest fires in recorded history occurred last year, and wildfires are increasingly burning into California's urban centers. The economic disruption, public health impacts and loss of healthy ecosystems in California are accelerating as our climate is changing. [READ MORE >>](#)

MEETINGSNET

21 FOR 2021: PREDICTIONS AND PERSPECTIVES FROM BIG INDUSTRY PLAYERS

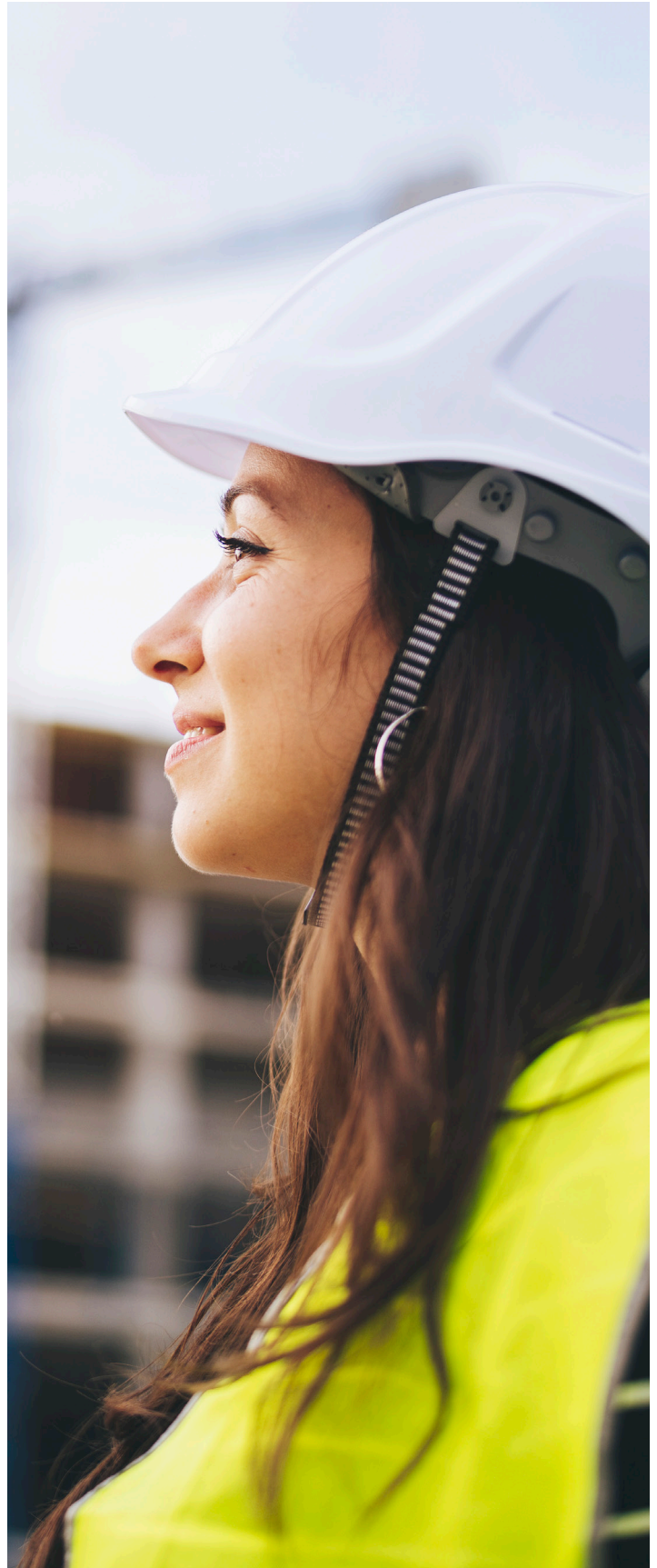
Even after almost a year of practice, many virtual events continue to have technical challenges and user issues. While virtual events let attendees benefit by accessing all educational offerings over an extended period of time versus choosing between sessions when in person, much work still needs to be done to improve the quality of the virtual experience – how we keep attendees engaged and avoid speaker or technological errors when showcasing content in real time. [READ MORE >>](#)

OBSERVANCES

April	National Rebuilding Month
May 2-8	North American Occupational Safety & Health (NAOSH) Week
May 5	Occupational Safety and Health Professional Day
May 9-15	National Hurricane Preparedness Week
May	Building Safety Month
May	National Electrical Safety Month
May	National Water Safety Month
June	National Safety Month

EVENTS

May 25	Women Executives in Building Virtual Leadership Webinar: Mastering Your Elevator Pitch
September 27-29	Building Innovation 2021



FIND US ONLINE

RESILIENCE 2021: THE HIDDEN COSTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL SAVINGS FROM REMOTE WORK

[READ MORE >>](#)

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH: DARRELL X. ROUNDS, OPERATIONS GROUP MANAGER WITH GENERAL MOTORS

[READ MORE >>](#)

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH: JENNA GREER, ARCHITECTURE STUDENT, HOWARD UNIVERSITY

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CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH: JOCCOLE "JC" BURTON, PRESIDENT & CEO OF MAVEN CONSTRUCTION

[READ MORE >>](#)

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: JOY ORTIZ, WITH MARSHALL GROUP ARCHITECTS

[READ MORE >>](#)

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: SANDRA BENSON, WITH AMAZON WEB SERVICES

[READ MORE >>](#)

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: NANCY NOVAK, WITH COMPASS DATACENTERS

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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH FEATURE: SUSAN MAXMAN, OF SMP ARCHITECTS (RETIRED)

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NIBS PRESIDENT & CEO LAKISHA A. WOODS, CAE, ELECTED TO VICE CHAIR OF U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

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NIBS CONVENES BIM EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE ON CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

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