

bizwomen

HOUSTON BUSINESS JOURNAL

MENTORING MONDAY

Monday, April 3, 2017

A speed coaching and networking event
powered by bizwomen.

Agenda

8:00-8:30 a.m. Networking & Breakfast Buffet

8:30-8:40 a.m. Welcome by Bob Charlet,
Houston Business Journal
Market President and Publisher

8:40-9:55 a.m. Program
(spend 10-minutes
with your mentor,
followed by a
brief opportunity
to switch tables)

10:00 a.m. Event
adjourns

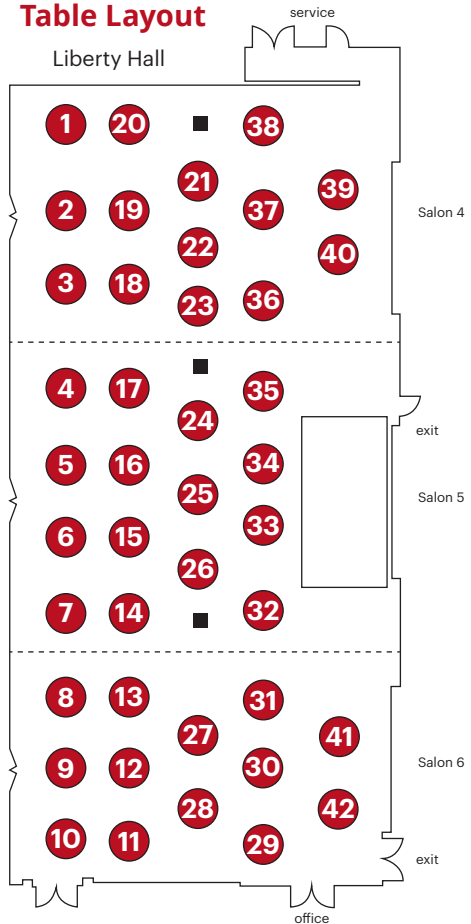
HOUSTON
BUSINESS JOURNAL

Mentors

- 1 Nancy Almodovar**
CEO and Owner - Nan and Company Properties
- 2 Bridget R. Anderson**
Executive Director - Art Colony Association, Inc.
- 3 Anna M. Babin**
President and CEO - United Way of Greater Houston
- 4 Elizabeth Campbell**
Partner and Chief Diversity Officer
- Andrews Kurth Kenyon LLP
- 5 Brandi Clark**
Regional President - Robert Half
- 6 Cortney Cole-Hall**
District Sales Manager - South Texas Office Depot Office
Max's Business Solutions Division
- 7 Jennifer Davenport**
Vice President of Marketing and Community Development
- Houston Texans
- 8 Suzan Deison**
CEO - Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce
- 9 Flor Dimassi**
CEO - GlobalSpeak Translations
- 10 Leslie Duke**
President and Regional Manager - Burns & McDonnell
- 11 Cindy Gunawan**
Financial Advisor and Field Director - Northwestern Mutual
- 12 Mary Beth Gracy**
Managing Director - Oil and Gas - Accenture
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CFO - Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
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President - Reliant & NRG Retail
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Managing Partner - BKD Houston
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Managing Physician for Immunization Practices and Travel
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- 41 Dr. Mary Ann Reynolds Wilkins**
Vice President, Senior Business Development Officer
- Stewart Title Commercial Services
- 42 Beth Young**
Senior Vice President - Colliers International

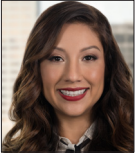
Table Layout



Directions

There will be one mentor sitting at each table. Attendees can sit at the table of the mentor with whom they wish to meet. Each group will have ten minutes for their coaching session. There will be a one-minute warning before each session ends. We will then allow four minutes for attendees to choose another table. This process will repeat until 9:55 a.m.

Mentors



Nancy Almodovar | CEO and Owner - Nan and Company Properties

Nancy Almodovar has been working in residential real estate for over a decade. She graduated from the University of Houston Bauer College of Business, is an alumnus of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Business program and is an active member of the Houston Association of Realtors, Texas Association of Realtors and National Association of Realtors. Nancy is also a certified International Property Specialist and has grown her business to be named by the Houston Business Journal as one of the “Best Places to Work” for two years in a row. As a business owner, wife, and mother of two, she aspires to become a role model for all women through her work ethic and generosity. She pioneered the first Nan Cares Toy Drive, a campaign where she and her team collected toys to donate to the economically disadvantaged students of Brookline Elementary School. Almodovar also volunteers for organizations such as Houston Children Give Back, the Houston Ballet, St. Anne Catholic School and Learn Grow Lead, just to name a few.



Bridget R. Anderson | Executive Director - Art Colony Association, Inc.

For 25 years, Bridget Anderson has dedicated her career to nonprofits focusing in the arts, social services and education. Her passion for art and painting has led Anderson to her current position as Executive Director of the Art Colony Association. Anderson joined the organization in September 2015 and has since positively impacted local artists, nonprofits and the art community with her collection of fundraising experience. In 1999, Anderson became the Executive Director of Young Audiences of Houston. At the helm of the organization, Anderson initiated improvements in all areas resulting in increased awareness and revenue. Anderson’s devotion to philanthropy is impressive and in 2010 she joined Chinquapin Preparatory School as its Director of Development. Anderson received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of St. Thomas.



Anna M. Babin | President and CEO - United Way of Greater Houston

Anna M. Babin was named President and CEO of United Way of Greater Houston in August 2005. As chief executive of the nation’s third largest United Way, Babin blends sound business acumen with a deep understanding of community needs. Working closely with corporate and community advisors, she launched Vision 20:20, United Way’s strategic direction for the future. With Vision 20:20 as a guide, Babin led the restructuring of United Way’s community investment portfolio to better align resources to areas that produce long-term change. Concurrently, Babin implemented a dynamic series of community conversations that served as the foundation for emerging initiatives in the fields of education, family financial stability, and veterans’ services.

Babin holds a degree in business administration from Lamar University and maintains her CPA credential. Anna was named one of 2008’s 50 Most Influential Women in Houston by Houston Women’s Magazine, and she was recognized as a 2009 Woman on the Move by Texas Executive Women.

Mentors



Elizabeth Campbell | Partner and Chief Diversity Officer - Andrews Kurth Kenyon LLP

Elizabeth is an attorney, HR professional, and diversity practitioner with a successful record of working with business leaders, executives and teams to accomplish organizational goals. She is responsible for the development and implementation of the diversity and inclusion components of the firm's strategic plan. She collaborates with the firm's Labor and Employment Section attorneys and supports clients in their HR, compliance, and diversity and inclusion strategic efforts. She works closely with the chairs of the firm's Diversity Committee and the Women's Initiative Team. She also collaborates with: the firm's marketing professionals to drive marketing and branding strategies; human resources professionals to develop human capital strategies for all employees; and accounting professionals on the firm's supplier/vendor diversity pursuits.

Elizabeth received her J.D. from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and her B.A. from the American University in Washington, D.C.



Brandi Clark | Regional President - Robert Half

Brandi Clark is the Regional President for Robert Half, the world's first and largest specialized staffing firm. In her role, Brandi oversees the professional staffing services operations for the Accountemps, OfficeTeam, Robert Half Healthcare Group and Salaried Preferred Professional Services divisions throughout the Houston and surrounding area. Brandi joined the company in 2004 and has since held various leadership roles including Division Director, Branch Manager and Metro Market Manager. With over 12 years in the specialized staffing industry exclusively with Robert Half, Brandi and her teams are dedicated to placing professionals in rewarding jobs while helping local businesses grow and be successful. Brandi holds her bachelor's degree in Economics from Texas A&M University.



Cortney Cole-Hall | District Sales Manager - South Texas Office Depot Office Max's Business Solutions Division

Cortney Cole-Hall is District Sales Manager, South Texas with Office Depot Office Max's Business Solutions Division. The Company has combined annual sales of approximately \$17 billion and serves consumers in 57 countries with a dedicated business-to-business sales organization. The company's portfolio of leading brands includes Office Depot, OfficeMax, OM Grand & Toy, Reliable and Viking.

Ms. Cole-Hall manages a seasoned team of business-to-business sales professionals primarily in the private sector with a combined revenue of \$35M+. Vertical markets include healthcare, education, property management, technology, and the oil and gas industries. She was nominated by Office Depot's Regional Vice President of Sales for Office Depot's Global Innovation Award, which recognizes innovation beyond marginal improvements in existing product and services that benefits the associates, customers, and shareholders.

As Founder & Chairman Emeritus of the Board for Pink Door Nonprofit Organization (Pink Door), Ms. Cole-Hall and Pink Door's Board of Directors have granted women \$200K+ through Pink Door's "My Pink Wish" Assistance Program.

Cortney is a 2014 MBA graduate from Tulane in Houston.



Jennifer Davenport | Vice President of Marketing and Community Development - Houston Texans

As the Vice President of Marketing and Community Development of the Houston Texans, Jennifer Davenport oversees community development, gameday entertainment, youth football initiatives and targeted fan development. Additionally, she runs the Houston Texans Foundation and spearheads merchandise sales and regional brand growth, including broadcast partnerships. Davenport started with the Texans in December 2010 and is involved in many Houston organizations. Since Davenport joined the Texans, the organization has been awarded the 2016 AMA Crystal Award for Best Special Event Marketing, 2015 AMA Crystal Award for Best Social Responsibility Campaign, 2014 AMA Houston Marketer of the Year and more.

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Suzan Deison | CEO - Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce

Suzan Deison is a native Houstonian, who has dedicated her life to working and volunteering in the non-profit arena. Whether it's helping a child achieve their fullest potential, advocating for people with disabilities, or helping women "lean in", Suzan is passionate about making a difference in the lives of others and serving as a role model for the next generation of women. Suzan started her career at the Conroe Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce and became a successful business owner of several entrepreneurial companies. She was honored with 6 lifetime memberships in the Conroe Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce for her efforts in recruiting members. She was recognized for her many contributions to our community by being named as a 2013 Women on the Move by Texas Executive Women, and in 2014 she was honored in Forbes Magazine as a Texas Women Business Leader. Suzan has the distinction and honor of serving as President of three Houston chambers of commerce, including founding the Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce, (GHWCC) where she serves as CEO and President.



Flor Dimassi | CEO - GlobalSpeak Translations

Flor Dimassi is CEO of Global Speak Translations. Her experience is as an international language coordinator with an extensive background in communications, conference presentations and interpretation team collaboration. GST's client base spans various market industries, including but not limited to Energy, Legal, Conferences, Market Research and community outreach. Ms. Dimassi is originally from Torreon Mexico and fluent in Spanish, French and English. She also completed studies of French literature at L'Alliance Francaise in Paris, France.



Leslie Duke | President and Regional Manager - Burns & McDonnell

As leader of Burns & McDonnell's Houston office, Leslie Duke, PE, has played an integral role in launching the firm's engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) business throughout Texas. Her efforts have led to the development and successful execution of over 100 multi-million dollar projects. During the past 15 years, Leslie has helped to expand Burns & McDonnell's customer base from one client to more than 100 clients in the industrial, refining, chemical, manufacturing, and utility markets, resulting in more than \$1 billion in revenue. She has also played an integral role in the development of multiple large-scale alliance relationships, resulting in approximately \$244 million in repeat, non-competitive project work for Burns & McDonnell nationally. In addition, she has developed a leadership training program for the firm's high-potential staff that focuses on maximizing performance via accelerated career training.



Mary Beth Gracy | Managing Director - Oil and Gas - Accenture

Mary Beth Gracy is a Managing Director at Accenture and leads the Oilfield Equipment & Services practice in North America. In this role, she focuses on bringing innovation to clients and shaping long-term strategies utilizing all of Accenture's capabilities. Gracy began with Accenture in 1990 following her graduation from Rice University and was promoted to Partner in 2001. She spent several years working internationally on business process performance improvement efforts.

Mary Beth was honored to be recognized as one of Houston's "Top Women in Technology" by the Association for Women in Computing in 2002. She and her husband are parents to two middle schoolers and she currently serves on the board of Theater Under the Stars.

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Cindy Gunawan | Financial Advisor and Field Director - Northwestern Mutual

Cindy Gunawan joined Northwestern Mutual as a financial advisor in 2004 and has held numerous leadership positions during her tenure. Her performance and leadership have led to top industry accolades, and she consistently ranks as a top producer and developer of talent in the southern region of the company. Her success has led her to become one of the top 5 female financial advisors at Northwestern Mutual. She serves as a national speaker for the company and leads speaking events that can number into the thousands. Cindy's team continues to grow and she now has offices in both the Lafayette and Houston markets.

She volunteers at the Louisiana Youth Seminar, a week-long program to help students develop their core leadership skills, such as setting and achieving goals, team building, developing self-confidence, and problem solving skills. In addition, she's involved with the Acadiana Symphony Orchestra and with the AALU to promote, preserve and protect advanced life insurance planning.

Cindy attended the University of Louisiana of Lafayette graduating in 2003 with degrees in Fashion Merchandising and Management.



Jennifer Hazelton | CFO - Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo

Jennifer Hazelton serves as chief financial officer of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. She joined the organization in 2004 in the newly created role to oversee finance and accounting functions. There, she reorganized the Show's Educational Programs Department by providing improved processes which allowed growth of the scholarship and grant programs. She also led several system projects, including the development and implementation of online account management for customers, committee management systems for volunteers, online application process for scholarships and grants, and computerized scoring system and database for scholarship application process. She has also managed the financial aspects of \$50 million in property acquisitions. In 2013, the Houston Business Journal named Hazelton Best Nonprofit CFO of the Year.



Janine K. Iannarelli | Founder and President - Par Avion Ltd.

Janine K. Iannarelli has more than 30 years of business aviation experience, having represented numerous corporations and private individuals worldwide with respect to both the sale and purchase of business aircraft. Ms. Iannarelli is the founder and president of Par Avion Ltd., which is based in Houston, Texas. Par Avion is an aircraft marketing firm that specializes in the exclusive representation and acquisition of business aircraft. Ms. Iannarelli has extensive experience in cross-border transactions, with nearly 90 percent of Par Avion's business concentrated in this area of specialization. She has had in-depth interactions with manufacturers, maintenance facilities and completion centers. A 1983 graduate of Montclair State University in Upper Montclair, N.J., Ms. Iannarelli earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration with a specific concentration in marketing and a minor in psychology.



Janice Jucker | Co-Owner and President - Three Brothers Bakery

Janice Jucker, Co-Owner and President of Three Brothers Bakery and passionate advocate of breast cancer awareness, has been dedicated to helping the business grow and thrive, including opening a third location recently. Janice uses a strategic five-year plan, as well as her business knowledge, to help guide the business. Since the bakery's first full year after Hurricane Ike, in 2010 through 2015, Three Brothers Bakery has experienced 426% revenue growth, 337% employee growth and 3,400% growth in its pie sales. Additionally, Janice has been able to bring the company to a place where it can now offer a full suite of employee benefits. As a graduate of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program, Janice learned the importance of growth is not just for achieving financial goals, but also to bring more jobs to the communities the bakery serves and to give back to those in need. Janice is proud to say the bakery feeds the homeless every day with excess baked goods.

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Elizabeth Killinger | President - Reliant and NRG Retail

As President of NRG Retail and Reliant, Elizabeth Killinger is responsible for all aspects of NRG's \$5 billion leading multi-brand competitive retail business that provides consumer power products and home services. In more than 15 years with NRG, Elizabeth's proven success with delivering consistent financial results, customer growth, operations excellence, innovation and employee development ultimately led to her promotion to Executive Vice President and the consolidation of all of NRG's retail businesses under her leadership. Prior to joining NRG, Elizabeth spent a decade in management, strategy and systems consulting with a global services firm. Elizabeth earned her Bachelor's in Business Administration degree in Management Information Systems from the University of Houston.



Karee Laing | Principal and CEO - Studio Brand Collective

Karee Laing is the Principal and Chief Executive Officer of Studio Brand Collective (SBC), a Houston design + digital marketing agency focused on providing results-driven marketing and branding solutions to businesses. A proven leader with a knack for delivering results and growing both volume and profits above expectations, Karee has worked with businesses both small and large. Passionate about marketing and business, Karee started Karee Laing, Inc. in 2016 - an online platform devoted to providing inspiration, ideas, tools and resources for anyone interested in starting or growing a business. Under her leadership and creative direction, SBC has received over 60 industry awards, and Karee has personally received numerous awards, including being named a Goldman Sachs Small Business Scholar, a 2016 40 Under 40 Honoree by the Houston Business Journal, and a Woman Who Means Business.



Daniella Lander | Partner, Reed Smith - Energy & Natural Resources Group

Daniella is a partner in Reed Smith's Energy and Natural Resources Group where her practice focuses on a broad range of environmental compliance, transactional and litigation matters. She provides counsel on complex environmental and related land use issues, including risk assessment, crisis management and incident response, damages claims, climate change initiatives, and pollution exposure disputes.

Additionally, Daniella is a prolific speaker and writer on environmental, energy and litigation issues. She serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Houston Law Center. She is active with various professional, community and non-profit organizations.



Nataly Marks | Managing Director/Region Manager -JP Morgan Chase, Houston

Nataly Marks has over fourteen years of client management experience. She is currently the market executive in Houston and Chair of the JPMorgan Chase Houston Market Leadership team. Prior to taking the new role of Region Manager, Nataly was a Managing Director in JPMorgan's Corporate Client Banking Group covering Diversified public companies in the Southwest Region. Nataly is active in the community, currently serving on the Community Advisory Board for the Harris County Education Foundation and the Greater Houston Partnership. Nataly has also achieved Life Member status with the Greater Houston Partnership through her work on the Ambassador Committee and is a member of the Women's Business Alliance. She previously served as a Board Member at Vita-Living Inc., a non-for-profit organization serving severely disabled adults. Nataly graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a B.B.A. in Finance.



Kimberly McKay | Managing Partner - BKD Houston

Kimberly is the managing partner of BKD Houston. BKD, LLP is recognized as one of the largest CPA & Advisory firms in Houston and in the U.S. Kimberly has 25 years of health care industry experience providing services to health systems, hospitals, mental health centers, long-term care facilities and physician practices. In 2009, she was appointed to the national American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) Health Care Entities Expert Panel and was named the panel's chair in 2014. She also chairs the AICPA's Health Care Entities Revenue Recognition Task Force. In 2014, Kimberly was appointed to the Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA) Principles & Practices Board.

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In June 2015, she was awarded the prestigious BKD PRIDE Award, given each year to one employee and one partner across the firm who exemplify BKD's values of Passion, Respect, Integrity, Discipline and Excellence. Kimberly graduated summa cum laude from the University of Missouri, Columbia with an M.Acc. degree.



Dr. Melanie Mouzoon | Managing Physician for Immunization Practices and Travel Medicine - Kelsey-Seybold

Dr. Melanie Mouzoon is the Managing Physician for Immunization Practices and Travel Medicine at Kelsey-Seybold. After earning her medical degree in 1982 from The University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Houston and completing her Pediatrics internship at the University of Kentucky in 1983, Dr. Mouzoon returned for her residency at The University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Houston, finishing in 1985. Dr. Mouzoon speaks Spanish and Farsi. Dr. Mouzoon is a member of the Texas Pediatric Society, Houston Pediatric Association, International Society for Travel Medicine, The Immunization Partnership and the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Breastfeeding.



Edna Meyer-Nelson | Founder, President and CEO - The Richland Companies

As President and Chief Executive Officer of The Richland Companies, Edna Meyer-Nelson directs all business activities for Richland's many divisions. Since founding The Richland Companies in 1993, she has amassed a portfolio of 35 properties in four states representing more than 2 million square feet of commercially owned and managed property throughout the Southwestern United States valued in excess of \$250 million. She began her career in the banking industry where she served as Vice President, Commercial Loan Officer, and Marketing Director for several of the larger banks in Houston. While managing over \$50 million in assets, she also assisted in the buy-outs of several independent banks, initiated and incorporated new, cost effective programs, and actively encouraged executive women to enter new business ventures. Meyer-Nelson is a graduate of Southern Methodist University with post-graduate degrees from the University of Houston and the University of Colorado.



Marsha Murray | Founder and President - Murray Resources

Marsha L. Murray is Founder and President of Murray Resources. Established in 1988, Murray Resources is a full-service recruiting and staffing firm based in Houston, Texas. Marsha is a past board member of the Texas Association of Placement Consultants and a past chairman of the board for the Houston West Chamber of Commerce, where she was a board member for five years. As founder of a 100% woman-owned business, Marsha has been a devoted advocate of women in business, successfully placing thousands of job candidates in her 30-year career. She is a former board member of the Women's Business Enterprise Alliance, and a member of the National Women's Business Owners Corporation. Murray received her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Houston, after attending the University of Texas for three years.



LeAnne Napolillo | Vice President - HNTB Corporation

LeAnne Napolillo, PE is Vice President at HNTB Corporation in the firm's Houston office. Napolillo has over twenty years experience managing complex transportation projects from planning through design to construction. Currently, she is the Program Manager for the U.S. 290 Program, a Federal Highway Administration Major Project with a total Program cost of \$2.4 Billion, which includes the reconstruction of 38 miles of U.S. 290 from the IH 610/IH 10/U.S. 290 interchange to FM 2920.

Napolillo served as the ASCE-Texas Section Vice President-Education and ASCE-Houston President. She is also a recipient of the 2014 ASCE-Texas Section Professional Service Award, the 2012 ASCE-Houston Award of Honor, the highest recognition given by the branch. Currently, she is President of the ASCE Construction Institute.

Napolillo earned a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from Kansas State University and a Master of Industrial Engineering in engineering management from the University of Houston.

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Laura Pennino | Founder and CEO - Pennino and Partners

Laura Pennino has extensive journalism and public relations experience working with major multi-national corporations, privately-owned companies and non-profit organizations. She is a contributor to magazines and newspapers and a guest radio and TV commentator. Before starting Pennino and Partners in 1998, Laura was a senior vice president and general manager of the Houston Office of Edelman. She also served as senior PR consultant with the Houston Office of Fleishman-Hillard International Communications. She is also a survivor of breast cancer.



Latha Ramchand | Dean & Professor of Finance, C. T. Bauer College of Business, University of Houston

Latha Ramchand is Dean and Professor of finance at the C. T. Bauer College of Business at the University of Houston. Her expertise is in the areas of international and corporate finance and leadership development. She has worked to deliver programs in business development, energy education, and diversity in the workplace. As Dean, Ramchand oversees the strategic vision of the college, with two unifying themes: excellence in serving students and excellence in research.

Latha received her Ph.D. in finance from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University. She is a gold medalist in Economics from Bombay University where she graduated with a Master's degree in Economics. She has lectured at programs offered at the Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University, the Indian School of Business and the University of Houston.



Maria Rios | President and CEO - Nation Waste, Inc.

Maria Rios is the President and CEO of Nation Waste, Inc. (NWI), the first female Hispanic-owned waste removal company in the United States and one of Houston's largest minority-owned companies. NWI is a fully-certified, commercial waste disposal company specializing in construction, demolition, commercial/industrial non-hazardous waste removal, portable toilets and recycling services. In 2017, Rios was honored to be selected as the exclusive provider of portable toilets for Super Bowl LI in Houston.



Sonia Rivera | National President - National Hispanic Professional Organization

Sonia Rivera is a native of Michigan and has lived in the Houston area since the age of 19. She is the daughter of Mexican Immigrants who spent the early part of her life as migrant farm workers, and ultimately settled in the State of Michigan. While in college, she majored in Psychology, and minored in Sociology. She has over 25 years of experience in program development, and implementation of educational support programs, to small business development, and has expanded into project management, with focus on program evaluation, setting policies, staffing, scheduling, staff development and training. She spent the first 11 years working within the nonprofit sector, managing and developing youth programs under the Health and Human Service umbrella, with high risk youth populations.

She is currently working as the Executive Director for the TX Latino GOP PAC, and is the National President of The National Hispanic Professional Organization (NHPO).



Ingrid Robinson | President - Minority Supplier Development Council

Ingrid M. Robinson is the President of the Houston Minority Supplier Development Council (HMSDC). HMSDC is a business development organization designed to actively involve its members, both minority business enterprises and major corporations in efforts to increase and expand business opportunities and business growth for Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) while driving excellence in supplier diversity and supplier development. Currently, HMSDC's membership is comprised of more than 130 major corporations and close to 600 minority businesses. HMSDC MBEs have a total economic impact of \$22.8 billion dollars on

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the economy with over \$17.1 billion dollars in annual revenue that results in the creation and/or preservation of more than 67,000 jobs.

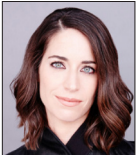
Robinson received a Bachelor of Science degree in political science from the University of Houston and completed the Community Minority Business Advancement Program at the University of Texas – McCombs School of Business. She graduated in May of 2010 with an Executive Masters of Business Administration degree from Rice University.

Grace Rodriguez | Co-Founder - Station Houston



Grace Rodriguez is on a life-long quest to create opportunities, explore possibilities, and to bring people together to solve big sticky problems. She helps do-gooders do greater through her work as Co-Founder and Chief Experience Officer (CXO) of Station Houston, Houston's hub for tech startups and entrepreneurial innovation; as an Advisor at the Texas Medical Center Accelerator (TMC|X); and as a Board Member of Writers In The Schools (WITS). In her other lives, Grace is an Advisor to BrainCheck, a partner in Dean's Downtown lounge, co-creator of the Andyrooniverse, and co-organizer of TEDxHouston, Women In Tech : Houston (WIT:H), Houston Startup Weekend, and Netsquared Houston.

Carolyn Rodz | Founder and CEO - Circular Board



Featured in Fortune, Inc., Fast Company, Entrepreneur and more, Circular Board was founded by three-time Latina entrepreneur Carolyn Rodz. Carolyn serves as an advocate for women entrepreneurs, connecting them to sources of capital, strategic partners, and mentors to create businesses that scale. She is committed to closing the gender gap prevalent in the startup environment by helping female founders implement key strategies for sustainable, accelerated business growth. Carolyn was recognized by Inc. as "17 Women to Watch in 2017", by Entrepreneur Magazine as a 2016 "Woman to Watch," chosen as a Sam Walton Emerging Entrepreneur, American Express Micro to Millions awardee and is a TEDx speaker.

She has helped raise billions of dollars of capital for innovative organizations, created a luxury retail line that sold in over 400 stores worldwide, including Neiman Marcus, Harrod's, and Bloomingdales, and later launched a global marketing firm that supported specialty product launches within Fortune 500 enterprises and startups positioning themselves for industry leadership.

Courtney Johnson Rose | Chair - Greater Houston Black Chamber



Courtney Johnson Rose is the Principal Broker of George E. Johnson Properties, the brokerage division of George E. Johnson Development Inc. They are a full service real estate firm specializing in residential and commercial brokerage services.

Courtney obtained her Bachelor's degree in Business and Economics from the University of Texas at Austin and earned her Master's in Community Development from Prairie View A&M University, where she is currently an adjunct professor as part of the Masters in Community Development commercial real estate certification program. Courtney is also a graduate of the Texas Association of Realtors Leadership Program, the Graduate Realtor Institute and she has obtained the distinguished Certified Commercial and Investment Member (CCIM) designation. Courtney was featured in the Houston Business Journal Inaugural Class as one of their Top 40 under 40 Business Leaders in Houston and has earned numerous other awards. In 2013, she created and hosted an informative real estate show entitled Real Estate Today that appeared on Comcast. Courtney is the Chair of the Board for the Greater Houston Black Chamber of Commerce. She currently leads the Texas Association of Real Estate Brokers as the President of the Association for 2016-2018.

Gabriella Rowe | Head of School - The Village School in Houston



Gabriella Rowe is the Head of School of The Village School in Houston, the largest coeducational, non-denominational college preparatory private school in Nord Anglia Education's North American portfolio. Within one year, Gabriella grew student enrollment at Village by 20 percent and spearheaded major school expansions and curriculum updates, such as required coding classes and an entrepreneurship program. She has held leadership positions within the global education industry for nearly 20 years (prior to Houston in NYC). During her time, it became clear that while most teachers

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she worked with were women, the C-suite positions were dominated by men. Thus began Gabriella's commitment to mentoring young women in business and education.



Joy Saphla | Chief Strategy Officer - Morae Legal Corporation

Joy Saphla is the Chief Strategy Officer for Morae Legal and is responsible for delivering on the company's commitment to accountability; ensuring measurable quality and efficiency through customer acquisition and account management. She has more than 20 years' experience delivering sustainable results for law departments and helping improve their business performance by providing strategy, people, process, technology and data related solutions. Joy has worked with legal departments assisting them in developing and implementing law department of the future programs, ensuring the optimization of the legal department within the corporation. She specializes in advising highly regulated companies and law departments and has developed and implemented performance metrics and systems for various clients.



Allison Lami Sawyer | CEO and Co-Founder - Rebellion Photonics

Allison Lami Sawyer is the CEO/Co-founder of Rebellion Photonics, which has the world's only Gas Cloud Imaging cameras that see and quantify gas leaks before they cause explosions or unnecessary emissions on oil rigs, refineries, pipelines, and chemical plants. Sawyer has a BSc in Engineering Physics from the University of Colorado – Boulder, a Masters in Nanotechnology from the University of Leeds, and a MBA in Finance from Rice University. She was named to the Forbes and Inc. Magazine '30 under 30'. Sawyer and Dr. Robert Kester founded Rebellion Photonics in 2010. Rebellion won a R&D100 in 2012 and was named 'Start-up of the Year' in 2013. The company has raised \$10.4M in private equity funding and over \$5.5M in government grants.



Kim Syma | Owner - Revolution Studio

Kim Syma, along with her husband and business partner Mitch Syma, is the owner and founder of Revolution Studio, Houston's ultimate boutique fitness experience. By establishing Revolution Studio in 2012, Kim fulfilled her dream of creating a space to inspire, empower and transform the lives of others through fitness.

Today, the Revolution Studio family includes three locations in the Greater Houston Area - Memorial City, River Oaks and Sugar Land - offering a full line up of high-energy indoor cycling classes and Vinyasa flow-based yoga classes. As the brand continues to grow, Kim's commitment to cultivating a strong sense of community among Revolution instructors, staff and guests remains at the core of Revolution's mission.



Tracy Vaught | Owner - H Town Restaurant Group

Tracy is owner of three of Houston's most successful restaurants - Backstreet Cafe, Hugo's and Caracol - as well as the brand new Xochi in downtown Houston. In 1983, the geologist-turned-restaurateur decided to forsake the plotting of America's geothermal energy fields for a more people-oriented profession when she opened her first restaurant, Backstreet Cafe, with her uncle in an old house on the edge of Houston's River Oaks. It was the turning point of her career and life. She met and married Hugo Ortega, whom she hired to work at Backstreet Cafe, and together they have opened Hugo's (2002) and Caracol (2013), and published two cookbooks: Hugo Ortega's Street Food of Mexico (2012) and Backstreet Kitchen: Seasonal Recipes from Our Neighborhood Cafe (2013). She has been recognized by the Houston Business Journal among other awards. Vaught is also co-operator of Third Coast Restaurant & Conference Center, located in the Texas Medical Center.

Mentors



Laurie Vignaud | Senior Vice President - Capital One Bank

Laurie Vignaud has overall responsibility for the development, monitoring, management and promotion of community development programs and Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) initiatives for Capital One Bank in Louisiana and Texas. She has created and led some of the bank's most innovative affordable housing, small business and asset/capacity building initiatives in the region. One such program, Getting Down to Business, has received national recognition. Ms. Vignaud serves as the President of Capital One's Community Development Corporation, which is the entity that provides capital to nonprofit housing developers for the construction of new single-family homes sold to low- and moderate-income first-time homebuyers. She works directly with various governmental, non-profit and for-profit agencies to provide and promote affordable housing, small business and economic development, and asset-building opportunities. Vignaud received a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of New Orleans and a graduate degree in banking from the Southern Methodist University Southwest Graduate School of Banking in Dallas.



Gindi Eckel Vincent | Of Counsel - ExxonMobil Corporation

Gindi writes and speaks nationally on brave leadership. Her first book, Learning to Lead, released in 2013, and her second book on the life cycle of brave leadership is in progress. In addition, Gindi has practiced law for almost 20 years, helping energy companies across the energy value chain solve complex legal challenges. Gindi has served in numerous leadership roles including President of the Women's Energy Network of Houston, the executive committee of Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce, and Chair of the Texas Young Lawyers Association. She has been recognized as one of Houston's 50 Most Influential Women, one of Houston's Top 25 Role Models, and Houston's Outstanding Young Lawyer.



Holly Wilbanks | Founder and Principal - The Wilbanks Consulting Group

Holly Wilbanks is the Founder and Principal of Houston-based startup, The Wilbanks Consulting Group (WCG), a virtual strategic talent management and career coaching firm. With prior experience in corporate recruitment, agency consulting, and admissions in the US and abroad, Holly brings to her clients the trifecta of talent management. She empowers professionals to achieve their career goals through strategic training, coaching, and development. Holly has helped professionals in a variety of industries, including oil & gas, legal, life sciences, medicine, teaching, sales & marketing, and more. She works with individuals to communicate their unique value effectively in written and verbal communications, while charting a clear path forward in their career development.



Dr. Mary Ann Reynolds Wilkins | Vice President, Senior Business Development Officer - Stewart Title Commercial Services

In 2000, after a successful career in academia where Mary Ann ultimately led a school district of 50,000 students and 5,000 employees and served as an Adjunct Professor for HBU and the University of Houston, she entered the title industry at Stewart Title where she serves as Vice President and Senior Business Development Officer. In 2011, Mary Ann was named one of the "50 Most Influential Women in Houston" by Houston Woman Magazine, honored in 2012 as one of Houston's "Ten Women of Distinction" at the "Winter Ball", recognized in 2014 as one of Houston's "Ten Breakout Women" and was presented the first "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce in 2017.. An accomplished pianist, Mary Ann has recorded three piano CDs and was co-producer of the musical, "Galveston" which played at the Hobby Center to sold-out performances in 2011.

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