

WOMEN of INFLUENCE in CONSTRUCTION 2024



**MELINA
ALUWI**
HED



**STEPHANIE
ANTL**
SGPA ARCHITECTURE &
PLANNING



**ANGIE
BARBERA**
INTERSECT
MANAGEMENT



**TAMERA
BARNHART REESE**
BARNHART-REESE
CONSTRUCTION, INC.



**LISA
BITTNER**
JOHNSON AND
JENNINGS



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BLAKE**
GORDON REES SCULLY
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**NICOLE CAYA-
WINFIELD**
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**MARCELA
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**ANGELA
HANSEN**
DPR CONSTRUCTION



**JENNIFER
HATTON**
STUDIO E ARCHITECTS



**LIZ
HAWKINS**
SWINERTON



**KRISTINEH
HIATT**
PREVOST
CONSTRUCTION



**MONA
HINKLE**
PREVOST
CONSTRUCTION



**VELIA IBARRA
HINOJOSA**
TURNER CONSTRUCTION
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**PELIN
KARAKAS**
CONAN
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**NAOUEL KHELOUI
ALLAL**
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SERVICES



**DIANNE
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GAFCON



**NAOMI
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**MARISA
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**TERI
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**TAMARA
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& SAN DIEGO OFFICE DESIGN



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**ANGELA
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**MEGAN
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KRISTEN TUERK,
AIA, DBIA
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**JESSICA
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**ATI
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CONSTRUCTION



**SARAH
WILLIAMS**
BREAKTHROUGH
PROPERTIES, INC.



**KIRSTEN
WORLEY**
HIGGS FLETCHER &
MACK

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MELINA ALUWI
Associate Principal, Higher Education Market Sector Leader
HED

Melina is an Associate Principal of HED's San Diego office, leading Higher Education projects. With vast experience across public and private education, civic, cultural, and commercial projects, she brings a diverse skill set to each endeavor. As a recognized architectural leader and mentor, Melina combines design passion, technical expertise, and effective management. She is a unique leader that shapes successful teams and values client relationships and delivery. Supported by HED's talented team, she plays a pivotal role in delivering creative solutions that positively impact clients, the community, and the world.

STEPHANIE ANTL
Principal, Education & Civic Studio Leader
SGPA Architecture & Planning

Stephanie Antl joined SGPA in 2011 and has been instrumental in SGPA's growth with her multiple roles of Principal, Director of SGPA's Education + Civic Studio, and Director of Business Development. She leads projects for K-12, Community College, and Higher Education clients and is a trusted partner, helping Owners achieve institutional goals for each project. Stephanie is active in many industry associations to continually expand her knowledge base including project delivery methods, design trends, construction technology, and theories in education methodology. Stephanie has served as Principal Architect on SDUSD projects including renovation of Kearny High Educational Complex (\$66M), Oak Park Elementary School (\$20M), and Sequoia Elementary School (\$10M). Notably, in 2019, she led the major renovation of Camino and Founders Hall Buildings on the USD's campus which included new construction and renovation of over 230,000 square feet of academic, student housing, and faculty offices.

ANGIE BARBERA
CEO
Intersect Management

Angie has been a successful business owner for more than a decade. Currently, as co-owner and CEO of Intersect Management, she oversees business operations, sales, and management of a dynamic and innovative company that provides Project Management and Commercial Real Estate services and solutions. Angie fosters an environment of achieving consistent growth, profitability, and customer satisfaction. She also establishes strong partnerships, develops and implements effective strategies, and creates a culture of excellence and collaboration among the team. Her core competencies include business operations, sales, management, leadership, communication, and problem solving. She is passionate about delivering value to Intersect's clients and driving positive change in the world. Her primary mission is to help businesses and organizations achieve their goals by minimizing risk and maximizing outcomes.

TAMELA BARNHART REESE
President
Barnhart-Reese Construction, Inc.

Tamela Reese co-founded Barnhart-Reese Construction, Inc. with her father and husband after the sale of Douglas Barnhart's flagship company, Douglas E. Barnhart, Inc. While at Barnhart's former company, Tamela actively participated on the Board of Directors and jointly managed the marketing and business development departments with the president. She also directed and oversaw the public relations and advertising activities of the multi-million-dollar corporation. As president of Barnhart-Reese, Tamela has expanded her duties and manages much of the daily business operations of the burgeoning organization. Department oversight includes marketing, accounting, legal, insurance, human resources, and safety. Under Tamela's leadership, Notable Barnhart-Reese Construction projects that she has led include Sharp Chula Vista Cancer Center, Bayside Fire Station No. 2 for the City of San Diego, UC San Diego Spanos Athletic Performance Center, and Skyline Hills Branch Library.

LISA BITTNER
Vice President of Marketing & Business Development
Johnson and Jennings

Lisa leads marketing and business development for Johnson & Jennings, a woman owned general contracting firm. Lisa joined J&J in 2021 and has been instrumental in helping the company return to pre-pandemic annual revenue and staffing levels. During the pandemic, annual revenue dropped from \$35 million to \$22 million. J&J currently has more employees than it did pre-pandemic and revenue of \$36 million. Lisa has been involved for many years with CREW San Diego, a nonprofit organization advancing the careers of women in commercial real estate. Lisa served as CREW's 2021 Chapter President and spearheaded a strategic planning process. She has served as a mentor through the CREWmates program for several years and held multiple other roles with CREW. Lisa has also been involved with the Society for Marketing Professional Services, the International Facility Management Association, NAIOP San Diego, Urban Land Institute San Diego-Tijuana and the Downtown San Diego Partnership.

KIMBERLY BLAKE
Partner
Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP

Kimberly Blake, a Partner in GRSM's San Diego office, centers her practice on construction law, representing a variety of parties involved in both public and private construction projects, including developers, architects, engineers, corporate entities, general contractors, and subcontractors. Her practice encompasses a wide range of construction issues, including defects, contract breaches, design errors, accidents, and general insurance defense. Additionally, she offers counseling on construction contracts and pre-litigation negotiations. Notable achievements include successfully handling high-stakes construction defect cases for major subcontractors and designers and skillfully managing breach of contract, delay claims, and negligence matters for contractors and design professionals. Recognized by Super Lawyers and the San Diego Daily Transcript for her excellence in construction law, Blake's extensive experience ensures tailored and thorough legal support for her clients.



Congratulations!



Angie Barbera

Our project management firm wants to congratulate our CEO

Angie Barbera
as our Women of Influence in Construction

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL



WOMEN of INFLUENCE in CONSTRUCTION 2024



KELLEY BROWN
Senior Project Manager
Standard Drywall, Inc.

As a Senior Project Manager for Standard Drywall, Inc. Kelley Brown is a remarkable contributor to her field. Beginning her career in 2005, Kelley dedicated herself to building in the Las Vegas market, Kelley honed her skills in Design Assist and flourished in both Casino and Hotel construction. Over the last 19 years she has proven her project leadership and execution strategy. Currently managing the Jamul Casino expansion for SDI, Kelley is essential to project success and daily operations. Some of her other projects include MGM City Center, Apple Campus 2, Soboba Casino, Logan Memorial, San Diego Airport Terminal 2 expansion and more. Kelley is a member of NAWIC and LEED Trained.



AUDREY BULLWINKEL
Senior Project Manager
Westlake Consulting Group

Audrey Bullwinkel serves as Sr. Project Manager at Westlake Consulting Group, a CM firm located in Cardiff. With over a decade of experience in construction, Audrey has made significant contributions to San Diego's life science sector. Her expertise spans preconstruction, estimating, design project management, contract negotiation, and CM services for over 1 million square feet of life science projects. Drawing from her degree in architecture from the University of San Diego, Audrey possesses an appreciation for detailed design and an eye for creative solutions. She excels in fostering collaborative relationships with key stakeholders to drive project objectives, offer resolutions, and ensure the successful delivery of projects that elevate the end-user experience. Audrey's extensive builder experience encompasses R&D life science, cGMP facilities, and biotech. Audrey excels at managing teams, scope, budget, and schedule on complex projects that distinguish San Diego's construction landscape.



COLLETTE CAMBERLANGO
Human Resource Manager
RORE, Inc.

Collette Camberlango, Human Resources Manager, is a skilled and compassionate HR professional focused on leading employer recruitment, employee development and retention. She is an integral part of our leadership team to ensure that human capital strategy aligns with our organization's growth strategy all while managing risks. Her skills at working with management to build an employee-centric culture while promoting positive morale and optimizing productivity are extraordinary. Her contributions are greatly valued within RORE with every employee. She consistently receives kudos and compliments from other employees regarding her willingness to help, solve, mitigate conflicts, and ensure a positive workplace. She joined the RORE Team in 2022 and has served the construction/real estate industry for 18 years. Collette holds a Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources and a MBA. She holds certifications in Success Life Coaching and Wellness Coaching.



NICOLE CAYA-WINFIELD
CEO & Founder
Onyx Building Group, Inc

A graduate of the University of San Diego, Nicole began her business in 2008. Holding Onyx's C-9 Contractors License, she is an AWC Certified EIFS Industry Professional, a Safety Trained Supervisor of Construction, LEED Green Associate, and more. Nicole has spent 15 years developing Onyx as a leader among specialties contractors. Onyx's most recent achievements include IQHQ RaDD, Bio-Terra, Jamul Casino, Intuit Dome, Logan, and other San Diego schools. Her dedication to the industry, San Diego's market, and local schools is her true contribution. Committed to the community giving back through her involvement in Habitat for Humanity's Women Build. She supports Future Construction Leaders and gives her time to The Boys and Girls Clubs of East County and Saint James Academy. Speaking engagements at schools, industry organizations, including WWCCA, she mentors in expansion potential personally and professionally.



ANNA CHOUMAKOVA
Project Manager
PCL Construction

Anna Choumakova is a respected and accomplished Project Manager for one of North America's leading general contractors, PCL Construction. After completing several projects in PCL's Hawaii district, Anna transferred to San Diego where her portfolio encompasses an array of unique and complex projects, including a cell-cultured seafood lab and manufacturing facility for BlueNalu, an oceanfront marine research facility for UCSD's Scripps Institute of Oceanography, and a cutting-edge sustainable campus for Southwestern College's Landscape and Nursery program. Anna has garnered over 15 years of innovation and collaboration to successfully streamline delivery, manage budgets, and navigate unforeseen challenges. She is passionate about, and integrates community service throughout her role, volunteering with local organizations like PATH and the San Diego Food Bank. A mentor to many other women in construction, Anna continues to push PCL's initiatives to advance other women in her industry.



DEBBE DAMRON
Senior Project Manager
White Construction Inc.

Debbe Damron came up through the ranks at White Construction, starting as a Project Coordinator 26 years ago. As our Senior Vice President, she's a fearless leader and unparalleled role model for the women and men in our company and industry. She has completed well over 1,000 projects of all types of commercial buildouts, with a particular expertise in dental, medical and veterinary improvements.



CONGRATULATIONS KRISTINEH HIETT & MONA HINKLE



We are incredibly proud to recognize and support the work of Kristineh and Mona as 2024 Women of Influence nominees. Thank you for all that you do within the construction field.



KRISTINEH HIETT | MONA HINKLE

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WOMEN of INFLUENCE in CONSTRUCTION 2024



KENDALL DESPENZA, P.E.
MEP Preconstruction Executive
Level 10 Construction

MELINDA DICHARRY
President
Paradigm Mechanical Corp.

ERICA DOWDY
VP of Innovation and Administration
Sun County Builders

AMY DUCK
Safety Manager
DPR Construction

EMILY EDELSTONE
Technical Solutions Executive
Autodesk

MARCELA GRACIA
Associate
Studio E Architects

Kendall DeSpensa is the latest addition to Level 10's Preconstruction team. Being brought on as the first MEP Preconstruction Executive, Kendall's task ahead is to provide technical strategy for integrating MEP systems throughout the design and preconstruction phases. Having spent the last 11 years in the sub-contractor space, and prior to that, seven years in the engineering consultant space, DeSpensa is looking forward to integrating those experiences with the General Construction arm of our industry. As a Licensed Professional Engineer and DBIA Certified Associate, her passion is for collaboration between all parties, working towards a better build experience. DeSpensa is an avid advocate for women in the industry. Having been a part of multiple panel discussions during WIC Week and 1-on-1 mentoring, her message remains the same: Women have a place in the industry, whether their role is administrative, hands-on craftsmanship, technical engineering or leadership.

Melinda Dicharry founded Paradigm Mechanical Corporation in 2010, driven by a commitment to exceptional customer service in construction. Her leadership and innovative approach distinguish Paradigm, fostering enduring partnerships. With a background in her family's insurance business and experience as a Controller in HVAC, Melinda brings a wealth of expertise to her role. Melinda has a Bachelor's in Business Administration with a finance concentration, CCIFP certification, and California contractor licenses. Melinda's more than 20 years in the industry reflect her dedication. Her achievements include the "Woman Who Mean Business Award" (2013), "40 Under 40 Award" (2014), and recognition as a Woman of Influence in Construction (2021) by the San Diego Business Journal.

Erica Dowdy is Vice President of Innovation and Administration for Sun County Builders, the premier general contractor of multi-family affordable housing in California. Dowdy oversees administrative aspects of the company, with, as president John Ahlswede says, amazing accuracy, and monitors its profitability, liquidity and solvency. She has gained recognition for bringing departments together and creating processes that streamline the business, always with an eye on SCB's long-term future. Dowdy was promoted from Director of Accounting to VP in 2022, earning her a spot on the company's leadership team and is a key part of the company's long-range goals. Under her leadership, Sun County has implemented state-of-the-art tech solutions that improve financial performance and transparent communication between the field and office. Recently, Dowdy onboarded a new project management system and trained employees on the program. She is a member of the Procore Cal. Building Excellence Community.

Amy Duck is a safety manager at DPR Construction, a self-performing general contractor specializing in technically complex projects. She works with teams to recognize and address potential hazards before they exist and uses behavior-based safety techniques to ensure compliance with DPR's environmental health and safety plan. Bringing more than 20 years of experience, Amy leads teams in assessing projects for significant risks and implementing a safety plan to manage or eliminate potential hazards, high risk activities, and environmental issues. A leader within the San Diego business unit, Amy monitors project and regional data to identify and correct emerging trends related to safety concerns to ensure an injury-free environment. Since 2021, Amy has served as the regional representative for Construction Safety Week, an annual event that creates space for the construction industry to collectively celebrate a safe mindset and engagement around environmental health and safety.

Emily Edelstone, a seasoned Technical Solutions Executive at Autodesk, brings a wealth of experience garnered over a decade within the construction industry. Leveraging her extensive knowledge base, she excels in guiding stakeholders in the construction sector towards optimal technology solutions, spanning the entire project lifecycle. Renowned as a trusted advisor within the industry, Emily is dedicated to assisting all in overcoming their most significant challenges. Her commitment lies in enhancing operational efficiency, minimizing rework, and optimizing cost savings for her clients. Actively engaged in both national and local industry events, Emily demonstrates a strong commitment to staying on top of industry trends. Additionally, her involvement extends to community service where she sits on the technology committee for San Diego ABC. Emily also has been working to educate others on technology through @designbuildladies on all social media platforms.

Marcela Gracia, AIA, Associate, earned a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Arizona in 2013 and completed a Master of Architecture degree at the University of Virginia in 2015. Shortly after, she joined Studio E Architects and established herself as a highly skilled and creative young designer. With a keen eye for detail and strong conceptual thinking, she has consistently produced outstanding work. She has worked throughout all phases of a project from concept to completion in various project types from schools to multi-family residential. In her time with the firm, she has not only achieved licensure and grown to a project manager role but has also spearheaded office research and development efforts. This year, Marcela was promoted to Associate of the firm. Her contributions continue to be impactful, and her passion for design is evident in everything she does.



Collette Camberlango
HR Manager

Collette,

Congratulations for being selected
as an honoree for the SDBJ's
2024 Woman of Influence in Construction!

We are honored to have you on our team!

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www.roreinc.com



WOMEN of INFLUENCE in CONSTRUCTION 2024



ANGELA HANSEN
Design Manager
DPR Construction

Angela Hansen is a design manager at DPR Construction, one of San Diego's leading general contractors. She is passionate about transforming the building and construction industry to reduce human impact on the environment and has led many projects with LEED certification and sustainability goals. Her experience includes both new construction and renovation of fast-track office, laboratory, and healthcare projects. As a certified associate DBIA Design-Build professional, Angela helps apply a team-centered approach to streamline and optimize project delivery. Beyond her role as a design manager, Angela is actively involved in DPR's Building Quality Builders Team, Environmental Advocate Group and Southwest Women's employee resource group. Angela has served on the Board of Directors for the San Diego Green Building Council since 2020 and supported budding green professionals through mentorship.



JENNIFER HATTON
Senior Associate
Studio E Architects

Jennifer Hatton, Senior Associate, is a highly qualified architect and project manager with a diverse range of valuable skills. Her passion for architecture is rooted in community-serving design. Jennifer has worked on various project types and scales throughout her career, but in her work with Studio E Architects, she has been able to realize her passion through the design and construction of affordable and supportive housing communities for mission-driven clients. She completed her architecture education at the University of Kansas and the University of Karlsruhe in Germany. Since joining Studio E Architects in 2019, she established herself as a leader through wide-ranging initiatives, from developing a mission statement to examining our internal design culture to improving our project management tools. This year, Jennifer was promoted to Senior Associate of the firm. As a superb organizational and strategic thinker, she is a critical player in charting the course for the firm.



LIZ HAWKINS
Operations Manager
Swinerton

Liz Hawkins, the trailblazer of her family, earned her Bachelor's degree with Honors from San Diego State University. With two decades of industry experience, she's contributed to nearly 300 construction projects exceeding \$600 million. Liz's journey encompasses diverse roles such as Estimator, Project Manager, Project Executive, and presently, Operations Manager. Her expertise spans project management across all phases, from preconstruction to finalization. Noteworthy clients including Qualcomm, Bank of America, and UC San Diego have benefitted from her prowess. As Operations Manager at Swinerton San Diego, Liz spearheads the Special Projects Group, specializing in midsize projects, renovations, and tenant improvements. Her responsibilities encompass securing new projects, overseeing operations, and managing the group's financial performance. Liz Hawkins epitomizes excellence in construction management, leveraging her unique skill set to drive success in every endeavor.



KRISTINEH HIETT
Project Manager
Prevost Construction

Project Manager, Kristineh Hiatt, boasts a 25-year career in the construction industry. Specializing in the life sciences and biotechnology sectors, she has successfully delivered over 1 million square feet in complex buildouts for industry-leading clients, with her expertise ranging from 10,000 sq. ft. laboratories to 155,000-square-foot R&D facilities. Known for her open communication and mutual respect, Kristineh's leadership is marked by mentorship and equality among team members. Her hands-on approach and strong interpersonal skills ensure projects are delivered on time and within budget while prioritizing client satisfaction. She recently completed a complex 155,000-square-foot office and research lab facility, inclusive of biology and chemistry labs, BSLs 2&3, a vivarium, critical utilities, and mechanical equipment yard. Despite challenges, Kristineh and her team remain committed to successful project delivery, approaching each endeavor with unwavering dedication and attention to detail.



MONA HINKLE
Superintendent
Prevost Construction

Mona Hinkle's trajectory in construction showcases her unwavering commitment, exceptional leadership, and adept problem-solving. With a portfolio boasting over 600,000 sq. ft. in hospitality projects, 300,000 sq. ft. in Life Science and R&D ventures, and 40-plus government projects, Mona's track record is exemplary. Her diverse career journey, from military service to 13 years as a union electrician before transitioning to Superintendent, underscores her adaptability and resilience. As a Superintendent at Prevost Construction, Mona has recently led notable projects, including a 55,000-square-foot warehouse and lab for a mushroom production company. Mona's unique blend of technical prowess, leadership, and dedication are evident in her 25-year tenure as a female superintendent in a male-dominated industry. Her ability to navigate challenges with competence and assertiveness, while advocating for gender equality, sets her apart.



VELIA IBARRA HINOJOSA
Procurement Agent
Turner Construction Company

Velia Ibarra Hinojosa, Procurement Agent, is a dedicated advocate for promoting construction career paths among high school students and has served as the Chair of the Julia Morgan Society (JMS) for the past three years. JMS aims to inspire and guide young individuals toward rewarding careers in the construction industry. Using her leadership in this organization, Velia invests in students to mentor them as they gain confidence in the construction field. Currently collaborating with four high schools, Velia orchestrates their construction classes, facilitating monthly presentations by industry professionals to illuminate diverse career pathways. Additionally, Velia's commitment to advancing women in construction is evident through her recent appointment as the Vice President of Development for the Women in Construction Coalition. Her commitment to professional development is also exemplified by earning her DBIA certification, helping Turner deliver successful design-build projects.



CONGRATULATIONS AUDREY BULLWINKEL!



Celebrating Audrey Bullwinkel for being recognized as one of San Diego Business Journal's Women of Influence in Construction!

Audrey exemplifies Westlake Consulting Group's values in her work each day. With diversity at the heart, she is adaptable, genuine, savvy and fierce.

We are excited for Audrey to have this recognition and so happy to have her as part of our team!



WOMEN of INFLUENCE in CONSTRUCTION 2024



PELIN KARAKAS
Vice President
Conan Construction, Inc.



NAOUEL KHELOUI ALLAL
Project Manager
PRAVA Construction Services



DIANNE KOEHLE
Asst. Project Manager
Gafcon



NAOMI LOHNES
Chief Financial Officer/COO
Johnson & Jennings



MARISA MILLER
Partner
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton



KATHERINE MORA
Project Manager, Interiors
Turner Construction

Pelin Karakas has extensive construction experience and has completed more than 40 projects within five years since she joined Conan Construction. She claims herself as a "School Builder" since 90% of her projects are K-12 and Higher Ed projects. She is proud to serve a lot of school Districts in San Diego including but not limited to San Diego Unified School District, Sweetwater Union High School District, Grossmont Union High School District, San Dieguito Union High School District, Palomar College, Mira Costa College, Cuyamaca College and many more. As a proud mom of two boys, she enjoys teaching kids construction technics. She recently received the Certified Hospital Contractor title from American Hospital Association. This health care certification program demonstrates proficiency in the unique and regulated environment of health care construction sites. Pelin is looking forward to build hospitals, medical facilities and labs in San Diego County.

Born in Algeria in 1972, Naouel earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1995, launching a 28-year career in construction and civil engineering, with 15 years in management roles. Naouel co-founded a successful American joint venture start-up in steel prefabrication construction. In 2007, she represented women entrepreneurial success at the India summit, nominated by the U.S. Government. As one of the few women in the steel construction industry, Naouel has coauthored papers on the environmental benefits of steel construction and served as the only female executive member in the Iron and Steel Union (AISU). Relocating to Southern California in 2019, Naouel has been a project manager at PRAVA since April 2022, leveraging diverse skills. Fluent in English, Arabic, and French, she is recognized for her self-starting attitude, organization, determination, and sociability.

Dianne Koehle is an Asst. Project Manager with Gafcon, currently working on the Southwestern College Bond Program. She has more than 25 years in the construction industry. She graduated with a B.S. in Information and Decision Systems and in Mathematics from San Diego State University, received an HVAC Systems Design and Control Certificate from University of California, San Diego, and a Construction Industry Technician Certificate. She has a boots-in-the-dirt management style and has worked on projects for hotels, hospitals, solar plants, K-12, community colleges, universities, a planetarium, performing arts centers, laboratories, shopping centers, parking lots, churches, EMT/Fire/Police training centers, gymnasiums, and housing. A member of the National Association of Women in Construction for 15 years, supports Habitat for Humanity Women Build and values mentoring. She feels that the fruits of our labor aren't just completed projects, but also what we teach the next generation.

Naomi Lohnes has worked for locally-based general contracting firm Johnson & Jennings for more than 35 years, starting out as its part-time bookkeeper and eventually taking over operations with Donna Vargo in 2004. The duo went on to purchase the firm in 2013. Since then, Johnson & Jennings' revenue has increased 50% and the company has grown from one San Diego office to two along the West Coast with a staff of 50 people. Women make up only 9.1% of the construction industry's workforce nationwide —let alone firm owners. Lohnes has embraced the responsibility she has to pave the way for more women to rise in the construction industry. In addition to its ownership, one of Johnson & Jennings' VP positions, project management positions and three project engineer positions are held by women. She is an active member with CREW and supports its mission to transform the commercial real estate industry by advancing women globally.

Marisa Miller is the first female and Latina Office Managing Partner of Sheppard Mullin's Del Mar office. A seasoned trial attorney and litigator, she represents clients (mostly in the construction, real estate and energy industries) in all stages of high-stakes commercial litigation, from pre-lawsuit strategy and advice to post-trial motions and appeals. Marisa counts some of San Diego's top businesses as clients. Currently, Marisa is litigating a \$40 million dispute over the construction of a hospital in Los Angeles County and is lead counsel for the owner of a Texas manufacturing plant in a contracting matter with over \$20 million in dispute. Marisa is heavily involved in pro bono work and volunteer service, particularly with Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Diego County. She was recently named Board Vice Chair of the organization, joining an executive team consisting entirely of women — a first in the organization's 63-year history.

Katherine Mora is a Project Manager for Turner Construction Company. She started her career in construction management in 2014 in New York City, specializing in Healthcare Construction and eventually working for one of the city's largest healthcare systems. She moved to San Diego in 2022 and currently serves as the Project Manager/Captain for Interiors at the design-build \$2.9 billion SAN New Terminal 1 Replacement project at the San Diego International Airport. Katherine graduated from Stony Brook University in New York with a degree in Engineering Sciences and Business Management. Katherine is a member of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and an active participant in Turner's Women's Network.

















Barnhart-Reese Construction, Inc. is **proud to congratulate** **Tamela Barnhart Reese** on being recognized as a Women of Influence in Construction!



Tami Barnhart Reese, President
Barnhart-Reese Construction

www.barnhartreese.com





Kristen Tuerk
Architect, AIA, DBIA
Senior Design Manager

2024 WOMAN OF INFLUENCE IN CONSTRUCTION

As a strong believer in advancing women in construction, we proudly honor your extraordinary achievements.

Balfour Beatty



WOMEN of INFLUENCE in CONSTRUCTION 2024



TERI PORLAS
Team Lead & Client Consultant
Executive
C3 Risk & Insurance Services

Teri is a seasoned insurance professional with 36 years of industry experience. Specializing in Construction and Real Estate, she excels in crafting creative and comprehensive coverage programs. With expertise spanning property and casualty, executive risk, WRAP-Ups, complex property placements, and cyber liability, Teri delivers tailored risk management solutions to her clients. Known for her dedication to excellent customer service, Teri fosters strong relationships with clients and carrier partners alike. She understands the importance of relationships in the insurance industry and ensures prompt follow-through on all client service transactions. Passionate about securing the best deals and most comprehensive plans for her clients, Teri is committed to their satisfaction and peace of mind.



LAMIA PORTER
Senior Estimator
Sundt Construction

Lamia Porter was part of Sundt's first all-female design-build team. She graduated from Montana Technological University with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. She serves as Senior Estimator at Sundt Construction, compiling and monitoring all project budgets throughout the design process. She has been in the construction industry for over 10 years and has worked on several San Diego Unified School District and California State University projects. Lamia is a part of the AGC of America's Build and Serve committee which partners with nonprofits to organize events for the local communities. She is a member of the Sundt Foundation and volunteers at Foundation events regularly. She is a member of the Design-Build Institute of America and is currently pursuing its accreditation and has been a panel speaker at the CSU at Long Beach at the Women in Engineering Conference.



ANNETTE PULLIAM
Project Manager
W.E. O'Neil Construction

With a drive that stems from a deep sense of responsibility and integrity, Annette Pulliam is an exemplary woman of the industry who manages numerous projects over multiple sites. She has worked in construction for more than 10 years and during those years she has successfully grown from project engineer to an assistant project manager to project manager. When challenges arise, Annette stands as a leader, investigates issues, lays out a path for success, and executes these plans with her team. She is a shining example of our core vision, mission, and values. W.E. O'Neil has built its company around building great relationships, and she does this with owners, CM's, trade partners, and laborers. She owns all of the company's values and lives its mission to bring thoughtful leadership to the building experience.



KESLEY RILEY
Project Manager
C&S Companies

Kesley Riley is a Project manager serving our multifamily construction team on a significant 267-unit garden style affordable housing project within the San Ysidro community. She initially started her career on the engineering side with C&S and transitions to our general contracting side in 2018 in which she has led healthcare projects, retail developments and light industrial. Kelsey deserves a huge nod this year for her leadership in early phased planning with our site team, framing contractors to consider ways to get the project site stabilized early for weather mitigation. This saved ownership time and money. Her ability to lead the teams on site, work with field staff and handle all project controls through construction has been complimented by our CM and capital investment partners. This is a \$63 million project with two phases that has a hard turnover date and with her leadership dates are being met.



TAMARA ROMEO
Founder & President
Southcoast Design Group & San Diego Office Design

Tamara Romeo, President and Founder of San Diego Office Design & Southcoast Design Group, stands as a paragon of innovation and sophistication in San Diego's commercial interior design and furnishings landscape. Her firm excels in transforming both new and renovated properties across San Diego County and across the country elevating them into iconic spaces that encapsulate the essence of modern luxury. With an unwavering commitment to excellence, Tamara leverages her team's expertise to forge strong brand identities and foster a deep sense of culture within every project. Her clientele, ranging from developers of multifamily dwellings and student housing communities to owners of office and corporate buildings, rely on her visionary leadership and skill to significantly enhance the value and appeal of their assets. Tamara's distinguished career and innovative design solutions have garnered acclaim in prestigious publications such as Modern Luxury, California Interiors and more.



LINDSEY SIELAFF
Project Manager
Hensel Phelps

Throughout her more than 17 years in the construction industry working with Hensel Phelps, Lindsey Sielaff has held various roles from superintendent to project manager and has led many large scale successful project teams with a staff of up to 60 people in the higher education, aviation and hospitality market sectors, amounting to over \$3.3 billion. She is currently leading her project team on the fast-paced \$534 million Ridge Walk North Living and Learning Neighborhood, which is a design-build project at UC San Diego. Lindsey values supporting the team around her and being a mentor to others in the industry. She is a key leader in the Hensel Phelps Women's network and is planning and presenting at Hensel Phelps' upcoming Women's Leadership Seminar. Lindsey is also spearheading the Ridge Walk project's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion team which has held several events which focus on creating an inclusive community where all can thrive.



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Congratulations
to **Lindsey Sielaff**
for being honored
as a Woman of
Influence in
Construction!

Project Manager
UCSD Ridge Walk North



HENSEL PHELPS

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WOMEN of INFLUENCE in CONSTRUCTION 2024



MARYANN SKRABA
Project Director
McCarthy Building
Companies, Inc.



ANGELA SLEVINSKY
Operations Manager
White Construction Inc.



LYSA SOLANO
Senior Construction
Manager
CIRE Equity



TARA STEPHENS
Sales Executive
Architectural Design and
Signs, Inc



JENNIFER STONE
Project Controls Manager
Burns & McDonnell



ELIZABETH SUAREZ
Project Manager
Turner Construction
Company



MEGAN TODD
Associate, Marketing & Business
Development Coordinator
CO Architects

San Diego-based Maryann Skraba is a Project Director for McCarthy Building Companies who is currently overseeing the Gaylord Pacific Resort and Convention Center project in Chula Vista. Maryann has worked her way from Project Engineer to her current role and contributed to several McCarthy projects including Sharp Copley Lab and Office Building, and SDSU Aztec Recreation Center Expansion. Her experience in collaborative delivery models and her problem-solving acumen make her an invaluable leader. Maryann has a knack for helping develop talent. As champion for McCarthy's "Cultural Imperative" initiative, she works to create and foster a smart and healthy culture throughout our offices and project sites while also balancing her time with her husband and son.

Angela came to White Construction in 2008 and has worn every hat – even a hardhat. Starting in accounting, she moved on to Project Coordinator, then Project Manager, and now holds the position of Operations Manager. She's the glue that holds White Construction together, and she has the utmost respect and fierce admiration of her coworkers.

Lysa Solano serves as the Senior Construction Manager at CIRE Equity, where she leads the development of CIRE's construction department. With a comprehensive skill set in project management, she oversees various aspects of construction projects, including ground-up development, entitlements, project planning, cost management, time management, quality management, and contract administration. Before joining CIRE, Lysa gained valuable experience at Brixmor Property Group, where she progressed from Tenant Coordinator to Construction Project Manager over six years. During her tenure, she demonstrated her expertise in coordinating tenant buildouts and successfully executing projects within budget and timelines. Lysa holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Management from the University of Phoenix.

With two decades of dedicated experience in the signage industry, Tara Stephens brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to their role as an Account Executive for AD/S. Renowned for her keen eye for detail and innovative approach, Tara has been instrumental in delivering impactful signage solutions across diverse construction projects. As an Account Executive, Tara leverages her extensive industry experience to forge strong client relationships and delivers tailored solutions that exceed expectations. Her comprehensive understanding of signage materials, fabrication techniques, and installation processes enables her to provide insightful guidance throughout every stage of the project ensuring seamless execution and optimal outcomes.

Jennifer Stone epitomizes the essence of leadership in the construction industry, serving as a Project Controls Manager for Burns & McDonnell. With more than three decades of experience, she has excelled at overseeing infrastructure projects. Leading a team of 50 scheduling professionals, managing more than 3,000 projects for San Diego Gas & Electric's \$1.3 billion project services and controls program, she exemplifies dedication and excellence. Jennifer's commitment to championing women is unparalleled. As a board director for the National Association of Women in Construction — San Diego, she spearheads initiatives aimed at amplifying the success of women in the field. Under her guidance, funding for Women in Construction Week increased by 300%, ensuring the success of events focused on professional development and networking.

In her role as Project Manager, Elizabeth Suarez has consistently exhibited outstanding leadership abilities. Whether leading projects or mentoring junior colleagues, Elizabeth possesses a unique talent for inspiring and driving her team toward excellence. Through her collaborative methods, she has facilitated the success of intricate projects and fostered inventive solutions. In 2023, Elizabeth oversaw numerous Turner projects concurrently, a remarkable achievement requiring adept time management and an understanding of project management fundamentals. Her skill in efficiently prioritizing and managing various tasks enables her to allocate resources judiciously, and navigate timelines adeptly, resulting in seamless coordination across all projects.

Megan earned her Bachelor of Science in Public Communication from the University of Idaho. In 2005, she started her marketing and business development career in the San Diego construction and design industry. Throughout her experience she has procured construction and design contracts in the Higher Ed, Life Science, K-12, & Healthcare markets. Local San Diego construction and design firms where she gained a strong foundation include Research Facilities Design, Cumming Corporation, BWE, and CO Architects. Megan has had various marketing & business development responsibilities providing proposal management, conference coordination and attendance, lead generation, prepositioning for upcoming construction and design projects, training emerging leaders with business development skills, and social media involvement.



CONGRATULATIONS

Standard Drywall Inc. is proud to congratulate **Kelley Brown** on being recognized as a Women of Influence in Construction!



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MARYANN SKRABA
PROJECT DIRECTOR

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Maryann**, and all of the inspiring women, on being selected as one of San Diego's Women of Influence in Construction.



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WOMEN of INFLUENCE in CONSTRUCTION 2024



KRISTEN TUERK, AIA, DBIA
Senior Design Manager
Balfour Beatty



DONNA VARGO
President & CEO
Johnson & Jennings



HOLLEY VELA
Special Projects Division
Operations Manager
Turner Construction Company



JESSICA WENSKUNAS
Director of Sales
RAM Construction



ATI WILLIAMS
Principal
Honeycomb Design & Construction



SARAH WILLIAMS
Senior Director, Design & Construction
Breakthrough Properties



KIRSTEN WORLEY
Partner
Higgs Fletcher & Mack

Kristen Tuerk, AIA, DBIA, is a Licensed Architect and Senior Design Manager at Balfour Beatty. She has been instrumental in the execution of projects in the justice, civic, and education sectors, working to deliver better facilities for our communities. Notably, she is serving as the Lead Design Manager on the \$193 million Youth Transition Campus for the County of San Diego, and the \$110 million Youth Transition Center for the County of Orange, both of which are groundbreaking facilities looking to provide more effective Youth in Custody treatment and serving as reform models for future development across the country. Kristen earned her BA in Design from UC Davis and a M. Arch from Cal Poly Pomona.

As Johnson & Jennings' President and CEO, Donna oversees the company's strategic planning and long-term growth, as well as all day-to-day company operations. Drawing from experience and insight gleaned from over three decades in the construction industry, Donna leads with enthusiasm, commitment to the company's core values and dedication to her employees' growth and well-being. For nearly 20 years, Naomi Lohnes and Donna Vargo have led Johnson & Jennings General Contracting as a pair, drawing from their collective backgrounds in construction and shared leadership style to cultivate one of San Diego's preeminent women-owned businesses. Since Donna and Naomi jointly acquired J&J in 2013, the company's revenue has surged by 50% and the firm has expanded into Orange, Los Angeles and Riverside counties.

Holley Vela brings extensive expertise to her role as Special Projects Division Operation Manager at Turner. Holding a B.S. in Structural Engineering from UC San Diego and 15 years of experience, Holley has contributed significantly to numerous high-profile projects, such as the Campus at Horton redevelopment project. Recognizing her exceptional dedication, Holley was recently promoted to SPD Operations Manager, where she oversees a diverse portfolio of projects and employees across the company. In addition to her managerial duties, she plays a pivotal role in Turner's Training Committee, where she spearheads the development of the Superintendent Training program.

Jess Wenskunas, RAM Construction's Director of Sales, is pivotal in driving our team's success in the San Diego market. With a multifaceted role, Jess spearheads sales, business development, and fostering relationships that contribute to RAM's overall expansion. Embracing San Diego as home, Jess strategically pursues projects in Healthcare, Life Science, and Education domains, showcasing her dedication to positive change within the community. Beyond her professional endeavors, she is deeply committed to philanthropy, volunteering at Ronald McDonald House and actively engaging with industry associations such as ULI, AIA, and DBIA. Jess is a strong advocate for inclusivity and empowerment within the industry, dedicating her time to supporting women professionals through her involvement in CREW San Diego and NAIOF.

Ati Williams is a TV personality, Licensed General Contractor, design and renovation expert, entrepreneur, speaker and philanthropist. She has over two decades of real estate experience as the Principal of Honeycomb Design & Construction and Honeycomb Real Estate Development. Ati is also the Founder of the residential real estate brokerage firm DC Home Buzz. Since 2004, Ati has worked on dozens of renovations from cosmetic builds to complete gut rehabs. Ati is the host of "Hack My Home" on Netflix and was previously the host of HGTV's "DC Flippers," a show highlighting her adventures as a real estate developer. Ati has been featured for her expertise in real estate, entrepreneurship and design in the NYT, Washington Post, Washingtonian Magazine, CNN, MSNBC, ABC, NBC, CBS, Essence, and Black Enterprise.

Sarah Williams is the Senior Director of Design & Construction for Breakthrough Properties, overseeing Breakthrough assets on the West Coast. Holding a master's degree in construction management and with 20 years of experience focused on technically complex healthcare and life science projects, Sarah has established a reputation for delivering complex projects with precision and excellence. With this experience, Sarah has honed a wide range of skills that are essential for successful real estate development, including project management, cost estimation, risk assessment, and stakeholder communication. Sarah's experience in managing large-scale construction projects, combined with a keen attention to detail and an unwavering commitment to quality, has enabled Sarah to deliver results that consistently exceed expectations.

Higgs Fletcher & Mack Partner Kirsten Worley is a known force in Southern California's construction industry, and the leader of the firm's Construction Practice Group. Her law practice centers on construction litigation and select real estate and construction transactional matters. She represents owners, general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, developers, lenders, sureties, private equity capital investors, and businesses of all sizes from large corporations to local small businesses. Kirsten helps business owners with everything from large-scale breach of contract litigation to mechanics' liens, stop notices and bond claims. Kirsten also works with construction industry clients on creditors' rights and commercial law issues related to lending, collections, restructuring, insolvency and bankruptcy matters.



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