

Michael Amilcar

FORWARD



Michael currently serves as CEO and Principal Consultant at Be Equitable. With over 25 years of experience in inclusion, equity, leadership development, and organizational change management, Michael and Be Equitable have partnered with organizations of all sizes to build equitable, healthy and thriving workplace cultures that work for all.

Michael's desire to bring about social change is rooted in her own identity as a proud Black Latina born and raised on the south side of Chicago. She is a sought after speaker and panelist, providing expertise on topics related to inclusion, workplace equity, and strategic organizational change.

Prior to Be Equitable, Michael held senior leadership roles at Diversity Best Practices (now Seramount), AXA Financial, NBCUniversal, and Magic Johnson Enterprises.

She currently resides in Houston, Texas with her husband and two young sons and dedicates herself to developing sustainable strategies to address racial, economic, and social inequities within disadvantaged communities.

**CEO & Principal Consultant
Be Equitable**

Kiana Beimes

FORWARD



**General Manager
OHANA Waikiki East
OUTRIGGER Hospitality**

Aloha! My name is Kiana Beimes, and I am the General Manager of the OHANA Waikiki East by OUTRIGGER, located in Honolulu, Hawaii. I grew up in iconic Waikiki, and have always been immersed in the exciting hospitality industry of Hawaii.

From a young age, I knew my heart was in travel and tourism. I loved meeting visitors from faraway places and sharing my favorite spots on the island with them. To now be able to build a career upon my passion, is truly a dream come true. I started out as a college intern in 2013. With the support and guidance of my mentors, I was able to climb my way to General Manager 10 years later.

While it is still very much a learning journey, this is undoubtedly the most rewarding chapter in my book yet. I am privileged to have been with OUTRIGGER my entire hospitality career thus far, and truly honored to be representing us at the AHLA ForWard Conference 2024.

Mahalo (thank you) to the foundation for bringing women together to celebrate other women. I look forward to continued learning, laughing and collaborating together!

Ashley Bellucci

FORWARD



Ashley Bellucci is an accomplished marketing professional who has a wealth of knowledge and expertise in various marketing and branding techniques. She is widely recognized for her ability to drive growth across different categories and segments in the hospitality industry. Ashley's skillset and performance have earned her the prestigious position of Senior Director of Marketing at Guest Worldwide, a global collective of industry-leading companies that offer full-spectrum hospitality and distribution solutions. Guest Worldwide has several brands under its umbrella, including Guest Supply®, Gilchrist & Soames, and Manchester Mills.

Ashley has been an integral part of Guest Supply since 2009 and has been pivotal in building the product marketing team from scratch. She currently leads the strategy for product marketing, company branding, loyalty, promotional efforts, and SKU rationalization for Guest Worldwide's distribution channels. Under her leadership, the company has achieved tremendous success, and her contributions have been instrumental in shaping its marketing landscape.

Ashley is also a passionate advocate for gender equality in the hospitality industry. She is the founding member and chair of the colleague resource group "IMPACT" at Guest Worldwide. The group provides resources and support for women leaders and allies who want to broaden and enhance their leadership skills and self-awareness through education, collaboration, and networking. Ashley is also a member of the Women in Foodservice Forum (WFF), which is dedicated to developing women's leadership and advancing gender equality in the food service industry. She is a previous recipient of the Guest Worldwide Gender Equity Momentum (GEM) Award, which recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to gender equality in the workplace. Ashley is also a graduate of the Castell ELEVATE program, which helps high-potential women leaders develop their skills and advance their careers.

Ashley holds a bachelor's degree in marketing with a minor in Women & Gender Studies from The College of New Jersey. She currently resides in New Jersey with her husband, son, and two dogs.

Anna Blue

FORWARD



**President
AHLA Foundation**

Anna Blue is a passion catalyst, change agent, and seasoned executor, with more than two decades of experience leading social impact movements.

From the U.S. Senate and presidential campaign trail, to advancing deep-rooted systemic change in urban education, gender equality, and digital safety, Anna's career reflects her belief in the power of building community, collaboration and consensus. In her leadership roles with the Tech Coalition, Girl Up, and The Female Quotient, Anna built transformational partnerships with global brands and Fortune 500 companies – including Disney, Apple, Snap, Meta, Kellogg, Deloitte, and WWE – curated powerful content across all media, generated significant fundraising and revenue growth, and built and mobilized communities to drive action.

Anna is recognized for her insights and has engaged audiences on the power of girls and women, youth leadership, Gen Z, the future of work, social justice, and DEI&B on some of the largest stages, including Cannes Lions, Fortune's Most Powerful Women Next Gen, SXSW, The World Economic Forum, and even ringside at WWE's WrestleMania. Building deep-rooted relationships with internal and external stakeholders is Anna's superpower, and it's reflected in her authentic relationships with the media, corporate leaders, policy-makers, celebrities and influencers, all of whom trust her authenticity and ability to impact and uplift communities.

Colby Bracy

FORWARD



Colby Marvin Bracy is the Director of People & Operations at The Nonantum Resort and Owner of Hello Humans HR Consulting. Colby cares deeply for others, and strives to live by The Nonantum's mission, Raising People Up, every day.

Colby was recently awarded the Innovator of the Year award by New England Inns and Resorts Association and the North Star award from the American Hotels and Lodging Association for her work in developing an inclusive work environment, which has involved employing a diverse group of people such as those with profound disabilities, formerly incarcerated individuals, and people in recovery from substance use disorder.

She currently serves as the Vice-Chair and DEI Committee Chair of the Kennebunk-Kennebunkport-Arundel Chamber of Commerce and sits on the Board of Directors for Recovery Friendly Workplace Maine. Through birth and foster care, Colby and her husband are raising three girls ages 1, 2, and 15.

**Director of People & Operations
The Nonantum Resort**

Kevin Carey

FORWARD



Kevin Carey serves as AHLA's interim president & CEO and senior executive vice president & chief operating officer. He works closely with AHLA's board and executive team to lead the association, which represents more than 30,000 members from all segments of the industry nationwide – including iconic global brands, 80% of all franchised hotels, and the 16 largest hotel companies in the U.S.

Kevin is responsible for all of AHLA's revenue generating operations, including membership engagement, partnership & business development, and conferences & events. He leads both strategic planning and financial operations oversight of AHLA and its Foundation. Kevin also supports AHLA's officers, Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and its numerous committees and councils.

Prior to joining AHLA, Kevin held senior executive leadership roles at American Express Company and American Express Global Business Travel. Most recently, he served as managing director and head of the Americas region and was responsible for the largest strategic customers and revenue generating region in the global business travel joint venture company. He spent more than two decades rising through the ranks at American Express, beginning his career in public affairs as a member of the company's government affairs office in Washington, D.C., before transitioning to client management and sales leadership roles in the company's card, merchant services, and travel business units.

Kevin has a breadth of experience across the travel and hospitality industries through his service as a board and executive committee member for numerous travel and tourism industry associations, including U.S. Travel and the Travel Business Roundtable. He also serves as an advisory board member at both Johns Hopkins University and Penn State University.

Interim President & CEO
AHLA

Jennifer Clark-Fugolo

FORWARD



**VP, Industry & Stakeholder
Engagement
AHLA Foundation**

Jennifer Clark Fugolo is Vice President of Industry & Stakeholder Engagement for the AHLA Foundation. She oversees DE&I-informed program development and delivery and drives stakeholder engagement efforts that influence the adoption of AHLAF's programs among the hotel industry and its partners. In late 2023, she assumed leadership responsibility to expand and strengthen ForWard, an industry-wide initiative to advance women leaders through a holistic suite of community building, events, professional development opportunities, and strategic partnerships.

Jenn joined the Foundation from Sunrise Senior Living, where, as Senior Director, she led the company's corporate communications function spanning crisis and reputation management, employee communications, executive visibility, and various aspects of external communications. In addition, she architected the company's DE&I roadmap and helped introduce new approaches to employee engagement through a DE&I lens. Jenn started her career at global public relations and marketing agency FleishmanHillard, where she served a range of non-profit, government, and corporate clients. Jenn received her undergraduate degree in Journalism from the University of Maryland, College Park, and D&I certification from Cornell University.

Jen Collins

FORWARD



President Procure Impact

Jen is a purpose-driven leader who has created a platform for success across a wide range of focus areas including hospitality, social impact, education, humanitarian and wellness. She is a seasoned executive with experience in both for-profit and non-profit organizations. A former Division 1 athlete, she has an entrepreneurial spirit with a bias towards action and has leadership expertise in strategy, operations, culture, communications, change management, and strategic alliances and partnerships.

She spent nearly two decades in the hospitality industry, having held leadership roles within both management companies and ownership groups. Most recently she was EVP Operations at EOS Hospitality, and has also had roles with LaSalle Hotel Properties, Westbrook Partners, and Tishman Hotel & Realty.

Prior to joining Procure Impact, Jen was the Head of Enterprise Operations at the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (“LISC”), the largest Community Development Financial Institution in the country doing work in economic development, especially in communities of color. She joined LISC from Georgetown University’s Beeck Center for Social Impact + Innovation, where she served as the Center’s Lead on Inclusive Community Impact Investing. She has worked extensively on strategies to deploy capital to low-income communities and has been an advisor to the White House, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, members of Congress, IRS/Treasury, and the Small Business Administration. She also founded the Beeck Center Investor Council—a cohort of investors, developers and fund managers focused on supporting community impact—and was a member of the Center’s Fair Finance initiative, examining structural inequities in the financial system.

Jen is involved with various youth empowerment initiatives in East Africa. She is working on increasing educational opportunities for children in rural communities through holistic community development. She is also a certified yoga and mindfulness instructor and co-founded a community program in the Anacostia neighborhood of Washington DC. Jen is a graduate of the School of Hotel Administration at Cornell University, where she was a member of the Women’s Varsity Basketball team.

Meghan Connolly

FORWARD



Meghan Connolly is currently the Senior Vice President for Global Client Group managing our large global merchant relationship with world's most influential merchants.

She has been responsible for a wide range of financial retail products, from deposits and mortgages to personal loans and credit cards. She has overseen these portfolios creating customer communications strategies, implementing card acquisition and activation programs, and developing customer segmentation strategies.

Meghan has a proven track record of leading large and diverse teams to deliver strong business growth. She is a strategic thinker, a customer advocate, and a strong relationship manager. She brings a global perspective having lived and worked in the U.S., Canada, the UK and Singapore.

Meghan frequently speaks on leadership and diversity. She received her Bachelor of Arts in English from Georgetown University and continued her executive education at Oxford University in the U.K.

**SVP, Global Client Group
American Express**

Gaby Corona

FORWARD



**Director
Service Culture & Performance
Hyatt Hotels Corporation**

Gabriela Corona, known affectionately as Gaby. From the vibrant region of Jalisco, Mexico, before migrating with my family to the USA in the early 90s. The first few years were very challenging, adapting to a new environment was anything but smooth sailing, compounded by the struggle to reconcile my Mexican heritage with the cultural nuances of my new surroundings. I faced bullying, a consequence of not fitting neatly into preconceived stereotypes. The cultural differences begin to die down as I found my way in this country, however the unknown of how university life in the USA worked soon became apparent. I found myself grappling with student debt and with my parents unable to assist I had to make the choice to withdraw from school and not complete my degree. After a few random jobs I joined a hotel as an admin and immediately fell in love with hospitality.

Embracing the unknown, I transitioned into Rooms and began to realize how much I loved the different aspects of hospitality, I didn't need to be an expert in one thing, I thrived feeling "uncomfortable" to learn new aspects of hospitality. I continued to take roles that were out of my element, but it all came to a halt when the pandemic struck.

Amidst the uncertainty, following a period of introspection, I gravitated back to Hyatt as its purpose and culture continued to inspire me as it aligned so closely to who I am.

Today, I stand at the forefront of an unparalleled transformation, working alongside hotel leaders and regional teams to embrace a growth mindset and revolutionize our approach to work. Witnessing the tangible impact of Agile on our operations reaffirms my belief in our collective purpose. With each milestone achieved, I am reminded that the journey is as enriching as the destination, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of this extraordinary evolution

Dexter Davis

FORWARD



**SVP HR-DE&I Global Inclusion
and Engagement, HR
Ecolab**

Since rejoining Ecolab in 2022, Dexter has significantly advanced Ecolab's 2030 diversity ambitions. With his team, he continues to expand diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) throughout the company's value chain. Under his leadership, the team's efforts have strengthened partnerships with the company's supply chain team and commercial businesses, expanding the impact of DEI and broadening its reach to their field organizations. This step-change in partnerships has helped to create a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive workplace as demonstrated by Ecolab's recent employee engagement score, which showed significant improvement across critical measures of enterprise engagement, retention, and inclusion.

His leadership impact is also evident in the development of Engagement and Inclusion teams within the company's manufacturing plants, the launch of the Commercial Diverse Talent Academy, and numerous customer engagements. Notably, his collaboration with the University of Southern California's Marshall School of Business has positioned Ecolab as an influential leader in the DEI space. Dexter's influence has raised awareness of the importance of an inclusive culture and positioned the Ecolab team for continued growth and success in 2024 and beyond.

Daniel del Olmo

FORWARD



President, Hotels & Restaurants Sage Hospitality Group

Daniel del Olmo is President, Hotels and Restaurants for Sage Hospitality Group - a purpose-led organization that recently celebrated its 40th anniversary – overseeing all aspects of both Sage’s Hotel and Restaurant Companies. Daniel is responsible for leading a team of over six thousand associates across an award-winning portfolio of more than 110 lifestyle hotels, restaurants, and entertainment venues across the nation. His focus is to deliver on Sage’s vision of becoming America’s favorite lifestyle hospitality company by enriching peoples’ lives, one experience at a time.

Daniel is a passionate and servant hospitality leader with more than 25 years of experience in growing hospitality brands and nurturing successful partnerships in more than 70 countries around the world. Daniel joined Sage from The Passionality Group, a company he co-founded that has a focus on growing emerging experiential lifestyle brands, such as Habitas and Rolling Stone.

Prior to the Passionality Group, Daniel was CEO of Disruptive Group, a subsidiary of lifestyle hospitality company sbe. His expansive career includes stints as President at Dine Brands Global and various executive roles with Wyndham Hotels & Resorts, Amadeus and Melia Hotels International.

In 2023, Daniel was named one of “the top 100 most influential people in USA hospitality and travel” by The International Hospitality Institute. He was also named to the list of most influential restaurant CEOs by Nation’s Restaurant News, was a recipient of Hotel News Now’ Hospitality Innovators’ Award and named “Rising Star” three years in a row by Travel Agent magazine.

Daniel sits on the boards of Gettys Group Companies, Marriott International’s owner advisory council (MINA), and Independent Lodging Congress. He is also a member of the Young Presidents’ Organization (YPO).

He is a Belgian native, speaks six languages, including Spanish, Dutch, French, Italian and Portuguese. He graduated from the University of Hasselt in 1996 with a degree in Applied Economic Sciences and in 1997 with a Master of Business Administration degree.

Laisha Dismuke

FORWARD



**Vice President, Human
Resources & Administration
RJL Lodging Trust**

Laisha Dismuke is a cultivator and creator of positive organizational cultures to foster workplaces that enable all employees to contribute to the organization at their full potential. A proven strategic leader with over fifteen years of experience in human resources and operations, she has worked with organizations to develop and implement strategies to address challenging workplace culture issues.

Laisha has a deep understanding of cultural dynamics and the impact they can have on a company's success. She has a proven track record of helping organizations to build more inclusive cultures, resulting in increased productivity, employee engagement, and retention. Prior to her work at RJL Lodging Trust and AHLA, Laisha partnered with Fortune 500 companies, including Citi, IBM, and Vodafone, to successfully design and initiate results-oriented DEI-focused workshops, programs, training, dialogues, and discussions for senior leaders, people managers, and staff that encourage learning, reflection, awareness, and understanding as well as community-building, ultimately inspiring organizational growth and progress.

Laisha's deep appreciation for human development and commitment to transformational change fuels her approach to facilitating teams and engaging with groups to reveal the collective intelligence in the room and bring about real growth and development while ensuring that all personality types participate fully and with enthusiasm in order to reveal unexpected ideas and generate solutions.

Dorothy Dowling

FORWARD



**Principal
Introspect Advisors and
Special Advisor to HSMAI**

Dorothy Dowling, ISHC is a seasoned management consultant and growth advisor, with Horwath HTL with over 40 years of experience in the global hospitality industry. As the former Global Chief Marketing Officer and SVP of Sales at Best Western, she excelled at shaping marketing and commercial strategies.

Dowling actively contributes to HSMAI and is a special advisor to the HSMAI Foundation Board. Her industry leadership earned her prestigious Lifetime Achievement awards from HSMAI, the NYU Investment Conference, and GBTA. She holds an Honors BA and MA from the University of Waterloo, completed executive programs at Harvard and MIT, and holds postgraduate certifications in D&I and ESG from Cornell. Dowling is also a public trustee at CubeSmart (NYSE:CUBE), the third largest Storage REIT, and is Director-certified by the National Association of Corporate Directors

Ann Fastiggi

FORWARD



Leadership Advisor Spencer Stuart

With more than 15 years of experience advising hospitality and leisure organizations, Ann Fastiggi is passionate about helping clients navigate their most important business and leadership challenges, including technology-driven transformation. Drawing on a highly consultative and supportive approach to client work, Ann has helped recruit some of the industry's most successful leaders in the sector today and has an excellent track record of helping clients attract women and other leaders from historically underrepresented groups. Her clients span the hospitality and leisure sector, including hotels, restaurants, cruise lines, gaming companies, theme parks and online travel agencies (OTAs), and the broader consumer sector.

Deep knowledge of and relationships in the hospitality sector

- Ann is a member of Spencer Stuart's Consumer, CEO and Board practices, working with clients to recruit board directors, CEOs and senior leaders in general management, finance, strategy and operations. She also has a passion for the commercial side of consumer companies, including chief marketing officers, chief commercial officers, chief revenue officers, chief customer officers, brand leaders and many other sales and business development roles.
- Before joining Spencer Stuart, Ann was a managing director with a global search firm, where she led the hospitality and leisure practice. She started her career with another executive search firm before moving into human resources with Time.

Ann has a bachelor's degree in psychology from Boston University and a master's degree in counseling psychology from Temple University. She also serves on the advisory board of Boston University's School of Hospitality Administration.

Carol Fowler

FORWARD



**Senior Manager,
Government Affairs and
Public Policy, Federal &
International
Marriott International**

Carol Fowler joined Marriott International in April 2021 and currently serves as Senior Manager, Government Affairs and Public Policy – Federal & International, working with Capitol Hill, the Administration, and foreign governments to advance policies that grow Marriott’s business. In this role, she’s worked on a variety of policy issues including COVID-19 recovery and improving the international inbound travel process.

Prior to joining Marriott, Fowler served as a Senior Policy Advisor in the United States Senate. From 2012 to 2021, Fowler worked in a variety of roles in the Senate, covering national security, labor and commerce policy. She earned a BA in Communications, Law, Economics and Government (CLEG) and a Master’s in Public Administration (MPA) from American University in Washington, DC. Outside of work, Fowler sits on the Board of the Columbia Area Mothers of Multiples (CAMOM) and serves as an alumna mentor with American University’s chapter of Sigma Delta Tau sorority. She lives in Maryland with her husband and twin daughters.

Dawn Gallagher

FORWARD



Dawn Gallagher is an accomplished sales and marketing executive with extensive experience in multiple markets and experience working with both branded and independent hotels. As Chief Commercial Officer, Dawn oversees all Crescent sales, marketing, public relations, revenue and digital strategies.

Prior to joining Crescent Hotels & Resorts, Dawn served as the Senior Vice President of Sales & Marketing at Interstate Hotels, where she was responsible for all sales, marketing and revenue for all independent hotels in NYC, Interstate owned assets, as well as other priority projects. Dawn is a key asset to Crescent Hotels & Resorts as she provides knowledge of successful hotel openings, brand transitions and the ability to drive market share.

**Chief Commercial Officer
Crescent Hotels & Resorts**

Mark Hoplamazian

FORWARD



President & CEO Hyatt Hotels Corporation

Mark S. Hoplamazian was appointed to the Hyatt Board of Directors in November 2006 and named President and Chief Executive Officer of Hyatt Hotels Corporation in December 2006. Prior to being appointed to his present position, Mr. Hoplamazian served as President of The Pritzker Organization, LLC, the principal financial and investment advisor to certain Pritzker family business interests.

During his 17-year tenure with TPO, he served as advisor to various Pritzker family-owned companies, including Hyatt Hotels Corporation and its predecessors. Mr. Hoplamazian previously worked in international mergers and acquisitions at The First Boston Corporation in New York. He is a Director of the Board of VF Corporation, and member of their Talent & Compensation and Finance committees.

Mr. Hoplamazian serves on the Executive Committee of the American Hotel & Lodging Association, the Board of Directors of Brand USA, and the Executive Committee of the World Travel & Tourism Council. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of World Business Chicago; the Chairman of Skills for Chicagoland's Future; the Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Aspen Institute and a member of the Discovery Class of the Henry Crown Fellowship. Mr. Hoplamazian is a member of the Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago and serving as the co-chair of the Committee's Public Safety Task Force.

Kevin Jacobs

FORWARD



Chief Financial Officer & President, Global Development Hilton

Kevin Jacobs is chief financial officer and president, Global Development for Hilton, and leads the company's finance, real estate, corporate strategy, development and architecture and construction functions globally. Mr. Jacobs joined the company in 2008 as senior vice president, Corporate Strategy; was elected treasurer in 2009; was appointed executive vice president & chief of staff in 2012; assumed the role of chief financial officer in 2013; and added the role of president, Global Development in 2020.

Prior to Hilton, Mr. Jacobs was senior vice president, Mergers & Acquisitions and Treasurer of Fairmont Raffles Hotels International. Prior to Fairmont Raffles, Mr. Jacobs spent seven years with Host Hotels & Resorts, ultimately serving as vice president, Corporate Strategy & Investor Relations. Prior to Host, Mr. Jacobs had various roles in the Hospitality Consulting Practice of PwC and the Hospitality Valuation Group of Cushman & Wakefield.

Mr. Jacobs is a member of the Board of Directors of Omega Healthcare Investors, Inc., a triple-net, equity REIT (NYSE: OHI) that supports the goals of skilled nursing facility and assisted living facility operators with financing and capital. He is also a trustee of Cornell University and a member of the Dean's Advisory Board of the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration; is vice chair of the Board of Directors of Goodwill of Greater Washington; and is a trustee of the Federal City Council. He also serves as chair of the American Hotel & Lodging Association.

Kevin is a graduate of the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration.

Zainab Johnson

FORWARD



**Stand-up Comedian,
Actress and Writer**

Zainab Johnson, a stand-up comedian, actress and writer, is quickly being propelled as one of the most unique and engaging performers on stage and screen. Zainab's comedy is based on her unique point-of-view, which was shaped growing up in Harlem as one of thirteen siblings in a Muslim family. After getting a degree in math and taking a job as a teacher, she quickly learned that she had a different calling.

Zainab was named as one of Variety's 2019 "10 Comics to Watch" and can be seen starring in Greg Daniels's upcoming Amazon series, *UPLOAD*, and recently made her late night debut on *Late Night with Seth Meyers*.

Other recent credits include a recurring role in PowderKeg's *EAST OF LA BREA*, created by Sameer Gardezi and executive produced by Paul Feig. She was honored as a New Face of Comedy at the prestigious Montreal Just For Laughs Festival and is developing a scripted television show based on her family, with Amy Poehler.

Zainab was also recently featured in the *LA Times* as a female African-American comedian to watch, alongside Tiffany Haddish and Issa Rae.

Lucia Kanter, St. Amour

FORWARD



Lucia Kanter St. Amour is a Vice President for UN Women, attorney, and law professor turned everyday negotiation superhero. She teaches how to harness your everyday negotiation superpowers so you can land your dream job, get your kids to eat their peas, and be the most powerful person in the room.

As the author of *For the Forces of Good: The Superpower of Everyday Negotiation*, Lucia wants you to know that negotiation isn't just for business. It's everybody's business.

**Attorney, Author, VP
Emerita UN Women USA
Pactum Factum**

Alyshia Mangalji

FORWARD



VP, Europe & Africa Westmont Hospitality

Alyshia Mangalji is Vice President of Europe and Africa at Westmont and is based in London. Her father and his family founded Westmont Hospitality over 40 years ago and it remains a family-owned business today. From a single hotel, the organisation has become one of the largest private hotel owner/operators in the world with significant presence in North America, Europe, Asia and Africa.

Ms Mangalji has worked professionally in various sectors of the hospitality industry—from asset management/operations to design to brand-repositioning and strategy. Ms Mangalji leads the European and African teams on value-add opportunities for Westmont and manages several assets, new projects and investments. Ms Mangalji is also responsible for other privately-held, non-hotel investments.

As a Board member, Ms Mangalji has a holistic view of Westmont's global strategy and ensures commercial realities of the business are relayed to all stakeholders, creating a unified vision for success and growth across the group.

In the impact space, Ms Mangalji is passionate about tangibly supporting entrepreneurship and education via University of West London's Westmont Enterprise Hub and sits on the Board of the Westmont Institute of Tourism and Hospitality in partnership with NOVA SBE in Portugal. Ms Mangalji has a bachelor's degree from The School of Hotel Administration at Cornell University and an MBA from The University of Oxford—Saïd Business School.

Alessandra Marsico

FORWARD



Alessandra Marsico is a dynamic legal professional in the hotel and lodging sector, serving as Pebblebrook Hotel Trust's in-house counsel, a first for the company, and as head of the legal department. With the company since 2019, Ms. Marsico manages Pebblebrook's legal matters, leads the company's lobbying efforts in the lodging industry, ensures compliance with laws and regulations and oversees risk management initiatives for the company's portfolio of hotels and resorts.

Ms. Marsico hails from Italy, where she graduated with a degree in political science, and landed in Washington DC to pursue her legal degree at the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law

**Corporate Council
Pebblebrook Hotel Trust**

Ashley McNeil

FORWARD



VP, Federal Affairs AHLA

Ashley has over a decade of experience in political strategy, fundraising, coalition building and nonprofit leadership. Currently, she serves as the Vice President of Federal Affairs at the American Hotel and Lodging Association (AHLA) where she advocates on a variety of issues critical to the ongoing success of the evolving hotel industry – including but not limited to immigration and workforce issues, sustainability priorities, and human trafficking awareness and prevention.

Ashley comes to AHLA after working as a political fundraiser and strategist at the local, state, and federal levels. Her previous role was at the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee where she served as the Director of Battleground Fundraising and oversaw the fundraising operation and campaign strategy for Frontline Members and Red to Blue Candidates. During her tenure, her team raised a record breaking \$48million.

Additionally, Ashley is the Co-Chair of the H-2B Coalition, a board member for Stable Arts, an executive board member and development chair at Alive! and is instrumental in the “Spelman on the Hill” program.

A native of Alexandria, Virginia, Ashley graduated from Spelman College with a degree in Economics and from American University with a Master’s in Public Policy.

Ashley is the mom of two sons and resides in Northeast DC.

Katie Moore

FORWARD



**VP, Strategy & Executive Management
AHLA Foundation**

Katie Moore, CMP is the vice president of strategy and executive management for the American Hotel & Lodging Foundation. In this role, she is responsible for management of the AHLA Foundation's Board of Trustees, as well as oversight of organizational strategy and processes. Katie also leads ForWard, AHLAF's women's leadership initiative.

Katie started her career in the meetings industry with government meetings. She then joined the American Hotel & Lodging Association, where she advanced to lead AHLA's conferences and events department. In this position, she was responsible for the development and execution of all annual programs, event strategy and resource management.

She obtained her certified meeting professional (CMP) designation, and is a long-standing member of Meeting Professionals International, previously serving as vice president on the Board of Directors of her local chapter. She holds a B.A. in anthropology from Union College, in Schenectady, New York.

Malaika Myer

FORWARD



Chief Human Resources Officer Hyatt Hotels Corporation

Malaika Myers has had a 25+ year career in Human Resources, working in the chemical, consumer products, and hospitality industries for public and private companies. She currently serves as EVP, Chief Human Resources Officer for Hyatt Hotels Corporation where she is responsible for the firm's human capital and talent strategy and works as a member of the Executive Committee to develop and execute the overall business strategy.

Prior to joining Hyatt Malaika led the global human resources function for Jarden Corporation. Before Jarden she served as CHRO for Arysta LifeScience, where she led the HR function through a transition in operating model and worked to prepare the company for an IPO/acquisition. Prior to Arysta Malaika served in various senior human resources roles at Diageo PLC, a global wine and spirits company.

Earlier in her career Malaika spent 10 years with PepsiCo. During her tenure there she held a variety of Human Resource positions with Frito-Lay, Pepsi-Cola and the PepsiCo Corporate organization. In her last role with PepsiCo she served as Vice President, Human Resources for the PepsiCo Sales organization. She started her career with FMC Corporation where she worked in a variety of human resources roles. During her career Malaika has sponsored and led numerous change management efforts that have been transformational, including talent pipeline development, business operating model transformations, and cultural changes.

Malaika earned her Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Business from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She is a member of the Board of Directors for Wella, an innovative global company in the beauty industry, a member of the Board of Directors for Skills for Chicagoland's Future, and a member of the AHLA (American Hotel & Lodging Association) DE&I Taskforce, and the Advisory Council for ForWard - Women Advancing Hospitality.

Malaika resides in Stamford, CT with her husband and two children.

Lina Patel

FORWARD



**Director, Strategic
Franchise Initiatives
Red Roof Inn Franchising**

Lina is a Director of Strategic Franchise Initiatives with Red Roof Inn Franchising. She is a second-generation hotelier with 27 years of experience in hotel ownership and investments. She is highly experienced in advancing women and underrepresented in hotel ownership by providing networking and educational opportunity. She plays multiple leadership roles in various aspects of life ranging from, personal passion of leading hikers to the Himalayas, to serving as a board of directors on several hotel and cultural organizations.

Recently Lina helped launch the AAHOA's HerOwnership program that is dedicated to opening doors for women in hotel ownership. She has been part of hosting over 100 cultural and hotel industry related events across the nation. She has over 14 years of experience as a speaker, panelist, moderator, and a presenter. Lina has successfully led over 1000 trekkers for hikes into the Himalayas since 2010. Her recent accomplishment is the launch of a program called RIDE with Red Roof, which aims to provide a road to Inclusivity and Diversity in Entrepreneurship. RIDE with Red Roof aims to expand and further diversify hotel ownership and entrepreneurial opportunities for women and underrepresented groups via four main pathways: Access to Capital, educational resources, building a network, and creating connections to industry vendor partners.

Stephanie Piirmauna

FORWARD



**SVP Chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer
Seminole Hard Rock**

Stephanie develops Diversity and Inclusion strategies that drive results. By leveraging diversity and inclusion principles, she focuses on cultivating inclusive environments that are measurable through a set of specific goals. She develops scorecards that track progress and holds leaders accountable. She leads a team responsible for creating development opportunities, managing Team Member Resource Groups and Diversity Councils, designing and overseeing mentoring, coaching and sponsorship programs, enhances the company reputation through reputation surveys, measure diversity and inclusion efforts through the use of advanced analytics and developing and delivering Diversity & Inclusion education.

With the background in Human Resources and Diversity & Inclusion, Stephanie passionately drives for change through the application of cutting-edge approaches that produce lasting outcomes. As part of her work in D&I, Stephanie coaches leaders to develop the skills needed to grow internal talent and fill the talent pipeline. She helps leaders' surface potential biases and implement strategies to attract, develop and retain diverse talent. In addition, Stephanie is an internal consultant in areas of Sales, Marketing, Supplier Diversity, Information Technology, Business Operations, Market Place Expansion, Workforce Development, Customer Service, and more.

Stephanie holds her degree in Business and Human Resources and earned certifications in Leadership Effectiveness, Diversity & Inclusion, Change & Project Management and Finance. She is a coach and a member of the International Coaching Federation (ICF). She has served as a Diversity & Inclusion consultant, facilitator, and keynote speaker for organizations and conferences within the United States, Europe, and Asia.

Liz Plank

FORWARD



CEO Liz Plank Productions

Liz is a filmmaker, award-winning journalist, author, and was the executive producer and host of several critically acclaimed digital series at Vox Media and NBC News. Liz is the co-host of Race to 35 on Dax Sheppard's Armchair Umbrella. She's also the co-host of the Man Enough podcast alongside Justin Baldoni and Jamey Heath where they interview influential figures about their journey to manhood. She is also directing her first film, Not So Special, on the future of disability rights. Her most recent critically acclaimed international bestselling book "For The Love of Men: a Vision for Mindful Masculinity" was featured in *Vogue*, *Esquire*, *Playboy*, *ELLE Magazine*, *GQ*, *NPR*, *The Washington Post* on *Morning Joe* and on Dax Shepard's *Armchair Expert*.

Her solution-based journalism newsletter *Airplane Mode* has thousands of subscribers. Liz has one million followers across all social media platforms, but her proudest accomplishment by far remains being blocked by the 45th president of the United States.

Liz sits on the board of Girl Up, a United Nations Foundation initiative to help girls access their inner power.

She's the CEO of Liz Plank Productions and is a columnist for MSNBC and has been listed as one of Forbes' 30 Under 30, Mediaite's Most Influential in News Media, and Marie Claire's Most Powerful Women, and was named one of the World's Most Influential People in Gender Policy by Apolitical.

Liz regularly appears on national and international television programs to provide a perspective on politics, gender issues, and reproductive rights, including The Today Show, The Daily Show, MSNBC, CNN, ABC News, Fusion, Al-Jazeera America and BBC World. Through her activism and creative approach to journalism, Liz has made it her mission to elevate the voices of those who are often not heard.

Before becoming a journalist, Liz worked at a community center for people with disabilities and a researcher and behavioral science consultant at the London School of Economics, from which she holds a master's degree in policy with an emphasis in global gender politics.

Tracy Prigmore

FORWARD



Managing Partner TLTsolutions + She Has a Deal

Tracy L. Prigmore is an award-winning executive and the Founder of TLTsolutions, a real estate investment and development firm that provides unparalleled access and insight to alternative investments. Tracy's mission is to empower people to build generational wealth, and through TLTsolutions she creates opportunities for individuals, families and entities to obtain passive income by investing in residential, multifamily and hotel projects.

As the sponsor for real estate investments, Tracy works with property management to maximize the value of each asset. She has a sterling record of bringing real estate ventures to life and maximizing their financial performance through sound asset management, as well as disciplined investment and renovation strategies. Currently, TLTsolutions has multi-million-dollar portfolio of real estate assets under management in four states. With the firm's launch of its first fund, Prosperity Fund I focused on lodging properties; TLTsolutions is actively pursuing acquisitions and redevelopment projects that will more than double its portfolio.

Chosen as Person of the Year by LODGING in 2021, recognized in 2022 as one of the 100 Most Powerful People in Global Hospitality by International Hospitality Institute (IHI), as well as Woman of the Year by Enterprising Women; Tracy is the creator of *She Has a Deal*, an EdTech platform, real estate investment accelerator and ecosystem that creates new pathways to commercial real estate ownership and development for women and people of color. *She Has a Deal's* renowned Hotel Investment Pitch Competition, SHaDPitch, is creating a pipeline of women owners and developers by preparing them to become sponsors and lead hotel investment projects. TLTsolutions recently established SHaD Prosperity Fund I and is raising capital to fund the women led projects originating from the pitch competition and the *She Has a Deal* platform.

Leticia Proctor

FORWARD



**Executive Vice President
Donohoe Hospitality Services**

Leticia Proctor is the Executive Vice President at Donohoe Hospitality Services. Leticia provides leadership and strategy for sales, marketing, revenue management, new builds and property renovations. Leticia focuses on maximizing total hotel revenue that increases profitability while building a sales culture that promotes staff development and retention for DHS and its hotel portfolio.

Leticia has over thirty years of experience in the hospitality industry, working with major hotel companies to improve sales, marketing, catering, revenue management, digital strategies and hotel operations. She has held sales and marketing positions with well-known hotel companies including PM Hotel Group, Kimpton Hotels, Hersha Hospitality Management, Crestline Hotels, Remington Hotels, Interstate Hotels & Resorts, Loews Hotels and Hospitality Partners.

Leticia is recognized as one of the Top 25 Most Influential Women, Top 25 Most Inspirational Executives in Travel/Hospitality and Top 100 Most Influential Leaders in Hospitality by International Hospitality Institute. She is also the recipient of the Minority Business Leader Award by the Washington Business Journal, Top 25 Most Extraordinary Minds Award by HSMIA and selected as a Hoya Professional 30 by Georgetown University.

Leticia obtained her Bachelor of Science in Legal Studies with a minor in Business Law and Public Policy from the University of Maryland. Leticia also received her Masters of Professional Studies in Hospitality Management at Georgetown University.

Milena Regos

FORWARD



Milena Regos is a rebel leader of the Unhustle Movement, future of work visionary, and former CMO on a mission to dismantle the toxic Hustle Culture and redefine the way we live and work, empowering and equipping individuals and teams to create sustainable and relaxed success without exhaustion and burnout.

Founder
Unhustle®

Shola Richards

FORWARD



**Founder & CEO
Go Together Global &
Best Selling Author**

Shola Richards is the CEO and Founder of Go Together Global™, the best-selling author of Making Work Work, and Go Together, and he is a civility writer with a passionate worldwide following. His articles and extremely popular “Go Together Movement” email series have been read by readers in over 160 countries, and his work has been featured on the Today Show, CBS This Morning, Forbes, Black Enterprise, Complete Wellbeing India, Business Insider Australia, and in numerous other outlets all over the world who recognize him as an authority on workplace happiness and engagement.

As a speaker, Shola has shared his transformative message with top universities, leading healthcare organizations, Silicon Valley, the motion picture industry, on the TEDx stage, and in his greatest honor to date, in September 2021, he was invited to testify in front of the House of Representatives on Capitol Hill to share his expert recommendations on how to bring more civility to Congress.

Last, but certainly not least, Shola is a father, husband, identical twin, and a self-professed “kindness extremist” who will not rest until bullying and incivility is extinct from the American workplace.

Anu Saxena

FORWARD



**President
Hilton Supply Management**

Anu Saxena is President of Hilton Supply Management (HSM), where she leads the world's largest hospitality supply chain organization. She oversees services for more than 17,000 properties and over 140 unique brands across 145 countries, influencing \$13 billion in global spend with over 3,000 suppliers. Saxena guided the transformation of HSM's business model into an industry-leading, customer-focused organization. Under her leadership, HSM has more than doubled its customer base and continues to drive global commercial performance for owners, management companies, and franchisees.

Additionally, Saxena leads an award-winning Responsible Sourcing program that has earned HSM recognition from the Dow Jones Sustainability Index, Ecovadis, the Women's Business Enterprise National Council, the National Business Inclusion Consortium, the National Minority Supplier Development Council, and Fair 360.

A proud alumna of the Fisher College of Business at The Ohio State University, Saxena currently serves on the boards of the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC), the American Hotel Lodging Association Foundation, and the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts.

She resides in McLean, Virginia with her husband and two children.

Julienne Smith

FORWARD



**Chief Development Officer
IHG Hotels**

Julienne Smith is currently the Chief Development Officer for IHG Hotels & Resorts where she oversees the company's growth in the Americas region. Prior to joining IHG, she was Senior Vice President Development & Owner Relations for Hyatt Hotels Corporation based in Chicago from 2014 until 2019 where she was responsible for franchised and managed development in the United States and Canada. Julienne joined Hyatt in 2005 to help launch and oversee the growth of Hyatt's select service brands throughout the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic regions of the United States. Julienne held several positions within Marriott International's Lodging Development group in Bethesda, MD and Newport Beach, CA, prior to joining Hyatt.

Julienne is a graduate of Boston University's College of Arts & Sciences. She currently serves on the Dean's Advisory Board for BU's School of Hospitality Administration. She is an active member in several hospitality industry organizations including serving as an executive board member for AHLA's Foundation and ULI's Hotel Council. Julienne serves on the Advisory and Planning Committees for the Hunter Hotel Conference, The Americas Lodging Investment Summit, NYU Hospitality Investment Conference and AHLA's ForWard. She also serves on the Dean's Advisory Board for University of Georgia's College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences.

Julienne currently sits on the board of the nonprofit SafeHouse Outreach in Atlanta and volunteers for various charitable organization tied to Love Atlanta. She is an avid non-fiction reader, Yoga and mixed martial arts enthusiast, traveler and outdoor adventurer. A native of New Jersey, she currently resides in the city of Atlanta with her husband, two children and two dogs

Talene Staab

FORWARD



Brand Leader Home2 Suites by Hilton Hilton

As Brand Leader of Home2 Suites by Hilton, Talene Lanuza Staab serves as the chief strategist for one of the fastest growing brands in Hilton's history, which also boasts the largest U.S. development pipeline in the industry. In her role, she is responsible for driving global growth, guest loyalty, overall performance, and brand culture.

Prior to this role, Staab served as Global Head of Tru by Hilton, growing the new brand to over 220 hotels in five years. She also served as Vice President, Owner Experience & Engagement, overseeing the team responsible for advancing overall owner value and satisfaction, and building a best-in-class experience for Hilton's owner community. Staab helped launch the Canopy by Hilton brand and had extensive experience on the Embassy Suites brand team.

A seasoned hospitality leader with more than 30 years of experience with Hilton, Staab started her career at Hilton as the group sales manager for Embassy Suites San Diego - La Jolla before becoming the director of sales for the hotel. Throughout her tenure at Hilton, she has worked across various teams and brands, providing her with a unique and holistic understanding of the hospitality industry.

Staab credits her passion for hospitality to her parents' restaurant in Boston, where everyone became a "regular" and home cooking was the specialty.

Staab is active with American Hotel & Lodging Association's initiative, ForWard: Advancing Women in Hospitality, and the Women in Hospitality Leadership Alliance, which are dedicated to providing the mentorship, education, and tools to help women advance and succeed in hospitality.

Staab holds a bachelor's degree in Hotel & Business Administration from the University of New Hampshire. She resides in Northern Virginia with her husband Tony, daughter Arika, and son Anthony.

Carol Tell Morse

FORWARD



Carol Tell Morse is an instructor of college-level writing and literature and a college administrator. She has taught at the George Washington University, University of Michigan, and, currently, Yale University. Along with teaching, she served as Director of Lloyd Scholars for Writing and the Arts at the University of Michigan for almost 20 years.

Her Ph.D. is in Irish literature, and her academic interests include creative writing, poetry and poetics, creativity, children's literature, and Irish studies. Currently she is teaching two courses at Yale, "Creative Obsessions" and "The Secret Lives of Children," and serves as a writing instructor for an upper-level writing course called "Daily Themes." She writes poetry, fiction, and non-fiction.

Lecturer, English Department
Yale College

Tatia Torrey

FORWARD



Leadership Advisor Spencer Stuart

Tatia Torrey is a leadership advisor in the global Consumer Practice at Spencer Stuart. Based in the Chicago office, Tatia advises consumer focused hospitality and retail companies, ranging from Fortune 50 to small/mid-sized private or private equity backed clients, on how leaders, teams and culture can drive sustained impact. She has worked extensively as a trusted advisor to senior executives and boards in top talent recruitment, organizational transformation and promoting diversity in leadership.

Strategic retail and consumer expertise

- Before joining Spencer Stuart, Tatia was president and chief client officer for Havas, a global networked advertising and marketing agency, where she led business operations and focused on executive-level client relationships across the agency's consumer markets.
- Prior to Havas, she spent over 15 years in agency leadership roles developing strategies to drive value in the evolving online landscape.

Tatia earned her bachelor's degree in psychology and an M.Ed. in vocational counseling from the University of Georgia. She is a member of the American Marketing Association, the Women's Purpose Council, She Runs It and has served as a CEO mentor for the Girls Scouts.

Brooklynn Tucker

FORWARD



Student

**The Marriott-Sorenson Center
for Hospitality Leadership,
Howard University**

Brooklynn Tucker is a sophomore at Howard University, majoring in International Business and minoring in Spanish. She is a proud Marriott-Sorenson Scholar for hospitality leadership, attending notable conferences such as ALIS and Hunter, and speaking at events like the International Society of Hospitality Consultants.

As a dedicated student leader, Brooklynn juggles multiple campus roles and orchestrates large-scale million dollar events like Springfest, featuring top celebrities and attaining sponsors, all while maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA. Her hard work led to an internship at McKinsey and Co. during her freshman year, and she is thrilled to return this summer to their Miami Office.

Passionate about the hospitality industry, Brooklynn aspires to establish a global hotel ownership company prioritizing impact-driven hospitality. Post-graduation, she is determined to leverage her degree and cross-cultural understanding to revolutionize the way people travel and positively impact every community she touches.

Kim Twiggs

FORWARD



**Associate Vice President
DIRECTV Hospitality**

As an Associate Vice President of DIRECTV, Kim manages the company's Hospitality & Institutions business unit which includes creating and implementing strategies that support the sale of DIRECTV free-to-guest programming and products to hotels, hospitals, senior living facilities and universities.

Kim's team leads both direct and indirect sales and distribution, including a network of 150 in-room television integrator partners. Products sold through these distribution channels include the Advanced Entertainment Platform (AEP), DIRECTV Residential Experience (DRE) and COM3000, through which guests can access hundreds of HD channels, premium On Demand, Over The Top and Streaming content. Previously, Kim oversaw the development and growth of DIRECTV's Multi-Dwelling Unit (MDU) business.

Kim has been with DIRECTV since 2006 and lives in Colorado with her husband, George and their kids, Jax and Alexandra.

Rachel Vandenberg

FORWARD



Rachel Vandenberg is a hotel owner and leadership coach. She has been co-owner of the Sun & Ski Inn and Suites, Stowe Bowl and Stowe Golf Park in Stowe, Vermont since 2012 and served as General Manager until 2023.

In addition to her responsibilities as hotel owner, Rachel is the founder of The Travel Leader, a leadership content and coaching company. Rachel also sits on the boards of her local destination marketing organization and the New England Inns and Resorts Association. In 2019, she founded a leadership development retreat for women in travel called Accelerate Women Leaders in Travel and joined the Women in Hospitality Leadership Alliance on behalf of Accelerate in 2022.

Outside of her career, she is a wife, mom of three and loves to be in the woods on her mountain bike or nordic skis. Learn more at www.sunandskiinn.com, www.thetravelleadercoach.com and www.womenleadersintravel.com

**Executive Leadership Coach
The Travel Leader**

Michelle Woodley

FORWARD



President Preferred Travel Group

Michelle Woodley is the President of Preferred Travel Group. In this role, she oversees multiple departments across the company including sales, marketing, IT, revenue management, and customer relations. She also works closely with CEO Lindsey Ueberroth on financial planning and talent management, supports the development of other strategic areas of focus within the organization, and serves as a company spokesperson.

Since joining the company in 2002, Michelle has held various leadership positions with cross-functional responsibilities. She has used her expertise to help the company successfully execute on major global initiatives designed to foster longevity of the Preferred brand such as two comprehensive rebranding initiatives, the launch of multiple brand websites, a Revenue Management Certification Program, the company's global central reservation system and call center services, and the creation of the *I Prefer* Hotel Rewards program. In 2018, she received recognition by *Hotel Management* as one of the most influential women in hospitality.

Michelle is currently on the Sabre Hospitality Executive Advisory Board and Americas Board of Directors of the Hospitality Sales & Marketing Association International (HSMIA) and served as Chair of the HSMIA Foundation. Michelle is a graduate of Cornell University School of Hotel Administration and is based in Chicago.