

# Charting Your Own **CAREER PATH** as a Young Architect



**JANIECE WILLIAMS**

Co-Founder &  
Executive Director  
LeaderFlow



**PETER NOONAN**

**FAIA, LEED AP**  
Professor of Practice  
University of Maryland



**VIVIAN LEE**

**FAIA, LEED AP**  
Principal, Design Director  
Gensler



**ERICA NELLES**

**AIA**  
President  
Dewberry Architects, Inc.



## Young Architects Forum

**AIA** Member group

# UPCOMING WEBINAR

## Charting Your Own CAREER PATH

as a Young Architect

### WHEN:

JUNE 10, 2025

3:00 – 4:30PM EST

### WHERE:

ZOOM – USE THE QR CODE OR LINK IN BIO

### COST:

FREE!



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**JANIECE WILLIAMS**

Co-Founder &  
Executive Director  
LeaderFlow

Janiece Williams is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of LeaderFlow, a nonprofit dedicated to empowering diverse mid-career professionals through its annual leadership development program. LeaderFlow addresses a critical gap in the architecture, engineering, and construction (AEC) career pipeline, where diverse leadership remains significantly underrepresented and retention challenges continue to persist. Trained as an architectural designer and a graduate of LeaderFlow's pilot cohort, Janiece is deeply committed to supporting emerging professionals as they navigate and advance within the AEC industry. She recognized the transformative power of prioritizing personal growth to cultivate a new generation of impactful and inclusive leaders in the field.

Janiece has been actively involved in the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) serving on the Southern California Chapter's Executive Board from 2018 to 2021. During her tenure, she was a planning committee member and mentor for the annual Project Pipeline Architecture & Engineering Summer Camp for middle and high school students. She was also instrumental in launching the SoCal NOMA Diversity Equity and Inclusion Challenge in 2020, the first structured DEI initiative in the architecture industry, aimed at addressing the longstanding lack of diverse representation.

She believes that attracting and retaining top talent requires fostering inclusive work environments, promoting diverse career pathways, and investing in comprehensive personal and professional development at all career stages. LeaderFlow currently operates in Los Angeles, Seattle, Houston, New York, and Chicago, with plans for continued national expansion.

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**PETER NOONAN**

**FAIA, LEED AP**  
Professor of Practice  
University of Maryland

Peter Noonan, FAIA is a distinguished architect and educator whose three-decade career has bridged award-winning practice and impactful teaching. As a principal at McInturff Architects—one of the Mid-Atlantic region's most highly respected firms—Noonan has led the design and execution of over 60 projects, earning more than 90 regional and national design awards. His work is known for its exceptional integration of tectonic clarity, building craft, and systems coordination.

Noonan's dedication to place-making and design excellence extends into academia. Since 2007, he has served as Professor of Practice at the University of Maryland, where he led the Integrated Design Studio for ten years and consistently advanced innovative, sustainability-focused curricula. His teaching has produced nationally recognized student work, including multiple AIA COTE Top Ten awards and top honors in the ACSA Timber in the City competitions.

He founded and directs the SCANDINAVIA: Culture & Place education abroad program, enriching students' global design perspectives. His seminar Sensing Architecture: Body & Place explores multi-sensory design and has included collaborations with the National Federation of the Blind, promoting inclusive architectural thinking.

Noonan pursues design excellence as an architect and teacher, thoughtfully shaping the communities he serves. He designs buildings with sophisticated craft, creating immersive, sensory-rich spaces while mentoring the next generation of accomplished architects.

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**VIVIAN LEE**

**FAIA, LEED AP**  
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From her early life in Taiwan and Paraguay to her professional practice in Italy, China, and the U.S., Vivian's work is influenced by a boundless collection of cultures, histories, and consciousness. Enriched by her experience of living and practicing in different countries, her architecture is efficient and poetic, technologically advanced, environmentally conscious, and engagingly humanistic.

With an extensive background leading award-winning projects of all types and scales, Vivian Lee brings over 30 years of passion for the design industry to Gensler, NY. Driven by a belief that good design can and should inspire, she encourages the team to balance creative vision with practical solutions to deliver value to the client and end user. Vivian's diverse portfolio includes innovative projects for commercial offices, hotels, airports, universities, schools, workplaces, and residential sectors. Her design contribution to the built environment and leadership within the architecture profession led to Vivian's elevation to the distinguished American Institute of Architects College of Fellows in 2020.

She served on the AIA New York Board of Directors and is committed to mentoring the next generation of designers. The AIA has recognized her for her extraordinary dedication to promoting, advancing, and elevating the role of women in architecture as the co-chair of the Women in Architecture Committee.

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## **ERICA NELLES**

**AIA**  
President  
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Erica Nelles is president of Dewberry's architecture practice where she oversees a national team of more than 140 professionals across multiple offices. She is responsible for implementing tactics and contributing directly to the firm's success in meeting its objectives of sustained growth and profitability through visionary leadership, strategic planning, and business acumen. In her efforts to facilitate growth, Erica works closely with practice leaders in developing and operationalizing tactical planning and business development efforts while contributing to operational performance.

She has more than 20 years of experience working with high-profile clients across multiple geographies and market segments, including real estate and commercial development, justice, and community facilities. Prior to her current role, Erica served as director of operations for Dewberry's architecture practice, leading its strategic planning efforts and supporting team and operational growth. Erica holds an undergraduate degree in Bio-Resource Engineering from Rutgers University and a Master of Architecture from the University of Florida.

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