

# Quarterly Connection

A NIBS Member Newsletter

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## Feature Story

### NIBS October Events Heat Up

It's a busy October!

NIBS is hosting three webinars this month, starting today at noon EST with [The Intersect of Resilience, Low-Embodied Carbon and LCCA in Materials Selection](#).

In this webinar, experts will discuss the intersection of climate resilience, low-embodied carbon materials objectives, and life-cycle cost analysis (LCCA). The panel will present important data points in the evaluation of materials for each client project.

Presenters include Vicki Worden, President & CEO, Green Building Initiative; Jenna Morgan Hamilton, Vice President of National Affairs, Green Building Initiative; Mark Russell, Founding Partner, Wise Built LLC; and Sustainability Commissioning Lead Adolfo Salas III. [Register now.](#)

On October 18, 2023, the NIBS Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council's Committee on Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (CFIRE) will host a webinar to discuss the recently released [Resilience Incentivization Roadmap 2.0](#) with Fannie Mae.

The roadmap on mitigation investment was developed to help people Americans prepare for and respond to natural disasters. It explores the investment opportunities by lenders, insurers, developers, owners, and government.

“Climate resilience will be key to sustainable homeownership as the impacts of climate change increase,” said Tim Judge, Head of Modeling & Chief Climate Officer with Fannie Mae, in a release. “The Roadmap provides tangible recommendations that the collective stakeholders can take to promote resilient investment that U.S. housing certainly needs.” [Register now.](#)

On October 24, 2023, the next installment of the Existing Buildings 2023 series takes place with Retrofitting for Resilience.

The webinar will discuss the need for resilient buildings to become the status quo, as climate and hazard risks intensify. Our experts will discuss how finance, design, and policy all converge to create a more resilient existing building stock.

The panel includes Dr. Sean Beckett, Principal, Elliott Bay Analytics, and Robert G. Pekelnicky, S.E. (CA), P.E. (CA), Senior Principal, Degenkolb Engineers. NIBS’ Dr. Jiqu (JQ) Yuan, P.E., PMP, Vice President of Engineering, will serve as moderator. [Register now.](#)

## BEST6 Returns – Call for Abstracts Opens

### BEST6 Conference Returns in March 2024

The NIBS Building Enclosure Technology and Environment Council (BETEC) has opened the call for abstracts for the Building Science and Technology (BEST6) conference March 18–20, 2024, at the Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol in Austin, Texas.

The BEST6 theme is “The Next Generation of Building Technology.”

NIBS seeks presentation abstracts (up to 300 words) in the following focus areas: the impact of climate change on building enclosures, new techniques in building design and construction, durability, and sustainability.

All topics in the field of building enclosure science and technology will be considered. Examples of suggested abstract topics include (but are not limited to):

- Building energy dynamics: Integration of structure, enclosure, mechanical and interior systems; passive and active/passive house; moisture and durability; hydrothermal modeling
- Retrofits: Residential, commercial, historic buildings
- Climate change and enclosure interactions: Embodied carbon considerations for building envelope materials; educational trends in education related to building science; carbon trade/exchange
- Technology innovations: Prefabrication and offsite construction, 3D printing; incorporation of technology innovations; novel materials and systems
- Managing building air leakage: Testing and building enclosure commissioning
- Legal and investment implications of practice: Multi-hazards and resilience

Abstract submissions are due November 6, 2023. [Submit your abstract](#) and [secure your room in Austin.](#)



## Building Innovation 2023 Highlights

The NIBS annual meeting – Building Innovation 2023 – saw hundreds of built environment professionals descend on the Washington Hilton in DC in September.

Educational sessions took place September 6-7. Sessions covered four tracks: building performance and sustainability, resilience, technology, and workforce.

Highlights and sessions included:

- Keynote with Solomon Greene, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- GIS-based Digital Twin Capabilities to Decarbonize the Built Environment
- The Intersection of AI and Building Sciences: A New Era of Intelligent Infrastructure
- A Retiring Facilities Management Workforce: Technology Strategies for Attracting and Onboarding a New Generation

- Deep Green, Market Rate, Net Zero: How ASHRAE's New Global HQ Renovation Achieved All Three
- Designing for Our Future-Climate Forward Design
- The Role of ESG in Enhancing Building Performance & Value
- HUD's Green and Resilient Retrofit Program
- Smart Cities and the Metaverse: The Cyber-Physical Relationship

## The Future of the Built Environment Workforce

Kicking off the conference was a panel that discussed the future of the workforce. Panelists included Nancy Novak, with Compass Datacenters; Peter Templeton, with the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC); and Cheryl Lyman, with the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC). Dr. Kimberly Jones, with Howard University and a member of the NIBS Board of Directors, served as moderator. USGBC's Templeton admits he probably reads a study each day about workforce.





“I’m always trying to evaluate things in the context of these conversations,” he said, mentioning the most valuable feedback comes from his team, who say retention comes down to engagement, pay and compensation, and work-life balance.

OFCC’s Lyman discussed bringing exposure to key topics in professional development programs.

“We encourage people to take advantage of the training,” she said. “We are also focusing on going back to fundamentals. We explain why we do things in meetings and offer opportunities for external professional development.”

When it comes to promotions, Novak said Compass Datacenters has a unique way of handling things.

“We focus on the ability to be collaborative, have humility, and ask good questions,” Novak said. “It’s not necessarily about ticking off certain boxes. It’s about using your community.”

## The New U.S. National BIM Standard V4: What Is It, And How Do I Use It?

In another session announcing the soft launch of the National BIM Standard – United States Version 4, the panel covered the new, focused organization and sections of the standard.

Attendees also learned why having a U.S. standard for building information modeling (BIM) is important and how it aligns with other international BIM standard efforts, such as ISO 19650 and the Industry Foundation Classes.

“September 6, a day we’ve been waiting for a very long time,” said John Messner, Chair, National BIM Standard - US Planning Committee and Architectural Engineering Professor with Penn State University. “We set this day many months ago, saying we wanted to release the next version of the National BIM Standard on this day, and we are.”



Messner was joined on the panel by Ralph Kreider, Associate Director, Berkeley Research Group, and TJ Meehan, with Cadd Microsystems.

NBIMS v4 is very different than our previous versions of NBIMS, Messner said.

“This isn’t just a new progression,” he said. “This is a new direction for the National BIM Standard. The challenge was how to develop clear, industry-focused standards and guidelines for facilities including buildings and infrastructure. There was lots of debate on language.”

The NBIMS workgroups still are working through some of the information and modules. A hard launch for NBIMS will be coming soon.

## ... And The Winner Is

During Building Innovation, NIBS recognized industry leaders and scholarship recipients, during an awards ceremony.

The 2023 awards recipients were:

- NIBS Distinguished Service – Dudley McFarquhar, PhD, PE, VP & Partner, Stone Building Solutions and President, McFarquhar Group Inc.
- Exceptional Woman in Building – Salla Eckhardt, Senior Vice President, OAC Services, Inc.
- Future Leaders – Zahra Ghorbani, BIM Manager, Office of Physical Plant, Department of Architectural Engineering, Penn State University
- NIBS Innovator – Wildfire Prepared Home-Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety
- NIBS DEI Leadership – Logan Herring, Chief Executive Officer, The WRK Group
- Beyond Green™ – Holabird Academy + Graceland Park O'Donnell Heights Elementary Middle School Zero Energy Schools for Baltimore City
- Mortimer M. Marshall Lifetime Achievement – David Bonneville, Senior Principal, Degenkolb Engineers, Retired

NIBS also named two recipients of the Betty and Mort Marshall Memorial Scholarship, which was established to promote diversity in the building sciences and benefit students pursuing a career in architecture and engineering at a historically Black college or university.

The scholarship was started in 2020, in memory of the Marshalls. Mort was the first member of the National Institute of Building Sciences. The 2023 scholarship recipients are Evan Cage, an architecture student at Morgan State University, and Onye Andrus, an aerospace science engineering student at Tuskegee University.





## NIBS Recognizes Board Leadership

During Building Innovation 2023, NIBS Board Chair Anne Ellis recognized the leadership, guidance, and immense contribution of two outgoing board members, Brian Garbecki and Lane Beougher.

About Garbecki, Ellis said, “Gilbane has shared many leaders with NIBS over the years, and we are so grateful they supported Brian’s involvement with us. Brian’s leadership style is reserved and reflective. When he speaks, everyone listens. And he has that gift to pull us back on topic when we wandered off.”

When the moment came to recognize Beougher, Ellis said he “has been the one we turned to for his expertise in matters of governance and structure.”

“A former Construction Specifications Institute President, AIA Ohio Board delegate, and member of Reynoldsburg City Council, we relied heavily on Lane,” Ellis said. “We were grateful for his experience to inform and guide us. Lane is a super-charged board director and will be a tough act to follow.”

Incoming NIBS Board Chair Tom Phoenix took to the stage to recognize Ellis’ longtime dedication and work with NIBS. Ellis is the first woman to chair the NIBS Board of Directors.

As of October 1, 2023, the new NIBS board officers are:

- Chair – Thomas H. Phoenix, Sr., PE, FASHRAE, LEED-AP, Mechanical Contractors, LLC
- Vice Chair – Charlie (Chuck) D. Curlin, Jr., PE, CEM, CPD, Principal, Shultz Engineering Group
- Treasurer – Sandra Benson, Vice President, Industry Transformation, Procore Technologies



*NIBS Senior Vice President of Technical & Government Solutions Roark Redwood addressed students of The Catholic University of America Engineering New Frontiers Institute in July 2023.*



- Secretary – Evelyn Fujimoto, Associate AIA, NCIDQ, LEED AP, RID, NAC, EMF | Collaborative

The NIBS Board of Directors is comprised of up to 21 members. The President of the United States, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoints six members to represent the public interest. The remaining 15 members are elected from the nation's building community and include both public interest representatives and industry voices.



## New Building Innovation: The Podcast Episode

Tune in to the latest episode of Building Innovation: The Podcast! This week, NIBS' Johnny Fortune discusses global digital technology standards for the built environment with Adam Matthews, Head of Global Digital Transformation with Connected Places Catapult.

[Watch Now>>](#)



### New WBDG Page: Biomimicry: Designing to Model Nature

The Whole Building Design Guide has a new resource page: [Biomimicry: Designing to Model Nature](#). The page was written by Stephanie Vierra, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP, BD+C, Vierra Design & Education Services, LLC.

The Biomimicry Institute defines biomimicry as the science and art of emulating nature's best biological ideas to solve human problems.

According to the resource page, [sustainability](#) issues are among those that can be addressed by applying the biomimicry process to a project. Utilizing an [integrated design process](#) can help open up opportunities to identify biological solutions to building problems and include the perspective of nature in the design process—as it is likely that nature already offers a solution.

The page continues: “Recent success stories exist in terms of how biomimicry can be applied to building design. While buildings serve to protect us from nature's extremes, this does not mean that they do not have anything to learn from the biological world. In fact, nature regularly builds structures with functionality that human-built structures could usefully emulate. Biomimetic research, science, and applications continue to grow and are already influencing the next generation of building products and systems as well as whole building designs.”

An example: Photovoltaic systems, which harvest solar energy, are a first step at mimicking the way a leaf harvests energy.

### Whole Building Design Guide Continuing Education

#### October 3, 2023: [Understanding Climate Change from the Facility Manager Perspective](#)

The Federal government faces broad exposure to risk and costs posed by climate change – but what does this mean for energy and water managers? With increased requirements for climate literacy among Federal attendees, this Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) training course aims to help attendees understand basic climate change concepts, how they apply to federal energy and water management responsibilities, and provides training and examples on climate-informed decision making.



## NIBS in the News

### Construction In Focus Magazine

#### Putting Construction on a Firmer Foundation

The National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) is a non-profit, non-governmental agency established by Congress in 1974. With headquarters in Washington, DC, NIBS is tasked with developing innovative solutions for the built environment that serve the public interest by advancing building science and technology.

To learn more about NIBS and its recent initiatives (that if adopted by industry stakeholders could be game changers), we spoke with Roark Redwood, NIBS' Senior Vice President of Technical and Government Solutions, and Johnny Fortune, Executive Director, U.S. National BIM Program. [Read more>>](#)

### The Messenger

#### How 'Miracle' Homes Survived the Maui Fires

When wildfires tore through the town of Lahaina last month, it was fueled by the strong winds of Hurricane Dora and drought conditions in West Maui. With limited evacuation routes and power outages impacting water resources, the fire overwhelmed first responders in a horrific storm of tragedy. What transpired was the deadliest U.S. wildfire in 100 years: At least 115 people perished, hundreds of residents are unaccounted for, and 2,000 structures were burned. [Read more>>](#)

### Harvard Business Review

#### Can the Construction Industry Be Disrupted?

In 1910, the French artist Villemard created a series of illustrations imagining life in the year 2000. In one of his drawings, an architect sits in a booth pushing buttons on a console to manipulate a series of machines operating in the usual debris of a construction site. The various machines cut,

shape, lift, and place stone blocks to build a house. There are no human laborers in his projection — mechanization has made them obsolete. [Read more>>](#)

### BuildingGreen

#### AEC Workforce Diversity Hasn't Budgeted Much

The National Institute of Building Sciences shared results from its second biannual Social Equity Survey. But with far fewer responses than last time, the data are hard to interpret. [Read more>>](#)

### Contractor Magazine

#### National Institute of Building Sciences Sets Agenda for Building Innovation 2023

The schedule for the National Institute of Building Sciences annual meeting, Building Innovation 2023, is final. BI2023 keynote speakers are Deputy Secretary Adrienne Todman, of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Trimble Vice President and Executive Director Albert H. Anoubon Momo. [Read more>>](#)

### Building Enclosure

#### NIBS and Fannie Mae Release Disaster Mitigation Roadmap

The National Institute of Building Sciences and Fannie Mae have developed the Resilience Incentivization Roadmap 2.0 on mitigation investment to help people in America prepare for and respond to natural disasters. [Read more>>](#)

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## Observances & Events

October: Construction in Careers Month

October 3: [The Intersect of Resilience, Low-Embodied Carbon, and LCCA in Materials Selection](#)

October 5: Energy Efficiency Day

October 6: National Manufacturing Day

October 7: National LED Light Day

October 8-14: Fire Prevention Week

October 12: [U.S. Celebration of World Standards Day](#)

October 14: World Standards Day

October 16-20: Construction Inclusion Week

October 18: [Resilience Incentivization Roadmap 2.0](#)

October 24: [Existing Building 2023: Retrofitting for Resilience](#)

November 6: [Housing Affordability Hearing](#)

November 11: Veterans Day

November 23: Thanksgiving

November 28: [Cyber-Physical Impact Modeling Webinar](#)

December 5: International Volunteer Day

December 6: [Existing Buildings 2023: Building Technology and Retrofits](#)

December 7-15: Hanukkah

December 25: Christmas

December 26-January 1: Kwanzaa



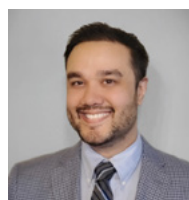
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Resilience Incentives Advance

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National Institute of Building Sciences Board Welcomes Five New Members

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Recognizing the Contributions of Innovators in the Building Industry

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New ASHRAE Publication Outlines Standard to Reduce Risk of Disease Transmission in Indoor Spaces

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Recognizing the Industry's Champions of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

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Recognizing the Exceptional Service of NIBS Members

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Celebrating the Building Industry's Future Leaders

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National Institute of Building Sciences Issues Statement On Maui Fire Crisis

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New Federal Funds Available to Encourage Digital Construction and BIM Transformation

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FEMA Releases New Building Codes Toolkit for Homeowners

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NIBS Board of Directors Announces Appointment of Acting CEO Rebecca Liko

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National Institute of Building Sciences Sets Agenda for Building Innovation 2023

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Championing Exceptional Women in the Built Environment

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BIM Council Seeks Board of Direction Officer Nominations

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NIBS Launches Building Innovation: The Podcast

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100 Years of Inspiration from Japan's 1923 Earthquake

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NIBS Wins a Bronze Stevie Award

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Building Innovation 2023 Sessions: Digital Transformation, Workforce, AND Resilience

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National Institute of Building Sciences Announces Built Environment Award Winners

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NIBS Announces BEST6 Call For Abstracts

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National Institute of Building Sciences and Fannie Mae Release Disaster Mitigation Roadmap

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