



# A MESSAGE

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear WIPA Chicago Community,

If the first quarter of 2026 is any indication, we are in for a year that feels intentional, inspired, and just the right amount of fun.

Because yes, we are here to elevate the industry... but we're also here to enjoy being in rooms together again.

We kicked off the year with our Fireside Après, and it was exactly the kind of evening our community has been craving—cozy, intimate, and rooted in real connection. No rushing. No surface-level conversations. Just good people, thoughtful dialogue, and yes... a very solid cocktail moment. This is the energy we're carrying forward.

This quarter also marked a major milestone with The Art of the Aisle: Day of Education at the Waldorf Chicago—our first full-day educational experience. And what a debut it was.

We had the privilege of learning from Anna N'Jie-Konte, Tyler Speier, and Leah Weinberg, each bringing perspective, candor, and real strategy to the room. While we missed having Lauren Redman, we're already looking forward to welcoming her back to Chicago this year.

More than anything, this day reinforced what we believe at our core: when we invest in education, we elevate not just our businesses, but the experience we create for our clients.

As we build what's next, we want to hear what will actually move your business forward, not just what sounds good on paper.

Please take a few minutes to complete our member survey [HERE](#). Your feedback directly shapes the speakers we bring in and the experiences we create.

Because the goal is simple: to ensure every event feels worth your time, energy, and investment.

Thank you for showing up, for leaning in, and for continuing to make WIPA Chicago both elevated and deeply connected.

We're just getting started.

With appreciation,  
Jennifer Price  
President, WIPA Chicago



Jennifer Price

WIPA Chicago | President WIPANASHVILLE  
Event Shoppe Chicago | Owner

# WIPA CHICAGO BOARD OF DIRECTORS



PRESIDENT  
Jennifer Price  
Event Shoppe Chicago



VICE PRESIDENT  
Duerell Jones  
Spark Entertainment Group



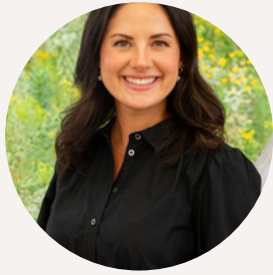
TREASURER  
Andrea Smith  
Soiree Smith



SECRETARY  
Bianca Sansosti  
Sansosti Enterprises



IMMEDIATE PAST  
PRESIDENT  
Stephanie Cook  
The Creative Planners



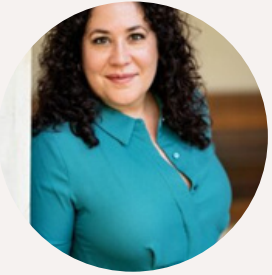
DIRECTOR OF  
MEMBERSHIP  
Natalie Kay  
Tigerly Events



DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP  
RETENTION  
Nicki Eisenstein  
Nuage Designs



DIRECTOR OF DIVERSITY,  
EQUITY, & INCLUSION  
Chris Schmidt  
Fairmont Chicago



DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION  
Stephanie Stopka  
Flowers by Stem



DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS  
Kristina Valle  
Wedicity



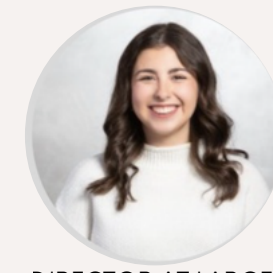
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING  
& COMMUNICATIONS  
Lisa Blume  
Lisa Blume Photography



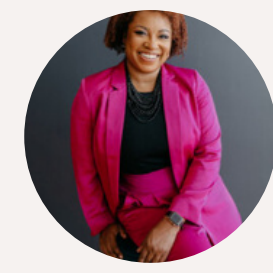
DIRECTOR OF  
SPONSORSHIP  
Rachel Ceaser  
Savoir Fete Events



DIRECTOR AT LARGE:  
MARKETING & COMMUNICATION  
Joseph Lotz  
LVI Films



DIRECTOR AT LARGE:  
SPONSORSHIP  
Jenna Horowitz  
River Roast



DIRECTOR AT LARGE:  
PROGRAMS  
Amber Sanders  
Events with Ambiance



DIRECTOR OF  
COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT  
Carla Bean-Negru  
Elana's Garden Floral Design  
& Event Planning



DIRECTOR AT LARGE:  
MEMBERSHIP  
Jennifer Vahle  
Paramount Events

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Q2

Open Educational

**May 19th**

Rockwell on the River

Dinner Event

Q3

Open Educational

**July 28th**

Allium

Lunch Event

Members Only

**September 22nd**

Chicago History Museum

Cocktail Party

Q4

Open Educational

**November 17th**

The Art Institute

Dinner Event

## *Accessing Past Educational Event Videos*

WIPA members have access to videos from past events from all chapters! Once logged into WIPA.org, navigate to “Member Center” and then “Video Library”. From there you can filter videos by chapter, speaker, or educational category.

# Fireside Après Viceroy Chicago // January 22nd



[DOWNLOAD THE PHOTOS HERE](#)

# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

All of our events are made possible due to our amazing team of sponsors. Make sure to give them a follow and tag them in any photos you share!

VENUE/CATERING: Viceroy Chicago

PHOTOGRAPHY: Erika Eileen

FLORAL: Flowers By Stem

LINENS: BBJ La Tavola

MUSIC: Chicago Elegant Piano



# The Art of the Aisle

Waldorf Astoria // March 16



[DOWNLOAD THE PHOTOS HERE](#)  
DOWNLOAD PIN - 6085

# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

We could not have pulled off this event without our amazing team of sponsors. Make sure to give them a follow and tag them in any photos you share!

SPEAKERS: Tyler Speier, Anna N'Jie-Konte & Leah Weinberg

VENUE: The Waldorf Astoria Chicago

PHOTOGRAPHY: Allison Francois

VIDEOGRAPHY: Maloch Media

AV: The DJ Firm

FLORAL/DECOR: Kehoe Designs

LINENS: BBJ La Tavola

STATIONERY: Rose Gold Studio

SPEAKER HAIR & MAKEUP: Bianca Sansosti Artistry

GENERAL SPONSOR: Party Slate



Please give us your feedback on our March 16<sup>th</sup> Art of the Aisle educational event, we'd love to hear from you!

**Take the survey!**