

Quarterly Connection

A NIBS Member Newsletter

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May 19-21, 2025
McLean, VA

buildinginnovation.org

Feature Story

Building Innovation 2025 Speaker Abstracts Due January 10

We're closing in on the deadline for [speaker abstracts for Building Innovation 2025](#).

Building Innovation is a premiere meeting for all who impact the built environment to find solutions. BI2025 takes place May 19-21, at the Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner in McLean, Virginia.

This year's theme is Thrive: Strategies for Resilient Communities.

Submit Your Abstracts Now

NIBS seeks speakers around the following topics:

- Functional recovery
- Sustainable design and construction practices
- Retrofitting for resilience
- Climate adaptation strategies for buildings and infrastructure
- Community resilience and engagement in urban planning
- Innovative materials
- Technologies for resilient design, construction, and planning
- Policy frameworks that support resilient development
- Adopting resilient projects and strategies; case studies
- Integration of green infrastructure and ecosystem services
- Risk assessment and management in the built environment
- Innovative investments and insurance in resilience
- Workforce

The BI2025 Tracks

The conference will follow three tracks: Leaders, Practitioners, and Technologists. The tracks aim to look beyond buildings to enable community-level resilience.

Leaders. Sessions will focus on developing policy frameworks, strengthening critical infrastructure, incentivizing the investment, and empowering the workforce behind functional recovery.

Practitioners. Establishing processes for resilient building, sessions will focus on codes, standards, existing buildings, risk assessment and management, and sustainable design and construction practices.

Technologists. Sessions will highlight current and emerging technologies for resilient design, construction, and planning, focusing on technology solutions, materials, use cases, and implementation and adoption.

Built Environment Awards Nominations

NIBS is collecting [nominations for built environment awards](#) through February 14.

Seven awards are available. They include:

- NIBS Distinguished Service
- Exceptional Woman in Building
- Future Leaders
- NIBS Innovator
- NIBS DEI Leadership
- The Mortimer M. Marshall Lifetime Achievement
- Beyond Green™ High-Performance Building and Community Award

NIBS also is collecting applications for 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 application deadline is February 21.

Awards recipients will be announced at BI2025 in May.

ELEVATE 2025

ELEVATE 2025: Powering Progress in the Built Environment Workforce



The National Institute of Building Sciences, National Building Museum, and International Code Council will co-host a workforce summit to unite industry leaders, policymakers, and strategists to address the critical underrepresentation of women in the built environment.

ELEVATE 2025 will break down barriers to create sustainable career pathways in the traditionally male-dominated trades, forging solutions through public-private partnerships. It will take place March 4, at the National Building Museum in Washington.

Join influential changemakers to elevate women's participation across the industry, building powerful talent pipelines and implementing proven strategies for lasting change.

ELEVATE Objectives

NIBS plans to create a unified coalition with leaders, policymakers, educators, labor unions, and trade organizations to unite and advocate for critical policy changes. These include reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the establishment of a collective action plan to increase women's participation across the built environment workforce.

The summit also will allow built environment professionals to share best practices, identifying and documenting

successful workforce development models, including apprenticeship programs, public-private partnerships, and educational initiatives, that can be replicated across the country to create sustainable career pathways for women.

What to Expect at ELEVATE 2025

The summit schedule will take place in three parts.

Part 1, By the Data: Decoding America's Labor Market Shortage. Through research, industry intelligence, and demographic analysis, we will uncover how shifting populations, retirement patterns, and worker expectations are revolutionizing our labor market. We will examine impacts across critical sectors, track workforce trends, and understand the evolution of compensation and workplace culture.

Part 2, The Built Environment Workforce: Industry Leaders Address Women and the Labor Crisis. Top executives will share frontline insights into diversifying the built environment workforce and addressing the critical labor shortage. This will be done through compelling case studies and reveal innovative programs that are successfully attracting and elevating women in the building trades.

Part 3, Policy Solutions for Advancing Women in America's Built Environment.



In partnership with

Local government leaders, state legislators, and congressional representatives will examine policy initiatives addressing women's underrepresentation in the built environment workforce. Speakers will explore how the reauthorization of WIOA and emerging state-level programs can break down systemic barriers and create equitable opportunities.

[Join us at ELEVATE 2025.](#)



Digital Twins 2024

Highlights from Digital Twins 2024

In December, NIBS hosted the inaugural Building Innovation: Emerging Technologies Series event, focusing on digital twin technology. The conference took place at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland.

Digital Twins 2024 attendees learned about how digital twins are revolutionizing the built environment, including how we approach resilience and recovery from individual buildings to entire asset portfolios and lifeline infrastructure.

By leveraging the same simulation capabilities used in the defense and facilities sectors—including military-grade data analysis and satellite imagery—digital twins are transforming project and lifecycle asset management, tracking progress and workflows and improving efficiency.

In planning and design, this technology provides a collaborative platform for architects, engineers, and contractors to visualize design and identify conflicts. And for facility managers, digital twins have proven to greatly enhance building performance and maintenance.

Articulating Value of Digital Twins – AECO Viewpoints

In one dynamic panel discussion, experts representing each core sector—architecture, engineering, construction, and owners from the built environment—shared insights on their digital journeys.

The session provided a frontline look at the latest advancements from NIBS and explored how these initiatives are driving innovation in digital twins and beyond. Each panelist offered a unique perspective on implementing digital technologies, discussing the real-world challenges they face, solutions they've embraced, and opportunities they see on the horizon.



At Dallas Fort Worth International Airport, for example, Robert L. Brown, Sr., Project Control Systems Manager in the Infrastructure and Development Division of the Controls and Analytics Department, covered the current massive and complex technological undertaking at DFW.

“As we got further into digital twins, we knew we needed to first align our field data,” he said. “[We’re now] in our fourth standards iteration. It’s changed a lot. We had to do a complete overhaul of programs.”

Next Generation Solutions

The DT2024 schedule was packed with educational sessions that covered how digital twins are being utilized in the built environment.

Sessions included:

- Transforming federal facility projects
- Facilities management integration
- Trends, challenges, and the role of standardized data
- Cybersecurity for public and defense facilities
- Addressing client needs
- Optimizing digital twin benefits
- Transforming the workplace

If you’d like to view the presentations from individual sessions, [you can find them here](#).





NIBS CEO George Guszczka joined U.S. Rep. Kevin Mullin, CA-15, in his announcement of critical legislation to improve the nation's preparation for and recovery from earthquakes in October. The press conference took place in San Francisco on the 35th anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake. The Earthquake Resilience Act would direct federal agencies to develop seismic design standards and guidelines for lifeline infrastructure.

Columns

A Message from NIBS President & CEO George K. Guszczka

The National Institute of Building Sciences has begun 2025 energized and centered in our focus on the public interest and our commitment to strengthening our built environment.

We work to achieve a critical mission – one established by Congress to serve the public interest. Each year, we present our annual report to the President of the United States, communicating the impact of our efforts.

The nation requires us to set a clear and compelling azimuth that benefits the people. Together, we shall continue to be worthy of their trust.

This year, our expertise and resources will be dedicated to advancing solutions to pressing challenges that put public safety at risk:

- Expanding our role across the built environment by committing ourselves to the critical task of strengthening infrastructure resilience, as we have for buildings and structures, through our Lifeline Infrastructure Program
- Partnering and convening across the built environment ecosystem to elevate the worsening workforce crisis as a national security issue through our Elevate 2025 summit
- Continuing to advance safety and resilience through the application of research and innovation and the streamlined adoption of emerging technologies that benefit the public

Thank you for your efforts, your engagement, and your dedication to working together for the American public. We invite you to continue to help shape the future of our built environment and improve lives, livelihoods, and communities across our nation.



Team NIBS attended the International Code Council's Annual Conference and Expo in Long Beach, Calif. in October. NIBS supports ICC and this important work, from strategies and actionable tactics to improved skills and connections with those shaping the future of building safety.



The NIBS team attended the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME)'s Federal Small Business Conference in New Orleans in November. SAME brought together federal agencies and businesses to deliver comprehensive market research, share contracting opportunities for small businesses, connect with partners, and support the nation's contracting goals.

NIBS Digital Technology Council Elects New Officers

The National Institute of Building Sciences has appointed new leadership to the Digital Technology Council Board of Direction.

The newly elected officers will serve a two-year term. The officers include:

- Chair: Alex Belkofer, Senior Director, Virtual Design & Construction, McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.
- Vice Chair: David Morales, Associate Vice President and BIM Manager, Salas O'Brien
- Secretary: Swetha Sadananda, Director, NCAL, Design and Construction. Kaiser Permanente

NIBS Board Liaisons to the Digital Technology Council are Evelyn Fujimoto, Associate AIA, LEED AP, NCIDQ, RID NAC, Principal with EMF Collaborative, and Sandra Benson, Vice President of Industry Transformation with Procore Technologies.

The Digital Technology Council builds on the work and foundation of building information management and modeling and reflects the rapid expansion of digital technology in the built environment.

In other NIBS council news, officers with the Consultative Council, Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council, and Building Seismic Safety Council were re-elected to a one-year term. Officers with the Building Enclosure Technology and Environment Council, Facility Management and Operations Council, and Off-Site Construction Council were not up for re-election this year.

The Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council already has had two successful Board meetings and one General Council meeting, during which the following was discussed:

- MMC FY25 priorities
- Updates on TurboGrants and CFIRE initiatives
- Resilience initiatives by the City of Seattle and potential projects with NIBS
- Overview of MMC calendar for FY25



NIBS was grateful to serve as the 2024 administrative organization for the U.S. Celebration of World Standards Day in November. It was an incredible honor to celebrate the leaders and contributions of the U.S. standards and conformity assessment community.

Share Your Insights on AEC Technology Adoption

The built environment stands at a critical technology crossroads.

To chart our industry's digital future, the National Institute of Building Sciences is leading an initiative with the support of Dodge Construction Network to conduct essential research on technology adoption across construction and building owners.



For 50 years, NIBS worked with and supported the National Institute of Standards and Technology's critical work and mission, as NIST has led innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life.

Through NIBS' ongoing advancement of building science and technology, we identified the need to establish a baseline for current AEC technology adoption, particularly in BIM and GIS implementation.

This research will:

1. Track digital transformation progress and identify knowledge gaps across the AEC industry
2. Generate actionable insights for owners and key stakeholders
3. Reveal opportunities and challenges to guide strategic decision-making

If you are or represent an owner in the built environment, [we invite you to participate in this 15-minute survey](#). If you are a service provider to owners, please share this link with them.

Your answers are strictly confidential and will not be associated with your name or the name of your company in any way. Thank you for helping to shape our industry's technological transformation.

Government Affairs: NIBS Will Continue Build on the Momentum of Critical Issues

By: Anne Law, Senior Vice President, Professional and Government Affairs, NIBS

In a possible preview of what may come in 2025, the 118th Congress wrapped up in a nail-biter ripe with plot twists and growing divisions within the Republican party over raising the debt ceiling without spending cuts. At the end of the day on Friday, December 20, House Democrats worked with House Republicans to pass the "American Relief Act of 2025," avoiding a potential government shutdown.

The bill extended the Continuing Resolution for Fiscal Year 2025, which continues to fund the federal government at current levels until March 14, 2025. The legislation also contains about \$1 billion in disaster assistance following Hurricanes Helene and Milton, aid to farmers, and a one-year extension of the 2018 Farm Bill. The measure went onto the United States Senate and was signed by President Biden.

While this Congress was probably the least productive in modern history, NIBS successfully secured Congressional champions to support policies for improving resilience and modernizing lifeline infrastructure. Congresswoman Jennifer McClellan (D, VA-04) introduced the Building and Upgrading Infrastructure for the Long Term (BUILT) Act ([H.R. 9771](#)), which she successfully offered as an amendment to the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2024 ([H.R. 9723](#)) which passed out of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

In addition, in October, on the 35th anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake, NIBS CEO George Guszczka joined U.S. Congressman Kevin Mullins (D, CA-15) to announce the Earthquake Resilience Act ([H.R. 9375](#)). The act would direct federal agencies to conduct America's first national risk assessment of earthquake resilience to better understand how communities can prepare.

Finally, the United States Senate passed the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction (NEHRP) Program Reauthorization Act of 2024 ([S. 3606](#)), which would have authorized a total of \$175.4 million per year from FY 2024-2028 across the four federal agencies responsible for long-term earthquake risk reduction under NEHRP: the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST),

National Science Foundation (NSF), and United States Geological Survey (USGS).

While none of these bills made it across the finish line, NIBS will continue to build upon the momentum created and bring attention to these crucial issues with the 119th Congress and the incoming Trump Administration on behalf of the public interest.

The New Republic

Helene Should Trigger a National Rethink of Home Insurance

As people across the Southeast continue to pick up the pieces from Hurricane Helene, many will continue to face a rude awakening: that they—or their landlords—don't have flood insurance. Those facing damages from winds or mudslides are more likely to be covered, since that type of damage is included in many basic home insurance packages. [Read More >>](#)

Congress for the New Urbanism

Five Reasons Why Urban Practitioners Should Care About Resilience

Last week as this post was scheduled to go out, I stood overlooking my quaint small town where 12-plus feet of water was rushing through our Main Street. The usually slow-flowing, fun river had swelled over its banks due to increased flow from Hurricane Helene. Searching for gas, groceries, and cell service, I was again reminded why this resilience work is so important. [Read More >>](#)

KQED

Bay Area Leaders Mark Loma Prieta Anniversary with Push for Federal Earthquake Safety

On the 35th anniversary of the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake that rocked San Francisco, a group of Bay Area leaders gathered Thursday at Pier 9 to tell their stories of the infamous day and call for the passage of an earthquake safety bill introduced by a local member of Congress. [Read More >>](#)

Yahoo! Finance

National Institute of Building Sciences Announces Digital Twins 2024 Agenda

The National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) has released the schedule for Digital Twins 2024, the inaugural Building Innovation: Emerging Technologies Series event. Digital Twins 2024 will take place December 9-11, at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, MD. [Read More >>](#)

Engineering.com

NIBS Seeks Speakers for Building Innovation 2025

The National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) has opened the call for speakers for Building Innovation 2025. Building Innovation is a premiere meeting for all who impact the built environment to find solutions. BI2025 takes place May 19-21, 2025, at the Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner in McLean, Virginia. [Read More >>](#)

HUD User

What's Next for Construction Innovation at HUD?

For HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research, 2024 was another great year for housing innovation. We continued to demonstrate our commitment to building the evidence base for innovative construction technologies that can boost the affordable housing supply and lower costs for builders, homeowners, and renters nationwide. [Read More >>](#)

The Palm Beach Post

Hurricanes Devastated Florida This Year. How Can We Prevent the Damage to Homes? | Opinion

As Florida recovers from another devastating hurricane season, recovery and rebuilding are top priorities for many residents. However, there is one important step in the process that many home and business owners continue to overlook at their own expense - flood mitigation.

[Read More >>](#)

PHCPPros.com

National Institute of Building Sciences Opens Awards Process for Building Innovation 2025

The National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) has opened the awards process for Building Innovation 2025. The call for awards nominations closes Feb. 14, 2025.

[Read More >>](#)

Observances & Events

January 10 - National Cut Your Energy Costs Day

January 20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 23 - [Making Digital Twins Useful Via Mobile Robotics, AI, and Augmented Reality](#)

February 11 - International Day of Women and Girls in Science

February 16-22 - National Engineers Week

February 17 - Presidents Day

February 20 - [Calculating Moisture Risk in Roofs](#)

March 2-8 - Women in Construction Week

March 4 - [Elevate 2025](#)

March 4 - World Engineering Day

March 8 - International Women's Day

March 11 - [Enhancing Sustainability and Energy Conservation Through Digital Twin Technology](#)

March 11 - World Plumbing Day

March 13 - [The Importance of Standardized Data for Your Digital Twin](#)

March 22 - World Water Day



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NIBS Names SVP of Business Strategies Kenneth K. Alexander

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National Institute of Building Sciences Applauds Earthquake Resilience Legislation to Prepare Nation for Future Events

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Podcast Episode Highlighting Mental Health Wins Award

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National Institute of Building Sciences Opens Building Innovation 2025 Call for Speakers

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NIBS Leads Way With New National Lifelines Organization

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Data-Driven Partnering: Collaboration that Counts

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National Institute of Building Sciences Seeks Nominations for Built Environment Awards

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An Engineer's Perspective: Shaping Resilient Systems Through Policy and Practice

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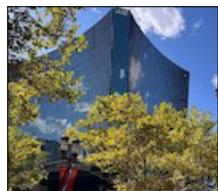
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