CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS
Share Your Design-Build Expertise

Design-Build Conference & Expo 2026
Nov. 4–6 | Huntington Convention Center, Cleveland, Ohio

Deadline for Submissions: April 21, 2026 by 5:00pm ET

Thousands of industry professionals spanning the AEC community — including public and private Owners — attend the Design-Build Conference & Expo each year. We are seeking informative, thought-provoking and engaging topics rooted in Design-Build Done Right® by exceptional and inspiring communicators from across the industry for our event in Cleveland. Design-build will continue to play a major role in imagining, designing and building our nation.

Subject matter experts with hands-on experience in design-build are invited to submit session proposals. Do you have insight on ways to optimize Design-Build Done Right® for triple bottom line success? Do you have a design-build story to tell or lessons learned that you can share with the industry? Your experience and expertise are needed. Consider submitting a session proposal today.

What We're Looking for: At a Glance

Priority consideration will be given to submissions adhering to these guidelines. Quality submissions that address and/or align with the below:

- Presentations that speak to one or more of the following:
  - o Best practices with a focus on practical application of key practices and lessons learned to guide future success.
  - o Managing risk and expectations
  - o Collaboration/teaming successes
  - o Application of Virtual Design and Construction (VDC)*

    Consider submitting a presentation for the pre-conference VDC Leadership Exchange (VDCLEx) taking place on Tuesday, Nov. 3. Review VDCLEX guidelines.
  - o Making the essential mental shift for success and the all-important facets of developing a successful acquisition strategy

- Presentations that are educational with crisp instruction and clear takeaways on the "how to" of Design-Build Done Right®.

- Presentations that highlight challenges, with an emphasis on "lessons learned" and tools and resources others can apply to avoid similar difficulties in their practice.

- Presentations that highlight design-build application, innovation and lessons learned within specific market sectors, including data centers and mission-critical facilities; infrastructure supporting data center and mission-critical development (power, water, telecom, transportation, site development); advanced technology and manufacturing facilities; energy and utility infrastructure; other emerging or high-growth market sectors relevant to design-build practice.

The right presenters are as important as the right topic:

- One or more presenters hold a DBIA credential.

- One or more presenters holds a DBIA membership.

- Owner's involvement in the presentation is highly recommended for completed project success.

- Panels that include multiple project team members (ex., Owner, Owner Advisor, design-builder, professional designer, trades, manufacturers).

Spotlight on Trade Professionals

Skilled trade professionals play a vital role in turning designs into reality. Electricians, plumbers, ironworkers, carpenters, concrete and steel installers, sheet metal workers, equipment operators and specialty fabricators bring hands-on knowledge that helps projects work in the real world — not just on paper. We're especially interested in sessions that share the experiences, challenges and innovations of these professionals and show how involving trades early in design-build projects leads to smoother construction, fewer surprises, safer jobsites, stronger quality and better schedules and budgets.

- Presentations and panels/speakers that incorporate broad perspectives — such as experience levels, firm sizes, market sectors, geographic regions — while also highlighting efforts to expand opportunities and promote engagement for small and Underrepresented Business Enterprises (UBEs) in design-build.

Content that will __not__ be considered:

- Self-congratulatory presentations on a project.

- Presentations that provide a sense of commercial/brand promotion. Please note presentations that serve to promote a specific product or service will not be considered.

- Anything that does not precisely relate to design-build.

Topics of Interest for 2026

While all presentations meeting the criteria included in this document will be considered for inclusion in the conference program, we encourage submitters to address one or more of the topic areas below which are of particular interest to our stakeholders for our 2026 programming. Presentations offering a unique angle into these topics, leading with challenges and how the team collaborated to address them, are a priority for this year's programming.

1. **How Owners Are Making the Design-Build Decision —** How are Owners assessing design-build against other project delivery methods, and what are the drivers to choosing design-build? When choosing design-build, how and why are various procurement approaches selected? What role are Owner Advisors playing for Owners new to design-build versus Owners well-versed in design-build.

2. **Procuring and Contracting for Design-Build Services —** Design-build use, including best-value and progressive design-build (PDB), has expanded across all sectors and is projected to be nearly half of all design and construction in the U.S. by 2028. This growth can be attributed, in part, to the flexibility of design-build, including an Owner's choices of project delivery method, procurement method and contracting approach. Case studies and/or lessons learned from projects utilizing innovative financing strategies, as well as best practices for incentive contracting and risk balancing are of interest.

3. **Effective Teaming, Collaboration and Integration —** While a single-point of responsibility contract is the hallmark of design-build, the mental shift to a fully collaborative mindset is equally important. Design-Build Done Right® best practices point to the importance of early engagement and collaboration of key stakeholders. Maximizing success requires true collaboration in actions, not just words. Share examples of what true collaboration looks like and the results it can produce, including efforts to expand opportunities and promote engagement for small and Underrepresented Business Enterprises (UBEs).

4. **The Future of Design-Build —** What does the future hold for integrated design-build project delivery? How will we address workforce development issues? What creative strategies have you used to recruit and maintain top talent to our industry?

5. **Defining and Achieving Design Excellence in Design-Build —** Owners and design-build teams should recognize the value and importance of leveraging Design Excellence goals and the lasting impact of projects on the built and natural environments. Sessions focused on how the integration, innovation and creativity of the entire team can achieve design excellence in many ways, regardless of scope or budget, are encouraged.

6. **Other topics of interest include:**
   - Leadership of complex and multi-disciplinary project teams
   - Project and team safety
   - Resiliency and recovery
   - Impact of AI on the AEC community and built environment
   - Pre-fabrication and modularization in a design-build environment (considerations and benefits).
   - QA/QC in design-build including roles/responsibilities and communication.
   - Role and best practices for use of an Owner Advisor.
   - Risk Assessment and Management, and Role and Impact of Teaming Agreements
   - Unique applications of VDC and VDC Done Right*

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Submission Overview

STEP 1: Contact Information
1. Select your role (submitter only or submitter and speaker)
2. Provide your contact information (name, title, credentials, company, email, etc.)
3. Experience Presenting the Topic – Has the presenter conducted a similar topic at a DBIA or any other industry event?
4. Attestation – submitters must review and agree to their understanding of the points below:

   a) I agree that, if selected, I will submit a copy of my <u>draft</u> PowerPoint presentation to be used during the conference to DBIA by Sept. 2.

   b) I agree that, if selected, I will submit a copy of my <u>final</u> PowerPoint presentation to be used during the conference to DBIA by Oct. 22. DBIA will withdraw session presenters from the program if we do not receive final presentations by the Oct. 22 deadline.

   c) Registration and applicable travel fees are my responsibility.

   d) At this time, DBIA cannot accommodate the use of Wi-Fi based polling software such as Mentimeter in our concurrent (track) programming. DBIA is investigating how to incorporate such tools into our concurrent programming and will reach out to presentation teams if and when these tools can be accommodated.

5. Provide DBIA Certification status

STEP 2: Proposal Information — Presenter Details
1. Select presenter composition: Are you a single presenter or do you have a panel?
2. List the individuals to participate in this session, if selected — Information must include presenter(s)':
   - Name
   - Title
   - Role/Job Function
   - Credentials
   - Company

3. Full Team Perspective: How does your presentation or panel incorporate broad perspectives—such as experience levels, firm sizes, market sectors, geographic regions—while highlighting efforts to expand opportunities and promote engagement for small and underrepresented businesses in design-build?

Presenter names, titles and credentials will be listed exactly as submitted if selected, so please confirm this information with fellow panelists.

NOTE: There is a maximum of 5 panelists permitted for each session, inclusive of the moderator, with no exceptions. Panels should include representation from across the full design-build team, ideally spanning from the Owner through design and construction to the trade level.

STEP 3: Proposal Information — Presentation Overview:
1. Presentation Title: Title should capture the essence of the topic to be discussed and should not exceed 12 words. (DBIA reserves the right to modify the title; submitters will be notified). Please use title case.
2. Presentation Summary: Provide an overview of the session intent and why the topic is relevant to successful integrated delivery. The summary statement should not exceed 200 words and may be used for marketing purposes should your presentation be selected.
3. Presentation Learning Objectives: Submitters will be asked to provide four learning objectives that clearly expresses what the attendee will be able to do after taking a course.
4. Case Study: Does your submission focus on a specific case study? Our goal is to provide attendees with actionable insights and lessons that they can apply in their own work. If you answered yes and your submission is a case study, please briefly explain the key takeaways and lessons learned you will provide to the audience. Attendees should walk away with practical insights they can apply — not just a summary of what the project accomplished. (200-word limit)

5. Presentation Format: Submitters will be asked to select from: Single Presenter, Panel with Presentation, Panel Discussion without presentation, Other: Please Specify.
6. Presentation Level: Submitters will be asked to select from: Beginner, Intermediate or Advanced.
7. Intended Audience: Submitters will be asked to check all that apply: Owners (Procurement/Pre-Award Professional), Owner Advisors, design professionals, design-builders, specialty/subcontractors, other (please specify).
8. Logistical Contact: Title and Full Contact Information — This person must be prepared to serve as DBIA's main point of contact if selected, including coordination with co-presenters, where applicable.
   a. Name
   b. Title
   c. Email
   d. Phone
9. Please check to confirm your agreement and understanding that, if selected, DBIA has the right to request modifications to content and to suggest additional panelists as deemed necessary to achieve our conference goals.

STEP 4: Proposal Summary and Submission
Before you submit your final presentation, submitters will be asked to double-check the following:
- Review the abstract information by clicking the "Edit Proposal" image in the left column.
- Review the primary author information by clicking the "Edit Speaker Information" Image in the left column
- Click the "Add Additional Presenter" image in the right column to add additional speakers to this abstract.
- The primary submitter must obtain confirmation that any additional speakers will participate should DBIA accept the submission. DBIA requests that there be no more than four additional presenters (inclusive of the moderator).

Submitting Your Presentation Idea

All submissions must be completed online. Incomplete submissions will not be accepted. You must answer "yes" to the following questions to be considered. If selected, I/we:

1. Agree to have our draft presentation submitted to DBIA no later than Sept. 2, 2026.
2. Agree to have our final presentation submitted to DBIA no later than Oct. 22, 2026.
3. All listed presenters agree to attend the conference in person to present the session.
4. Commit to be available at a time slot determined by DBIA between Nov. 4–6, 2026.

Ready to Submit

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 21, 2026 by 5:00PM ET

A committee of design-build industry experts will review and make decisions on submissions. You'll be notified of the decision no later than **Friday, May 29, 2026.** All selected presenters will receive a discounted registration to the full conference. Questions regarding the submission process should be directed to conferences@dbia.org.