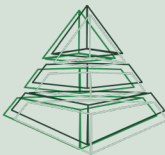


CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

Submission Deadline: April 21, 2026 by 5:00pm ET

DESIGN-BUILD VDC LEADERSHIP
EXCHANGE
Nov. 3, 2026



Colocated with:



The Virtual Design & Construction Leadership Exchange (VDCLEx) is returning as a half-day preconference event, Tuesday, Nov. 3, at the Design-Build Conference & Expo at the Huntington Convention Center in Cleveland, Ohio. The VDCLEx will continue to explore how VDC is impacting designers, builders and Owners by enhancing design excellence, increasing quality and productivity, as well as improving lifecycle costs. Programming for the VDCLEx will include a general keynote session, leaders forum and two specialized tracks: one for experienced VDC professionals and one for non-VDC professionals.

What We're Looking for: At a Glance

DBIA seeks subject matter experts (technologists, practitioners and project Owners) to help build the content for the specialized program that will not only take a deep dive into VDC, but also help educate non-VDC professionals on the value, use and power of VDC to enhance the design and construction processes and outcomes.

- **VDC Deep Dive** – For audiences more versed in VDC, we seek session ideas that provide case studies for the integration of technology in design-build and that explore current trends in VDC, such as, but not limited to:
 - Describing the future of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, augmented/virtual reality, automation, robotics, drones and 3D printing
 - Defining collaborative processes to connect people with technology to increase project efficiency
 - Exploring BIM workflows beyond just model authoring and clash detection, such as pre-fabrication, industrialized construction, sustainability, safety, estimating, scheduling, reality capture and digital twins
 - Identifying KPIs in leveraging VDC
 - Review needed contract language updates to influence better collaboration
- **VDC for Non-VDC Professionals** – For audiences newer to VDC, we seek session ideas that provide insight and lessons learned on how leveraging VDC can evolve the traditional business-as-usual approach to the design and construction process:
 - Defining the value and ROI of VDC in design-build
 - Understanding the importance of including the appropriate BIM/VDC language in your contracts and what the inclusion of topics like a BIM Execution Plan and Level of Development (LOD) mean to the project team

- Illustrating the value of identifying a VDC Project Leader as an integral part of the design-build team from the outset of projects
- Demonstrating how well-defined model-based and data deliverables can enable Owners to better operate and maintain their projects throughout their lifecycle
- Outlining how VDC is enabling design-build professionals to better socialize with project teams to drive transparency throughout the design, construction and turnover process

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

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, if selected, must review and agree to their understanding of the points below:
 - a) I will submit a copy of my draft PowerPoint presentation to be used during the conference to DBIA by Sept. 2.
 - b) I will submit a copy of my final 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) DBIA cannot accommodate the use of WiFi-based polling software such as Mentimeter in our concurrent (track) programming at this time. 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
 - Credentials
 - Role/Job Function
 - Title
 - 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, inclusive of a moderator, allowed for each session 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 be sure to use title case.
2. Presentation Summary: Please 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: VDC Deep Dive (for VDC professionals) or VDC for Non-VDC Professionals.
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 pre-conference in person to present the session and commit to be available Nov. 3, 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 will be notified of the decision no later than Friday, May 29, 2026.

All selected presenters receive a discount on registration for the VDCLEx. If also attending the Annual Conference, presenters may receive an additional 15% off full conference registration.

Questions regarding the submission process should be directed to conferences@dbia.org.