



## October 2020

### Upcoming Events

#### October 2020

##### Learn From a Leader

*Virtual Event | 5:30 pm-7:00 pm*

One remaining session:

Date TBD

Doreen Taveras (AVP/Director of Diversity Programs-Northeast Region at AECOM)

Register [here](#).

#### November 2020

##### Fall Panel Event

Details coming soon.

#### December 2020

##### Book Club Meeting

*December 10, 2020 | 6:30 pm-9:00 pm*

Get ready for the next book club meeting. We will be discussing "My Own Words" by Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Mary Harnett and Wendy W. Williams. Lookout for the registration details.

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### WTS-GNY 18th Annual Gala

October 22nd, 6:45pm-9:00pm

Please join us this fall, for a virtual WTS-GNY Gala celebrating Woman of the Year Clarelle DeGraffe, Director of Rail Transit and General Manager of PATH at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ)! The event will commemorate the formation of the WTS-GNY chapter 40 years ago, our recent accomplishments, and our vision for the future!

WTS-GNY also will present the 2020 Scholarship awards to remarkable students who demonstrate the potential to excel in the transportation field. Special guest speakers include Polly Trottenberg, Commissioner of the NYC Department of Transportation, Cheryl McKissack, President and CEO of McKissack & McKissack and Sally Librera, former Senior Vice President for Subways at MTA New York City Transit. And don't worry, you will still have an opportunity to network at the close of the event!

While this is a free event, we encourage participants and supporters to donate to the scholarship fund which will allow the chapter to continue to provide student scholarships in 2021. Donate [here!](#)

Donations placed before and during the event will be listed on an online thermometer throughout the evening! See how your donation is helping us reach our goal!

Register [here!](#)

### **\*\*Attention all WTS-GNY members\*\***

Did you know 2020 marks the 40th Anniversary of the WTS-GNY Chapter?? The Special Events Committee is collecting information and photos from the last 40 years to incorporate in our Gala program and journal, as well as an historical document the committee will be creating. We have information and photographs from the last 20 years, so are mainly looking for resources from 1980 to 2000. Also, we would love to hear from people who attended the first meeting in 1979 and/or the founding in 1980. Please send any information, stories and photographs to Sarah.Colker@parsons.com. Thanks!

### **Glass Ceiling Survey (Coming Soon)**

The Glass Ceiling committee will issue a survey to examine leading practices on how your company recruits, retains, and advances women in the workplace.

### **Trivia Night: September 16, 2020**

*by Paulina Urbanowicz-Polluck*

The Annual WTS/YPT/APA Transportation Trivia event took place virtually (in the spirit of 2020) on Wednesday,

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LLC**

September 16, 2020. The team of planners from the three organizations meticulously coordinated every detail to mirror the in-person event as much as possible. Over 25 teams competed for first place answering questions on topics ranging from: 'Name the metropolitan area where this transit seat comes from', COVID-19-related changes to bike lanes and subway operations, all the way down to figuring out which city might be most likely to be home to Eclipse, a dog who navigated a bus system all on his own. The winning teams and runner ups donated funds raised from registrant donations to Bike New York and to NYC Environmental Justice Alliance. Thank you to everyone who participated in this event, we're already looking forward to next year!

### Learn from a Leader Series with Gillian Blake

By Sheriza Majid

On September 1, WTS GNY continued our Learn From a Leader series with Gillian Blake, Principal-Infrastructure at Arup. Gillian shared her experiences from her 29 year career, which has spanned across 4 continents and her multitude of roles. Gillian has worked on projects which included strategic advice, design and project management, multidisciplinary design coordination, detailed and scheme design. Gillian imparted her knowledge when it came to running projects, working with others successfully and how she navigated career with all the different places she worked in and the various roles she has held. Moving around the world kept Gillian busy and happy, both personally and professionally. Some of the key takeaways was what she thought the 3 most important qualities of leadership are. The first quality was teamwork. Gillian explained what it took to work on a team successfully. Speaking up for others on the team if you see they are not being listened to. The second quality was taking on opportunities when they come to you or reaching out to people you know when looking for opportunities. The third quality is having flexibility. Gillian was always doing work and taking on positions that she might not have planned on doing in her career. Gillian mentioned how certain positions she took on allowed her to develop and grow because she was put into positions where she could grow skills and develop strategies that weren't explored before. Gillian gave great advice regarding stating one's case allows you to put yourself out there and get noticed. She recommended not being afraid to reach out to people that you know when it comes to getting various positions.

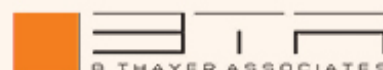
Ruby



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W/M/S/DBE



## WTS-GNY/PANYNJ Women's Council Emerging Women Leaders Webinar Series

by Andrea Cristina Ruiz

The Port Authority Women's Council (PAWC) partnered with Women Transportation Seminar (WYS) Greater New York to launch the (virtual) Emerging Women Leaders Training Series with two inaugural interactive viewing sessions during the lunch hour of Tuesday September 29 and evening of Wednesday September 30th. The partnership was launched with words by Keri Cibelli, President of WTS of Greater New York and Technical Director at AKRF, Mary K Murphy, Director of Planning and Regional Development at PANYNJ, Portia Henry, PAWC Vice President and Program Manager for Major Capital Projects, and Cynthia Lindner, PAWC President and Senior Executive Secretary and Board Manager. The series launch attracted more than 115 participants from WTS and PAWC community from multiple disciplines in both public and private sectors. The event Emerging Women Leaders Training Series is more than an opportunity to engage in career tips and personal growth- it's also an opportunity to expand our networks. The series launched featured sections from "Amplify Your Accomplishment" (aired in April 2020) and "The Juggle" (Aired June 2019) and shared links to the full sessions with all participants. In an innovative approach to viewing the series online, Andrea Cristina Ruiz and Vanessa Fernandez mixed breakout rooms with online interactions to keep participants engaged and offer opportunities to network. "It was a great experience!" said an event participant, and hopefully one of many future engagements.

### Transportation Job Opportunities

WTS-GNY would like to be a resource for women seeking positions in transportation and firms looking for candidates.

If your firm would like to post a position, fill out our [job form](#). We will share your job opportunity on our LinkedIn Page and in our next Chapter News as well as our website.

Employer	New Jersey Transit
Job Title	Senior Director, Design Services
How to Apply	<a href="#">Website</a>
Deadline	Open until vacancy filled

Employer	Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
Job Title	Manager, Airport Landside Facility Planning
How to Apply	<a href="#">Website</a>



Deadline Open until vacancy filled

Employer HNTB

Job Title Project Director

How to Apply [Website](#)

Deadline Open until vacancy filled

Employer Stantec

Job Title Architect - Project Manager

How to Apply [Website](#)

Deadline Open until vacancy filled

***Have exciting content for the next issue?***

Article pitches, women in transportation news, member spotlights, discussion topic ideas: [Email us](#) by 10/23/2020.