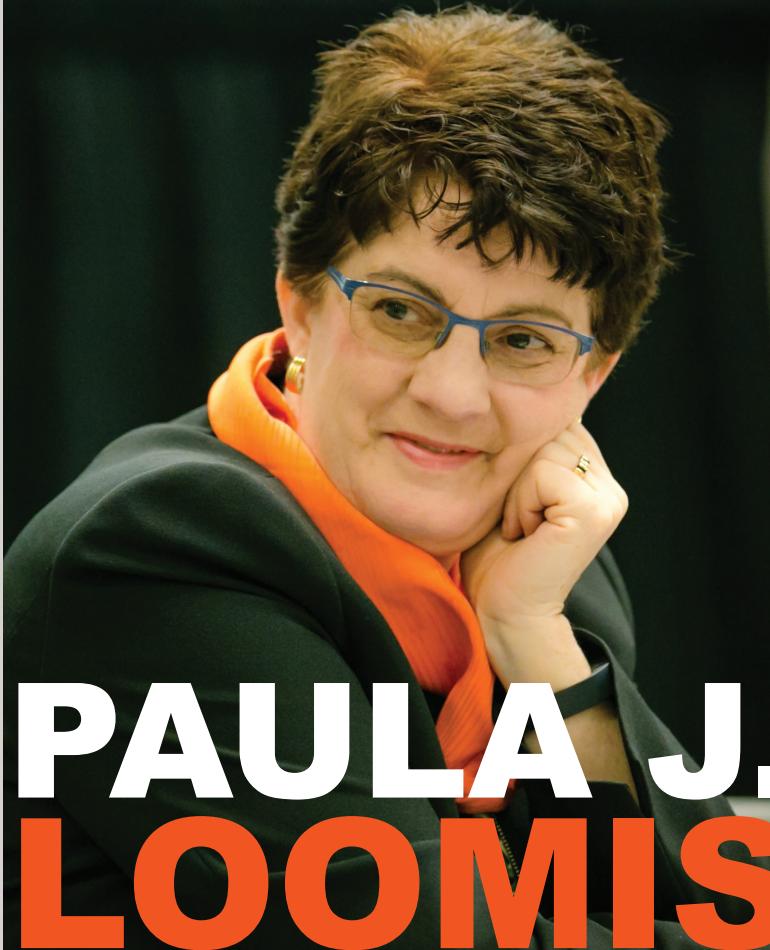


Melanie Froemke is a Licensed Master Social Worker in Alexandria, Virginia. She received her undergraduate degree from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, and pursued her Master of Science in Social Administration (MSSA/MSW) from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Melanie served as an Adjutant General Officer in the United States Army for eight years. Her career led her to serve as a platoon leader in the 18th Airborne Corps and as a company commander in Korea. Melanie is a graduate of the Officer Basic, Officer Advanced, Combined Arms Services and Staff School, Airborne, Air Assault, and Master Fitness Trainer courses. She earned her first Master's degree in Human Resources Management from Webster University. Following her military service, Melanie gained experience in non-profit, homeschooling, and fitness organizations.

In clinical social work, Melanie has served in community non-profits including Marymount University's College Counseling center and at Inova's Life with Cancer. Currently, at Alexandria Place Therapy, Melanie is a supervisee in social work, providing treatment to children and families, adolescents and adults, managing issues of depression, anxiety, adjustment, suicidal ideation, self-harm, trauma and loss. As a yoga, mindfulness, and meditation instructor, she understands the distinct mind-body connection and using expressive arts, mindful movement, and evidence-based practices, establishes a therapeutic space for healing and growth.

MELANIE FROEMKE



PAULA J. LOOMIS

Dr. Paula J. Loomis is the Director of Research, Senior Architect and Senior Planner of The Urban Collaborative LLC, an award-winning interdisciplinary planning and urban design firm that provides leadership for the Department of Defense's growing needs for environmentally, fiscally, and socially sustainable military installations. She has over 34 years of experience in architecture, planning, programming, sustainability design and development, resiliency, facility operations, education and training, policy development and urban design for the largest federal facility operating agencies – the Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, and General Services Administration as well as private and public-sector clients. Dr Loomis is a faculty member of the School of Engineering and Sciences at Stevens Institute of Technology.

Dr. Loomis holds a Doctor of Philosophy in public administration and urban theory with a cognate in economics, a Master of Business Administration, a Master of Architecture, a Master of Construction Management and a Bachelor of Environmental Design. She is a graduate of the AF Squadron Officer School, AF Air Command and Staff College, Air War College, Joint Forces Staff College and Joint Forces Staff College Advanced Joint Professional Military Education. She is a licensed architect, certified planner, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design professional, Green Globes professional and has completed the Certified Passive Haus Consultant and Project Management Professional curriculums. She served on active duty in the U.S. Air Force for six years and retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserves as a Colonel in 2013 after 30 years of service.

Kia Weatherspoon is a Design Advocate. She founded Determined by Design, a minority + veteran-owned business in 2012 to bring design equity to affordable and supportive housing projects. Her firms' practice focuses on making interior design a standard for all and not a luxury for a few. Kia leads a creative social impact business that has seen continual growth and created change in the housing industry.

She has been recognized by Boutique Design magazine as a Hero + Maverick advocating for Design Equity practices in multi-family housing. One of the Washington Business Journal's 40 under 40, and the Housing Association of Non-Profit Developers Emerging Leader. Weatherspoon is charged with being woman and leader of color who is an example of what is possible for those who are determined by design.

KIA WEATHERSPOON



LA TANYA E. SIMMS

A well-respected leader, mentor, and trailblazer, La Tanya E. Simms gained extensive leadership and program and project management experience serving in the U.S. Navy's Civil Engineer Corps (CEC), retiring at the rank of Captain after 26 years. She was the first African-American woman in the CEC to rise to this rank in Navy history.

Within the Naval Construction Force (Seabees), La Tanya served as a Company Commander and Detachment Officer in Charge in Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) THREE; Chief Staff Officer, THIRTIETH Naval Construction Regiment; and as Commanding Officer, NMCB FOUR.

Post naval service, La Tanya accepted a position at Northwestern University in 2017 as the Senior Director of Capital Programs, Facilities Management. She recently returned to Maryland and launched a graphic design business. La Tanya holds a Bachelor of Architecture from Florida A&M University, Master of Arts in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Florida, Professional Certificate in Graphic Design from Sessions College of Professional Design, and National Council of Architectural Registration Boards certificate. She also completed Harvard Kennedy School's Senior Executive Fellows program and is a registered architect in Florida.



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Featuring

Tezrah



Tezrah learned to play classical piano at age five, which laid the foundation for her future investigation into computer music programs. Before pursuing a professional career in the music industry, Tezrah graduated with a pre-medical degree in Neuroscience from William & Mary, attended the Harvard School of Design Summer Program, and was accepted into the Graduate Architecture Program at Catholic University. She also played semi-pro soccer before her full immersion into the DJ profession.

#WIELDyourStory is a storytelling series that seeks to empower the next generation of leaders by providing a platform for visibility and engagement. This award-winning event, through stories of challenges and successes, strives to bridge the gap in the architecture profession. **WIELD** is not just an event by women for women, but a framework by everyone for everyone - a means to engage in the conversation of equity, diversity, and inclusion in our industry.

“

Only when women **WIELD** power in significant numbers will we create a society that genuinely works for all women... that will be a society that works for **EVERYONE**.

Anne-Marie Slaughter

WOMEN INSPIRING EMERGING LEADERS IN DESIGN



WIELDyourStory



WIELD - Women Inspiring Emerging Leaders in Design

Wield Committee

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**DISTRICT
ARCHITECTURE
CENTER**
Monday, November
11th

5:30 - 6:00 PM - Cocktails & Introductory Activities
6:00 - 7:00 PM - Speaker Presentations
7:00 - 8:00 PM - Cocktail Hour
8:00 PM - WIELD Event After-Party at Dirty Habit

**WHY WE
WIELD**