



QUARTERLY
CONNECTION
A NIBS MEMBER NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 10, 2022

FEATURE STORY

**National Institute of Building
Sciences Appoints Stephen
T. Ayers Interim CEO**

The National Institute of Building Sciences Board of Directors has announced that The Honorable Stephen T. Ayers, FAIA, NAC, CCM, LEED AP, the 11th Architect of the Capitol and President of The Ayers Group, LLC, accepted the position of Interim CEO of NIBS. Ayers' appointment follows the announced departure of CEO Lakisha A. Woods, CAE.

"The Board of Directors is grateful to Stephen for stepping into this role," said Board Chair Anne Ellis, P.E., Hon.M.ACI, F.ASCE, M.NAC. "Stephen is a proven, trusted and highly-respected industry leader who will ensure a seamless transition and maintain the Institute's positive momentum advancing building science and technology to serve the public interest."

TOPICS INSIDE

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Ayers previously served as Chair of the NIBS Board from 2017 to 2018. He also served as Chair of the Construction Management Association of America and the Construction Users Roundtable.

On February 24, 2010, President Barack Obama nominated Ayers to serve as the 11th Architect of the Capitol. By May of that year, the United States Senate confirmed Ayers, and the President officially appointed him to a 10-year term as Architect of the Capitol.

Ayers was responsible for facilities maintenance and operation of the historic U.S. Capitol Building, the care and improvement of more than 570 acres of grounds and the operation and maintenance of 18.6 million square feet of buildings, including the House and Senate Congressional office buildings, Capitol Visitor Center, Library of Congress, U.S. Supreme Court Building, Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building, and other facilities.

YEAR IN REVIEW

2021: A Year of Building Resilience

Remaining true to the objectives in our enabling legislation, the National Institute of Building Sciences continued the mission to provide an open forum for discussion among the various facets of the building sector.























And despite lingering challenges with COVID and in-person meetings, NIBS launched a year-long [Resilience 2021 webinar series](#) that looked at everything from natural disaster mitigation and the pandemic's impact on technology in the built environment to building information modeling.

We began the year with a detailed discussion on the hidden costs of environmental savings from remote work. We learned that while lockdowns were expected to cut carbon emissions by 4-7% last year, the decrease ultimately was insignificant in the long run. That's because reduced activity has the appearance of bringing the world to a standstill, but carbon emissions actually continued nearly unabated.

Throughout the year, NIBS hosted a total of 10 Resilience webinars, concluding the series mid-November with a talk about the shift from relief and response to hazard mitigation. View Resilience 2021 series highlights on Page 5.

Convening The Built Environment

Our councils engage with private organizations, institutions, agencies and federal, state, local and other governmental entities, giving attention to the development of methods that encourage representation from all sectors of the economy and ensure national interests are protected and promoted for the best results.

EVENTS	COVERAGE	TOP STORIES
<p>Building Innovation 2021 Tracks: Resilience, Workforce, Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  411 Virtual Edition Registrants  30 Total Sessions  61 Total Speakers  23 Total Sponsors <p>Resilience 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  10 Resilience 2021 webinars  5,020 Total Resilience 2021 registrants <p>General Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  4 WEB Virtual Leadership Meetings 	<p>News Coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  303 News stories featuring NIBS in 2021  3.03 Billion Total combined readership of 2021 news stories  10,376 Total estimated social shares of NIBS stories <p>Social Media Coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  263,000 Total 2021 Twitter impressions  +48% Followership growth from January 2021  +61% Followership growth from January 2021 	<p>Top 6 Stories</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">  New York Times 705 million monthly visits; 521,000 estimated coverage views  CNN 524 million monthly visits; 388,000 estimated coverage views  Fox News 608 million visits; 448,000 estimated coverage views  Yahoo! News 256 million monthly visits; 224,000 estimated coverage views  Politico 57.7 million monthly visits; 66,700 estimated coverage views  The Hill 53.5 million monthly visits; 61,800 estimated coverage views
<p>  @BLDGSCIENCES  @BLDGSCIENCES  NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES </p>		

In March, the Building Seismic Safety Council hosted the **BSSC Symposium** on the 2020 National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) Recommended Seismic Provisions for New Buildings and Other Structures. Developed by the BSSC Provisions Update Committee (PUC) for the Federal Emergency Management Agency,

the NEHRP Provisions help translate new knowledge and recent research results for improving national standards and codes. The Provisions are a state-of-art resource and reference document for design professionals and standard and code-development organizations.

The Provisions present recommended changes to ASCE/SEI 7-16 Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures. These changes may significantly impact future seismic design of buildings. More than 360 people registered for the spring symposium.

Also, since the beginning of the pandemic, building enclosures have received closer scrutiny, with everyone from consumers to building professionals to local and federal government, wanting to know more about their technologies and performance.

In April, the NIBS Building Enclosure Technology and Environment Council (BETEC), alongside the Building Enclosure Council (BEC) chapter networks, hosted more than 150 registrants for BESTfest.

[This four-hour virtual program](#) brought together industry leaders and experts to discuss how the building enclosure science and technology field has changed since COVID-19 shook the world.

What's Ahead: The Infrastructure Series

There has been a lot of movement, talk, and news coverage about infrastructure.

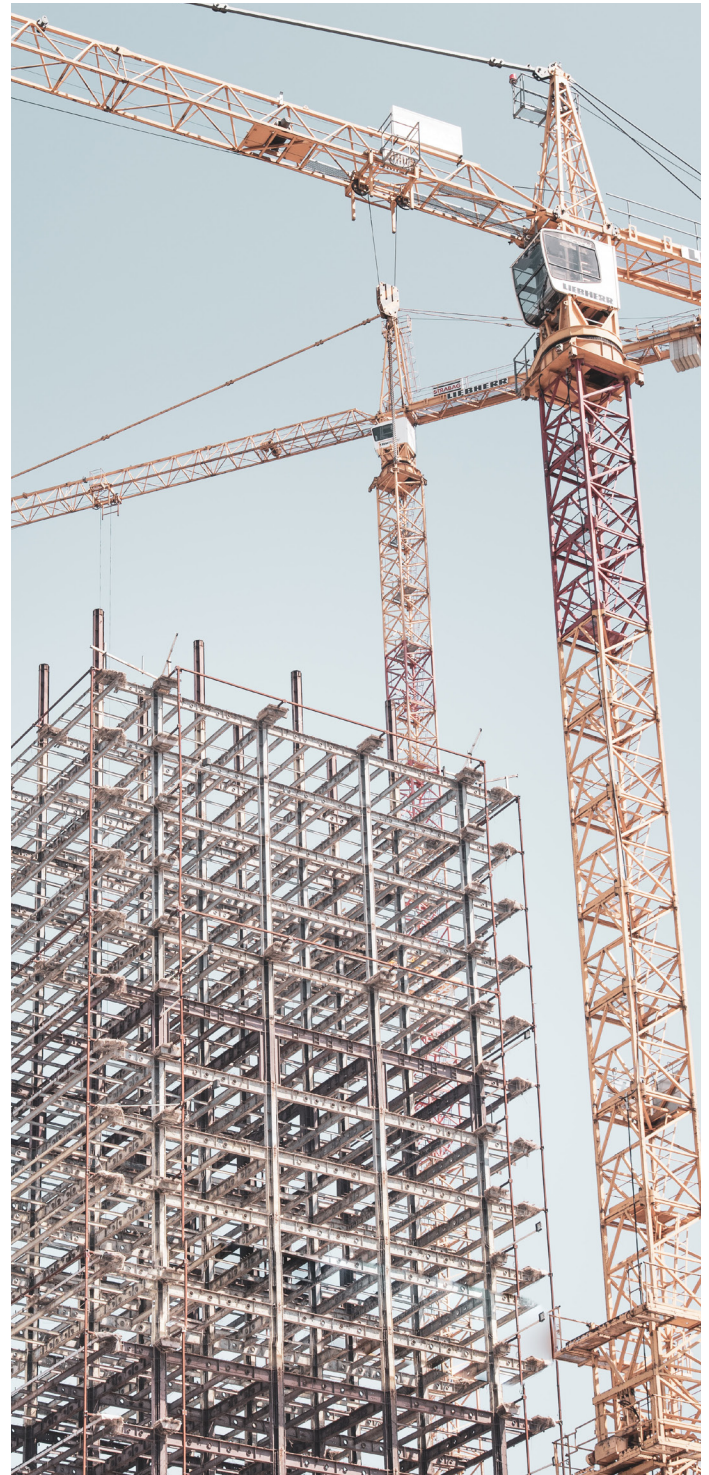
This year, we're digging deep with a new Infrastructure webinar series – a quarterly event centered around key infrastructure topics. These include:

- Transportation infrastructure
- Goods and supply chain challenges
- Lifelines and access to high-speed networks
- Preparedness and mitigating the climate crisis

The first meeting will be held February 16, and it will cover transportation infrastructure. Details now are being worked

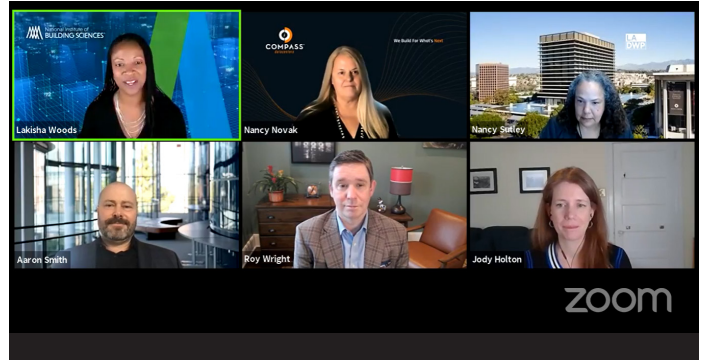
out for the entire series, but all will include information regarding strengthening or improving infrastructure.

Join us for Infrastructure 2022.



RESILIENCE 2021 WEBINARS

NIBS launched the Resilience 2021 webinar series to address how a year of unique challenges ultimately can build resilience in our communities, our infrastructure and the places we live, work, learn and play. Here are some of the highlights.



Recording LIVE on Facebook

Mitigation in Mississippi

HURRICANE SAFE ROOM

With safe room design and rated (2-hour) gulf Hurricane Protection

• No. 101 #1 • High Wind-Resistant

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Hurricane

- Longer Duration Event
- Lower Wind Speeds
- Greater Risk of Flooding
- Greater Space Requirements
- Designed for Long Term Occupancy

Tornado

- Short Duration Event
- Higher Wind Speeds
- Less Flooding Risk
- Less Space Requirements
- Designed for Short Term (2 hr) Occupancy

Recording LIVE on Facebook

Shamim Rashid

Case Study – Noncombustible Exterior Finish Saves Home from Devastating Wildfire

Wildfire in Laguna Beach, California (2013)

- 17,000 acres of brushland consumed
- 366 homes destroyed; 500 damaged in a single day
- Extreme demand on District's water supply
- \$528 million in damages
- 345 engines, 17 dozers, 30 aircraft, 11 hand crews, and 1,968 fire personnel responded
- Santa Ana winds contributing factor
- One single-family home survived due construction and landscape design
 - Stucco cladding
 - Class A concrete tile roof, ends sealed with concrete
 - Double-paned glass
 - Landscaping zones of fire-resistant plants

Photo credit: AP Photo/ Douglas C. Pizric

RVI & Plan Review Survey

March 2021 – 158 Responses

- Jurisdiction perform electronic plan review?
 - All electronic 34%, all paper 22%, both 34%, some projects electronic
 - Benefits: reduced paper/document management 65%, streamlined review 50%
 - Barriers: integration w/ other software 35%, learning new technology 34%, procurement 30%
- Jurisdiction perform inspections in-person or remote?
 - In-person 59%, Both 39%, Remotely 2%
 - Benefits (open): Perform from anywhere (with internet), COVID safety, save time, streamlining
 - Barriers: Accuracy on some projects 59%, coordination/communication w/ contractors 39%, lack of standards 35%, trained personnel 33%
- Continue w/ electronic plan review & inspection post-COVID?
 - Yes 41%, Not sure 15%, No 16%

Recording LIVE on Facebook

Ryan Colker

WOMEN EXECUTIVES IN BUILDING

Women Executives in Building: Encouraging Authenticity in Your Staff

Today's virtual world has challenged many business professionals, when it comes to deepening relationships and being authentic.

What's OK to share on those Zoom calls?

Is it appropriate to discuss your favorite Peloton class? What about your most recent Netflix binge? These would've been fair game in person around the office watercooler.

More than 20 leaders joined the December 7 meeting of the Women Executives in Building to discuss authenticity and what it means to honor your authentic self.

NIBS CEO Lakisha A. Woods, CAE, said prior to COVID, it may have been easier to keep your personal life separate from work. But now, with so many workers online, folks are jammed in their homes with kids and pets mingling during office hours.

"You're beginning to see another layer to people," Woods said. "I'm seeing more women publicly leading with CEO and mom. They're putting it out there."

"We Work Hard, We Play Hard"

When Andrea Rutledge, CAE, started with the Construction Management Association of America, it was at a time when she'd committed to helping to produce a documentary about a 50-mile ultra-marathon in Southern Illinois.

Rutledge needed to go to the race and shoot some footage over the weekend. It would've been her first



"Spotting our own tendency to be critical of peers (or competitive) is recognizing an unconscious bias. We women hold each other to very high standards ... and that's ok ... but lend a hand instead of letting an obstacle stay in place."

Vicki Worden, President and CEO, Green Building Initiative

“disappearing act” within her first 30 days with her new organization.

She spoke with the CMAA chair about it.

“And the chair said, ‘OK, we’ll see you on Monday,’” said Rutledge, President and CEO of CMAA. “It was a sort of crystallizing moment for me. He set the tone. We work hard, we play hard, and it’s all a part of who we are.”

Choosing Balance First

Many times, we try to take on too much. Saying no can be among the hardest decisions to make, especially when a good opportunity presents itself.

“It’s important to find that healthy balance in your life,” Woods says.

Vicki Worden, President and CEO of the Green Building Initiative, said this is a very important conversation, when it comes to recruitment and mentoring.

Prospective candidates need to know that a company’s culture is family friendly, creative and supportive.

“We encourage people to take the time they need,” Worden said. “Mental health days are really important.”

Honor Your Authentic Self

The Women Executives in Building shared many personal stories that ultimately lead to one thing: acceptance of personal time, space, and lives.

Other items that came out of the meeting:

- Offices are getting more relaxed and casual with dress codes. But you should be careful with the words you choose when advising people on what they can and can’t wear. Even DC is getting more casual.

- Allow for flexibility with team members. Do they have to use a company virtual backdrop? Must they turn on their computer cameras? We need to connect, share information, and ideas. But allow people on your team to choose and strive for balance.
- Show your peers acceptance for who they are.

COLUMNS

NIBS Board of Directors and Councils Announce 2021-2022 Leadership

The National Institute of Building Sciences installed the 2021-2022 Board of Directors and council leadership, effective October 1.

The board includes several new officers:

- Anne M. Ellis, P.E., Hon.M.ACI, F.ASCE, M.NAC, Executive Director, Charles Pankow Foundation – Chair
- Thomas H. Phoenix, Sr., PE, FASHRAE, LEED-AP, CPL Architects and Engineers, PC – Vice Chair
- Darrell X. Rounds, FMA, C.E.M., EV Infrastructure Strategy Lead - North America, General Motors – Treasurer
- Charlie (Chuck) D. Curlin, Jr., PE, CEM, CPD, Principal with Shultz Engineering Group – Secretary

New board members include four President Joseph Biden appointees: Evelyn M. Fujimoto, Principal, Director of Design, Interiors at STG Design; Lori Peek, Director, Natural Hazards Center and Sociology Professor, University of Colorado Boulder; Dr. Kimberly L. Jones, Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Education, College of Engineering and Architecture and Professor and Chair, Department of Civil and Environmental



Engineering, Howard University; and William Holloway, Vice President and Principal, Bernardon.

Also joining the board are Sez Atamturktur Russcher, PhD, Head of the Department of Architectural Engineering, College of Engineering, Penn State University; Fiona Cousins, PE, LEED Fellow, an Arup Fellow and member of Arup's Group and Americas Region Boards; and Sandra Benson, Global Head of Industry Transformation, Procore Technologies.

“The collective level of expertise and knowledge within this board can bring transformative leadership to the built environment,” said Lakisha A. Woods, CAE, President and CEO of NIBS. “In addition, the new board moves us toward a better representation of the diversity of this country, and the nation’s communities will benefit from their efforts.” [READ MORE>>](#)

NIBS Building Seismic Safety Council to Launch Earthquake Design Webinar Series

The National Institute of Building Sciences Building Seismic Safety Council (BSSC) is hosting a webinar series in 2022, centered around the eight chapters of the 2020 NEHRP Recommended Seismic Provisions: Design

Examples, Training Materials, and Design Flow Charts (FEMA P-2192).

The first session takes place January 20.

The FEMA P-2192 are developed by BSSC for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to illustrate and explain the applications of the 2020 NEHRP Recommended Seismic Provisions for New Buildings and Other Structures ([FEMA P-2082](#)), ASCE/SEI 7-22 Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures, and the material design standards.

The webinar series serves as part the FEMA NEHRP/BSSC outreach and education effort. For more information, visit <https://www.nibs.org/events/nehpr-webinar-series>.

NIBS Meetings and Other Speaking Engagements

The NIBS team has been busy with a variety of speaking engagements, meetings and presentations.

On November 4, NIBS President & CEO Lakisha A. Woods, CAE, and Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council leadership met with Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Deanne Criswell and her team to discuss the mutual interest and important partnership between FEMA and NIBS. The MMC leadership shared information about a few MMC initiatives, including the TurboGrants Portal, CFIRE Resilience Incentivization, and climate change issues.

On November 10, NIBS' Jiqiu Yuan, Executive Director of the Multi-Hazard Mitigation and Building Seismic Safety Councils, moderated a Structural Engineers Association of Northern California (SEAONC) national webinar on “Nonstructural Components: New Design Equation and Examples.”

By early December, NIBS' Roger Grant, Executive Director of Building Information Management, and Will Sharp, P.E.,

PTOE, Director of Highways with HDR Engineering, Inc., co-presented at the International Highway Engineering Exchange Program Conference in Hartford, Connecticut. Grant gave an update about the National BIM Program Steering Committee, whose formation was announced in April. The committee is chaired by Salla Eckhardt, Director of Transformation Services with Microsoft, and includes 13 diverse BIM subject matter experts in horizontal and vertical infrastructure from federal and state agencies and consultants.

The overarching goal of the U.S. National BIM Program is to enable digital processes that will streamline industry practices and procedures on a national scale. The Steering Committee guiding the effort is working in collaboration with representatives from the UK's Centre for Digital Built Britain.

Grant also recently moderated a panel on public procurement with representatives from Australia and the Czech Republic, during the Global BIM Network's First Annual General Assembly in December.

Also in December, Yuan presented at the ICC national webinar "Existing Building Maintenance & Inspections Dialogue With ICC."

BSSC 2026 Provisions Update Committee and Issue Team Seeks Members

The Building Seismic Safety Council has kicked off development of the 2026 NEHRP Recommended Seismic Provisions for New Buildings and Other Structures for FEMA. As with prior editions, FEMA and BSSC expect this to be a collaborative effort of the NEHRP agencies and private sector construction and design industries. The 2026 NEHRP Provisions will be based on the ASCE/SEI 7-22 Standard.

The BSSC set a December deadline to have subject matter experts to join its committees. These committees include:

PUC Voting Members: The PUC will be composed of approximately 20 to 25 qualified technical experts representing the breadth of seismic design disciplines. The PUC will be responsible to identify, develop, evaluate and approve technical proposals of seismic code change and is the primary body for developing the 2026 NEHRP Provisions. The PUC Voting Members will be selected by the BSSC Selection Committee based on expertise need and qualifications. Travel for participating PUC activities will be supported by the BSSC.

IT Voting Members: Issue Teams will be established by the PUC to examine specific topics in need of attention that can be addressed successfully (i.e., develop code change proposals for Part 1 of the NEHRP Provisions or Resource Papers for Part 3 of the NEHRP Provisions) during the 2026 update cycle. Each Issue Team will be composed of a chair, approximately four to eight voting members from professionals possessing the needed expertise. Travel for participating IT activities will be supported by the BSSC. [READ MORE>>](#)

Off-Site Construction Council to Form Subcommittees

Off-site construction is the planning, design, fabrication, and assembly of building elements at a location other than their final installed location to support the rapid and efficient construction of a permanent structure. It often is characterized by an integrated planning and supply chain optimization strategy.

The NIBS Off-Site Construction Council serves as a research, education and outreach center for relevant and current information on off-site design and construction

for commercial, institutional, and multifamily facilities. It's looking to form some subcommittees.

They include:

- **Administrative.** This subcommittee will look to improve outward-facing materials on the OSCC website, best practices and code compliance, and standardization of codes.
- **Factory capacity/capability.** The goal will be to keep our factories working (creating a pipeline), create relationships with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Housing Preservation & Development, and other organizations for approved factories. Also, this subcommittee will stay up to date on innovation (advanced robotics, BIM, module storage).
- **Retrofits/existing buildings.** This subcommittee will stay informed on pods to outfit portions of buildings (bathrooms and additions), removing fossil fuels and

MEP/HVAC to gain higher levels of sustainability, and superinsulation, high efficiency windows, toilets, lighting, etc.

[READ MORE >>](#)

Core BIM Workgroup Makes Progress on Common Requirements

The Core BIM Workgroup has made great progress on the creation of a set of common requirements that, if referenced in contracts, defines projects as meeting the baseline for a BIM project. Currently, the workgroup is wrapping up the first draft of the Core BIM requirements.

Once the first draft is complete, it will be checked against other standards like ISO-19650 for alignment and then edited for consistency. The workgroup looks forward to a final review early in 2022 and its inclusion in NBIMS v4.



NIBS IN THE NEWS

CNN

SEN. MANCHIN'S INACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE IS THE REAL 'FISCAL INSANITY'

West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin has in recent weeks dubbed the proposed social safety net spending in the reconciliation bill currently being discussed in Congress as “reckless” and “fiscal insanity.” However, when it comes to climate change, the true insanity is ignoring the brutal fiscal reality that our nation will face if we don't make serious investments now to stave off the worst of global warming and make American communities and the economy resilient to climate-fueled extreme weather.

[READ MORE>>](#)

BUILDING ENCLOSURE

DOE BUILDING ENVELOPE CAMPAIGN CELEBRATES FIRST-YEAR SUCCESS STORIES

The National Institute of Building Sciences proudly supports the U.S. Department of Energy Better Buildings Building Envelope Campaign (BEC) recognition of 14 organizations for their achievements in building envelope energy performance. NIBS is a supporting partner of the BEC. [READ MORE>>](#)

YAHOO! FINANCE

BUILT ENVIRONMENT CEOS SIGN DIVERSITY COMMITMENT

The National Institute of Building Sciences has secured 20 signatures from leaders committed to supporting greater diversity in the built environment. [READ MORE>>](#)

ARCHITECT MAGAZINE

LAKISHA WOODS TO REPLACE ROBERT IVY AS AIA EVP AND CEO

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) Board of Directors has selected Lakisha Ann Woods, CAE, as the next AIA Executive Vice President/Chief Executive Officer effective Jan. 31, 2022. [READ MORE>>](#)

RETROFIT MAGAZINE

AYERS ACCEPTS POSITION OF INTERIM CEO OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES

The National Institute of Building Sciences Board of Directors is pleased to announce that The Honorable Stephen T. Ayers, FAIA, NAC, CCM, LEED AP, the 11th Architect of the Capitol and President of The Ayers Group, LLC, has accepted the position of Interim CEO of NIBS. Ayers' appointment follows the announced departure of CEO Lakisha A. Woods, CAE. [READ MORE>>](#)

FLORIDA DAILY

FEMA SENDING \$1.6 MILLION TO MARIANNA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced on Wednesday that it has approved a hazard mitigation grant of \$1,612,448 for the city of Marianna to protect its Public Works building by reducing potential wind damage and ensuring the facility is operational during future power outages. [READ MORE>>](#)

OBSERVANCES & EVENTS

January 10: National Cut Your Energy Costs Day

February 11: International Day of Women and Girls in Science

February 20-26: National Engineers Week

February 24: Girl Day (Girls in Engineering)

March 4: World Engineering Day

March 8: International Women's Day

March 7-13: Women of Aviation Worldwide Week

March 11: World Plumbing Day

March 22: World Water Day

April: World Landscape Architecture Month



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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES SIGNS COMMUNIQUE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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BIM FOR INFRASTRUCTURE: U.S. NATIONAL BIM STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATE PRESENTATION

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DOE BUILDING ENVELOPE CAMPAIGN CELEBRATES FIRST-YEAR SUCCESS STORIES

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RESILIENCE 2021: BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH BIM

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES ANNOUNCES DEPARTURE OF PRESIDENT & CEO LAKISHA A. WOODS

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RESILIENCE 2021: THE SHIFT FROM RELIEF AND RESPONSE TO HAZARD MITIGATION

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES APPOINTS STEPHEN T. AYERS INTERIM CEO

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