

40<sup>th</sup>  
annual

# Simmons

## LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

THE PREEMINENT AUTHORITY ON WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

BOSTON  
MA



### designing SUCCESS



APRIL 2,  
2019



Medusa Studios

Laverne Cox

Actor, Award-winning Producer  
and Equal Rights Activist



Julia Gillard


Former Prime Minister  
of Australia



Taraji P. Henson

Actor, Author, Producer, and Director

[simmons.edu/leadership](https://simmons.edu/leadership)



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## Dear Friends:

Welcome to the 2019 Simmons Leadership Conference, long recognized as the *world's premier leadership conference for women*.

Now celebrating its 40th year, today's program celebrates *Designing Success* and focuses on the need for constant adaptation and reinvention in our increasingly fast-paced world. As always, this year's program brings a diverse range of exceptional women leaders to the podium, each with her own fascinating story about defining her own measure of success and, by example, inspiring others to do the same. Among the featured speakers are Julia Gillard, who faced down tremendous hostility as Australia's first female prime minister and now works on the global stage to advance the education of women leaders; actor and activist Laverne Cox who, as a transgender person of color, has earned a long list of firsts for her achievements in the entertainment industry; and world-ranked squash player Maria Toorpakai Wazir, who spent her early years training, competing, and living as a boy to escape the notice of the oppressive Taliban regime in her native Pakistan.

In addition to these compelling presentations, panel discussions, signature dialogues, skill-building workshops, and book-signings, you can visit the corporate marketplace, enjoy a delicious lunch, and network with some of the 3,400 inspiring women who attend the conference from companies and organizations around the world.

The Simmons Leadership Conference has once again partnered with extraordinary sponsors, without whose support we could not provide the high-quality programming we deliver each year. Please allow some time to visit their booths in the Corporate Marketplace. We are most grateful for their generosity and participation in today's event.

In this ever-changing world, Simmons has always sought to respond to the needs of our sponsors and audience and so, we are pleased to announce that we are continuing to bring this extraordinary conference to the international stage in November 2019. The 4th annual International Simmons Leadership Conference will be held in Dublin, Ireland on November 5-6, 2019! Visit [simmons.edu/leadership/international](http://simmons.edu/leadership/international) to learn more.

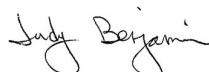
The Simmons Leadership Conference is a one-day investment in yourself that pays off all year, and is a must-experience for all women leaders. Most importantly, all proceeds from the Simmons Leadership Conference support scholarships for students in graduate programs at Simmons University.

Thank you for helping us to reach our goal. Enjoy the day!

Sincerely,



**Helen G. Drinan '75LS, '78SM**  
President  
Simmons University



**Judy Benjamin**  
Executive Director  
Simmons Leadership Conference

# Day at a Glance



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## 6:45 - 7:45 Check-in and Continental Breakfast

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### 7:45 - 8:30 Welcoming Remarks

*Commonwealth Complex, Seaport WTC, Harbor Level*

**Joyce Kulhawik**

Master of Ceremonies

**Helen G. Drinan**

President

Simmons University

**Denise Millard**

Senior Vice President, Sales Planning and Strategy

Dell Technologies

**Shari Slate**

Vice President, Chief Inclusion and Collaboration Officer

Cisco

**Marianna Accomando**

Vice President of Sales and Assistant General Manager

Seaport Hotel and World Trade Center

**Judy Marks**

President, Otis

United Technologies Corporation

**Maggie Ruvoldt**

Chief of Staff, 2U Grad

2U, Inc.

**Lee Wilkerson**

Vice President, Global Sales

Hewlett Packard Enterprise

**Katie Jenkins**

Senior Vice President, Chief Information Security Officer

Liberty Mutual Insurance

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## 8:35 - 9:25 Opening Keynote: Seven Lessons for Leadership and Life

**Susan O'Malley**, American Sports Executive

*Commonwealth Complex, Seaport WTC, Harbor Level*

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## 9:35 - 10:55 Concurrent Morning Sessions

### 1. Signature Session: No Limits: A Fearless Design

**Kathrine Switzer**, Athlete, Advocate, and Commentator

*Amphitheater, Seaport WTC, Mezzanine Level*

### 2. New Rules of Language in a Digital Workplace

**Erica Dhawan**, Business Strategist and Innovation Expert

*Waterfront Ballroom, Seaport WTC, Harbor Level*



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**3. Emotional Agility: Get Unstuck, Embrace Change, and Thrive in Work and Life**

**Susan David, PhD**, Psychologist, Harvard Medical School  
*Plaza Ballroom, Seaport Hotel, Plaza Level*

**4. Blowing Up Obstacles and Shattering Stereotypes**

**Kate Biberdorf, PhD**, Award-winning Instructor of General Chemistry, The University of Texas at Austin  
*Cityview Ballroom, Seaport WTC, Plaza Level*

**5. Finding the Truth and Building Trust that Lasts**

**Pamela Meyer**, Author, Certified Fraud Examiner, and Entrepreneur  
*Harborview Ballroom, Seaport WTC, Plaza Level*

**6. A Woman's Worth**

**Carmen Rita Wong**, Journalist, Author, and Commentator  
*Lighthouse I, Seaport Hotel, Plaza Level*

**7. Business Panel: Designing Success**

Panelists:

**Asha George**

Vice President, Diversity and Inclusion  
Dell Technologies

**Alessandra Ginante**

Executive Vice President, Chief Talent Officer  
Hewlett Packard Enterprise

**Adora Jenkins**

Vice President, Communications and Engagement  
2U, Inc.

Moderator:

**Stacy Blake-Beard, PhD**, Professor, School of Business  
Simmons University  
*Seaport Ballroom, Seaport Hotel, Mezzanine Level*

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**10:55 - 11:25 Meet the Speakers Book-signing Break**

*Corporate Marketplace, Seaport WTC, Harbor Level*

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**11:25 - 12:15 Morning Keynote: Designing a Successful Life**

**Laverne Cox**, Actor, Award-winning Producer, and Equal Rights Activist  
*Commonwealth Complex, Seaport WTC, Harbor Level*

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**12:15 - 1:30 Luncheon**

*Commonwealth Complex, Seaport WTC, Harbor Level*

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**1:30 - 2:20 Afternoon Keynote: Women in Professional and Public Life: Challenge, Adversity, and Triumph**

**Julia Gillard**, Former Prime Minister of Australia  
*Commonwealth Complex, Seaport WTC, Harbor Level*

**2:30 - 3:50      Concurrent Afternoon Sessions**

**8. Signature Session: Fighting for Your Dream**

**Maria Toorpakai Wazir**, Professional Squash Player

Moderator: **Karima Bennoune**, Author, Lawyer, and Professor

*Amphitheater, Seaport WTC, Mezzanine Level*

**9. New Rules of Language in a Digital Workplace**

**Erica Dhawan**, Business Strategist and Innovation Expert

*Waterfront Ballroom, Seaport WTC, Harbor Level*

**10. Emotional Agility: Get Unstuck, Embrace Change, and Thrive in Work and Life**

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**13. A Woman's Worth**

**Carmen Rita Wong**, Journalist, Author, and Commentator

*Lighthouse I, Seaport Hotel, Plaza Level*

**14. Business Panel: Designing Success**

Panelists:

**Dayan Anandappa**

Corporate Vice President and General Manager, Digital Accelerator  
United Technologies Corporation

**Susan McDonough**

Vice President, Customer Experience Americas West  
Cisco

**Nigel W. Long**

Corporate Counsel-Litigation Group  
Liberty Mutual Insurance

Moderator:

**Javier Barrientos**, Vice President of Talent and Inclusion  
Charter Communications

*Seaport Ballroom, Seaport Hotel, Mezzanine Level*

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**3:50 - 4:20      Meet the Speakers Book-signing Break**

*Corporate Marketplace, Seaport WTC, Harbor Level*

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**4:20 - 5:20      Closing Keynote: Living Your Truth**

**Taraji P. Henson**, Actor, Author, Producer, and Director

*Commonwealth Complex, Seaport WTC, Harbor Level*

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way



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Ling Liu, Head of Finance, North America  
#Leadyourway

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This is why, for almost 90 years, we have been researching and developing therapies for rare and serious diseases, where patient need is great. Our mission is to provide hope for the patients whose lives are challenged by difficult-to-treat diseases across oncology, neuroscience and rare diseases. **TO LIVE... AND TO DREAM.**



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# Conference Schedule ▶▶▶

**6:45 - 7:45    Check-in and Continental Breakfast**

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**7:45 - 8:30    Welcoming Remarks**



Joyce  
Kulhawik

Joyce Kulhawik, best known as the Emmy Award-winning Arts and Entertainment Critic for CBS-Boston (WBZ-TV, 1981-2008), has covered local and national events from Boston and Broadway to Hollywood, and has co-hosted nationally-syndicated movie-review programs with Roger Ebert and Leonard Maltin. As the first arts reporter/critic in the U.S. to appear every weeknight as part of a local TV news team, Kulhawik gave journalistic stature to arts reporting and greatly

enhanced her station's commitment to community service. She is currently President of the Boston Theater Critics Association, and a member of the Boston Society of Film Critics.

A three-time cancer survivor, Kulhawik testified before Congress on the 20th anniversary of The National Cancer Act, and helped launch the American Cancer Society's first HOPE LODGE in Boston, which provides free lodging for cancer patients. The ACS honored Kulhawik with its National Bronze Medal for her work.

In 2010, Kulhawik received the New England Emmys Governor's Award for her distinguished career, which includes Emmys for the WBZ series/campaign "You Gotta Have Arts!" and team coverage of the World Trade Center attacks, where she was among the first on the scene. In 2007, she was among the inaugural inductees into the Massachusetts Broadcasters Hall of Fame. The recipient of countless awards for her career and advocacy, Kulhawik also holds an Honorary Doctorate in Communications from her alma mater Simmons University, and has an endowed scholarship in her name at the Berklee College of Music.

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**8:35 - 9:25    Opening Keynote**

▶▶▶ ***Seven Lessons for Leadership and Life***



Susan  
O'Malley

A trailblazer in the sports management industry, **Susan O'Malley** knows what it takes to lead in a tough business environment and to build an organization from the ground up. In this lively and upbeat presentation, she outlines seven seminal "rules" of success that she has gleaned from her early family experiences, as well as from her groundbreaking career. With her warm sense of humor, entertaining stories, and sharp insights, O'Malley will leave you armed with practical takeaways for your own life and career.

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**9:35 - 10:55    Concurrent Morning Sessions**

**1. Signature Session: No Limits: A Fearless Design**



Kathrine  
Switzer

Kathrine Switzer literally broke new ground when she challenged the all-male rule of the Boston Marathon 50 years ago, becoming the first woman to officially register and run the legendary race. It was a run that changed the world. In her inspiring presentation, Switzer shows how designing success is about stepping off the sidelines and into the race, and running—despite blisters, doubt, and risk—across the finish line, knowing that you have the power and determination to do anything.

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Erica  
Dhawan

## 2. New Rules of Language in a Digital Workplace

Whether located on separate floors, buildings, or even countries, team members have to connect online in order to collaborate. But with our digital walls up, we lose subtext and nuance, creating misunderstandings all day, every day. In this informative session, collaboration expert **Erica Dhawan** helps you discover your own digital communication style and how you may be broadcasting unintended signals. She also provides commonsense rules for not only reducing confusion and frustration, but also fostering real intellectual and emotional connection, no matter the distance.

## 3. Emotional Agility: Get Unstuck, Embrace Change, and Thrive in Work and Life



Susan David,  
PhD

The way we navigate our inner world—our everyday thoughts, feelings, and self-stories—is the single most important determinant of success, whether in careers, relationships, or even personal health. Renowned psychologist **Susan David** draws on more than 20 years of deep research, expert consulting, and her own experiences to explain how developing greater emotional agility will help you meet life's difficulties with courage and resilience, enabling you to make changes that bring your best self forward.

## 4. Blowing Up Obstacles and Shattering Stereotypes



Kate  
Biberdorf, PhD

**Kate Biberdorf**, a.k.a. Kate the Chemist, loves to blow stuff up—especially stereotypes about women in science. In this entertaining and engaging presentation, she describes the many hardships her female role models in STEM faced and the lessons she learned from their often unsung achievements. Throughout the course of her talk, Biberdorf illustrates those principles of mentorship, community leadership, and inclusion by relating her own story and performing some of her famous demonstrations with help from volunteers in the audience.

## 5. Finding the Truth and Building Trust that Lasts



Pamela  
Meyer

Studies show that people lie between 10 and 200 times a day. As the nation's leading expert on the science of deception, **Pamela Meyer** thinks we all should employ the same lie detection techniques of a CIA operative or law enforcement specialist when it's time to make critical decisions. Using hilarious anecdotes, video of well-known deceivers, and her proven methodology, Meyer details the tricks of spotting lies and rooting out the truth, as well as the steps to building your network of trusted advisors and associates.



**6. A Woman's Worth**



Carmen  
Rita Wong

As women, how can we capitalize on our advantages—our ability to build and maintain communities, be efficient, look before leaping, among others—to earn more and feel more successful at what we do? As a national advice columnist for several of the largest women's magazines in the world, **Carmen Rita Wong** has heard from and spoken to thousands of women about their money. In this information-packed presentation, she presents inspiring, empowering guidance about taking control of your personal finances and redefining your sense of success and worth.

**7. Business Panel: Designing Success**



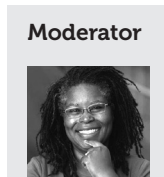
Asha George  
Dell  
Technologies



Alessandra  
Ginante  
Hewlett Packard  
Enterprise



Adora  
Jenkins  
2U, Inc.



**Moderator**



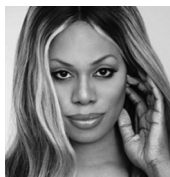
Stacy  
Blake-Beard,  
PhD

Research clearly demonstrates that diverse and inclusive teams are more innovative, engaged, and creative in their work. But while many companies embrace diversity, making it really count for the bottom line means embedding inclusiveness into all aspects of an organization's operations. Representing a range of major companies that are working hard to address this challenge, the senior executives on this panel share how their hiring, promotion, and compensation initiatives are paying off not only in terms of a more inclusive corporate culture, but also in stronger performance metrics.

**10:55 - 11:25 Meet the Speakers Book-signing Break**

**11:25 - 12:15 Morning Keynote**

▶▶▶ **Designing a Successful Life**



Laverne Cox

Celebrated actor, documentary film producer, and equal rights advocate, **Laverne Cox** has an empowering message to send about moving beyond gender expectations to live more authentically. Bullied and harassed as a child growing up in Alabama, she eventually came out as transgender after taking up acting in New York. Now a star in *Orange Is the New Black*, she has emerged as the public face of the trans movement, using her increasing prominence to advocate for equal rights, particularly for trans women of color.



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**12:15 - 1:30    Luncheon**

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**1:30 - 2:20    Afternoon Keynote**

▶▶▶ ***Women in Professional and Public Life: Challenge, Adversity, and Triumph***



As Australia’s first woman Prime Minister, **Julia Gillard** is well-acquainted with the highs and lows of public life. Although she led significant advances in education reform, economic development, health care delivery, and other national priorities during her tenure, she also remained the target of vicious sexism and misogyny in both the government and the press. With her wry humor and fresh candor, Gillard reflects on her life in the public eye and the continuing challenges of being a woman leader in contemporary politics.

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**2:30 - 3:50    Concurrent Afternoon Sessions**



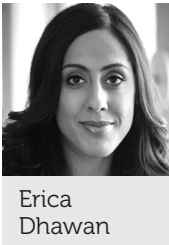
**8. Signature Session: Fighting for Your Dream**

To **Maria Toorpakai Wazir**, becoming a world-class professional squash player is not only a dream realized, but also salvation from oppression. In her gripping presentation, she recounts her early years of dressing as a boy so that she could play sports in her native Pakistan, but then being forced into seclusion after coming under threat from the Taliban. Toorpakai’s story of her escape to freedom and her perseverance in the face of overwhelming odds has made her an inspiration to women everywhere.

**Moderator**



Karima Bennoune



**9. New Rules of Language in a Digital Workplace**

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**14. Business Panel: Designing Success**



Dayan  
Anandappa  
United Technologies  
Corporation



Susan  
McDonough  
Cisco



Nigel W.  
Long  
Liberty Mutual  
Insurance



**Moderator**

Javier  
Barrientos

Research clearly demonstrates that diverse and inclusive teams are more innovative, engaged, and creative in their work. But while many companies embrace diversity, making it really count for the bottom line means embedding inclusiveness into all aspects of an organization's operations. Representing a range of major companies that are working hard to address this challenge, the senior executives on this panel share how their hiring, promotion, and compensation initiatives are paying off not only in terms of a more inclusive corporate culture but also in stronger performance metrics.

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**3:50 - 4:20    Meet the Speakers Book-signing Break**

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**4:20 - 5:20    Closing Keynote**

▶▶▶ ***Living Your Truth***



Taraji P.  
Henson

**Taraji P. Henson** is a woman of indomitable spirit with a fascinating story to tell about her journey from the hood to the White House. A self-described character actor, she has played everything from a sex worker in *Hustle & Flow*, to the real-life NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson in *Hidden Figures*, to a sports agent in the comedy *What Men Want*, to the mother of Emmett Till in an upcoming film that she is also producing. In her engaging and candid presentation, Henson talks about how she has chipped away at Hollywood's resistance to giving women—especially women of color—rich and significant roles, and offers firsthand advice about leveraging your strengths in pursuit of your dreams.

# Speaker Profiles ▶▶▶

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## Dayan Anandappa



Ignatius “Dayan” Anandappa is Corporate Vice President and General Manager, Digital Accelerator, at United Technologies. In this position, he leads the design, software development, and product management disciplines at UTC, providing strategic oversight and general management of all aspects of the Digital Accelerator, including technology planning, budget ownership, and commercialization. His current focus is to help drive UTC’s digital transformation and a new era of innovation through big data and the Internet of Things. Anandappa has 15 years of related experience at General Electric, where he advanced from CIO of Digital Technologies & Collaboration to the role of CIO of GE Digital. Earlier in his career, he also held positions at MCI and Pepsi Cola.

## Javier Barrientos



Javier Barrientos is Vice President of Talent and Inclusion at Charter Communications, where he leads the company’s workforce diversity and inclusion initiatives. Before joining Charter in April 2018, he was Senior Manager of Community, Content and Marketplace Diversity at Amazon. Barrientos previously served as Senior Director and head of Global Diversity & Inclusion at Biogen in Boston, where he introduced leading-edge practices in the diversity and inclusion space. These programs include the Biodiversity Fellowship and Raising the Bar: Women on Corporate Boards—initiatives that have since been adopted across the biomed industry. In recognition of his work, he received a Leaders in Innovation Award from the *Boston Business Journal* and was later named to the Top 100 Most Influential Leaders of Color in Greater Boston by GK100 and the National Center for Race Amity. Earlier in his career, Barrientos managed diversity and inclusion for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, and held HR roles at Bank of America, the TJX Companies, and Business for Social Responsibility.

## Karima Bennoune



A longtime human rights advocate and former legal advisor to Amnesty International, Karima Bennoune made it her mission to shine a light on the many people of Muslim heritage—particularly women—who are working to combat both extremism and anti-Muslim discrimination. The resulting book, *Your Fatwa Does Not Apply Here: Untold Stories from the Fight Against Muslim Fundamentalism*, won the 2014 Dayton Literary Peace Prize for giving voice to nearly 300 of these unsung heroes around the world. More recently, while serving as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights, she published a major report underscoring the importance of ensuring women’s rights as a critical element in the struggle against fundamentalism. Bennoune is currently a professor of international law at the University of California–Davis School of Law, and can often be seen as a featured commentator on MSNBC, CNN, *Huffington Post* Live, and other major outlets.

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### Kate Biberdorf, PhD



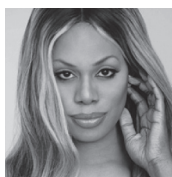
Kate Biberdorf is on a mission to show that chemistry is not just relevant but exciting—and, at the same time, diminish the stigma around women in the sciences. An award-winning instructor of general chemistry at The University of Texas at Austin, she has become known for her theatrical and hands-on teaching and for creating experiments that often involve impressive explosions. In her additional role as Director of Demonstrations and Outreach in the Department of Chemistry, Biberdorf has developed a series of fascinating demos that have been featured on CNN, The Discovery Channel, NBC *Nightly News*, and *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*. She also leads the department's Fun with Chemistry program that targets K-12 students in Austin schools who might be intimidated by science, working to motivate their love of learning and their eventual pursuit of STEM-related degrees in college. Biberdorf is an active member of Amy Poehler's Smart Girls, an organization dedicated to helping young people cultivate their authentic selves.

### Stacy Blake-Beard, PhD



Stacy Blake-Beard is the Deloitte Ellen Gabriel Professor of Women and Leadership at the Simmons School of Business, where she teaches organizational behavior. She is also a senior affiliate at the Center for Gender in Organizations at Simmons. Blake-Beard's research focuses on the challenges and opportunities presented by mentoring relationships, and specifically on how these relationships may be changing as a result of increasing workforce diversity. She is also interested in issues facing women as they develop mentoring relationships and in the dynamics of formal mentoring programs. A widely published author, she is co-editor of *Handbook of Research on Promoting Women's Careers and Mentoring Diverse Leaders: Creating Change for People, Processes, and Paradigms*. In addition to her consulting work with a variety of public and private organizations, Blake-Beard sits on the advisory boards of MentorNet, Teen Voices, the Harvard Project on Tenure, and Harvard Medical School's Center for the Study of Diversity in Science.

### Laverne Cox



Actor, producer, and advocate Laverne Cox became the public face of the trans-rights movement when she landed on the cover of *TIME* in 2014. Perhaps best known for her breakout performance in the critically acclaimed series *Orange is the New Black*, she is the first trans woman of color to not only play a leading role in a mainstream scripted television show, but also to produce and star in her own show, VH1's *TRANSForm*. She has also appeared in popular TV series such as *The Mindy Project*, *Doubt*, and *Girlfriends' Guide to Divorce*, as well as starred in the recent remake of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* and in the comedy *Grandma*. In another first, Cox was awarded an Emmy as executive producer of the documentary, *Laverne Cox Presents: The T Word*, which explored the lives of seven transgender youth. She is also the executive producer of *Free Cece*, a documentary that confronts the culture of violence and injustice that surrounds trans women of color.

### Susan David, PhD



Harvard Medical School psychologist Susan David is one of the world's leading management thinkers and the author of the bestselling book, *Emotional Agility: Get Unstuck, Embrace Change, and Thrive in Work and Life*. David is also co-founder and co-director of the Institute of Coaching at McLean Hospital and CEO of Evidence Based Psychology. With her deep knowledge of emotions, human motivation, and change, she has been an advisor to organizations facing a variety of difficult challenges, including mergers and acquisitions, leadership transitions, and strategic revisions. She routinely consults at the most senior levels of Fortune 500 companies, and her long list of national and multinational clients includes the United Nations, Ernst & Young, Google, and the World Economic Forum. David serves on the scientific advisory boards of Thrive Global and Virgin Pulse, as well as on the core faculty of Homeward Bound, a leadership program dedicated to increasing the impact of women in the sciences—particularly on issues related to the sustainability of the planet.

### Erica Dhawan



Business strategist and innovation expert Erica Dhawan is the world's leading authority on connectional intelligence—the ability to deliver breakthrough performances by harnessing the power of relationships and networks. In her book, *Get Big Things Done*, she argues that developing connectional intelligence is crucial to the success of 21st century innovators and to anyone who wants to thrive in today's hypercompetitive world. Dhawan is the founder and CEO of Cotential, a global consultancy that helps individuals and companies accelerate high-value collaboration across teams, business units, and customers. She has been named by Thinkers50 as “The Oprah of Management Ideas,” and featured as one of the emerging management thinkers most likely to shape the future of business. Dhawan is a member of the Young Entrepreneur Council, Aspen Institute Socrates Society, TEDx fellows, and World Economic Forum Global Shapers. She is also the host of the award-winning podcast *Masters of Leadership* and a frequent contributor to the *Harvard Business Review*, *Forbes*, *Fast Company*, and the *Huffington Post*.

### Asha George



As Vice President of Global Diversity and Inclusion at Dell, Asha George partners with leaders and team members across the organization to advance Dell's culture of inclusion. She is an experienced HR executive with over 20 years of experience that ranges from acquiring and integrating new businesses to leading business transformations and shaping long-term relationships with top global clients. A passionate advocate for women in technology, George is a long-term proponent of diversity and inclusion as a fundamental imperative for businesses striving to reach their full potential.



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## Julia Gillard



Julia Gillard is the first woman to serve as Prime Minister of Australia. Taking the reins during a particularly turbulent period in the country's history, she made access to quality education the top priority of her government's economic development agenda. In her engaging and candid memoir, *My Story*, Gillard reflects on her years in public service and the challenges of realizing her ideals at the highest political levels. After leaving office, Gillard took her advocacy for education to the international stage as a Distinguished Fellow with the Brookings Institution's Center for Universal Education, chair of the Global Partnership for Education, and Patron of Camfed (Campaign for Female Education). In addition, she serves as Chancellor of Dūcere Global Business School, as an Honorary Professor at the University of Adelaide, and as a member of the Board of Governors of the Committee for the Economic Development of Australia. Most recently, Gillard was named inaugural chair of the Global Institute for Women's Leadership at King's College.

## Taraji P. Henson



Actor, author, and producer Taraji P. Henson rose to fame after her breakout performance in the critically acclaimed film *Hustle & Flow*. Following up her Best Actress Award from BET for that film, she received an Academy Award nomination for her unforgettable portrayal of NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson in *Hidden Figures*. Other notable movie performances include roles in *Think Like A Man*, *Talk to Me*, *Hurricane Season*, and *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*. In 2018, she starred in the thriller *Proud Mary* and lent her voice to the character Yesss in the animated film *Ralph Breaks the Internet*. For her ongoing work in a television series, Henson received a Golden Globe Award for best actress for her performance as the iconic Cookie Lyon in the hit drama *Empire*. Amid all this professional success, she has also published an inspiring and candid memoir, *Around The Way Girl*, describing the challenges of making it in Hollywood and the importance of living your own truth.

## Adora Andy Jenkins



Adora Andy Jenkins is Vice President of Communications and Engagement at 2U, Inc., an education technology company that partners with universities to build, deliver, and support their online degree programs. In this role, she oversees external communications and leads the company's engagement with the media, technology and education influencers, and strategic partners. Jenkins also serves on Mosaic, a committee that advises 2U leadership on diversity and inclusion strategies. An accomplished public relations professional with more than 15 years of experience in communications and outreach, she has served as a media and political strategist, spokesperson, and journalist. Her previous leadership positions include Senior Vice President of External Affairs at the Information Technology Industry Council, as well as several high-profile roles in the Obama Administration, including Press Secretary to former Attorney General Eric Holder and Deputy Associate Administrator in the Office of External Affairs at the Environmental Protection Agency.

### Susan McDonough



Susan McDonough, Vice President, Customer Experience at Cisco Systems, Inc., leads the company's support services business in America's West. Her organization provides advisory, integration, technical support, and managed services to global customers across all technologies. Over the course of her 18-year career at Cisco, McDonough has gained broad-based experience from executive roles in the finance, corporate development, services, and supply chain organizations, earning a reputation as both a corporate dealmaker and transformation pioneer. Her outstanding performance earned her the Cisco's Chairman's Choice Award for exceptional business impact in 2013. A strong advocate of diversity and inclusion, McDonough's leadership philosophy is rooted in empowering teams to lead organizational transformation. She believes that connecting diverse perspectives is necessary to unlocking the full potential of teams and having the greatest impact. She also invests in future leaders at the company through active mentoring.

### Pamela Meyer



Pamela Meyer is an internationally known expert on trust and deception. Her bestselling book, *Liespotting: Proven Techniques to Detect Deception*, provided the basis for her extraordinarily popular TED talk, *How to Spot a Liar*—a global phenomenon viewed more than 18 million times and translated into 40 languages. As Founder and CEO of Calibrate, Meyer provides business executives and human resource professionals—particularly at financial institutions, insurance companies, and law firms—the tools and techniques they need to root out lying, cut down on fraud, and identify inside threats. The product of extensive training in visual cues and psychology as well as business savvy, Meyer's BASIC method for detecting deception has been featured by *Business Week*, *The Atlantic*, *Harvard Business Review*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and CNN, among other major publications and broadcast outlets. Prior to starting her own company, Meyer spent more than 20 years as an executive in the media business, as well as in senior positions at *National Geographic*, Vestron, and Electronic Arts.

### Susan O'Malley



At just 29, Susan O'Malley broke barriers in the sports management industry by becoming the first female president of a professional sports franchise. A one-time intern with the Washington Capitals and Washington Bullets (now the Wizards), she worked her way up the ranks to head Washington Sports and Entertainment (WSE) for 20 years. In this capacity, she also ran the Verizon Center, the WNBA's Washington Mystics, and Ticketmaster Washington-Baltimore. Known for her innovative marketing and customer service savvy, O'Malley lifted an organization that ranked last in nearly all categories to the top of the sports business world by the time she left in 2007. Since then, O'Malley has earned a law degree from Georgetown University, where she also taught a sports business marketing class. She also served as St. Joseph's University's first sports marketing professor. O'Malley is currently a full-time faculty member in the Sports and Entertainment Management Department at the University of South Carolina.

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## Kathrine Switzer



Iconic athlete, sports and social advocate, and Emmy award-winning television commentator, Kathrine Switzer changed sports history by becoming the first woman to officially enter the Boston Marathon. A widely published photograph showing the race director trying to pull her off the course instantly made her the face of women's running.

Radicalized by this event, she responded by creating the Avon

International Running Circuit of women-only races, which have attracted over a million participants in 27 countries since 1978. In her latest effort to support women runners, she launched a global network of running clubs called "261 Fearless" to fill the void in countries and regions where women's races don't exist. Switzer has been honored widely for her advocacy, including induction into the USA National Women's Hall of Fame for creating positive social change. In addition to her TV coverage of the Olympic Games and other major championships, she has written three books, including the memoir *Marathon Woman*. In 2017, Switzer again ran the Boston Marathon to celebrate 50 years of women's athletics and social achievement. "Running is about changing lives," Switzer says. "Most of us feel significant or powerful through running, and people who have never had a sense of it suddenly gain it. If we can connect as women, we might help others find the courage to better their lives." Switzer has covered the Olympic Games, World and National Championships as well as hundreds of other events. She serves on the Board of Advisors at Syracuse University's Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics.

## Maria Toorpakai Wazir



Maria Toorpakai Wazir is Pakistan's top female professional squash player. Having grown up in a highly conservative tribal area but with an equally progressive family, she spent the early years of her life dressed as a boy so that she would be able to participate in sports.

But once her secret was revealed and she began to compete in tournaments as a girl, the Taliban threatened the lives of her entire

family. In her powerful memoir, *A Different Kind of Daughter: The Girl Who Hid from the Taliban in Plain Sight*, Toorpakai describes the years of abuse and oppression that she and other women suffered under that regime before her eventual escape to Canada. With her extraordinary determination and courage, she continues to climb the ranks of the world's female squash players while also working toward gender equity through the Maria Toorpakai Foundation, which invests in education, sports, and healthcare programs for youth in remote regions of the world.

## Carmen Rita Wong



A nationally known journalist, writer, and commentator, Carmen Rita Wong is the CEO and Founder of the multimedia content company Malecon Productions. Among the few Latinas to host a daily national news program on American television, she is the former co-creator of CNBC's *On the Money*. Wong has also been a frequent contributor on MSNBC, CBS *This Morning*, CNN, and ABC's *The View*, among other on-air appearances. In addition to her broadcast career, she was a long-time editor at *Money* magazine, a national advice columnist for *Glamour*, *Latina*, *Essence*, and *Good Housekeeping*, and a faculty professor of behavioral economics at New York University. Wong is the author of two best-selling financial advice books, including *The Real Cost of Living*, as well as a series of novels. She currently serves on the boards of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Dress for Success, and the Futuro Media Group, and is an angel investor in female-led and -owned businesses and productions.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **International Simmons Leadership Conference**

November 5 & 6, 2019

Citywest Hotel, Dublin, Ireland

#### **Strategic Leadership for Women Certificate Program**

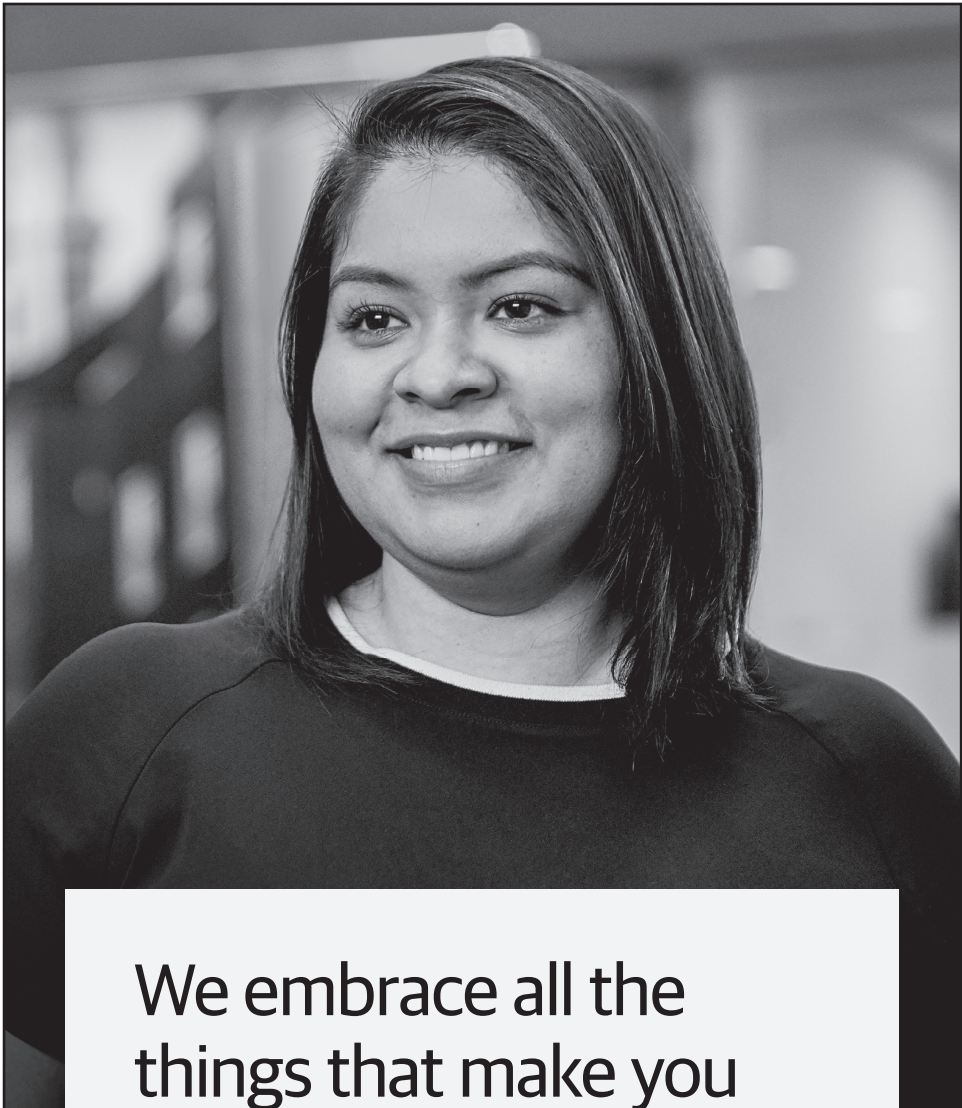
April 29 - May 3, 2019 and September 23 - 27, 2019

Simmons University, Boston, MA

#### **Simmons Leadership Conference**

April 16, 2020

Seaport Hotel & World Trade Center, Boston, MA



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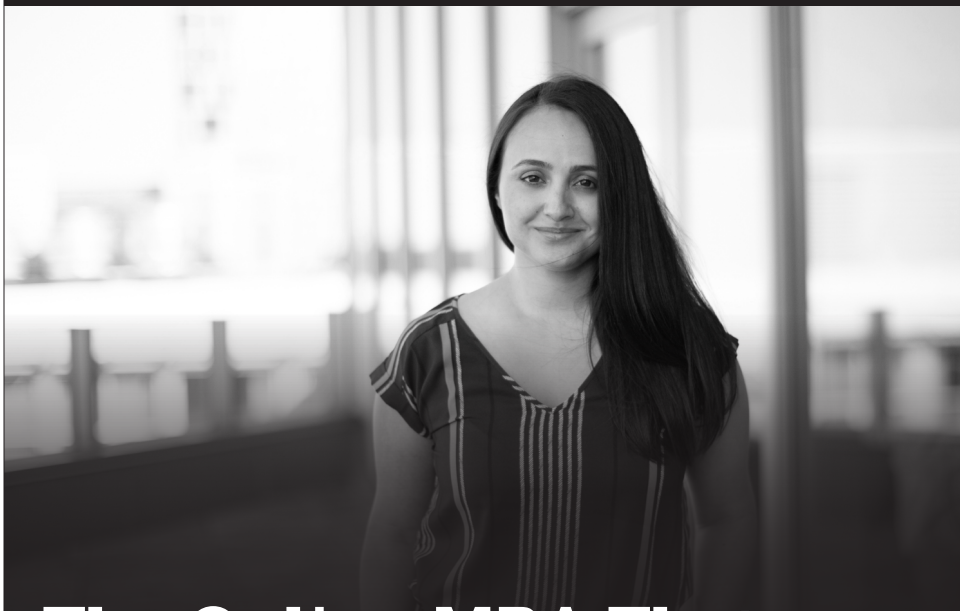
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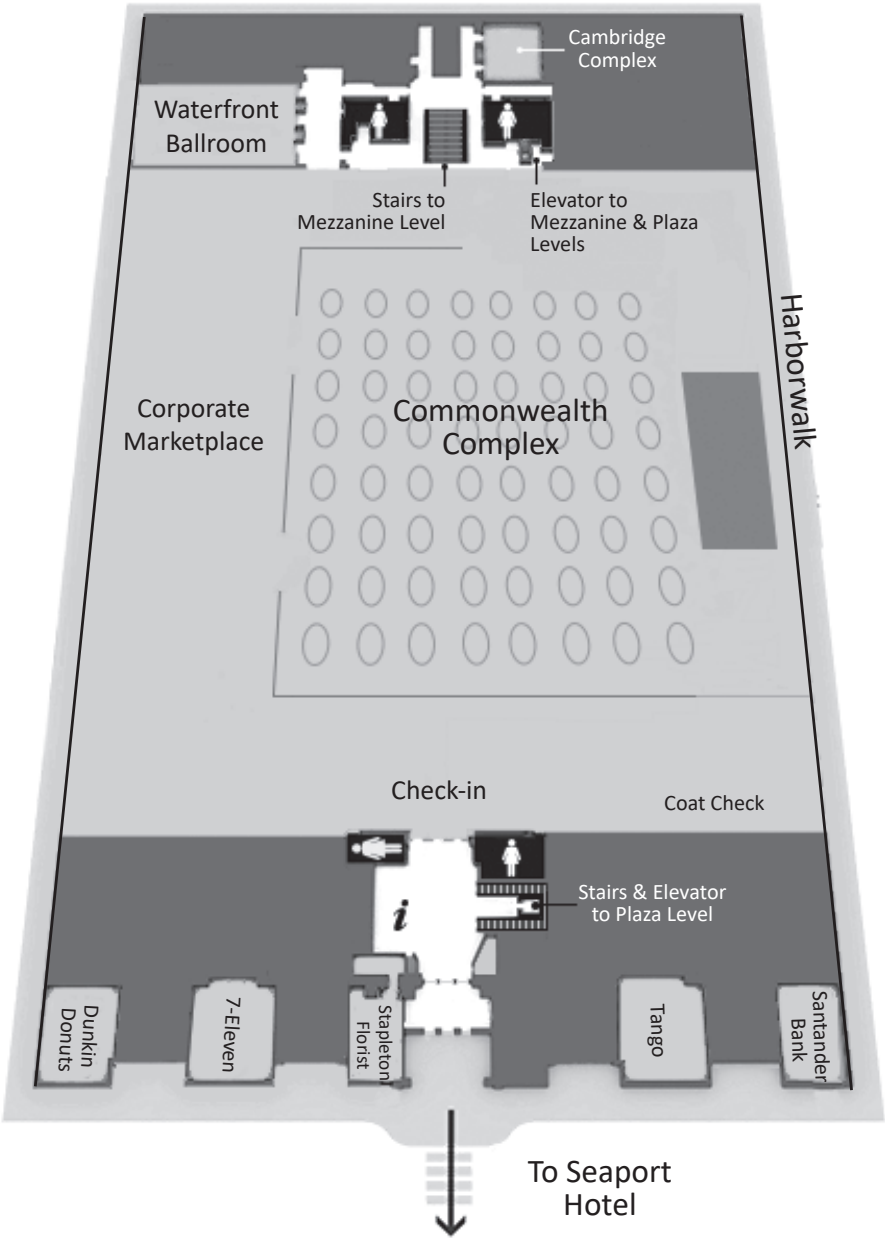


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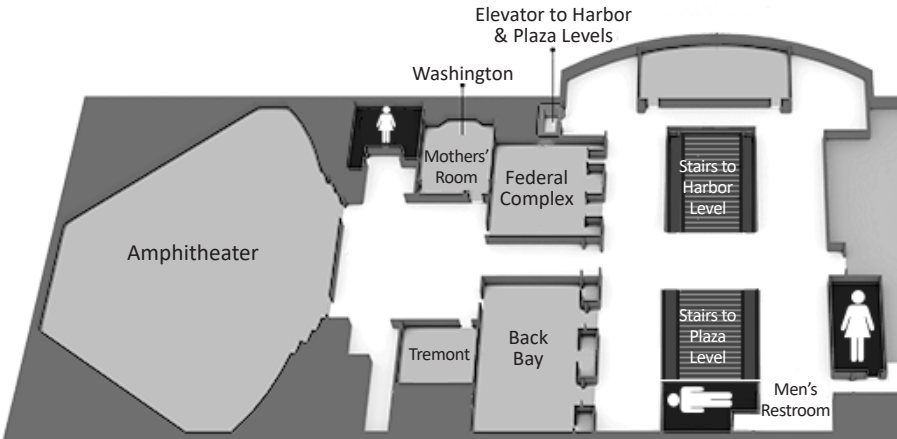
# Seaport World Trade Center

## Harbor/Lobby Level

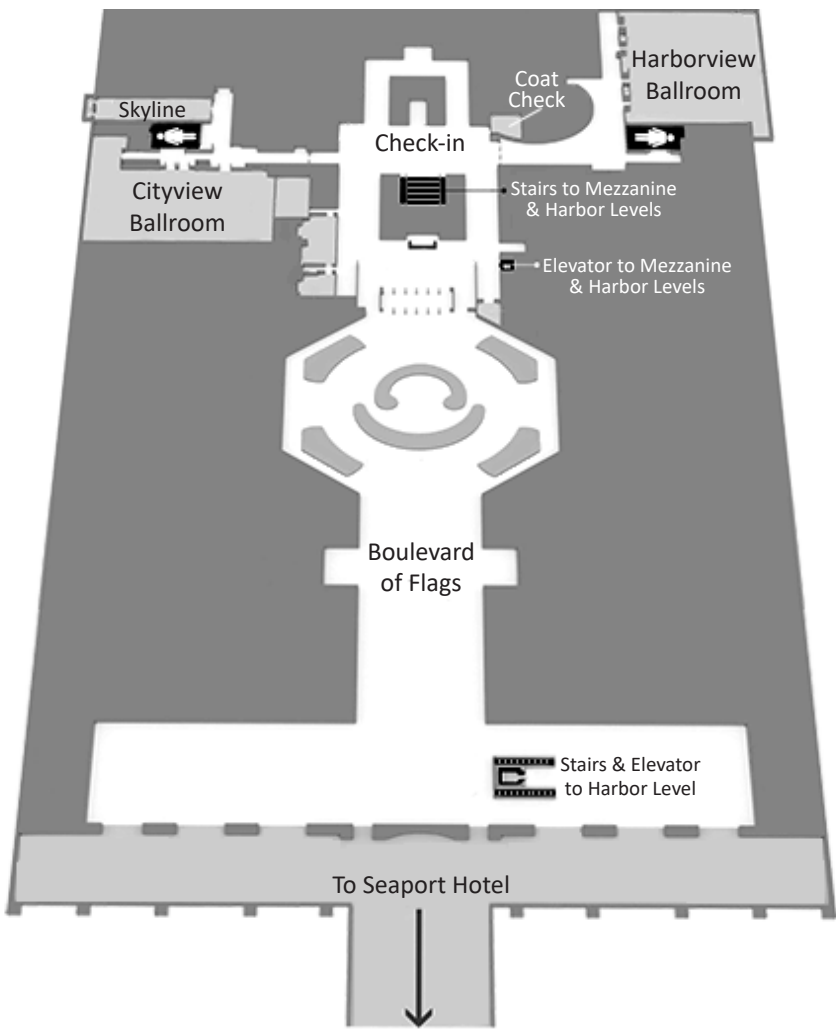




Mezzanine Level

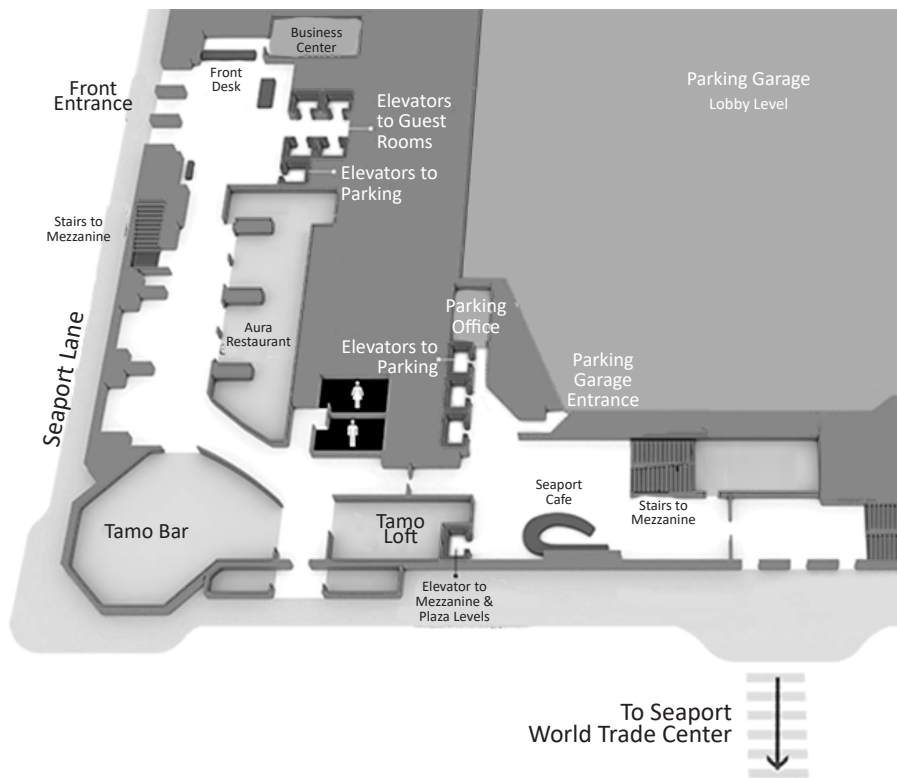


Plaza Level

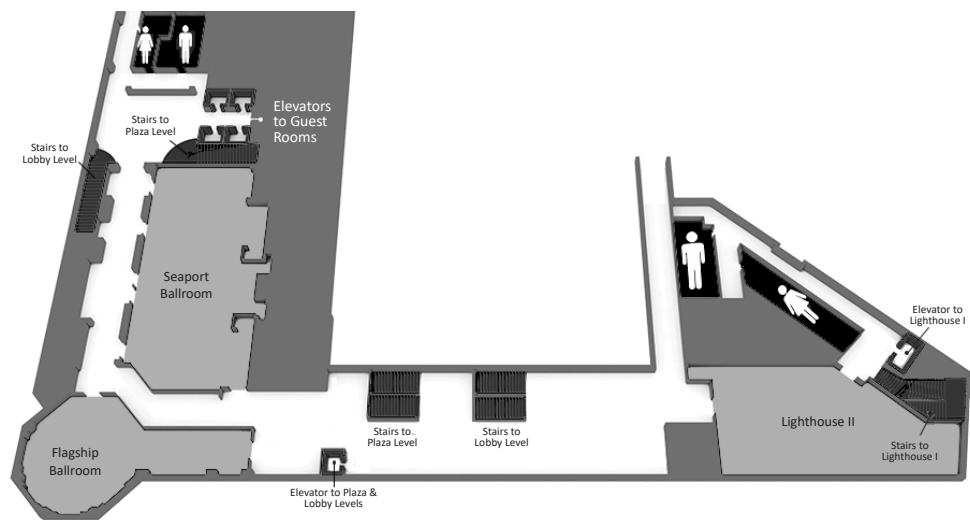


# Seaport Hotel

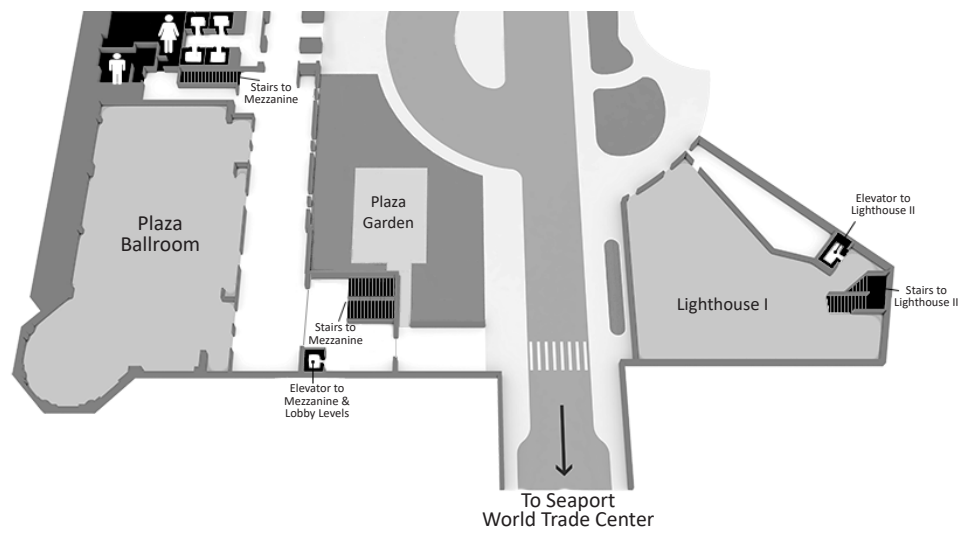
## Harbor/Lobby Level






## Mezzanine Level



Plaza Level



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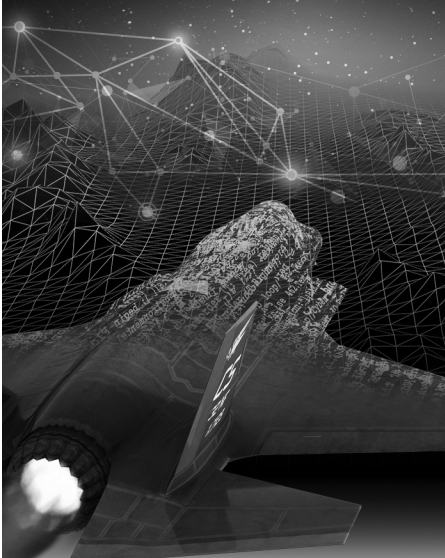


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Linda Schuller '01	Bookstore and Book Signing
Sara Smith '13	WTC Session Rooms
Stephanie Toews Moeling '06	Seaport Hotel Session Rooms
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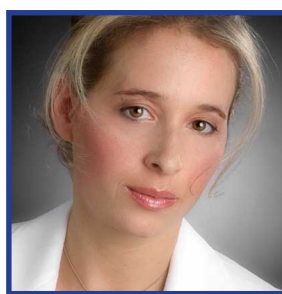
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