



Practice Area Summit

InterContinental Houston– Houston, TX
February 26-27, 2026

- Daily Schedule of Events -

Thursday, February 26

7:30 am – 9:00 am	Kickstart Breakfast: Meet Your Coalition Community Networking and morning kick-off
9:00 am – 11:45 am	Coalition Leadership Strategy Session (Closed) Executive business meetings for volunteer leaders.
9:00 am – 11:45 am	Morning Connection Lounge: Coffee with Sponsors & Speakers For general attendees: coffee, conversation, early networking
11:45 am – 1:15 pm	Luncheon Keynote: Inside the Digital Engine of the Houston Airport System Speakers: Darryl Daniel, Deputy Director & Chief Technology Officer – Houston Airport System & Matthew Meiers, Aviator Project Manager – Burns Engineering. A behind-the-scenes look at the technology and integrated digital systems powering Houston's airports.
1:15 pm – 1:30 pm	Break
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Professional Practice Sessions
Geoprofessionals	Recruiting and Retention for Firms of All Sizes Speaker: Mark Dornak, Senior Materials Training and Development Specialist at Terracon
Land Development	Land Development 2.0: Innovation and Market Trends Speaker: Pending, Academic or Market Intelligence Expert
MEP Engineering	Leading the MEP Firm of the Future: Strategy, Structure & Success Speaker: <i>A/E Industry Advisor</i>
Surveyors	Tech Horizons: What's Next for Surveying Professionals Speaker: Panel discussion facilitated by <i>surveying technology leaders</i>
Structural Engineers	AI & Digital Delivery: What's Next for Structural Practice Speaker: Jim Jacobi , Managing Principal & CIO Emeritus, Walter P. Moore
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Coalition Roundtables: Your Practice, Your Priorities Facilitated peer discussions for each discipline <u>except Geoprofessionals</u>



Geoprofessionals

Inside the Crystal Ball: What the Workshop Revealed

Speaker: **Andrew Pennoni**, Regional VP - Pennoni, **Paxton Anderson**, CEO - Strata, **Victor Donald**, Senior Principal - Terracon

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Coffee Break

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Professional Practice Sessions

Geoprofessionals

Lessons From the Field: Real Cases, Real Consequences

Speaker: Presented by the **Geoprofessional Business Association**

Land Development

Houston Land Development: Projects Shaping the Region

Speaker: *Houston-Based Land Developer*

MEP Engineering

The Future of MEP Practice: Tools, Trends, and Opportunities

Speaker: *Leading MEP Practitioner*

Surveyors

LiDAR & Reality Capture: Turning Data Into Decisions

Speaker: Bill Swope, Geospatial Technical Expert, Olsson

Structural Engineers

The Contract Language Every Structural Firm Should Master

Speaker: **Karen Erger**, SVP, Director of Practice Management, Lockton Companies (Invited)

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Evening Reception

Networking with attendees, sponsors, and speakers

Friday, February 27

7:30 am – 8:15 am

Breakfast & Networking

8:15am – 8:45 am

Breakfast Speaker (TBD)

8:45 am – 9:00 am

Transition Break

9:00 am – 10:30 am

Interactive AI Experience: Real Tools You Can Use Today

A 90-minute, hands-on session showing practical AI applications for operations, communication, staffing, and delivery. Facilitated by ACEC Technology Committee.

10:30 am – 10:45 am

Break

10:45 am – 11:30 am

Market Intelligence Briefing: Market, Workforce & Practice Trends

Insights on national market conditions, workforce dynamics, and business outlooks. Speakers pending.

11:30 am – 12:00 pm

Closing Program Session & Remarks

Program wrap-up, takeaways, and closing messages