



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

Business of Design Consulting

March 10-12, 2026

Daily Schedule of Events

Hotel Indigo Nashville
315 Union St, Nashville, TN 37201

March 10, 2026

7:30am - 8:00am

Breakfast and Registration

8:00am - 12:00pm

Managing to Succeed in a Challenging Business Environment

Steve Walker, srwalker & associates

- The Leadership path
- Personal Vision
- Strategic planning
- Trends and opportunities
- The Discipline of Market Leaders
- Growth Horizons

12:00pm – 1:00pm

Lunch and Networking with Attendees

1:00pm - 5:00pm

Transitioning from Project Management to Leadership

Jeremy Clarke, COO | Managing Director, Zweig Group

- Redefine Relationships in Leadership
- Drive High Performance
- Balance Empathy and Economics
- Transition Mindset from PM to Leader
- Apply Best Practices from across the industry



March 11, 2026

7:30am - 8:00am

Continental Breakfast

8:00am - 12:00pm

Finance

Matt Fultz, Matheson Financial Advisors

- Fine-tuning financial management in uncertain times
- Driving value in a volatile market
- Long-term financial and valuation results: setting the stage
- Accounting principles and practical financial tools

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Lunch and Networking with Attendees

1:00pm - 5:00pm

Business Management & Ownership Transition

Matt Fultz, Matheson Financial Advisors

- Financial exit strategies
- Retirement Planning: Internal ownership transition issues, internal buy-outs, stock plans, ESOPs
- Gearing stock expansion programs to the new market realities
- The "ins and outs" of mergers and acquisitions in the recovery decade



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March 12, 2026

7:30am - 8:00am

Continental Breakfast

8:00am - 12:00pm

Contracts and Risk Management

Michaela Kendall, Strategic Partnerships and Cheryl Shaw, Claims Manager, AXA XL, a division of AXA

- How good is your risk management crystal ball?
- The legal system—friend or foe?
- Importance of Pre-project planning
- Key risk factors that determine project success or failure
- Contracts do's and don'ts
- The quality management process
- Communication and documentation – a two-edged sword
- The construction contract administration process

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Lunch and Networking with Attendees

1:00pm - 5:00pm

Maximizing Your Business Development & Marketing ROI

Richard Friedman, Friedman & Partners

- A comprehensive view of your entire “get-work” effort
- Using the five-stage system for a balanced, multi-layered marketing program
- Starting with strategy—finding your differentiators
- Broadcasting your message through brand-building
- Winning with one-on-one selling
- Building a high-touch, high-return customer service program
- The vital role of business development