



# North Dakota CONVENTION AGENDA

**Dates:**

October 7-9, 2026

**Location:**

Brewhalla  
1702 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue N  
Fargo, ND 58102

*\*Subject to change - check back for updates*

| Wednesday, October 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Session                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Presenter                                   |
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| 8:00 am - 9:00 am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Tour   Peliter at NDSU</b><br>1300 18 <sup>th</sup> Street North<br>Fargo, ND 58102                                                                                                                     | Rodney Bischof, AIA<br>EAPC                 |
| 9:10 am - 10:10 am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Tour   Bolley Ag Lab at NDSU</b><br>1360 Bolley Drive<br>Fargo, ND 58102                                                                                                                                | Mike McLean, AIA<br>JLG Architects          |
| 10:20 am - 11:20 am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Tour   Offerdahl Engineering Complex at NDSU</b><br>11401 Centennial Boulevard<br>Fargo, ND 58102                                                                                                       | Brett Rathbone, AIA<br>Zerr Berg Architects |
| 11:30 am - 12:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Tour   Sugihara Hall at NDSU</b><br>1311 Albrecht Boulevard<br>Fargo, ND 58102                                                                                                                          | Tony Wolf, AIA<br>Zerr Berg Architects      |
| 12:45 pm - 2:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Lunch and AIA North Dakota Annual Meeting at Brewhalla</b>                                                                                                                                              |                                             |
| 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Economics of Design:<br/>Rethinking the Architect's Role in Development</b>                                                                                                                             | Matthew Segal, AIA                          |
| <i>Architects invest the most in their education, carry the most liability, and are the creative experts responsible for resolving the design of buildings. Yet we hold the least control over the outcome and capture the smallest share of the profit. This lecture makes the case for closing that gap through vertical integration. Instead of preparing drawings for someone else's project, architects can use their design expertise and market knowledge to find the site, recognize the opportunity, design the project, secure the capital, manage the risk, and own the upside. Most importantly, while prioritizing and maintaining design quality.</i> |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                             |
| 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Expo Hall Opens with Social for Architects and Exhibitors</b><br><i>Enjoy a fun time with cocktails, appetizers, prizes, and networking!</i><br><i>Drinks and Social Sponsor: Fargo Glass and Paint</i> |                                             |
| Thursday, October 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Session                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Presenter                                   |
| 8:00 am - 9:00 am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Breakfast with Architects and Exhibitors</b><br>Sponsorship Available                                                                                                                                   | Nate Vollmuth, AIA                          |
| 9:00 am - 12:00 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Expo Hall Open!</b><br><i>Discover the latest building products, innovative materials, and emerging technologies while connecting with industry-leading manufacturers and suppliers.</i>                |                                             |
| 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Box Lunch with Architects and Exhibitors in the Expo Hall</b><br><i>Architects and Exhibitors will enjoy lunch right in the booth!</i><br>Sponsorship Available                                         |                                             |

| Thursday, October 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Sessions Continue                                                                                                                                           | Presenter                           |
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| 1:15 pm - 3:15 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | AI Workshop: After the Demo: Rethinking Next Steps for AEC Firms to move forward                                                                            | Niknaz Aftahi and Nirva Fereshetian |
| <p><i>Technology adoption in AEC often starts with a webinar or product demo. But once the presentation ends, firms are left with the hard part: understanding whether a tool truly fits their workflows, teams, and projects. This session explores new models for evaluating technology, including expert reviews, community discussions, and practitioner driven insights that go beyond vendor presentations. We will discuss how firms can make more informed technology decisions and why the industry increasingly needs trusted spaces where tools can be discussed, compared, and tested openly.</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                             |                                     |
| 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | The Awards Juror and Their Work                                                                                                                             | Paul Lewis, FAIA                    |
| <p><i>Join Paul Lewis of LTL Architects for an engaging look at the firm's award-winning work and design philosophy. Founded in 1997, LTL Architects has built an internationally recognized practice at the intersection of spatial invention, material innovation, and collective experience. Through a portfolio spanning ground-up buildings, dynamic interiors, and speculative research, the firm has continually challenged conventional approaches to architecture. Attendees will leave with a deeper understanding of LTL Architects' work, design process, and commitment to shaping communities through innovative architectural practice.</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                             |                                     |
| 5:15 pm - 6:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Social and Tour of TKE Fraternity Hall<br>1131 14 <sup>th</sup> Street North<br>Fargo, ND 58102<br><br><i>Sponsor: Roers Development and GDD Architects</i> | Nate Vollmuth, AIA                  |
| 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Dinner and AIA North Dakota Awards Celebration at Brewhalla<br><br><i>Sponsor: McGough Construction</i>                                                     |                                     |
| Friday, October 9                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Session                                                                                                                                                     | Presenter                           |
| 8:00 am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Breakfast Available at Brewhalla                                                                                                                            |                                     |
| 8:30 am - 10:30 am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Professional Ethics and Wellness: It's all about You                                                                                                        | Kristine Kubes, Esq.                |
| <p><i>Wellness is a foundational element for every ethical design professional. The importance of mental health and the negative impact of stress are often overlooked in the field of architecture. Discipline does not make a sick architect well. In fact, in some cases, the conduct that led to the discipline may be a cry for help or sign of other mental health problems that need addressing. This course will share insights about the importance of ethical rules and ethical practice, as well as how to foster communication that creates a healthy workplace, and how promoting mental health and wellbeing serves not only the professional, but the public health, safety, and welfare (HSW).</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                             |                                     |
| 10:45 am - 12:15 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Design Awards Critique                                                                                                                                      | Paul Lewis, FAIA                    |
| <p><i>Take a behind-the-scenes look at the AIA North Dakota Design Awards as the juror shares insights into the evaluation process and the projects selected for recognition. Through a comparative review of submissions, participants will explore what made certain projects stand out, how design excellence was assessed, and the factors that influenced the jury's decisions. Attendees will gain valuable tips for preparing stronger award submissions and a deeper understanding of what distinguishes exceptional design.</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                             |                                     |
| 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Lunch and Session: The Architecture of Belonging<br>Designing Spaces Where Every Mind Can Thrive                                                            | Tracy Jordre, AIA                   |
| <p><i>What happens when a deeply personal experience changes the way an architect sees the built environment? In this course, Tracy Jordre shares the personal journey that led her to explore the intersection of mental health, neurodiversity, workplace wellbeing, and architecture. Through research and firsthand experience, she examines how sensory stimulation, cognitive load, movement, nature, privacy, predictability, and personal choice influence how people experience spaces. The course culminates in a case study of JLG Architects' Fargo Office, where Tracy and her team translated neuroinclusive design research into tangible strategies that provide choice, control, connection, movement, and restoration. The result is a workplace designed not around the "typical user," but around the diversity of people who actually use it- ultimately creating a destination of choice, not obligation.</i></p> |                                                                                                                                                             |                                     |
| 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Tour   JLG Architects in RDO Tower<br>225 Broadway N Unit 700<br>Fargo, ND 58102                                                                            |                                     |
| 3:00 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Convention Closes   Thanks for Attending!                                                                                                                   |                                     |