

# WOMEN *in Construction & Commercial Real Estate*

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# WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION & COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE



**KATAYOON ALAVIAN**  
SWINERTON

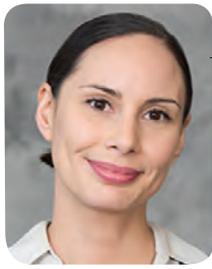
Swinerton Project Executive Katayoon Alavian has worked in the Architecture, Construction, and Engineering industry for nearly 20 years. She grew up in Iran where she was introduced to the world of

architecture and quickly fell in love with it. Due to the political climate there, which limited education for some, she eventually landed in Chicago.

Alavian continued to pursue her passion for architecture and design and earned her bachelor's degree in Architecture from the Illinois Institute of Technology. While studying, she worked for an engineering firm as a drafter and then as an intern at an architecture, construction, and development firm. After graduating, she was quickly hired by an architectural firm in Downtown Chicago as a project manager. She was immediately hooked by her new role. She loved the pragmatic and functional aspects of the industry and the realistic problem solving. With a passion for project management, she soon earned her master's degree in Construction Project Management from Northwestern University.

Alavian has successfully completed projects in a wide range of markets, including high-rise office; mixed-use and retail; manufacturing; building retrofits and seismic upgrades; capital improvements; core and shell; major lobby renovations; and large tenant improvements. Her professional goals are to continue growing as an individual in the industry and developing unique design and construction methods.

Alavian is a strong proponent of community involvement and mentorship. She is also a heavy supporter of The Swinerton Foundation, where she donates her time and raises money for many non-profit organizations.



**MARIA BLAIR**  
SWINERTON

Swinerton Project Executive Maria Blair has been in the Architecture, Construction, and Engineering industry for 17 years, all of which have been spent with Swinerton. She

earned her bachelor's degree from USC in Civil Engineering. She is also a LEED Accredited Professional dedicated to the incorporation of sustainable building practices in all her projects.

Blair has successfully completed projects in a wide range of markets, most notably in the higher education and aviation fields. One of her most successful projects was the LAX Delta Air Lines Landside Redevelopment, which added a new 100,000-square-foot level atop the existing terminal building. She has also completed numerous projects for the California State University system, including over a dozen at Cal State Long Beach.

Blair believes in supporting the next generation of talent in the industry and serves as a leader in the Los Angeles Chapter of the ACE Mentorship program. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her five-year-old son, who will be starting kindergarten in the fall. She also enjoys baking for her family and her project teams.



**JENNIFER BUTTS**  
SLATER BUILDERS INC.

Jennifer Butts joined Slater Builders over 10 years ago. Before coming to the Slater team, Butts had worked for a few general contractors for the previous 20 years. Through dedication and hard

work, Butts has worked her way through the ranks to become a well-respected Project manager. Driven by enthusiasm, Butts has always been motivated to deliver quality thoughtful projects for all of her Slater customers. Well respected by her peers and the subcontractor community, her project success and attention to detail is exquisite.

Butts is personally vested in all of her projects. As an example, she and her family have been fostering animals for years so for her to be the project team leader for the Friends of Newport Beach Animal Shelter has been an awesome personal connection for her. In her free time, Butts loves spending time with her daughter Danielle, and hanging out with her close friends. Butts is the ultimate team player "All In."

## BUILDING SOCIAL. BREAKING BARRIERS.



**GENEVIEVE WEST**  
*Vice President*



**NIKI PROTZ**  
*Project Manager*



**DEENIECE HUYNH**  
*Project Manager*

We would like to recognize the exceptional leadership and talent of these three **Women in Construction.**

Learn about how we're working towards a more equitable and inclusive industry at <https://howardbuilding.com/community>



**I AM  
POWERFUL  
KIND  
CONFIDENT  
BEAUTIFUL  
STRONG  
CAPABLE**

*I am a Woman*  
**IN CONSTRUCTION**

**UPRITE**

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# WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION & COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE



**GENNELLE DEDEK**  
SWINERTON

As a first-generation college student from immigrant parents, Swinerton Assistant Project Manager Gennelle Dedek recognized the importance at a young age of having a thorough education. She entered college full-time when she was 15 years old in the Early Entrance Program at California State University and earned her bachelor's degree at the age of 19. Even then, she knew she wanted to go into the engineering field.

To pursue her dreams, she received a full scholarship from Stanford University where she earned her master's degree at 21. She quickly became a Structural Engineer and was soon one of the youngest California-licensed Professional Engineers in State history. A few years into her career, she would switch into the construction industry and has been with Swinerton ever since.

Dedek wants to be part of the next generation of Women in Construction to provide younger generations with role models to emulate. Having served in the ACE Mentor program for over five years, it has allowed her to give back to the community with the ultimate goal of sharing her love of ACE fields, especially with young women. She is also part of the internship process for Swinerton, interviewing students and helping onboard and mentor bright, young promising women.

Dedek is also involved in her community as part of the Swinerton's volunteering program. Recently, she helped with the conservation of National Parks by organizing our company's volunteering efforts at Sequoia National Park.



**JESSICA DRAKE**  
SWINERTON

Swinerton Project Executive Jessica Drake has been in the Architecture, Construction, and Engineering industry for 16 years. She earned her bachelor's degree from USC in Architecture with a

minor in Construction Management and Planning. She is also a LEED Accredited Professional dedicated to the incorporation of sustainable building practices in all her projects.

Drake has successfully completed projects in a wide range of markets, including high-rise office; K-12 and higher education; luxury residential; retail and mixed-use; governmental; mass transit; public safety; hospitality; sports facilities; and tenant improvements.

As an Associate DBIA Professional, many of Drake's projects have been performed under the design-build delivery model. Her background in architecture has directly contributed to her success on these projects. Several of her most complex projects include 9200 Wilshire Condominiums; Great Park Ice and FivePoint Arena; and Pepperdine University Payson Library Renovation.

Drake is a strong proponent in giving back to the communities in which she lives and works. She enjoys mentoring as a Big Sister in Big Brothers Big Sisters, fundraising for The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation while completing an Olympic Triathlon, and continues to be an instructor for Swinerton's Project Engineer Training Program. When she's not at work, she enjoys doing fun activities outdoors with her two-year-old son, husband, and dog including paddleboarding, biking, and traveling.



**ANH DUONG**  
UPRITE CONSTRUCTION

Anh Duong did not have plans to join the construction industry. While in school, Duong's plan was to pursue a career in either the medical or finance fields. After college, her job positions included

mortgage underwriter, health insurance underwriter, accounting associate, affordable housing counselor. Deep down inside she felt there was something else out there for her, so she went back to school to earn her MBA. During this time, Duong learned about construction by way of private lending (aka "hard money lending"). Duong saw the progression of single and multi-family home construction and that is when she realized she wanted to be involved in construction.

When Duong started at Uprite, she jumped right in with her to team to build a multi-million-dollar project for a reputable developer. There, she was able to use the skills she acquired through her diverse work history and education to contribute to the projects. Duong has been involved in projects such as tenant improvements for Hoag Hospital, Amazon, a veterinary urgent care facility, and building a water pump station for a local water municipality. She is currently managing projects to construct buildings on vacant land. "Uprite Construction continues to support and encourage my growth as a female Project Manager in this predominantly male industry."



“ It's important to support women who excel in the construction industry. Our company is strongly represented by female leaders who add value to our team.

Being a woman-owned business has certainly allowed us to grow and attract quality women to enhance our organization. ”

*Liz Slater, Founder and CEO*



# EMPOWERING WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION

We are proud to acknowledge Swinerton's very own Katayoon Alavian, Maria Blair, Gennelle Dedek, Jessica Drake, Breawn Felix, and Khamaria Smith on being recognized as Women to Watch in Construction! We are extremely proud of their contributions to our firm, not just as women, but as some of the most dedicated individuals in the construction industry as a whole. As women comprise only 10% of the industry workforce, Swinerton wholeheartedly supports our team's goal to inspire women to bridge the gap and empower them to join the industry.



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**BREAWN FELIX**  
SWINERTON

Swinerton Regional VD&C Manager Breawn Felix started her career in the construction industry in 2010, interning with a plumbing and mechanical piping subcontractor. At Cal Poly Pomona, she earned her AA

in Architectural Drafting Technology; AA in Liberal Arts and Science; and BS in Construction Engineering Technology. Upon joining Swinerton in 2014, the division's VD&C department was made up of just three employees, including herself. Ultimately, she was promoted to VD&C Manager after just one year and has since grown her department to over 10 team members. They support Swinerton's field operations for everything technology related such as 3D logistics plans, 4D simulations, and laser scanning.

Felix continues to work on standardization as a region and company, develop best practices, and ensure our projects are equipped with the right technology to make our firm more efficient. Felix is working closely with our self-perform groups and maximizing our technology use in our quest to become the best self-perform general contractor in Southern California.

Felix believes in giving back to the industry through her involvement with the Women in Construction Operations organization and the ACE Mentorship program. She also gives back to the community by fundraising for the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America and competing in triathlons for other non-profit organizations.



**DEENIECE HUYNH**  
HOWARD BUILDING CORPORATION

Deeniece Huynh has managed projects for some of the largest names – Anduril, NFL Los Angeles, Netflix, Vans, Riot Games, and Blizzard

Entertainment. Her 20 years of experience inform strong leadership, organized workflows, and integrated collaboration and have been a driving force behind the completion of several multimillion dollar projects. In an industry known for being inflexible, Huynh is adaptive. Huynh's strengths lie in her strong organization methods, problem solving skills, and proactive mentality. This allows her to find alternate solutions to any challenge. Her fresh approach to each project and her consistent follow through has helped her create strong relationships with clients, architects, and subcontractors, resulting in return business while assuring ongoing relationships. She attributes her success to working alongside several talented individuals every day building something from nothing. Her favorite thing about working in construction is seeing a space on a set of drawings at the beginning and then standing inside the final product at the end.

Huynh is also a prominent supporter of sustainability both within Howard Building Corporation and throughout the community. She is a LEED Green Associate and, in addition to promoting green practices on her jobsites, she also promotes it internally. Ms. Huynh encourages the constant improvement of green business practices, including recycling, cleaning with environmentally safe products, and using recycled paper goods.



**COURTNEY JOHNSON**  
PCL CONSTRUCTION

Courtney Johnson, proposal specialist for PCL Construction – California Buildings, has more than eight years of experience as a marketer in the architecture, engineering and construction industry.

She joined PCL last year to support the general contractor's rapidly growing presence in Orange County and the Inland Empire. In this role, Johnson partners with district leadership and subject matter experts to develop key pursuit and proposal strategy, coordinate support resources and timelines, craft responses to RFQs and RFPs and assist with the team's preparations for proposal interviews.

A seven-year member of Orange County chapter of Society for Marketing and Professionals Services, Johnson has served as the communications director since 2020 previously chaired the social media and graphics as well as the hospitality committees. Johnson holds a bachelor's of science in business administration and management from the University of Redlands.

## Realizing potential in every dimension

**CBRE would like to thank the women on our team for their advocacy, leadership and critical contributions to the industry and our community.**

They consistently deliver world-class performance and instrumental insight to every client we proudly serve. Thank you for all that you do!

- |                           |                      |                     |                  |
|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Alexis Konopisos          | Brooksie Goulet      | Kristen Banda       | Nicole Moler     |
| Alissa Van Der Westhuizen | Buffi Hendrix        | Kristen Espinoza    | Perry Degulis    |
| Allison Kelly             | Carol Trapani        | Krysta Angulo       | Sara Rollins     |
| Amy Kalfin                | Chelsea Padilla      | Lan Lan             | Sarah Hansen     |
| Amy Norfleet              | Crystal Anson        | Marina Massari      | Sarah Lake       |
| Annette Jdanov            | Gail Austin          | Megan Lanni         | Shayla Aguiere   |
| Anya Ostry                | Hafsa Ahmed          | Meghan Kennedy      | Sherrie Stewart  |
| Araceli Willcoxson        | Hayley Hockinson     | Melissa Garcia      | Sonya Dopp-Grech |
| Ashley Heintz             | Jackie Nielson       | Melissa Ley         | Tiffany Terra    |
| Autumn Herzer             | Jennifer Kirkpatrick | Michelle Jefcoat    | Victoria Khoury  |
| Barbara Briceño           | Jennifer Whittington | Michelle Trivisonno |                  |
| Bethany Grace             | Jessie Tichelaar     | Nancy Watteyne      |                  |
| Brittany York             | Kathryn Mejia        | Nicole Bonita       |                  |



Learn more at [cbre.com/orangecounty](https://www.cbre.com/orangecounty)

# We thank you for your dedication!

Greenlaw would like to celebrate the extraordinary women on our team, all of whom play an integral role in our company success.

Alicia Floyd	Jade Blevins	Shanda Lazenby
Amanda Burke	Jannelle Villaluz	Sheila Ruiz
Amanda Morton	Jannie Nguyen	Sommer Banich
Amanda Manrique	Jennifer Durant	Stacy Mignano
Ana Carrera	Jessica Danner	Trang Nguyen
Ann Anderson	Julia Lachkova	Vivien Chan
April Tran	Julie Vin	Voz Davis
Ayesha Sheikh	Karen Flanigan	
Brianna Salene	Kari Johnson	
Brittany Brower	Kate Milheim	
Casi MacQuoid	Leslie Carroll	
Cathren Ezell	Lila Carrera	
Cindy Chhay	Lisa Hood	
Cindy Kamps	Melissa Colli	
Claire Le	Melissa Mead	
Deana Johns	Miriam Nicolas	
Deanna Freed	Nicole Kendall	
Donna-May Gil	Nina Nooteboom	
Elena Tellez	Paola Serkovic	
Emily Sumner	Phuong Nguyen	
Emily Ojeda	Rachel Davis	
Hannah Harris	Rebecca Carr	
Isabel Flores	Rowena Trejo	



GREENLAW

# WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION & COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

## Balfour Beatty



**EMILY KAY**  
BALFOUR BEATTY

Emily Kay's story starts from humble beginnings and exemplifies a willingness to try new things, focus on learning and development, and above all, an overarching passion for working with people and building enduring relationships. In 1994 Kay began pursuing her college degree and took a position as a laborer on a concrete crew in order to pay for the tuition. Despite the environment, which included being the only woman among hundreds of workers, Kay found her passion for being a part of the industry that builds the world around us. Five-and a half years later, she switched her major from advertising and graduated from the University of Nebraska with a B.S. in Construction Management.

With field experience and construction knowledge, Kay worked her way up the ladder from field laborer to Vice President of Operations. She now oversees construction operations in Orange County and Los Angeles County for one of the largest construction companies internationally, Balfour Beatty. Exemplifying an everlasting spirit to continue developing, Kay is always an early adopter of new technologies implemented within the firm, training teammates on their benefits and uses – ultimately improving processes for Clients and Projects. Beyond her daily tasks, Kay acts as a mentor to her teams and provides guidance and counseling for women looking to grow their careers within the firm and industry. She also remains active in supporting local schools and organizations by participating in Adopt a Family, Sharefest Workday and Sharefest Golf Tournament which raises funds for students and schools.

## UPRITE CONSTRUCTION



**NELLIE KONG**  
UPRITE CONSTRUCTION

My entire career has been in accounting and finance. After graduating from York University in Toronto, Canada, with a bachelor's degree in business with specialized honors in accounting, I moved to New York City and started my professional life in the Hospitality industry. A few years later I moved to sunny southern California, where I worked in different industries including property management, single family home real estate investment, commercial real estate investment & development and construction. Along the years I progressed from staff accountant to assistant controller. It was four years ago when I started my journey with Uprite Construction, a general contractor, where I finally found accounting can be fun, challenging and not always boring. I love seeing each stage of a project from award to the delivery of the final punch list. Being the leader of the accounting team, which plays an important role supporting the operation team, includes the analysis associated with the profit and loss, generating the financials for the management team to understand how well we are doing on each project and as a whole company.

There is so much more for me to learn in this industry, being surrounded by a group of inspiring and passionate women in the construction industry, makes me proud of my contributions, encouraged and motivated every day.

## UPRITE CONSTRUCTION



**LINDSAY LOMELI**  
UPRITE CONSTRUCTION

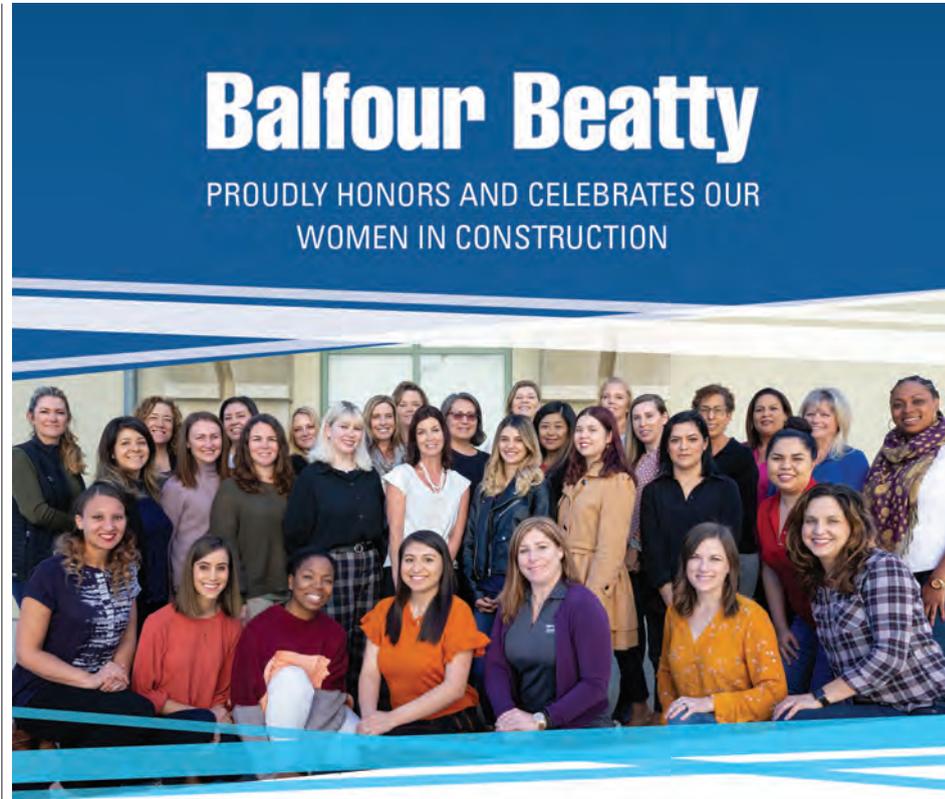
Lindsay Lomeli has always considered herself to be an analytical person with a passion for creating. In 2016, Lomeli graduated with her bachelor's degree from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Shortly after, she accepted a position as a project engineer with a metal stud/drywall subcontractor. There, Lomeli was able to work on a variety of projects including The Pendry Hotel in West Hollywood, 1133 S. Hope Street high-rise apartment building located in downtown Los Angeles and Twentynine Palms military housing project.

While working for a subcontractor was exciting and she was able to learn new things about construction, Lomeli was eager to explore the general contracting realm and started with Uprite Construction Corporation (UCC) in 2020. UCC has given Lomeli the opportunity to become a project manager and finally live out her dream of being part of a project from inception to completion. As project manager, Lomeli has had the opportunity to work on exciting projects from tenant improvement, mixed-use, and industrial with high-level clients such as Amazon and Tesla. Lomeli has also had the pleasure of completing a commercial mixed-use project on the Balboa Peninsula, an industrial delivery center as is currently completing several custom homes in Newport Beach. As her career continues to grow, she hopes to build countless relationships and establish a formidable reputation in this traditionally male driven industry.



## TOGETHER WE BUILD SUCCESS

We are more than builders. We are construction partners who are passionate about what we do and about creating a successful outcome for our clients.



## Balfour Beatty

PROUDLY HONORS AND CELEBRATES OUR WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION

## CONNECTING → WOMEN

Encouraging the advancement of women in construction by providing opportunities for mentorship and career development and addressing the challenges women in the industry encounter.

Together, we are **Building New Futures.**

# WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION & COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE



**AMANDA MAHLOW**  
SLATER BUILDERS

Amanda Mahlow began her career in general contracting 17 years ago when another employee who knew Mahlow from church referred her to Slaters Builders. Prior to joining Slater, Mahlow had spent the previous 7+ years in the banking industry. With her love of numbers, Mahlow started in Accounts Payable at Slater Builders and soon after becoming very proficient, she was given additional responsibilities by then CFO and foundress Liz Slater. "I am so lucky to learn under and be mentored by someone I respect so much," says Mahlow of working with Liz. Mahlow has a wide range of accumulated knowledge of the construction industry and how it works from an accounting perspective.

Now Slater Builders' senior accounting manager, Mahlow oversees Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, and Collections among other duties. Recently identified for leadership training, Mahlow is a devoted teammate. "I've been here at Slater Builders for 17 years but it feels like only a fraction of that. I guess that's what happens when you enjoy the people you work with and the ones you work for." She enjoys her team in accounting and values that they share a common work ethic based in integrity.

Additionally, Mahlow loves that she has gotten to work at Slater alongside her sister Jodi for the last 12 years. When Mahlow isn't crunching numbers, you can find her traveling with friends, spending time with her large family (20 nieces and nephews!), and cheering on her UCLA Bruins.



**LISA MATTICK**  
UPRITE CONSTRUCTION

With over twenty years in the Human Resource field, Lisa Mattick is passionate about people. She's always been dedicated to creating the best employee experience for her teams. Happy employees mean a better performance and ultimately, a better result and experience for our clients.

Mattick's HR journey began at Nordstrom where she quickly learned and advanced to an HR Manager position. Here she was able to wear many hats and gain a broad knowledge of the HR field. Her next stop was as a Senior HR Business Partner/Employee Relations Advisor with Hoag Hospital. The hard shift in industry was a change, but the core people principles remained. Here she was able to build on her knowledge and gain experience in a more structured, regulated field.

Having worked with large companies, Mattick wanted to make an impact on a growing business. Uprite's exponential growth trajectory and culture was the perfect fit. She was thrilled to join the team last year as the director of People and Culture. Stepping into a male driven, sometimes HR resistant industry didn't scare her. She believes life is an endless journey of learning and this provided her a new challenge she's excited to take on. Mattick's proud to support the growth of Uprite and the team behind it.



**NIKI PROTZ**  
HOWARD BUILDING CORPORATION

Niki Protz started in construction in New York City as a graduate student studying psychology. After two weeks at Lendlease Construction doing odd jobs to make extra money, she fell in love with construction and decided to entirely switch career paths. Since then, she has worked her way up, starting as a project engineer to building the healthcare department at Gilbane Construction. In 2016, she moved to Southern California with the intention of going into tenant improvement projects rather than core and shell. This path led her to Howard Building Corporation in 2019, where she has since established herself as one of the leading female project managers in the Los Angeles and Orange County areas.

In 2021, Protz and her team completed 101 Continental, a 150,000 square foot, 16 floor seismic retrofit. The project required creative scheduling and tightly coordinated teams to accommodate permit delays and complex project phasing. While she believes this buildout is her proudest achievement in terms of projects, she realized the shift in her philosophy as a leader is one of the things that has most contributed to her success.

As a woman in construction, Ms. Protz initially struggled with being heard. However, she realized that power and authority comes from demonstrating patience, kindness, and empathy, rather than being the loudest one in the room. Not needing to prove her worth freed her to focus on leading by example for the next generation of women leaders in construction.

Here's to strong **WOMEN.**  
May we know them. May we be them. May we celebrate them.

 <b>Kathy Beezley</b> Client Relations Specialist	 <b>Deona Berge</b> Senior Property Manager	 <b>Teresa Brim</b> Property Manager	 <b>Bea Campa</b> Property Manager	 <b>Jody Coats</b> Senior Property Manager	 <b>Jana Covert</b> Accounting Supervisor	
 <b>Jackie Cruz Tan-Torres</b> Property Manager	 <b>Wendy Daniel</b> Senior Property Manager	 <b>Angela Draper</b> Marketing/Leasing Associate	 <b>Melissa Flores</b> Property Manager	 <b>Brenda Joy</b> Property Manager	 <b>Jill Mathews</b> Property Manager	
 <b>Kirsten McDaniel</b> Property Manager	 <b>Sandi Montez</b> Senior Property Manager	 <b>Karen Reynolds</b> Senior Property Manager	 <b>Tina Rosenbaum</b> Association Manager	 <b>Jeanette Ruiz</b> Property Manager	 <b>Laura Ruiz</b> Regional Manager	
 <b>Rachel Saldana</b> Controller	 <b>Vasuki Sathialingam</b> Accounting Supervisor	 <b>Kimberly Scott</b> Senior Property Manager	 <b>Holly Sellers</b> Property Manager	 <b>Rochelle Smotherman</b> Senior Property Manager	 <b>Heather Stark</b> Vice President	 <b>Casey Yoong</b> Senior Property Manager

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# WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION & COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE



**LIZBETH SLATER**

SLATER BUILDERS INC.

Slater Builders Inc. is a full service, woman-owned, general construction firm, and since its inception in 1993, Liz Slater has been sitting at its helm as CEO.

Liz, along with Executive Team Mike Kearon, chief operating officer, and Ed Slater, have positioned Slater Builders as a top quality builder in over nine market sectors including Healthcare, Hospitality, Living Environments, and Office/Industrial markets and have grown the company revenues on average of 10 - 15% annually.

Slater Builders Inc. is an officially certified Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) by the National Women's Business Owners Corp. (NWBOC), however, Liz Slater believes that the gender of a firm's ownership and leadership is not the deciding factor of business success, but acknowledges that public perception remains a factor. "Ideally," she says, "we wouldn't need to categorize any business as 'women-owned,' and clients would simply consider the strength of a company's reputation, its track-record of performance, and the quality of its work." She's aware, however, that ownership by women is still a rarity in construction companies and she embraces the opportunity to provide awareness and leadership in her industry.

Slater is a graduate of the University of Southern California with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration (Finance & Marketing). Slater is also the co-founder and CEO of non-profit, 501(c)(3), Mae House ([www.maehouse.org](http://www.maehouse.org)). Inspired by the family's youngest daughter, the vision of Mae House is to provide a residential community and home for adults with developmental disabilities to live active engaging lives.



**KHAMARIA SMITH**

SWINERTON

Swinerton Project Engineer Khamaria Smith has worked at Swinerton for the past five years. Through The Swinerton Foundation, she feels our firm has guided her journey of giving and believes she wouldn't be nearly as successful without

our firm's support.

The pandemic has certainly presented many challenges that have hindered the ability to volunteer in the local communities and to help physically support those who were normally assisted in the past. Learning to adapt to a virtual reality was indeed a struggle for the first few initial months as creating new relationships became more complicated. Smith learned to adapt and found creative ways to develop virtual fundraising experiences while also providing mentorship to our community partners.

Smith's involvement in Swinerton's Fall Giving Program has been both the most challenging and rewarding effort in which she has held a major stake. The program consists of six weeks of constant fundraising-driven events for four select charities and organizations each year. In 2020, with a Swinerton Foundation match, our Orange County and Los Angeles offices raised over \$80,000. Smith was actively working on all of these events in a virtual format.

The most recent fundraising event she led was for the St. Baldrick's Foundation, which is a volunteer and donor-powered charity committed to supporting the research to find cures for childhood cancers. Smith coordinated the "Head-Shaving" events to spread awareness and show support for children battling cancer.



**MY TUIPALA**

UPRITE CONSTRUCTION

My Tuipala's first taste in construction started in 2009 when she worked for a telecommunications infrastructure. She was part of a team that built four cell phone

towers along the toll road between Irvine and 91 Freeway to improve reception along the road. She has since gone from managing over 2300 towers to managing commercial real estate and has now moved over to the construction industry.

Tuipala is grateful for the opportunities the growing field of construction offers women. Currently in her position as Corporate Accountant, Tuipala has been fortunate to work with very supportive and high achieving women who constantly lift each other up and provide support to tackle any new challenges.

She is immensely proud of the work that Uprite delivers and in such a flawless manner. Tuipala loves to tour the projects and read the letters from satisfied clients. Being part of a team of individuals that work with Clients such as Amazon, Tesla and Greenlaw Partners gives her a tremendous amount of pride every day.



**LORA VENSTROM**

UPRITE CONSTRUCTION



Lora Venstrom has many years of experience in the construction industry. Her first "real" job began in the facilities department at Santa Ana College. Venstrom has held many different positions within the industry, at one time as a licensed general engineer and contractor herself. Venstrom brings her experience and knowledge of having worked in all facets of construction with her. From working in

the field to daily office operations, Venstrom can look at projects from different points of view...dreamer, owner, architect-engineer, general contractor, subcontractor, and employee. Venstrom's primary experience has been in the public works arena and within the last decade, private sector. In the last few years Venstrom has primarily focused on contract administration, enjoying all the ins and outs that the job brings with it. Venstrom is a strong believer in women helping women to succeed and has always had an "open door" policy, regarding helping other women in the construction industry or finding them the correct answer or person to help them and often just being a sounding board for the many issues a woman faces in a male dominated field. Venstrom is extremely optimistic about the future and all the doors that continue to open for women within the construction industry.

**GENEVIEVE WEST**

HOWARD BUILDING CORPORATION

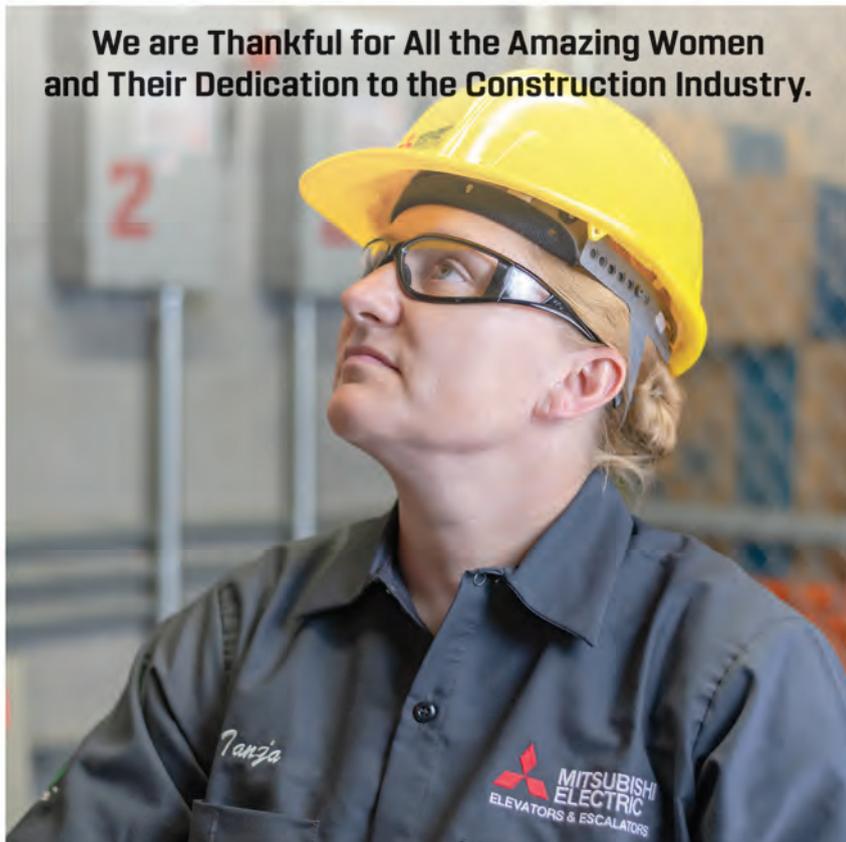


Genevieve West is the first female vice president at Howard Building Corporation (HBC), a tenant improvement general contractor based in Southern California. With experience in managing multi-million-dollar projects and establishing crucial industry relationships, Ms. West currently oversees the Business Development and Marketing

departments at HBC while serving as an additional layer of executive support. Since stepping into this role in 2020, she has transformed these departments while demonstrating an intense passion for promoting diversity, inclusion, and sustainability in the workplace. West's expertise, agility, and reliability have had resounding effects, both company-wide and throughout the community.

Amid the pandemic, West was responsible for the creation of HBC's formal Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Program, a detailed outline of how the company currently supports underrepresented populations and a roadmap with tangible steps for the company to improve their efforts. Several programs, partnerships, community service initiatives, and a more diverse workforce have been the result.

West is actively involved in several local and national organizations, including Women in Construction Operations (WiOPS), Asian American/Engineers Association (AA/E), Women Construction Owners & Executives (WCOE), Building Owners & Management Association (BOMA), American Heart Association (AHA), and National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC). As a result of her efforts, West was the winner of the 2021 Diversity Champion Award by GlobeSt. Real Estate Forum. She was also selected as a 2020 Top Businesswoman by the Orange County Business Journal and named a 2019 Woman of Influence by GlobeSt. Real Estate Forum.



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