Us, Our Orgs, Our Community

November 3, 2023

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HITS
9 – 9:10 a.m. Opening Remarks
9:10 – 9:15 a.m. Conference Welcome Remarks
9:15 – 9:30 a.m. A Look at the 2023 Leadership Awards Nominees
9:30 – 10 a.m. OPENING KEYNOTE: STEM in Media
10 – 10:30 a.m. Lasting Impact: Empowering the WiTH Community
10:30 – 11 a.m. NETWORKING BREAK: WITH & Innovate@UCLA
11 – 11:30 a.m. Responsible Leadership in the Age of AI
11:30 – 12 p.m. The Power of Feedback
12 – 12:30 p.m. Be Real: Authentic Leadership
12:30 – 2 p.m. Lunch
2 – 2:30 p.m. AFTERNOON KEYNOTE: Elevate your Leadership with Courage and Conviction
2:30 – 3 p.m. Leading Effectively Through Changing Times
3 – 3:30 p.m. CLOSING KEYNOTE: Legacy of Leadership: Empowering Women in Entertainment and Technology
3:30 – 3:45 p.m. NETWORKING BREAK
3:45 – 5 p.m. LEADERSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM
   Introduction
   Past Winners/Nominees
   Winners
   Close/Fundraising Goal
5 p.m. CONFERECE CLOSING REMARKS & NETWORKING RECEPTION
9 – 9:10 a.m. Opening Remarks
Christina Aguilera, President, WiTH Foundation
Guy Finley, Executive Director, WiTH Foundation

9:10 – 9:15 a.m. Conference Welcome Remarks
Kavita Anand, Senior Vice President, Qvest

9:15 – 9:30 a.m. A Look at the 2023 Leadership Awards Nominees
This session looks at this year’s award nominees along with previous year’s winners. Join us for a look at who is making the impact and why we are honoring them this afternoon at the SoCal Women’s Leadership Awards ceremony.
Guy Finley, Executive Director, WiTH Foundation and President & Chief Executive Officer, MESA Nadya Ichinomiya, WiTH Foundation Chair and Vice President, Head of Agile Transformation, Enablement, & Operations, Sony Pictures Entertainment

9:30 – 10 a.m. OPENING KEYNOTE: STEM in Media
Hear the most recent updates to the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media’s intersectional study on the portrait of STEM characters in media (TV, film and streaming).
Madeline Di Nonno, President & Chief Executive Officer, Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media

10 – 10:30 a.m. Lasting Impact: Empowering the WiTH Community
Learn more about the impact that WiTH has in our local community during the discussion in this panel session, where you’ll hear personal stories and journeys from the women who have been directly impacted by our community engagement efforts over the years and how they have been able to change their trajectory. You’ll also hear more about what these WiTH supported non-profits do with their members and for their broader community.
Moderator:
April Schneider, WiTH Board and Vice President IT, IP Management & General Counsel, Sony Pictures Entertainment
Panelists:
Rose Cherubin, Women’s Empowerment Institute Alum, and AWS Cloud Practitioner Certified, Seeking IT & Cloud Entry-Level Role
Nina Doeff, Boundless Brilliance Alum, and Support Engineer, PopSQL
Lauren Kush, Codetalk Alum, and AI Recruiting Consultant
Fabiola Martinez, DIY Girls Alum, and BS Computer Science Student, College of the Canyons
Emily Villalba, STEM Advantage Alum, and Associate Software Engineer, Sony Pictures

10:30 – 11 a.m. NETWORKING BREAK

Amazon Studios congratulates the winners and nominees of this year’s WiTH Leadership Awards
11 – 11:30 a.m. Responsible Leadership in the Age of AI
This session features AI visionaries and practitioners from Media and Entertainment who will provide a practical introduction to the key leadership issues on AI Ethics, including questions like:
- What are the most important steps to take right now to achieve maximum benefits from AI responsibly?
- What must my organization consider in how it applies AI to avoid ethical pitfalls, and what are those pitfalls?
- How can AI align with or even enhance our DEI goals?
- How can we move past fear to create new opportunities in AI where everyone wins?
Moderator: Nina Skorus-Neely, Industry Advisor, Microsoft & Secretary, WiTH Foundation
Panelists:
Hema Chamraj, Director, AI Advocacy and Thought Leadership, AMD
Shelley McKinley, Chief Legal Officer, GitHub & Vice President, Microsoft
Yesha Yadav, Associate Dean Robert Belton Director of Diversity, Equity, and Community Milton R. Underwood Chair Professor of Law Faculty Co-Director, LL.M. Program, Vanderbilt University Law School

11:30 – 12 p.m. The Power of Feedback
Research shows that women are 20% less likely to receive actionable feedback that can contribute to their performance and growth at work. This fireside chat explores the power of feedback and how we can create space to give and receive meaningful, actionable feedback at work. This conversation is designed to empower attendees to be a feedback advocate through an engaging, honest discussion with three female executives.
Vanessa Fiola, Executive Vice President, Qvest
Michelle Huynh, Head of Production Technology & Operations, Netflix
Renee McGinnis, Executive Vice President: Lionsgate

12 – 12:30 p.m. Be Real: Authentic Leadership
Join us for a dynamic panel discussion, where we delve deep into the heart of authenticity and empowerment within the tech industry. Our panel of industry experts and leaders will share their personal journeys, insights, and experiences on how to be your authentic self while thriving in the world of technology. Discover how Women in Technology: Hollywood Foundation (WiTH) cultivates a community of authentic, bold women who are shaping the future of tech. Learn from our stories, challenges, and successes, and be inspired to embrace your unique journey with confidence and genuine leadership.
Moderator: Christina Aguillera, President, WiTH Foundation
Panelists:
Nikki Johnson, Vice President, SASE & Cloud, Fortinet
Tara Fournier, Chief People Officer: Enthusiast Gaming
Samira Panah Bakhtiar, Director, Global M&E, Amazon Web Services

12:30 – 2 p.m. Networking Luncheon
Food Trucks and Fun!
2 – 2:30 AFTERNOON KEYNOTE: Elevate your Leadership with Courage and Conviction
Join us for a transformative keynote presentation featuring Kelly Hamilton, the esteemed CIO of Sony Pictures. With a proven track record of leadership in the tech and entertainment industry, Kelly will inspire and empower you to step into your full potential as a leader. Learn how courage and conviction can drive innovation, break down barriers, and shatter glass ceilings. This is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to gain valuable insights and strategies from one of the industry’s most respected leaders.
Kelly Hamilton, Chief Information Officer, Sony Pictures Entertainment

2:30 – 3 p.m. LEADING EFFECTIVELY THROUGH CHANGING TIMES
Join us for an insightful panel discussion featuring accomplished past recipients of the Women in Technology: Hollywood Foundation Leadership Award. These distinguished women have thrived in the dynamic landscape of the entertainment and technology industry, demonstrating exemplary leadership during times of transformation and uncertainty. Gain valuable insights as they share their experiences, strategies, and visions for adapting and excelling in a rapidly evolving world, offering inspiration and guidance for future leaders in the field. Don’t miss this opportunity to connect with these trailblazers and be part of a discussion that promises to empower and inspire.
Moderator: Christina Aguilera, President, WiTH Foundation
Panelists: Annie Chang, Vice President of Creative Technologies, Universal Pictures & NBCUniversal; Davida Johnson, Executive Director (Interim), UCLA Office of Advanced Research Computing; Cindy MacKenzie, Vice President and Co-Founder, STEM Advantage; Theresa Miller, Chief Information Officer, Lionsgate

3 – 3:30 p.m. CLOSING KEYNOTE: Legacy of Leadership: Empowering Women in Entertainment and Technology
Discover the captivating journey of our Keynote, an accomplished author, screenwriter, and visionary filmmaker, as she takes the stage for an intimate fireside chat. As the granddaughter of Harry Warner, co-founder of Warner Bros., Cass’s insights will illuminate the Warner family’s profound impact on the entertainment industry. Our conversation with Cass Warner will allow us to explore innovation, ethical leadership, and women’s empowerment through the lens of a family legacy that epitomizes “Educate, Entertain, and Enlighten.”
Cass Warner, President, Warner Sisters Studios
Introduced by: Vanessa Fiola, Executive Vice President, Qvest

3:30 – 3:45 p.m. NETWORKING BREAK

3:45 – 5 p.m. LEADERSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM
- Introduction
- Past Winners/Nominees
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5 p.m. CONFERENCE CLOSING REMARKS
Christina Aguilera, President, WiTH Foundation
Guy Finley, Executive Director, WiTH Foundation

THE WiTH IMPACT

We are WiTH
Women in Technology: Hollywood is a consortium of media and entertainment technology leaders dedicated to being catalysts of advancement for women, technology-career role models, and mentors to inspire and empower bold leaders. To that end, WiTH works with many non-profits throughout the year to

Our Community Engagement Partners
WiTH supports a group of small non-profit organizations whose missions are focused on helping women in STEM, often from disadvantaged backgrounds.

By the Numbers

- 700 LIVES IMPACTED
- $100K DONATED
- 10+ EVENTS HOSTED

Our financial donations support new technology, scholarships, and educational opportunities.

For more information, to donate, or join our community, visit WiTHollywood.org

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Shazzy Angulo
Shazzy Angulo is the Unreal Development Supervisor at WildBrain and is the creator of Mitzy Makes It, which is a series of educational videos and children’s books she created to change the stigma around STEAM and inspire a new generation of builders, creators, and makers. She has her Master’s in Computer Science from USC and has been working in the innovative technology space for 6 years.

Nancy Baca
Nancy Baca, Director of Licensing Financial Systems at Disney, has been an integral part of WiTH since its inception. Her passion lies in mentoring women and underrepresented individuals in the tech field. Nancy’s work with Knowledge Circles 4 Impact, WiTH’s mentoring program, has had a profound impact, creating a ripple effect that benefits mentees, colleagues, and future generations.

Filiz Bahmanpour
Filiz Bahmanpour, Vice President of Product at Gracenote, is breaking down barriers in the digital supply chain. She collaborates across organizations to solve problems related to metadata governance. Filiz is also involved in mentoring through WiTH’s program, providing valuable resources to the next generation of industry leaders. Her impact on the industry extends far and wide.

Samira Panah Bakhtiar
Samira Panah Bakhtiar is a dynamic leader in tune with the powerful relationship between digital media and technology. As Director of Global Media & Entertainment Amazon Web Services (AWS), she leads a high-performing, multi-generational team of builders and champions diversity (close to half her org is gender diverse). Over the past 2 decades, her work has led to strategic alignment and business transformations with some of the world’s largest media players. Samira is passionate about advancing the status of women in technology, she is a presence in media, tech, and the LA & NYC-based entrepreneurial community, as well as throughout major nonprofits and social impact organizations (Bridge2Act, Together1Heart, Summit Series, Soho House). Samira continues to find ways to connect and inspire other ambitious women in tech, most recently serving as the Co-Founder of the Women@ AWS Industries and a Director at Large of The WICT Network.

Let’s take a closer look at some of this year’s remarkable nominees:

UST helps the world’s best organizations digitally transform and succeed by bringing together innovative solutions, products and platforms, and diverse talent.
We also help our clients combat technical talent shortages by recruiting and training women, minorities, and military veterans to become technology professionals.
Learn more about our UST Step IT Up global talent development program at ust.com.
iAsia Brown

iAsia Brown, also known as “The Tech Picasso,” is an eccentrically prodigious humanist, she is a globally recognized Storyteller, and commissioned artist. Always investing in human capital, “People First,” she has the unique ability to advance people by helping them to understand their value and apply it to their lives. Self-proclaimed, “Coolest Nerd You’ll Ever Meet.” Her approachability, ambition, accountability and integrity has allowed her to advance in the Tech World full throttle. iAsia speaks at conferences worldwide about her experiences with PTSD, Anxiety, Diversity Equity & Inclusion all while on roller-skates, she loves to bring people along and devotes a lot of her time helping veterans, transitioning service members, members of the LGBTQIA and anyone who happens to cross her path career switch into tech.

Tammy Choy

Tammy L. Choy is vice president and chief information officer of The Aerospace Corporation. In this role, she provides leadership to Aerospace’s information technology, security, and safety organizations. She oversees operations, strategic planning, and policy initiatives for computing resources and infrastructure, corporate security, environmental, health and safety, and the development of programs and services critical to the success of the corporation. Choy assumed this position in December 2017. Choy has a long career solving some of Aerospace’s most complex operational problems and brings extensive information technology experience developing enterprise solutions that protect information belonging to the U.S. Air Force, intelligence community, and commercial customers. She began her career at Aerospace in 1985 as an intern in the Engineering and Technology Group (ETG). She was later promoted to a member of the technical staff in ETG’s Electronics and Sensors Division. Throughout her career, Choy has held positions of increasing responsibility including engineering specialist in ESG’s Computer Systems Division followed by senior engineering specialist, and chief engineer in Enterprise Information Services (EIS).

Carol Danoff

Carol Danoff, Chief Procurement Officer at Warner Bros. Discovery, has an impressive career trajectory, transitioning between prominent companies. Her dedication to treating others with care has left a lasting impact on those she has worked with. Carol’s story is not only one of professional success but also of personal integrity and inspiration.

Eileen P. Drake

Eileen P. Drake, former CEO and President of Aerojet Rocketdyne, is a dedicated mentor and advocate for professional women. She played a pivotal role in the Space Workforce 2030 Pledge, promoting inclusivity in the aerospace industry. Eileen’s involvement with the Girl Scouts of the USA’s National Board of Directors showcases her commitment to leadership development.
Kelly Hamilton
Kelly Hamilton’s journey from SVP of Finance to CIO at Sony Pictures is a testament to her inspirational leadership. She actively advocates for diversity, equity, and inclusion, both internally and externally. Kelly has increased the visibility of women in leadership roles and fosters an environment where diverse voices drive innovation and value in the industry.

Melanie Hildebrandt
Melanie Hildebrandt, EVP & CIO at Endeavor, is a dedicated supporter of women in tech. She actively participates in WiTH and STEM Advantage, a WiTH-supported charity. Melanie has not only fundraised successfully for STEM Advantage but has also brought STEM Advantage Scholars into paid intern roles at Sony Pictures. Her commitment to hiring and developing women in IT is truly inspiring.

Katie Hinsen
Katie Hinsen, Director of Technology at Marvel Studios, is a true leader in the field of technology development for productions. Beyond her professional achievements, Katie is an advocate for women and diversity in the industry. She runs the bluecollarpostcollective and publishes data on DEI in post-production, actively mentoring newcomers and ensuring they have networking and learning opportunities.

Cara Sheppard
Picture Shop President Cara Sheppard’s extensive understanding of the end-to-end production, creative, technical and post production pipeline, is fueled by nearly 20 years of experience in production, broadcasting, and post. She began her career as a freelancer in production, advancing to post production supervisor before joining British broadcaster Sky as a manager. Sequencing from her role at Sky to facility management, she rose to managing director of Warner Bros. De Lane Lea, the award winning sound and picture facility in the heart of Soho. Next came the legendary Twickenham Film Studios, where she served as managing director. She was appointed president of Picture Shop, the picture division of Streamland Media. She serves on Streamland’s executive committee which is the largest post-production company in the world. Her focus is on building a truly global, connected network of first class post production finishing facilities with top tier talent. Cara brings a unique combination of technical knowledge, production and post leadership, and the ability to work with and be a creative partner to clients and post production talent.
Jessica ‘Sica’ von Medicus
Jessica is an experienced CG Lighting and Generalist Artist. Currently in Los Angeles area. Sica is an industrious and capable generalist and lighting artist, with an ability to find a solution to any projects needs. Team player mentality with 3 years of leadership experience, coupled with a positive and humble attitude.

The WiTH Board of Directors is responsible for selecting the Leadership Awards winners and comprises representatives from some of the most prominent organizations in the entertainment technology sector, including Lionsgate, Microsoft, NBCUniversal, Paramount, Sony Pictures Entertainment, and The Walt Disney Company. Their expertise and commitment to recognizing excellence ensure that the awards reflect the highest standards of achievement in our industry.

To learn more visit: www.withollywood.org/leadership-award/about/

Use this QR Code to donate:

SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT
Congratulations

KELLY HAMILTON,
Winner of the 2023 WiTH Leadership Award!

November 28th is Giving Tuesday!
Your donations will help fund our annual charity giving to local organizations and programming that promote STEM and STEAM opportunities in underserved communities.

Informing, inspiring, and mentoring the next generation of technologists through a vibrant community.
THE PILLARS OF WiTH
Where WiTH members get into action:

- **Professional Development** — leverage our resources to broaden our collective expertise
- **Mentoring and Networking** — connect, inspire, and encourage each other while fostering growth in our professional network
- **Community Engagement** — be avid ambassadors of technology by encouraging youth to pursue careers in our field

WiTH BELIEVES IN:

- **MAKING A DIFFERENCE**
  - Lifting the aspirations and careers of one, raises all
- **BELONGING**
  - Celebrating and respecting our differences while making space where we can unleash our unique genius
- **CURIOSITY**
  - Exploring paths to fuel learning and growth
- **LEADERSHIP**
  - Blazing new trails to confidence, courage, vision, and joy

WiTH EVENTS
The members of WiTH gather* at these events:

- **WiTH Leadership Awards** — honoring contributors who serve as role models and mentors and who empower women to be bold leaders
- **SoCal Women’s Leadership Summit** — designed to inform and inspire members around issues vital to the community
- **WiTH Workshops** — periodic educational and interactive events featuring keynote speakers and round table discussions with industry leaders

*In-person and online

For more information, visit withhollywood.org

WiTH is a 501(c)3 charitable organization
Speed or Security?
With Fortinet, You Can Have Both.

Your viewers expect instant, reliable, high-quality content. Hyperscale data centers give you ultra-fast content delivery, but can your cybersecurity keep up?

Fortinet Secure Networking solutions are powered by purpose-built, proprietary ASICs, delivering the industry’s best price-performance for faster security, quicker response, and higher ROI. With our industry-leading threat protection and ultra-low latency, you can provide fast, secure content delivery to your audiences.

Visit Fortinet.com/M&E to learn more.