



## Speaker, Mentor, and Juror Guide

**You are part of the Future of New Orleans.**

**October 16–17, 2025 — Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans**

We're grateful to our council, speakers, mentors, and jurors for sharing their time, expertise, and energy—your generosity powers this event. Our goal is a program that sparks ideas, builds connections, and captures the rhythm of **New Orleans**.

**Aimee Kornhauser** will be your liaison throughout the event and will ensure you can navigate the schedule comfortably. You'll find a few pointers below to make your experience even better.

### **The Shared Spirit of the Day**

- Everyone is invited to add a headshot (taken on-site by a volunteer) and some personal facts to the **Wall of Us**—a visual hub for everyone to see who's in the room and discover shared interests.
- All rooms are set with round tables to encourage participation and most sessions are seated conversations on a low stage to encourage a sense of closeness with the audience.
- You are invited to actively take questions and remind participants that this event is about building new relationships.
- The ultimate win is for every participant to leave the venue with new ideas and new connections.
- Rooms are equipped with a screen, laptop, speaker and audience microphones, and ambient music between sessions.

## Session Formats

1. **Fireside Chats:** Intimate, one-on-one conversations between one or two speakers and a moderator seated together on stage. A guided dialogue designed to bring out personal stories, insights, and lessons.
2. **Panels:** 3–4 people seat together at audience level, the exchanging experiences, challenges, and insights, encouraging interaction with the audience.
3. **Keynotes:** There will be 2 keynotes with a single speaker. While more structured, keynotes will still reflect the spirit of the day—inviting the audience to connect ideas and follow-up conversations at their tables.
4. **Workshops:** Interactive sessions where you will introduce a topic, then engage participants in hands-on activities. Please coordinate early so we can support your setup needs.

## AV Logistics

- We'll play music between sessions in every room (and occasionally in the hallways spaces) to keep energy flowing.
- If you plan to use slides, please send your PowerPoint (or PDF) to Kashmir Sanders at [ksanders@mccno.com](mailto:ksanders@mccno.com) at least 72 hours before the event so we can test and stage it.

## Making it as easy as possible for you

- Please reach out to **Aimee Kornhauser** with a quick text (504) 481-8938 or email [akornhauser@mccno.com](mailto:akornhauser@mccno.com) to check in with her at the event.
- Our event will take place on the first floor above **Hall I-2 at 900 Convention Center Blvd.** You have complimentary parking at **Lot F (400 Calliope St.)**
- We recommend arriving 30 minutes before your session We invite you to stay throughout the day and enjoy the event fully. You will be provided a pass, lunch, and coffee.
- Other contact numbers: Diego (281-799-7322), Kashmir (504) 418-9314.



## Help us spread the word!

- Your crowd can join for free – and enjoy complimentary parking and lunch if they sign up online.
- COPY/PASTE/SEND “You can attend Thursday and Friday to the Solution Design Workshop (Hackathon) or join the conferences on Friday. Sign up at [www.rhythm-and-algorithm.com](http://www.rhythm-and-algorithm.com). See you there!”