



YO 2026 summit

The Next Wave: Navigating Water Sector Currents

Charlotte, N.C.

CHARLOTTE CONVENTION CENTER

MARCH 22-24, 2026



Welcome to the 2026 WEF/AWWA Young Professionals Summit!

On behalf of the Planning Committee, we are excited to welcome you to Charlotte, North Carolina for the WEF / AWWA Young Professionals (YP) Summit! Whether this is your first time attending the YP Summit or your tenth, we are so happy to have you join us.

Every year, the YP Summit brings together emerging leaders from across the water sector to build connections, strengthen leadership skills, and deepen technical and industry knowledge. Through interactive sessions, conversations with senior leaders, and collaborative learning, this event is designed to empower you with the tools and confidence needed to navigate your career and contribute meaningfully to our industry.

One of the most valuable aspects of this event is the opportunity to learn from one another. The diversity of backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives represented here strengthens our community and helps ensure the water sector remains innovative and resilient. We encourage you to engage fully – ask questions, share ideas, and build new relationships!

We extend our sincere thanks to WEF, AWWA, our sponsors, speakers, and all volunteers who made this event possible. Most importantly, thank you for being here and for your commitment to the water profession.

We hope you leave Charlotte at the end of this week feeling inspired, connected, and ready to lead "The Next Wave." While you are here, be sure to check out the Local Activity Guide for nearby recommendations from our Local Host Committee!



Haley Goddard
YP Summit Chair
Cleanwater1



Maddie Spinner
YP Summit Vice Chair
American Water



SPONSORS

MARCH 22-24, 2026

Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, N.C.

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SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

MARCH 22-24, 2026

Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, N.C.

The Next Wave: Navigating Water Sector Currents

Sunday, March 22: Pre-Summit Activity

1:30 – 5:00 PM

Tour of McAlpine Creek Wastewater Management Facility

Transport Sponsored by



Monday, March 23: WEF/AWWA YP Workshops

7:45 – 11:30 AM | Room W209 AB
WEF Member Association YP Leaders (MAYPL) Workshop

10:00 – 11:00 AM | Room W209 CDEF
Monday Morning Optional Meet-Up

11:30 - 5:00 PM | Room W209 CDEF
AWWA YP Leader Training Day

12:00 – 5:00 PM | Room W209 AB
WEF Emerging Young Professionals Leadership (EYPL) Workshop

Sponsored by



6:00 – 8:00 PM | Charlotte Beer Garden
1300 S Tryon Street
YP Summit Welcome Reception

Tuesday, March 24: YP Summit Program

7:30 AM | Room W209 ABCDEF
Morning Coffee

Sponsored by



8:00 AM
Learning Cohort Meet and Greet

8:20 AM
Welcome & Opening Remarks

8:30 AM - 1:00 PM | Room W210
Professional Headshots

Sponsored by



8:40 AM
The Next Wave: Perspectives from WEF and AWWA Senior Leadership

Speakers: John Albert, AWWA; Howard Carter, WEF; Heather Collins, AWWA; Ralph Exton, WEF

Moderator: Dane Elliott, The Ohio State University

9:20 AM
Smarter Water: the AI and Digital Landscape in the Water Sector
Speakers: Lance Holt, Black & Veatch; Marie Hilliard, SUEZ; Navneet Prasad, CVWRF; Corey Williams, Badger Meter
Moderator: Alex Webb, Optimatics

Complimentary Internet: To access the Charlotte Convention Center's complimentary internet, open Wi-Fi settings on your device and select "Complimentary Internet". First time users will be asked to create an account and verify their email address to get connected.



10:00 AM

Tap Into Trivia

Platinum Sponsor



WATERWORKS

10:15 AM

Coffee Break

Sponsored by



10:35 AM

Going Rogue: Presentation Skills That Captivate

Speaker: Chelsea Boozer, Rogue Water Lab

11:30 AM

Leading through Change: A Visionary Utility Leader's Approach

Speaker: Kishia Powell, WSSC Water

12:15 PM

Lunch

1:15 PM

Resilience through Inclusivity: Building the Future of Work in Water

Speakers: Donnell Duncan, Arcadis; Nicole Brown, GFT; Brianna Huber, City of East Moline; Mariana Anguiano, TRA

Moderator: Lindsey Holt, SCE

2:00 PM

Operations Competitions: A Boots-Up Approach to Water Workforce Engagement

Speaker: Kim Furry, Woodard & Curran

2:15 PM | Rooms W209 ABCDEF

and W201CD

Water Circuit Challenge

2:15 PM

Coffee Station Available During Water Circuit Challenge

Sponsored by



4:05 PM

Being... Ready: Lessons Learned from a Career in the Water Sector

Speaker: Art Umble, PhD, Water Sector Expert

4:40 PM

Closing Remarks

5:00 PM

Group Picture

6:00 – 8:00 PM | West Atrium (outside of W210)

YP Summit Networking Reception

Sponsored by





SESSIONS AND SPEAKERS

MARCH 22-24, 2026

Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, N.C.

The Next Wave: Navigating Water Sector Currents

The Next Wave: Navigating Water Sector Currents

The “Next Wave” refers to young professionals as a growing force in the water sector, as well as the next big steps for each of us on our respective career journeys. It is also a nod to the next iterations of rapid change being experienced throughout the wider industry.

Learning Objectives:

During the 2026 YP Summit, participants will:

- **Discuss and anticipate emerging challenges** in different areas of the water industry. Identify how these may impact their goals in the water sector and recognize the skills they have and the ones they might need to develop further as future leaders.
- **Explore trending workforce issues**, how those offer opportunities for growth, and learn from peers and current water leaders about the value of their perspectives as young professionals.
- **Engage with a broad variety of hands-on water and wastewater tools and approaches** in a team setting to expand practical knowledge and build lasting peer-to-peer support networks.

Agenda

7:30 AM | **Morning Coffee**

8:00 AM | **Learning Cohort Meet and Greet**

8:20 AM | **Welcome & Opening Remarks**

8:40 AM | **The Next Wave: Perspectives from WEF and AWWA Senior Leadership**

Professional associations play a large role in water sector culture, norms, and even regulation. AWWA and WEF are the two most prominent water sector associations in the country and represent sector professionals in all areas of the industry as they develop training, certifications, conferences like this one. And even lobby on behalf of both the professionals in the sector, but also the communities and rate payers we serve. These associations are fundamental in setting up a course for the sector and offering concrete support for getting there together. This session brings together executive and operational leadership from both professional organizations to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the water sector broadly and young professionals growing into their careers more specifically. It is designed to provide insight and access to some of the most well-known and well-connected leaders in the industry for candid discussion through panel questions and a Q&A.

Moderator: Dane Elliott, The Ohio State University

Speakers:

AWWA Deputy CEO - John Albert, AWWA

John Albert is the Deputy CEO of the American Water Works Association (AWWA). Prior to joining AWWA, he served as Chief Research Officer at the Water Research Foundation (WRF). John has more than 25 years of experience in the water sector advancing water science, utility performance, and informed water policy. He is especially proud of the strong network of water professionals he is part of across the United States, Canada, and internationally. Through these relationships, he has engaged on a wide range of topics including source water protection, asset management, water and wastewater treatment, rate setting, and customer perception. John holds a Master of Environmental Science and Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines, a Master of Public Administration from the University of Colorado Denver, and a B.A. in Biology from Saint Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire.



The Next Wave: Navigating Water Sector Currents

WEF Immediate Past President - Howard Carter, City of Saco

Howard Carter is the Immediate Past President and a member of the 2025-26 Board of Trustees for the Water Environment Federation (WEF), an international organization of water quality professionals headquartered in Alexandria, VA. Howard is also the director of the Water Resource Recovery Department for the City of Saco, Maine. A WEF member since 1998, Howard spent five years in the House of Delegates as a representative of the New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA) and his last year as the speaker of the House. Additionally, he was a founding member of the New England Operations Challenge team "Pump Fiction" that went on to compete nationally in both Division 1 and 2 for a number of years. Howard is also an active member of NEWEA, where he served as president in 2010. He is also a past president of the Maine Water Environment Association in 2002. In addition to receiving numerous WEF Operations Challenge team awards over the years Howard is also a recipient of the William D. Hatfield Award, the Arthur Sidney Bedell Award, a WEF Fellow, a WEF Service Pin Recipient, and a member of the Select Society of Sanitary Shovelers. Howard is a graduate of both the U.S. Naval Nuclear Piping/Mechanical Apprenticeship program and the Southern Maine Technical College Wastewater Treatment/Environmental program.



AWWA President - Heather Collins, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Heather Collins serves as the Chief of Water Treatment Operations for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. She oversees five large conventional treatment plants, each with capacities ranging from 250 to 750 million gallons per day (MGD). Leading a team of 300 employees, Heather manages a \$100 million budget, ensuring the safe operation, maintenance, and compliance of the water provided to over 19 million people. Heather's prior experience includes regulatory oversight for California's public water systems, where she managed drinking water regulations and promoted water reuse initiatives. Currently, Heather leads the regulatory and permitting efforts for Metropolitan's Pure Water Southern California program, a planned 150-MGD water purification initiative aimed at beneficially reusing water for groundwater recharge and potential raw water augmentation, thereby enhancing the resilience of Metropolitan's water supply portfolio. Heather is a Registered Civil Engineer and a licensed Water Treatment Operator. She is an active member of the American Water Works Association (AWWA), currently serving as President.



The Next Wave: Navigating Water Sector Currents

WEF Executive Director - Ralph Erik Exton, WEF

Ralph Exton is the Executive Director at the Water Environment Federation (WEF), a WEF Fellow, and has been serving in this role since July 2024. Prior to joining WEF, Ralph held various senior executive positions at GE Water, SUEZ, Veolia, and Grundfos. He has extensive experience in strategic marketing, business development, M&A, Digital IOT, and Board-level leadership within the water and environmental sectors, including 5 years on the Board of WEF, 3 of those years as treasurer. With over 38 years of experience, he has dedicated his career to protecting the environment and ensuring the sustainability of water, our most precious natural resource.



8:30 AM - 1:00 PM | **Professional Headshots**

Photos are on a first-come, first-served opportunity. Provided by Water Equation. Room W210.

9:20 AM | **Smarter Water: The AI and Digital Landscape in the Water Sector**

AI, Internet of Things, digital tools, machine learning, smartwater, transformational, water-intensive.... There is a LOT of buzz around AI and digital tools within the water sector. The advice from even 5 years ago on how to get ahead of digital transformation as a young professional is already outdated. So how can we prepare now to truly be equipped for the next 5 years? This 40-minute workshop brings together experts in digital water from across the industry to take on myths and truths on AI and digital tools and how these things interact with water. Guiding the discussion and hands-on activities, the session facilitators have diverse backgrounds, representing experience from the utility, technology provider, and consulting engineer perspectives to offer a truly holistic look at how digital tools like AI are being integrated into water work now, as well as trends and challenges that YPs will be facing in these next few years.

Moderator: Alex Webb, Optimatics

The Next Wave: Navigating Water Sector Currents

Speakers:

Marie Hilliard, Vice President of the Strategic Support Team, Optimatics (SUEZ)

As the Vice President of the Strategic Support Team, Marie leads Optimatics' technical support for clients using Optimizer™ and AssetAdvanced™ software to complete planning, design, and operational optimization projects. In addition to supporting traditional Optimizer projects in clean water and wastewater optimizations, Marie specializes in working with clients and the Optimatics development team to adapt Optimatics software to address new use cases. Before joining the Optimatics team, Marie started as an IIC fellow on a data-based consulting project for an arm of the Department of Health and Family Welfare in Karnataka, India. She then spent two years as a Market Strategist for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), evaluating how optimization and market regulations impacted daily and long-term operations of the electricity grid. Marie completed her degree in Economics from the University of Chicago.



Lance Holt, Technical Director, Black & Veatch

Lance Holt, PE, MBA, is a Technical Director at Black & Veatch with more than a decade of experience spanning utilities, consulting, and public-sector regulation. He previously served as Director of Engineering for the South Carolina Public Service Commission and in municipal and industrial wastewater leadership roles. Lance is a licensed Professional Engineer and Certified Public Manager with expertise in aligning technical innovation and operational excellence.



Navneet Prasad, Electrical Controls Engineer, Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility (CVWRF)

Navneet Prasad, PE, is a Project Manager and Electrical Controls Engineer with over 15 years of experience delivering and commissioning complex industrial and municipal systems across North America and India. His expertise includes system integration, controls programming, and on-site startup and commissioning. He holds degrees in electronics engineering, electrical engineering, and business administration and serves as a Director of the Water Environment Association of Utah.



The Next Wave: Navigating Water Sector Currents

Corey Williams, Senior Director - Business and Corporate Development, Badger Meter

Corey is a distinguished leader in the water sector, bringing more than three decades of experience in advancing water and infrastructure technology. Most recently Corey served as President and CEO of SmartCover until its acquisition by Badger Meter in 2025. He now leads Corporate Business Development for Badger Meter, where he oversees the company's merger and acquisition strategy. A licensed Civil Engineer, Corey has served as President and CEO of multiple organizations, where he drove record performance, global expansion, and successful acquisitions. Earlier in his career, he scaled a fast-growing consulting and software firm and led a large technology department within a national engineering organization. In addition to his corporate leadership, Corey also serves as Vice President of the Water Environment Federation, reflecting his deep commitment to advancing the industry.



10:00 AM | **Tap into Trivia**

Trivia activity facilitated by the 2026 YP Summit Platinum Sponsor: McWane WaterWorks.

McWane WaterWorks

As a comprehensive leader in water infrastructure solutions, McWane Waterworks brings together trusted brands: McWane Ductile (ductile iron pipe), Tyler Union (fittings), M&H, Clow, and Kennedy (valves and hydrants), and MPI – McWane Plant Industrial (full plant project materials). Together, these brands deliver quality, reliability, and innovation to communities across the United States and Canada, ensuring safe and sustainable water systems for generations to come.

10:15 AM | **Coffee Break**

10:35 AM | **Going Rogue: Presentation Skills That Captivate**

What makes some presentations unforgettable – while others fade from memory before the applause even ends? In this interactive session, Rogue Water Lab Executive Director Chelsea Boozer reveals the storytelling secrets behind the world's most captivating communicators, drawing from Talk Like TED, behavioral science, and her own experience coaching speakers across the water sector.

The Next Wave: Navigating Water Sector Currents

During this workshop, participants will learn how to design presentations that don't just inform but inspire – by combining emotion, novelty, and credibility. Using the “TED trifecta” (emotional connection, story-driven structure, and concise clarity), we'll break down what makes a message stick in the brain and move people to action.

Speaker:

Chelsea Boozer, Executive Director, Rogue Water Lab

Chelsea Boozer is Executive Director of Rogue Water, a nonprofit equipping and inspiring the water sector to strengthen public trust through authentic engagement and strategic communications. She believes that improving people's relationship with water – and with those who deliver, clean, and steward it – starts with breaking away from the status quo. To Rogue, engagement isn't just communications or public relations; it's the hard work of exploring complex human dynamics, listening deeply, and responding with clarity and empathy to create true connection. With a former career in investigative journalism, she's wired to ask questions. And with a prior role leading utility government affairs and regionalism across 18 communities at Arkansas' largest drinking water utility, she's inspired to collaborate and facilitate shared visioning. Chelsea serves on the American Water Works Association's Executive Committee and Board of Directors. She holds a Master of Public Administration from Syracuse University and a bachelor's in journalism from the University of Memphis.



11:30 AM | **Leading through Change: A Visionary Utility Leader's Approach**

The water sector is notorious for being hungry for new technology, but hesitant to take risks or adopt these new approaches despite the increasing pressure from new demands on treatment, distribution, collection, and stormwater management. With over 25 years' experience in the water sector and a decade in senior leadership roles at some of the largest, most well-known public utilities in the country, Kishia L. Powell is an undisputed expert in leading organizations through change. She currently serves as General Manager and CEO of WSSC, one of the largest water utilities in the country, and widely regarded as one of the most innovative as well. In this session, Ms. Powell will share her approach for bringing vision to leadership, and creating an impact within an organization – even in the face of uncertainty and change.

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Speaker:

Kishia Powell, General Manager and CEO, WSSC Water

Kishia L. Powell is a nationally recognized water utility executive with 27 years of experience across public and private sectors in the U.S. and London. She serves as General Manager and CEO of WSSC Water, leading the largest water utility in Maryland and the eighth largest in the United States. She manages a workforce of nearly 1,800 and a combined operating and capital budget of \$1.8 billion. Kishia has served as President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies and on President Biden's National Infrastructure Advisory Council workforce subcommittee.



12:15 PM | **Lunch**

1:15 PM | **Resilience through Inclusivity: Building the Future of Work in Water**

The future of work in water and the water workforce is facing rapidly changing demands and relationships with and expectations from their communities. This panel discussion brings together prominent water professionals from across the industry who have applied and lived experiences in advancing inclusion and belonging at local, regional, and national levels. The panel will explore this topic in the context of the water sector, the current state of the industry, relevancy to the workforce, as well as the impact to communities as providers of an essential service. The session will include Q&A and table discussions so attendees can engage directly with panelists and with each other on this critical topic.

Moderator: Lindsey Holt, SCE

Speakers:

Mariana Anguiano, Manager of Northern Region Engineering, Trinity River Authority (TRA)

Mariana Anguiano, PE is a Manager of Northern Region Engineering for the Trinity River Authority of Texas, supporting operations and maintenance at the Northern Region Facilities. She has almost 10 years of experience in the water and wastewater industry. Previously, she worked as a consultant on planning, design, and construction of drinking water facilities. Her expertise includes treatment facility design, regulatory compliance, and master planning for water production. Mariana holds a BS and MEng in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University and is a licensed PE in Texas.



The Next Wave: Navigating Water Sector Currents

Nicole Brown, Area Growth Lead for the Water Sector, GFT

Nicole Brown is a nationally recognized leader in sustainable and equitable water infrastructure with over 27 years of experience advancing community-centered projects. As Area Growth Lead for the Water Sector at GFT, she helps utilities achieve strategic goals by aligning innovation with inclusive public engagement and forward-thinking leadership. She is the founding Vice President of the Black Water Professionals Alliance and has served in leadership roles with AWWA, WEF Water 2050, the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Jersey Water Works, and the Emerging Water Leaders of Color Leadership Circle. A recipient of the 2024 WEF Mentorship Award, Nicole is passionate about workforce equity, leadership development, and authentic collaboration.



Brianna Huber, Director of Water Filtration, City of East Moline

Dynamic water industry leader with extensive experience advancing equitable, innovative, and resilient water management practices. Founder and Executive Director of Her20, a global initiative dedicated to empowering women in water. Brings over a decade of operational experience in drinking water systems, regulatory compliance, emergency management, and utility leadership, supported by advanced training from Duke University's Water Innovation Leadership Development (WILD) Program. Recognized for championing diversity, equity, and inclusion, building high-performing teams, mentoring emerging professionals, and leading organizations through change.



Donnell Duncan, Vice President, Arcadis

is a speaker and author of 10 books including his latest, 'A New Mindskin Leadership Superpowers: 100 Governance Proverbs for the Marketplace.' He is a structural engineer, project manager, and business development professional. At the Water Environment Federation (WEF), he is a Past Speaker of the House of Delegates (HOD) and current Outreach Community of Practice Director of the Community Leadership Council (CLC). He is also past co-chair and a current member of the Board of Trustees DE&I Committee, past chair of the HOD DE&I Workgroup, and past member of the Workforce D&I Task Force. At the American Water Works Association (AWWA), he is chair of the Diversity and Member Inclusion Committee and serves on the Water 2050 Equity, Access & Community Engagement Strategic Implementation Team, AWWA Standard G415 Committee, and the Steel and Composite Tank Committee. He earned degrees from Morehouse College and Georgia Tech and is licensed as a PE/SE.



The Next Wave: Navigating Water Sector Currents

2:00 PM | **Operations Competitions- A Boots-Up Approach to Water Workforce Engagement**

What are operations competitions, such as WEF Operations Challenge, AWWA Meter Challenge, Pipe Tapping, or Top Ops? How did they develop, and how are they intertwined with workforce development in the water sector? In this short introduction, gain insight into this extremely popular (and growing) initiative - both the history and looking ahead to the future.

Speaker:

**Kim Furry, Senior Client Manager & Principal,
Woodard & Curran**

Ms. Furry has 29 years' experience in the water and wastewater field. She is a Senior Client Manager & Principal at Woodard and Curran. Kim is a Class IV Wastewater Operator and a Class II Laboratory Analyst in Ohio and has served as a wastewater and collections system facility manager for several municipalities as well as Business Development Director for Alloway Laboratories in Ohio. Kim holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Master's in Organizational Management. She is a Past President of the Ohio Water Environment Association (OWEA), a WEF Fellow and is currently the Chair of the WEF Operations Challenge Community. Kim has also served as the curriculum development task force manager for operator certification course development with the OWEA and sits on the OEPA Operator Advisory Council and the Board of Director's for the Midwest Biosolids Association.



2:15 PM | **Water Circuit Challenge**

In this 90-minute session, participants will be introduced to a broad variety of technologies, skills, and knowledge which are extremely relevant to different aspects of the water and wastewater sector as they work through different challenges. With peer participants from a variety of geographic and career backgrounds, they will have the opportunity to discuss and try out these technologies, tools, and ideas as they complete the station tasks.

Thank you to our Water Circuit Challenge equipment donors:

- **Badger Meter**
- **Union County Water**
- **Vaughan Pumps**
- **Victaulic**
- **WEF Operations Challenge**

The Next Wave: Navigating Water Sector Currents

2:15 PM | **Coffee Station**

Available during Water Circuit Challenge.

4:05 PM | **Being... Ready: Lessons Learned from a Career in the Water Sector**

It's often claimed that "soft skills" contribute more to one's career advancement than technical skills. But soft skills can be "fuzzy" to define, can mean different things to different people, can be misused in critical relationship situations, and thus, difficult to put into practice. This session considers three critical, practical, and pragmatic soft skill elements that are easy to grasp but require a lifelong commitment to master. We will include an interactive exercise designed to help underpin that commitment.

Speaker:

Art Umble, PhD, Water Sector Expert

Dr. Art Umble's 40-year professional career includes university teaching in civil engineering, management of a public water and wastewater utility, global consulting for public and private clients, and applied research. He has served on numerous state, national, and international technical and public policy forums addressing wastewater treatment, reuse, renewable energy, circular economy, and climate change.



4:40 PM | **Closing Remarks**

5:00 PM | **Group Picture**

6:00 – 8:00 PM | **Networking Reception**

Food and Drink

DINNER

Chex Grill & Wings

400 S Tryon St Suite R2

Distance from the venue: ~0.2 mi

Jinya Ramen Bar

601 S Tryon St Unit 132

Distance from the venue: ~0.2 mi

Valhalla Pub & Eatery (Latta Arcade)

317 S Church St

Distance from the venue: ~0.3 mi

DESSERT

Crave Dessert Bar

500 W 5th St Unit 120

Distance from the venue: ~0.8 mi

MilkShake Factory

100 W 3rd St A

Distance from the venue: ~0.4 mi

Tutti Gelato

1700 Camden Rd Ste 101

Distance from the venue: ~1 mi

Insomnia Cookies

210 E Trade St Suite B-224

Distance from the venue: ~0.3 mi

COFFEE

Gotcha Matcha & Espresso

200 S Tryon St

Distance from the venue: ~0.3 mi

Lottie's Café

210 E Trade St

Distance from the venue: ~0.3 mi

Wildroots Coffee

440 S Church St #101

Distance from the venue:

~0.2 mi



Food and Drink

BREAKFAST

Lottie's Café

210 E Trade St

Distance from the venue: ~0.3 mi

Amélie's French Bakery (Uptown)

380 S College St

Distance from the venue: ~0.1 mi

Midnight Diner

420 E Trade St

Distance from the venue: ~0.4 mi

Rhino Market & Deli (Uptown)

400 S Church St

Distance from the venue: ~0.3 mi

LUNCH

Monarch Food Market

101 N Tryon St #105

Distance from the venue: ~0.4 mi

Flower Child (vegan options)

1537 Camden Rd

Distance from the venue: ~0.9 mi

Johnny Burrito

301 S Tryon St

Distance from the venue: ~0.1 mi

Halal Food Truck (Uptown area)

101 N Tryon St

Distance from the venue: ~0.4 mi



More

TRANSPORTATION

Charlotte Light Rail

Distance from the venue: ~0.1 mi

Uber

On-demand

Lyft

On-demand



NATURE

Little Sugar Creek Greenway

101 N Kings Dr

Distance from the venue: ~0.8 mi

Frazier Park

1201 W 4th St Ext

Distance from the venue: ~1 mi

Elizabeth Park

101 N Kings Dr

Distance from the venue: ~0.8 mi



NEARBY ACTIVITIES

Harvey B. Gantt Center

551 S Tryon St

Distance from the venue: ~0.3 mi

Mint Museum Uptown

500 S Tryon St

Distance from the venue: ~0.3 mi

NASCAR Hall of Fame

400 E MLK Jr Blvd

Distance from the venue: ~0.1 mi

Bechtler Museum of Modern Art

420 S Tryon St

Distance from the venue: ~0.1 mi

YP Summit Volunteer Leaders



Haley Goddard,
Cleanwater1
YP Summit Chair



Maddie Spinner,
American Water
YP Summit Vice Chair



Alexandra Webb,
Optimatics
Program Subcommittee
Chair



Dane Elliott,
*The Ohio State
University*
Program Subcommittee
Vice Chair



Sarah Honebrink,
Kimley-Horn
Sponsorship Subcommittee
Chair



Nicole Martindale,
HDR
Sponsorship Subcommittee
Vice Chair



Malia Turner,
Hazen and Sawyer
Marketing Subcommittee
Chair



Alfredo Rodriguez,
CDM Smith
Marketing Subcommittee
Vice Chair



Jordan Lewis,
*Mecklenburg County
Government*
Local Host Subcommittee
Chair



Kyle Rezek,
University of North Carolina
Local Host Subcommittee
Vice Chair



VOLUNTEERS

MARCH 22-24, 2026

Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, N.C.

The Next Wave: Navigating Water Sector Currents

Thank You to Our Volunteer Committees!

Programming

Adib Altallal <i>City of Tukwila</i>	Amaryllis Chavez <i>Black & Veatch</i>	Annushka Aliev <i>Hazen & Sawyer</i>	Aparna Dwara <i>TYLin</i>	Van Nortwick <i>American Water</i>
Carlos Mejia <i>Pleasants Construction</i>	Hanting Wang <i>Donohue & Associates</i>	Jaimie Payne <i>Bartlett & West</i>	Jissell Muir <i>Arcadis</i>	Katie McKendrick <i>Jacobs</i>
Lauren Schmidt <i>JUB</i>	Layal Jabakji <i>Hazen & Sawyer</i>	Lindsey Holt <i>Suburban Consulting Engineers, Inc.</i>	Paniteja Madala <i>AECOM</i>	Parin Izadi <i>GHD</i>
Parnian Izadi <i>Jacobs</i>	Pranoti Deshmukh <i>WSP</i>	Progga Chirontoni <i>Carollo Engineers</i>	Rochelle Widmer <i>City of Columbia Heights</i>	Scottie Donovan <i>TYLin</i>
Tessa Lancaster <i>Olsson</i>	Tim D'Agostino <i>PW Grosser</i>	William Rice <i>Charlotte Water</i>	Jordan Peters <i>Charlotte Water</i>	

Marketing

Casey Johnston <i>JVA</i>	Celestene Sebag <i>Black & Veatch</i>	Edie Engelmann <i>J-U-B Engineers, Inc.</i>	James Swantek <i>Kamstrup</i>	Jaycie Bellamy <i>McWane Ductile</i>
Jeff Biberdorf <i>USALCO</i>	Jen Collens <i>McClure</i>	Jingyi Wu <i>HDR</i>	Kate Alexakos <i>McWane Ductile</i>	Leigha Green <i>McCrometer</i>
Marcela Herrera Alvarez <i>Garver</i>	Taylor Busch <i>Daniel D. Stephens & Associates</i>	Tyler Robinson <i>Bowman Consulting</i>	Jennifer Toney <i>Central Alabama Water</i>	

Sponsorship

Collin McGovern <i>Kimley-Horn</i>	Daniel Smith <i>Hazen & Sawyer</i>	Eunice Demor Assefueh Brew <i>Ghana Water Limited</i>	Kevin Rodier <i>American Water</i>	Lizzy Cavitt <i>Olsson</i>
Mason Ericson <i>Tetra Tech</i>	Nathaniel Aguilar <i>M&H & Kennedy Valve Company</i>	Nimeesha Vellara <i>Mott MacDonald</i>	Rochelle Widmer <i>City of Columbia Heights</i>	Ryan Sklar <i>Kimley-Horn</i>

Local Host

Ahmad Bitar <i>AECOM</i>	Aleyda Matamoros <i>Freese and Nichols</i>	Anna Gionfriddo <i>Brown & Caldwell</i>	Brian Gannon <i>Hayward Holdings, Inc.</i>	Bryce Hawkins <i>Charlotte Water</i>
Jayla Berry <i>Highfill Infrastructure Engineering, P.C.</i>	Kevin Moluf <i>Charlotte Water</i>	Liza Patton <i>Kimley-Horn</i>	Madeline Robison <i>Black & Veatch</i>	Nicky Milde <i>Charlotte Water</i>
Rita Gyimah <i>University of North Carolina</i>	Spencer Lindsay <i>Freese and Nichols</i>	Taylor Dennis <i>Aquatic Informatics</i>	Umang Chauhan <i>HDR</i>	Vincent Marinelli <i>Kimley-Horn</i>

Utility Scholarship Recipients



Isabella Altier,
*Louisville Metropolitan
Sewer District, Kentucky*



Aiden Crayne,
*Fallbrook Public Utility
District, California*



Harrison Dunlap,
*The City of Oklahoma
City, Oklahoma*



Ethan Harper,
*Greater Cincinnati Water
Works, Ohio*



Alex Hippenhammer,
*Mile High Flood District,
Colorado*



Zachary Loeb,
*Clay County Utility Authority,
Florida*



Natalia Miranda,
*Baltimore City
Department of Public
Works, Maryland*



Chyanne Nader,
*Calvert County
Government, Maryland*



Dallys Serracin-Pitti,
Halifax Water, Nova Scotia



Gian Vallejo,
Hillsborough County, Florida



CODE OF CONDUCT

MARCH 22-24, 2026

Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, N.C.

The Next Wave: Navigating Water Sector Currents

Event Code of Conduct and Ombuds Service

WEF is committed to providing professional, safe, and welcoming environments during its events for all water professionals and their guests. WEF expects all attendees, exhibitors, speakers, sponsors, media, and other participants to help us provide a positive conference environment for everyone.

WEF will provide ombuds service at the YP Summit. An ombuds is a confidential, impartial, informal, and independent resource to help manage conflict and find fair solutions to problems that arise during an event. They provide support with addressing communication issues, harassment of any kind, discrimination, disability access, sexual misconduct, and safety concerns, among other concerns.

Ways to contact the ombuds:

- Confidential Web Form: www.mwi.org/wef-ombuds
- Email: caitlan-ombuds@mwi.org
- Phone: 623-239-2485

[Read more](#) about the events code of conduct and ombuds service.