

NEWSLETTER

IDA 2025 Newsletter - December

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IMPORTANT REMINDERS

As 2025 comes to a close, we proudly celebrate an incredible year and all that you helped make possible. We are deeply grateful to every member who hosted events, attended gatherings, supported our charitable missions, and helped strengthen and unite the design community.

We're entering 2026 with confidence and excitement, ready to bring you even more impactful events and opportunities.

Membership renewals are due **January 31st, 2026**. Renew early to enjoy the full value of your benefits and ensure uninterrupted access to all upcoming programs. Renewal forms will be sent by mail and email.

For the quickest processing, please submit completed applications to the IDA email.

Thank you for an outstanding year, and here's to an incredible 2026!



2026, FIRST 1/2 OF YEAR GENERAL EVENT SCHEDULE

*NOTE ALL INFORMATION IS TENTATIVE
AND SUBJECT TO MODIFICATIONS*

January, Hosted by Julie Muscato Home & Gifts
Thursday, 1/8

February, Hosted by Window Decor Distributors,
featuring Hunter Douglas
Tuesday, 2/10

March, IDA Speed Networking Event, Hosted by Italian
Marble & Granite
Thursday, 3/19

April, Hosted by Tontine Carpet

May, Hosted by MSI Rochester
Thursday, 5/14

June, Hosted by Certainly Wood Veneer
Tuesday, 6/9 — CEU Credit Available

July, Trip/Tour, Hosted by IDA of WNY

August, Summer Party, Hosted by IDA of WNY

September, Hosted by Ethan Allen of WNY

October, General Meeting, Hosted by Homestone
Gallery

November, Tablescaping Event — Charitable Event

December, Holiday Party, Hosted by IDA of WNY



IDA OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

As we look ahead to 2026, we would like to extend our deepest appreciation to our outgoing IDA Board Members. We are truly grateful for your time, energy, and meaningful contributions to the IDA.

To Jennifer Dowdell, our Social Events Chair, thank you for the creativity and care that made each gathering special.

To Kerry Leahy, our Membership Liaison, thank you for the warmth and connection you brought to members at monthly events.

And to Nikki Wolfe, our Membership Chair, thank you for thoughtfully guiding all incoming membership relations with dedication and professionalism.

We also extend a heartfelt thank you to Karen Bialkowski for her outstanding service as IDA President. Karen will be stepping away from her position in 2026, but we are grateful that she will remain actively involved with the Board.



2025, & 3RD STYLE ROW EVENT

What an incredible night at our 3rd Style Row Event!

We were thrilled by the turnout from both the WNY community and our design community. Thank you to everyone who joined us in celebrating creativity, connection, and collaboration.

Thank you to our presenters:

Colleen Cusick (McQ Interiors), Payal Bansal (Payal Bansal Design), Nina Lares (Inspired Space Design), and Laura Wax (L2K Design). Your perspectives and talent energized and inspired the entire room.

Acknowledgment to our scheduled speakers:

Kristin Ertel (L2K Design) and Julie Muscato (Julie Muscato Interiors). Although unforeseen circumstances prevented you from presenting, your presence and contributions to the community are always valued.

Thank you to our moderator:

A special note of appreciation to Diana Augspurger for skillfully moderating the event and guiding the evening.

Thank you to the Style Row planning committee:

Sandra Reicis, Karen Mattoon, Jennifer Dowdell, and Tammy Davis. Your dedication and behind-the-scenes work made this event possible.

Thank you to our Vendor Showcase Sponsors:

Bird of Paradise Design, Buffalo Plumbing Showroom, Certainly Wood Veneer, Elina Rugs + Home, Interiors of WNY, Italian Marble & Granite, and Walls Beautiful. Your support played a vital role in the success of the night.



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ida INTERIOR DESIGN
ASSOCIATION
of Western New York

2025, & 3RD STYLE ROW EVENT



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Interior Design Association of WNY



HOLIDAY DECORATING AT KEVIN GUEST HOUSE

Spreading Holiday Joy at Kevin Guest House

This holiday season, IDA members continued a cherished tradition by volunteering to decorate Kevin Guest House! Each year, our membership comes together to bring festive cheer to this special place, creating a warm and welcoming environment for families and individuals who are away from home during the holidays.

We are deeply grateful to be part of Kevin Guest House's mission and to have the opportunity to spread joy and comfort during this season. A special thank you goes to Barb Reformat, our Charitable Contributions Chair, and our wonderful members, family, and friends. Their dedication and support made this holiday tradition possible!

Here's to a memorable holiday season.





IDA HOLIDAY PARTY AT THE BOTANICAL GARDENS

What a spectacular way to close out the year! The 2025 Annual IDA Holiday Party was nothing short of magical, held amidst the lush beauty of Buffalo's historic Botanical Gardens. True to our mission of bringing unique and visually stunning architectural design into every aspect of our organization, this year's celebration was a feast for the senses. Members, family, and friends gathered together to celebrate the year's achievements in an atmosphere that was as elegant as it was inviting. From the moment guests arrived, the Botanical Gardens provided a breathtaking backdrop, perfectly complementing the evening's beautiful design touches, incredible food, and music that kept spirits bright. A huge thank you goes to our incredible event sponsors, Colvin Draperies and MP Caroll Hardware, whose generous support helped make this celebration possible. Your contributions elevated the evening and allowed us to create a truly unforgettable experience.

We also extend a very special thank you to Jennifer Dowdell, IDA Social Events Chair, for all of her planning and hard work that made this event so exceptional. Your attention to detail and thoughtful care in organizing every aspect of the party truly made it a magical evening for everyone.

It was an afternoon and evening filled with laughter, conversation, and connection, reminding us all why the IDA community is so special. Seeing so many familiar faces come together to celebrate the year's successes and to look forward to the year ahead truly made this event unforgettable.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the 2025 Holiday Party a shining example of creativity, camaraderie, and celebration. We cannot wait to continue this tradition in the years to come.



CLOSINGS

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SITTING, & OUTGOING PRESIDENT | KAREN BIALKOWSKI



Dear Colleagues,

Wishing you all a truly joyful Holiday season and a bright, healthy New Year. As we close out 2025, my heart is full reflecting on what an incredible year and journey it has been together.

It has been an absolute honor and privilege to serve on the IDA Board as President for the past four years. I am so proud of the progress we have made to strengthen and support our organization, including securing our 501(c)(3) status, establishing a formal budgeting system, and creating our Sunshine Fund. These milestones were made possible only through the dedication, generosity, and teamwork of our Board members, who continually give their time and energy out of genuine care for IDA and its members.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to work alongside such a passionate, supportive, and inspiring group of individuals. Serving this organization has been incredibly meaningful to me, and I truly cherish the relationships built along the way.

As we look ahead to 2026, I am excited to continue supporting IDA in an advisory role and to remain closely connected to an organization that means so much to me.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your trust, encouragement, and continued membership. Wishing you peace, joy, and happiness this Holiday season and beyond.

Warm regards,
Karen Bialkowski
President

CLOSINGS

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SITTING VICE PRESIDENT, & INCOMING 2026 PRESIDENT ELECT | KAREN MATTOON



Dear Members,

I am honored to write you as the new 2026 president elect of the IDA! I have served on the board since 2014, and have admired each past president and board members for the work they have done for the association to bring us to this point.

Over the years, I've had the privilege to collaborate with so many of our talented members and have come to value what makes this association so special. Our shared commitment to design excellence, community support, and professional growth! I would like to continue our change to strengthen the member engagement with networking events, peer to peer mentoring opportunities and knowledge, sharing best design practices and emerging trends, providing a foundation within our organization where we can all learn and grow together. I believe our greatest strength is you, our members. I warmly invite you to share your ideas, feedback, and hopes for the organization moving forward so we can best serve you moving forward. I thank you all for this opportunity and privilege, and I look forward to all we can accomplish together!

Karen Mattoon | IDA 2026 President Elect

2026 BOARD ELECT



KAREN MATTOON | PRESIDENT



KATRINA HORA | VICE PRESIDENT



KATRINA BIALKOWSKI |
BOARD ADVISOR



SANDRA REICIS | SECRETARY



PEGGY MORGANS | TREASURER



BARB REFORMAT | CHARITABLE
CONTRIBUTIONS



LAUREN SCHULTE | MARKETING



CHRIS LAMENDOLA | MONTHLY EVENTS



HEATHER STARR DONOHUE |
MEMBERSHIP



DIANA AUGSPURGER |
MEMBER AT LARGE



TAMMY DAVIS |
MEMBER AT LARGE



KAREN REDMAN |
MEMBER AT LARGE