



CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

David Richter, FAIA

Principal, Richter Architects

David Richter was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan and grew up in Corpus Christi where he was active in scouting, earning the rank of Eagle. In high school he competed in speech and debate and served as President of the Debate Club. He attended the University of Texas at Austin where he was a founding member of the UT Sailing Team and competed in the North American Collegiate Sailing Championships.

Mr. Richter received his Bachelor of Architecture Magna Cum Laude from the University of Texas in 1974. He began his practice with Kipp & Winston Architects in 1975 and was named Design Principal in 1979. In 1993, David and his partner Elizabeth Chu Richter formed Richter Architects.

In 1995, Mr. Richter was chosen for advancement to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects as national recognition of his architecture, his inclusive design philosophy, and his design influence on architecture in South Texas.

Mr. Richter is a LEED accredited professional and has been broadly recognized for design harmonious with regional culture, climate and environment. In 2000, the firm's barrier island environmental research for the Mustang Island Episcopal Conference Center was selected by USGBC/AIA/USDOE for publication in Environmental and Economic Balance: a 21st Century Outlook and presentation at the related national environmental conference. Recent sustainability related work includes coastal wetland resource centers, Net Zero Energy project-related research, and several LEED Silver and LEED Gold certified projects.

Mr. Richter has served in numerous leadership capacities in the AIA. He was elected 1998 President of the Texas Society of Architects. He served as a Trustee for the Texas Architectural Foundation from 1999 to 2006, and as President of the Foundation from 2006-2010.

Mr. Richter's work has been widely published and has received more than 50 design awards, including a national AIA Honor Award for Architecture, seven Texas Society of Architects Design Awards and numerous AIA chapter awards. Other national awards include six Brick Industry Association Design Excellence Awards, and awards from the National Endowment for the Arts and the US Department of Transportation. In 2011, Richter Architects was named as The Firm of the Year by the Texas Society of Architects.

Mr. Richter is active in community affairs and is a frequent speaker and writer on issues related to architecture, urban design and the environment.

Richter Architects is a 15-person firm with a diverse project portfolio. Projects include governmental; justice and law enforcement; higher education; religious; k-12 education; commercial; travel and eco-tourism; and residential. While the firm is small enough to be organized as a single studio, the firm has served as design and project architect for projects as large as \$70m.

Elizabeth Chu Richter, FAIA

Principal, Richter Architects

Elizabeth Chu Richter, FAIA, is CEO of Richter Architects based in Corpus Christi, Texas. Elizabeth lived in Hong Kong as a young child. Subsequently, her mother moved the family to Dallas, Texas. Elizabeth received her Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Texas at Austin. She and her partner David Richter formed Richter Architects in 1993.

Richter Architects is a recognized leader in the profession with award-winning designs. It was the recipient of the Architecture Firm Award from the Texas Society of Architects in 2011. Recent projects include the National Museum of the Pacific War, Del Mar College Academic and Music Complex, Manila American Cemetery Visitor Center in the Philippines, TxDOT Safety Rest Areas, and GSA Design Excellence U.S. Ports of Entry in El Paso, Laredo, and Columbus, New Mexico.

Elizabeth was elected to serve as the National President of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in 2015. She holds the distinction of being the fourth woman to have served as national president in the AIA's then 158 year history.

A Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, Elizabeth is an honorary member of the Japan Institute of Architects, the Korean Institute of Architects, the Australian Institute of Architects, and the Association of Siamese Architects Under Royal Patronage. She is a recipient of the President's Medal from the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. Elizabeth is an advocate for international cooperation and exchange as it is vital in addressing global issues such as sustainability, resilience, affordable housing, health, and well-being.

Elizabeth believes in the power of architecture to impact lives and elevate the human spirit. She has twice chaired the prestigious AIA Gold Medal/ Firm Award advisory jury, and has juried numerous national and regional awards such as the AIA New York Design Awards. She has lectured at colleges and universities; most recently during the 90th anniversary of the

founding of the School of Architecture at Southeast University in Nanjing, China.

For decades, Elizabeth has championed raising public appreciation of architecture. In addition to her design work, writing, and speaking, she conceived and co-produced *The Shape of Texas*, a statewide radio series on architecture broadcasted on NPR-affiliate stations. The series ran for 11 years, broadcasting over 500 episodes and reached millions.

Active in community service, Elizabeth served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the San Antonio Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, and as Chairman of the South Texas Public Broadcasting System. She also served on the Planning Commission of the City of Corpus Christi, and on the Governing Board of Christus Spohn Health System.

Andy Keith, PE

Former Roadway Facilities Branch Manager, MNT Division, TxDOT

Andy graduated with a Bachelor of Science in a Civil Engineering degree from the University of Houston. After graduation he worked for seven years in the petroleum field. Texas Department of Transportation hired him in 1991 to help with the development of new fueling facilities for alternate fueled vehicles. While working with architects, he took an interest in making improvements to the department's outdated buildings and safety rest areas. He developed a long term plan to bring the facilities into the modern era. He wrote Project Design Standards for new Safety Rest Areas and also for Travel Information Centers.

Andy retired from TxDOT at the end of August 2018.

Sherri Robelia, RLA

Transport Funding Spec, TRF Division, TxDOT

Sherri Robelia began her career with the Texas Department of Transportation in 1996, and is currently a Program Manager with TxDOT's Traffic Safety Program. Sherri holds a Bachelor in Business Administration from Tarleton State University. She is passionate about helping others and educating the public on Traffic Safety.

Sherri lives in Waco with her husband, 2 labs and a husky. She is also the proud mother of a 25 year old son.

Peter B. Krause, RLA

Landscape Arch Section Director, DES Division, TxDOT

Pete is a registered landscape architect in the state of Texas. He currently works at the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) as director of the Landscape Architecture Section of the Design Division. He leads a team of landscape architects involved in landscape design, transportation aesthetic design and accessible pedestrian facility design. Pete has been involved with landscape architectural and accessible pedestrian design project development for over 30 years. He has served as Landscape Architect in a TxDOT District Office and for the last 17 years has served in the Design Division of TxDOT developing landscape architecture accessible designs, standard drawings and managing the several statewide project development programs.

Diane Jones Allen

D. Eng., ASLA, PLA – Program Director of Landscape Architecture and Associate Professor College of Architecture, Planning and Public Affairs – The University of Texas at Arlington

Diane Jones Allen is currently the Program Director for Landscape Architecture, in the College of Architecture Planning, and Public Affairs, at the University of Texas at Arlington. She is Principal Landscape Architect with Design Jones LLC in New Orleans, Louisiana which received the 2016 American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Community Service Award. In Baltimore, Maryland, during the period from 2006-2014, Diane was a member of the Urban Design Architecture Review Panel, providing design guidance on major development projects in the City, and a tenured professor in Landscape Architecture, at the School of Architecture and Planning at Morgan State University. In 2017, she participated as a member of the ASLA Blue Ribbon Panel on Climate Change and Resiliency. Diane received the 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Environmental Design, University of California at Berkeley. Her research and practice is guided by the intersection of environmental justice, identity and sustainability in cultural landscapes, including “Nomadic” responses to “Transit Deserts,” places of increasing transportation demand and limited access, as discuss in her book “Transit Deserts; Race, Transit Access, and Suburban Form”. Diane, recently co-edited “Design for Democracy: Techniques for Collective Creativity”, published by Island Press, which provides tools for trans-active engagement and design.

David Batts

Director, Stormwater System Solutions

David Batts grew up on the Texas Gulf Coast where he spent every free moment he had on the water. It was fitting that as a professional he found himself helping protect the very ecosystem that he enjoyed as an adolescent. Promoting innovative new water management strategies is as much of a passion as it is how he makes a living, and he often finds himself far from home presenting to anyone that will listen about his latest finding or lesson learned in his pursuit of perfection in Green Infrastructure Design and Construction Methods. David joined Construction EcoServices in 2006 as the first employee in the Stormwater System Solutions business unit that he now runs. He is an avid fisherman and conservationist and spends as much time as possible with his wife and two boys enjoying nature.

Phillip Hempel

Research and Technology Portfolio Section Manager, RTI, TxDOT

Phillip graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering from The University of Texas at Austin and began working for TxDOT’s Construction Division, designing and developing automated pavement distress rating equipment for statewide deployment. Phillip later earned his Masters in Engineering Management from UT Austin and moved to the Maintenance Division where he learned how to observe a road from fence line to fence line and help Districts enhance their maintenance operations. Phillip currently works in the Research and Technology Implementation Division, working to bring solutions to a wide array of current and future transportation issues.

T.J. Ermoian

President, Texas Energy Aggregation

T.J. Ermoian is the founder, President of Texas Energy Aggregation. He has served as a pioneer and innovator in Texas deregulation since 2002. His company has won 5 consecutive contracts with the State of Texas to assist state and municipal clients with energy procurement, including TxDOT. He has served in various board positions with the Texas Energy Professionals Association (TEPA). He is a member of the National Solutions Council with the Rocky Mountain Institute and in 2016 served on the Energy and Policy Forum with the Aspen Institute. Mr. Ermoian is also a

member of the Texas Energy Manager's Assn. (TEMA), Texas Rural Education Assn. (TREA), and the Texas Renewable Energy Industry Assn. (TREIA). He has served as a lecturer at Baylor University and at Texas State Technical College. He has attended three institutions of higher education attaining one degree which he describes as "Utterly useless to me today". Focused on consumer advocacy, T.J. spearheaded state legislation which is now saving millions of dollars annually on delivery charges for consumers throughout Texas. He is married with four "mostly grown" children.

Sean Quigley

Executive Director, On Our Own Services (OOOS)

Sean Quigley began working with Special Needs individuals when he was 15 years old in recreation and educational settings. While attending the University of Houston he became aware of the need for long term meaningful employment for individuals with disabilities. In 1989 he accepted a position working within a sheltered workshop for individuals with disabilities. While working at the sheltered workshop he began to obtain State Use service contracts to help individuals make a higher rate of pay. In 1990 the workshop received a contract to provide janitorial and landscape services at a TxDOT Safety Rest Area. In 1991 the workshop closed and On Our Own Services was founded and assumed all the services contracts from the previous workshop. The company expanded into the Dallas, San Antonio and Austin areas and continued to provide services at Safety Rest Areas. In 2007 On Our Own Services was the first Non Profit Community Rehabilitation Program awarded a full facilities maintenance contract (Guadalupe County Safety Rest Area). Today On Our Own Services maintains a total of 23 safety rest area sites for TxDOT through the State Use Program which has employed 242 Texans with disabilities in the past 12 months.

Travis Jez

Vegetation Specialist, MNT Division, TxDOT

Travis Jez is a 6th generation Texan who has deep ties to the Central Texas Blackland Prairies. After graduating from Texas A&M University – Kingsville, Travis worked in the agriculture field assisting rural communities with nonpoint source pollution remediation projects with USDA-NRCS. Travis has since become a Vegetation Specialist for the Texas Department of Transportation; he assists in the vegetation management and maintenance

of over 800,000 acres in the Texas Right-of-Ways. A few of his tasks include teaching Continuing Education Units for the proper herbicide use in state Right-of-Ways to the 1300 TxDOT licensed operators. He formulates and purchases wildflower/pollinator mixes and distributes these unique mixes throughout the 25 TxDOT Districts in the state. He enjoys speaking to civic groups and other state agency about implementing and improving pollinator habitat and about TxDOT's extensive work involving wildflower/pollinator awareness in the Safety Rest Areas throughout the state.

Cathy Ford

Roadside Program Manager Idaho DOT

Cathy Ford administers various programs including Vegetation Management, Revegetation, Noxious Weed & Invasive Species Management, & Rest Areas.

She has worked for ITD for over 17+ years as the Roadside Program Administrator. Her responsibilities include administering the Integrated Vegetation Management program, Weed & Invasive Species Management, and the Rest Area program including maintenance and operations. Some of her duties included developing the rest area program in 2005 that included a separate funding/budget for rest area projects. After 2014, the rest area program and funding went back to a maintenance and operation budget managed by individual districts. Currently, IDOT is in the process of reinstating the rest area team and funding program to renovate more rest area facilities that have deteriorated over the past years.

Cathy's past employment background includes working for the federal government including the National Park Service & Bureau of Land Management, where her responsibilities included prescribed burns, fire rehabilitation, noxious weeds and vegetation programs.

Her education includes a BS in Biology (with a botany emphasis) and in Forestry (with a wildlife emphasis).

Cathy's Professional Memberships: Idaho Weed Coordinating Committee, Idaho Invasive Species Council, International Erosion Control Association, and Idaho Nursery & Landscape Association.

Cathy's Hobbies: Advanced Master Gardener, member of the Southern Idaho Mycological Society (mushroom identification, collection, and cooking), member of the Idaho Botanical Garden, photography, white water rafting, hiking and backpacking, traveling, and missionary work.

Maggie Duncan-Augustt

Realty Specialist – USDOT – Federal Highway Administration, Office of Real Estate Services, Washington D.C.

Maggie began her career with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in 2007 and served in the Iowa Division as a Realty Trainee. In 2009, Maggie joined the DelMar Division Office and served in the capacities of Quality Coordination, Civil Rights, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and Realty Specialist for the State of Delaware. In 2013, Maggie joined the Office of Real Estate Services in the headquarters office in Washington, D.C. She currently serves on the Program Implementation Team as the Point of Contact Lead for the Division Field Services focusing on assistance to all Division Offices in the delivery of the Right-of-Way Program.

Prior to joining FHWA, Maggie was employed by the State of Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation as a Real Property Assessor.

Darrell L. Burks

Roadside Environmental State Administrator Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Division of Maintenance

Darrell holds a B.S and M.S. degree with an agronomy concentration from Western Kentucky University, and postgraduate work at the University of Louisville. He has many years of experience having worked in the private sector of the agriculture business industry and a lengthy tenure with the University of Kentucky in Extension work. For 14 years he has taught classes on an adjunct basis for Lindsey Wilson College and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. Following his tenure at the University of Kentucky, Darrell joined the Roadside Environment team at the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

In his role as Roadside Environment State Administrator for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Darrell serves as administrator for numerous contracts to maintain the Commonwealth's roadways. Supervision of maintenance contracts for the twenty-eight Rest Areas, Welcome Centers, and Truck Havens located across the States' interstate system is one of the duties performed by Darrell. In the fall of 2016 the Kentucky Department of Corrections and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet entered into a cooperative agreement for the beautification and aesthetic enhancement of Kentucky's Rest Areas.

