



# 2026 Mid-Year Conference Draft Agenda

## Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**10:30 AM - 11:15 AM**

### Committee Meetings

- Membership Committee Meeting
- Education Planning Committee Meeting

**11:15 AM - 12:00 PM**

### Committee Meetings

- PAC Committee Meeting
- CEDA Planning Committee Meeting

**12:00 PM - 1:00 PM**

### Executive Committee Meeting

**1:00 PM - 1:15 PM**

### Welcome & Opening Remarks

**1:15 PM - 2:15 PM**

### Trust Builders: The key to thriving communities

**Presenter:** Amy Holloway, President & Economic Development and Community Development Strategist, Aha! Advisors

**2:15 PM - 3:15 PM**

### General Session

TBD

**3:15 PM - 3:45 PM**

### Networking Break

**3:45 PM - 4:45 PM**

### Executive Positioning and Leadership for Economic Development Professionals

**Presenter:** Kat Saunders, Economic Leadership, LLC

**5:00 PM - 6:15 PM**

### Happy Hour & Networking

**6:30 PM - 8:30 PM**

### New Member Dinner

## Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**8:00 AM - 9:00 AM**

### From Projects to Pipelines: Building a Workforce System That Actually Delivers

**Presenters:** Laura Huffman, CEO & Co-Founder, CivicSol; Cesiah Kessler, Founder & CEO, Kezzler Group

**9:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

### AIAA and the Texas Aerospace Advantage

**Presenters:** Clay Mowry, CEO, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA); Linda O'Brien, Vice President and Chief Engineer, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics

**10:00 AM - 10:15 AM**

### Networking Break

## Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**10:15 AM - 11:15 AM**

### **Protecting the Foundation: The Growing Importance of Investing in Infrastructure Resilience**

**Presenter:** David Dodd, Founding President of DADCO Consulting, Inc, CEO, International Sustainable Resilience Center Inc.

**11:15 AM - 11:30 AM**

### **Networking Break**

**11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

### **Awards Luncheon**

**1:00 PM - 1:30 PM**

### **Networking Break**

**1:30 PM - 2:30 PM**

### **How Economic Development is Changing in the Electro-Industrial Era**

**Presenter:** Brian O'Hanlon, Managing Director, U.S. Program at RMI

**1:30 PM - 2:30 PM**

### **When Disruption Becomes Routine: Preparing Texas Small Businesses Before the Next Crisis**

**Presenter:** Amy Hereford, President & CEO, LiftFund

**2:30 PM - 3:00 PM**

### **Networking Break**

**3:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

### **Do More With Less: A Hands on AI Workshop for Texas Economic Developers**

**Presenter:** Dave Parsell, CEO, Localintel

**3:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

### **Breakout Session**

TBD

**4:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

### **Site Location Consultant Fireside Chat**

**Presenters:** Josh Bays, Managing Partner, Site Selection Group; Sydney August, Senior Director, CBRE; Kevin Shatley, Vice President of Economic Development, Dallas Regional Chamber

**5:00 PM - 6:30 PM**

### **Reception & Networking**

## Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**8:00 AM - 9:00 AM**

### **General Building a Founder Economy: Why Entrepreneurship is the Most Underrated Economic Development Strategy**

**Presenters:** Jacquie Martinez, Assistant Director – Small Business Initiatives, Buda Economic Development Corporation; Jennifer Storm, Chief Executive Officer, Buda Economic Development Corporation; Andres Urrego, Founder, Moil/HIVE Incubator Strategist

**9:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

### **Legislative Session**

TBD

**10:00 AM - 11:0 AM**

### **Office of the Governor**

TBD

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

### **Board of Director's Meeting**