

# SPEAKER LIST



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## Event Topic:

**Design for Mental Health: Exploring the Future of Tech, Place, and Program**

Dates: **Thursday, March 21 - Friday, March 22, 2024**

## Event:

**Leadership Roundtable**

Location: **Silver Birch Suite, Statler Hall**

## Speakers:

## Biographies:



**Evengelia Chryssikou**

Associate Professor  
Bartlett Real Estate Institute  
The Bartlett School of Sustainable Construction

Evangelia serves as Associate Professor at The Bartlett School of Sustainable Construction and Program Director of the MSc Healthcare Facilities. As a medical architect and Deputy Director for Enterprise at the Bartlett School, UCL, she holds the Vice-Presidency of the Urban Health Section (EUPHA) and is a RIBA Chartered Member. Invited by Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, she's a member of Greece's National Accessibility Authority. Her specialization in healthcare facilities is underscored by a unique PhD from UCL and a prestigious Marie Curie H2020 Fellowship. Her work spans consultancy and policy, notably in mental health facilities legislation and international health initiatives. *Speaker for Place Session*



**Serena Dang**

Founder & CEO  
Teacup

Serena Dang is the visionary founder and CEO of Teacup Inc., innovating in the digital space to enhance the aging experience for midlife adults. Her entrepreneurial journey began after impactful roles, including founding 1Sharpe Ventures, a \$100M venture capital fund, and leading in capital markets at Nomura Securities. A graduate of Cornell University, Serena is deeply committed to social impact, serving as an advisor to a US-China based greentech company, a board member for a non-profit focused on technology access, and the North American head for SheLovesTech. Her work embodies a passion for creating meaningful change and empowering underrepresented voices in technology. *Speaker for Tech Session*



**Cindy Kao**

Assistant Professor  
Human Centered Design  
College of Human Ecology

Dr. Kao leads the Hybrid Body Lab, focusing on integrating cultural and social perspectives into the design of on-body interfaces. Through her research, she aims to foster inclusive designs for soft wearable technologies, like smart tattoos and textiles, and develops novel digital fabrication methods. Kao, honored with a National Science Foundation CAREER Award, has received accolades in major Computer Science forums and media attention from Forbes, CNN, and WIRED. Her work has been showcased internationally, including at the Pompidou Centre and New York Fashion Week, earning multiple design awards. Kao holds a Ph.D. from MIT and degrees from National Taiwan University. *Speaker for Tech Session*

## Speakers Continued...



**Annie Levy**

Founder  
Sr. Marketing Communications  
Consultant  
AnnieLevy.com

Annie Levy is a creative and thought partner to philanthropies, companies, and communities, helping them solve problems about how to see, design, and create futures that people want to live. Working at the intersection of the personal story and the challenging issues of our times with a depth of experience in the worlds of longevity, clinician and patient well-being, public health, and the world of work. With 15 years of mastering the art of storytelling and experience creation, she skillfully merges her background as a documentary portrait photographer and interviewer to create compelling narratives for organizations. Her work is deeply rooted in understanding and conveying authentic experiences, making significant strides in health, well-being, and community engagement. She has contributed to the National Academy of Medicine's work on Health Equity and Clinician Well-Being, the John A. Hartford Foundation, and the Arnold P. Gold Foundation's communication work. Holding degrees from NYU Tisch and Hunter College, her expertise is a beacon for those seeking to articulate their missions with depth and resonance. *Speaker for Program Session*



**Mardelle Shepley**

Professor, Acad. Director of CIHF  
Human Centered Design  
College of Human Ecology

Dr. Mardelle McCuskey Shepley, a professor at Cornell University in the Department of Human Centered Design and Academic Director of the Cornell Institute for Health Futures, specializes in healthcare architecture. A former professor and director at Texas A&M University, her work focuses on bridging research with practice in healthcare environments. Dr. Shepley, a fellow in both the American Institute of Architects and the American College of Healthcare Architects, holds LEED, EDAC, and WELL certifications. She has authored significant texts on healthcare design and consulted for architectural firms, highlighting her commitment to evidence-based, patient-centered design through her consultancy, ART+Science. *Speaker for Place Session*



**Erin Peavey**

VP, Health & Well-being Design  
Leader  
HKS, Inc

Erin is an architect dedicated to enhancing human health and well-being through design. With a background in both architecture and psychology, she employs an evidence-based, user-centric approach in her role as Vice President and Health and Well-being Design Leader at HKS. Erin has held positions at HOK, the Center for Health Design, and the Georgia Institute of Technology, seamlessly integrating research into her architectural practices. She actively contributes to the health design community as a mentor, speaker, and advisor, including roles with the WELL building standard and advisory boards for educational institutions. Erin has earned numerous awards for her contributions to healthcare design and is known for her research on using architecture to reduce loneliness. Based in Dallas with her family, Erin enjoys gardening, swimming, and exploring local coffee shops. *Speaker for Place Session*



**Don Rakow**

Retired Faculty  
School of Integrative Plant Science  
Horticulture  
College of Agriculture and Life  
Sciences

Don Rakow is a retired faculty member of Cornell University's School of Integrative Plant Science Horticulture Section, where he made significant contributions through research, writing, and lecturing on public garden management and the human benefits of nature. He leads the Nature Rx@Cornell program and the Campus Nature Rx Network, focusing on sustainable community outreach and equitable access to nature for all ages. Rakow's research delves into how nature experiences affect individuals across different life stages and addresses barriers to accessing nature, especially for young people of color. He has published extensively, including works on public gardens' roles in cities and the impact of nature on college student mental health. *Speaker for Program Session*

**Facilitator:**



**Heather Kolakowski**

Senior Lecturer, NSHA, Exec.  
Director of CIHF  
College of Human Ecology

Heather Kolakowski teaches food and beverage management at Cornell University, where she engages students in courses like Restaurant Management and Nonprofit Social Enterprise & Food Justice. Recognized with the Kaplan Family Distinguished Faculty Fellowship in 2017, she excels in integrating service learning into education. As executive director for the Cornell Institute for Healthy Futures, she blends hospitality, design, and health policy to enhance service in healthcare and wellness. With a rich background including roles at the Culinary Institute of America and Four Seasons Hotels, Kolakowski brings practical expertise to her teaching. She holds an MBA and is an advocate for women in leadership within the foodservice industry.