



# HR RECHARGED

DECISION MAKING IN A WORLD THAT WON'T HOLD STILL

*Achieve Well. Together!*

**CONNECT WITH YOUR PEOPLE | DISCOVER BETTER WAYS | ENERGIZE FROM THE INSIDE**

Hotel Colee, Buckhead, Georgia  
3377 Peachtree Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30326  
Wednesday 18th March 2026

Leaders Lounge is a special community for senior-level people-practitioners at the mid-large scale organization.

Explore, Collaborate, and Learn with 85 incredible peers, from breakfast to drinks, at-table facilitated conversations, panels, think-tanks, and whole-audience workshops. We ensure that you finish stronger than how you started.

Join in, be yourself, and tell everyone where you're at to get the right nudges to the next level.

Every session is designed for peer problem-solving, facilitated dialogue, and practical application. Our guests don't consume ideas; they pressure-test them together and leave with clarity, decisions, and next-step solutions grounded in enterprise reality.



**REGISTRATION OPEN FROM  
January 12th-January 30<sup>th</sup> 2026**

"Leaders Lounge is like a retreat for the mind....this is a can't miss, must-attend event. I count the days to each session..." -  
[Stephen Grove, VP DEI at Blackstone](#)

"I walked away feeling seen, inspired, and invigorated. You can't ask for a better group of thought-leaders. What you have compiled is extremely special...I'm very grateful for being able to bring back this energy and information to my team." -  
[Kara Huck, Tiffany & Co.](#)



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**08:50-09:30**

**REGISTRATION, NETWORKING, AND BREAKFAST**

**09:30-10:00**

## **Opening Remarks and Warm-Up with your Emcee of the Day**

Let's talk about where we've been and what we need to explore in order to rebuild and renew the organization with an astonishingly new capability.

**Tegan Trovato, CEO at Bright Arrow Coaching**

**10:00-10:45**

## **PANEL 1: Foresight Meets Readiness: Using Parallel Futures for Talent Resilience and Potential**

How HR leaders can prepare for multiple, co-existing futures rather than betting on a single path. As AI, skills, and workforce models evolve at different speeds, panelists will share practical ways to sense emerging signals, stress-test talent strategies, and build resilient systems that unlock potential amid uncertainty.

*Moderator:*

Trish Vassar, VP, Global Learning & Development, **The Coca-Cola Company**

Kristi Eitel, VP, Talent Strategy, **McKesson**

DeYonne Parker, Global Director, Employee Learning & Development, **Salesforce**

Chandra Wilensky, SVP, Talent, **Assurant**

Stacey Rivers, Head of Global Learning & Development, **Warner Bros. Discovery**

**10:45-11:00**

**IDEAS XCHANGE: Post Panel Closing Question Discussed At-Table**

**11:00-11:30**

## **Case Study:**

### **Organized with AI Based Talent Development on Levels that Work at Scale**

with Justin Miller, VP GTM at Valence

**11:30-11:50**

**NETWORKING & REFRESHMENTS**

**11:50-12:35**

## **PANEL 2: Steps and Missteps in Bridging Employee Experience Gaps**

This panel explores the practical steps organizations are taking to close critical employee experience gaps, and the common missteps that quietly undermine those efforts. Leaders will share what's actually working on the ground, where good intentions break down, and how to course-correct in real time. Expect candid insights on aligning listening, action, and accountability to create meaningful, sustainable employee experiences.

*Moderator:* Emily Frieze-Kemeny, Founder and CEO, **Arose Group**

Luana Bannister, Global Director of Learning and Development, **AECOM**

Candace Barnes, VP, Global Head of Diversity, Talent & Culture, **Papa Johns**

Kimberly Thompson, VP, Human Resources, Head of Talent and Executive Search, **Finastra**

Annalese Kraus, SVP, Human Capital Business Enablement, **Truist**

**12:35-12:50**

**IDEAS XCHANGE: Post Panel Closing Question Discussed At-Table**



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12:35-1:00

## Case Study:

**Culture that didn't Shake: Conviction in Culture, Community, and Social Impact**  
with Rukiya Thomas, VP, US Culture and Social Impact at **AtkinsRealis**

1:00-1:45

## LUNCH & NETWORKING

1:45-3:00

## LEADERS LOUNGE SIGNATURE THINK-TANKS In Partnership with THE DESIGN GYM

— THE —  
**DESIGN  
GYM**

### Decision Making in a World that Won't Hold Still

Using a simple futuring method to turn today's signals into a small set of plausible futures, then identifying no-regret moves with smart hedges.

The goal is to push your critical thinking in additional directions, to leave with practical conversation kits and a 30-day test you can run to make better, and bigger decisions under uncertainty.

(Each group is opted in to from 4 weeks pre-event)

**Facilitated by Jason Wisdom, Co-Founder and Partner at The Design Gym**

#### Group A

AI Adoption That  
Sticks (Not Pilots  
That Flop)

#### Group B

Workforce Resets  
Without Culture  
Collapse

#### Group C

Decision Velocity:  
How HR Helps  
Remove Bottlenecks

#### Group D

The Talent Value  
Proposition Under  
Constraint

3:00-3:15

## BREAK & NETWORKING

3:15-4:00

## PANEL 3: Universal Values and Sustainable Systems of Inclusion

A practical conversation on how leaders are moving beyond programs and rhetoric to build cultures that genuinely scale, perform, and endure over the next 3–5 years.

Moderator: Rumbi Petrozzello, Snr Director, Strategy Consulting at **Seramount**

Mechelle Monroe, Global Chief People Officer, **WPP | Open X**

Shalini Sampat, Head of Inclusion, North America at **Smurfit Westrock**

Kristen Cook, Global VP, Engagement, Culture and Community Impact at **Equifax**

4:00-4:10

## Closing Remarks with your Emcee of the Day

Let's talk about where we got to, together!

**Tegan Trovato, CEO at Bright Arrow Coaching**

4:10-5:00

## DRINKS & NETWORKING

— with special thanks to our sponsors here to help fund our day together —

**visier**

 **Valence**

 **seramount**