

# INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INVESTMENT FORUM

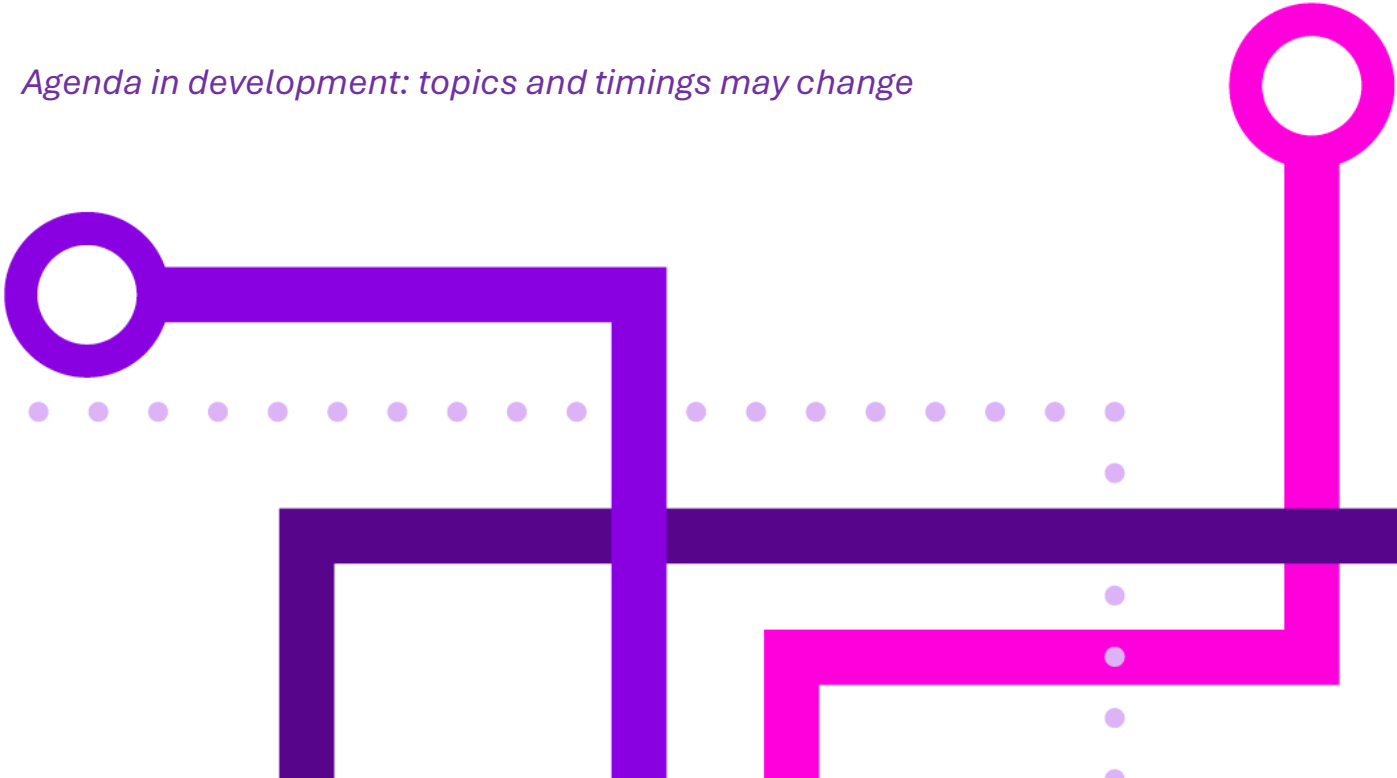


# 2026

# Agenda

**May 31 - June 2, 2026**  
**New York Marriott Marquis, NYC**

*Agenda in development: topics and timings may change*



## 2026 THEME

# Sharpening the Edge

Where capital meets execution, opportunity favors investors who sharpen their edge. Rethink strategy, assets and capital allocation to drive alpha and unlock value today to lead the next cycle.

In a market where capital flow remains selective, and deals are slow to get over the finish line, success is now being driven by more than the deal. Creating value by improving performance with existing assets, using technology more effectively, and responding to changing consumer expectations is the new playbook to accelerate toward success in the future.

NYU IHIF 2026 brings the industry together to examine the forces shaping the market. From investment strategy and asset optimization to development, experience, and destination growth, the program connects big-picture perspectives with practical execution.

This is where the next chapter of hospitality is defined.

## Connect with the leading minds in Hospitality



**2,200+**

Delegates



**20%**

Investor &  
Owners



**180+**

Speakers



**30+**

Content  
Sessions



**5**

Tracks &  
Stages



**60+**

Sponsors

# Agenda

## Sunday May 31, 2026

**3:00pm – 7:00pm**

### **Registration & Badge Pickup**

Location: 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Registration Office

Pick up your badge to start networking and visiting the exhibition.

**5:30pm – 6:00pm**

### **First-timers Meet n Greet**

Location: The Terrace, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor

Is this your first time at NYU IHIF? Come and meet fellow newcomers to make connections ahead of the welcome reception.

**6:00pm – 8:00pm**

### **Welcome Reception**

Location: The Terrace, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor

Join us as we open the 2026 NYU International Hospitality Investment Forum. Network with the professionals who drive this evolving, engaging industry.

## Day 1 – Monday June 1, 2026

**7:00am – 6:00pm**

### **Registration and badge pick up**

Location: 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Registration Office

Pick up your badge to start networking and visiting the exhibition

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**7:30am – 8:30am**

### **Breakfast and Networking**

Location: Sliver Sponsor Hub, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Foyer and 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Foyer

**7:30pm – 8:30am**

### **Morning Roundtable – Destinations and Hospitality**

Join Travel Alberta and hospitality professionals in dynamic discussions and destination investment insights.

Location: Winter Garden

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## **GENERAL SESSION 1: VIEW FROM THE TOP**

Location: 6<sup>th</sup> Floor: Broadway Ballroom

**8:30am – 8:40am**

### **Welcome to NYU IHIF 2026: Engage with a changing market**

A warm welcome to NYU IHIF from the NYU team and Questex, sharing their vision for an event that encourages bold thinking, adaptive intelligence, and visionary leadership to shape the global hospitality industry.

**Speaker: Alexi Khajavi, Group President, Hospitality and Real Estate – Questex**

**8:40am – 9:10am**

**Keynote**

**Unbreakable Resilience: An Insider’s Perspective on Power, Communications and Business**

An insightful keynote explores the intersection of finance and power, revealing the geopolitical forces and societal complexities that shape markets in the US.

**Keynote Speaker: Anthony Scaramucci, Lawyer, financier, broadcaster and former White House communications director**

**Moderator: Paul Miller, CEO - Questex**

**9:10am – 10:00am**

**State of the State: Macro, Micro and Trends**

In this two-part session, hospitality intelligence available only at NYU IHIF will be delivered. The discussion opens with an economic outlook to set the stage followed by a deeper dive into the data, marketing signals and indicators that matter most to decision-makers. Explore the macro headwinds shaping today’s hospitality landscape, policy forces influencing demand, and evolving visitation patterns including inbound and international travel dynamics.

**Part I: Economic Outlook**

**Speakers(s): Tourism Economics – Oxford Economics**

**Part II: Inside the Data, Market Signals and Demand Drivers**

**Speakers(s): Jan Freitag, National Director of Hospitality Analytics – STR**

**Rosanna Maietta, President and CEO – American Hotel and Lodging Association**

**Robert O’Leary, Deputy Assistant Secretary Travel and Tourism – National Travel and Tourism Office, U.S. Department of Commerce International Trade Administration**

**U.S. Department of Commerce International Trade Administration**

**10:00am – 10:05am**

**HAMA U.S. – Asset Management Achievement Award**

**Presenter: Chad Sorensen, Managing Director and CEO - CHMWarnick**

**10:05am – 10:45am**

**Capital Talks: Signals Behind the Shift in Hospitality Investment**

This flagship investor panel will examine the macro forces and big picture signals influencing capital availability and sector risk. Gain clarity from leading hospitality real estate investors on how they are analyzing dealmaking in today’s market conditions and which markets are hot amid economic risk across operational real estate assets.

**Speakers(s): Emily Feeney, VP Capital Markets and Transactions, Noble Investment Group**

**Moderator: Jeffrey Horowitz, Senior Partner M&A, Co-Chair Real Assets Group - Proskauer**

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**10:45 am – 11:30am**

**Networking break**

Location: Sliver Sponsor Hub, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Foyer and 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Foyer

**10:45am – 11:30am**

**Hospitality Round Table**

Join this mid-morning, insightful conversation with Best Western International and while exchanging notes with your peers.

Location: Music Box

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## HOSPITALITY INVESTOR STAGE

Location: Westside Salons 1

**11:30am – 11:35am: Welcome**

**11:35am – 12:10pm**

### **Global Capital On the Move: Who Is Deploying and Where They're Betting**

Capital is selective, but it hasn't disappeared. Cross-border investment is regaining momentum, with capital from Asia and EMEA increasingly influencing where hospitality deals are getting done. This session breaks down the deal mechanics behind inbound and outbound flows, the appealing international markets, how capital stacks are being structured, and a global lens on the next phase of cross-border opportunity.

**Speakers(s): Ronen Nissenbaum, CEO Western Europe – Fattal Hotels**

**Scott Ellman, Managing Director – Eastdil Secured**

**Ben Kelin, Senior Director – CBRE**

**Moderator: Abhi Jain, Partner - PwC**

**12:15pm – 12:35pm**

### **Private Equity Outlook: Deploying in a Selective Cycle**

A candid view from the equity seat, this session brings together private investors to discuss how they are exercising gatekeeping discipline, deploying capital, and managing portfolio strategy as the market moves through the second half of 2026 into 2027.

**Speakers(s): Tim Abram, Managing Director and Global Co-Heads of Hotels – Starwood Capital Group**

**Jeff Stulmaker, Partner and Chief Investment Officer – KHP Capital Partners**

**Michael Mohapp, Partner – KSL Capital**

**Moderator: Latham and Watkins**

## DEAL-MAKING STAGE

Location: Westside Salons 2

**11:30am – 11:35am: Welcome**

**11:35am – 12:10pm**

### **Broker's Panel: Deals Defining The Next Cycle**

Brokers at the center of the action reveal what it really takes to close a deal in today's market. From capital restacks to pricing resets and shifting asset demand, get inside the transactions shaping where the market is today and where it's heading next.

**Speaker(s): Jennifer Dakin, Managing Director Hotels and Hospitality Mortgage Banking – Berkadia**

**Bradley Burwell, EVP Hospitality Practice Group – Colliers**

**Jeffrey Davis, Managing Director – Eastdil Secured**

**Rudy Reudelhuber, Executive Managing Director – Hodges Ward Elliot**

**Moderator: Elias Eliopoulos, Partner - McDermott, Will and Emery**

## ASSET MANAGEMENT STAGE

Location: Westside Salons 4

**11:30am – 11:35am**

**Welcome to the Asset Management Stage**

**11:35am – 12:35pm**

**Excellence in Hospitality Asset Management  
Presentation and Q&A**

A case-study–driven conversation where leading asset managers unpack the pivots that moved NOI, strengthened valuations, and delivered measurable returns even in the stickiest market conditions. Includes audience Q&A following the presentations

**Speaker(s): HAMA Case Study Finalists (announced in May)**

**Moderator: Chad Sorensen, Managing Director and CEO CHMWarnick**

## **EXPERIENCE, ENGAGEMENT & LIFESTYLE STAGE**

Location : Westside Salons 3

**11:30am – 11:35am**

**Welcome to the Experience Engagement and Lifestyle Stage**

**11:35am – 12:10pm**

**From Data to Delight: Turning AI Analytics into Spend**

Hotels are translating guest data into measurable revenue gains. Hear how leading operators and OTAs are using AI and real-time analytics to personalize experiences, drive upsell, increase on-property spend, and boost loyalty that flows straight to the P&L

**Speaker(s): Tim Hentschel, Co-CEO and Founder – Hotelplanner.com**

**Allison Handy, Chief Commercial Officer – Aimbridge Hospitality**

**Scott Strickland, Chief Commercial Officer – Wyndham Hotels and Resorts**

**Ian Ackland, VP and Managing Director Americas – Booking.com**

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**12:35pm – 1:45pm**

**Network & Lunch**

Location: Sliver Sponsor Hub, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Foyer and 5<sup>th</sup> Broadway Ballroom

**1:00pm – 1:45pm**

**Roundtable – Destinations and Hospitality**

Join Israel Ministry and Tourism and hospitality professionals in dynamic discussions and destination investment insights.

Location: Music Box

**1:15pm – 2:00pm**

**Roundtable – Destinations and Hospitality**

Join Turismo de Portugal and hospitality professionals in dynamic discussions and destination investment insights.

Location: Winter Garden

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## HOSPITALITY INVESTOR STAGE

Location: Westside Salons 1

**1:45pm – 2:25pm**

### **Financing Shuffle: What's Replacing Traditional Debt in 2026**

Explore how private credit, mezzanine capital, preferred equity, and other structured financing solutions are stepping in as traditional lenders pull back. This session combines focused market perspectives with a candid panel discussion on what's working, what's not, and where deals are breaking down in today's financing landscape.

**Speaker(s): Ashfin Kateb, CFO – Palladius**

**Ryan Bosch, Principal – Arriba Capital**

**Jared Schlosser, Head of Originations and CPACE, Credit - Peachtree Group**

**Moderator: Mark Owens, Vice Chair Capital Markets - Colliers**

**2:30pm – 3:05pm**

### **Re-Writing the Deal: How Institutional AI is Transforming Real Estate and Hospitality Investment**

AI is becoming a foundational component of institutional investment strategy. Join executives from major investment platforms, venture firms, and thought leaders from the NYU Schack School of Real Estate as they discuss how they are operationalizing AI across the investment platform and how these systems are reshaping the full investment lifecycle.

**Speaker(s):**

**Moderator: Sourav Goswami, NYU Adjunct Professor**

**Maura Lewkowicz, CEO and Co-Founder – Autumn**

**Dave Eisenberg, General Partner – Zigg Capital**

## DEAL-MAKING STAGE

Location: Westside Salons 2

**1:45pm – 2:25pm**

### **Reposition to Win: Inside the Art of a Successful Conversion**

Brand conversions are unlocking powerful new value across the industry. Join us to discover how investors and brands are partnering to reposition assets, strengthen market fit, and accelerate returns. Learn what's working, what isn't, and where smart conversion strategies are delivering real, measurable impact.

**Speaker(s): Michele Haynes, SVP Structured Transactions -Hyatt Hotels**

**HEI Hotels and Resorts**

**Lisa Sexton, SVP of Development for Full Service, US East and Canada – Marriott International**

**Jenna Hackett, Global Category Head Lifestyle Brand Management – Hilton**

**2:30pm – 3:05pm**

### **Contracts that Pay: Structuring Franchise and Management Agreements for Performance**

Management or franchise? Where does each model win and lose? Hear how owners and investors are evaluating and negotiating contract structures to improve asset performance and control risk.

**Speaker(s): Claire Wallace, SVP Acquisitions and Development – Pyramid Global Hospitality**

**Moderator: Samantha Ahuja, Co-Chair, Hospitality Practice – Greenberg Taurig**

## ASSET MANAGEMENT STAGE

Location: Westside Salons 4

**1:45pm – 2:25pm**

### **Unlocking NOI: The Plays Driving Hotel Performance**

This session breaks down three proven approaches owners and operators are using to grow NOI today: F&B models, experiences that turn underutilized space into revenue, and AI-driven tools that are improving efficiencies.

**Speaker(s): Rob Smith, CEO and President – Stonebridge**

**Josiah MacKenzie, Vice President Head of Marketing – Actabl**

**Justin Epps, Managing Director Hotel Group – Barings – LLC**

**Moderator: Dina Winder, EVP Asset Management - Highgate**

**2:30pm – 3:05pm**

### **Sweating the Asset**

With transaction volume and development pipelines slow, asset managers and owners are unlocking value from within existing assets. Hear what's working today from PIPs and repositioning strategies to targeted capital investments and disciplined operational decisions that are driving measurable performance gains.

**Speaker(s): Paul Sacco, Chief Growth and Development Officer – PM Hotel Group**

**Sarah Gulla, SVP Asset Management – Pebblebrook Hotel Trust**

**Paul McElory, EVP Design and Construction – Highgate**

**Moderator: Esther Hertzfeld, Executive Editor Hospitality Group – Questex**

## **EXPERIENCE, ENGAGEMENT & LIFESTYLE STAGE**

Location: Westside Salons 3

**1:45pm – 2:25pm**

### **Premium Demand, Real Returns: Luxury, Lifestyle and Hybrid Hospitality**

An inside look at how luxury and lifestyle assets and community-driven concepts are driving higher spends and long-term value creation through experience.

**Speaker(s): Tiffany Cooper, Head of Development Americas – Mandarin Oriental**

**John Paul Nichols, CEO and President – Club Quarters**

**Leanne Harwood, SVP Managing Director Luxury, Lifestyle & Managed Hotels – IHG Hotels and Resorts**

**Jake Pinsof, Vice President Luxury Development – Marriott International**

**Moderator: Trica Jean-Baptiste, Founder – Left the Nest International**

**2:30pm – 3:05pm**

### **Leisure Reimagined: Why All-Inclusive Resorts Are on the Rise**

Learn how the all-inclusive model has evolved into a high-return asset class, fueled by predictable revenue, efficient operating structures, and expanding global demand.

**Speaker(s): Maria Zarraluqui, SVP Global Growth and Owner Relations – Hyatt Inclusive Collection**

**Alex Fiz, President LATAM and All-Inclusive – Aimbridge LATAM and All-Inclusive**

**Luis Mota, Chief Strategy and Growth Officer – Iberostar Group**

**Moderator: Ronit Copeland, Owner and CEO – Copeland Hospitality, Ltd.**

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**3:10pm – 4:00pm**

### **Networking Break**

Location: Sliver Sponsor Hub, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Foyer, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Foyer

**3:10pm – 3:50pm**

### **Luxury Roundtable**

Who determines the next big thing in luxury travel: advisors, brands, developers or investors? Why not all?

Location: Astor Ballroom

**Moderator: Cameron Sperance, Content & Editorial Director, Questex Travel & Hospitality**

**3:15pm – 4:00pm**

### **Hospitality and Technology Round Table**

Join this afternoon, insightful conversation with Mews and like-minded peers.

Location: Music Box

**3:15pm – 4:00pm**

### **Roundtable – Destinations and Hospitality**

Join Enterprise Greece and hospitality professionals in dynamic discussions and destination investment insights.

Location: Winter Garden

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## **GENERAL SESSION 2: MARKETS IN MOTION**

Location: 6<sup>th</sup> Floor - Broadway Ballroom

**4:00pm – 4:30pm**

### **Luxury in Focus: Performance, Portfolios and Global Demand**

Despite higher costs of capital and a more selective investment environment, global investors continue to lean into luxury. The United States is no exception.

Why luxury, and why now?

This session brings together luxury hospitality leaders and investors to examine how this product segment has evolved over the past 24 months into a deliberate asset and portfolio strategy. The discussion will explore how luxury is being underwritten today, the performance runway ahead, and why U.S. luxury opportunities are viewed through a distinct lens by global investors.

**4:30pm – 5:30pm**

### **Global Hospitality CEO Panel : The View from the Boardroom**

The world's top hospitality leaders convene to share boardroom perspectives on market dynamics, emerging trends, and strategies for adapting to uncertainty. Gain insight into how global operators are shaping the industry's future.

**Speaker(s): Christopher Nassetta, President and CEO, Hilton Worldwide**

**Mark Hoplamazian, President and CEO, Hyatt**

**Geoff Ballotti, President and CEO – Wyndham Hotels and Resorts**

**Elie Maalouf, CEO – IHG Hotels and Resorts**

**Sebastien Bazin, Chairman and CEO – Accor**

**Moderator: Sara Eisen, Reporter - CNBC**

**5:30pm**

**Conclusion of Day 1**

**5:50pm – 7:00pm**

## **Investor and Sponsor Reception**

Location: The Terrace, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor

## **Day 2 – Tuesday June 2, 2026**

**7:15am – 1:00pm**

### **Registration & Badge Pickup**

Location: 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Registration Office

**7:15am – 8:30am**

### **Investor Council (invite only)**

Location: TBA

**7:30am – 8:15am**

### **Round Tables**

#### **Topics and Sponsors Coming Soon**

Location: Music Box and Winter Garden

**7:30am – 8:30am**

### **Women's Networking Breakfast powered by FORWARD, an AHLA Foundation Initiative**

Location: TBA

**7:30am – 8:30am**

### **Breakfast and Networking**

Location: Silver Sponsor Hub, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Foyer, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Foyer

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## **GENERAL SESSION 3: BEYOND THE DEAL**

Location: 6<sup>th</sup> Floor – Broadway Ballroom

**8:45am – 8:50am**

### **Good morning and Welcome back**

**8:50am – 9:25am**

### **The Executive Exchange: Hospitality Performance Strategies for Success**

Hospitality's strong performers are not winning on brand alone. This session brings together CEOs who are navigating the ebbs and flows of today's hospitality ecosystem with a return-focused mindset. They will break down how they are approaching capital markets, structuring partnership and management agreements, and adapting to generational shifts in both labor and traveler demand. A forward-looking discussion on how leaders are positioning their organizations for success.

**Speaker(s): Larry Cuculic, President and CEO – BWH Hotels**

**Craig Smith, CEO – Aimbridge Hospitality**

**Satya Anand, Group President, U.S., Canada, and Caribbean & Latin America – Marriott International**

**Moderator: Todd Soloway, Co-Chair Litigation / Head of Hotel + Hospitality Group and Real Estate Litigation – Pryor Cashman**

**9:25am – 9:55am**

## **From Systems to Strategy: AI's Expanding Role in Hospitality Investment and Operations**

AI is no longer an efficiency layer as it is becoming core infrastructure across hospitality, real estate and travel. Expanding beyond operational systems to influence investment decision-making, the hospitality industry is increasingly adopting AI-driven platforms and processes. This discussion offers a new lens on what investors need to understand as digital and AI transitions become material inputs to valuation, performance, and long term competitiveness.

**Speaker(s):** Richard Valtr, Founder – Mews

Umar Riaz, Director – EY

Michael Leidinger, SVP and Chief Information Officer – Hilton

**Moderator:**

**9:55am – 10:05am**

### **AI Systems at Work, A Fireside Chat**

**Speaker(s):** Oracle

**10:15am to 10:45am**

### **Driving Alpha in uncertain markets: Maximizing hospitality value**

Senior leaders of asset managers, operators, and owners share strategies to optimize assets, expand revenue beyond the bedroom, and balance costs and productivity; unlocking operational efficiency and returns across hospitality portfolios.

**Speaker(s):** Joseph Bojanowski, CEO – PM Hotel Group

Deanne Brand, SVP Strategy, Enterprise Analytics and Treasurer – Host Hotels and Resorts

Andrea Grigg, Global Head of Hotel Asset Management – CBRE Hotels

**Moderator:** Rod Clough, President – HVS Americas

**10:45am – 11:15am**

Talking Leadership: In conversation with the recipient of the Jonathan Tisch Active Citizenship Award

**Honoring:** Daniel Meyer, Founder and Executive Chairman of Union Square Hospitality Group

**Moderator:** Jonathan Tisch, retired Executive Chairman of Loews Hotels & Co., and Chairman Emeritus, NYU IHIF

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**11:15am – 11:45am**

### **Networking break**

Location: Silver Sponsor Hub, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Foyer, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Foyer

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## **HOSPITALITY INVESTOR STAGE**

Location: Westside Salons 1

**11:45am – 12:30pm**

### **Bake or Buy**

Session details coming soon!

**Speaker(s):** Kevin Osterhaus, President Global Lifestyle Brands – Hilton

IHG Hotels and Resorts

**Moderator:** Karen Rubin, Karen Rubin Hotels, LLC

## DEAL-MAKING STAGE

Location: Westside Salons 2

**11:45am – 12:15pm**

### Inside the Deal

Flexibility, precision, and timing are defining which hotel deals get done in 2026. Join seasoned hospitality leaders as they examine why certain transactions have closed over the past year—and why others have stalled - offering a realistic view of what it takes to clear the market in a selective environment.

**Speaker(s): Raj Contractor, SVP Head of Investments – Host Hotels and Resorts**  
**HEI Hotels and Resorts**

## ASSET MANAGEMENT STAGE

Location: Westside Salons 4

**11:45am – 12:15pm**

### Architecture That Pays: Design Decisions That Drive Value

Design decision are capital decisions. Architecture and design are increasingly being used to reprice assets, optimize space meet evolving. This session will discuss how to identify design investments that move valuation and those that don't plus how AI-enable design tools are influencing spend, timelines and bring a vision to life before writing the check

**Speaker(s): Chris Parker, President – Innivision Hospitality**

**Moderator: Alana Goldweit, Director of Visioning and Business Development – Bjarke Ingels Group**

## EXPERIENCE, ENGAGEMENT & LIFESTYLE STAGE

Location: Westside Salons 3

**11:45am–12:30pm**

### Hospitality meets Events: Unique Experiences Shaping Real Estate Investment

Exploring how partnerships, culture, and major sporting events drive differentiation and value in hospitality and urban development.

**Speaker(s): Fred Dixon, President – Brand USA**  
**Jon Kline, President - Clearview Hotel Capital, LLC**

**Moderator: Kevin Carey, Chief Operating Officer – American Hotel and Lodging Association (AHLA)**

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**12:35pm – 1:45pm**

### Network & Lunch

Location: Sliver Sponsor Hub, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Foyer and 5<sup>th</sup> Broadway Ballroom

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## GENERAL SESSION 4: THE NEXT CYCLE

Location: 6<sup>th</sup> Floor – Broadway Ballroom

### 1:30pm – 1:45pm: Future of Travel: Data, Demand and Digital Behaviors Impacting Hospitality's Future

**Speaker: Olaf Belgraver, Head of Chains – Booking.com**

**1:45pm – 2:05 pm**

**The Next Guest: Gen Z and Gen Alpha and the Future of Hospitality Demand**

Hospitality demand is being reshaped by emerging generations of travelers whose values, behaviors, and expectations have direct implications for travel trends and, more importantly, long-term asset performance. This session delivers data-driven insights and candid discussion on how the preferences of the “next guest” are influencing brand relevance and, in turn, investor outcomes

**Speaker(s): Jeanelle Johnson, Managing Partner and Travel Lead Partner - PwC**

**2:05pm – 2:25pm**

**The Future of Gaming Hospitality**

**Speaker(s): Jonathan Halkyard, CFO – MGM Resorts International**

**Moderator: Contessa Brewer, CNBC**

**2:25pm – 3:00pm**

**Defining the Next Chapter of Hospitality with Executive Leaders and Developers**

Close out your NYU IHIF experience with the insights to prepare you for what's ahead. In this audience-led session, hospitality leaders discuss the forces reshaping hospitality. They will tackle real questions on innovation, capital, technology and how they are sharpening their edge.

**Speaker(s): Jeff Wagoner, President and CEO – OUTRIGGER Hospitality**

**Moderator: Alexi Khajavi, Group President Hospitality and Real Estate - Questex**

**3:00pm**

**Closing Remarks – See You Next Year!**