

the
WIPA
NASHVILLE
edit

ISSUE NO.01

Quarter Three 2025



Curating Connection, Education & Innovation for
Nashville's Wedding Pros



TABLE OF CONTENTS

03 BOARD

Your WIPA Nashville
Board of Directors

06 Q1 EVENT

A peek inside our incredible Q1
event at The Sloane.

04 FROM THE PRESIDENT

A letter from the President.

14 Q2 EVENT

A peek inside our stunning Q2
event at Cherokee Dock.

05 FROM OUR MEMBERS

Quotes from some of our
members.

20 Q3 EVENT

A peek inside our wildly
inspirational event at Saint Elle

WIPA NASHVILLE

board of directors

EXECUTIVE BOARD

MARY LOVE RICHARDSON
President

ABBY COX
Vice President

KERA GOLOMBISKY
Secretary

CHRISTY WILSON
Treasurer

SHANI GAILBREATH
Immediate Past President

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS
LINDSY READ

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
JESSICA SLOANE

DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP
JASON MIDDLETON

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATION
KIMBERLY KIMBLE BUTLER

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
MIKEY BURGOYNE

DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP RETENTION
KELLY TINNIN

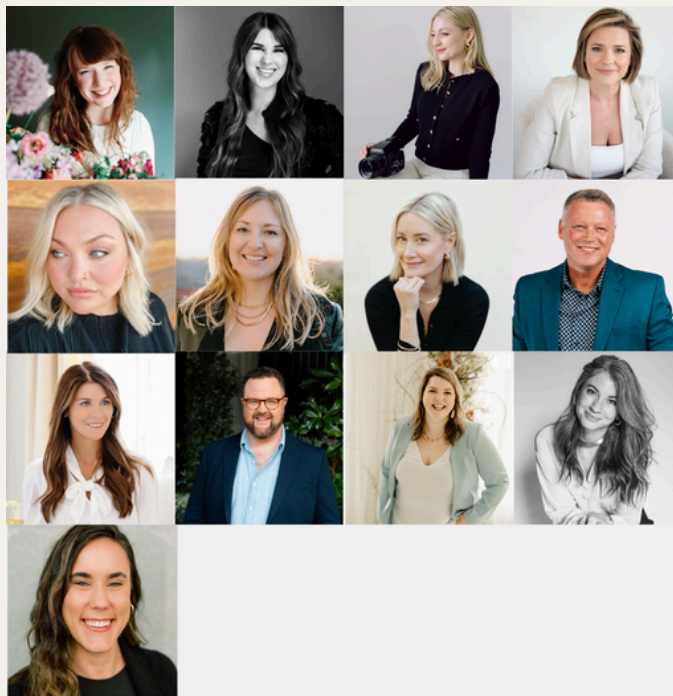
DIRECTOR OF SPONSORSHIPS
JORDAN DUKEHART

DIRECTOR AT LARGE PROGRAMS
LEAH MARGULIES

DIRECTOR AT LARGE MEMBERSHIP
RACHAEL VACEK

DIRECTOR OF DEIB
VACANT

WWW.WIPA.ORG/NASHVILLE



FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hi WIPA Nashville Chapter!

It's my great honor to be writing to you as your 2025 chapter president! As a Nashville native who's hitting 13 years of small business ownership in the wedding industry, I am deeply proud of our vendor community. Y'all are a dynamic, inspiring, motivated, and talented group of professionals. When I first got involved in the steering committee in 2022 to help found our WIPA chapter, one of the biggest reasons for me was that I believe we have world class vendors in Nashville. I want to help showcase our talents in a broader, national network and I hope that it provides a symbiotic rising tide as our community gains greater connections and education. The world should know how amazing our Nashville wedding community is!

From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank you all for making our quarterly events this year such a resounding success. After the busy months of fall and the quiet of the winter lull, it was so good to be back together at the Sloane in February! I think we can all agree that our panel of experts were incredible, knowledgeable speakers and I only wish we could have kept them sharing their wisdom for another hour. Our April Derby event at Cherokee Dock was joyful and colorful and Megan Ely's presentation was enlightening and impactful. And then y'all brought your A-Game for our August event at Saint Elle where we were wildly inspired by our elite panel, the creative event design from a dream vendor team, and most importantly, your fashion choices.

Your engagement, curiosity, and eagerness to learn is so inspiring to be around.

As we look forward to the rest of 2025, my hope is that we continue to build on this momentum and deepen our connections as a chapter. We have some big dreams and exciting plans for our chapter this year that we can't wait to share with you!

Thank you for your dedication and passion. Cheers to another year of growing together!

Mary Love Richardson

Warmly,

Mary Love

President, WIPA Nashville Chapter

HOW HAS BEING A WIPA NASHVILLE MEMBER IMPACTED YOUR BUSINESS?

As an officiant, I am grateful to be a member of WIPA Nashville, it has given me the opportunity to connect with other professionals in the industry, to develop friendships and grow as a business owner. The events have been enriching and fun. I believe that when we work together we we all succeed. As an officiant, I am grateful to be a member of WIPA Nashville, it has given me the opportunity to connect with other professionals in the industry, to develop friendships and grow as a business owner. The events have been enriching and fun. I believe that when we work together we we all succeed.

REV. DR. BENITA LIVINGSTON



I love being a member of WIPA! It has allowed me to meet so many new vendors in our market as well as building business & referrals together. Mixing education, networking and local wedding talent has truly been a huge asset to not only my business but also to our wedding community as a whole here in Nashville!

ALYSSA DICICCO

As a new member of WIPA since December, I'm already seeing the value of being part of such a well-connected and inspiring community. I'm looking forward to deepening relationships with industry leaders, learning from others who share the same commitment to excellence, and continuing to elevate the experience I provide for my couples. The opportunity to connect with like-minded professionals is invaluable, and I'm excited to see how these relationships grow in the coming year.

FRANCIS LEDGEWOOD



I can truly say that WIPA is made up of some of the best and kindest vendors in the wedding industry. The education is always inspiring and the events are stunning! I also love that I can attend WIPA events around the U.S. and am welcomed with open arms. Plus, I love any excuse to dress up and see my friends (and meet some new ones)! Another perk is that I can watch educational videos online that I missed or want to rewatch from my chapter as well as any other chapter. Being a part of WIPA is a no brainer for me.

LIZ NORD

THE Q1 EVENT

Flourishing in 2025
designing the year ahead



BY EMILY SANDERS TAYLOR
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIN FOX PHOTO

WE ASKED PLANNER & DESIGNER EMILY SANDERS TAYLOR WHAT INSPIRED HER DESIGN FOR THE MARCH EVENT



“When Lindsay first contacted me about designing the WIPA Q1 event, she mentioned Christy Wilson of Flourish Financials was on board for the panel. I immediately knew the event should be centered around business growth in 2025. The color palette was inspired by The Sloane’s antique murano sconces and the idea of growth and flourishing was seen throughout the details. Faux bois chairs, trailing vine tablecloths, daffodil and paperwhite centerpieces, and Molly Chain put the exclamation point on the design with her butterflies. “



about The Sloane
Nashville's
newest venue

*The Sloane can be found at 1311 2nd Ave. N.
Nashville, TN 37208.*

Located in Historic Germantown.

*The walkability and overall charm of
Germantown speaks for itself. The
neighborhood is known for its rich history,
found on National Register of Historic Places.*

Kristin Fridrich King opened The Sloane in the Fall of 2024. It had been conceptualized and designed in various stages for over a decade.

Kristin started with the idea of creating an event space that would set itself apart with an entirely unique approach to its look and feel. Once the 1311 2nd Ave site was founded, the concept was to incorporate these two historic homes, which date back to 1899 and 1910, with a look reflective of a Modern French style and the use of additional historical adornments to provide further charm and character.

We created a space where people can hold events that feel personal and comfortable as if they were an extension of their own home. The idea of a connection between a physical place and an experience.

So much thought, detail, and love went into every selection that completes The Sloane.

FLOURISHING IN 2025
Q1 EVENT SPONSORS

Erin Fox Photo

EMILY SANDERS TAYLOR

WEDDINGS *and* EVENTS



SUMMER FILMS
SOUTHEAST AND BEYOND



MOLLY CHAIN COLLECTIV

REVERIE
SOCIAL



BEFORE & BEYOND
BEVERAGE EVENT SERVICES



ARTIST HEIDI SCHWARTZ

PAINT YOUR EVENT



QUEST EVENTS

PREMIER
THE ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY

The Panel



*left to right
Allison Manning Carroll of
Manning Carroll Law,
Christy Wilson of
Flourish Financials,
Abby Cox of
Downtown Band
Entertainment*

"IN THE LEGAL WORLD, THE ANSWER IS ALMOST ALWAYS, 'IT DEPENDS'."

Allison Manning Carroll

"STOP USING VENMO IN YOUR BUSINESS."

Christy Wilson

"YOU CAN'T ACHIEVE A GOAL IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS."

Abby Cox



ABOUT THE PANEL

Allison, a seasoned attorney, offered invaluable legal perspective that resonated deeply with the crowd. She reminded us of a classic lawyer’s refrain—“It depends”—which became a favorite quote of the day. Through examples drawn from her experience, she helped demystify the legal landscape for creative entrepreneurs, covering everything from contracts to compliance. Her message was clear: the legal foundation of your business isn’t just a safety net—it’s a cornerstone of your long-term success.

Christy, a trusted accountant specifically for the event industry, delivered practical and eye-opening financial advice. She tackled topics like budgeting, separating personal and business finances, and made a passionate case for retiring platforms like Venmo when managing your business income. Her advice wasn’t just about number-crunching—it was about building confidence and clarity around the financial health of your company so you can grow with intention.

Abby, a CEO who leads a world-wide entertainment company, brought strategic vision to the panel. She shared her framework for annual planning—from setting big-picture goals to breaking them down into achievable, team-driven action steps. Her guidance helped attendees feel less overwhelmed by the idea of “planning the year” and more motivated to move with purpose. Her insight into team accountability, vision casting, and measurable goal-setting was a key takeaway of the evening.

We launched 2025 with a bang—and a packed room of nearly 100 event pros who showed up ready to level up their year. Held in the warm, intimate setting of The Sloane, our Q1 panel “Flourishing in 2025: Designing the Year Ahead” brought together a powerhouse trio of women leaders: a CEO, an accountant, and a lawyer—aka the dream team you didn’t know you needed.

With the ever-charismatic Patrice Armstrong moderating, the conversation flowed like a well-produced show: smart, funny, interactive, and full of actionable gold.

What made this event special? It wasn’t just the panel—it was the vibe. The setting felt cozy and connected, the conversation was packed with value, and the live Q&A gave attendees the chance to get specific, real-time advice on their unique challenges. By the end of the evening, we weren’t just inspired—we were equipped. With strategies to set clearer goals, manage our finances like pros, and make smart legal choices, the room left buzzing with energy and ideas.





THE Q 2 EVENT

Derby at the Dock



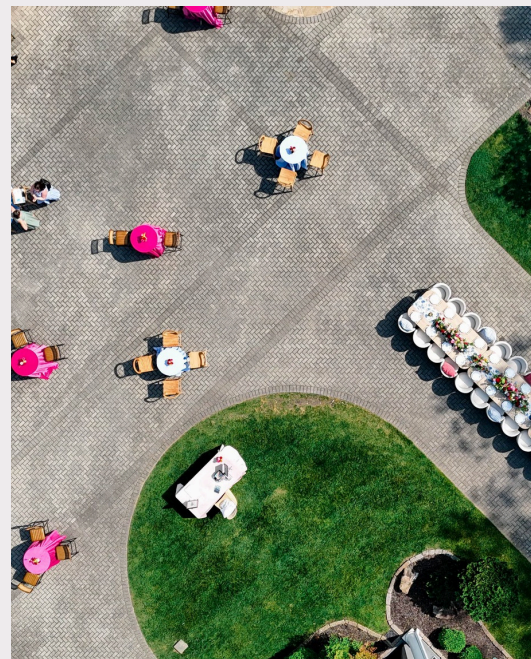
BY HOLLIE KOOSTRA
PHOTOGRAPHY BY KIMBERLY KIMBLE

WE ASKED PLANNER & DESIGNER
HOLLIE KOOSTRA WHAT INSPIRED
HER DESIGN FOR THE MAY EVENT



“As a Kentucky native, it was such a joy to bring the timeless elegance of the Derby to Cherokee Dock. With the incredible talent of our *sponsoring vendors, the unwavering support of my fellow WIPA members, and the partnership of Infinity Hospitality Group, my vision came to life in the most beautiful way.”

- Hollie Koostra,
- Let's Do This Events



*about
the beautiful*
CHEROKEE DOCK

The Estate at Cherokee Dock is an event space and wedding venue located in Lebanon, Tennessee, just 30 minutes outside the heart of downtown Nashville.

Built in 1960, a Southern Colonial mansion sits at the center of the sprawling yet secluded garden estate. At nearly 13,000 sq ft, it's most widely recognized as the former home of Reba McEntire, the award-winning singer, actor, and author. In 2017, Cherokee Dock opened its doors as an event venue.

Secluded on 15 acres of private property, the Estate at Cherokee Dock retains the charm and grandeur you would expect. It has an original secluded garden, luxury stables, paddocks, a pool house, and more. The grounds have undergone several renovations and additions over the years and now includes event spaces, all along acres of scenic lakefront.

DERBY AT THE DOCK
Q2 EVENT SPONSORS



EVENTWORKS
A QUEST EVENTS COMPANY

WHITE *ink*
CALLIGRAPHY + CO.


INFINITY
HOSPITALITY

EST.  2014

**KIMBERLY
KIMBLE**
PHOTOGRAPHY



EMBER & ASH FILMS

ESTD · EN · 2011
**ELIZABETH
NORD**
PHOTOGRAPHY



DIANA MARIE
photography

BLUE FISH
EVENT RENTALS



REVERIE
SOCIAL



Darién
PHOTOGRAPHY




let's do this
EVENTS



QUESTEVENTS

KÉRA

Our speaker

Meghan Ely

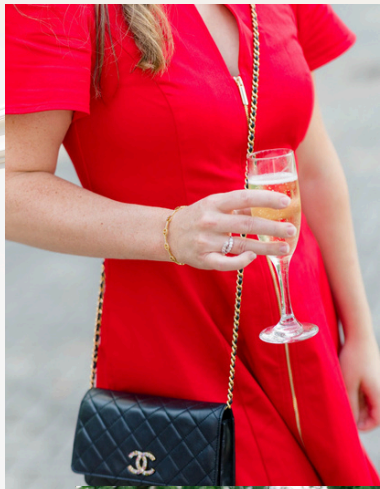
OFD Consulting

@ofdconsulting



The Winner's Circle: New Rules, New Wins.

Industry PR expert Meghan Ely, spoke about the state of the business of weddings as we know it today, and the impactful measures necessary to thrive in this evolving landscape. Members can now view the educational video from the event on the Nashville WIPA.org page.



THE Q 3 EVENT

WILDLY INSPIRED



BY LINDSY READ WITH READ EVENT
HOUSE AND JESSICA SLOANE
PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPH BISHOP



WE ASKED PLANNER & DESIGNERS
JESSICA SLOANE AND LINDSY
READ WHAT INSPIRED THE DESIGN
FOR THE AUGUST EVENT.



*“After seeing Alison Events stunning book
Gorgeous Gatherings, we knew instantly it
had to be the muse for our Q3 WIPA
Nashville Event. We gathered an expert
panel, Alison Hotchkiss of Alison Events,
Shira Savada, Max Cutrone, and Tec
Petaja, who brought both insight and
personality to the conversation, making it
as engaging as it was educational! Together
with Lindsay Read of Read Event House and
an incredible team of intentional vendors,
we co-designed an artful experience that
beautifully blended inspiration, connection,
and creativity – perfectly capturing our
theme of wildly inspired. The vision truly
came to life!”*

● *– Jessica Sloane*



about
the beautiful
Saint Elle

From the visionaries behind the Cordelle comes Saint Elle, a captivating 8,000 square foot Event Venue inspired by the luxury trains of the N, C & St.L railroad. Named after this historic railway that traversed from Chicago to Atlanta, we pay homage to the exemplary service and lavish amenities it provided in the 1950s.

Saint Elle artfully blends modern sophistication with the charm of historic architecture. Natural light fills the space, accentuating the fresh, contemporary design elements that harmoniously complement its heritage. The thoughtfully planned one-level floor plan facilitates a seamless flow for vendors, planners, and clients alike, ensuring an effortless event space.

At the heart of Saint Elle lies an unwavering commitment to hospitality and a passion for creating unforgettable celebrations where all guests feel valued, appreciated, and cherished. Our dedicated team prioritizes transparent communication to ensure a stress-free planning process and a truly remarkable event filled with memories to treasure for a lifetime.

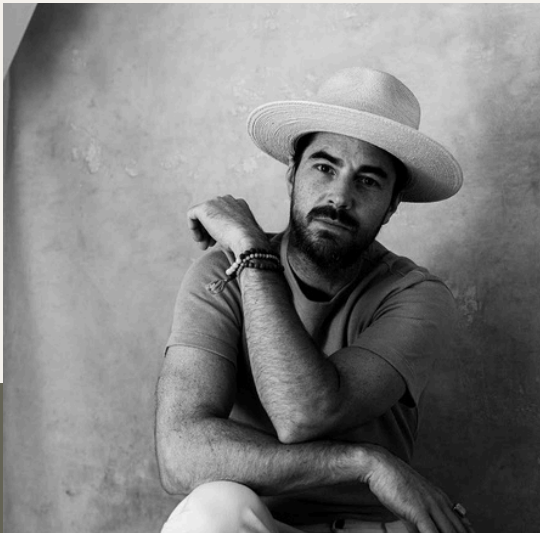
PANELISTS



Alison Hotchkiss
Author and Owner of Alison
Events



Max Cutrone
Cinematographer



Tec Petaja
Photographer



Shira Savada
Wedding Industry Consultant



WILDLY INSPIRED Q3
EVENT SPONSORS

READ EVENT HOUSE

JESSICA SLØANE

steph g. bishop

SKYLAR BALL

SHANI GAILBREATH

hair and makeup creative director

PREMIER
THE ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY



Echoes
of A FINE ART
FLORAL COLLECTIVE Eden



SAINT ELLE

LUXE
Linen



EVENTWORKS
A QUEST EVENTS COMPANY



FLAVOR


QUESTEVENTS



WIPA

Wedding Industry Professionals Association

NASHVILLE

UPCOMING EVENTS

You Don't Want to Miss

01 MEMBERS ONLY COFFEE

Date: September 24th

Location: The Pink Hermit Cafe

Time: 9:30 - 11 am

02 Q4

Date: December 10th, 2025

Location: Mint Springs Farm