

20
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PROGRAM

2026 UXPA BOSTON USER EXPERIENCE CONFERENCE

—

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026
REVERE HOTEL

WELCOME

The Boston Chapter of the User Experience Professionals Association (UXPA Boston) promotes the research, design and evaluation of user experiences across products and services. The Annual Conference is a forum for practitioners to share techniques and experiences. It is our largest event of the year.

UXPA Boston attracts a variety of people: newcomers to our field and experienced practitioners, as well as the distinguished professionals who have been defining and shaping the field of usability for decades.

Set against the historic backdrop of the Revere Hotel—where echoes of the American Revolution still resonate—this year's conference explores Revolution as the moment where past and future converge. We gather for a day to reflect on the foundations of our industry while looking boldly ahead, examining how we balance time-tested principles with rapidly evolving technology. As artificial intelligence accelerates change, tools transform our craft, and the world around us continues to shift, we come together to confront a modern-day revolution—one shaped not by abandoning tradition, but by thoughtfully evolving it to meet what's next.

UXPA Boston is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization.



Membership is free, and we invite you to take advantage of all the benefits membership has to offer. Scan the QR code to the left, or use the link below: **bit.ly/uxpabosmembership**

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To see the schedule, scan the QR code to the left or use the link below:

bit.ly/uxpabosconf26

Wi-Fi: Revere Meeting
Password: Meeting2026



@UXPABOSTON
#UXPABOS26

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

8:00 A.M.

REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST

SILVER BALLROOM

9:00 A.M.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

LIBERTY HALL

9:30 A.M.



Experiences of Starting and Maintaining
an Accessibility Program

RICK BLAIR AND ANTOINE FRANÇOIS-MARSAL

GRAND MASTER SALON 2



From Handoff to Collaboration: How AI is Bringing
Designers Closer to Code

**NATASHA LLOYD, MATT SALERNO,
JAMES DOW AND JENNY BROWN**

GRAND MASTER SALON 1



Why Don't Stakeholders Listen to Us?
- Communicating for Influence

SUSAN MERCER

LIBERTY HALL

10 - MINUTE TALKS



From Dashboard to Decision: How Business Analysts Use AI and Data to Drive UX Impact

DEVTOSH DUBEY

REBEL'S GUILD



Understanding Similarities, Differences, and the Impact of AI on These Roles

VERA SHUMAN

REBEL'S GUILD



Intention as Interface: Does the Prompt Change the Research?

MICHELINE ZIADEE

REBEL'S GUILD

TRACKS



CAREER DEVELOPMENT



PROCESS & PRODUCT MANAGEMENT



DESIGN IN SOCIETY



STRATEGY & UX ENTREPRENEURSHIP



EMERGING TECHNOLOGY



OTHER



USER RESEARCH

10:15 A.M.

COFFEE BREAK

SILVER BALLROOM

10:30 A.M.



Beyond ChatGPT: Your New Coworker is an AI Agent

JOAN WORTMAN AND BILL WILDER

GRAND MASTER SALON 2



Designing Effective Unmoderated UX Studies:
When to Use Them and How to Build Them

KIM OSLOB AND HARRISON HATFIELD

REBEL'S GUILD



Designing for Trust: How UX Strategy, Brand and
Research Can Reduce Stigma in Healthcare

DEVLYN GAUDET

LIBERTY HALL



So You Want to Teach? A Practitioner's Guide
to UX Education in Higher Ed

TANIA SCHLATTER

GRAND MASTER SALON 1

11:30 A.M.



Coffee Projects: Small UX Efforts That Build Big Influence

MARY WILCOX AND LAURA HANS

GRAND MASTER SALON 1



RePositioning UX for a New Era: A Strategic Proposal to the Design & Innovation Industry

LOU SUSI

GRAND MASTER SALON 2



Without Research Thinking, Your Democratization Program Isn't Research. It's Research Theater

DENISE DA COSTA GRAEFF AND JIM DALGLISH

LIBERTY HALL

TRACKS



CAREER DEVELOPMENT



PROCESS & PRODUCT MANAGEMENT



DESIGN IN SOCIETY



STRATEGY & UX ENTREPRENEURSHIP



EMERGING TECHNOLOGY



OTHER



USER RESEARCH

12:15 P.M.

LUNCH

SILVER BALLROOM &
GRAND MASTER SALON 3

1:15 P.M.



Design Your Career Like a Product: Applying
UX Thinking to Professional Growth

CHERYL COURIS

GRAND MASTER SALON 2



Heave To: Preparing Your Team for the Three
Horizons of AI

PRIYAMA BARUA

LIBERTY HALL



Soul Searching: A Case for Analog UX Thinking
in the Age of AI

LOU CIMAGLIA

GRAND MASTER SALON 1

10 – MINUTE TALKS



UX Beyond the Product: How Research Transformed Marketing Messaging and Drove Measurable Impact

KATIE KARR

REBEL'S GUILD



From Data-Driven to AI-Native UX: How Modern Teams Use Query Thinking to Make Better Design Decisions

BHUMIKA SHAH

REBEL'S GUILD



Revisiting Data Privacy as a Core UX Principle

ANJALI BHATI

REBEL'S GUILD

TRACKS



CAREER DEVELOPMENT



PROCESS & PRODUCT MANAGEMENT



DESIGN IN SOCIETY



STRATEGY & UX ENTREPRENEURSHIP



EMERGING TECHNOLOGY



OTHER



USER RESEARCH

2:15 P.M.



Leading with Accessibility: How Disability Inclusion Empowers Transformative Design Systems

RICHARD CLINCH AND JANELL SIMS

LIBERTY HALL



Redefining UX in the Age of AI: The E³ Model for Execution, Enablement, and Exploration

ZEJUN WU

REBEL'S GUILD



Search Is UX: What Search Logs Reveal About Your Product Experience

JEANNE WILKENS

GRAND MASTER SALON 2



The Realities of UX Consulting: What No One Tells You

**KYLE SOUCY, RACHEL KANTROWITZ,
MARCEL MCVAY AND BOB THOMAS**

GRAND MASTER SALON 1

3:00 P.M.

AFTERNOON BREAK

SILVER BALLROOM &
GRAND MASTER SALON 3

3:30 P.M.



Design's Role in the Age of AI

ROB GIFFORD

GRAND MASTER SALON 1



Destroy Monopoly: A Designerly Intro to Systems Thinking Through Creative Play and Destruction

JESSE FLORES

REBEL'S GUILD



Scaling UX Research (Without Scaling Your Team)

CLARE CADY

GRAND MASTER SALON 2



The Influence Gap: Designing a Relationship Strategy Framework That Shapes Your Career

MALINI RAO

LIBERTY HALL

TRACKS



CAREER DEVELOPMENT



PROCESS & PRODUCT MANAGEMENT



DESIGN IN SOCIETY



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OTHER



USER RESEARCH

4:30 P.M.



From Pixel Pusher to Systems Thinker: The Current Iteration of the Designer's Role

CAROLINA CACHADA

GRAND MASTER SALON 1



Make Good on a Bad Strategy

LISA HAGEN AND IRA CUMMINGS

GRAND MASTER SALON 2



Putting SOTA AI to the Test: An Empirical Scorecard for AI in UX Research

LAWTON PYBUS

LIBERTY HALL

5:30 P.M.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

LIBERTY HALL

6:15 P.M.

COCKTAILS AND NETWORKING

ROOFTOP@REVERE

TRACKS



CAREER DEVELOPMENT



PROCESS & PRODUCT MANAGEMENT



DESIGN IN SOCIETY



STRATEGY & UX ENTREPRENEURSHIP



EMERGING TECHNOLOGY



OTHER



USER RESEARCH

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

THROUGHOUT THE DAY

Join us in the Silver Ballroom location during lunch for mentoring and table-topic discussions. A full list of table topics is provided below.

JOB NETWORKING

Pick up a Hiring or Job Seeker sticker at the registration desk to signal whether you're open to hiring conversations or exploring new opportunities.

INTRODUCE YOURSELF

Our conference attendees are a very friendly bunch who love chatting about UX. Introduce yourself and start a great conversation. Don't worry, you're not the only introvert in the room.

MENTORING & TABLE TOPICS

Join a lunchtime discussion in the Grand Ballroom.

UX in the Age of AI

UX Career Development

Agile / Lean UX

Breaking into UX: Portfolios and Interviews

User Research

UX In Healthcare

UX Strategy

Futures Thinking

Outcome-Driven Design

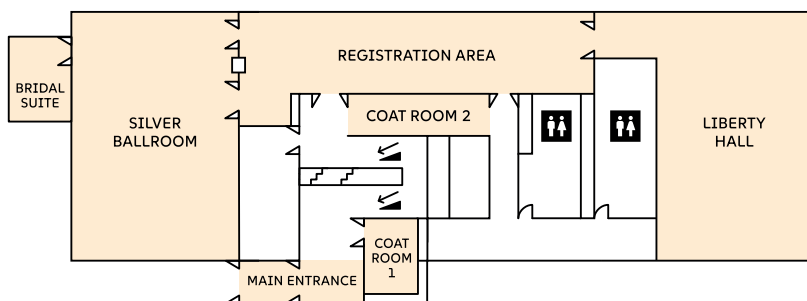
Networking Tips and Tricks:

Influencing Stakeholders

What Works And What Doesn't

MAP

SILVER BALLROOM & LIBERTY HALL



RAMP



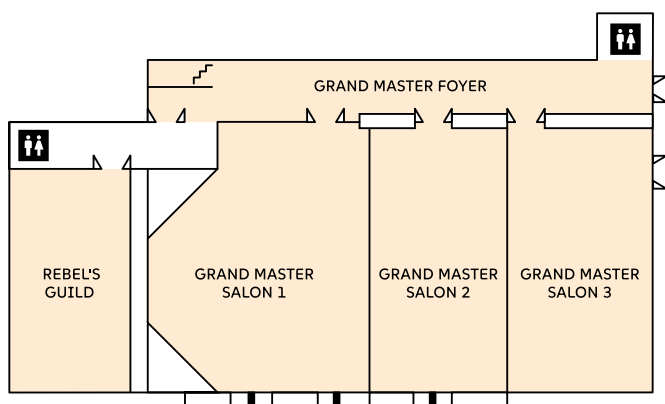
STAIRS



BATHROOM

MAP

GRAND MASTER BALLROOM



RAMP



STAIRS



BATHROOM

ELECTIONS

Vote now for **two**
UXPA Boston Board Members.
View detailed candidate
information at **bit.ly/4ibCM4Z**
or scan the QR code below:



Ballots are available
in the registration area.
(See map on page 12).

2026 CANDIDATES

ANVESHA SRIVASTAVA

ELI FISCHER

YUQIAO WANG

OLIVIA AKERLEY



DAVID DYLAN THOMAS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

David Dylan Thomas lives a double life as the writer and director of *White Meat*, a movie that answers the question, “What if enslaved people came back from the dead as zombies but only ate white people?” and as the author of *Design for Cognitive Bias*, creator and host of *The Cognitive Bias Podcast*, and a twenty-year practitioner of content strategy and UX, who has consulted major clients in entertainment, healthcare, publishing, finance, and retail. As the founder and CEO of David Dylan Thomas, LLC he offers workshops and presentations on inclusive design and the role of bias in making decisions.

Learn more about David at
daviddylanthomas.com

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CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTORS

Sami Yousef, *Graphic Designer*

**Lauren Chagaris d/b/a Prism Global
Studios, LLC**, *Event Photographer*

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To see the schedule, scan the
QR code above or use the link
below to see the full schedule:
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