



2026 International Volunteer Committees

IBOD Governed Committees

Each council, committee, or task force is commissioned on an annual basis by the incoming chair of the International Board of Directors and MPI's president and CEO. The groups provide MPI and the IBOD with valuable member input and industry perspective, serving strategic, tactical, and governance functions. Each committee has a defined objective for the year 2026 identified by the MPI International Board of Directors.

Chapter & Membership Advisory Council (CMAC)

Objective: Provide feedback and input on MPI's initiatives and strategy as requested by MPI staff on issues directly impacting chapters and members. Review issues presented and investigated by MPI's H.E.A.R Program and provide recommendations to the IBOD if necessary. Serves as the governing body for lifetime membership applications and process.

Staff Liaison: Christine Richards & Tim Gunn

Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Committee

Objective: Develop resources to help MPI achieve its equity, diversity and inclusion efforts for the MPI community, while promoting MPI as a thought leader that contributes to the development of an inclusive culture of belonging across the overall industry. Supports annual efforts to include website resources, blogs and podcasts, publications, MPI Community Forum engagement, or other relevant engagement opportunities.

Staff Liaison: Amanda Baghaei & Thomas Blasucci

Council of Regional Chairs

Objective: The Council of Regional Chairs will foster a cohesive leadership network across MPI regions by driving collaboration, strategic direction, and continuous improvement. The Council aims to empower regions, lead change, and inspire excellence by aligning strategy, sharing best practices, and mentoring the next generation of chapter leaders.

Staff Liaison: Tim Gunn

Anti-Human Trafficking Committee

Objective: Develop the strategy and plan to harness and activate the influence of the MPI community across all MPI channels (chapters, social, publishing, social media, live events, web), in the fight to end human trafficking, including the development of market messaging, educational programming, social engagement calendar (e.g., social media, e-newsletters, chapter newsletters, etc.), market activation plan (e.g., where MPI is engaged and “shows-up”; i.e., WEC, EMEC, IMEX, chapter events).

Staff Liaison: Evie Mandrell & Michael Crumrine

RISE Awards Committee

Objective: Lead the annual promotion and evaluation of RISE awards submissions, ensuring the winners represent the diversity of our community, and make recommendations to the International Board of Directors. Regularly assess the program design, impact, celebration, and awareness of the RISE awards.

Staff Liaison: Rachel Schelter

Sustainability Advisory Council

The objective of our Sustainability Advisory Council is to leverage the diverse expertise and perspectives of its members to provide informed recommendations focused on advancing sustainable practices within MPI and the live events industry, offering guidance on environmental and social responsibility initiatives, and sharing key information and resources to foster sustainability throughout our operations. The Council will support and enhance MPI’s initiatives to raise awareness around sustainability by advising on content and actions related to responsible practices that align with the values of our community and industry.

Staff Liaison: Christa Schelter

Emerging Professionals Advisory Council

Objective: Assist in the development of strategy and project plans designed to connect emerging professionals and recently graduated students with the MPI Community, chapters and international offerings. Identify key data trends related to emerging leaders that help better address their needs, and research and identify a mentorship model that best suits MPI and its members.

Staff Liaison: Lexi Roberts

Executive Planner Task Force

Objective: Increase MPI Community, Membership, and brand presence with key industry influencers. Engage with the most senior/executive level Corporate and Association planners and event designers and understand how MPI can add value to them, and the teams of planners that they directly manage.

Staff Liaison: Rachel Benedick and Aubrey Hasse

Innovation and Technology with a spotlight on AI Task Force **NEW for 2026**

To champion innovation and technology within the MPI community by identifying emerging trends, fostering cross-sector collaboration, and recommending scalable solutions that enhance member engagement, operational efficiency, and industry leadership. The task force will serve as a catalyst for ideation, experimentation, and knowledge-sharing, ensuring MPI remains at the forefront of transformative change in the meetings and events industry.

Staff Liaison: Pending Assignment

MPI Management Governed Advisory Boards

These Advisory Boards have been commissioned by MPI Management. Their objectives reflect needs identified by specific business units.

Event Program Review Advisory Board

Objective: Advise MPI around relevant education through reviewing and validating speaker proposals for MPI's signature event, WEC and act as a sounding board, providing input for topics, advice on speakers, and educational format.

Staff Liaison: Amanda Baghaei

Academia & Thought Leadership Committee – NEW for 2026

Provide expertise and guidance to ensure MPI's educational content remains current, relevant, and aligned with evolving industry standards. This council will advise on curriculum updates, identify emerging trends, and connect MPI with academic and research resources that can enhance our programs. Members will also support in reviewing and modernizing outdated materials, contributing to white papers or articles, and serving as subject matter experts for MPI initiatives.

Demonstrated expertise in curriculum design, instructional design, or academic advisory roles is preferred.

Staff Liaison: Amanda Baghaei

Research Advisory Board

Objective: Provide consultation and recommendations to aid MPI's research initiatives, specifically on new education, industry advocacy, thought leadership, new efforts and expanded partnerships. Serve as facilitators for recommended research efforts, composing, fielding, and providing analytics and data-oriented recommendations. As appropriate, develop white papers for use by MPI as lead gen/thought leadership; and research the competitive landscape in the business events sector.

Staff Liaison: Andrea Rice

Communities Advisory Board

Objective: Offer recommendations to MPI Global on any issues and/or concerns that arise through the Communities, its associated Forum, marketing efforts and/or event activations. Provide consultation and input on community and engagement.

Staff Liaison: Christine Richards

MPI Foundation Councils

These committees support MPI Foundation objectives and priorities through program development and fundraising, as governed and chaired by the Global Board of Trustees (GBOT).

MPI Foundation EMEA Council

Objective: Actively support the Global Board of Trustees EMEA by raising funds through engagement with chapters, industry influencers, their own organizations, and professional networks to promote the value of the MPI Foundation to their community and to solicit funds. Council members collaborate to create individual and council fundraising activities including solicitation and acquisition of silent auction items.

Executive Sponsor: Kevin Kirby

MPI Foundation Canada Council

Objective: Actively support the Global Board of Trustees Canada by raising funds through engagement with chapters, industry influencers, their own organizations, and professional networks to promote the value of the MPI Foundation to their community and to solicit funds. Council members collaborate to create individual and council fundraising activities including solicitation and acquisition of silent auction items.

Executive Sponsor: Kevin Kirby

MPI Foundation LATAM Council

Objective: Actively support the Global Board of Trustees LATAM by raising funds through engagement with chapters, industry influencers, their own organizations, and professional networks to promote the value of the MPI Foundation to their community and to solicit funds. Council members collaborate to create individual and council fundraising activities including solicitation and acquisition of silent auction items.

Executive Sponsor: Kevin Kirby

MPI Foundation US Council

Objective: Actively support the Global Board of Trustees United States by actively raising funds through engagement with chapters, industry influencers, their own organizations, and professional networks to promote the value of the MPI Foundation to their community and

to solicit funds. Council members collaborate to create individual and council fundraising activities including solicitation and acquisition of silent auction items.

Executive Sponsor: Kevin Kirby
