



UAIA 2026 Agenda - Confirmed Speakers

Omni Houston Hotel
4 Riverway Drive
Houston, TX 77056

Tuesday, November 3

5:00 – 6:30pm

Welcome Cocktail Reception

Wednesday, November 4

8:00 – 9:00am

Check-In and Breakfast

9:00 – 9:25am

Welcome and Introductions

Eric Lipp

Executive Director, Open Doors Organization

Kelly Woodward

Chief Operating Officer, Houston Airport System

9:30 – 10:30am

General Session I: Regulations and Standards

Moderator:

Arianna Halpert

Program Manager, Open Doors Organization

Panelists:

Sonia Gangopadhyay

Director, Canadian Transportation Agency

Jonathan Klein, Esq.

*Deputy Director, National External Operations, Policy and Compliance Programs, Office of Civil Rights
Federal Aviation Administration*

Supriya Raman, Ph.D.

*Manager, Disability and Multicultural Branches
Transportation Security Administration*

10:30 – 10:50am

Refreshment Break

10:50 – 11:45am

**General Session II: Enhancing Stakeholder Cooperation
(Roundtable discussion)**

Moderator:

Laurel Van Horn

Director, Research & Design - Open Doors Organization

Panelists:

Mark Cheminant

Airport Operations Manager, SLC Airport

Sarah Cox

Manager, Accessibility, InterVistas

John Kirn

Manager, Accessibility Division, United Airlines

Katie Faires

Product Strategy, The Boeing Company

11:50am – 1:00pm

General Session III: Addressing Service Issues

Moderator:

Katy O'Reilly

Director of Programs, Open Doors Organization

Panelists:

Clay White

Airport Customer Experience Manager

San Antonio International Airport

Michael Bliwas

President, Global Repair Group

Terri Byrne

Accessibility and Passenger Experience Coordinator

Edmonton International Airport

Kerianne Wilson

Director, Customer Accessibility, Air Canada

1:00 – 2:00pm

Luncheon

ODO Disability Access Professional Award

2:00 – 3:15pm

**General Session IV: Passenger Perspectives –
The Perfect Trip**

Moderator:

Craig Kennedy

Program Manager - Open Doors Organization

Panelists:

Angel Ponce

*Senior Division Manager- City of Houston Office for People
with Disabilities*

Jeff Peterson

Owner, J&R's Ace Hardware, Porter, TX

TBD

TBD

3:15 – 3:35pm

Refreshment Break

3:35 – 4:45pm

General Session V: Innovative Solutions - Mobility

Moderator:

Gus Zografopoulos

Director/Consultant, Z Life Program

Panelists:

Jered Dean

Co-Founder, Chief Technology Officer, LUCI

Jason Luebke

Director of Sales, AvTech

Zeeshan Malik

The Sova Company

John Yuksel

CEO, Co-Founder, Beltways, Inc.

4:50 – 5:00pm

Closing Remarks

Eric Lipp

Executive Director, Open Doors Organization

5:00 – 6:00pm

Networking Cocktail Reception

Thursday, November 5

8:00 – 9:00am

Registration and Breakfast

9:00 – 9:15am

Welcome and Introductions

Eric Lipp

Executive Director - Open Doors Organization

TBD

United Airlines

9:20 – 10:25am

General Session VI: Effective Training Practices

Moderator:

Craig Kennedy

Program Manager - Open Doors Organization

Panelists:

Anthony Brown

*ADA Coordinator/ Title VI Program Manager,
Houston Airport System*

Shu Cole, Ph.D.

*Professor, Department of Health & Wellness Design
Indiana University School of Public Health-Bloomington*

Chris Drewry

Senior Manager of Learning, Southwest Airlines University

10:30 – 11:30am

**General Session VII: Planning and Designing
for Accessibility**

Moderator:

Adam Ariano

Aviation Leader, Perkins & Will

Panelists:

Derrick Choi

Aviation Architecture Principal, HDR

Anita Cobb

Market Leader – Aviation Civic Strategies, Mead and Hunt

David Park

Senior Experiential and Wayfinding Designer, Gresham Smith

11:30 – 11:5am

Refreshment Break

11:50am-12:50pm

General Session VIII: IROPs and Emergency Preparedness

Moderator:

Katy O'Reilly

Director of Programs, Open Doors Organization

Panelists:

Frank Ciaccio

General Manager, Hallmark Aviation, IAH

Meg Raby Klinghoffer

Nonprofit Management Specialist, KultureCity

Gavin Phelan

Founder, ALRM

Jana Rudd

Customer Accessibility Senior Manager, Allegiant

12:50 – 1:50pm

Luncheon

Keynote Speaker – Amy Goodell, Title, The Boeing Company

1:50– 2:50 pm

General Session IX: Innovative Technologies

Moderator:

Pat Pound

IT Consultant, Open Doors Organization

Panelists:

Sherman Bausch

Co-founder, Capptions

Phil Burke

Assistant Director, Customer Experience, MSP

Kevin Kline

Community Engagement Representative, GoodMaps

Brianna Wimer, Ph.D.

Runway Postdoctoral Associate, Cornell Tech

2:50 – 3:00pm

Closing Remarks

Eric Lipp

Executive Director - Open Doors Organization