

WORKTECH™ Vancouver

WORK / WORKPLACE / TECHNOLOGY / INNOVATION

EXPLORE THE FUTURE OF WORK AND THE WORKPLACE

WEDNESDAY 20TH MAY 2026

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WORKTECH Events

A warm welcome to WORKTECH26 Vancouver

WORKTECH Vancouver is a leading conference exploring how the intersection of people, place, and technology is shaping the future of work and the workplace. It is part of the leading global WORKTECH events series.

Bringing together senior leaders, strategists, designers, technologists, and workplace professionals from across industries, WORKTECH Vancouver examines how organisations are rethinking work, space, culture, and digital infrastructure in response to rapid change.

Join over 100 senior professionals from real estate, facilities, HR, technology, executive management, architecture, design and professional advisors to listen to global thought leaders, further their knowledge and share best practise and expertise.

Alongside the conference, we will have a curated innovations exhibition taking place in the breakout areas for attendees to meet with our education partners, complementing learning during the day.

On the day, there will be networking breaks, allowing attendees time to meet the other participants.

We hope you will be able to join us and we are looking forward to welcoming you to the event on 20th May.

Warmest regards,
Peter

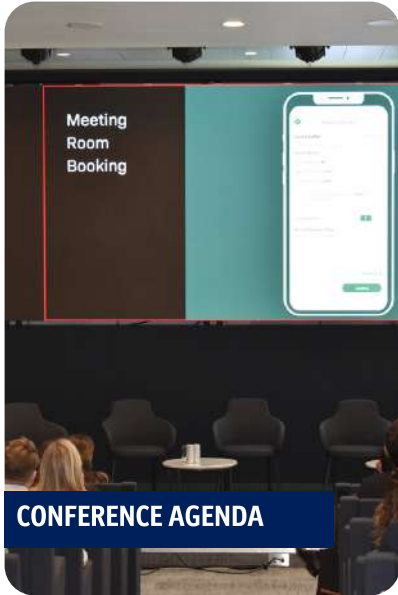
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SPEAKERS



SESSIONS



CONFERENCE AGENDA



VENUE



WHO ATTENDS



KEY INFORMATION

MEET THE SPEAKERS



WORKTECH26 Vancouver will attract some of the biggest and brightest names to debate, discuss, and divulge the latest thinking on the future of work and the workplace.

The conference will feature leading international thinkers from industry and academia.

Through interdisciplinary speakers and learning experience, we focus on bringing cutting edge ideas and inspiration to the workplace community to enhance creativity and move thinking forward. Instead of focusing on peer to peer innovation through imitation, we aim to curate a unique programme, bringing together experts in the fields of people, place and technology and relevant adjacencies to reflect on the future of work and workplace.

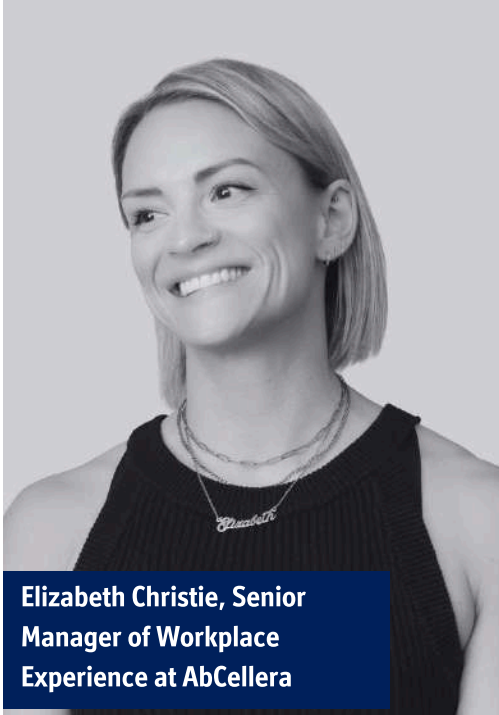
Alongside the conference series, the WORKTECH Academy knowledge hub explores the future of work through six key themes: people, place, technology, design, culture and innovation. Creating leading commentary, research and publications that places scientific research at the heart of key business problems. www.worktechacademy.com

List of speakers

Susan Chang, [JLL Design](#)
Elizabeth Christie, [AbCellera](#)
Chloe DeVito, [GeoComply](#)
Kemal Evci, [BC Public Service](#)
Perry Gorgounis, [CBRE](#)
Carla Hughes, [And-Co](#)
Ellen Hsu, [Promont Management](#)
Dustin Hutton-Alcorn, [Intellistack](#)
Drew Jones, [Drew Jones Studio](#)
Youjin Joung, [Gensler](#)
Kevin Katigbak, [Gensler](#)
Christopher Krywulak, [iQmetrix](#)
Camisha Kuang, [Omicron](#)
Klaudia Landicho, [Demonware](#)
Jennifer Leaman, [Leavitt Industrial Group](#)
Aman Malhi, [Refrigerative Supply](#)
Candace MacDonald, [EllisDon](#)
Gordon McCauley, [adMare BioInnovations](#)
Walker McKinley, [McKinley Studios](#)
Jen Petersen, [Petersen Insights](#)
Bahare Poleshuk, [ICBC](#)
Sara Remocker, [DIALOG](#)
Robin Rosebrugh, [AURA](#)
John Ringness, [Trinity Western University](#)
Nabil Sabet, [M Moser Associates](#)
Khush Sidhu, [Operto](#)
Alex Sills, [Elia](#)
Scott Simpson, [AVI-SPL](#)
Nick Springate, [IDN Infrastructure Software](#)
Alex Yeoman, [Match Group](#)



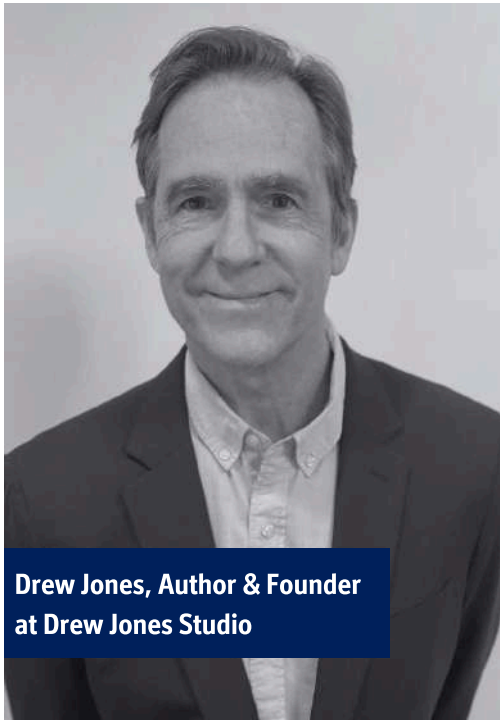
Susan Chang, Executive Vice President Workplace Design Advisory, JLL Design



Elizabeth Christie, Senior Manager of Workplace Experience at AbCellera



Chloe DeVito, Senior Director of Global People at GeoComply



Drew Jones, Author & Founder at Drew Jones Studio



Aman Malhi, Director People, Culture and Operations at Refrigerative Supply



John Ringness, Director of Facilities at Trinity Western University



Gordon McCauley, President & CEO at adMare BioInnovations



Alex Yeoman, Senior Director Global Real Estate Strategy at Match Group



Walker McKinley, Architect & Founder at McKinley Studios

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Key themes we will be discussing at this event include:

Vancouver's Expansion from Downtown Core to Innovation Clusters

Vancouver is moving beyond a downtown-centric model toward a right-shaped mix of HQs, spokes and flexible third-place environments. As organisations demand greater portfolio agility, shorter commitments and turnkey solutions are reshaping leasing strategies. Diverging market dynamics – elevated downtown vacancy and stronger suburban absorption – are accelerating moves into emerging hubs such as Mount Pleasant, the Broadway health sciences corridor and False Creek Flats. Powered by government-supported innovation zones and a fast-growing biotech ecosystem, these hubs are redefining expectations for lab-enabled workplaces, creative environments and hybrid-ready R&D space.

AI Driven Workplace Operations and Measurable Performance

AI and proptech are moving from isolated pilots to the operational backbone of Vancouver's workplaces, linking building systems with occupancy insights to enable predictive maintenance, targeted energy reduction and more responsive space management. With hybrid work still unsettled and budgets under pressure, workplace leaders must demonstrate to the C-suite how their spaces are truly performing – from utilisation and team engagement to the effectiveness of the work being done. At the same time, Vancouver's drive toward zero-emissions buildings, embodied-carbon limits and ambitious climate-action targets is turning building operations into an ongoing cycle of optimisation, carbon management and low-carbon material choices as standard practice.

Canadian Values Informing Hybrid Experience Design

With Vancouver's slower return-to-office momentum, compared to Toronto or Seattle, organisations are shifting to hybrid as an operating model built on clear rhythms, leadership alignment and a purposeful in-office experience. The focus is on persuasion over mandates, using hospitality, community-building and wellbeing-centred design – choice-based settings, quiet refuge, sensory zoning, daylight and acoustic comfort – to draw people in. A broader Canadian design reset is also reshaping briefs; democratic co-creation, locally sourced materials and Indigenous-led, reconciliatory approaches. Together, these values create workplaces that signal belonging and identity. Culture, not compliance, drives occupancy.

KEY THEMES

VANCOUVER'S EXPANSION FROM DOWNTOWN CORE TO INNOVATION CLUSTERS

AI DRIVEN WORKPLACE OPERATIONS AND MEASURABLE PERFORMANCE

CANADIAN VALUES INFORMING HYBRID EXPERIENCE DESIGN

08:30 REGISTRATION

09:00 CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME

Khush Sidhu, [Head of People & Culture at Operto](#)

Welcome from our Chair.



09:05 HOST WELCOME: WELLNESS WASN'T THE AMENITY. IT WAS THE ARCHITECTURE

Carla Hughes, [Community Builder, And-Co](#)



And-Co didn't add wellness to a workspace. It built a workspace out of wellness. Founded before the boutique office experience became a trend, And-Co was designed from the intention outward: air, light, acoustics, movement, and community as structural decisions, not afterthoughts. Now BC's only Platinum WELL Certified coworking space and Canada's first WELL Coworking Rated flexible workspace, And-Co's story is a blueprint for what happens when you stop designing for desks and start designing for people.

09:10 SOCIAL-SPATIAL DESIGN: REDEFINING WORKPLACE ROI

Susan Chang, [Executive Vice President Workplace Design Advisory, JLL Design](#)



Organizations obsessively track real estate costs—cost per seat, density, occupancy—while the true drivers of workplace value remain invisible: focus quality, innovation, team cohesion, and learning. With people representing 90% of operating budgets, this measurement gap is costing performance.

This session introduces a breakthrough methodology grounded in Professor Robin Dunbar's Oxford research on human relationship limits. Our brains have predictable thresholds—5 for deep trust, 15 for coordination, 50 for cohesion, 150 for reciprocal relationships—that directly impact team performance in physical space.

Recent Gallup data shows manager engagement has fallen 9 points since 2022, and only 12% report AI has transformed work. The bottleneck isn't technology—it's the human infrastructure of trust and connection that space either enables or destroys. Discover Social-Spatial Design's four-phase methodology for measurable performance gains beyond occupancy metrics.

09:25 FROM ASSUMPTIONS TO EVIDENCE: RETHINKING WORKPLACE STRATEGY WITH DATA

Kemal Evci, [Director Future of Work Program & Projects Real Property Division, BC Public Service](#)

Traditional workplace planning based on FTE counts no longer reflects how space is used in a hybrid environment.

This session highlights a practical shift toward a more data-informed approach. Today, workplace data is often fragmented and inconsistent, which makes decision-making challenging.

We are working to connect occupancy, utilization and BIM data to build a clearer understanding of how space is actually used. While this work is still in progress, early steps are already improving visibility and supporting more informed decisions.

09:35 PANEL: RECALIBRATING WORKPLACE PORTFOLIOS FOR A HYBRID CITY

Perry Gorgounis, [Vice President Office Properties Advisory Group at CBRE](#), Ellen Hsu, [CEO at Promont Management](#), Kemal Evci, [Director Future of Work Program & Projects Real Property Division, BC Public Service](#). Moderator: Khush Sidhu, [Head of People & Culture at Operto](#)

Vancouver's occupiers are navigating a period of fundamental change—driven by economic uncertainty, uneven growth, evolving workforce expectations, and hybrid work models that are redefining how space is used. As businesses adapt, organizations are rethinking location, lease structure, and space design, reshaping their real estate strategies.

This panel explores how workspace is being used as a strategic tool—helping occupiers manage risk, respond to growth or contraction, and experiment with new ways of working—while aligning real estate decisions with broader business priorities to build resilient, talent attracting environments across Vancouver.



10:00 NETWORKING AND COFFEE BREAK

10:20 OPTIMIZING CAMPUS FACILITIES WITH DIGITAL INTELLIGENCE

John Ringness, [Director of Facilities at Trinity Western University](#). Moderator: Nick Springate, [CEO at IDN Infrastructure Software Corp.](#)

Digitizing facilities management now hinges on converting raw building data into operational advantage. This session shows how IWMS, digital twins and live automation feeds can form a unified intelligence layer that reduces downtime, elevates energy performance and exposes how workplaces actually function.



Drawing on full-campus deployments, it demonstrates how AI transforms noisy alerts into targeted action - breaking down silos, tightening resource use and accelerate progress toward high-performance workplace goals.

10:40 DISTRIBUTED TECH SCALEUPS EVOLVING THE OFFICE INTO THE COMMONS

Christopher Krywulak, [Founder and CEO at iQmetrix](#), Chloe DeVito, [Senior Director of Global People at GeoComply](#), Klaudia Landicho, [Workplace Experience Coordinator North America at Demonware](#), Camisha Kuang, [Senior Manager People & Culture at Omicron](#)

Fast-growing tech companies with distributed teams, remote workers and accelerating AI are rethinking both the office and the operating systems they run on.

This session explores the shift from traditional workplaces to “commons”; intentional, clubhouse- and coffee-house-inspired spaces that support strategy, creativity and culture for global hybrid teams. The speakers will share how this evolution unfolded inside their organisations and why high-autonomy, high-alignment models need new governance, rituals and purpose-driven spaces. The session will illustrate how commons-style approaches are shaping Vancouver's workplace culture and innovation districts such as Downtown Vancouver, Granville Island and False Creek Flats.



11:30 NETWORKING AND COFFEE BREAK

11:40 CASE STUDY - ICBC AT THE HIVE

Bahare Poleshuk, [Project Manager IV Facilities at ICBC](#), Sara Remocker, [Partner & Interior Designer at DIALOG](#). Moderator: Jen Petersen, [Principal at Petersen Insights + Strategy](#)

What does it take to design a workplace that can truly evolve? This session explores ICBC's relocation to The Hive at 2150 Keith Drive – a 10-storey, 164,000 sq ft mass-timber headquarters in Vancouver's emerging False Creek Flats innovation district. Designed as one of North America's most advanced timber office buildings, The Hive combines a striking structural exoskeleton with flexible floorplates, wellness-focused spaces and fully electrified, low-carbon systems. Through a candid, conversational case study, architect and occupier perspectives intersect to examine hybrid workplace strategy, tenant-landlord collaboration and the realities of delivering inclusive, flexible environments.



DIALOG



12:00 VIRTUAL AND HYBRID WORK IN INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS

Gordon McCauley, [Vice Chair of adMare BioInnovations](#)



Innovation ecosystems are particularly sensitive to virtual and hybrid work, and the resulting implications for their cultural, organizational, and physical presence. This session will examine the lessons learned from Canadian biotech and their applicability to the broader economy. In particular, the session will discuss the impacts on adMare BioInnovations' new facility, in the Mount Pleasant area of Vancouver that has clearly developed into a biotech hub.

12:20 THREE DEPARTMENTS IN A TRENCH COAT: THE CASE FOR PLACEOPS

Alex Sills, [Vice President Of Business Development at Elia](#)



HR is hiring aggressively. IT is rolling out new AV in every meeting room. Facilities is cutting square footage. The CEO just posted a new RTO mandate on LinkedIn. Everyone is doing their job. The workplace still breaks. In this short keynote, elia's Alex Sills makes the case for PlaceOps: a new operating model that unifies People, Space, and Tech as one system. If your organisation still runs the workplace in silos, this one's for you.

12:30 LUNCH AND NETWORKING BREAK



13:30 EXPERIENTIAL DESIGN AND THE FUTURE OF WORKPLACE EXPERIENCE - WHAT EXECUTIVE BRIEFING CENTERS (EBCS) CAN TEACH US ABOUT ELEVATING WORKPLACE EXPERIENCE

Scott Simpson, [Director Business Development - XTG AVI-SPL](#)



Executive Briefing Centers (EBCs), like the new Microsoft Experience Center One in Redmond WA, EC1, are dynamic and exciting spaces where top companies like Microsoft bring their VIP clients, impress them with the latest innovations, leveraging dynamic content interactive collaboration platforms to facilitate non-linear meetings and more personalized communications and connections. We will explore how the ingredients of a great EBC- human centered experience design, interdisciplinary systems integration, personalized automations and aesthetic architecturally integrated technology - can be utilized in our designs to help us build a future workplace that is good for your people, the planet and profit. Let's figure out how to make the workplace a destination worth traveling to.

13:50 HOW WORK WORKS NOW: REDESIGNING WORK FOR THE AI ERA

Drew Jones, [Author & Founder, Drew Jones Studio](#)



Work has changed dramatically in the past decade, but leadership systems largely have not. Drew explores why many organizations remain stuck in personality-driven, proximity-based models of management that rely on visibility, office presence & informal power.

These systems struggle to scale and break down in distributed & AI-enabled environments. Jones introduces an alternative: system-driven organizations built on a clear Digital Culture Playbook; defining decision frameworks, accountability systems, results-based performance & coaching-oriented leadership. With work coordinated digitally, the office can evolve into something new: the Community Office, a place designed not for routine tasks, but for connection, learning/mentoring, collaboration & shared culture.

14:20 NETWORKING AND COFFEE BREAK

14:30 HOW AI IS ALTERING WORK PATTERNS AND TEAM RELATIONSHIPS IN THE WORKPLACE

Kevin Katigbak, [Strategy Director, Gensler](#), Youjin Joung, [Interior Designer, Gensler](#), Candace MacDonald, [Director Special Projects British Columbia, EllisDon](#)



After studying the workplace for more than 20 years, Gensler has started asking a new question in its annual Workplace Survey: How do AI "Power Users" differ from late adopters?

The results are surprising, as AI "Power Users" report spending less time working alone, more time learning, and are even finding more meaningful relationships with colleagues at the office. But how can organizations support the new ways of work? To explore this topic, Gensler's Strategy Director, Kevin Katigbak, will briefly explore the latest survey findings, before facilitating a project spotlight conversation on EllisDon's new workplace in Richmond, BC, alongside Gensler's Interior Designer, Youjin Joung, and EllisDon's Director, Special Projects British Columbia, Candace MacDonald.

14:50 DESIGNING FOR CONNECTION

Robin Rosebrugh, [Director of Workplace Strategy + Research at AURA](#)



As organizations continue to rethink the purpose of the workplace, many are shifting from designing around attendance and efficiency toward creating environments and experiences that better support connection, collaboration, learning and culture. This session explores how intentional gathering, workplace programming and thoughtful experience design can help foster more meaningful interactions in both hybrid and in-person environments.

15:00 INTENTIONAL PROGRAMMING DRIVING OCCUPANCY WITHOUT MANDATES

Aman Malhi, [Director People, Culture and Operations, Refrigerative Supply](#), Elizabeth Christie, [Senior Manager of Workplace Experience at AbCellera](#), Dustin Hutton-Alcorn, [Director People at Intellistack](#), Jennifer Leaman, [Vice President People and Culture, Leavitt Industrial Group](#). Moderator: Robin Rosebrugh, [Director of Workplace Strategy + Research at AURA](#)

Vancouver's progressive, autonomy-driven culture makes traditional return-to-office mandates both ineffective and culturally misaligned. Unlike Toronto's rapid push back to the office, Vancouver behaves more like Scandinavia—employees expect empowerment, not enforcement. This session explores how People & Culture teams are meeting leadership expectations by creating purposeful moments, curated programming and shared experiences that make the office genuinely worth coming to. We'll highlight strategies that naturally lift occupancy and show how intentional connection turns the workplace into a meaningful space where diverse people come together.



15:40 NETWORKING AND COFFEE BREAK

16:00 WORKPLACE AS PERFORMATIVE SOCIAL SPACE

Walker McKinley, [Architect & Founder at McKinley Studios](#)

Content to be confirmed.



16:20 CASE STUDY: MATCH GROUP

Alex Yeoman, [Senior Director Global Real Estate Strategy at Match Group](#), Nabil Sabet, [Group Director, M Moser Associates](#)

Match Group's Project H2O brings the company's brand and engagement ethos into its Vancouver workspace in The Stack. The hospitality-infused environment combines workplace strategy, wellness and sustainability, using LEED-aligned materials, energy-efficient lighting and clear brand cues. The result is a flexible, culture-rich setting with social hubs and focused zones that support collaboration, wellbeing and meaningful interaction across teams.



16:50 CHAIRPERSON'S CLOSING REMARKS

Khush Sidhu, [Head of People & Culture at Operto](#)

Closing remarks from our Chair.



17:00 CONFERENCE CLOSES

CONFERENCE LOCATION



And Co, Vancouver

We're delighted to be hosting WORKTECH in And-Co, a premier, 28,000 sq ft WELL Platinum Certified coworking space and event venue in downtown Vancouver's Coal Harbour. Designed for professionals, it offers private offices, dedicated desks, meeting rooms, and high-end amenities like healthy snacks, fitness classes, and secure bike storage.

GETTING HERE

LOCATION

And-Co Vancouver
1575 W Georgia St #200
Vancouver
BC V6G 2V3

And-Co is easily accessible in the Coal Harbour/West End area. It is reachable by transit (bus lines along W Georgia/Denman), walking, or driving with nearby street parking.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

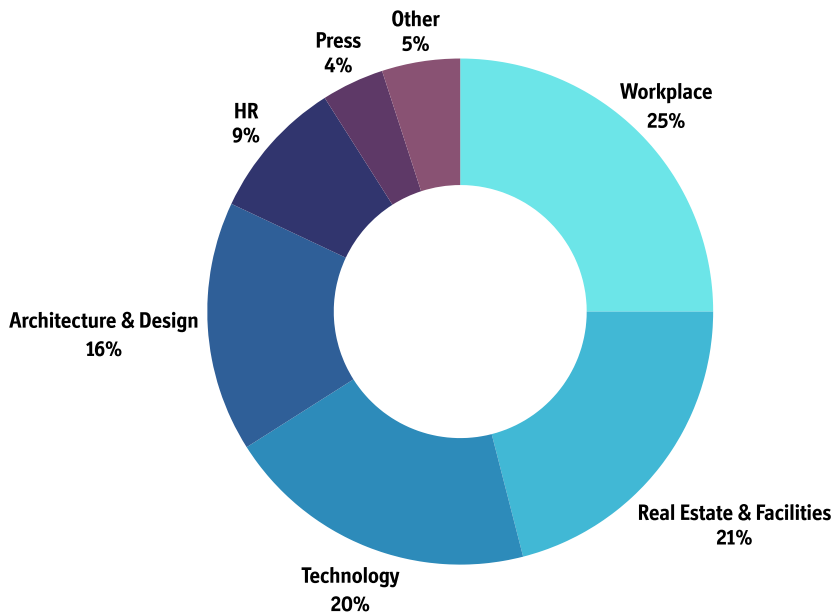
Numerous TransLink buses travel down West Georgia Street, providing direct access to downtown and the West End

DRIVING AND PARKING

Situated on a main artery, with metered street parking and nearby commercial parking options available

WHO ATTENDS

Attracting senior level professionals from Workplace, CRE, IT, HR and Architecture & Design



This is an event packed with exciting innovative information you can use especially if you are designing a new workplace.

VICE PRESIDENT, JPMORGAN CHASE



Very informative and up to date information that changes the way of working. Definitely a good one to go to to learn more about the workplace!

PORTFOLIO MANAGER, SHELL



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KEY INFORMATION

Date & Venue

When: Wednesday 20th May, 2026

Where: And-Co, Vancouver

How to Book:

Visit: <https://worktechevents.com/events/worktech26-vancouver/>

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If you are part of a group that would like to attend and are looking for a joint group rate please get in touch to arrange a bespoke ticket price.

Become a WORKTECH Ambassador

We're looking for people that love the future of work and the workplace and social media. People who are willing to become part of our team and help spread the word to the masses. There will be a free event ticket available to successful applicants. Apply here: <https://bit.ly/3jiHC4b>

For more information on the above initiatives, please contact:

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