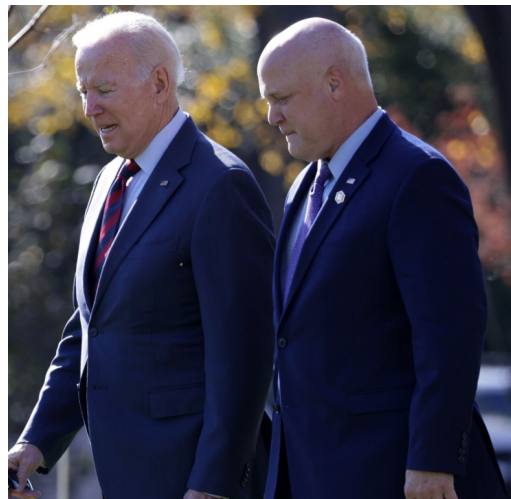


## BuildGirls.org Met with The White House

*Buildgirls.org was invited to meet with Senior Adviser to the President of the United States of America and the USA Head Of Infrastructure, Mayor Mitch Landrieu.*



Washington, D.C., May 11, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- buildgirls.org, a non-profit with a mission of educating, engaging and empowering high school girls to explore future careers in infrastructure was invited to The White House to discuss IJIA and female participation in infrastructure. Co-founders, Sami, Kenzie and Emmie Goldsteen held an interactive conversation with Mayor Mitch Landrieu, Senior Adviser to the President of the United States of America and the USA Head Of Infrastructure. buildgirls advisory board member, Kim Roy – CEO of HITT Contracting, a \$5.0B+ global contractor, introduced Mayor Landrieu.



As part of buildgirls.org mission, the goal is to promote future career opportunities for females in architecture, construction, and engineering. With the passage of the historic IJIA by the Biden Administration, millions of jobs are being created. buildgirls.org wants the conversation to

include how the government (along with organizations like buildgirls) can promote these jobs to females and increase female participation across the industry.



Mitch Landrieu served as the 61st Mayor of New Orleans (2010–2018) When he took office, the city was still recovering from Hurricane Katrina and in the midst of the BP Oil Spill. Under Landrieu’s leadership, New Orleans is widely recognized as one of the nation’s great comeback stories. In 2015, Landrieu was named “Public Official of the Year” by *Governing*, and in 2016 was voted “America’s top turnaround mayor” in a Politico survey of mayors. He also served as President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. In his role, Landrieu oversees the most significant and comprehensive investments in American infrastructure in generations—work that independent experts verify will create millions of high-paying, union jobs while boosting economic competitiveness in the world, strengthening USA supply chains, and acting against inflation for the long term.

During the meeting, Mayor Landrieu, who himself has five sisters, acknowledged and vigorously supported the mission of buildgirls.org to continue to raise awareness about future careers for women in ACE. Mayor Landrieu encouraged the girls to continue to be activists and have passion for improving their community, saying “you not only noticed something but you did something about it...it may be the two most important things you can do.” He went on to say, “...I just want to congratulate you guys on having courage and vision and then thirdly the organizational sense that if you can’t find a way, you make one, buildgirls actually does something about it...just give yourselves some credit...you saw it, you said it and you did it!”

The team had a chance to discuss infrastructure, the IJIA and several other topics with Mayor Landrieu. Mayor Landrieu said The White House is continuing to work with private and public entities to increase participation in the industry for females and other minorities.

buildgirls.org, was founded by Sami Goldsteen, Mackenzie Goldsteen and Emmie Goldsteen, three sisters who were inspired by a series of discoveries that angered them into action with the

goal of changing the infrastructure industry. Throughout the pandemic the girls had the opportunity to personally observe a large construction company via online conferences, meetings, and presentations, as their dad who was in the industry, was suddenly working from home. While observing his work, they began to realize that they never heard female voices nor saw female faces. Asking their dad over and over again - "why not" and getting no real answer, inspired the three sisters to investigate why in this trillion-dollar industry, women are less than 10.0% of the workforce, less than 2.0% of leadership roles and are 0% of public company CEOs.

The gender disparity in infrastructure has been widely recognized, but no sustainable initiatives have been established at a younger age when girls decide what they may want to pursue. According to a Microsoft survey, girls cited a lack of female role models a key reason they did not follow a career in the sector. Today, schools offer STEM programs but don't really focus on applications in ACE. As the girls discovered, this is a fast-growing space, an important component of the economy and is an industry with amazing career opportunities — but most females learn about it too late or not at all.

Having always been taught if you can't find a way then you make one, the girls co-founded [buildgirls.org](https://buildgirls.org) to empower, educate and engage females in high school in ACE (Architecture, Construction & Engineering). Through [buildgirls.org](https://buildgirls.org) activities and initiatives, high school females can learn more about different careers, which can help solidify plans for their future. [buildgirls.org](https://buildgirls.org) members gain hands-on experience that can be valuable for future employers. buildgirls accomplishes its mission through several initiatives, including facilitating discovery experiences, industry interviews, hosting events, creating inspiring competitions, partnering with universities and companies to join buildgirls in its mission.

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