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2019 Women in Construction: Nicole LaCroix, Project Manager at Green Leaf Construction

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How many years have you been in your current field? 6

Which project, deal or transaction was the “game changer” in the advancement of your career during the last 10 years? Accepting a project manager position at Green Leaf Construction, which meant moving from a very large firm to having a more hands-on involvement in the projects I am managing. The dynamic and collaborative culture at Green Leaf has allowed me to be a key part in the firm’s growth with the opportunity to make a lasting impact on the organization.

What are you doing differently in 2019 that has had a positive impact on your career? I am working to ask more questions of design partners and trade professionals in order to get a better understanding of best practices from different perspectives. There is not one way to build a project, so expanding my horizons and perspective has helped me continue to grow as an individual while simultaneously strengthening my relationships with key players in the industry.

What was your first job and what did you learn from it? My first job was a youth program coordinator and instructor at a local YMCA. This job really taught me patience and communication skills in working with young children. I was in school at the time, so I also had to quickly learn to manage my time wisely to best meet all of my obligations.

Who are three women – living or dead – that you would like to have drinks with and why? I would choose Amelia Earhart because she was a pioneer in a male-dominated industry, my mother because she is not only my best friend, but also the rock of our family. She inspires me to go above and beyond with whatever task is on my plate. I would also choose Oprah because she radiates community. Relationships are so important in this industry, and establishing a community environment within a project team is essential to the success of the process.

What were your biggest fears when you started out in your profession? I have to say that my biggest fear when I started in the construction industry was not being heard. I also started my first job in the construction industry at 23, and my age combined with being a woman made me a bit apprehensive. That said, I feel like it is important to embrace your fears to continue to grow and succeed, and this has driven me to work to change people’s perceptions of a women’s role in this industry.

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