

Laura D. Bellows

Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board W. S. Bellows Construction Corporation

Laura Draper Bellows serves as Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of W. S. Bellows Construction Corporation and is the majority-controlling owner. Family-owned and led since 1914 with the fourth generation now in leadership positions, Bellows Construction has experience constructing buildings in many market sectors including hospitals, performing arts theaters, museums, office buildings, churches, schools, specialized nonprofit facilities, hotels, tenant build-outs and complete building renovation.

After her husband Tom's untimely death in 2007, Laura took over leadership of the company. Personally dedicated to continuing Bellows Construction's reputation for integrity and excellence, Laura is committed to exceptional client service, being a leader in safety, and supporting the loyal, expert personnel who are the foundation of the company. She never forgets that the outstanding people who comprise Bellows Construction are the reason for the company's success.

Laura continues to be actively involved in management, and especially enjoys her regular visits to jobsites to visit with superintendents and field personnel as she continues to emphasize Bellows' high standards of safe operating practices and executing quality projects with precision. Laura is OSHA 30-hour training certified and is especially proud of Bellows employees' devotion to working safely and thoughtfully. Bellows has received over 90 safety awards since 1985, including First Place (2020 and 2024) and the Grand Award (2017) at the National Associated General Contractors of America's Excellence in Safety Awards.

Laura is a native Houstonian who was salutatorian of her class at The Kinkaid School. She graduated cum laude from Vanderbilt University with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and Fine Arts and also achieved certification in Technical Writing at Houston Baptist University.

She also draws on years of experience serving the Houston community in numerous volunteer leadership and organizational roles. Laura has served on the boards of the Greater Houston Partnership, Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy, American Heart Association – Houston, and the Rice Design Alliance. She currently serves on the board of DePelchin Children's Center and on the advisory council of the Houston Arts Alliance.

Laura was honored to be named as a Breakthrough Woman by the GHWCC at the Greater Houston Conference for Women in 2013 and to be selected to be in the GHWCC Hall of Fame in 2017. Laura was a Spring 2009 graduate of the Center for Houston's Future Leadership Forum and was also selected to be an IMPACT Award Finalist by the CHF in 2015. She was the Kappa Kappa Gamma 2016 Pilgrimage Honoree and was recognized with the Philanthropic Woman Award by the City of Houston at the Latino Learning Center's 2017 Humanitarian Awards. Laura was also named as one of five Trailblazing Women by the Houston Business Journal in March of 2017.