

## **Building Cohesion: Team Alignment from Kickoff to Closeout in Design-Build**

### **Co-Author Bios**

#### **Kathryn Wagner, AIA, DBIA**

Kathryn is a Principal at Perkins Eastman specializing in collaborative delivery for education clients across Northern California. With experience spanning DesignBuild and Lease-Leaseback projects, she champions a transparent, inclusive approach that aligns teams from day one. Her leadership on projects such as Stege Elementary, Piedmont Hills HS Performing Arts and at Evergreen Valley College exemplifies how empathy, consistency, and clear communication drive measurable success in complex partnerships.

#### **Ellen Mejia-Hooper**

Ellen serves as the Director of Facilities, Planning & Construction for the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD). She leads the district's capital program, overseeing planning, design, and construction to deliver equitable, sustainable, and future-ready learning environments for more than 30,000 students. With experience spanning both educational planning and facility management, Ellen brings a unique balance of strategic vision and technical expertise. She has guided WCCUSD through major modernization and bond-funded improvement programs, fostering collaboration across departments, consultants, and community stakeholders. A strong advocate for transparency and equity in school facilities planning, Ellen is committed to ensuring every campus reflects the district's educational mission and serves its students and neighborhoods for generations to come.

#### **Charlz Boado, DBIA**

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#### **Huiyao Chen**

Bio in progress