

Agenda

October 1-3 | Thompson Hollywood and Citizen News | Los Angeles

Sunday, October 1

6:00 - 9:30 pm

Welcome Reception at the Thompson Hollywood's rooftop lounge, Bar Lis

Monday, October 2

9:00 am | Citizen News

Keynote: In conversation with Kara Swisher

Kara Swisher, Contributing editor at *New York Magazine*, host of *On with Kara Swisher*.
Rachel Laycock, Chief Technology Officer, Thoughtworks

Join Thoughtworks' CTO, Rachel Laycock, in a thought-provoking discussion with tech industry icon, Kara Swisher. Dive deep into the heart of the ever-evolving tech landscape as Kara shares insights and real-world examples of the industry's current state, reactions to trending topics, and bold predictions for the future.

Forging the path: Product Thinking as the golden thread

Joe Murray, Head of Customer Experience Product and Design, Thoughtworks

Join Joe Murray as he explores the world of product thinking, helping you elevate your organization's innovation, align teams, and create exceptional customer experiences. Discover how unlocking insights can transform your products into holistic solutions for your customers, employees, and partners.

– Break –

Agenda is subject to change. All times PDT.

Lead the way: Turn challenges into triumphs



Driven by care: A new model for special needs transportation

Sean McCormack, Chief Information Officer, First Student

Discover how a startup-within-enterprise approach reshaped the landscape for First Student, sparking meaningful change for their organization, and the education transportation industry. Sean McCormack explores the crucial role of Product Thinking in creating a dynamic digital platform that paves the way for a new era of transportation possibilities.

Customer centricity in tough times

Darren Smith, Chief Technology Officer, MYOB

When the economy is good, it's easy for businesses to get caught up chasing opportunities around every corner – but this often comes at the expense of losing sight of who they are. Even during challenging times, being responsive to your customers and putting them first might be what it takes to survive. But how long and how far are you willing to be led before you find yourself taken down the wrong path? In this talk, Darren Smith takes a hard look at what it means to be customer-centric.

– Noon Lunch at Mother Wolf –

1:45 pm | Citizen News

Panel: The Data Mesh transformation journey

Omar Khawaja, Global Head of Data & Analytics / CDAO, Givaudan

Amy Grace, Director of Military Engines Digital Strategy, Pratt & Whitney

Jeremy Forman, Executive Director Data Strategy, Data Science, & Data Platforms, Seagen

John Spens, Director of Data and AI, North America, Thoughtworks

Data Mesh adoption is more than just a technology shift—it's a transformative approach that reshapes organizations and operating models. In this engaging panel, we'll be in conversation with three visionary technology and business leaders. Join us as they share their remarkable journeys, unveiling the challenges faced and the invaluable lessons they've gathered along the way.

Revolutionizing software creation: Harnessing the power of GenAI

Mike Mason, Chief AI Officer, Thoughtworks

Join Mike Mason as he delves into the application of Generative AI in software development, both today and tomorrow. Learn how this cutting-edge approach is already transforming the way we build and optimize software, from requirement gathering, to code generation, testing, deployment and monitoring methods. Discover how Generative AI will, in the future, completely revolutionize the very core of software engineering.

– Break –

Keynote: How leading businesses are leveraging AI, and how you can, too

Allie Miller, Artificial intelligence leader, advisor, and investor

AI is reshaping industries, driving creativity, and redefining customer experiences, but it can be challenging to identify how to apply it to real-life business opportunities in your own organization. Allie Miller explores how leading-edge businesses are harnessing the remarkable potential of AI, and the invaluable strategies that enable your teams to tap into its transformative capabilities.

4:30 pm

Closing

5:40 pm

Transport to Signature Event

6 - 10:30 pm

Signature Event at The Magic Castle

Tuesday, Oct. 3

9:00 am | Citizen News

From stagnation to success:

Unleashing the power of technology and business transformation

Knut Talman, VP IT – Logistics & Services, OTTO

Matthias Wlaka, VP IT – OTTO Marketplace and CTO OTTO Payments, OTTO

How does an industry titan like OTTO, spanning retail, logistics, and online marketplaces, embark on a transformation journey that ensures relentless competitiveness? Join Knut Talman and Matthias Wlaka as they delve into the strategies that empower OTTO to pivot with agility, craft innovative business models, and leverage technology to achieve seamless, uninterrupted growth.

Engineering Effectiveness: Achieving your goals with less

Ryan Murray, Executive Technical Director, Client Solutions, Thoughtworks

Despite the widespread pursuit of productivity, organizations often struggle with the challenge of measuring it directly. What distinguishes digital trailblazers is their relentless approach to the reduction of waste and friction within their operations, resulting in measurable savings. As customer expectations rise and demands for greater efficiency intensify, Ryan Murray uncovers the hidden barriers hindering engineering productivity and offers insights into creating an environment where engineers thrive and deliver exceptional value.

– Break –

Grow-thrive-make a difference: Leading through uncertainty

Anaf Durrani, VP of Product Engineering, Grainger

Grainger's agile talent strategy is based on three key principles: flexibility, talent development, and collaboration. Anaf Durrani shares how a variety of resourcing models, training and development investments, and partnering with employees have enabled Grainger to build a high-performing product engineering team that is able to meet the needs of the business in today's challenging economic environment.

Keynote: Head & heart: The art of modern leadership

Kirstin Ferguson, Leadership expert, author and columnist

Combining studies from leading thinkers in the field with her own new research and more than three decades of personal experience, Dr. Ferguson explains the key attributes of a head and heart leader, and provides the tools to measure your own approach. Along the way, she shares her conversations with modern leaders from a broad range of backgrounds whose stories will surprise you, challenge your thinking and inspire you to be the type of leader the world needs today.

11:40 am

Conference ends

GenAI power sessions for executives

Location: Tommie Studio at the Tommie Hollywood Hotel

This 90-minute interactive workshop will equip you with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively leverage and implement Generative AI capabilities within your organization. You can expect rich discussions with fellow leaders and our Generative AI SMEs and will walk away with a comprehensive toolkit to identify, evaluate and capitalize on Generative AI opportunities for your business.

Due to the interactive and immersive nature of the workshops, places are limited to 15 attendees per session, so register today to avoid disappointment.

Available sessions:

Sunday, October 1st, 4-5:30 pm

Tuesday, October 3rd, 12:30-2 pm

Limited seats available.

Confirm your spot by reaching out to paradigmshift@thoughtworks.com.