

**AIA Build Pittsburgh 2018**

**Architects & Contractors: Rather Than Talk About Each Other, Let’s Talk to Each Other**

March 20, 2018

**Presenter/Panel Biographies:**

**Rick Avon, AIA, CPHC – Avon Graf Architects**

Rick strongly believes that architecture is the result of “Design and Execution.” Throughout his 30-year career, he has worked from inception to final occupancy on numerous projects including commercial, industrial and as a specialty, indoor water parks. Rick’s two areas of expertise are constructing the project on paper (detailing) and field management during construction. Because of his belief that Execution is crucial to the formula of architecture, he worked as a project superintendent for the Westmoreland Museum of American Art addition and renovations. During this two-year project, he developed an appreciation for the working relationship between architect and builder. As one of the founding members of Avon Graf Architects, he is instrumental in implementing new methods for communicating graphically via the construction documents.

**Rob Sklarsky - RJS Construction Consulting**

Rob Sklarsky is the owner of RJS Construction, a construction management and general contracting firm. Rob has over 30 years of experience ranging from healthcare to hospitality, restaurants, offices, multi-family residential, religious, higher education, and parking garages. During his 30+ years in the industry Rob has been an estimator, project manager, vice president of operations, corporate vice president and is currently president. He has worked on projects utilizing the following delivery methods: design-bid-build, design/build, CM at risk, agency CM, and negotiated general contractor. Rob is also the co-chair of the AIA/MBA Joint Committee.

**Eric Starkowicz – Master Builders’ Association of Western Pennsylvania, Inc. (MBA)**

As Director of Industry Relations, Eric works with contractors, architects, and owners to create a more collaborative building process. MBA is the voice for the construction industry in Western Pennsylvania, and provides valuable member services, promotes best practices, and helps to grow a highly skilled workforce. MBA continues to be the premier construction association by setting exceptional standards of quality, safety, and labor relations, providing the best construction experience. Mr. Starkowicz is a graduate of Duquesne University and has worked in the A/E/C industry for nearly 20 years.