



*wise words
of wisdom...*

“Embrace the Unknown”

– Diana Jaramillo

About a year ago, Diana Jaramillo experienced a turning point in her life. She became a licensed architect. Now, that would be remarkable no matter who accomplished it but, Diana fought against some amazing odds to reach her goal.

Nineteen years ago, Diana and her family immigrated to the US from Ecuador. She faced many challenges adapting to the culture and learning English. However for her academics, she earned a scholarship to a local college in Business Administration (the only profession she could imagine herself performing). In the end, Diana was unable to take advantage of the offer because she was not a US citizen. Unhappy yet determined, she attended Onondaga Community College where she stumbled upon some tiny models of buildings. Her curiosity was piqued. With a love for math and art, she remembered her art teacher in high school suggesting she should study architecture. She had no portfolio of past work (a requirement to enter the classes) but she promised the OCC Department Chair, “Let me in the program and if I fail you can kick me out.” Diana was accepted and after 14 years, she now has her Associate’s, Bachelor’s from SU, and is now working on her Master’s degree at SUNY ESF. And she now is the professor at OCC who replaced the man, upon his retirement, who took a chance on her years ago.

Diana insists no matter what, she finds a “silver lining”. During her career, she was a single mom working full time and attending graduate school. She used her “silver lining

mentality” to create a life for herself and her daughter who is her reason for making so many of her life decisions including, opening her own architectural firm – Kin Architecture Studio.

In 2017, Diana connected with the WISE Women’s Business Center through the “Exit!” (“Success!”) program. “The WISE Women’s Business Center is a tremendous resource. I was a walk-in, and was referred to the Exit! Program - a 10-week, bilingual course crafted to help community Latino women open their businesses. The program, in conjunction with Marisol Hernandez as its bi-lingual guide and Alexandra Waterbury as its business guide, is set-up to help you write your business plan and at the end of the program, present a pitch for your business in front of local successful business owners.”

Now that she has 14 years of experience at design firms, working with contractors and has her license, Kin Architecture Studio is a reflection of Diana and her collaborative approach to design. Kin means family, and that’s how Diana treats her clients. Her desire for her business is to serve homeowners and businesses to make their dreams come true no matter what their budget is - renovations, additions, or brand new projects. She has accomplished all of this by not forgetting her roots, and always seeking the “silver lining.”

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WISE HAPPENINGS:

► Check out wisecenter.org/events for a complete list of upcoming events!

The Building Blocks for Starting a Business

January 9, 12:00-1:30pm

Social Media “Hands On” Roundtable

January 17, 12:00-1:30pm
January 24, 12:00-1:30pm
January 31, 12:00-1:30pm

Creating a Thriving Business Culture

January 23, 12:00-1:30pm

The Building Blocks for Starting a Business

January 24, 5:30-7:00pm

**SAVE THE DATE:
WISE Symposium 2018**

APRIL 18, 2018
AT SKY ARMORY

Tickets on sale now!
Early Bird Tickets: \$85
(\$99 after 1/26/18)

A women’s business center... run for women, by women.

All events, unless otherwise indicated, are held at the **WISE Women’s Business Center @ The Tech Garden** // 235 Harrison Street // Syracuse, NY 13202
(315) 443-8634 // wisecenter@syr.edu // www.wisecenter.org // **FIND US ON:**