

Denise M. Berger, FAIA

Chief of Operations



With a career that spans over 30 years, Denise M. Berger, Chief of Operations, oversees the day-to-day activities of the Engineering Department which is comprised of 570 staff members and a professional services budget of \$1.3 billion. She ensures that Design and Construction Management are aligned to deliver the Agency's \$32.2 billion ten-year Capital Plan and oversees the Department's Program Management, Project Controls, Project Scheduling, Construction Cost Estimating, Technology, Strategic Planning, and the Department's Financial Services.

Through her long-term vision, she shaped the culture of the Agency by promoting excellence in transportation planning, design, construction and elevated environmental stewardship and resiliency. Berger's leadership has successfully contributed to the creation and execution of several key initiatives at the Port Authority, including Sustainable Design and Adaptive Strategies, Building Information Modeling (BIM), Life Cycle Cost Analysis, and Value Engineering. She is currently leading the effort to expand the use of design-build as the Agency's prime contracting strategy.

Over the course of her career, she led many large scale capital projects across all business departments including Aviation, Tunnels Bridges & Terminals, Port Authority Trans-Hudson (PATH), Ports and the World Trade Center. After 9/11, she handled significant sensitive projects related to the World Trade Center Master Plan. She is also credited with leading the department's initial response to the Super Storm Sandy recovery efforts. Berger was instrumental in the realignment of the Engineering Department's organizational structure to enhance its role as stewards for the Agency. In addition Denise implemented a State-of-Good Repair prioritization program to ensure over 600 projects were properly positioned for effective delivery in the agency's ten-year Capital Plan.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Denise has dedicated time to inspiring high school students to pursue careers in design and construction. She serves on the executive Board of Directors of ACE (Architecture, Construction and Engineering) Mentor Program of Greater New York, WTS International and Professional Women in Construction. In 2016, Berger founded the Port Authority Women's Council, whose mission is to empower women to advance in leadership roles.