

DECO '26

Monday April 13 - Wednesday April 15
Pittsburgh, PA

Welcome Reception

Monday, April 13th
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Your Bridge to the Future of Decorating

Whether you are decorating glass, ceramics, plastic, or stainless, Deco '26 in Pittsburgh is your gateway to the tools and technologies shaping the future of the industry. From AI and autonomous transportation to digital printing and next-generation logistics, innovation is transforming every facet of the decorating business.

Join industry leaders and innovators at Deco '26 to explore cutting-edge advancements through targeted technical sessions, insightful business presentations, and an exposition featuring the latest in products and technology. Don't just keep up, cross the bridge to the future of innovation ahead of the crowd.

Featured Speakers:



Tuesday, April 14

Dan Simkins, Co-Founder, ATiiD

Dan is co-founder of ATiiD, an artificial intelligence (AI) consulting firm that helps businesses seamlessly adopt the latest AI technologies, integrating AI driven solutions to enhance operations, optimize processes, and empower teams. Dan will discuss ways in which AI can and will transform your business to compete in today's rapidly changing environment.

ATiiD



Tuesday, April 14

**Lee Green, Vice President and Executive Director, Innovation Research Interchange
National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)**

Lee is a recognized leader in advancing innovation across the manufacturing ecosystem. With over 15 years of experience, she specializes in leveraging artificial intelligence, change management, and cross-functional team leadership to drive transformative strategies and foster collaboration among industry leaders.

Lee's work is dedicated to shaping the future of manufacturing by empowering organizations to anticipate trends, adapt to disruption, and build resilient innovation cultures. She has led initiatives focused on recruiting and retaining technical talent, digitalization, machine learning, and sustainability, and is a frequent speaker and writer on innovation leadership and culture.

Lee holds a Professional Certificate in Foresight from the University of Houston and an Executive Presence and Influence certification from Wharton Executive Education. Her academic background includes an MA in International Studies from the University of Reading (UK) and a BA in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Toledo.

Headquarters Hotel

Sheraton Station Square

300 W. Station Square Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
(412) 261-2000

Book Your Room:

Visit: bit.ly/room4deco26 or call (412) 261-2000

Deco '26 rate: \$199 per night Rate good through March 12th or until room block sells out.

Deco '26 - where leaders in the decorating industry create and innovate!

Society of Glass and Ceramic Decorated Products | www.sgcd.org | 740-588-9882



Wednesday, April 15

7:30 a.m.

Registration Opens

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Annual Meeting of Members

The annual meeting of members will be held to elect new officers and approve proposed bylaw changes. The meeting will be followed by the annual Frank S. Child Award, presented to David Stanton, Past-President (1998-99 and 2016-17).

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Anne Madarasz, Heinz History Center

Three Rivers, Many Industries: The History of Pittsburgh

The Heinz History Center, named for (Henry) John Heinz III who served as a US Senator from 1977 until his death in 1991, will give a keynote presentation on the history of Pittsburgh, including the area's significance as a major producer of glass products.

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Coffee Break *Sponsored by SDI Custom Decal*

10:00 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Ken Tyler, Engineered Printing Solutions

The Shift to On-Demand Decoration: How Direct-to-Object Inkjet is Reshaping Glass Drinkware Production

Market forces are driving the move to digital printing to accommodate shorter runs, personalization, and retail needs. Ken will discuss realistic capabilities of modern cylindrical inkjet printing and explain the gap between digital and analog technology. A digital roadmap for the next 3-5 years will be presented.

10:40 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.

Emmanuel Vuong, ERMA Concept

Purification and Filtration for Automated Glass Decorating Systems

Emmanuel will discuss cabin purification systems and filtration of atmospheric dust and gas emissions. The following topics will be discussed: sizing, H2O/dry cabin booths, reducing electrostatic interference, types of paint and resins, particle size, filter retention capacity and change frequency, and emissions.

"I thought the quality of vendors was fantastic. I represent the next generation of glass deco houses, so it's good to mix in with the old-school established industry . . . anytime I can interact with a glass-deco industry veteran I am very interested in taking advantage of that rare moment."

- Murray Shelton, Buccaneer, Inc.

First time attendee, Deco '24

11:20 a.m. – Noon

Jake Sommerfeld, Grandstand

Maximizing your digital printing operation.

Jake will share tips and tricks from a decorator's perspective to operate successfully in the digital printing environment.

He will also discuss how to evaluate digital equipment to ensure your purchase best fits your operation and production needs.

Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch - Fountain View Room

1:00 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.

Carsten Eilers, Glasscoat International

Electrostatic Coating of Container Glass

Carsten will explain electrostatic coating of container glass taking attendees through the process including pre-treatment, application, curing and firing, post coating and treatment, and automation.

1:40 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.

Mike Lawn, Gen-in Inspection Systems

In-line Inspection of Glass

Mike will offer a general overview of in-line inspection in the hollow glass and tableware manufacturing sectors. He will cover the standard layout of a glass manufacturing production line and detail the inspection equipment currently in use, and what it is designed to detect. Mike will also discuss how the inspection process has progressed and how modern advances in AI technology and process monitoring are pushing the performance and capabilities. New developments will also be discussed.

2:20 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Ben Chleblowski, Keyence

Laser Marking Applications for Glass

Ben will discuss the latest developments in laser marking technology for glass. Keyence has developed a new UV laser that specializes in applying text, logos, shapes, and more directly onto the surface of glass. Marks are applied with high contrast and in half the time.

3:00 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.

Keith Ladd, Custom Deco

Dishwasher Durability: Testing for Success

Keith will provide an update on dishwasher testing for decorated glassware.

3:40 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Sponsors

Exhibitor Reception
Strutz International

Coffee Breaks
SDI Custom Decal

