

Thursday, March 19, 2026

9:00 AM EDT
1 HR

Registration & Networking Breakfast

10:00 AM EDT
5 MINS

Welcoming Remarks



Jeff Coltin
Editor-in-Chief
City & State NY

10:05 AM EDT
5 MINS

Introduction to Keynote



Vikas Mittal
New York Region Account Executive
Amazon Web Services

10:10 AM EDT
25 MINS

Keynote Speaker Remarks



Colin Ahern
Director of Security and Intelligence
State of New York

Colin Ahern was appointed by Governor Kathy Hochul in June 2022 as New York's first Chief Cyber Officer. In this role he led the development of the state's first ever cybersecurity strategy and leads cross-agency efforts to protect New York State from cyber threats. Prior to joining state service, Colin served as First Deputy Director of New York City Cyber Command and Acting Chief Information Security Officer of New York City. Colin worked in cybersecurity in financial services before joining the New York City government.

Colin began his career as an Army officer where he deployed twice to Afghanistan and commanded a cyberspace operations company. His academic and professional writing has been widely published, including by the Association for Computing Machinery and the Washington Post. Colin received a bachelor's degree from Tulane University and a Master of Business Administration from the New York University Stern School of Business.

10:35 AM EDT
1 HR

Building a Resilient NY: Emerging Technology, Programs & Workforce Growth



Annie McDonough (Moderator)
Senior City Hall Reporter
City & State New York



Keith Armonaitis
Lead - IT Innovation Lab
Port Authority of NY & NJ



Nitin Patel
Deputy Commissioner, Information
Technology and Chief Information
Officer
NYC Department of Citywide
Administrative Services



Maxwell Siegel
Chief Data Officer, Executive Director
of Data and Analytics
Analytics, Performance &
Management, New York City
Department of Transportation



Alicia L. Antonetti-Tricker
Public Sector Strategy & Innovation
Principal
Crowe LLP



Murtaza Masood
Vice President, Public Sector
Box

This panel explores how leaders across the public and private sectors are harnessing emerging technologies, including AI and digital innovation, to transform infrastructure, service delivery, and economic growth. Panelists will discuss real-world applications across multiple industries, highlighting impacts on productivity, access, workforce development, and inclusive growth, as well as opportunities for collaboration and scalable innovation.

11:35 AM EDT
1 HR

Strengthening and Securing New York's Cyber and Physical Infrastructure



Nate Bazydlo (Moderator)
Director of Strategic Accounts
NUAIR



Greg Ehrie
Chief Security Officer
The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey



Benjamin Voce-Gardner
Director, Office of Counterterrorism
NYS Division of Homeland Security
and Emergency Services



Venoth Lal
Director, Cyber Security Services
KPMG LLP



Aaron McCray
Field CISO, retired Commander (CDR)
U.S. Navy, Intelligence and Information
Warfare.
CDW



Mike Sikorski
CTO & VP Engineering - Unit 42
Palo Alto Networks

This panel examines strategies to protect and strengthen New York's cyber and physical infrastructure in the face of evolving threats and growing demands. Panelists will discuss policy frameworks, risk management, and public-private coordination, as well as investments in secure infrastructure, cybersecurity, and resilient critical systems. The session will emphasize innovation-driven solutions, workforce training in cybersecurity, and measurable outcomes, including continuity of essential services, cost efficiencies, and scalable approaches for both urban and underserved communities.

12:35 PM EDT
1 HR

Lunch

1:35 PM EDT
1 HR

Digital Tools to Benefit All New Yorkers: Expanding Access, Equity & Opportunity



Andrew Rasiej (moderator)
Founder
Civic Hall @ Union Square



Thierno Diallo
Manager, Information Technology
Services, Digital Transformation Office
NYS Office of Information Technology
Services



Maryanne Schretzman
Executive Director
NYC Center for Innovation through
Data Intelligence



Dan Steinberg
Director
Mayor's Office of Operations



Charlie O'Shea
Eastern Regional Executive for State
Government Strategy
T-Mobile for Government

This panel explores how digital technologies can improve the daily lives of New Yorkers, with a focus on equitable access, affordability, and digital inclusion. Panelists will discuss efforts to expand broadband, build digital literacy, and improve access to education, healthcare, and government services, as well as how technology can strengthen civic engagement and protect digital rights. Workforce discussions will highlight community-based pathways, apprenticeships, and inclusive training programs that create technology opportunities for historically underserved communities and deliver measurable quality-of-life outcomes.

2:35 PM EDT
1 HR

Public-Private Innovation & Investment: Scaling New York's Digital Foundations



Jeff Coltin (Moderator)
Editor-in-Chief
City & State NY



Joshua Breitbart
Senior Vice President
ConnectALL, Empire State
Development



Amit Kachhia-Patel
Acting Special Agent in Charge for
Cyber and Counterintelligence,
FBI New York



Oscar J. Romero Jr.
Chief Information Officer
NYC Civic Engagement Commission

This panel explores system-level solutions, partnerships, and investment strategies to expand New York's digital infrastructure. Panelists will discuss scaling broadband and connectivity, co-innovation, and building resilient, energy-efficient networks with a strong focus on cybersecurity, data privacy, and critical infrastructure protection. The conversation will highlight cyber risk management, threat intelligence sharing, secure cloud and 5G deployment, and public-private collaboration to close access gaps while ensuring expanded connectivity is secure, trusted, and aligned with state and city priorities.

3:35 PM EDT

Event Concludes