WOMEN LEAD NC

DECEMBER 2, 2026 I RALEIGH, NC

Nora El-Khouri Spencer
Founder and CEO
Hope Renovations



Nora El-Khouri Spencer is the Founder and CEO of Hope Renovations, a nonprofit with a dual mission: to empower underemployed women and gender-expansive people into careers in construction while helping older adults stay in their homes their whole lives.

After a 15-year career in corporate human resources and ten years of side hustle as a self-taught remodeler, Nora decided to switch directions to pursue a Master of Social Work from UNC Chapel Hill with a focus on social entrepreneurship. In Summer 2020, Nora combined her passion for women's workforce development, her interest in preserving housing for older adults, and her love for construction to launch Hope Renovations. She is a Licensed General Contractor and maintains a Certified Aging in Place Specialist designation.

She has received multiple honors for her work, including being named the National Association of Home Builders' Woman of the Year, a Top Ten CNN Hero, a Triangle Business Journal Top Corporate Leader and one of Inc. Magazine's Top 500 Female Founders. She speaks throughout the country about gender equity in the trades and the importance of supporting Aging-in-Place.

Nora is a UNC Tar Heels and LA Dodgers fan, a Master Gardener, a crazy cat lady and a beach addict. She lives in Chapel Hill with her husband Brian and her toddler Isaac, a future feminist tradesman.