

It is with great appreciation that I look back on my time spent in Dallas at the 2016 ULI Fall Meeting as one of the WLI Prologis Scholarship winners. Thank you to WLI and Prologis for the unique WLI focused experience and a memorable week of educational sessions, panel discussions, Product Council, and networking opportunities that left me feeling inspired and energized on my return home to Toronto.

There are incredible and talented women in the real estate industry. Women defying stereotypes and breaking down barriers. The dedication of these remarkable leaders to WLI and ULI is changing the real estate and development landscape globally for the better and is far reaching in its impact. The Fall Meeting showcased many of these leaders from whom there is much to learn, most notably urban visionary Cheong Koon Hean, the 2016 recipient of the ULI J.C. Nichols Prize who shared excellent examples of innovative and responsive planning from her more than 35-year career in city building in Singapore. I am especially thankful to Wendy Rowden, WLI Global Chair, who generously served as my mentor throughout the Fall Meeting. Wendy is an inspiring business leader who left a lasting impression and who I continue to look towards for guidance.

One particular highlight of the week was the opportunity to participate as a guest at the Urban Development and Mixed-Use Council, Bronze. The Bronze Product Council day was an enriching day of thought provoking discussions of current issues facing the development community, best practices and case studies. The panel discussion on creative placemaking led by Juanita Hardy, ULI Senior Visiting Fellow for Creative Placemaking, as well as a tour of Trinity Groves, a local restaurant incubator, were especially relevant and I have already referenced them both in my current work in Toronto. As a guest to the group I was very impressed by the connectivity, collaboration and sharing of ideas that was taking place throughout the day.

Throughout the meeting I had opportunity to collaborate and engage with professionals from all over the world further expanding my network of peers. I've brought back many of the ideas sparked from discussions with folks in Dallas and am excited to explore them further. The work that my fellow scholarship winners are doing at the District Council level is innovative and thoughtful and our discussions have led to several fresh ideas for how to further connect the programming for WLI and ULI Connect (Young Leaders Group) and the overall ULI Toronto District Council.