

Shortly after I returned from the Fall Meeting in Dallas our local Toronto Metro News began a series of articles addressing the gross underrepresentation of women on corporate boards. It was at that moment, the true opportunity of the Prologis WLI scholarship hit me. I had just returned home from a week of being surrounded by women oozing of inspiration, ingenuity and of course, leadership. I was instantly aware of how rare an opportunity it was, to have witnessed a week of such accomplished, powerful and professional women sharing their wisdom on the Real Estate industry, in front of an international audience.

It began the moment I landed in Dallas with the WLI Steering Committee meeting. From connecting with my mentor Kelly Nagel, who unlocked the conference by downloading me with the best of the: “how to: guide for the Fall Meeting”; to Onay Payne’s, precise and encouraging perspectives on the path up the career trajectory at the WLI Prologis Breakfast; to Wendy Rowden, leading a thoughtful and reflective conversation with Lucy Billingsley at View from the Top; to Serena Wolfe, hosting an insightful and impactful day leading the Urban Development and Mixed Use Bronze Product Council; to Trish Healy, closing the Meeting with a direct and honest interview with former President George W. Bush.

Attending the Fall Meeting was also enlightening from a technical perspective. Having the opportunity to dig deep and understand case studies on urban development solutions such as Klyde Warren Park (a deck park over a freeway that has uplifted and unlocked its surroundings) or the transformational function of the restaurant incubator at Trinity Groves was an important part of my experience. Living in Canada’s largest City, it is often difficult to find domestic examples or precedents to model – the week in Dallas provided me ample mental candy as I contemplate local opportunities such as the recently proposed Rail Deck Park in downtown Toronto (read: Klyde Warren Park), or the massive redevelopment opportunities that await us within our portlands (read: Trinity Groves).

As I reflect back on the Fall Meeting, I can’t help but be energized to drive the conversation and the face of real estate development here in Toronto. I feel an immense sense of gratitude towards ULI, WLI and the Toronto District Council for affording our industry the ability to connect, collaborate and to drive each other forward. Thank you Prologis and WLI Global making the Fall Meeting experience available to me – I am extremely honored and humbled by my experiences.