

2020 WLI Sprout Grant Winners

Awarded by WLI to support new programs

Rising Together

ULI Cincinnati

Through a series of workshops, ULI Cincinnati will inspire an increase in diversity, equity and inclusivity in the real estate industry by focusing workshops aimed primarily at men. As the target audience for this program is males who are mid-to-late career professionals, the series will increase its likelihood of affecting change by engaging those who are traditionally in leadership positions. Topics will cover gender equity, bias awareness, and inclusive culture training, and each session will feature at least one female professional speaker, with the goal of most speakers being women of color. By offering training and tools to those in positions of power, the series intends to break the echo chamber and produce actions which positively change the hiring process and elevating more females and minorities into leadership roles.

Scholarship and Mentorship Program for Women of Color

ULI Virginia

Through this program WLI Virginia will provide an intentional experience for three young women of color to increase their confidence and sense of belonging within ULI and the real estate industry. The opportunity will partner each young woman with a series of mentors who are experts in their field to enhance their knowledge and network connections. Additionally, the grant will give financial resources to these women to attend key ULI events and access other full member activities that younger women are typically not able to finance themselves. The combination of mentorship and scholarship will offer a head-start for a segment of women who often have a more challenging time climbing the leadership ladder.

WLI Community Engagement with Maya Angelou Charter School

ULI Washington

Focusing on high schoolers in already established business and hospitality programs at an area school, WLI Washington will provide a real-world learning experience. Using a curriculum designed around the establishment of a new local hotel, students will learn about the entire process from professional women directly involved in various aspects of the project. Sessions will include financing, design and hotel operations, and will culminate with a site visit at the end of the schoolyear. This grant will allow WLI Washington to expand on the relationship with this school and create opportunities for mentorship and career development to students who may not traditionally be provided exposure to careers in commercial real estate.