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2019 Fall Meeting Reflection: Urban Land Institute/Randall Lewis Health Mentorship Program

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity extended to me to participate in the 3rd Cohort of the ULI/Randall Lewis Health Mentorship Program and attend ULI's Fall Meeting in Washington D.C. As a graduate student, often times there is a tradeoff between what I want to do and what something actually costs. However, with Randall Lewis's generous support, ULI spared no expense in making this trip extremely informative and an unforgettable networking experience.

I arrived early Wednesday morning and caught the end of the Resilience Summit's keynote speaker, Spencer Glendon, from the Wood Holes Institute. I was pleasantly surprised that Mr. Glendon was being very frank with the real threat of insurance companies pulling out of vulnerable coastal real estate markets due to the changing dynamics of the climate crisis. It is one thing to study the theoretical threats of climate change and the need for adaptation in school, but to hear it at an industry conference: we need more of that. I had participated at local ULI events at my District Council in South Florida, but to hear the unfiltered reality of what we are up against I think speaks to the leadership of ULI in bringing awareness to the inconvenient truth of the elephant in the room.

For the afternoon, I chose the "Climate, Health, and Public Space Solutions" track. I found the speakers to be informative and they broadened my understanding of how health goes beyond just the physical elements: mental health and happiness are major aspects. Later in the evening, it was great putting faces to names as I got to meet the other four talented students in my cohort, as well as the great mentors that support us at a group dinner. Having the good fortune to meet our generous sponsor, Randall Lewis, was a pleasure.

The following day, I got to catch a few sessions of interest at the Fall Meeting main program at the convention center. My two favorite programs were "Entertainment is the New Black" which was about placemaking and "\$25 Million and Less: Small Deals, Big Impact" which was about "hairy" renovation projects that turned a profit and made their communities better for the new highest-and-best-use of the property. In the evening, I was very thankful for ULI sponsoring me to attend my mentor's product council dinner at POV at the W. Not only were the food and views spectacular, more importantly, it was great to meet the other members in a casual atmosphere.

On Friday, I attended the Sustainable Development Council's offsite meeting at DC Water (& Sewer). It was a good experience to see some of the other projects and case studies that members were working on. In no short breath, I believe mitigating a climate catastrophe by eliminating fossil fuel use and equitably adapting to the unpreventable will be the greatest existential challenge to humans in our conceivable history. After meeting the established and future leaders at the ULI Fall Meeting, the challenge, for me, is getting closer to being a "glass half full."