

My 4-Day Experience at the 2017 ULI Fall Meeting

by Vivian Kwok

The 2017 ULI Fall Meeting opens a window of opportunity for me to participate in various panel discussions, networking events, Global Exchange Council (GEC) Day and keynote speakers' series. This once in a lifetime experience is made possible by the generosity of Prologis - Sponsor of the WLI Scholarship Program. It is indeed a true honour to be selected as one of the ten scholarship winners this year. I must say I left Los Angeles feeling energized and empowered, and every moment was enriched with meaningful and powerful dialogue amongst industry professionals. Let me take a memory lane down to my very first WLI event occurred at Room 511 in Los Angeles Convention Centre.

The first WLI kick-off event was the *WLI Steering Committee Meeting*. The room was filled with WLI District Council members from coast to coast, and success stories were floating in the air to showcase how to elevate women to excel to the senior level in the real estate sector. I also represented WLI Toronto District Council, with gratitude, to present our initiatives including *She with He, Women on Board, and WLI Championship Team Celebration* over the past five years. I left the meeting feeling emotional to hear some of these success stories, and the connections I established amongst other scholarship recipients resonated the mission of WLI to excel, empower and educate. Thank you to *WeWork* for hosting the WLI Reception event. The atmosphere setting was perfect for an informal mix and mingle networking. I felt privileged to meet so many new people from different regions who are all passionate about women leadership. The reception event was followed by the *WLI Fall Meeting Wine and Dine*. I would like to personally thank Pamela Huning from Lincoln Property Company for being our Dinner Leader and arranged a fabulous dinner venue for our group to satisfy our appetites. A two-hour dinner turned into lifelong friendships building amongst a few on the table and I know this dinner event is extra special to me.

Nobody would deny the magical power of food when it comes to start your day with a delicious breakfast networking event. The WLI Prologis Scholarship Winners Breakfast event fueled my body and soul completely to engage an intimate fireside chat between Serena Wolfe from EY and my mentor, Gayle Starr from Prologis. Fruit for thought after the conversation includes the following:

- (a) How to leverage speaking engagement opportunities for women?
- (b) How to gather quality data and establish good measurements so that all regions can benefit?
- (c) How do we leverage more mentorship opportunities so that in-depth one-on-one conversation can happen?

Our Day 2 of the 2017 Fall Meeting was wrapped up with another powerful speech by Amy Elaine Wakeland, the First Lady of Los Angeles. Amy helped found the Los Angeles Neighbourhood Land Trust, which builds parks in Los Angeles's most park-poor neighbourhoods, and the Pobladores Fund, a giving circle that contributes to local grassroots social justice causes. She led successful efforts to fund and complete the City's first-ever data driven analysis of the status of women and girls and to expand the city's Domestic Assault Response Teams (DART) to all police divisions in the city. Amy is an inspirational leader who sets the role model for many of us to follow.

Being a guest at the prestigious Global Exchange Council (GEC) on Day 3 is another memorable experience. I wanted to thank the leadership team of GEC and others putting a day program that enriched my day with market insights and global trends. Many connections established with global leaders and collaborations with other scholarship winners throughout the meetings provide me with the platform to take on the next step to further connect the programming for WLI so that we can build a stronger Toronto Region in the responsible use of land.

Victoria Kueck