May 2020

The ULI Center for Sustainability and Economic Performance is dedicated to creating healthy, resilient, and high-performance communities around the world.

Greenprint  Building Healthy Places  Urban Resilience

COVID-19

We know this is a difficult and uncertain time for all of us, and hope everyone is taking the necessary precautions to stay healthy and safe. At ULI, we are working to deliver content virtually that can help all of us better address real estate’s role in addressing the threat of COVID-19 as well as future steps in reopening. We are also working to help our members stay engaged with each other as we look to navigate this together, and to continue our work on health, resilience, and climate mitigation.

We encourage you to check out Urban Land Online’s COVID-19 articles and upcoming events page which has a list of COVID-19 related resources as well as a full listing of ULI’s upcoming webinars. We also encourage you to reach out to us at csep@uli.org with your concerns and questions.

Upcoming Events
ULI Webinar: Unlocking Hidden Value in Class B/C Office Buildings

May 28, 2020
1:00pm ET

Focusing on the most impactful energy and cost saving opportunities helps maximize asset value in uncertain times. During this webinar learn how to improve operational savings in Class B/C office buildings and other key takeaways from ULI's recent report, written with RMI and BOMA: Unlocking Hidden Value in Class B/C Office Buildings.

Register Here

ULI Utah Webinar: Building Earthquake Resilient Communities

June 2, 2020
12:00-1:00pm ET

In the aftermath of recent earthquakes, how can Utah go beyond repairing the damage, and begin to prepare for bigger earthquakes ahead? How can buildings, owners, and communities take action now to avoid a future disaster, and get ready for the 'Big One'? Join ULI Utah for a webinar supported by the CSEP team that will discuss building long-term resilience to earthquake impacts, covering the local recovery process from the recent earthquake in March and lessons from private and public sector experts in other seismically active regions.

Register Here

ULI Webinar: It Can Be Done, Net Zero Energy Landlord and Multi-Tenant Collaboration

June 3, 2020
1:00-2:30pm ET

This panel will focus on landlord-tenant collaboration and strategies for multi-tenant Net Zero Energy Buildings, a rare breed in NZE. This event is hosted by USGBC National Capitol Region and ULI Greenprint's Emily McLaughlin is moderating.

Register Here

ULI Toronto Webinar: Low-Carbon Construction: An Introduction to Embodied Carbon

June 4, 2020
12:00-1:00pm ET

Join ULI Toronto and ULI Greenprint on June 4th at 12pm ET for a webinar to learn how industry experts at Hines, QuadReal, Ellisdon, and Arup are approaching embodied carbon during building design and construction at new developments across North America.

Register Here
ULI Webinar: Unlocking the Power of Parks: How New Approaches Are Creating Vibrant Parks and Open Spaces

June 10, 2020
11:00am-12:00pm ET

Successful parks require innovations like creative approaches to partnerships and new thinking about existing places, including outmoded infrastructure such as abandoned rail lines, parking lots, and highway underpasses. This session will examine new approaches to unlocking the power of parks in communities across the United States and Canada, and how to apply lessons learned to other projects and developments.

Register Here

ULI Asia Pacific Webinar: Building Pandemic Resilient Cities

June 10, 2020
9:00-9:45am UTC+8

Join the upcoming installment of the ULI Asia Pacific Digital Programme: a platform to connect, learn, and contribute, especially at a time when many of our regional events have had to be cancelled or postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The topic on Wednesday, 10 June 2020 is Building Pandemic Resilient Cities. The panelists will be confirmed in due course.

Register Here

Congress for the New Urbanism Virtual Gathering: The Post-Pandemic Neighborhood: Implications for the Built Environment from a Multidisciplinary Perspective

June 12, 2020
4:00pm ET

This online event will have many of the elements you would expect from our annual Congress: thought provoking sessions, live Q and A opportunities with speakers, social gatherings, art room sessions, plenaries, and pre-Congress events. Rachel MacCleery will be representing ULI as a panelist.

Learn More & Register Here

ULI Virtual Forum: Randall Lewis/Building Healthy Places Forum

June 15 & 17, 2020

The ULI Randall Lewis/Building Healthy Places Forum will take place the week of June 15, 2020. This two-part online series will feature Toronto-based speakers and projects. Sessions include: Lessons from "North of the Border" (June 15) and Rethinking Toronto's Social Housing (June 17). Each session will take place from 1-2:15 pm

Learn More Here
ULI Webinar: Assessing Resilience in U.S. Markets

June 17, 2020
11:00am-12:00pm ET

Webinar panelists will discuss how real estate investors can assess and price climate risk in different markets, considering the findings and emerging best practices profiled in a new ULI/Heitman report. The panel will also explore best practices in cities’ efforts to mitigate climate risk, how the funding methods for these projects could affect the real estate sector, and new thinking on how insurance prices physical risk. This webinar is part of the 2020 Spring Meeting Webinar Series, which runs May 11-June 19, 2020.

Register Here

Confronting COVID-19: Compounded Risk and City Preparedness for Climate Events

June 23, 2020
1:00-2:00pm ET

As the summer hurricane and wildfire season sets in, cities are more vulnerable than ever due to the new realities of COVID-19. NOAA has predicted a 60% chance of an above-normal hurricane season in 2020 and Californians are anticipating an active wildfire season given the dry winter. Given new fiscal budget constraints, and concerns related to social distancing, evacuation and shelter in place, cities will face new challenges this year. Hear from member experts and city leaders helping their cities to be more prepared for potential events this summer. Registration to follow.

ULI Building Healthy Places Book Club

June 25, 2020
4:00pm-5:15pm ET

More than 100 members have signed up for the Building Healthy Places Book Club. The group’s first title is Wrestling with Moses: How Jane Jacobs Took on New York’s Master Builder and Transformed the American City by Anthony Flint. Members will gather for a live discussion with the author and to discuss future titles on June 25.

Learn More & Register Here

2020 ULI Philippines Virtual Conference: The Future Summit

June 30, 2020
8:00am-6:00pm SGT

The 2020 ULI Philippines Conference: The Future Summit will be fully virtual this year. The summit will explore the topic of sustainability and resilience. While sustainability and resilience share many similar aspects, the former is focused on balance within and the continuation of business operations, while the latter concerns their ability to recover after an adverse incident.
ULI Webinar: Living on the Edge: Sea Level Rise

June 30, 2020
9:30-10:30am ET

This moderated panel discussion will focus on sea-level rise and its effect on resilient coastal development. With sea levels rising and increasingly volatile weather events becoming routine occurrences, ecological design, development, and investment have become critically important. Despite the documented risks of “Living on the Edge,” 2.4 billion people live within 100 kilometers of the coast; 600 million people live in coastal areas that are less than 10 meters above sea level. Developers, designers, and scientists have begun to conceptualize physical strategies to address the issue, but the financial numbers are daunting. It is a complex challenge with many layers: shoreline reconstruction, population relocation, water and green systems integration, transportation, adaptive development approaches, relocation costs, insurance, and much, much more.

Reports and Resources

ULI Chicago Releases Report and Inspires Mayor’s ADU Ordinance

ULI Chicago is one of four District Councils selected to convene Task Forces to explore local health and social equity barriers. The Chicago Task Force used the opportunity to uncover barriers—regulatory/policy, technical/design and financial—to building accessory dwelling units (ADUs) citywide. After 18 months of focus the group published a set of recommendations and inspired Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot to introduce a citywide ordinance that would reverse the ban on, and streamline the permitting of, coach houses and other types of ADUs that already exist or could be built on vacant residential lots or as additions to existing buildings.

Joint Call to Action to Promote Healthy Communities Features Green Building Discussion Guide

Extreme heat is the most widespread and deadly weather-related hazard in the United States, and it is worsening due to both climate change and urban development patterns. The health impacts of living with extreme heat are numerous; addressing them requires conversations with diverse partners across the built environment. A new discussion guide highlights how diverse stakeholders partnered to cool things down for a neighborhood redevelopment in Phoenix.
Developing Urban Resilience Project Briefs now on Knowledge Finder

The Developing Urban Resilience website (developingresilience.uli.org) hosts a diverse, growing collection of briefs on real estate development projects that showcase best practices in resilient design. Summaries of these briefs, and links to the full versions, can now be found on Knowledge Finder when using resilience-related search terms.

See Case Studies Here

ULI District Councils Release Reports with Recommendations for Innovative Parking Policy Updates in Atlanta and Denver

Cities across the United States (and beyond) are changing their approaches to parking, with the goals of enhanced quality of life and healthier, more sustainable development. Two new technical assistance panel reports produced by ULI Atlanta and ULI Colorado as part of ULI’s partnership on the American Cities Climate Challenge provide guidance on topics including reducing single occupancy vehicle commuting and using parking policy to incentivize more sustainable growth. Read the Atlanta report here and the Denver report here.

Read Denver Report Here  Read Atlanta Report Here

2020 Spring Meeting Webinar Series—Building Better: New Opportunities in Sustainable Construction

Too often, sustainability is considered only during building operations. However, decisions made during the design and construction phase can have a huge impact on a building’s environmental footprint. A recent focus on carbon emitted by materials and during construction has sent the real estate industry looking for innovative solutions. New materials and technologies, from mass timber and modular construction to the new Embodied Carbon in Construction Calculator (EC3) software tool, are already being implemented by leading real estate developers. These tools help the real estate industry be more sustainable while also addressing traditional problems during construction, including labor costs, building time, and construction waste.

Webinar Recording and Slides Here

Other Highlights

Coastal Forum Virtually Tours
Toronto’s Waterfront

As part of the Spring Meeting Webinar Series, the Coastal Forum hosted a virtual walking tour of two innovative floodproofing projects in Toronto: Corktown Common and the Port Lands. The walking tour included recently captured drone footage of the sites, narrated with information on project design and implications for the surrounding neighborhoods and development community. View the full webinar on Knowledge Finder or read about the projects on Urban Land. Interested in getting involved with the Coastal Forum? Fill out this Navigator Form.

Opportunities to Get Involved

Contribute your Expertise on Wildfire Resilience

ULI’s Urban Resilience program is beginning new research on the real estate implications of and best practices to adapt to wildfires (publication summer 2020). Members can nominate case studies to profile in the final report or contribute their expertise via a phone interview. If you’ve invested or worked on developments or policy in a wildfire-prone area, please contact Elizabeth.Foster@uli.org.

New in Urban Land Online

- ULI Coastal Forum Looks at How Toronto Is Floodproofing for the Future—Leah Sheppard
- U.S. Multifamily Owners Hold Tight, Plan for the Future at Increased Utility Loads—Marta Schantz
- Sidewalk Labs Planning Its Next Steps for Urban Innovation—Patrick J. Kiger
- Confronting COVID-19: Maintaining and Managing Parks and Open Space under Quarantine—Trish Riggs
- Confronting COVID-19: Renewing the Focus on Resilience and the Future of Cities—Trish Riggs
- Addressing the Impact of COVID-19: A Roundup of Available ULI Resources—ULI Staff
- Optimizing for Energy Efficiency during COVID-19—Marta Schantz
- Ten Principles for Decarbonization: How Cities and the Real Estate Industry Can Partner to Fight Climate Change—Justin Arnold
- Discussion Guides Highlight Partnerships for Health and Equity—Sara Hammerschmidt

In the News

- Chicago should legalize coach houses, new report concludes— Chicago Sun Times
- Chicago's Future ADU Ordinance Should Learn From Other Cities' Mistakes— Chicago Cityscape
- 7 takeaways from Living Future 2020— The Kendeda Fund
- ADU Ordinance Ready for City Council Scrutiny in Chicago— Planetizen
- Workers Won’t Return To The Same Office Space They Left— Bisnow
- Your Building Can Make You Sick or Keep You Well— New York Times
- Here’s How Coronavirus Could Raise Cities’ Risk for Climate Disasters— New York Times
- How the fight to expand ADUs in Chicago will impact real estate—Chicago Agent Magazine

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Join the Center for Sustainability and Economic Performance mailing list by emailing CSEP@uli.org.
The mission of the Urban Land Institute is to provide leadership in the responsible use of land and in creating and sustaining thriving communities worldwide.