

Kaitlin Dastugue

The Women's Leadership Initiative scholarship granted me the opportunity to attend my first ULI Fall Meeting as well as cultivate my first true exposure to the great work of the WLI. Attending WLI events on that first day, I was initially impressed with the caliber of leaders committed to advancing the work and visibility of women in the real estate industry. I was moreover impressed to find that the candid sharing of information and advice that is a hallmark of ULI carried through to my relationships with my mentor and the other remarkable women I had the pleasure of meeting. As a Young Leader, the opportunity to connect with women who are doing work that I aspire to do at various stages of their careers was invaluable.

Additionally, being in New York and, in particular, participating on the Public Private Partnership Council, gave me timely insight into how a city is attempting to balance growth and the pressing need for affordable housing. From touring the Pacific Yards redevelopment in Brooklyn to hearing from public and private sector leaders about the challenges of rebuilding in Lower Manhattan, we gained insight to how New York is grappling with these complicated land use and development dilemmas. I walked away with lessons that I will no doubt be taking back to my work Nashville as we continue to face the complex challenge of sustainably managing growth.