

WLI Prologis Scholarship Essay

11/10/17. Amy Malloy

Sometimes, “the right thing to do is to ask: what is the right thing to do?”. This was the simple but revolutionary statement made, almost in passing, by the renowned architect and Fall Meeting General Session speaker, Frank Gehry. It effectively encapsulates the truth of my first ULI Conference as a WLI Prologis scholarship winner and what turned out to become a once in a lifetime experience.

“Team WLI”

“It’s really not that hard to find incredible women out there, you just need to recruit them”. The clear directive, as laid out by the First Lady of Los Angeles, Amy Elaine Wakefield, perfectly exemplified the experience provided to be by the WLI Prologis Scholarship. It created a seat at the table for me. And not just any seat. A real chance to not feel isolated, self-conscious and a little lost--which I imagine could be extremely easy to accomplish at the Fall Meeting—but to rather feel part of a band of kindred spirits, complete with expert hosts and tour guides. To have the opportunity to not just sit in the same room as these other incredibly talented women, but to really feel a part of the conversation, has given me the strength and resolve to look for ways where I can ‘recruit’ women to have a seat at the table.

TOD Product Council

To increase that opportunity with exposure to a Product Council—especially in my male heavy Transit Oriented Development one—left me exhilarated and inspired to find ways to CREATE EQUITY in the workplace, in development, and through smart growth practices.

And, two days with my inimitable WLI host, Debbie Orshefsky, and with the leading TOD people in the country was all it took to inspire a new TOD zealot. I reveled in the chance to furiously soak up, write down, and ask the experts about all the financial, health, and development benefits of rail. And, I am telling you, it is the way to create equity in communities that the suburbs are not necessarily wanting to include, but it is more than that. It is the single most important development that a City can have to provide long term viability. It will allow suburban cities to thrive and in most cases, will save them—And there will be a sharp divide between places with rail and places without.

There is actually nothing more important a city can do than have rail and transit. It opens the door to real opportunity and sustainability—something women especially should be championing.

Thank you to ULI, to WLI and most importantly to the Prologis Scholarship program for fanning my flame of inspiration, through your gracious inclusion and stewardship at this year’s Fall Meeting. My life has been forever changed as a result.