

## **Corey Zehngebot**

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WLI 2017 Prologis Scholarship

In spite of the 100+ degree temperatures blown in by the Santa Ana winds, the WLI awardees and their mentors were among the most professionally accomplished, generous, and coolest one could have hoped to encounter at a ULI Fall meeting. Having attended one meeting in the past, but without any assistance in navigating the many programs and social events, I was lucky and grateful to have assigned the Global Head of WLI, Serena Wolfe, as a my mentor and all-around wing woman extraordinaire. Being relatively close in age and with a young child at home, we connected immediately. Her graciousness and attentiveness in making introductions at all the WLI, UDMUC Bronze, and general ULI events meant there was not a moment that I felt adrift. Indeed, all of the women I met through WLI – either as part of the national WLI leadership or any of the other WLI scholarship attendees – were similarly warm and interested in developing professional connections. My sincere thanks to WLI and Prologis for enabling me to fly across the country and participate in such a fantastic program.

Los Angeles is a far cry from Boston and New England, and attending this meeting was a refreshing exposure to development typologies I would not typically see in my day job at the Boston Planning and Development Agency. As a guest to the UDMUC Bronze council, I was able to spend the better part of Council Day out on the road, visiting development projects like the boutique Sunset Bronze Lot and Netflix Studio in Hollywood, the adaptive reuse of the Masonic Temple into CBRE's new headquarters, and the Americana at Brand retail center by Caruso Projects in Glendale. Seeing these interesting projects while in the company of a diverse and accomplished group of professionals from across the country further enriched the experience, and made clear the appeal of membership in a national product council.

My goal in attending this meeting was to extract as much value out of the Fall meeting as possible. Being a data-driven organization, WLI's self-professed goal was to convert some local associate members into national members. Success achieve on both fronts! In the immediate aftermath of the Fall Meeting, I have already renewed my membership for 2018, this time converting to a Full Member. As a public sector, NEXT, female member, I represent an important demographic that I'm mindful has representation at the national level. I'm looking forward to attending the Spring Meeting in Detroit as a member of the newly created UDMUC Platinum flight, and assisting with the programming for the 2018 Fall Meeting as an on-the-ground resource Boston.