

ULI Fall Meeting 2018 WLI Prologis Scholarship Experience

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I explored a vibrant community in Boston, MA.

I aim to develop profitable buildings as occupiable art that mix functionality and profitability. Though I am rooted, I am not grounded in U.S. soil and intend develop amazing space in this world.

I lived in Boston for 7 and graduated into an architecture profession that did not embrace me. A year and six weeks ago, I drove across country from Washington D.C. to Minneapolis because I believe in the city's potential. Returning to Boston as a developer, I allowed my layered experiences to inform a new perspective.

I gained inspiration on how to refocus my career, and practical insights on how others are succeeding.

Camille Renshaw framed the conversation on the glass ceiling business terms, which I and my boss can relate to. The glass ceiling calls into question having too many emotions. I could never related to this struggle as I sport a stoic demeanor and expressionless face. Real estate development, which blends so often into finance, is only concerned as you can make a business case for.

Scott Galloway spoke on taking down the big four, but also on what to do in their absence. Capitalism may suck for more people than not but guarantee anarchy sucks more. Similarly, he made a business case for how America could be great again, instead of slowly losing our souls to these giants.

Theaster Gates reminded me that I started this career treat the development process and product as quality art. I had forgotten that you could be an artist first and developer second. I am encouraged to adjust the system and to capitalized art that changes people's lives.

I discovered a tax on commercial space that gives 80% back to the neighborhood, 10% to the infrastructure and 10% to project specific public amenities. I learned of recycling methane gas to create energy like they do in Seoul, Korea. I heard from another architect turned developer who exclaimed that "birds don't shop, so focus on the 18 to 24 foot experience", and I completely agree.

I exchanged ideas with new members I met; expanded my networks across the region and the globe.

I had the privilege of being a guest of the ULI Global Exchange Product Council. Before attending, I had a vague understanding of what a product council does. After attending I can certainly see the value of being a member. While I do aim to launch an international career, I think prefer a task force oriented committee.

Global Exchange Product Council members focus their careers on deploying American capital across the globe. I had not considered this approach, but don't want perpetuate colonialism under the guise of capitalism. I met some members who agree and consider them allies.

I also attend a session that reframed Atlanta's sprawl as a culture that uses infrastructure to reconnect the public realm. This seems like an ingenious and artistic way to uplift a historical disenfranchised community.