

Kim Miller
2018 Fall Meeting Reflection

The ULI/Randall Lewis Health Mentorship Program provided me a unique opportunity to attend the ULI Fall Meeting in Boston and to meet many experts in the land use and development realm from across the country. From the Building Healthy Places Interest Forum to the conference offerings to the product council day trip to Pinehills, I was able to listen, take part in, and learn about what is going on in the industry today. It was a privilege to attend meetings that address some of the tough questions, such as equity funding, social isolation and disparity in building projects.

The created atmosphere of the Building Healthy Places Interest Forum allowed a space that was conducive for open and interactive conversation. The range of professionals and the wealth of knowledge present was over the top. The talk was about the newest developments, such as the Healthy Neighborhoods Equity Fund and innovations in healthy building certifications like Fitwel.

The day trip to Pinehills was not just fun but also inspiring. Tony Green spoke to us about the over 20-year progression of this project that many call a “city within a city.” It is located in Plymouth, MA and is now home to over 2,000 families. The community includes a five-star public golf course, eateries, a grocery store and a post office. It is a prosperous, luxury development that exceeds \$1.2 billion in total assessed value. As we toured the properties, it was very apparent that mindful intentions went into the entire design and build.

My assigned mentor, Susan Watts, is not only a well-respected expert in her field but also very passionate about helping further the Building Healthy Places Initiative. Her part was vital in ensuring that my experience was full and that it went smoothly. She introduced me to many of the council members and was gracious to assist me through the event.

It was also a great opportunity to meet with the other mentees and to hear about their journeys and aspirations. With many different backgrounds, it was interesting to discuss future possibilities in each of our fields. And to determine, to what extent, the Building Healthy Places Initiative can be implemented in our fields.

Overall, my trip to Boston was awesome. It was a few very packed and busy days. I would describe my experience in one word: intensive. The days were filled with conversations and activities that provided insight into many development topics. It was an experience I am grateful for and look forward to applying in my future work.