

Announcing New Leadership at ULI Washington: Deborah Kerson Bilek to serve as incoming Executive Director



ULI Washington announced that Deborah Kerson Bilek has been named as its new Executive Director. In this role, Ms. Bilek will serve at the helm of the Washington District Council of the Urban Land Institute – a global organization with a mission to shape the future of the built environment for transformative impact in communities worldwide.

Ms. Bilek brings a host of experience to this role. Most immediately, she served as ULI’s Vice President, Advisory Services, where she supervised and managed the operations of the national Advisory Services Panel Program – including a major pivot from an in-person to a hybrid and virtual program that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to joining the Advisory Services team at ULI’s global headquarters, Ms. Bilek served as the Senior Director of Community Outreach at ULI Washington, where she managed the community development work program for the Washington District Council. During her five-year tenure at

ULI Washington, Ms. Bilek worked with ULI members, partners, and stakeholders in nearly every jurisdiction in the Metropolitan Washington Region to advance the region’s collective economic opportunity.

“Deb has a deep passion for building community, for facilitation, for engagement, and for working in service of ULI’s mission,” said Julie Smith, ULI Washington District Council Chair and Chief Administrative Officer, The Bozzuto Group. “These attributes will serve ULI Washington well as we look to recover, refresh, and rebuild.”

Ms. Bilek’s professional experience prior to ULI includes working for the federal government in both the legislative and executive branches as a Presidential Management Fellow and program analyst, and as a planner for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments – the region’s federally designated metropolitan planning organization. She holds a master’s degree in public administration from New York University, a Bachelor of Arts magna cum laude in anthropology from Washington University in St. Louis, and an Executive Certificate in Facilitation from Georgetown University.

Ms. Bilek begins as Executive Director on November 15.

About ULI Washington

ULI Washington is a District Council of the Urban Land Institute (ULI), a nonprofit education and research organization. Representing the full spectrum of land use and real estate professionals, ULI Washington and

our 2,300 members carry out the ULI mission to shape the future of the built environment for transformative impact in communities worldwide. Our organization advances the mission locally by sharing best practices, building consensus, and advancing solutions through research, educational programs, and community outreach initiatives. For more information, visit <http://www.washington.uli.org>.