



Urban Land Institute to Advise Vancouver, British Columbia, on Worker-Focused Housing

Renowned panel of housing, land use experts to visit area June 28-30

For more information, contact media@uli.org

WASHINGTON D.C. (June 28, 2021) -- A group of renowned urban planning and real estate experts representing the Urban Land Institute (ULI) will be making recommendations next week to the City of Vancouver, British Columbia, on creating safe, sustainable housing for workers who are engaged fulltime in employment or training, focusing specifically on the Downtown Eastside neighborhood of Vancouver – which is a unique challenge unto itself that has only intensified as a result of the global pandemic. ULI is a global, multidisciplinary real estate organization whose work is driven by more than 45,000 members dedicated to shaping the future of the built environment for transformative impact in communities worldwide.

The ULI representatives will be conducting the program for Vancouver from June 28-30 through ULI's Virtual Advisory Services Panel (vASP) offering. The panel is a multi-day, virtual program that is tailored to meet a community's specific needs, bringing together real estate experts in different areas such as land use, urban renewal and community growth. They will spend time interviewing local stakeholders, understanding the community's needs and delivering advice on how to best tackle the issue at hand.

Sponsored by the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation, in partnership with the Community Impact Real Estate Society and ULI British Columbia, the panelists will provide strategic recommendations on:

- The ideal structure of the partnership to create housing options for employed homeless.
- What tenancy options could look like for worker focused housing;
- The benefits of mixed-use buildings in the creation of said housing; and
- Creative strategies at the intersection of housing and employment for the Downtown Eastside neighborhood

The panel will be led by Laura London, former associate director, Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing, Arlington, Virginia, and Richard K. Green, director and chair of the USC Lusk Center for Real Estate, chair, Wilbur H. Smith III Department of Real Estate Development, University of Southern California Sol Price School of Public Policy, Los Angeles, California. "We are delighted to bring the experience of our ULI members to the city of Vancouver, British Columbia, through the dynamic virtual Advisory Services Panel format," said London. "Our panel will examine the social, economic, and environmental conditions of the Downtown Eastside (DTES) neighborhood, engage with a variety of stakeholders, and blend their insights with expertise, best practices, and successful models recommended by the ULI panelists. We will identify practical solutions, looking at tenancy options for worker-focused housing, and financial and organizational structures to implement the models. Our panel will embrace concepts of mixed-use community development as part of a vibrant and inclusive local economy, with housing and healing for DTES."

London and Green will be joined on the panel by Charmaine Atherton, senior vice president – senior development manager, Banc of America Community Development Corporation (BACDC), Los Angeles, California; Ilana Branda, deputy chief, Services to End and Prevent Homelessness, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Silver Spring, Maryland; Hal Ferris, founding principal, Spectrum Development Solutions, Seattle, Washington; Christopher Ptomey, executive director, Terwilliger Center for Housing, Washington, D.C.; Jermaine Ruffin, associate director for equitable planning and legislative affairs, City of Detroit, Detroit, Michigan; and Jeanhy Shim, president, Housing Lab Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

This panel is the second in a series of proposed economic opportunity panels delivered by ULI. These panels will be tasked with thought leadership in underinvested communities for the purpose of attracting real estate investment in order to achieve more equitable development that improves economic, social, and environmental resilience. The work is supported in large part by the ULI Foundation and its members.

Now in its 74th year, the ULI Advisory Services program assembles experts in the fields of real estate and land use to participate on panels worldwide, offering recommendations for complex planning and development projects, programs and policies. Panels have developed more than 700 studies for a broad range of land uses, ranging from economic revival to climate change adaptation.

According to Thomas Eitler, senior vice president of ULI's Advisory Services program, the strength of the program lies in ULI's unique ability to draw on the substantial knowledge of its 45,000-plus members, including land developers, engineers, public officials, academics, lenders, architects, planners and urban designers. "The independent views of the panelists bring a fresh perspective to the land use challenge," Eitler said. "The Advisory Services program is all about offering creative, innovative approaches to community building."

Past sponsors of ULI advisory service panels include federal, state and local government agencies; regional councils of government; chambers of commerce; redevelopment authorities; private developers and property owners; community development corporations; lenders; historic preservation groups; non-profit community groups; environmental organizations and economic development agencies.

NOTE TO REPORTERS AND EDITORS: Members of the media and public are invited to a public virtual presentation of the findings on Wednesday, June 30, at 1-2:30 p.m. PDT. Click this link to join:
<https://uli.zoom.us/j/96526272838?pwd=SnB5WlduR05lVXB1Q2x5d2lrQkg5Zz09> passcode 857712