



Charlotte

WLI Champions Profile

Name Emma Littlejohn
Title Principal
Company Emma + Co.
Discipline Housing Development Advisor

Describe a magic moment in your career or life.

The success of the Brightwalk Community, here in Charlotte, is the pinnacle of my career. This development incorporated all of my skill sets and talents for a project that needed my direction and stamina to bring the community to life. It really was a crescendo. I have a degree in botany, and I was able to bring all of my environmental and botanical training in the development of a housing community that is a shining star in the Queen City.

Describe who or what has been a key influence in your life.

At the risk of sounding cliché, hands down, my mom has had the most influence in, and on, my entire life. As a child, she provided a living breathing example of the Golden Rule. And, as a woman in a male-dominated industry, the lessons she taught me has given me the strength to persevere and the graciousness to succeed without losing my core values.

What do you see as the next big challenge as an industry?

I see a disconnect between regulatory influences and the creative, versatile housing that is needed to sustain our homes, neighborhoods and communities. Municipalities are driving how we build, design and execute housing, as opposed to a balance between creativity and the market.

What is your secret talent?

I connect people, ideas and talents. For example, there were dozens of private and public partnerships in the development of Brightwalk and I was able to connect the right people, with the right skills, at the right time for success.

What is your take on championing others?

Mentoring and supporting others is in my DNA. For me, most exciting and, arguably, most important is witnessing and sharing the successes of those who have been influenced by my experience. And, I suppose championing others, inside and outside of this industry, goes back to lesson #1 from my mom.

What is one word that captures you?

INQUISITIVE.