

To the WLI- New York Community:

This newsletter finds us all in the seventh month of a long, strange and difficult journey. While each of us has been stretched and challenged in unique ways this year, I believe we are on a collective journey to a different place, not simply experiencing a finite interruption to an otherwise unchanged way of life. We have the opportunity to shape this journey in order to further the [mission](#) of WLI-New York and more specifically, to foster community in a time of remote work. Having assumed the role of Chair of WLI- New York on July 1st, I am honored to help shape that journey. Our committee co-chairs and members are exceptional, and collectively we are resources for all of you. If you are a female-identifying member of ULI New York, you are already a part of the WLI New York community. We look forward to doing this work together.

In furtherance of our mission, we will continue to showcase real estate women in leadership, with a focus on those that provide creativity and solutions in times of crisis. Our summer speaker series featured virtual talks with the top civic leaders responsible for key aspects of the re-opening of New York City. We were fortunate to host Vicki Been, Deputy Mayor for Housing and Economic Development; Melanie LaRocca, Commissioner of the Department of Buildings; and Rachel Loeb, Chief Operating Officer of NYC Economic Development Corporation. Our upcoming *Learning from Leaders* event will feature many civic and business leaders at the forefront of today's real estate and land use industry. This is a time to double-down on our efforts to foster community and a supportive network. Like most others, our industry has faced lay-offs and disruption. It is our goal to provide the type of community in which WLI members make concerted efforts to facilitate women's career advancement. We also ask everyone in our greater ULI network to engage in regular efforts to support female professionals by making business introductions, capitalizing women-led businesses, or hiring female service providers. Supporting women and minorities professionally requires frequent and regular action. ***Without a doubt, there are talented but under-recognized women and minorities at every level in your network. How will you make a habit of supporting their efforts?***

This year we continue to make big pushes toward diversity and inclusion. From a pipeline perspective, we will continue the work we began last year as recipients of the Hines Innovation Grant to create a program for female high school students in underrepresented communities that exposes them to the real estate and land use industry. Our University Outreach committee is working with ULI-NY Urban Plan to access more diverse student populations, and our Membership Engagement committee is focused on new strategies for greater inclusivity.

Together with WLI-NY Vice Chair Dana Getman, we invite you to get involved. Please see below for upcoming events and opportunities to connect. You can also reach out directly to either of us to get involved. We look forward to seeing you virtually soon and in-person in the near future!

Sincerely,

Marion Jones
WLI-NY Chair, 2020-2021
Managing Director, Ackman-Ziff