



New York

Women's Leadership Initiative

February 2022 Newsletter

Dear WLI New York Community,

Welcome to 2022 and a new year of exciting WLI programming, of celebrating our members' accomplishments, and of uplifting one another! Despite the continued challenges of the pandemic, ULI New York's WLI continues to evolve to answer the needs of our diverse member base and innovate with inspiring networking opportunities, support for under-represented professionals in real estate, and more. We hope you had an enjoyable holiday respite, and are ready to re-engage with your local women's real estate community with fresh energy and valuable perspectives!

As always, feel free to [submit](#) any member shout-outs and brags about professional updates (self-nominations are accepted and welcomed).

Best,

WLI Communications Committee 2021-2022

ULI IS ITS MEMBERS

**You deliver on our mission
You enhance our communities
You shape the future of our industry**

ULI New York's Annual 'Get Involved!' Application Window Now Open!

Our annual Get Involved! application window is OPEN until **March 31, 2022!**

Interested in joining a ULI New York Committee - WLI or otherwise? Or leading a Committee as a Co-Chair?

This is your chance to become a part of the groups helping to lead ULI New York! During the Get Involved window, members will be able to apply to join committees and councils or to take on a volunteer leadership role within ULI New York!

Find out more and apply [here!](#)

Foundations Fellows Program Launch

The ULI New York WLI Foundations Fellows Program was launched this fall as a permanent program within our Scholarship/Foundations WLI Committee. Its purpose is to encourage diversity and equity in relation to careers in real estate. Given that the demographics in real estate are not reflective of the real world, the Foundations Fellows Program was developed to support young women who may be interested in real estate, but don't necessarily have the resources or opportunity to get their foot in the door.

The program will provide two university students (undergrad or grad) a two-year complimentary ULI associate membership, access to select ULI Learning offerings, complimentary access to a number of ULI New York programs each year, and guidance from a local WLI Advisor who will help them navigate their ULI experience.

We are hoping that over time we can shift the demographic imbalance in real estate to one of greater diversity in all meanings of the word, starting with more women. The committee has just finished its inaugural round of gathering applications and selecting awardees. If you are a member who knows young professionals who would benefit from this program, please encourage them to apply next year!

Meghan Taylor-Steshyn, Co-Chair of this committee, stated: "We are thrilled to have applicants from six universities in the NYC metro area, representing a wide range of professional experience, backgrounds, and future aspirations in the field. The committee and our WLI Senior Advisers have been working closely together to thoughtfully evaluate candidates through both a qualitative and quantitative lens. We look forward to announcing the selected Fellows later in February and helping to guide what we hope will be a meaningful professional development opportunity."

ULI New York and our WLI Leadership also thank **Sarena Ehrlich**, who was a driving force over the past two years as Co-Chair of this committee and the creation of this program.

2021 ULI New York Alice Connell WLI Scholarship Winners

This fall, ULI returned in person (with digital streaming option) for its annual marquee Fall Meeting - which brought together thousands of real estate leaders from across the country for thoughtful discussions, tours, networking, and more.

Hailed as "the most influential event in real estate," the conference was held in Chicago and many of the panel sessions and keynote themes were centered around COVID recovery and equity in land use.

WLI New York's Scholarship Committee, now relaunching as the Scholarship/Foundations Committee, annually sponsors two young women professionals (35 and under) for the cost of Fall Meeting registration and up to \$1,000 in travel expenses. Last year's winner, Lauren Amicucci, was able to attend this year as well, since last year's conference was entirely virtual. Congratulations to our Scholarship winners and thank you for representing our New York chapter!

Check out the reflections from our scholarship-winning attendees below!



Lauren Amicucci, *Acquisitions & Development Manager, BRP Companies*

"Having the opportunity to interact with professionals from around the country gave way to many new perspectives, allowing me to view new deals and projects with a more creative eye."

Vivien Wu, *Partnerships & Operations Manager,*



Pippin Title

"The Fall Meeting challenged us as real estate professionals to constantly address racial equity in our work. Touring Chicago's urban industrial and Chinatown was also a highlight."



Catherine Sanso, Senior Project Manager, JLL Project & Development Services

"Mentorship and networking are core tenets of ULI and the Fall Meeting provided an invaluable opportunity to engage with industry professionals and discuss trends in the real estate capital markets."

ULI New York WLI Member Shout-Outs

Michelle Greco recently landed an amazing role at **BBG** as **Managing Director of Business Development**. She also serves on the WLI Membership Engagement Committee. BBG is a leading independent national valuation and assessment real estate services firm, offering comprehensive due diligence services including valuation, advisory, assessment, desktop evaluation, energy services, cost segregation, zoning, and ALTA surveys.

WLI thanks **Erin Beitz** for establishing the foundation for the **partnership between WLI-NY and WIN** (Women in Need, a New York nonprofit program and shelter founded in 1983). For the third year in a row, WLI has done its holiday/end-of-year celebration breakfast as a collaboration with WIN to highlight the vital services WIN provides to New York women in transition. Attendees are asked to bring gift cards to the event, and the gift cards are then distributed to WIN shelter residents and program participants for the holidays.

Olivia Feldman Prikazsky will be joining **Sound Mark Partners** in January 2022, a woman-founded and led subordinate lender based in Greenwich, as a **Senior Director** focused on originations. She will be focused on deploying capital and making new investments. Congratulations on the move Olivia!

Julia Gamolina, Associate Principal & Business Development Director of **Ennead Architects**, has just started as **Visiting Assistant Professor** at **Pratt Institute**, in the **Pratt School of Architecture**. She will be teaching a graduate-level Professional

Practice seminar which examines the profession of architecture. The course will include topics such as - What is an architect? What is the process of licensing? What are the contractual responsibilities of an architect? What are the stages of an architectural project? These and other questions regarding the practice of architecture are raised and answered, and the tools for starting, maintaining and evolving an architectural practice are presented.

To nominate yourself or a fellow WLI member for a future shout-out in this section, visit this submission [form](#)!

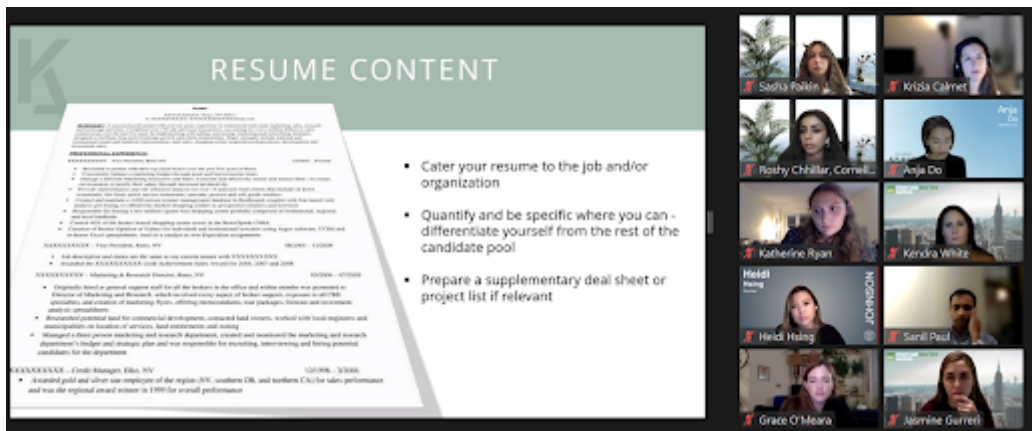
Recent Event Recaps

The WLI University Outreach Committee held its 3rd annual **Career Development Night** on November 11, 2021. The event is targeted at helping women university students connect with real estate companies through presentations and speed networking/mentorship conversations. **Krizia Calmet**, one of the event planners, said "Given the virtual nature of this year's event, we were able to host a record number of students from 10 different universities who were divvied up into breakout rooms for a more intimate conversation with the executives."

The panelists ranged from executives at traditional asset management and development shops to hospitality and tech companies. The lucky participants heard from:

- Meg Brod, Senior Managing Director, Rockefeller Group
- Susannah Shaw, Senior Project Manager, Boston Properties
- Pamela Frederick, CFO, Battery Park City Authority
- Ruth Ann Blankenheim, Vice President, PGIM
- Mallika Winsor, Director of Real Estate Strategy, Shake Shack
- Lauren Green, Food Program Regional Design Lead, Google

WLI encourages members to get employers involved next year and contact the University Outreach Committee for more information!!



WLI and WIN had the honor of holding our 2021 Holiday Breakfast on December 15th at **The Hugh**, a newly opened food hall in Midtown East developed by **Boston Properties** (BXP) and **Local Culture Management**. The beautiful greenery of the venue was a welcome and cheerful backdrop to the celebration capping off a year of resilience and connection for the New York WLI community. WLI thanks **Kendra White**, Senior Financial Analyst at BXP, for helping to make this event happen and thanks BXP for being a fantastic host for our event!



Testimonials about our Coffee Chat Series

Members are saying the WLI Coffee Chat series are intimate, candid, and totally inspiring spaces to have career conversations, seek advice, and discover new friends!

Our Membership Engagement Committee will continue a dual series of in-person and virtual coffee chats. You can choose the format you feel most comfortable with. The schedule and locations are being set now, and sign-up instructions and locations will be announced in WLI email blasts in the upcoming weeks.



About ULI New York's WLI

The mission of ULI's Women's Leadership Initiative is to raise the visibility and number of women in leadership roles in ULI and the real estate industry.

Any woman-identifying ULI member is automatically a WLI member here in NY. There is no additional fee or application to be a member of WLI. Only our WLI committee and leadership positions are application based.

Here are ways you can get more involved in the WLI community:

- To keep your ULI member profile updated, visit my.uli.org
- To post a job: Join the [LinkedIn Group](#) and share your post
- To network: [attend a WLI or ULI event](#), happening monthly
- To recognize a fellow WLI member's achievements, submit a [Member Shout-Out](#)
- To volunteer: [apply](#) for a committee or leadership position - application window is open annually January - March
- To connect with WLI Committee Members to learn more about what we do, find us on [LinkedIn](#) or the [ULI Member Directory](#)
- To suggest a story for our next newsletter: email [Vivien Wu](#) or [Alison Coen](#), WLI Communications Committee Co-Chairs

ULI Provides a Variety of Resources to Support its Members, Including:

WLI Mentor Circles - WLI National has organized a new program for peer mentoring circles that connects Full Member ULI women from around the country. [Learn more here!](#)

Digital Programming From Around the World – Explore industry insights within the largest global real estate library through an easy-to-use, intuitive search tool - ULI's Knowledge Finder. [Learn more here!](#)



ULI is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion.



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OUR MISSION COMMITMENTS

CONNECT active, passionate, diverse members through the foremost global network of interdisciplinary professionals

INSPIRE best practices for equitable and sustainable land use through content, education, convening, mentoring, and knowledge sharing

LEAD in solving community and real estate challenges through applied collective global experience and philanthropic engagement

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