

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear regional leaders

As 2017 draws to a close, our ULI Minnesota team wants to thank you for all you do. The growing contributions of the time and talent from our volunteer leaders have enabled us to expand our [UrbanPlan](#) program, launch the [Real Estate Diversity Initiative](#), and offer [Advisory Services](#) workshops to 60+ communities. One other highlight—our Regional Council of Mayors has launched *Minnesota Mayors Together* with its next conversation in Duluth. Please take a moment to read the newsletter below. Wishing you a swell holiday season.

Warm regards,
Caren

P.S. If you have a few minutes, please watch the video "Race – The Power of an Illusion," linked in the news item below. Our staff and the other attendees at our race and equity workshop found it very powerful.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ULI MN

ULI Minnesota Hosts Workshop Led By the Government Alliance on Race and Equity

On December 12th, ULI Minnesota hosted and participated in a workshop led by the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE). The League of Minnesota Cities has been working closely with GARE for about two years to help cities, counties and other government entities understand how race and equity issues play out in their service delivery, policies, hiring practices and other areas. After the League shared this work at a Regional Council of Mayors meeting earlier this year, ULI Minnesota began working to schedule its own workshop, which was made possible through the generous assistance of Blue Cross Blue Shield of MN.

Participants came from a diverse set of organizations including neighborhood groups, private sector firms in real estate and design, and the public sector including both elected and appointed officials. The workshop was led by Gordon Goodwin, GARE Midwest Regional Project Manager, and Jordan Bingham, Health and Racial Equity Coordinator in Madison, WI. Through a series of presentations, thought exercises, and interactive dialogues, participants came to better understand key terms like equity and inclusion, shared their experiences, and engaged in reflection on the ways race has and has not influenced and affected their lives. This included a particularly powerful video segment on the history of the racial wealth gap in the United States including how federal housing policies contributed to it by discouraging lending to people of color ([link below](#)).

ULI Minnesota thanks Blue Cross Blue Shield of MN for its help making this valuable workshop possible, Briggs and Morgan for generously offering its space for the session, and especially GARE for a thought-provoking and meaningful experience.

[GOVERNMENT ALLIANCE ON RACE AND EQUITY VIDEO: RACE – THE POWER OF AN ILLUSION](#)

We Need Your Help! Volunteers for UrbanPlan at Roseville Area High School in January

Please contact [Aubrey Albrecht](#) if you are available for the dates below.

Facilitation Sessions (must be able to do both):

01/09/18 10:20am – 11:50am AND

01/12/18 10:45am – 12:15pm

Spots Still Available for Young Leaders Group Mentor Program

The ULI Minnesota Mentor Program is open for registration for 2018 with a great group of mentors! The program will run from January to April, and your registration includes the kickoff event and a ticket to a larger networking event in May. Participants are expected to attend the kickoff on January 11th, 2018 and commit to three additional meetings. An agenda and further details for the kickoff session will be provided upon registration.

\$35 ULI Members

\$50 Nonmembers

Limited to 40 participants

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)



Brian Beaulieu Discusses the "Bend in the Economic Road" at the 12th Annual Economic Outlook

At the 12th Annual Economic Outlook event on November 15th, economist Brian Beaulieu of ITR Economics shared his analysis of the economy over the previous twelve months, how he sees things unfolding in the year to come, and his thoughts on the long-term trajectory of the global economy. While he foresees a market correction beginning in late 2018, he expects it will be relatively short and followed by another lengthy period of expansion. His most important observation for the local market highlights our need to attract an influx of new workers in order to sustain an otherwise strong economy. The MSP region is under 3% unemployment which is below the level considered to be full employment. If we are unable to grow our workforce, regional businesses may be forced to look elsewhere for better opportunities. At ULI Minnesota, we know this challenge is tightly linked with the need to offer [more housing choices and expand transportation options](#).

[BRIAN BEAULIEU: A BEND IN THE ECONOMIC ROAD](#)

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS ULI MN?

New Mayors, Outgoing Mayors, and New RCM Co-Chair

At the December Regional Council of Mayors meeting, Mayor Molly Cummings of Hopkins was named the new RCM co-chair to serve alongside Mayor Jim Hovland of Edina. Mayor Cummings expressed enthusiasm for stepping into this leadership position and discussed the value she has received from RCM meetings. She placed particular importance on the RCM's commitment to building civic trust, including its effort to foster relationships with mayors in Greater MN through *Minnesota Mayors Together*. Mayor Cummings replaces Mayor Mary Giuliani Stephens of Woodbury who stepped down from the role upon declaring her candidacy for governor in next year's election. ULI Minnesota/the RCM thanks Mayor Giuliani Stephens for her service and wish her the best in her race for higher office.



Molly Cummings
Mayor, City of Hopkins
New RCM Co-Chair

The December RCM meeting was also the final one for three outgoing mayors. Mayors Chris Coleman, City of St. Paul, Betsy Hodges, City of Minneapolis, and Terry Schneider, City of Minnetonka; were thanked for their years of service and contributions to both the RCM and the region. This also served as an opportunity to welcome mayors-elect Melvin Carter, City of Saint Paul; Jacob Frey, City of Minneapolis; and Brad Wiersum, City of Minnetonka; to their first RCM meeting.

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