



**Urban Land
Institute**
Minnesota

WHAT CAN I DO?
WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER?

WHY I
ULI

Our work is made possible by our member-volunteers who generously contribute their time and talent to create impact.

Why I ULI shares your stories of member leadership.

Learn about two ULI MN members who are generously contributing to [ReConnectRondo](#)



***Jay Lindgren**, Partner at Dorsey & Whitney, is a lifetime contributor and supporter of ULI MN, the Regional Council of Mayors, and UrbanPlan. Jay has co-chaired the Connecting Transportation and Land Use Initiative and serves as faculty for Building a Foundation. Dorsey & Whitney is currently providing much-needed pro bono legal counsel to ReConnectRondo. [Follow Jay Lindgren on LinkedIn.](#)*

What is important to you in the work that you do?

I love finding practical, financially viable solutions that benefit both the public and private sectors. During my last year of college, I was elected to the North Dakota legislature. I served for 10 years in both the House and Senate, and during that time went to law school to be a public finance attorney. I learned that if you want to solve a problem, you're going to have to figure out how to pay for it. I have always been interested in how cities can solve their problems, and how we make communities better by making good investments. I'm also a believer in regional solutions. I believe this 3 million metro area population is a region, and the strength of everything we care about depends on the health of our region overall.

Tell me about the work you are doing with ReConnectRondo:

I've assembled a team of lawyers at Dorsey to provide pro bono legal counsel to ReConnectRondo. Our primary goal is to "think a few chess moves ahead" -- to understand the issues that need to be managed now so that as the vision develops it can become a reality. I am excited to be working on something right here in our community that can help overcome a decades-long wrong, and serve as a national example.

What motivates you to give so much of your time and resources to ULI MN?

I am thrilled with the Regional Council of Mayors. It's a great example of what we need to do more broadly in our country, where people from different places and viewpoints discuss what we have in common. Most urban issues require resources and partnerships from both the public and private sector to solve, and ULI MN is one of the best places where everyone has a seat at the table.

Make a recommendation:

Learn from people you disagree with, and be civil to each other.

Give us one fact about yourself that most people don't know:

I ride an adventure touring motorcycle. It is made to travel long distances on the highway, but also handles well on dirt backroads. This summer I did a 3200 mile Rocky Mountain trip through 7 states. As much as I love helping to build healthy urban areas, I can't wait to disappear into the wilderness.



Nick Koch, Associate Vice President at HGA Architects and Engineers, is a founding member of ULI MN and the district council's first chair (beginning in 2001). Recently, HGA has been working to provide ReConnectRondo with a mobile application that will allow residents to design their own land bridge development plans. [Follow Nick Koch on LinkedIn.](#)

What is important to you in the work that you do?

Great design at all scales of development, from urban planning to city planning, to architectural design, and the interiors of the places that we live.

Tell me about the work you are doing with ReConnectRondo (answers from HGA project team members Jonathan Bartling and Nicolas Ramirez):

We look at this as a redesign of design where we're going beyond post-it note engagement to empower people in the community to interpret their futures. We are trying to engage the thousands of people who can't normally attend community engagement meetings.

A devastating thing happened to this community. We want to acknowledge this and empower the Rondo community to take back what was theirs.

Phase 1: Build augmented reality application

Phase 2: Community workshop with the model and app, to engage the community and to solicit feedback

Phase 3: Launch the online platform

Phase 4: Install touchpoints in the community where people can experience the model at a 1:1 ratio to the environment



What motivates you to give so much of your time and resources to ULI MN?

A love of cities, places, and people. Starting ULI MN, we came together as a human network all centered around cities, regionalism, transit, parks, and public realm. ULI MN influenced the way we speak and think about our region: we changed the conversation, we changed the players, we even changed the language.

Make one recommendation:

Go to the Heights Theater in Columbia Heights, MN's oldest continuously operating movie theater.

Give us one fact about yourself that most people don't know:

I lived in Switzerland as a preschooler and forgot how to speak English.

[Learn More About ReConnectRondo](#)

Congratulations Aubrey Albrecht on your promotion to Senior Director at ULI MN!



Register Today for ULI MN's **10th Annual Housing Summit, 8:00-10:00am on December 14th**

Curious about Urban Plan?
Want to volunteer?
[Click here to learn more.](#)



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