



For Immediate Release

African American Real Estate Professionals Los Angeles (AAREP LA) is Activated Across Urban Land Institute Fall Conference with Numerous High-Profile Speakers and Events

National Black Commercial Real Estate (CRE) Consortium Mixer Featuring Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass Stands Out as Conference Highlight

Los Angeles CA (November 15, 2023) The increased representation of BIPOC land use and real estate professionals was apparent at the recent Urban Land Institute (ULI) 2023 Fall Meeting thanks to the support of the [African American Real Estate Professionals Los Angeles Chapter \(AAREP LA\)](#) as numerous members and development projects took part as panelists and event hosts.

One of the highlights was a mixer that solidified the launch of the National Black CRE Consortium comprised of AAREP Los Angeles; AAREP District of Columbia; Black Developers Forum; and Project REAP – The Real Estate Associate Program. According to AAREP LA President Kimberly Brown the National Black Commercial Real Estate Consortium is a network of CRE organizations dedicated to bringing together members to generate economic development in local communities and advancement in the industry.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass was the keynote during the mixer sharing her support of the participating groups' focus on investing in their local communities and activating around solutions to address the housing crisis.

Brown, who emceed the mixer, said during opening remarks, "What you see here is the commercial real estate industry improving representation. This is epic for those of us that have been in the industry for over 30 years. We've never seen this level of activation and a lot of the current focus is around housing. The demand for housing has created tons of opportunities for people of color. Plus, we've got a robust next generation of CRE professionals joining the industry and that's exciting."

Toward that end, ULI created its Pathways to Inclusion program to broaden ULI membership and expand the professional networks of minority real estate and land use professionals.

According to ULI, by diversifying its membership the organization can better fulfill its mission to create and sustain thriving communities.

Diane Hoskins, Co-CEO, Gensler and ULI Global Chair, shared at the mixer, “To all the groups who have collaborated to bring about the inaugural National Black Consortium, well done. Your collective vision and commitment to further the experience of Black professionals in LA and around the country are commendable. I am proud to stand with ULI as we pursue unrelenting efforts to shape the built environment toward diverse, equitable and inclusive communities.”

In addition to the inaugural focus of the mixer, AAREP LA members were central to many fall conference panels, tours and events ranging from addressing the housing crises to clean energy solutions. Participants included: Lynn King-Tolliver, managing principal, Archere Investment Management; Sherri Franklin, founder & CEO of Urban Design Center; Stanley E. Washington, CEO, Pantheon Business Consulting; Ron Frierson; director of Economic Development Western US, Amazon; Christopher Pearson, senior vice president, Hudson Pacific Properties; Kimberly Brown, principal broker, IMPACT Realty Advisors; Dr. Frederick White, member, board of directors, California Housing Finance Agency; Jennifer Taylor, managing principal, Ambiculture Advisors, Rochelle Mills, CEO, Innovative Housing Opportunities, and John Cooke, assistant chief executive officer, Asset Management Branch, County of Los Angeles.

ULI Pathways to Inclusion participants included next generation professionals: Yesenia Martinez, Conner Tolliver and Bryce Grandison.

AAREP LA offered its [developer’s tour “South LA Rising”](#) as a blueprint for a conference tour for ULI’s Pathways to Inclusion members working with ULI Director of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Natasha Powell Walker. Participants included Michael Tidwell, director, multifamily investment sales, Cushman & Wakefield. Other activations included Product Council tours of development projects - Stocker Street Creative, a community-focused creative campus in the Baldwin Hills/Crenshaw district; and Primestor’s Evermont, a transit-oriented, mixed-use development in South LA.

Brown further noted that the awareness and work during the conference and mixer was a first step. “These organizations are helping to create solutions. Looking ahead, the National Black CRE Consortium will be forging collaboratives across the country around solutions. The conversation is around inclusion, legacy development, asset building and wealth generation, as well as making deals happen locally and nationally to move the needle around housing in our communities.”