

NEWSLETTER



Fall | 2020
School of Architecture Planning and Preservation
Maryland's Built Environment School

Whose Neighborhood? Colvin Lecture Explores Stories of Gentrification in Washington, D.C. and Harlem



Dr. Kevin McGruder, Dr. Sabiyha Prince, Dr. Derek Hyra and Dr. Willow Lung-Amam

Is it too late to save Harlem from the million-dollar loft apartment? How does neighborhood displacement determine who occupies the office of city council? Will COVID-19 slow the tidal wave of development that turned the “Chocolate City” “Cappuccino”?

This fall’s Colvin Lecture tackled the difficult questions surrounding gentrification through the lens of two rapidly changing enclaves: Washington, D.C. and Harlem, New York. “Gentrification: Deracination of the Black Community in Harlem and Washington, D.C.” leveraged the unique perspectives of three acclaimed authors and scholars to unpack the economics, racial tactics and land-grabbing that shaped these two alike cities, offering a candid discussion on what’s at stake and where there may still be room to stem the tide of displacement.

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Kia Smith and Khaleef Bradford Earn Spots in the 2020 ULI/Washington’s Pathways to Inclusion Initiative



Kia Smith recipient of 2020 cohort of ULI/Washington's Pathways to Inclusion Initiative



Khaleef Bradford recipient of 2020 cohort of ULI/Washington's Pathways to Inclusion Initiative

The Urban Land Institute (ULI) has awarded MRED graduate students **Kia Smith** and **Khaleef Bradford** spots in the 2020 cohort of ULI/Washington's Pathways to Inclusion Initiative. Smith and Bradford were selected among 90 emerging professionals within the Washington, D.C. region to receive a one-year membership to ULI, access to supportive programming and networking opportunities with industry leaders and Pathway alumni.

"We are really proud of Kia and Khaleef for being selected as members of the 2020 cohort of the ULI Pathways to Inclusion Initiative," says **Maria Day-Marshall**, Director of the University of Maryland Real Estate Development Program. "The Initiative is designed to broaden ULI membership and expand the professional networks of minority real estate and land use professionals in Washington, D.C., which aligns with one of the goals of the Real Estate Development Program at the University of Maryland. We embrace every opportunity to diversify the real estate industry in the Washington, DC area and nationwide."

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Todd A. Lee

Khaleef Bradford Named Todd A. Lee Scholar

Khaleef Bradford has also been named an inaugural **Todd A. Lee Scholarship** recipient by the D.C. Housing Finance Agency. Khaleef is one of three outstanding graduate students to receive the honor, which seeks to support students pursuing careers in the affordable housing field. The scholarship was established in honor of Todd A. Lee, former executive director and CEO of the DC Housing Finance Agency, an industry leader who made significant impacts on the landscape of affordable housing in Washington, D.C.

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Alumni Profile

Oluwatobi Thomas



Oluwatobi Thomas '17 is an alumni of the MRED program at the University of Maryland, College Park. Oluwatobi graduated from University of Lagos in 2010, majoring in Architecture. In 2012, she completed a Master in Environmental Design from University of Lagos as well.

Oluwatobi is currently working as a Development Manager at Dantes Partners in Washington, D.C. She has managed a portfolio of 5 public-private partnership projects, \$390 million in total development costs, and more than 800 units of affordable housing as well as other real estate consulting projects.

She credits the MRED program for providing clinical industry knowledge which helped immensely in her Real Estate career. Oluwatobi was an integral part of the 2016 HUD Innovation in Affordable Housing Student Design & Planning Competition team that came in second place. The real highlight was winning first place in the 2017 NAIOP Capital Challenge Competition!

Capitol Vista is one of her latest projects with 104 rental units and 3,300 SF of retail. She has managed the project from underwriting through construction completion and pre-leasing.

Her goal is to have a successful and impactful career developing real estate that addresses the affordable housing crisis.

MRED Orientation



August 22nd: The MRED Orientation and Assessment Program

The Fall 2020 incoming MRED students took their first steps in the program on August 22nd. The MRED Orientation and Assessment Program was held via Zoom. The day kicked off with a special virtual library tour by **Cindy Frank**, UMD Architecture & Visual Resource Librarian followed by a welcome from Director, **Maria Day-Marshall**, and **Marcus Ervin**, Housing Acquisition Manager, Housing Opportunities Commission and Adjunct Professor.

In addition, students received a special presentation by industry and membership organizations from ICSC, **Michael Cowden**, ULI Washington, **Rebecca Hertz**, HAND, **Courtney Battle**, WCCD, **Courtney Battle** and CREW DC, **Holly Lennihan** and **La Guardia Myers**.

Rounding out the day was an alumni panel featuring **Elsa Escobar '19**, **Nick Finelli '18**, **Akiel Pyant '19**, **Catherine Ryckman '18** and **Ilakkiya Thambi '18** who shared their experience and offered helpful tips.

Finally, students received feedback on baseline skills in Business Writing by Adjunct Professor, **Ronald McDonald** and Oral Presentations by Director, **Maria Day-Marshall**. The day ended with Survival Tips from Clinical Assistant Professor and alum, **Tanya Bansal '14**.

Thank you to everyone who participated!

Colvin Institute of Real Estate Development | University of Maryland

