

**David Kim**

**Class XXXIII**

**Executive Director, Urban Land Institute**

1. What has been ALF's impact on you? On the community? On organizations and people that you work with?

My participation in the American Leadership Forum (ALF) has made me think more deeply about leadership and the value of listening. Joining my classmates for a year of learning and discovery was a true gift and a privilege at this stage in my life. I found new friends and people I can reach out to, who support each other.

I just recently got a copy of my 2016 American Leadership Forum directory and I was humbled to see the quality of leadership in our region. We are all better leaders and listeners as a result of going through the program. I have hope that Senior Fellows in the Houston/Gulf Coast region who have had the opportunity to learn from ALF have embraced lessons on dialogue, listening, collaboration and community building with vigor and have continued to pass that gift onto others and in the work that they do.

2. Why were you interested in serving on the ALF board?

I believe that we, as a region, must continue to cultivate, inspire and help leaders of all kinds, of all backgrounds to be better at what they do. As a board member of the American Leadership Forum, I am interested in helping the organization to make that leadership experience possible for future leaders and to keep high the standards for the American Leadership Forum program.

3. What committee(s) do you serve on and what are you most excited to work on?

I currently serve on the Senior Fellows committee where we create programming to convene Senior Fellows. We hope that through these programs Senior Fellows will have a chance to connect and reconnect with one another over critical issues affecting our community so that we can help move the ball forward. We see these programs as a service to Senior Fellows who wish to be involved in what's happening next in our region and to explore how we can collectively be better prepared to help each other and our community. I believe that ALF programs help keep us all moving forward after our fellowship year is over. These programs help us stay connected and true to ALF values through convening and educating one another. These continuing educational opportunities inform us at a high level of community issues and provide us opportunities to make an impact and to support the work of other Senior Fellows in our network. I'm excited to support our ALF leadership network lead important conversations and support Senior Fellows to take action.

4. Are there any ALF lessons/techniques that you apply in your daily life/professional/community life?

Having gone through ALF I am more conscious of being a better listener. I am now more cognizant about not interrupting and letting conversations develop. I do not always succeed, but I have a heightened awareness of these areas of improvement for me.

5. What value does your American Leadership Forum membership provide to you?

I believe that it is a forum for encouraging, hosting and cultivating important conversations about all kinds of issues across the city and region. ALF is a wonderful organization, filled with people of high caliber who are willing to help each other. ALF creates opportunities for meaningful conversation and accelerates the process of Senior Fellows opening up to each other and helping each other.

6. What else would you like to share with the ALF network?

I am now serving as the Executive Director of the Houston District Council of the Urban Land Institute (ULI), a global nonprofit that promotes best practices for land use and development of sustainable thriving communities. Here in Houston we want to influence land use that fuels the growth of our flourishing global city. We are working with developers and other stakeholders who care about the region to help them and especially our public sector members carry out this important work.