

CREATING COMMUNITY TOGETHER

SPEAKER SERIES
2017



PANELIST BIOS

Moderator:

Barry Foster, Principal, HdL

Barry Foster has over 23 years of experience working in local government as a Director of Economic Development for the Cities of Moreno Valley and Rancho Mirage. His extensive background in Community and Economic Development has been instrumental as HdL expands to provide additional economic development consulting and site selection services to its clients. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Minnesota State University and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Kansas. Mr. Foster is currently a member of the California Redevelopment Association, the International Council of Shopping Centers, and the Municipal Management Association of Southern California.

Panelists:

Alesha Shemwell, Vice President of Leasing, Rouse Properties

As Vice President of Leasing for Rouse Properties, Alesha Shemwell is responsible for leasing properties spread throughout the West Coast. Ms. Shemwell was the Vice President of Commercial Leasing for Point Ruston in Tacoma, WA; and prior to that was Assistant Vice President at the Macerich Corporation based out of Redmond Town Center. Over the last fifteen years she has been a supporter of the Pacific Northwest Ballet and recently became an Advisory Board Member. She also is an Advisory Board Member for the Performing Arts Center for the Eastside, now known as the Tateuchi Center. She currently serves as the Western Division Operations Director for the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) and has held many other board positions since joining ICSC in 1999, including holding the position of State Director for WA/AK from 2014-2016. She has also been involved with the Northwest Shopping Center Association (NSCA) and served as President in 2000-2001. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Organizational Leadership from the University of Washington and a Certificate in Commercial Real Estate from the University of Washington.

Christine Firstenberg, Senior Vice President, JLL

Christine Firstenberg specializes in shopping center development/redevelopment, urban retail revitalization, tenant representation, and in leasing neighborhood and community centers. Her area of expertise is representing national anchor retail chains in the San Francisco Bay Area. She has 29 years of experience in the greater San Francisco and Northern California retail real estate industry. Over the last two decades, she has been very active in sales and leasing in the retail real estate industry. In her career Ms. Firstenberg has sold over 3.2 million square feet of retail product either to tenants or developers/investors. She served for two years as the Retail Consultant for the Office of Economic Development in the City of San Jose, and for two additional years as the Retail Consultant for the Redevelopment Agency of San Jose. She has also worked with other local governments including Oakland, Brentwood, Fairfield, Hercules, Concord, Richmond, El Cerrito, and the County of Alameda, all in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Curtis Leigh, Partner and Director of Development, Hunter/Storm

Curtis Leigh joined Hunter Properties as a Development Manager in 2004 and is now the Director of Development and Partner. His major roles include deal structure analysis, financial modeling, pre-construction engineering, due diligence, leasing, and construction management. Prior to working at Hunter Properties, Mr. Leigh worked at Turner Construction for 3 years and worked in investment banking for 2 years. He completed his undergraduate courses with a Bachelor of Engineering in 1997 from Vanderbilt University and received his Masters of Business Administration from Stanford Graduate School of Business in 2004. Hunter/Storm, the development arm of Hunter Properties, is a commercial real estate development firm with an emphasis on ground-up construction, repositioning of assets, and value-add improvements. The company enjoys a strong track record by focusing its efforts locally with all major projects located in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Stephen Lawton, Retail Consultant, Main Street Property Services, Inc.

Stephen Lawton is a commercial real estate broker and advisor to property owners, developers, cities and businesses. Independently and in association with Main Street Property Services, Inc., a boutique retail leasing firm, he provides advisory and leasing services to owners and cities seeking to revitalize town centers, create transit-oriented districts and develop successful mixed-use properties. Mr. Lawton also volunteers as co-chair of the East Bay committee of the Urban Land Institute. Mr. Lawton served as Community and Economic Development Director for the City of Hercules, working on numerous projects for its Redevelopment Agency. He led the effort that created the first form-based zoning code adopted by a California city, and helped change state law to allow similar smart-growth innovations. Previously, Mr. Lawton had twenty years of experience in management consulting, systems engineering, business development, industrial marketing and operations. Mr. Lawton earned a BA degree in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley in 1976.



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