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## College Students Take Virtual Tour of Project at Former Sears Building



From left: Zac Wald (Council President staff), Council President Lynette McElhaney, student Courtney Smith, Peter Weingarten (Gensler Architects), students Nghia Ly Nibbi Brothers, Cedric Sainz-Garcia, Zachary Calbo-Jackson, Classie Bush, Zenay Clemmons, Zaria Clemmons, and E'mani Davis, Carolina Castañón, student Joshay Jones, Shonda Scott (360 Total Concept), student Alanna Johnson, Drew Haydel (Lane Partners), student Emanuel Hillman, and Monica Wilson (CIWI). Not pictured: Carlos R. Hernández Martínez, Victoria Bryant, Wanyi Chen, and Alexandra Urbina. Photo: Karwana Dyson.

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A group of college interns from Oakland recently took a virtual tour of a local construction project at the former Sears building and explored career possibilities in STEM fields with Oakland Council President Lynette Gibson McElhaney and the Construction Industry Workforce Initiative (CWI).

On July 10, the CWI interns, using Samsung goggles, gained insight into the planning and community engagement process behind Lane Partners' project, Uptown Station in Oakland.

Located in the Uptown district, part of McElhaney's District 3, the project will provide approximately 350,000 square feet of office, retail, and related community-based amenities at the former site of Sears.

The tour allowed interns to understand how the project seeks to bring benefits to the surrounding neighborhoods.

"It is nice to be able to visualize the magnitude of the project size through the goggles. Seeing it really let's you see the impact this project will have on community," said Zachary Calbo-Jackson, a CWI intern.

They also took a tour of the Oakland office of Gensler Architects, the architectural firm on the project. Interns learned the important steps to take in pursuing careers in construction, architecture and engineering.

"It was nice to be exposed to the new technology through the goggles virtual tour. I never knew this type of technology existed before today," said intern Carolina Castanon.



**Summer intern Alanna Johnson (SFSU student) takes a virtual tour of Lane Partner's Uptown Station project in Oakland using Samsung goggles. The tour showed renderings of what the project will look like when it is completed. Photo: Karwana Dyson.**

Students were also recipients of the East Bay College Ed Fund academic scholarships.

The tour was coordinated in partnership with Council President McElhaney, CWI, developer Lane Partners and local business 360 Total Concept.

"As the City of Oakland grows, it is vital that the next generation of young people have the opportunity to participate in the growth of this City, through career opportunities in the field of building design and development," said Council President McElhaney, who represents

CWI offers young adults a 12-week paid internship, averaging twenty hours a week. CWI is committed to providing career development opportunities for students with an interest in construction, real estate development, architecture and engineering, civic engagement and urban design.

360 Total Concept is a local firm that is working to ensure Oakland residents and businesses participate in a meaningful way on the Uptown Station construction project.