



Cultivating Diversity in Urban Forestry Leadership

LEADERS GROWING LEADERS FOR URBAN FORESTRY



MFI Diversity in Mentoring

Have you hit a “road bump” or the glass ceiling in attaining your BHAG since graduating from MFI? Or maybe you’re feeling “all alone” and need someone to connect with who understands the challenges unique to building a municipal forestry program.

The Society of Municipal Arborists, in collaboration with the USDA Forest Service and Southern University, has created the MFI Diversity in Mentoring Program.

This structured program is designed to:

- support urban forestry professionals on their career journeys
- create leadership growth opportunities specifically for municipal forestry professionals who are from recognized minority groups by connecting recent MFI graduates with past MFI graduates
- engage MFI alumni who share a love for MFI and a vision to create the next generation of urban forestry leaders
- provide mutual benefits to mentors and mentees, with individuals both contributing to, and gaining from, the relationship

MFI Mentoring Program participants are matched on a variety of factors, which may include areas of special interest, job type (e.g. Program Manager, Supervisor, Technician etc.); size of organizations, type of organization (e.g. non-profit, municipal, consulting, post-secondary education); geographic location of mentees and mentors; background and/or regional location; work history and future goals; racial and/or ethnic background; mentee’s interest in other types of organization than their current workplace (e.g. someone working in non-profit may be interested in moving to private sector or municipal organizations).

Note: Participants are expected to commit in writing to the full one-year program and fully participate as described in the agreement with SMA.

Who Should Apply:

MFI Graduates who are an ethnic minority interested in mentoring or being mentored in their leadership journey.

Cost:

There is no charge to participate in the Mentoring Program, it is a SMA member benefit.

How to Apply:

Both Mentors and Mentees can apply at www.urban-forestry.com.

Application Deadline: November 23, 2021

Participants will be notified of their acceptance in December.

How long is the Mentoring Program?

The Program runs from Jan-Dec. Following an online orientation, participants will establish a mutually agreed upon schedule of meetings throughout 2021 to determine and work toward their goals. Meetings will be every other month and will be virtual.

If you have any questions, contact the SMA at:

SMAurbanforestry@gmail.com



Online applications available at www.urban-forestry.com