IREM Austin President's Speech
January 13, 2026 Luncheon

Good afternoon,

When I joined IREM Austin in 2019, I had no idea of the journey ahead. What began as professional development became something far more meaningful—relationships that have shaped my career and my life.

From Future Leader in 2020, to Committee Chair, to Board Member, to Officer, and now President—I'm honored to be the first Future Leader in our chapter's history to serve in this role. This journey wouldn't have been possible without the support of Granite Properties of Texas, Endeavor Real Estate Group, and Amazon & Whole Foods Market—organizations that believed in the value of IREM and invested in my growth.

The common thread in my IREM journey has been simple: I said yes. When asked to join a committee—I said yes. When asked to take on more—I said yes. Each time, I gained something invaluable: genuine relationships with people who challenged me, supported me, and believed in me.

That's why our theme for 2026 is "Building Community through Connection."

In a world where genuine connection can feel increasingly difficult, we have something special here. This organization isn't just about CPM or ARM certifications—though those are critical. It's about the relationships we build while pursuing those goals. The conversations that turn into collaborations. The mentorship that happens in committee meetings. Showing up for each other.

This year, we're taking concrete steps to strengthen our chapter. We're forming a special committee to draft a new strategic plan that aligns our vision with HQ's direction—ensuring we're building intentionally for the future. We're restructuring our committees to foster greater collaboration and eliminate silos. We're enhancing our member onboarding to ensure every new member feels the same sense of welcome and connection I experienced. And we're expanding on our successful outreach initiatives to continue bringing awareness of professional property management careers to the next generation.

We're deepening partnerships with organizations like Foundation Communities—a non-profit we've built a relationship with over this past year that provides affordable housing and support services to working families. With recent severe budget cuts from the City of Austin, their need has never been greater, and this is a moment where our community can

make a real difference. When we show up for organizations like Foundation Communities, we're doing more than offering support—we're participating in a larger framework of collective progress within our shared community. The connections we build here, the resources we share, the commitment we demonstrate—these ripple outward in ways that strengthen the fabric of Austin itself. I hope you'll join me in stepping up to support their vital work throughout the year.

Additionally, we're hosting Property Con 2026 right here in Austin this April—bringing our industry together in our own backyard. Each of these initiatives ties directly to our strategic focus areas: member engagement, educational excellence, community partnerships, and diversity and inclusion. And each one shares a common foundation—meaningful connection with one another and our broader community.

But none of these initiatives reach their potential without you—your participation, your ideas, your willingness to say yes.

When someone asks you to join a committee—say yes. When there's a chance to mentor a new member—say yes. When you see an opportunity to contribute, even in a small way—say yes.

That’s how we build community: one connection, one conversation, one commitment at a time.

The relationships I've built here mean more than any designation or title. I hope this year brings you similar discoveries—new connections that challenge you, collaborations that energize you, and a deeper sense of belonging.

Let's make 2026 a year defined not just by what we accomplish, but by how we come together to accomplish it.

Thank you for being here. Thank you for making IREM Austin a community where saying yes leads to transformation.

Let's build something meaningful together.