

Jaharra : How is it that you were able to do what you do now?

I mean even though you were nervous, or even though you didn't always know the direction that this would be taking you in, like, what sort of advice or inspiration would you give to our Power in Place interns?

Council member Farias: Yeah, I mean, I have, I have like a couple things. I think the first thing that I wish I would have done when I was younger, whether it was like, when I was in my intern phase or when I was working, first working as like a council staffer, like save when someone in a room inspires you or you like what they're saying, or they chat with you and they're like, let's get a coffee follow up with me and they give you their business card, do the damn follow up like I didn't do that ever. Like I rarely did that because I was anxious or like, this person was just being nice to me like they don't really want to get coffee with me, but I do that to a lot of young people, and they never follow up with me, and I'm like, I actually want to be helpful. Or, like, even when I was first running for office, there were so many women who were elected who were like, why haven't you asked me to help? Why haven't you asked me for a check? Why haven't you asked me for an endorsement? And it was all because, like, I had my own imposter syndrome thinking like I was not up to par with these folks or like they were just being nice to me because I was like the young woman in the room.

But really like people will see your power, or they'll see your potential, and they want to invest in you, even like one coffee could be worthwhile to the next opportunity. So, follow up on your business cards. Send a thank you email, follow up on the coffees. Drink all the coffee! It's not going to impact you.

You're young. It's fine. You've already grown as tall as you can grow. You'll be okay to drink coffee. And then the other thing I would say is like, just say yes to the opportunities, because I think a lot of times. People are risk-averse because I think at least coming from like immigrant households or like people of color households like my mom was always like you have a city job that's retirement, like, you don't need to do all of these things like run for office.

Where you have to quit your job and you have no income and you're living off your savings, and you're not guaranteed a job at the end of this, right? Like, our families are, like, are risk-averse. And so they want us to be safe, and they want us to have a roof over our heads. But sometimes you can say yes to the opportunities and you have to be able to like, believe in your potential to do so. So, I would say say yes to those opportunities.”