

## San Francisco Adventure:

During our robust Thursday morning commute to the city, I come to familiarize my pace with that of my peers. Briskly walking through a new San Franciscan scene which would be later be discovered as the super “cultured” and “hip” part of town. We all chatted excitedly for our next company visit, Thumbtack, and readily discussed our opinions on the previous company visits we’ve made so far over breakfast. Although, I didn’t have much time to cover why iced coffee is better than hot to my new friends, we bonded over future career prospects and what this trip meant to us. This career trek in particular was super inspiring; Visiting companies like Claudera and Palentir made me realize what The Silicon Valley was truly made of. Not just innovation, but for others supporting security and defense. It was the first time I observed the mesh of public sector and tech. Literally. They collided while our group observed excited employees discuss how big data can make your Tesla joy ride safer. Or, how the application an employee builds, helps government entities carry out important roles. I was enthusiastic, I’ve wanted to bridge the gap between D.C and the Hollywood tech bubble for a long time. It was imperative for me to see if I could make my dreams come true. This trip highlighted that. I connected with alums whose impact within the tech realm promoted a cause for social change within their company. The networking event brought on interesting conversations about diversity within the valley and how companies go about addressing it’s issues. The valley may not be perfect, but this trip was. It helped me realize what skill sets and visions I can bring to the table as a female of color. The staff has done a great job organizing and identifying companies that acknowledge our strengths. I can’t say enough of how appreciative I am for this opportunity. I hope my next career steps will land me to my ultimate company “fit”.