NexGen Reflection - Jonathan (Yoni) Berhane

NexGen Gathering 2016 was quite the experience. I had a small idea of what to expect, but that did not appropriately do it justice.

Although my first day at Gathering was a bit different than most attendees (largely due to my 6 hour flight delay), I was able to land in Texas just in time for the networking aspect of Day One. From there, the rest of the weekend was a whirlwind. Although perhaps aging myself, by Sunday evening, I was wiped!

The sessions, the reflection, the interaction, the vibe – all things that might not be historically characterized with a typical conference, but something that made this particular gathering that much more special. Each session was both educational and fun, while also informative and challenging. The particular session that appealed to me most revolved around 'career paths', something that most NexGen planners realize is largely being crafted *today.* To be able to be around some of the brightest young minds in the profession, and learn how various different firms around the country structure their career ladders was both enlightening, and cool!

Looking back, it is hard to pin-point the one particular aspect about Gathering that stuck with me most. I found myself challenged to speak about topics I wouldn't normally, yet, comfortable being around my peers to discuss my hesitancies freely. This, in particular, is why I believe Gathering can be such a gift to young planners across the nation, and why I would urge many in my position to seek out such an experience. Until 2017!