

DESIGN TRUST
FOR PUBLIC SPACE
40 WORTH STREET
SUITE 603
NEW YORK, NY 10013
212.695.2432
DESIGNTRUST.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 19, 2011

Press Contact: Anne Edgar
646.336.7230, anne@anneedgar.com

Design Trust for Public Space Announces Appointment of Susan Chin, FAIA, as New Executive Director

New York, NY — The Design Trust for Public Space has elected Susan Chin, FAIA—one of New York City’s most dynamic and seasoned public officials—as its next Executive Director, effective October 2011.

For 23 years, Ms. Chin has served New Yorkers as the Assistant Commissioner for Capital Projects for the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA). In this position, she has developed and guided a capital program of \$1 billion, with \$1 billion more leveraged in private sector funding, for over 200 cultural institutions throughout the five boroughs. She is an American Institute of Architects Public Architects award recipient, and the current chair of the AIA Gold Medal Award advisory committee. She is a current Regional Director of The American Institute of Architects (AIA), Washington, D.C., and a former President of the AIA, New York Chapter.

“We at the Design Trust are genuinely thrilled at the prospect of Susan Chin’s leadership,” says Design Trust founder and board chair Andrea Woodner. “Her selection affirms a bedrock principle of our organization: we work in partnership with the public sector to improve New York’s built environment.”

“Susan is abundantly qualified to preside over the Design Trust as we enter a new era, one in which we will be called upon to guide and build momentum towards an ever more open, diverse, and sustainable city,” she concludes.

“As a policymaker, architect, and strategic leader, Susan has again and again shown vision and an entrepreneurial approach to project management, as she has developed incredible public/private partnerships benefiting New York’s artistic life and economy,” adds Alison Bauer, Chair of the Design Trust Board of Directors Search Committee. “We could not have found anyone better suited to lead this organization at this moment in history.”

Since its founding in 1995, the Design Trust for Public Space has come to play a unique role in catalyzing change in New York City. Dedicated to improving public space in the city, the independent nonprofit organization is perhaps best known for its early role in the transformation of the High Line; its partnership with the Taxi and Limousine Commission on the city’s first-ever custom-built taxicab; and a series of *High Performance Guidelines* for Buildings, Infrastructure, and Landscape developed in collaboration with the NYC Departments of Design and Construction, and Parks & Recreation, respectively.

In accepting the new position, Ms. Chin pointed out: “New frontiers lie ahead for the Design Trust. As I contemplate the future of our city, and what makes it dynamic and vibrant, I believe that the voice and role of the Design Trust in shaping policy and the public realm will become more critical than ever.”

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cindy Allen
Hugo Barreca
Alison Bauer
Theodore Berger
Deborah Berke
Victor Body-Lawson
Kitty Hawks
Marc Heiman
Susan Grant Lewin
Stephen Maharam
Zack McKown
Raymond Merritt
Paula Mueller
Linda Pollak
Annabelle Selldorf
Susanna Sirefman
Sylvia Smith
Claire Weisz
Andrea Woodner BOARD CHAIR

DESIGN TRUST FOR PUBLIC SPACE

“I have been inspired every day, from my vantage point in city government, by how innovative architecture can seed vitality within the creative community. I look forward to advancing the catalytic role of the Design Trust, bringing new ways of thinking to the spaces we share.”

Ms. Chin has played a leadership role in many key building projects for the city, among them, the Museum of the Moving Image (Leeser Architecture, 2011), Orchestra of St. Luke's DiMenna Center (H3 Hardy Collaboration Architecture, 2011), Lincoln Center Alice Tully Hall (Diller Scofidio Renfro, 2009), El Museo del Barrio Renovation (Gruzen Samton LLP, 2009), Brooklyn Children's Museum Renovation (Rafael Vinoly Architects, 2008), New Museum for Contemporary Art (SANAA Architects, 2008), WCS/Bronx Zoo Lion House Renovation & Madagascar Exhibit (FXFowle Architects, 2008), Queens Botanical Garden Visitors Center (BKSK Architects, 2007), and Staten Island Zoo Reptile Wing renovation (Curtis+Ginsberg Architects, 2006).

At DCA, she supervised the Percent for Art Program, which commissions artwork for civic buildings, and the Community Arts Development Program, which provides essential funding for cultural organizations in low and moderate income neighborhoods.

Ms Chin was awarded a Loeb Fellowship at Harvard University, Graduate School of Design; she earned a master's degree in historic preservation from Columbia University and an undergraduate degree in architecture, cum laude, from Ohio State University.

As well as her many roles at the AIA, which has included chairing the Design Awards committee for the New York Chapter and a member of New York New Visions (2001-2002). In 2006, Ms. Chin received the AIA New York State President's Award.

Ms. Chin has served on the CultureNow Board (2002-2009), the New York State Council on the Arts' capital initiatives panel (1987-1991, 2000-2002), New York State Regional Open Space Advisory Committee (1993-2003), and the Heritage Investment Program Panel for the Pew Trust (October 2000 and January 2005). She has authored articles and lectured on architecture and design issues in New York, Philadelphia and Berlin.

The selection of Susan Chin as Executive Director of the Design Trust for Public Space concludes a six-month-long search. Megan Canning, who served as Acting Director during the transition, will return to her position as Deputy Director.

For more information on the Design Trust for Public Space, please visit <http://designtrust.org>.

###