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Joni Monroe to Retire as Executive Director of Community Design Center Rochester

Rochester, NY--July 8, 2015--Joni Monroe, AIA, a founding member of the [Community Design Center Rochester \(CDCR\)](#) (formerly the Rochester Regional Community Design Center) has announced that she will retire from her position as Executive Director of the non-profit organization effective October 30, 2015.



Joni Monroe, AIA

The CDC Rochester is the region's only non-profit, community-driven advocate for planning and design of the built environment, providing technical assistance, facilitation and educational programs.

Monroe, an architect and advocate for providing community access to design and planning resources, has led the CDC Rochester to continued growth and involvement in the region's urban planning activities over the past 12 years, since 2003. She will continue to serve the organization and its mission in various capacities.

Under Monroe's leadership, the CDC Rochester has grown and extended its outreach to the nine-county Greater Rochester region. It has developed educational and training programs to encourage thoughtful policies affecting communities, and has successfully promoted healthy, sustainable communities by encouraging quality design of the built environment and thoughtful use of built and natural resources.

"Leading the Community Design Center through its first decade, with all the challenges inherent in forming a new organization, has been the most rewarding endeavor in my 30-plus year architectural career," said Monroe. "Now that the Center is an established resource in the region I look forward to transitioning from day-to-day management to providing continued support for programs and projects and serving on the board. I am proud of the Center's accomplishments and look forward to its next decade with enthusiasm and excitement.

Paul Tankel, Interim President of the CDC Rochester and Associate Director of Facilities Planning at SUNY College at Brockport said, "Joni's ongoing commitment has truly embodied the mission of the Community Design Center of Rochester. Through her tireless efforts, Joni has initiated and promoted community participation in myriad projects - from neighborhood revitalization projects such as ArtWalk to entire town vision plans - resulting in the enhancement of our public spaces. The Board thanks her for her many years of dedication and service to the Greater Rochester community and looks forward to her continued participation towards the mission of the CDCR."

A search committee has been established to identify a successor for Monroe.

Prior to serving as Executive Director of the CDCR, Monroe was Associate Architect for Monroe County. She holds a Master's degree in Architecture from Yale University, a Master's in Historic Preservation from Columbia University and a Master's in Education from the Warner School at the University of Rochester. Monroe is active in local and national civic design and community organizations, and serves on the Preservation Issues Committee of the Landmark Society of Western NY and has served on the Board of Directors on the Association for Community Design, Pathstone and the Rochester Oratorio Society. She served on the City of Rochester's Stakeholders' Committee for the Midtown Redevelopment Project and chairs the CDC Rochester's Downtown Task Force. She is a frequent presenter at conferences and regional groups and design/planning studios working on projects in conjunction with the CDCR.

To nominate a candidate or to apply for the Executive Director position, please contact [Suzanne Mayer](#), CDC Rochester board member.

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CDC Rochester is the Rochester region's only non-profit, citizen-driven organization providing design assistance to advance quality development, planning and policymaking for neighborhoods' and towns' built environment. The organization is dedicated to promoting healthy, sustainable communities by encouraging quality design and thoughtful use of built and natural resources. Its design professionals, planners, and citizens serve as a collaborative resource providing design guidance and recommendations.

CDCR also organizes the annual Reshaping Rochester Series and Awards and citizen-based planning events that reinforce the role of communities in the development of their neighborhoods. CDCR has worked with neighborhoods and communities to produce vision plans, among them Corn Hill, Maplewood/Dewey, PLEX Southwest Riverfront, Joseph Avenue, Upper Monroe, Susan B. Anthony Neighborhood, Marketview Heights, the Town of Pittsford, Town of Brighton, and more.