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## Maureen Duggan Named the New Executive Director of the Community Design Center Rochester

ROCHESTER, N.Y. -- October 27, 2015 -- Paul Tankel, AIA, President of the [Community Design Center Rochester \(CDCR\)](#) Board announced today that Maureen Duggan, former Economic Development Director for Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, has been named the new Executive Director for the CDCR. Duggan succeeds Joni Monroe, AIA, one of the Design Center's original founders, who will retire as of November 2 after 12 years of leadership.

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



*Maureen Duggan*

Duggan has a broad spectrum of leadership experience in the public and private sectors. In her position with Congresswoman Slaughter's office Duggan facilitated partnerships between elected officials and community leaders to bring significant economic development dollars to the Rochester area, including funding for the Rochester Train Station and Photonics Cluster. In Ontario County she administered a highly successful \$7M economic development loan fund. She has played a lead role in orchestrating communication strategies and tactics, advocacy, and stakeholder engagement.

"I am honored and extremely excited to be heading the CDCR. I have followed the Center's work over the years and have a great appreciation for its contributions and the important role community-based planning plays in our quality of life and economic vitality. I look forward to building on the organization's success and expanding its capacity to meet the increasing demand for projects."

Duggan added, "I am very sensitive to good design and its principles, and have a lot of respect for the Center's mission, its roots and accomplishments. From the time I was a kid growing up in Tonawanda, I

used to skip school to hang out downtown. I love being in an urban environment, and have always been fascinated by what's cool about a building, a store or street. I am ready to stand on the shoulders of the Community Design Center's success, and expand its work to serve the growing needs and opportunities in our region."

Tankel, who is also Associate Director of Facilities Planning at SUNY College at Brockport said, "We are so pleased to welcome Maureen "Mo" Duggan to lead the Design Center at this exciting time in our history. Mo is well known for her ability to work collaboratively, build coalitions, advocate effectively and navigate federal and state agencies. These are essential skills as we position the Community Design Center for its next era of growth. Good design matters. We give citizens a voice in the future of their communities. Our success hinges on building partnerships and leveraging resources from many sources. We are fortunate that Mo will be leading our organization in its second decade of serving the region."

Joni Monroe, an architect and tireless advocate for providing community access to design and planning resources, co-founded and led the CDCR to continued growth and involvement in the region's urban planning activities over the past 12 years.

In passing the Executive Director baton to Duggan, Monroe said, "I've had the pleasure of knowing Mo Duggan for years, and I am thrilled that she will be taking the helm here at the Design Center. She will be a wonderful spokesperson for the organization and an effective leader."

Duggan's selection was made following a four-month search involving a significant number of highly qualified international, national and regional applicants.

Prior to working with Congresswoman Slaughter, Duggan was an economic development specialist in Ontario County. She also previously headed her own consulting company, working with a variety of businesses in several counties in greater Rochester providing economic development and board training consulting services.

Duggan, who is a Certified Public Accountant in New York State, earned her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Accounting from Niagara University and her Master's Degree from Nazareth College.

She is a member of Rochester Business Alliance, and has served on the board of directors of Farm Credit of WNY, and Junior Achievement.

Duggan and her family live in Rochester.

CDCR will present its 5th annual Reshaping Rochester Awards December 9, 2015, recognizing 21 exemplary regional initiatives and projects that positively impact people, neighborhoods, and the community. Planning for the Center's 11th Reshaping Rochester Series is also underway. And the Center is currently accepting applications for Design Development Grants, which provide funding for technical assistance to help community-based organizations so they can hire and work with architectural and planning consultants at the early stages of community revitalization projects.

For more information on these and other projects see [cdcrochester.org](http://cdcrochester.org)

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**Community Design Center Rochester (CDCR)** 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.