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Design Trust for Public Space Announces Departure of Executive Director Deborah Marton

NEW YORK, New York (March 28, 2011) – Deborah Marton has announced her plans to step down from the position of executive director of the Design Trust for Public Space effective April 8, 2011.

Marton first joined the Design Trust as a landscape architecture fellow on the Thresholds of Eib's Pond Park project in 2002 and has served as the executive director since 2004. In her seven years at the helm of the Design Trust, Marton managed a diverse portfolio of large-scale public space projects, including *Taxi 07*, a strategic plan for the taxi vehicle and system; *Reinventing Grand Army Plaza*, an international ideas competition to generate new visions for the civic heart of Brooklyn; *High Performance Landscape Guidelines: NYC Park Design for the 21st Century*, a compendium of state-of-the-art strategies for New York City's 29,000 acres of parkland; and *Made in Midtown*, a multidisciplinary study of the Garment District. Marton is credited with expanding the scale and scope of Design Trust projects, and leading initiatives that resulted in tangible, positive changes to municipal policy, design practice and urban planning.

"Leading the Design Trust has been an incredibly fulfilling experience," Marton said. "It's been an honor to work with a board and staff so deeply committed to excellence in the public realm as the necessary foundation for our city's cultural and democratic life."

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Internally, Marton's chief accomplishments include tripling the Design Trust's budget, implementing the organization's first five-year strategic plan, and building partnerships with city agencies, nonprofit organizations, funders and the design community.

"Deborah's dynamic leadership has elevated the Design Trust as a champion of a more sustainable, livable, inspiring public realm for all New Yorkers," Design Trust founder and board chair Andrea Woodner said on behalf of the Board of Directors. "We will miss Deborah immensely, but at the same time, we wish her the very best in her new position."

The Board of Directors has implemented a succession plan and formed an executive search committee to begin looking at potential applicants immediately. In the interim, deputy director Megan Canning will serve as the Acting Director. Current Design Trust projects *Five Borough Farm* and *Made in Midtown* are moving forward as planned.

The Design Trust for Public Space is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to improving public space in New York City. For more information, please visit www.designtrust.org.

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