



**SDAT**

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## First Three Members of Springfield's Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) Announced *Visit May 7-9 to Listen and Recommend*

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS - The first three members of Springfield's Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) have been announced by the American Institute of Architects (AIA). The Team will lead three days of community discussion revolving around sustainable solutions to downtown's "missing persons" problem. The result will be an action plan that Springfield can follow to create a more walkable, urban neighborhood that attracts greater numbers of residents and businesses. The SDAT Visit takes place May 7-9.

"We are thrilled to see the team that has been assembled so far, as they each have a track record of success in their chosen fields and are respected nationally and in some cases, internationally," said Chuck Pell, co-chair of the SDAT Springfield Steering Committee.

Team Leader Jane Jenkins, CEO of Downtown Oklahoma City, made a preliminary visit in January to follow up on Springfield's application. Since then, she has been recruiting six national leaders in downtown development, land use and planning, public/development finance, sustainability/green infrastructure, transportation and urban design to participate in the Springfield's SDAT. The first three members are:

### **TRANSPORTATION – Seleta Reynolds, AICP**

Ms. Reynolds has over 14 years of experience planning, funding, and implementing active transportation projects throughout the United States. She presently works for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, where she leads the section of the Livable Streets team responsible for innovation, policy, and funding for complete streets projects citywide. Ms. Reynolds' team's current projects include construction of the City's first cycletrack and the launch of a pilot bikesharing system. Prior to joining the SFMTA, she led the companywide bicycle and pedestrian practice for Fehr & Peers and served as the bicycle and pedestrian coordinator for the City of Oakland.

- Co-Chairs:
- Charles Joseph Pell, AIA
- Lisa Clemmons Stott
- Alex Block, AIA, LEED AP
- Bruce Ferry, AIA
- Todd Higginbotham, AIA, LEED AP
- Paul O'Shea, FAIA
- T. David Parker, AIA
- John Shafer, AIA, LEED AP
- Greg Swanson, AIA, LEED AP
- Paul Wheeler, AIA, LEED AP
- Diane Beauchamp
- Michael Boer
- Steve Combs
- Cindy Davis, LEED AP
- Nancy Evans
- Mike Farmer
- Ann Ford
- Michael Higgins
- Wes King
- Jim Kuhar
- Melody LaMar
- Sue Massie
- Brian McFadden
- Steve Myers
- Jackie Newman
- Carolyn Oxtoby
- Howard Peters
- Sarah Phalen
- Mike Rapps
- Diane Reinhart
- Victoria Ringer
- Dan Sale
- Norm Sims
- Scott Troehler
- Michael Waldinger



### **URBAN DESIGN - Catherine Benotto, AIA, ASLA, LEED AP**

Ms. Benotto has 30 years of experience creating places in the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Her work covers a broad mix of planning issues such as compact pedestrian friendly communities, transit oriented development, low impact development, urban center plans of development, design guidelines and Heritage Conservation District studies. Ms. Benotto leads Weber Thompson's Community/Urban Design and Landscape Teams working on innovative place-making projects throughout the Northwest. She also directs Weber Thompson's Sustainability Team, a research group. She is principal in charge for the firm's three LEED for Neighborhood Development Pilot Projects including Sweetwater in Hailey, Idaho. She was also the design and planning lead on many of the firm's other planning/urban design and landscape projects.

### **DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT – Eve Picker**

Ms. Picker began her career as an architect and then as an urban designer, working for architectural ateliers all over the world. After relocating to Pittsburgh, she became a senior urban designer at the City of Pittsburgh Planning Department, then a strategic planning consultant and finally a real estate developer. Her company, no wall productions, inc. tackled a portfolio of blighted buildings, each with a public-private financing strategy, the next always more difficult than the last. Ms. Picker focused on downtown and urban neighborhoods that others had ignored, transforming neglected buildings into highly desirable loft-style residences and offices. She has a rich understanding of how cities work, how deals get done, how downtowns can be revitalized, what policy needs to be in place, and the type of marketing that creates the buzz necessary for regeneration.

SDAT is a competitive program of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) that matches volunteer professionals (such as architects, urban designers, landscape architects, planners, hydrologists, economists, attorneys, and others) with cities trying to solve sustainability problems. Springfield's application asked for assistance with repopulating the downtown area and addressing at least two major obstacles to that goal: not enough residential space and amenities, and the 2016 expiration of the downtown TIF credited for infrastructure and building improvements to the city's core over the last three decades.

For complete biographies on Springfield's team, please visit [www.SDATSpringfield.com](http://www.SDATSpringfield.com) or friend [www.facebook.com/SDATSpringfield](https://www.facebook.com/SDATSpringfield).

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