

## News Advisory

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### ***Planning Commission Announces New Executive Director***

Seattle – The Seattle Planning Commission, an independent advisory body appointed by the Mayor and City Council, welcomes Vanessa Murdock as their new Executive Director. Planning Analyst Jesseca Brand had been serving in an acting capacity for the Commission leadership since former Director Barb Wilson left to pursue opportunities in the private sector

Vanessa brings over 19 years of experience in urban policy analysis, public and government relations, and outreach, including three years working with the Seattle Design Commission. Most recently, she was the Seattle Department of Planning and Development’s project manager and lead negotiator for the City’s first TOD agreement with Sound Transit; she has been instrumental in moving forward the three transit-based Southeast Seattle Neighborhood Plan updates; and she has had a key role in recent city-wide Major Institution policy review and Pedestrian Overlay analysis for the city’s neighborhood business districts.

“Vanessa will bring her vast experience in planning and her strong commitment to Seattle to lead the Commission into the next phase. She shares the Commission’s vision for a vibrant Seattle and will assist in their advocacy for urban policy and design that can improve access to choice in housing, mobility, employment, and education,” stated Co-Chair Leighton.

Vanessa has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan and a Master’s degree in Urban Planning from the University of Washington.

“We have an exciting year ahead of us and I am thrilled to be joining the Commission as their Executive Director. The Commission is comprised of dedicated volunteer professionals who work tirelessly for the good of our city; their expertise and commitment to Seattle is inspiring and I am honored to be a part of this work,” stated Murdock.

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