

WASHINGTON SMART GROWTH ALLIANCE

Washington Smart Growth Alliance News

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Washington Smart Growth Alliance Hires Deborah Miness as New Executive Director

July 23, 2007 – The Washington Smart Growth Alliance today announced the selection of Deborah Miness as the organization's new executive director. Miness' selection follows an extensive national search.

Sam Black, chair of the Alliance's board of directors, said "Debbie has demonstrated commitment, imagination and success in bringing together multiple stakeholders to achieve smart growth results at a regional level. We are delighted to have her on board."

Miness will oversee the organization's juried Smart Growth Recognition Program for development proposals and its annual Regional Conservation Priorities report. In addition, she will develop new programs to promote smart growth in the Washington region.

Miness comes to the Washington Smart Growth Alliance from the Georgia Conservancy, where she was Vice President for Land Programs and Growth Management. She oversaw the Conservancy's Blueprints for Successful Communities program, which brought together citizens, developers, environmental interests and other stakeholders to plan for the future in a participatory framework. She is a recognized expert on civic-based planning to retain the best aspects of existing communities as they grow.

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Miness spent seven years at the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Office of Planning and Quality Growth, where she revised and implemented planning regulations and assisted local governments on growth and land use issues. Miness served as a planner for local governments in Georgia and Florida and as a research coordinator at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Miness stated that "This is an exciting time to join the Washington Smart Growth Alliance. The organization has accomplished much through its landmark Smart Growth Recognition program and its recently-established yearly Regional Conservation Priorities List. I look forward to working with the Smart Growth Alliance board and our partners in the region to make these programs even more effective and to launch new initiatives to address the challenges facing us."

The Smart Growth Alliance is a unique partnership of business, civic and environmental organizations that have in the past been on opposite sides of some issues but have reached consensus on many quality of life and smarter growth topics relating to the National Capital region.

For more information about the Alliance, visit <http://www.SGAlliance.org>.